beyond the shelves

Watch a virtual talk with award-winning author Jason Mott

plus
Black History Month programs, new film society, glow party, and paper airplane competition
Fine Arts & Films
Enjoy a photography exhibit and an Italian film festival
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Adults
Discuss films and hear from popular authors
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Sign up for WRL’s weekly or monthly newsletters to find out about upcoming events, the library’s latest titles, ideas on what to read or watch, and more. wrl.org/newsletters

Exhibits

Muscarelle Museum of Art Student Photography Contest
WRL Gallery at Stryker Center, Feb. 1-29, Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm
The Muscarelle Museum of Art is proud to present an exhibition of student photography submitted as part of a competition held in the fall semester of 2024. Juried by Cuban artist and photographer Adrián Fernández, this exhibition will feature photographic works by currently enrolled students at William & Mary from diverse disciplines.

Italian Film Festival:
Marriage Italian Style (1964) NR
Feb. 17, 2 pm Williamsburg Library Theatre
Wealthy businessman Domenico (Marcello Mastroianni) and young prostitute Filumena (Sophia Loren) share a large part of their lives in post-WWII Italy. Free admission. The Colonial Italian American Organization (CIAO) is a social club for all who love Italy and Italian culture. 1hr 42m

Feb. 8: Them! (1954) NR
Atomic testing in New Mexico creates a nest of giant ants that threaten the city of Los Angeles. James Whitmore and James Arness star in this excellent sci-fi film, widely considered to be the best of the “Giant Bug” movies of the 1950s. 1hr 34min

Feb. 15: The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) G
The people of Earth are threatened with destruction unless they learn to live peacefully with other planets in the universe. The story, acting, theremin music, and special effects make this critically-lauded science fiction film something special. Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal, and Hugh Marlowe star under the direction of Robert Wise. “Klaatu Barada Nikto!” 1hr 32min

Throwback Thursday: 1950s Sci-Fi

Feb. 22: Forbidden Planet (1956) G
In the 23rd century, the crew of a starship are sent to check up on the colonists of planet Altair IV. They find two survivors, the remnant of an ancient civilization, and an invisible but deadly creature. This superb and influential sci-fi film stars Walter Pidgeon, Anne Francis, Leslie Nielsen, and Robbie the Robot. 1hr 38min

Films

Celtic Film Series:
Ordinary Love (2019) R
Feb. 8, 6 pm Williamsburg Library Theatre
An extraordinary look at the lives of a middle-aged couple in the midst of the wife’s breast cancer diagnosis. 1hr 32min. The Celtic Film Series is supported by the Cardinal John O’Connor Division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Italian Film Festival:
War of the Worlds (1953) G
Feb. 1: A small town in California is the beachhead for an alien invasion from Mars in this striking version of H. G. Wells’s classic science fiction novel. Gene Barry headlines the cast but the real stars are the Academy Award-winning special effects. 1hr 25min

Feb. 22: Forbidden Planet (1956) G
In the 23rd century, the crew of a starship are sent to check up on the colonists of planet Altair IV. They find two survivors, the remnant of an ancient civilization, and an invisible but deadly creature. This superb and influential sci-fi film stars Walter Pidgeon, Anne Francis, Leslie Nielsen, and Robbie the Robot. 1hr 38min
Feb. 29: **Invaders from Mars (1953)**
NR
A young boy sees a flying saucer landing near his town. The people who investigate come back looking the same but acting... strange. Can the child with the help of a few locals stop this alien invasion of Earth? The great art director William Cameron Menzies directed this paranoid thriller that stars Helena Carter, Arthur Franz, and Jimmy Hunt. hrs 18min

**Art House Café**
Tuesdays at 2 pm
**Williamsburg Library Theatre**
Feb. 6: **Never Too Late for Love (Astolfo) (2022)** NR
Upon retirement, a professor returns to his childhood home in southern Italy. Amidst culture clashes with the town folk, he romances a lovely local lady. This Italian romantic comedy stars Gianni Di Gregorio and Stefania Sandrelli. In Italian with English subtitles. hrs 37min

Feb. 13: **No Film**

Feb. 20: **A Man Named Pearl (2006)** G
Armed with a hedge trimmer, self-taught topiary artist Pearl Fryar transformed a 3-acre property from “yard of the month” to a popular tourist destination. This uplifting documentary describes how Fryar’s gardening vision inspired his entire South Carolina community. hrs 18min

Feb. 27: **My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (2023)** PG-13
The Portokalos family visits Greece to fulfill the final wish of the family’s late patriarch in this new comedy from director/star Nia Vardalos that costars John Corbett and Louis Mandylor. hrs 32min

**No Cinema @ Scotland St. in February due to Presidents’ Day closure**

**WRL Film Society**
Feb. 4, 1-2:30 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**
Join a discussion group for movie lovers, with meetings on the first Sunday of each month. Come share your views on the films you have recently watched (no major spoilers!) and discuss a set of questions posed by the group leaders. This is a group for fans of films of all kinds – classic films, blockbusters, and even guilty pleasures. To get on our mailing list for the group, send a request through the Ask a Librarian form at wrl.org/ask-a-librarian.

**book groups**

**Whodunnits**
Death in Holy Orders by P.D. James
Feb. 6, 6:30 pm
**James City County Library, Kitzinger Room**

**Fellowship in a Ring**
Contact nhollands@wrl.org or anorfalk@wrl.org for suggested book list, or send a request to join the Facebook group for details.
Feb. 7, 6:30 pm
**James City County Library, Kitzinger Room**

**Power in the Panels**
The Night Eaters: She Eats the Night by Marjorie Liu
Feb. 8, 7 pm
**Stryker Center, Room 128**

**Real People, Real Stories**
Elon Musk by Walter Isaacson
Feb. 15, 2 pm
**Stryker Center, Room 128**

**Turning Pages**
The Vaster Wilds by Lauren Groff
Feb. 20, 6:45 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B & Virtual**

**Next Chapter Book Club**
Feb. 10, 2-3 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**
Join a unique community-based book group for adolescents and adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Attendees will meet to read together, talk about different worlds and interesting characters, and learn about exciting new things. To find out more, please contact Linda at lniedzwick@wrl.org.

**programs**

**Adult Winter Reading**
Feb. 1-29
Get warm and cozy with our Adult Winter Reading Challenge. Read and log any 4 books (using Beanstack or paper forms from either library or the bookmobiles), and you’ll win a small prize. Everyone who submits a log will also be entered in a drawing for a book-themed mug. Perfect for curling up with a good book on a cold day! *This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.*

**Researching Genealogy for DAR Membership**
Feb. 3, 11am
**Stryker Center, Room 127**
DAR volunteers will be available to search the national DAR website to assist those seeking Revolutionary ancestors. WRL librarians will assist visitors with genealogy reference books and provide online access to the library’s databases, Ancestry and HeritageQuest. Presented by Barbara Rooney of the Ann Wager Chapter of the DAR.

**English Conversation Café**
Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30 pm
**Stryker Center**
Join us for weekly relaxed conversation to practice and improve your English skills. Newcomers always welcome. For ages 16 through adult.

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**Adult classes**
Call 757-741-3300, option 2 to register for classes. Want to learn computer skills at home at your own pace? Visit wrl.org/find-it-online and click the Lifelong Learning tab to see what’s available.

**Internet 101**
Feb. 6, 2 pm
**James City County Library, Cosby Room**

**Beginning Excel**
Feb. 11, 3 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

**Introduction to Libby**
Feb. 15, 10 am
**James City County Library, Cosby Room**

**Intermediate Excel**
Feb. 17, 10:30 am
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

**Top Ten Tips for Using Your New iPhone or iPad**
Feb. 28, 2-3:30 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

**Beginning Word**
Feb. 29, 10 am
**James City County Library, Cosby Room**

**Beginning PowerPoint**
Feb. 29, 4 pm
**Williamsburg Library, Room B**
What Do Bacteria Talk About? Exploring New Ways to Treat Bacterial Infections
Feb. 21, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 127
Jesse Derringer, master’s student in Chemistry at William & Mary, will explain how his lab targets a particular cellular process—bacterial communication, or quorum sensing—to disrupt bacteria when killing them with traditional antibiotics becomes impossible.

Mollie Cox Bryan Author Visit
Feb. 23, 3 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Mollie Cox Bryan, author of “cozy mysteries with an edge and romances with slow, sweet burn,” will be reading from her first Historical Mystery, The Lace Widow. A finalist for the Agatha Award and the Daphne du Maurier Award, she is also the keynote speaker for the Williamsburg Book Festival on February 24 at the Stryker Center.

TEN Dancers Worldwide
Feb. 25, 3 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Enjoy a dance performance from TEN Dancers Worldwide. This organization trains, equips, and provides dance experiences across the country. Their specialty is biblical and Christian dance training and techniques and their motto is “impacting the world through dance.”
Introduction to Oral History
Feb. 29, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Interested in doing an oral history with your family or in your community, but you don’t know how? Help is here! Join in for this session with Colonial Williamsburg historian Andre Taylor, who will teach you how to plan and conduct an oral history.

Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity: An Author Talk with Kim Scott
Feb. 28, 2 pm
Virtual
Kim Scott, New York Times bestselling author of Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity, will explain the Radical Candor feedback framework and how you can practice it today. She’ll offer practical, tactical tips for how to solicit criticism, give praise and criticism, gauge how what you’re saying is landing, and build a culture of Radical Candor.

Spice, Spirit, and Swoon: A Guaranteed Happily Ever After with Rom-Com Author Tessa Bailey
Feb. 8, 8 pm
Virtual
New York Times bestselling author Tessa Bailey talks about the launch of her new super hot sports romance duology with a rom-com about a bad boy professional athlete who falls for his biggest fan in her new book Fangirl Down.

No Sew Heart Pillow
Feb. 9, 4:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Join us for this no sew heart pillow perfect in time to decorate for Valentine’s day. Ages 13+.

Embroidery Machine 101
Feb. 15, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Join us for this beginner’s class on how to use the Makerspace’s embroidery machine! For ages 13+.

Glowforge 101
Feb. 22, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Learn the basics of how the Glowforge works and designing items in the software. For ages 18+.

3D Printing 101
Feb. 26, 6:30 pm
Virtual
Learn the basics of 3D printing and all the ways it’s being used from medical devices to homes! For ages 13+. No registration required. Details on how to join can be found at wrl.org/events.

Children ongoing programs & activities

Learn more about ongoing programs like the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio and the Open Art Studio by visiting wrl.org/children.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Every day
Both libraries and online
Read 1,000 books to your little one before they start kindergarten. Sign up and log your reading at wrl.beanstack.org to earn prizes while you build early literacy skills and work toward school readiness. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

Story Trail
Every day
James City County Library, Outside
Read a story page by page in the green space behind the James City County Library any time during the library’s open hours. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

programs

Love Letters Beanstack Challenge
Feb. 1-29
Both libraries and online
Share your love of reading with your friends and family all month long. Stop by the children’s desk at either library building and pick up a card to send a note to a loved one. Log your reading and complete activities to get BINGO and win a 3D-printed heart.

Cena con Cuentos
Feb. 6-Grove Christian Outreach Center
5-6:30 pm
Cena con Cuentos es un programa de lectura en español para familias hispanohablantes con niños de 0 a 10 años de edad. Cada vez habrán actividades, leeremos cuentos, y disfrutarán de una deliciosa cena para toda la familia. La participación es gratuita. Para inscribírse por favor contáctese con Sara Meldrum por SMS al 571-310-0802 o por email a smeldrum@wrl.org. Este programa está apoyado por la Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

Exploring Identity, Love, and Being Black in America in Fiction Writing: A Conversation with Award-Winning Author Jason Mott
Feb. 20, 4 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room, and Virtual
Join us as we watch a virtual talk by New York Times bestselling author Jason Mott about his recent novel Hell of a Book. This magnificent work of fiction is deeply honest, at times electrically funny, and is a book that goes to the heart of racism, police violence, and the hidden costs exacted upon Black Americans and America as a whole.
Toddler Storytime
Tuesdays, 10 am
James City County Library
Wednesdays, 10 am
Williamsburg Library, Youth Services 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.

Puppet Storytime
Feb. 4, 2 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Sing and dance with our puppets and enjoy books, flannel board stories, and other activities. Recommended for ages 3+.

Beanbag Book Club
Feb. 18, 1:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Celebrate learning to read with us! We’ll read The Mystery of the Gold Coin by Harper Paris, an early chapter book, then have crafts and activities based on the book. Includes a copy of the book to keep. For ages 5 – 8. Space is limited; pick up a free ticket at the Children’s Desk beginning 30 minutes before the program begins.

Paws to Read with K-9 Connection
Feb. 25, 2:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger 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.

Glow Party
Feb. 16, 6:30-8 pm
James City County Library
Experience the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio in a brand new light! At this after-hours party for kids and families, enjoy blacklight and glow-in-the-dark decorations and activities including neon paint, a glowing dance party, and more.

Introduction to 3D Printing
Feb. 28, 5:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
This introductory class will walk through the basics of 3D printing, including downloading a design file, preparing it to print using slicing software, and setting up the printer. Basic computer skills are required, so kids who need help using a mouse and keyboard may need a grownup to stay with them for the program. For ages 6-12; limited to 14 participants. To reserve a spot, pick up a ticket at the Children’s Desk starting one hour before class time.

Baby Stay and Play
Mondays, 10:15 am
Williamsburg Library
Tuesdays, 10:15 am
James City County Library, Youth Services Program Room
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.

Storytimes

Homeschool Enrichment: Engineering with Lego
Feb. 14, 2 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Learn STEAM concepts, problem solving, and the engineering process while you build with Lego, in another installment of our Lego Education SPIKE series. For kids in grades K-5; pick up a ticket at the Children’s Desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve a spot. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

Homeschool Enrichment: Virginia Aquarium
Feb. 28, 2 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
This week, learn about the Chesapeake Bay, and the important roles different organisms play in different estuarine habitats, from educators with the Virginia Aquarium. Then, we will split into stations and learn about oysters, plankton, and build a creature perfectly designed for its habitat. For kids in grades K-5; pick up a ticket at the Children’s Desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve a spot. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

Baby Lap Sit Storytime
Mondays, 10 am
James City County Library
Tuesdays, 10 am
Williamsburg Library, Youth Services Program Rooms
This lapsit storytime, appropriate for babies from birth to 18 months and their caregivers, includes 15 minutes of songs, fingerplays, and lap games. Pick up a ticket at the Children’s Desk starting one hour before the program to save your spot.

Baby Stay and Play
Mondays, 10:15 am
Williamsburg Library
Tuesdays, 10:15 am
James City County Library, Youth Services Program Room
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.

Glow Party
Feb. 16, 6:30-8 pm
James City County Library
Experience the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio in a brand new light! At this after-hours party for kids and families, enjoy blacklight and glow-in-the-dark decorations and activities including neon paint, a glowing dance party, and more.
Preschool Storytime
Mondays and Thursdays, 10 am
James City County Library

Wednesdays, 10 am
Williamsburg Library, Youth Services Program Room

Preschool Storytime is a storytime program designed for preschoolers aged 3 to 5 and their caregivers featuring stories, rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and other activities.

Sewing Saturday: Heart Potholders
Feb. 3, 9:45 am-12 pm
Abram Frink Jr. Community Center

Make a snappy potholder using a variation on the quilter’s “log cabin” design. Supplies provided. Beginner sewers welcome. Bring your own machine (in good working order) or borrow one of the library’s sewing machines. Space is limited. Reservations are required: 757-741-3323.

WRL Bookmobile FunFest: Snow Ball
Feb. 17, 10am-1pm
Abram Frink Jr. Community Center

Join us for an unforgettable day of dancing, crafting, STEM projects, snowy day stories, sparkly crafts, a light-up dance party and an epic snowball fight! Wear your funniest winter hat and get ready to crank up the tunes and compete in a team snowball fight. Get your groove on at our fun family dance party!

Black History Teen Movie Night: Red Tails
Feb. 3, 2-4 pm
James City County Library, Teen Room
Enjoy a movie, snacks, and popcorn in the Teen Room. For ages 13-18. No registration required. PG-13, 2hr 5 min.

SLAM Connections: Youth Slam Competition
Feb. 3, 1-5 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Share your best in a slam competition to decide the youth historic triangle champion. Slam combines poetry, theater, performance, and storytelling. This competition will be three rounds and elimination style; prizes for top three contestants plus a team award. Audience welcome! Must be between the ages of 13 and 18 to compete. If you’re interested in competing, please contact slamconnectionwbg@gmail.com.

Paper Airplane Competition
Feb. 10, 2 pm
James City County Library, Teen Room
Learn about airplanes and the science of flight and take part in a paper airplane competition. First place takes home a prize. For ages 9-18, no registration required.

Tweens Night Out
Feb. 23, 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.

Teen Advisory Group
Feb. 1, 6 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
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.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament
Feb. 13, 5:30-7:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Show your skills in a Super Smash tournament. First place takes home a prize. For ages 9-18, no registration required.

Teen Game Night
Feb. 21, 5:30-7:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Drop in for board games and Nintendo Switch video games including Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, and more. For ages 9-12.

Drop-in D&D
Feb. 22, 5:30-7:30 pm
Stryker Center, Rooms 127 & 128
Dungeons & Dragons players of all experience levels are invited to drop-in to play and learn this classic tabletop roleplaying game. For ages 9-18.

Teens Night Out
Feb. 23, 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.

In BeTWEEN the Pages Tween Book Club
Feb. 27, 6 pm
Williamsburg Library, YS Program Room
Come meet some fellow readers and join the conversation. This book club is designed for ages 9-12 and is limited to 15 members. Call 757-741-3390, option 4 to register and receive a free copy of this month’s book.

Tiny Canvas Painting
Feb. 29, 6 pm
James City County Library, Teen Room
Come by the Teen Room and make a miniature painting on a tiny canvas. For ages 13-18. No registration required.

Where is the Bookmobile going today? Check out its neighborhood stops here! Plus, see what fun is planned for Saturdays @ Frink.
The second phase of the popular Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio at Williamsburg Regional Library’s James City County Library, created through a partnership between the Friends of WRL and the Colonial Capital, Toano, and Williamsburg Kiwanis Clubs, is taking this innovative play and learning area outdoors to ignite children’s imagination, learning, and development in a natural playground.

**What’s a natural playground?**

If you remember climbing trees, digging in sand, building forts, and letting your imagination roam outdoors during your childhood, you’ll find all those cherished elements in this new space. Designed by the renowned Ron King from the Natural Playgrounds Company, it offers kids of all ages the chance to reap the health and developmental benefits of natural play right in your library’s backyard.

Help us build on our success! Your gift today will create a magical natural playground, offering children and families the joy and benefits of this unique experience.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Benjamin J. Goldberg, CFRE, Library Development Officer, bgoldberg@wrl.org or 757.741.3390, or visit wrl.org/wrl-playground to help us bring our dream to life!

Go Play Outside!

Join Us! Help the Friends of WRL Fund a Magical Natural Playground

wrl.org/wrl-playground