Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World
by Steven Johnson
Explores the world-changing innovations we made while keeping ourselves entertained.

The Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming-of-Age Crisis by Ben Sasse
Citing misguided parenting and government programs that over-protect today’s youth, a guide to raising self-reliant young adults explains how to reinstate formative experiences and delayed gratification.

Salad in a Jar: 68 Recipes for Salads and Dressings by Anna Helm Baxter
Features sixty-eight recipes for creating salads and dressings that can be stored in individual jars, using such ingredients as kale, wheat berry, and pistachio.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeanette Walls
The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless, even as their children prospered.

This is What a Librarian Looks Like
by Kyle Cassidy
A tribute in text and photos to librarians and libraries describes the diverse backgrounds and motivations of today’s librarians and includes essays by such contributors as Neil Gaiman and George R. R. Martin.

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande
A prominent surgeon argues against modern medical practices that extend life at the expense of its quality, outlining suggestions for freer, more fulfilling approaches to death that enable more dignified choices.

Join us for Popular Reads Café
Tuesdays, September 19, October 10 & November 14 3 - 4 p.m. in the Main Library - Banx Room
Join us for spirited discussions of popular fiction and non-fiction books, and find out what’s recently been published by your favorite authors! Local authors may be featured. Refreshments provided by the Friends of WPL.

Fiction

Spoonbenders by Daryl Gregory
A generations-spanning family of psychics must use their powers to save themselves from the CIA, the local mafia, and a skeptic hell-bent on discrediting them.

Watch Me Disappear by Janelle Brown
When a woman goes missing during a hike in California, her devastated family is forced to come to terms with her secretive nature.

Marlena by Julie Buntin
Struggling to adapt to a new home in rural Michigan, fifteen-year-old Cat befriends a manic young neighbor with whom she forms a bond, until suffering a tragedy that she confronts decades later.

Standard Deviation by Katherine Heiny
Follows the marriage between Graham and his spontaneous but exhausting second wife, a relationship that is further shaped by their child with Asperger’s.

Beartown by Fredrik Backman
In the tiny forest community of Beartown, the possibility that the amateur hockey team might win a junior championship is shattered by the aftermath of a violent act that leaves a young girl traumatized.

Down a Dark Road by Linda Castillo
When an Amish man convicted of murdering his wife escapes from prison and kidnaps his five children, Kate Burkholder rushes to the scene only to be ambushed by the man, who implores her to prove his innocence.

The Cartel 7: Illuminati - Roundtable of the Bosses by Ashley and JaQuavis
Forced into isolation to evade the law after the end of The Cartel’s reign, Carter struggles to rebuild his kingdom and secure his wife’s freedom.
Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore by Matthew Sullivan
This novel follows the efforts of a bookstore clerk as she unravels a puzzle left behind by a patron who has committed suicide, an effort complicated by memories of the clerk’s own violent childhood.

The Lying Game by Ruth Ware
In the wake of a woman’s discovery of human remains, the members of a once-inseparable clique from a boarding school reflect on their dangerous game of deception that contributed to the death of a teacher.

Lovecraft Country by Matt Ruff
Tracing the story of Army vet Atticus Turner, who in 1954 Chicago travels with his uncle and childhood friend to search for his father only to encounter human and supernatural terrors at the estate of a descendant of slave owners.

Waking Gods by Sylvain Neuvel
A girl falls through the earth, then wakes up feet below ground on the palm of a giant metal hand. Later, she is a physicist leading a team to understand what that hand portends for humanity. Today, the team might be out of time when a second robot suddenly appears.

The Ballad of Black Tom by Victor LaValle
Charles Thomas Tester hustles to put food on the table, and keep a roof over his father’s head, but when he delivers an occult tome to a reclusive sorceress in Queens, Tom opens a door to a deeper realm of magic, and earns the attention of things best left sleeping.

Crosstalk by Connie Willis
When a technological breakthrough enables romantic partners to achieve empathy via a simple procedure, Bridgley undergoes the treatment in the hopes of becoming closer to her fiancé, only to find herself hearing the thoughts of one of her officemates.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz
When she realizes that the final chapter of mystery writer Alan Conway’s latest manuscript is missing and Alan later turns up dead, editor Susan Ryeland follows clues buried in the text to investigate the author’s death.

The River at Night by Erica Ferencik
Struggling with a soul-crushing job, a sibling’s death and a divorce, Wini joins her friends on a rafting trip only to become stranded away from survival gear and targeted by sinister rescuers.

Non-Fiction

October: The Story of the Russian Revolution by China Miéville
In February 1917, Russia was still an autocratic monarchy; nine months later, it became the first socialist state in world history. How did this transformation take place? This is the story of that epochal year.

Driving Miss Norma by Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle
A memoir based on the Facebook page, this story chronicles the cross-country journey of 90-year-old Miss Norma, who in the face of terminal illness embarked on a transformative road trip with her son, daughter-in-law and giant poodle.

The Case Against Sugar by Gary Taubes
The best-selling author of Why We Get Fat outlines compelling arguments about the health dangers of sugar, identifying the powerful lobbies behind its overuse while citing its role in a range of challenges from obesity to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.

The Origin of Others by Toni Morrison
Why does the presence of Others make us so afraid? America’s foremost novelist reflects on themes that preoccupy her work and dominate politics: race, fear, borders, mass movement of peoples, desire for belonging.

Janesville: An American Story by Amy Goldstein
A reporter’s account of the closing of a General Motors’ assembly plant in Janesville, WI and a story of the American middle class — what happens to an industrial town in the American heartland when its factory stills.

Priestdaddy: A Memoir by Patricia Lockwood
The author shares her memories of life with a Catholic priest for a father, and how as an adult, she and her non-religious husband were later forced to move back into her parents’ rectory due to a crisis.

Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World by William H. McRaven
The former Navy SEAL and decorated Admiral who took down Osama bin Laden shares uplifting life lessons and recommendations for changing the world for the better by taking small, motivational steps.

Goodbye, Things: The New Japanese Minimalism by Fumio Sasaki
Explores how the author revitalized his sense of well-being by embracing a minimalist existence, sharing tips on how to get rid of unneeded possessions and achieve a better appreciation for present-day circumstances.