beyond the shelves

Ford's Colony Model Railroad Show
See some fabulous model trains and intricate layouts by expert master hobbyists

plus
Backgammon club, slam poetry, and Beanbag Book Club
Fine Arts

Dewey Decibel Concert Series
Free admission, no tickets required.

Dec. 7:
Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) NR
One of MGM’s greatest musicals follows a year in the life of a middle-class family in 1903 St. Louis. 1hr 53min

Dec. 14:
White Christmas (1954) NR
The magnificent music of Irving Berlin is the star player in this fun film about a pair of ex-GIs and a sister act who put on a big show to help their former commander save his floundering inn in Vermont. 2hrs

Dec. 21:
Scrooge (1970) G
This musical version of Charles Dickens’s classic Christmas story stars Albert Finney as Ebenezer Scrooge with Alec Guinness, Edith Evans, and Kenneth Moore costarring under the direction of Ronald Neame. Leslie Bricusse provided the musical score. 1hr 53min

Feb. 19:
The Boys of ’36 (2016) PG
At the height of the Great Depression, a crew of American underdogs compete against elite rivals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. This inspiring American Experience documentary spotlights the real-life rowers of the bestselling The Boys in the Boat. 1hr

Dec. 26: Library closed for Christmas

Tidewater Concert Band
Dec. 1, 7:30 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Since 1971, The Tidewater Concert Band has been providing exciting, professional, high quality music entertainment ranging from Sousa Style Marches, Big Band, to Swing, Blues, and even Broadway Musicals. Thanks to support from Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

The LCV Project: An Acoustic Christmas
Dec. 6, 11 am
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Join the LCV Project with Louis C. Vangieri for a family friendly program of holiday music through the gentle sounds and creative arrangements for instrumental solo acoustic guitar. An Acoustic Christmas features a blend of traditional carols and heartwarming songs of the season.

Celtic Film Series
6 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

Dec. 14: Darby O’Gill and the Little People (1959) G
A frisky old storyteller matches wits with shrewd trickster King Brian, a 21-inch leprechaun, to get the pot of gold in this 1959 fantasy adventure Disney film. 1hr 33min

Throwback Thursday: Classic Christmas
Thursdays at 2 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

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Dec. 28: Holiday Inn (1942) NR
A New England inn that is only open on holidays is the setting for this fine musical about two singers (Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire) vying for the affections of the same woman. Irving Berlin provides the wonderful score, which includes the classic song “White Christmas.” Mark Sandrich directed with Marjorie Reynolds and Virginia Dale costarring. 1hr 40min

Harry Potter Film Series
Dec. 6, 1:30 and 6 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Williamsburg Library Theatre and Schell Room
Get out your high heels and hop in your hot-pink convertible for a showing of the 2023 film and a celebration of all things Barbie. Bring your best Ken-ergy for snacks, crafts, and fun. Dress up if you’re inspired! Film is PG-13 1hr 54min

Art House Café
Tuesdays at 2 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

Dec. 5: No film

An unexpected love affair blooms when lonely Robert (Martin Landau) encounters the charming widow (Ellen Burstyn) who just moved in across the street. 1hr 32min

Dec. 19: The Boys of ’36 (2016) PG
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Dec. 26: Library closed for Christmas

Peninsula Concert Band
Dec. 13, 7 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
The Peninsula Concert Band will perform a variety of holiday music pieces including classic, and popular music to help celebrate the season.

York River Concert Band
Dec. 21, 7 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
This ensemble was formed over 30 years ago by members of the former Newport News Shipbuilding Band. It has been active in the Tidewater area since then, performing at various venues including commencement ceremonies, churches, retirement establishments, and other community events.

Films

Cinema @ Scotcland Street
6 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

Dec. 18, Last Christmas (2019) PG-13
This rom-com, set during the holiday season, features a young woman at loose ends (Emilia Clarke) who finds herself falling for a man with a mysterious past (Henry Golding). 1hr 43min

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Film is PG-13

Saturday Morning Cartoons
10:30 AM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

This collection of cartoons features Shaun the Sheep and his wooly pals at Mossy Bottom Farm in a series of adventures, including the Flight Before Christmas. 1hr 22min

Party and Film

Saturday, December 9. Party at 4 pm, film 2 pm and 5:15 pm Williamsburg Library Theatre and Schell Room
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Exhibits

Tuesday Painters
WRL Gallery at the Library Theatre,
Dec. 1 - Dec. 30
Tuesday Painters is an informal, self-directed group of local and regional artists who share a love of creating and learning from each other in weekly group studio sessions. Their work is eclectic and creative, with a wide range of subject matter and styles. Opening reception will be held November 18, 5-7 pm.

’Twas the Night Before Christmas:
An Exhibition of Christmas Critters
WRL Gallery at Stryker Center, Dec. 1 - Jan. 5, 2024 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Join William & Mary Libraries in collaboration with the WRL Gallery at Stryker Center as they celebrate the many cute and colorful creatures of Clement C. Moore’s holiday classic, “A Visit from St. Nicholas.”

Adults

Want to learn computer skills at home at your own pace? Visit url.org/find-it-online and click the Lifelong Learning tab to see what’s available.

Call 757.741.3300, option 2 to register for classes.

Internet 101
Dec. 6, 11 am
Williamsburg Library, Room C

Top Ten Tips for Using Your New iPhone and iPad
Dec. 6, 2-3:30 pm
James City County Library, Cosby Room

Beginning Word
Dec. 9, 10:30 am
Williamsburg Library, Room B

Advanced Excel
Dec. 10, 2 pm
Virtual
See webcalendar to join the class.

Intermediate Word I
Dec. 14, 10 am
James City County Library, Cosby Room

Beginning PowerPoint
Dec. 14, 4 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

Cloud Photo Management
Dec. 30, 10:30 am
Stryker Center, Room 128
No registration required.

book groups

Whodunnits
Free Read
Dec. 5, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room 128

Fellowship in a Ring
Holiday Potluck and Reindeer Games
Dec. 6, 6 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Next Chapter Book Club
Join a unique community-based book group for adolescents and adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Dec. 9, 2 - 3 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B

Power in the Panels
Watching the first episode of One Piece and comparing it to our reading done in November.
Dec. 14, 7 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128

Turning Pages
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
Dec. 19, 6:45 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B and virtual

Real People, Real Stories
Free Read
Dec. 21, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128

programs

Ford’s Colony Model Railroad Show
Dec. 2, 10 am-5 pm
Dec. 3, 1 pm-5 pm
James City County Library
Get your holidays on track with this annual tradition as the Ford’s Colony Model Railroad Club returns with their elaborate operating layouts. Marvel at the detailed settings, the intricate track planning, and the details that make each one unique.

Backgammon Club
Dec. 9, 10 am
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Players of all levels are invited to join a casual group to roll the dice in the popular game of strategy and luck. WRL will have a couple of boards on hand, but if you have one, bring your own backgammon board. 2nd Saturdays through January, with a fun tournament in February.
Ask an Extension Master Gardener
Dec. 9, 10:15-11:15 am
James City County Library,
Kitzinger Room
Is your garden not thriving? Are your shrubs scraggily or is your tree looking ill? Have you noticed spots or bugs on your plants? Where can you go for help? Extension Master Gardeners! Join us for a presentation of programs and resources available to the home gardener.

Writers’ Club
Dec. 17, 2 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Supercharge Your Writing: Write Faster and Better. Struggling to find time to write? Feel stuck with slow progress on your book? In this practical workshop, you’ll discover ways to integrate writing into your daily life while boosting your productivity.

Dungeons & Dragons Day of Play
Dec. 30, 1-4 pm
Stryker Center, Rooms 128 and 127
Join us for an afternoon of multigame play for tweens, teens, and adults! Multiple game leaders will lead single-meeting campaigns for ages 9 through adult. Choose to play with teens & adults or tweens & families. Register by December 27 by emailing anorfolk@wrl.org.

**virtual author talks**

Hear from some of your favorite big-name fiction and nonfiction authors! Register, see the full list, and view virtually at libraryc.org/wrl. Special thanks to Friends of WRL.

Let’s Talk World Building with YA Fantasy Fiction Superstar Author Victoria Aveyard
Dec. 5, 7:00 pm Virtual
Join us as the instant #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Red Queen and Realm Breaker series, Victoria Aveyard, chats online with us about Young Adult fantasy fiction, world building, and her incredible body of work.

Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education: An Author Talk with Stephanie Land
Dec. 12, 2 pm Virtual
Stephanie Land is the author of the New York Times bestseller Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive, called “a testimony...worth listening to,” by The New York Times and inspiration for the Netflix series Maid. Her writing focuses on social and economic justice and parenting under the poverty line. Register and view virtually at libraryc.org/wrl.

**makerspace**

*Makerspace class spots are limited so call 757.220.8030, option 2 to register. Ages 13+. Special thanks to Friends of WRL*

Mini Wooden Wreath Decoration
Dec. 2-23, Open Makerspace Hours
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Leading up to the holidays, we will have a take-and-make Mini Wooden Wreath available to grab and assemble inside the Makerspace during open Makerspace hours. While supplies last.

Glowforge Gingerbread Earrings
Dec. 1, 4:30-5:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Join us in making some custom gingerbread earrings on the Glowforge! For ages 18+.

Holiday Cake Decorating
Dec. 2, 11 am
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Learn how to decorate your own ornament-shaped mini cake to take home.

Sit and Stitch
Dec. 10, 1-2:30 pm
James City County Library,
Kitzinger Room
Join us for this new program where beginners can meet up and learn the basics of knitting and people with projects are encouraged to stitch along with others. No registration required. Some bases are provided for those without a project.

Holiday Wreath Making
Dec. 11, 4-5 pm
James City County Library,
Kitzinger Room
We’re making beautiful burlap wreaths with some greenery adornments.

Drop In Holiday Card Making
Dec. 15, 2-5 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128
All ages welcome in this drop in card making session. No registration required.

**Children ongoing programs & activities**

Learn more about ongoing programs like 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Story Trail, the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio, and the Open Art Studio by visiting wrl.org/children.

**No storytimes Dec. 27-29**

**Other storytimes Dec. 1-31**

**Beanstack Challenge: Tasty Treats**
Dec. 1 – 31
Both libraries and online
Many of our favorite holiday traditions involve sharing food, and we’re here for it! This December, you can share your tested recipes with us and find new favorites. Check out some new cookbooks, try some food-related activities, and log your reading all month long to complete the challenge and earn a 3D-printed cookie cutter and sweet treat of your own.

**Second Sunday ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas Event**
Dec. 10, 1-4 pm
Stryker Center
No Santa this year but we will have “kids’ crafts and activities. This event goes hand in hand with the W&M Special Collections’ ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit.

**Paws to Read with K-9 Connection**
Dec. 10, 2:30-3:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Reading is even more fun when you can share it with a fluffy, four-legged friend, and it’s a great way for beginning readers to practice with a patient audience. Drop in to read a story to trained therapy dogs, no registration required.

**Homeschool Enrichment**
Dec. 13, 2 pm
James City County Library,
Kitzinger Room
Library learners will discover something new every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from this series of enrichment programs for kids in grades K-5. Pick up a ticket at the children’s desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve your spot. Note: There will only be one program in December.
**Baby Stay and Play**
Mondays, 10:15 am (immediately following Baby Lapsit Storytime)  
Williamsburg Library  
Tuesdays, 10:15 am (immediately following Baby Lapsit Storytime)  
James City County Library, YS Program Rooms  
Stay after storytime or just come in for the playdate to chat with other caregivers while your baby has fun with our toy collection. On the first Monday and Tuesday of each month, experts from Child Development Resources will join us to answer your questions about your baby’s development.

**Toddler Storytime**
Tuesdays, 10 am  
Williamsburg Library  
Wednesdays, 10 am  
James City County Library, YS Program Rooms  
Toddler Storytime is a storytime program designed for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers, featuring brief stories, rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and other activities.

**Party Hat Craft**
Dec. 28, 11 am - 1 pm  
James City County Library  
Get ready to end the year in style by crafting your own New Year’s Eve party hat and noisemaker. (Includes small pieces; recommended for ages 3+.)

**Holiday Puppet Storytime**
Dec. 17, 2 pm  
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room  
Get in the spirit of the season with a special holiday edition of Puppet Storytime! Bundle up and get cozy because this month will feature holiday songs, stories, and a craft. Recommended for ages 3+.

**Beanbag Book Club**
Dec. 20, 1:30 pm  
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room  
Each month during the school year we celebrate emerging literacy by reading and participating in fun activities based on a different early reader book. There is no commitment to attend every meeting. Includes a copy of the book to keep. For ages 5 – 8. In December we’re reading *Cornbread and Poppy* by Matthew Cordell, making homemade hot cocoa mix, and having marshmallow races. Space is limited; pick up a free ticket at the children’s desk beginning 30 minutes before the program begins.

**Preschool Dance Party**
Dec. 16, 11 am  
Stryker Center, Room 127  
What do you get when you add balloons and bubbles to music? A fantastic preschool dance party! Put on your dancing shoes and join us for an exciting hour of songs, movement, rhymes, and just plain fun. Parents, it’s a great time for you to share your best moves with your little ones as well.

**Storytimes**

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*cornbread & poppy*
Holiday Movie Night  
Dec. 2, 2-4 pm  
James City County Library, Teen Room  
Enjoy a holiday movie and hot chocolate with other teens in the Teen Room. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, (2000 PG 1 hr 55min). No registration required.

Teen Advisory Group  
Dec. 7, 6-7 pm  
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room  
WRL’s teen volunteer group meets the first Thursday of the month to share ideas for library services and work on various tasks. Application and orientation required.

Winter Kickback  
Dec. 27, 3-5 pm  
James City County Library, Teen Room  
Kick back, play video games, and relax. Prepare for the new year with other teens. For ages 13-18. No registration required.

Mario Kart Tournament  
Dec. 16, 2-4 pm  
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room  
Race to victory in a *Mario Kart* tournament. 1st place wins a prize! For ages 9-18. No registration required.

Tween Game Day  
Dec. 20, 1-3 pm  
Williamsburg Library, Youth Services Program Room  
Drop in for board games and Nintendo Switch video games including Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, and more. Ages 9-12.

Wreath Making  
Dec. 22, 4-5 pm  
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace  
Come by and make a holiday wreath decorated however you like! For ages 9-18.

Jenga Tournament  
Dec. 23, 2-3:30 pm  
James City County Library, Teen Room  
Are you the *Jenga* Champion? Come show your skills! First place takes a prize! For ages 13-18. No registration required.

Teens Night Out  
Dec. 29, 6-8 pm  
James City County Library, Teen Room  
Celebrate the end of the month with friends, games, snacks, music and more! Enjoy all the Teen Room has to offer! For ages 13-18. No registration required.

Dungeons & Dragons Day of Play  
Dec. 30, 1-4 pm  
Stryker Center, Rooms 128 and 127  
Join us for an afternoon of multigame play for tweens, teens, and adults! Multiple game leaders will lead single-meeting campaigns for ages 9 through adult. Choose to play with teens & adults or tweens & families. Register by December 27 by emailing anorfolk@wrl.org.
Behind every great library is a great Friends organization, and the Friends of WRL are a wonderful example of just what such a strong partnership can achieve thanks to the generous support and hard work of numerous donors and volunteers.

Because of the Friends’ fundraising and advocacy efforts in 2023, WRL has been able to offer engaging new programs and spaces like a new mobile teaching kitchen outreach program, more outreach programming in the Grove community including the expansion of the Spanish language program Cena con Cuentos, the virtual author talks program, a popular new teen room, and a seed exchange for new and experienced gardeners, both in the James City County Library.

The Friends support the popular Dewey Decibel Concert series, summer reading programs for adults and children, seasonal community festivals, the annual One Book One Community reading project co-hosted with William & Mary Libraries, and so much more.

The Friends allow the library to dream big and enable WRL to provide an exceptional level of service to the public. Learn more about becoming a Friend by visiting wrl.org/give, or contact Dr. Benjamin Goldberg, Library Development Officer at 757.741.3390.