

CATTAILS

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

FROM THE OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

LET'S GEUX READ THIS
WINTER WITH OUR
FRIENDS FROM ULM!

TEEN MARDI GRAS BALL

JOIN US FOR A LIVE
DJ, PHOTOBOOTH, &
CROWN TEEN MARDI
GRAS KING & QUEEN

LIFELONG LITERACY AND YOUR LIBRARY

FIND OUT HOW YOUR LIBRARY HAS
BROUGHT THE COMMUNITY LITERACY
AND LEARNING OVER THE YEARS.


Ouachita Parish
Public Library

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FIND BILLIE THE BOOKWORM!



Our Bookworm, Billie, is hidden six times throughout these pages. See if you can find all six!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All Library branches close at 5 p.m. the day before a holiday closure.

CHRISTMAS - Wed., Dec. 24th - Sat., Dec. 27th

NEW YEAR - Wed., Dec. 31st - Thurs., Jan. 1st

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - Mon., Jan. 19th

HEY!

Would you like to receive Cattails, the library's bimonthly newsletter, in your inbox or mailbox? Email hneeley@oplib.org to be added to the list.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The book sale is cash only and proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library, who support Library programming.

West Ouachita Library

188 Hwy 546, West Monroe, LA 71291

Fri., Jan. 30th & Sat., Jan. 31st from 9-3pm

Fri., Feb. 27th & Sat., Feb. 28th from 9-3 p.m.



LIFELONG LITERACY & YOUR LIBRARY

NIRALI PATEL

Monroe City Main Street Director

As a child of immigrants and a first generation American, I have spent my entire life learning. It was so important to my dad that I found a love for reading and getting an education. My parents never had the opportunity to receive an education, let alone pursue their passions, but they knew that both were important pillars to a happy life.

I remember my first day of second grade like it was yesterday. We had just been assigned seats to our tiny desks and begun to settle down when our teacher, Mrs. Placke, started our announcements. She excitedly told us about all the wonderful things that we would get to do in class through our school library, including reading independently and taking AR tests. I immediately panicked because I didn't know how to read. When Mrs. Placke looked over at me, she saw the fear in my eyes (probably the tears too), she just smiled and said, "If you don't know if you can do that, it will be okay."

That was a crossroads moment, something that could have completely changed the trajectory of my life. She intentionally chose to work with me every single day, teaching me the skills that I should've learned in first grade but did not. She worked with me in the school library with patience and kindness and always rewarded my hard work with turning on an episode of Reading Rainbow with LeVar Burton. As a child, I remember the pure excitement I felt when hearing the theme song and knowing I was about to listen to this wonderful man speak about the joys of reading and be genuinely happy about it.

I went from being a kid who couldn't read a picture book on her own to reading chapter books in a very short amount of time. I was one of the top readers that year, getting more AR points than any of us in our second grade class could have dreamt.

If it wasn't for this spark, I wouldn't be where I am today – I am the first female in my family to graduate high school and go on to ULM to finish my Undergraduate degree in English and Masters in Public Administration. I had the wonderful experience of meeting LeVar in 2016 to tell him that he truly helped change my life. I am grateful to have completed research and been published with other amazing scholars while working for the City of Monroe as Main Street Director to help revitalize my hometown.

There're skills I learned from watching the librarians in my local library and Mrs. Placke that go far beyond reading. They taught me how to observe the public in my career today and fill in the gaps where I saw a need for connectivity and education in our community. They inspired me to be patient, read between the lines to get a full understanding of what a person needs to succeed, and become the change I want to see in my community.

It's been over 20 years and I still remember how their encouragement inspired me to reach my full reading potential and what that can do to help the next generations of readers. Libraries and the people in them have the ability to change lives – and I am living proof of that.

STORY TIMES

MAIN

0-24 mo.... Tues. | 9:45 a.m.
18-36 mo... Thurs. | 10:30 a.m.
3-5 yrs..... Tues. | 10:30 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Tues. | 4 p.m.
Family..... Second Sat. of
each month | 10:30 a.m.

ANNA MEYER

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Wed. | 4 p.m.

CARVER-MCDONALD

0-5 yrs..... Mondays | 4 p.m.
6-12 yrs..... Tues. | 4 p.m.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Tues. | 4 p.m.

OLLIE BURNS

0-5 yrs..... Tues. | 10 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Tues. | 4 p.m.

OUACHITA VALLEY

0-36 mo.... Tues. | 10:30 a.m.
3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Thurs. | 4 p.m.

SEARCY MEMORIAL

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Wed. | 3:45 p.m.

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Thurs. | 4 p.m.
(STEM Storytime)

WEST MONROE

0-24 mo.... Wed. | 10 a.m.
3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Thurs. | 3:30 p.m.

WEST OUACHITA

18-36 mo.. Tues. | 10:30 a.m.
3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:45 a.m.
6-12 yrs..... Wed. | 3:45 p.m.

WINTER READING CHALLENGE: LET'S GEAUX READ!

Thursday, January 1st – Saturday, February 28th



The library's annual Winter Reading Challenge, Let's Geaux Read! is themed in partnership with ULM this year to encourage readers of every age to stay active in reading and physical health by earning badges on our virtual bingo card. It's all about starting the year off with strong reading goals and good exercise habits to stay fit. Join #ULMxOPPL from January 1st – February 28th, as we get engaged in activities on and off campus to remember that reading and physical training can bring your community together by exercising your mind year-round!

How Do I Sign Up?

- 1 Get started at oplib.org/winter OR download the Beanstack Tracker app on your smartphone.
- 2 Make your account in the online summer reading portal, called Beanstack.
- 3 Log your reading and activities in Beanstack on the web or on the app.

If you have a question or need assistance, reach out to your Library by visiting in-person, by calling any branch, or by sending an email to help@oplib.org.

What Prizes Can I Win?



ADULTS (18+):

- Blanket
- Stadium Seat
- Dog bandana
- Licensed ULM apparel
- Four tickets each for the ULM vs. LaTech home games (baseball and softball)



TEENS (13-17):

- \$100 gift card to Surge
- Licensed ULM apparel
- Licensed ULM lanyard
- Mini helmet



EARLY LITERATURE (0-5):

- Glow in the dark blanket
- My First Sports Bag
- Warhawk plushie



KIDS (6-12):

- Spikeball
- Sporty UNO
- ULM autographed memorabilia
- Mini helmet
- First pitch at a ULM baseball and softball game



KIDS PROGRAMS

EVENTS  MOVIES  ARTS & CRAFTS  BOOKS & STORIES  STEM 

ANNA MEYER

-  **CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: GUMDROP TREES**
Mon., Dec. 8 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Craft a gumdrop tree and take home a sweet Christmas keepsake!
-  **CHILDREN'S CINEMA**
Sat., Dec. 13 | 12-2 p.m. | FAMILY
Watch *The Grinch* (PG) at the library with refreshments!
-  **CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS**
Mon., Dec. 22 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Craft a paper gingerbread house and put your creativity on display!
-  **CHILDREN'S CINEMA**
Sat., Jan. 10 | 12-2 p.m. | FAMILY
Enjoy treats and a showing of *Abominable* (PG) at the library!
-  **CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: SNOWFLAKE LANTERNS**
Mon., Jan. 12 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Craft a glowing snowflake lantern to light up your wintry season!
-  **STEMULATING MONDAY: FAUX SNOW**
Mon., Jan. 26 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make your own faux snow that feels cold just like the real thing!
Explore science while playing with chilly, fluffy snow you create!

CARVER-MCDONALD

-  **DECORATING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**
Tues., Dec. 9 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Decorate Christmas ornaments using stickers, pens, and paints.
-  **CHRISTMAS COOKIE DESIGN**
Tues., Dec. 16 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Decorating cookies with icing with different patterns and designs.
-  **DECORATING BIRD HOUSES**
Tues., Jan. 13 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Decorate bird houses using paint pens, stickers, and acrylic paints.
-  **BUILDING SNOWFLAKES**
Tues., Jan. 20 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create your own snowflake to decorate a home centerpiece.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

-  **SANTA'S STORY TIME**
Thurs., Dec. 11 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Join us and a local non-profit, Ascent, for a holly jolly story time with the man in red himself, Santa! Holiday crafts will be made.
-  **HOLIDAY MOVIE AFTERNOON**
Sat., Dec. 20 | 1-3 p.m. | FAMILY
Watch the classic, *Elf* (PG). Pizza and drinks provided.
-  **KIDS' KARAOKE**
Thurs., Jan. 8 | 4-5:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Rock out with your friends and sing your favorite songs.
-  **SATURDAY STORY TIME**
Sat., Jan. 17 | 10-12 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Enjoy a special Saturday Story Time with breakfast and juice.

MAIN

-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Dec. 4 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create yarn wrapped wreath ornaments for your tree or as a gift.
-  **CHRISTMAS CAROLS & CRAFTS**
Wed., Dec. 10 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Let's sing Christmas carols while we create colorful ornaments and enjoy some delicious hot chocolate and cookies!
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Dec. 11 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Christmas tree painting with Q-Tips! All supplies are provided.
-  **FAMILY STORYTIME BRUNCH**
Sat., Dec. 13 | 10:30 AM-11:15 a.m. | FAMILY
Join us for two fun stories, *I Saw Santa in Louisiana* and *There's an Elf in Your Book* with Christmas stories, crafts, and refreshments.
-  **HOLIDAY MATINEE**
Mon., Dec. 15 | 4-6 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a special holiday treat and movie, *The Grinch* (PG).
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Dec. 18 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Design and decorate Christmas trees using pasta. Supplies provided.
-  **SUPER SIZZLIN**
Sat., Dec. 20 | 2-3 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Create two projects: colorful shaken paint ornaments and playful popsicle stick sleds to display or gift. All materials are provided.

MAIN

-  **SATURDAY MOVIE MATINEE**
Sat., Jan. 3 | 2-4 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a delightful movie for all to enjoy and special treats.
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Jan. 8 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Use paper rolls and paint to create colorful "firework" designs.
-  **FAMILY STORYTIME BRUNCH**
Sat., Jan. 10 | 10:30 AM-11:15 a.m. | FAMILY
Join us for two fun stories, *Winter is Here* and *No Two Alike* with crafts and refreshments.
-  **MARDI GRAS SAFETY**
Sat., Jan. 10 | 2-3 p.m. | FAMILY
Learn tips and best practices for enjoying parades, how to stay with your group, watch for floats, and have fun while staying safe. Including interactive discussions and hands-on activities.
-  **BOOKS & BUMPS: PRENATAL & EARLY LITERACY SERIES**
Wed., Jan. 7 | 10-11:00 a.m. | FAMILY
Join us for an informative session with Dr. Margot Eason of Affinity Health Group to help you navigate what to look for when selecting your child's doctor. Learn what questions to ask, what factors to consider, and how to find a pediatrician who best fits your family's needs. Door prizes will be given.
-  **DIY CRAFT**
Wed., Jan. 14 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Make snowflake tape resist art.
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Jan. 15 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Transform paper bags into unique snowflakes using cutting and decorating techniques. All materials are provided.
-  **SUPER SIZZLIN**
Sat., Jan. 17 | 2-3 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Design winter scenes using paper folding, cutting, and layering techniques to create landscapes with houses, trees, and snowmen.
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Jan. 22 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create a sock snowman using socks, rice, fabric, and buttons.
-  **ALL THINGS TWEEN**
Thurs., Jan. 29 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for Game Day with board games, card games, and interactive group activities that challenge your skills and spark teamwork.

OLLIE BURNS

-  **WINTER MOVIE MATINEE**
Fri., Dec. 19 | 3-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Wear your pajamas and watch *Frozen II* (PG) with hot chocolate!
-  **OLAF'S STORY TIME**
Tues., Dec. 23 | 4-4:45 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a story time reading of *Olaf's Night Before Christmas*.
-  **TWEEN NEW YEAR PARTY**
Fri., Jan. 2 | 3:30-4:45 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Make your own vision board, try out different activity stations, and countdown to a balloon drop finale. Call 318-327-1235 to register.
-  **DIY SNO-GLOBE**
Thurs., Jan. 8 | 5-6 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come create your very own snow globe.
-  **SCIENCE NIGHT**
Thurs., Jan. 22 | 5-6 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come get hands on and enjoy different science stations!

OUACHITA VALLEY

-  **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Dec. 2 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make a Christmas tree ornament for your tree.
-  **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Dec. 9 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Design your own foil Christmas tree artwork!
-  **PAJAMAS AND COOKIES STORYTIME**
Thurs., Dec. 11 | 5-6 p.m. | FAMILY
Wear your pajamas for a special Cookie Themed Storytime.
-  **POPCORN AND A MOVIE**
Sat., Dec. 13 | 2-3:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a movie screening of *The Grinch* (PG).
-  **HOLIDAY SINGALONG**
Tues., Dec. 16 | 1-2 p.m. | FAMILY
Come join us for a Holiday Singalong with The Ouachita Strummers.
-  **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Dec. 16 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make an ice cream cone Christmas tree! Space is limited. Register in person or call 318-327-1470 ext. 4206 or 4207 or ask for the Children's Department.
-  **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Jan. 6 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come and make a New Year's Day craft for 2026!
-  **SHOE BOX FLOAT WITH KREWE DE RIVIERE**
Sat., Jan. 10 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Hang with the Krewe de Riviere and make New Orleans style shoe box floats! Space is limited; register in person or call 318-327-1470 ext. 4206 or 4207 or ask for the Children's Department.

OUACHITA VALLEY

 **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Jan. 13 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create a snowy owl craft.

 **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Jan. 20 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Design your own snowflake canvas artwork!

 **CRAFTY TUESDAY**
Tues., Jan. 27 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come and create a winter craft.

SEARCY MEMORIAL

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Dec. 2 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come join us as we make a cool Reindeer Games puppet.

 **CHRISTMAS CINEMA DAY**
Sat., Dec. 6 | 1-3 p.m. | FAMILY
Wear pajamas and watch *The Polar Express* (G) with cocoa and cookies.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Dec. 9 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Come make a beautiful Christmas light suncatcher.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Dec. 16 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | PRESCHOOL 3-5 YEARS
Come make a pop-up puppet stocking stuffer.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Dec. 23 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Create your own gingerbread man.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Dec. 30 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Build a snowman craft.

 **MOVIE MATINEE**
Sat., Jan. 3 | 1-3 p.m. | FAMILY
Come enjoy refreshments and a showing of the movie, *Frozen* (PG).

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Jan. 6 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come create some sparkling snowflakes!

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Jan. 13 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come create a winter pop-up card.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Jan. 20 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | PRESCHOOL 3-5 YEARS
Waddle your way to a fun time while making playful penguins.

 **CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY**
Tues., Jan. 27 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Create a snowy day collage while listening to a reading of the book, *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats.

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

 **LEGO CLUB**
Mon., Dec. 1 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Free build, follow a tutorial, or complete a STEM challenge.

 **UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CRAFT**
Fri., Dec. 5 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Come make your own and be as creative as you want!

 **TALLEST SHELF FOR THE ELF S.T.E.M. CHALLENGE**
Fri., Dec. 12 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Use gumdrops and toothpicks and try to build the tallest Elf tower!

 **LEGO CLUB**
Mon., Jan. 5 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Free build, follow a tutorial, or complete a STEM challenge.

 **PENGUIN POPPERS WINTER S.T.E.M. CHALLENGE**
Fri., Jan. 16 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Make a pom pom launcher and try to knock over the most cups!

 **WINTER GAMES SKI CHALLENGE**
Fri., Jan. 30 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Let's get ready for the Winter Olympics! Create your own skier with foil and popsicle sticks to test their ski jumping abilities.

WEST OUACHITA

 **STEMULATING MONDAY**
Mon., Dec. 1 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come join us for a Christmas STEM activity.

 **FAMILY MOVIE**
Mon., Dec. 8 | 4-6 p.m. | FAMILY
Come watch *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas* (G).

 **STEMULATING MONDAY**
Mon., Dec. 15 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come join us for a Christmas STEM activity.

 **STEMULATING MONDAY**
Mon., Jan. 5 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come join us for a winter STEM activity.

 **PAINTING WITH A POP**
Mon., Jan. 12 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come paint a penguin with us!

 **STEMULATING MONDAY**
Mon., Jan. 19 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come join us for a winter STEM activity.

Main Branch Library

NERD Fest

Comics and Pop-Culture Festival for All Ages!

Featuring nerdy card and board games, activities like face painting, comics trivia, origami, personalized zines, button making, and more. Attendees who come in costume are also invited to take part in a costume contest. Food and drinks will be provided while supplies last.

Saturday,
January 31st
10 a.m.-3 p.m.



HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY EXPRESS FOR PRE-K - 5

Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Family | Main Branch

Please contact Mrs. Angela at 318-327-1490 ext. 3007 or email agreer@oplib.org for more details.

Mon., Dec. 1 | SHOW AND TELL - Bring your favorite project, collection, or hobby to share. Then friends and families will give a peek into exciting Careers & Callings.

Mon., Dec. 8 | GAME AND S.T.E.M. DAY - Lay, build, and explore with games that bring science, technology, engineering, and math to life! Make learning fun with problem-solving challenges and hands-on activities.

Mon., Dec. 15 | COMMUNITY SERVICE & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION - Support local children by donating gift cards to the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). Families will also hear from DCFS professionals about how to become foster families or provide respite care. After the service project, we'll celebrate the season together with a festive Christmas party full of fun and fellowship!

Mon., Jan. 5 | FANTASY RICE MAPS - Design and build your own "fantasy maps" using rice as templates to design mountains, rivers, forests, and magical lands.

Mon., Jan. 12 | MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION - Make a Shoe Box Float and visit with the King and Queen of the Krewe de Riviere. Bring a shoe box for this activity. Festive decorations will be provided.

Mon., Jan. 26 | BAYOU BOWL FIELD TRIP - Registration is required to attend this field trip. Families must be registered with HSLE and have attended the sessions in January. Registration closes on Monday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. More details will be shared at the January 5, 2026 meeting.

TEEN PROGRAMS

ARTS & CRAFTS



BOOKISH & WRITING



CLASSIC GAMES



MOVIES



EVENTS



VIDEO GAMES



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



COMMUNITY SERVICE



OLLIE H. BURNS

HOLIDAY MUG DECORATING



Tues., Dec. 2 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Design your own festive mug using paint pens, then warm up with a cup of hot cocoa. Spots are limited, call 318-327-1235.

DIY SNOW GLOBE CRAFT



Tues., Dec. 9 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Make your own magical snow globe using jars, glitter, and tiny wintry scenes. Call 318-327-1235 to save a spot today!



COZY HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

Tues., Dec. 16 | 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Join us for a movie night with snacks featuring *Arthur Christmas* (PG).

BOOK SWAP & COOKIE EXCHANGE



Tues., Dec. 23 | 2-3 p.m.

Bring a gently used book you're ready to trade; we'll take care of the sweet treats.

VISION BOARD BINGO FOR 2026



Tues., Jan. 6 | 5-6 p.m.

Create a vision board bingo card of your goals, dreams, and inspo for 2026 using magazines and stickers. All supplies provided!

BOARD GAME BLIZZARD



Tues., Jan. 13 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Drop in for a cozy evening of board games, snacks, and fun. Bring your game face (and maybe your fuzzy socks).

WINTER WRITING CHALLENGE



Tues., Jan. 20 | 5-6 p.m.

Get creative with fun winter-themed writing prompts, poetry, short stories, or even comic strips! Supplies and snacks provided.

PUZZLE & CHILL AFTERNOON



Tues., Jan. 27 | 1-2 p.m.

Bring a friend or meet new ones while working on puzzles, crosswords, and more!

OUACHITA VALLEY

PAINTING DIY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



Tues., Dec. 9 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Paint clear Christmas ornaments or fill them with little decorations!

CHRISTMAS PAJAMA PARTY! (+MOVIE)



Fri., Dec. 19 | 3-5 p.m.

Come in your pajamas and watch *The Polar Express* (G) and enjoy our Hot Chocolate bar! Supplies Limited!

CANVAS PAINTING



Tues., Jan. 13 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Relax and paint with us!

D&D ONE-SHOT



Tues., Jan. 20 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Come play D&D with a premade character or your own (must be made beforehand).

SEARCY MEMORIAL

SNOW GLOBE CRAFT



Thurs., Dec. 4 | 4-5 p.m.

DIY Snow globe craft.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Thurs., Dec. 11 | 4-5 p.m.

We will make Christmas cards to take to a local nursing home.

MOVIE NIGHT



Thurs., Dec. 18 | 4-6 p.m.

Join us for refreshments and a showing of *Daddy's Home 2* (PG-13).

VIDEO GAME AND VIBE



Thurs., Jan. 8 | 4-5 p.m.

Play games on the Nintendo Switch with friends.

WINTER COLLAGE



Thurs., Jan. 15 | 4-5 p.m.

Come paint a relaxing snow collage.

MOVIE NIGHT



Thurs., Jan. 22 | 4-6 p.m.

Join us for refreshments and a showing of *A Minecraft Movie* (PG).

PICTURE FRAME CRAFT



Thurs., Jan. 29 | 4-5 p.m.

Come make a totally unique picture frame to jazz up your space!

STERLINGTON

CANVAS BAG DECORATING



Tues., Dec. 2 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Color your own canvas bag with acrylics or Posca markers.

GAME ON THURSDAY!



Thurs., Dec. 4 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.

DUCT TAPE WALLETS



Tues., Dec. 9 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Make your own wallets using just duct tape.

ANNA MEYER



DIY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Thurs., Dec. 4 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Create your own ornament with air dry clay.



D&D

Sat., Dec. 13 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Bring your character or choose a pre-made one. Join the adventure!



D&D

Sat., Jan. 10 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Bring your character or choose a pre-made one. Join the adventure!



MOVIE MATINEE

Sat., Jan. 31 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon showing of *Thunderbolts** (PG-13). Refreshments will be served!

LOUISE WILLIAMS



STOCKING DECORATING

Tues., Dec. 9 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun craft time of decorating and personalizing stockings.



HOLIDAY MOVIE AFTERNOON

Sat., Dec. 20 | 1-3 p.m.

Join us for pizza and drinks and watch the holiday classic, *Elf* (PG)!



2026 TIME CAPSULES

Thurs., Jan. 15 | 4-5 p.m.

Write down plans and goals for 2026! We will decorate "time capsules" to put our resolutions in and open them at the end of the year!



GAME NIGHT!

Thurs., Jan. 22 | 4-5 p.m.

Get ready to have some friendly competition! Games, snacks, and fun!

MAIN



TAB MEETING

Thurs., Dec. 4 | 4-5 p.m.

Join us for a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) interest meeting. Please call 318-327-1490 or email aestep@oplib.org to register.



D&D ONE SHOT

Sat., Dec. 6 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Join us for a D&D one-shot!



WRITE ON!

Mon., Dec. 8 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Connect with fellow teen writers, share your work, and learn about the world of creative writing together.



JANE AUSTEN TEA PARTY

Tues., Dec. 16 | 4-6 p.m.

Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday! We will watch *Pride and Prejudice* (PG), try different types of tea, and decorate hats.



MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

Mon., Jan. 5 | 4-5 p.m.

Compete for fame, glory, and ultimate bragging rights in our Mario Kart competition!



WRITE ON!

Mon., Jan. 12 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Connect with fellow teen writers, share your work, and learn about the world of creative writing together.



MARDI GRAS MASKS

Tues., Jan. 20 | 4-5 p.m.

Get ready for Mardi Gras by making your own mask!

STERLINGTON



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Dec. 11 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.



DIY ORNAMENT

Tues., Dec. 16 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Make your own holiday ornament.



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Dec. 18 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.



GET YOUR GAME ON

Tues., Dec. 23 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Board games, card games, and video games. Let's just game.



TISSUE PAPER PAINTING

Tues., Jan. 6 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Create a painting with delicate tissue paper and watch the colors blend.



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Jan. 8 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.



ORIGAMI

Tues., Jan. 13 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Make crazy shapes with origami paper.



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Jan. 15 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.



FINISH THE COMIC

Tues., Jan. 20 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Use your imagination by finishing the comic strip handed to you.



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Jan. 22 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.



MAKE A ZINE

Tues., Jan. 27 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Make your own zine and fill it with wild ideas, comics, a to do list, etc.



GAME ON THURSDAY!

Thurs., Jan. 29 | 3:30-5 p.m.

Game with friends! Board, card, and Switch games are available.

WEST MONROE



MOVIE MATINEE

Wed., Dec. 3 | 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Enjoy snacks and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13).



COMMUNITY SERVICE: CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE VA HOME

Wed., Dec. 10 | 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Make Christmas cards to be sent to the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home.



D&D ONE SHOT

Sat., Dec. 13 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Choose a pre-made character or make your own. Join the adventure!



CHRISTMAS JEOPARDY

Wed., Dec. 17 | 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Test your skills with a game of Christmas Jeopardy!



MOVIE MATINEE

Mon., Dec. 22 | 1-3:15 p.m.

Enjoy snacks and a showing of *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* (PG-13).



D&D ONE SHOT

Sat., Jan. 10 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Choose a pre-made character or make your own. Join the adventure!



SNOW DOUGH

Wed., Jan. 14 | 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Make your own snow shaped dough.



BINGO

Wed., Jan. 21 | 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of bingo. Prizes will be given.



AFTERNOON CHILL: BOARD GAMES

Wed., Jan. 28 | 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Bring friends or make new ones and enjoy afternoon board games!

WEST OUACHITA



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Tues., Dec. 2 | 4-5 p.m.

We will make Christmas cards for local nursing homes.



MOVIE NIGHT

Tues., Dec. 9 | 4-6 p.m.

We will be watching *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG).



COSPLAY CLUB

Tues., Dec. 16 | 4-5 p.m.

Come join us for a Cosplay Club Christmas party!



VISION BOARDS

Tues., Jan. 6 | 4-5 p.m.

Come join us and make a vision board for the new year.



GAME NIGHT

Tues., Jan. 13 | 4-5 p.m.

Come join us for board games and snacks.



COSPLAY CLUB

Tues., Jan. 27 | 4-5 p.m.

Come join us for Cosplay Club!

HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY

EXPRESS FOR GRADES 6-12

Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Family | Main Branch

Please contact Ashten at 318-327-1490 ext. 3024 or email aestep@oplib.org for more details.

Dec. 1 | ZINE WORKSHOP

Learn about the history of zines and make your own!

Dec. 8 | STEM

Join us for a day of exciting games and a hands-on STEM activity.

Dec. 15 | CHRISTMAS PARTY

Celebrate Christmas and give back to the community! Support the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) by donating gift cards and learning about foster care. After, we will have a Christmas party!

Jan. 5 | FANTASY RICE MAPS

Create your own fantasy world using rice!

Jan. 12 | MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Make a Shoe Box Float and visit with the King and Queen of the Krewe de Riviere. Bring a shoe box for this activity. Festive decorations will be provided.

Jan. 26 | COMMUNITY EVENT

Join us for a fun trip to Bayou Bow! This field trip is open to families who attend two sessions in January. Registration is required and closes on Monday, December 15, 2025.

JOIN US FOR THE OPPL Mardi Gras Ball

Saturday, January 24th, 2026
7-10 p.m. | Main Branch Library

This unforgettable evening features a live DJ, a photobooth, button-making fun, and creative crafts. Enjoy delicious snacks—popcorn, nachos, cupcakes, pickles, and punch. Formal wear encouraged but not required. Plus, we'll crown our very own Mardi Gras King and Queen during the event!

Tickets are free and available at all Ouachita Parish Public Library branches while supplies last. A signed permission slip is required to secure your spot. Don't miss the biggest teen celebration of the season. See you at the ball and Laissez les bons temps rouler!

CATTAILS DEC 2025/JAN 2026



JOIN A BOOK CLUB



BOOKS & BANTER

MAIN BRANCH

Books & Banter is for romance lovers who enjoy good stories and even better conversations. We will discuss *Out on a Limb* by Hannah Bonam-Young.

Wed., Jan. 28 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Out on a Limb by Hannah Bonam-Young



CULTURE IN CONTEXT

MAIN BRANCH

Discuss works written predominantly by authors that are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color).

Tues., Dec. 16 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Small Things Like These
by Claire Keegan

Tues., Jan. 20 at 5:30-7 p.m.

China Rich Girlfriend
by Kevin Kwan



JUST READ

SEARCY MEMORIAL

We discuss our favorite books from all genres. Come and discuss while enjoying cookies and coffee.

Thurs., Dec. 18 at 2-3 p.m.

We will be discussing old and new titles for the Christmas season. Bring your recently read Christmas story and share with the group.

Thurs., Jan. 29 at 2-3 p.m.

We will be discussing old and new titles for the winter months. Bring your favorite cozy read and tell us all about it.



KETTLE & CAULDRON

WEST MONROE

Where stories steep and conversations flow.

Mon., Dec. 8 at 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Time of the Child by Niall Williams

Mon., Jan. 12 at 4:45-5:45 p.m.

The Café with No Name
by Robert Seethaler



LOST IN THE STACKS

MAIN BRANCH

Spans genres with member selected titles, this is where books and friends meet.

Tues., Dec. 9 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Tues., Jan. 13 at 5:30-7 p.m.

North Woods by Daniel Mason



MYSTICAL MARGINS

WEST OUACHITA

Mystical Margins Book Club is escaping the ordinary one enchanted page at a time!

Fri., Dec. 5 at 1-2 p.m.

Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik

Fri., Jan. 2 at 1-2 p.m.

Assassin's Apprentice
by Robin Hobb



ONLINE BOOK CLUB

FACEBOOK

Check online to see what book we will be reading and discussing. Join us at facebook.com/groups/OuachitaParishPublicLibrary

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUBS



AFTER-SCHOOL

OLLIE BURNS

Thurs., Dec. 11 at 4-5 p.m.

This Is Christmas by Tracy Andreen



GRIMM READER'S

ANNA MEYER

A Young Adult book club that discusses YA horror.

Sat., Dec. 20 at 2-3 p.m.

You're Not Supposed to Die Tonight by Kalynn Bayron

Sat., Jan. 17 at 2-3 p.m.

White Smoke by Tiffany D. Jackson



THE MIDNIGHT READER

OUACHITA VALLEY

A Young Adult book club.

Sat., Oct. 16 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Afterlife of Holly Chase by Cynthia Hand

Sat., Nov. 27 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Call of Cthulhu by H.P. Lovecraft



PAGE TURNERS

WEST OUACHITA

We discuss thrilling and suspenseful page turners.

Fri., Dec. 12 at 2-3 p.m.

The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year by Ally Carter

Fri., Jan. 9 at 2-3 p.m.

None of This is True by Lisa Jewell



RAINBOW READS

MAIN BRANCH

Rainbow Reads is an 18+ book club that celebrates diversity with books by and about our LGBTQ+ community members. For questions reach out to Ellen at emasters@oplib.org.

Thurs., Dec. 18 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Join us for our annual Pot o' Gold Awards and chat about our favorite books from 2025. *We will not be checking out a book this month.*

Thurs., Jan. 29 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Come find out what's on our reading list for 2026!



SCIFI FANTASY

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

We read and discuss great scifi and fantasy books with others that enjoy them too!

Sat., Jan. 17 at 2-3 p.m.

The Book that Wouldn't Burn by Mark Lawrence



THRILLING THURSDAYS

MAIN BRANCH

Thrilling Thursdays discusses books with twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat.

Thurs., Dec. 18 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Hercule Poirot's Silent Night by Sophie Hannah

Thurs., Jan. 15 at 5:30-7 p.m.

Death at the White Hart by Chris Chibnall

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS



MAIN BRANCH

BEGINNING MICROSOFT WORD

Thurs., Dec. 11
at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn how to create documents using Microsoft Word.

MICROSOFT WORD FORMATTING & EDITING

Thurs., Jan. 8
at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn how to format and edit documents in Microsoft Word.

WEST OUACHITA BBRANCH

Please register by calling: (318) 327-5414

BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS

This is a very basic computer course for new users. We will work primarily in Word. Laptops provided.

Thurs., Dec. 4 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 5 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Thurs., Jan. 8 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 9 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

ANNA MEYER BRANCH

Space is Limited. Call (318) 327-1351 or email Nathan at nflores@oplib.org to register.
*Classes may not meet during the week of holidays.

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

Every Mon.*
at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn computer basics and hone your skills to operate a computer.

PRACTICAL COMPUTER SKILLS

Every Tues.*
at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Build on basic skills to learn practical and useful computer skills.

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

Every Wed.*
at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn computer basics and hone your skills to operate a computer.

SMARTPHONE LITERACY

Every Thurs.*
at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn more about smartphones including how to operate, navigate, and utilize them in effective ways.

COZY UP WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD THIS WINTER DID YOU KNOW?



Your library is here to keep you warm, informed, and entertained this Winter, no matter where you are! As the temperatures drop and we spend more time indoors, your library card can bring the world to your fingertips—right from the comfort of home!



Use your library card and PIN number
(last 4 digits of your telephone number) to:

Access your OPPL account online

Access Free Digital Apps



Enjoy books, movies, music, and more
through digital apps:

Hoopla

CloudLibrary

Freegal

Kanopy



Easy Login Tips:

Hoopla: Set up an account using your email, a password you create, your library card number, and PIN

CloudLibrary: Library card number + PIN (last 4 digits of your phone number)



Convenient Services at Your Fingertips:

Request items over the phone or online for pickup at any of our branches.

Check out and return items at any location.

Extend your checkout period by phone or online.

ADULT PROGRAMS

HEALTH & WELLNESS



TALKS



MOVIES



EVENTS & SOCIALS



ARTS & CRAFTS



GAMES



BOOKISH & WRITING



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



ANNA MEYER

ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Mon., Dec. 8 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Come join our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign. Friendly to both new and experienced players.

BINGO BONANZA



Mon., Dec. 15 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Join us for some rousing rounds of bingo!

ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Mon., Dec. 22 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Come join our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign. Friendly to both new and experienced players.

ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Mon., Jan. 5 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Come join our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign. Friendly to both new and experienced players.

BINGO BONANZA



Mon., Jan. 12 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Join us for some rousing rounds of bingo!

ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Mon., Jan. 26 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Come join our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign. Friendly to both new and experienced players.

CARVER-MCDONALD

DECORATING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



Thurs., Dec. 11 | 11-12:30 p.m.

Learn how to decorate Christmas ornaments with patterns and designs using paint pens.

SOAPING WITH SADE: EXFOLIATING



Thurs., Jan. 15 | 11-12:30 p.m.

Use different natural ingredients in making soap.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

LOUISE WILLIAMS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE



Sat., Dec. 6 | 1-3 p.m.

Join the staff of Louise Williams for their Annual Open House as they trim the Christmas tree, enjoy live music, food, children's crafts, and Christmas trivia!

HERBS & SPICES POP-UP



Thurs., Jan. 8 | 1-2 p.m.

LSU AgCenter Agent, Cathy Agan, shares healthier ways to use herbs and spices in recipes to reduce sodium intake.

COFFEE WITH COUNSELORS



Fri., Jan. 9 | 10-11 a.m.

Start the year off right with a mental check-in. Come renew your mind as you spend some time with two local counselors.

CARDIO DANCE



Sat., Jan. 17 | 1-2 p.m.

Join local fitness expert, Terri Crawford, as she shares the importance of exercising.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL



Thurs., Jan. 29 | 1-2 p.m.

LSU AgCenter Agent, Kathy Agan, shares healthier options using herbs and spices in recipes to reduce sodium intake.



MAIN



CAT'S TAIL GUILD

Thurs., Dec. 4 | 5-7 p.m.

Join us for D&D one-shots!



WRITE CLUB

Mon., Dec. 8 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Join Write Club and hone your craft.



HOOKS & BOOKS

Tues., Dec. 9 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.



SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAYS

Fri., Dec. 12 | 1-2 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of the holidays on the Celtic Harp with musician Miriam Bennett.



CHRONICLES OF YARNIA

Tues., Dec. 16 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.



CAT'S TAIL GUILD

Thurs., Jan. 8 | 5-7 p.m.

Join us for D&D one-shots!



WRITE CLUB

Mon., Jan. 12 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Join Write Club and hone your craft.



HOOKS & BOOKS

Mon., Jan. 13 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.



CHRONICLES OF YARNIA

Tues., Jan. 27 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.

OLLIE BURNS

SILENT READING PARTY

Wed., Dec. 3 | 5-6 p.m.

Bring or borrow a book and spend the evening reading quietly.

DIY GIFTS WORKSHOP

Wed., Dec. 17 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Enjoy making simple, meaningful gifts for those you care about.

AFTERNOON CLASSIC

Sat., Dec. 20 | 2-4 p.m.

Bring a blanket and enjoy the movie, *The Preacher's Wife* (PG). Call 318-327-1235 to register.

VISION YOUR 2026

Wed., Jan. 7 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Come create a vision board to start the new year. Call 318-327-1235 to register.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Wed., Jan. 21 | 5-6 p.m.

Warm up this season by sharing your favorite recipes with fellow food lovers!

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

Wed., Jan. 28 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Don't judge a book by its cover—take a chance on a literary mystery!

OUACHITA VALLEY

HOLIDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Mon., Dec. 8 | 2-4 p.m.

Join us for popcorn and the movie, *Home Alone* (PG).

MASON JAR LUMINARIES CRAFT

Sat., Jan. 3 | 1-3 p.m.

Winter Craft: Mason Jar Luminaries. Learn how to frost glass mason jars. Call 318-327-1470 to register.

SEARCY MEMORIAL

COOKIE SWAP & CHRISTMAS MOVIE PARTY

Thurs., Dec. 11 | 2-4 p.m.

Celebrate the season with movie refreshments and cookies. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies and recipe to share while watching *Christmas With the Kranks* (PG).

DIAMOND ART BOOKMARKS CRAFT

Thurs., Jan. 8 | 2-3 p.m.

Make a beautiful Diamond Art bookmark! Limited to 12 patrons. Call 318-327-1240 to register.

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

OYSTER SHELL ORNAMENTS

Wed., Dec. 10 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Make your own ornaments using oyster shells and decorative napkins, perfect for a Louisiana tree!

WINTER ACRYLIC WITH ALEX

Tues., Jan. 14 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of Winter Acrylic with local artist, Alex Ogle.

WEST MONROE

SEED STARTING WITH LESA

Wed., Dec. 10 | 2-3 p.m.

Learn all about seed starting with Lesa James, master gardener and proprietor of Sweet Sarah Louise Nursery & Farm.

MUSICAL MORNINGS

Sat., Dec. 13 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.

We'll be watching *White Christmas* (NR) with popcorn and refreshments provided.

MUSICAL MORNINGS

Sat., Jan. 10 | 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Come listen to the music of the night as we show *The Phantom of the Opera* (PG-13).

THE COLD WAR: PART II

Wed., Jan. 21 | 2-3 p.m.

Dr. Jennifer Dumas, assistant professor of political science at ULM, will be presenting *The Cold War: Part II*.

WEST OUACHITA

TASHA TUDOR'S A CORGIVILLE CHRISTMAS

Fri., Dec. 5 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Peek into an old-fashioned Christmas through author and illustrator Tasha Tudor's life, and her children's book, *A Corgiville Christmas* with refreshments. Call 318-327-5414 to register.

MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON

Thurs., Dec. 11 | 1:30-4 p.m.

Join us for popcorn and a movie; this month's selection is *Many Colors: A Circle of Love* (TV-G).

THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB

Thurs., Dec. 18 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Paint a Christmas Highland Cow. Space is limited, register by calling 318-327-5414. Wear your paint clothes!

ROCKY BOUDREAUX PRESENTS: THE GOLDEN HINDE SAILS AGAIN!

Thurs., Jan. 8 | 1:30-3 p.m.

Professional photographer and educator Rocky Boudreaux will take you on a photographic adventure sailing in the replica of Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hinde.

THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB

Thurs., Jan. 15 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Paint a festive Mardi Gras Gnome. Space is limited, register by calling 318-327-5414. Wear your paint clothes!

MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON

Thurs., Jan. 22 | 1:30-4 p.m.

Join us for popcorn and the movie, *Disney's Togo* (PG).

CHAIR AEROBICS



OLLIE BURNS

EVERY MONDAY,
TUESDAY, AND
WEDNESDAY
THROUGHOUT
DECEMBER AND
JANUARY

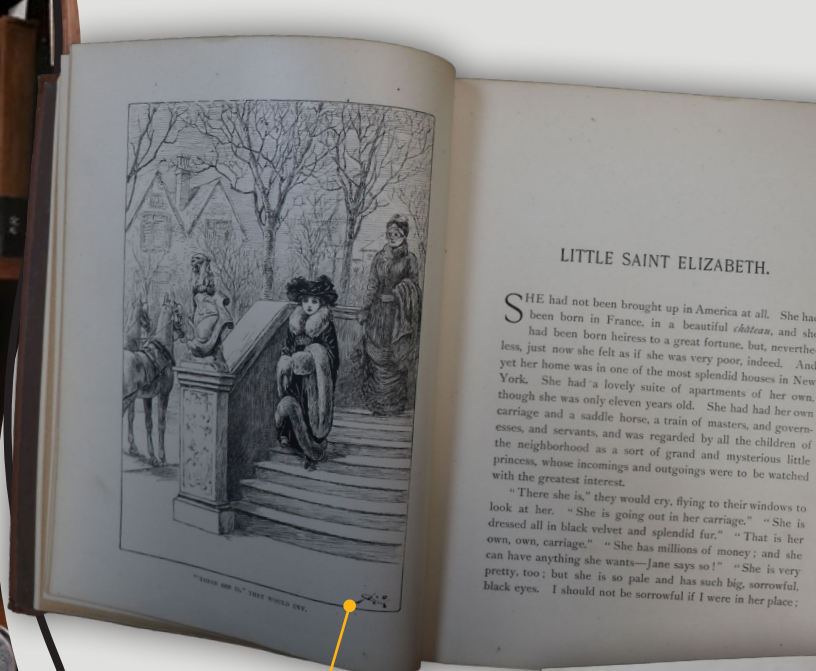
FROM 10:30
TO 11:30 A.M.

Join ChairOne Fitness with Zakiya for a fun low-impact workout designed to improve strength, flexibility, and circulation. Our workout will be set to soulful, seasonal tunes.

Speakers are invited to help our patrons stay informed about better health through nutrition, physical fitness, and knowledge of helpful life practices.

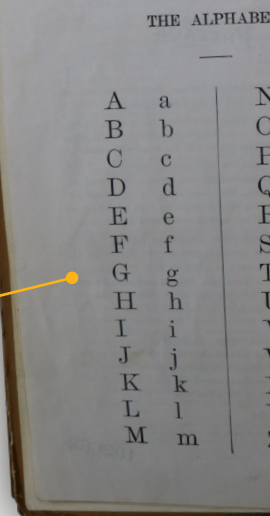


FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Little Saint Elizabeth and
Other Stories* by Frances
Hodgson Burnett,
published in 1891

*McGuffey's First Eclectic
Reader Revised Edition*



A HISTORY OF PROMOTING LITERACY

The advancement of literacy has always been a part of the mission of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. When we think about literacy, we often think of children's services. Many people use the library most when they are children or when they have children and grandchildren to take to the library. Parents and grandparents who read to and with their children help make reading a "fun" activity which also helps improve important reading skills.

John Newbery is considered the father of Children's Literature. He published *A Pretty Pocket-Book Intended for the Instruction and Amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Miss Polly* in 1744.

Hans Christian Anderson collected over 3,300 fairy tales to which the Brothers Grimm published two volumes in 1812 and 1815 of 156 tales, though they were not illustrated until later. In 1816, E.T.A. Hoffman published *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, a German collection of fantastic stories. In 1865, Lewis Carroll published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. As more children's books, especially picture books, were published, literacy rates improved.

By the 1920s, publishing houses had children's departments specializing in early life literature. Early authors such as Louisa May Alcott, E.B. White, Maurice Sendack, and Dr. Seuss helped many young readers advance their reading skills.



McGuffey's
Eclectic Reader
Revised Edition
Series

McGuffey's Second
Eclectic Reader
Revised Edition

Early children's books in the Ouachita Parish Public Library system can be found in Special Collections at the Main Branch. That collection contains early editions of *Through the Looking Glass*, published by Lewis Carroll in 1875 and *Little Saint Elizabeth & Other Stories* published in 1891 by Frances Hodgson Burnett – who is also the author of *The Secret Garden*.

The oldest children's book in the Library is from the *McGuffey's New Eclectic Reader* series that was first published in the 1830s to teach literacy skills. Students started with the first reader and progressed through the set, building on previously taught skills, finally reaching advanced levels suitable for high school.

The Library has an 1866 copy of the *McGuffey's New Fifth Eclectic Reader* and there are also 1896 editions of the first, second, third, and fourth level readers.

In terms of circulation figures, the oldest monthly circulation report housed in the Archives collection is from January 1936. The library circulated 4050 items that month with 1070 (almost 1/3) being juvenile items.

Although we don't have a total number of borrowers, that month, 19 adult borrowers were added and 50 juvenile borrowers were added. Children's services were important back then when the library was known as Monroe Public Library and there was only one physical location.

Children's services are still important to this day at the Ouachita Parish Public Library. There are programs for infants through teens. Children's and young adult books circulate in great numbers, and our respective Summer and Winter Reading Challenge activities showcase the commitment to advancing literacy in Ouachita parish.



Ouachita Parish Public Library
1800 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Monroe, LA 71203
Permit # 41

NEED A LITTLE
PICK ME UP?
WE'VE GOT YOU
COVERED.

NOW BREWING

SEVENTH SQUARE COFFEE x OPPL

- 01 Book Nook Brew - \$6**
Honey, caramel latte
- 02 Calico Cattails - \$5**
Hot cocoa with white chocolate,
mocha and cinnamon
- 03 Minty Reads - \$7**
Matcha latte, peppermint simple syrup
[Additional \$1 for alternative milks]

Brewed for Readers of All Ages

414 Wood St Suite B, West Monroe, LA 71291



READ.
SIP.
REPEAT.



VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!

ANNA MEYER
1808 US Hwy 165 S.
Monroe, LA 71202
(318) 327-1351

CARVER-MCDONALD
2941 Renwick St.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-1477

LOUISE WILLIAMS
140 Bayou Oaks Dr.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 327-5422

MAIN BRANCH
1800 Stubbs Ave.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-1490

OLLIE BURNS
5601 Hwy. 165 By-Pass
Richwood, LA 71202
(318) 327-1235

OUACHITA VALLEY
601 McMillan Rd.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 327-1470

**SEARCY
MEMORIAL**
5775 Jonesboro Rd.
West Monroe, LA 71292
(318) 327-1240

**STERLINGTON
MEMORIAL**
305 Keystone Rd.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 327-1382

WEST MONROE
315 Cypress St.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 327-1365

WEST OUACHITA
188 Hwy 546
West Monroe, LA 71291
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