What’s New

As the Library enters the final quarter of its 2016-19 strategic plan, we continue to be excited by the positive reception to our new services and programs, innovative technology, and enhanced spaces. Library trustees and staff are pleased to have addressed needs and suggestions for improvement brought forward in community discussions.

Our latest building improvement is a renovation of the Library’s lobby and Circulation Services area, which includes a new snack space, furniture, and easy access materials return. Construction is expected to take place Feb. 19 - Apr. 18 including painting, carpet installation, reconfiguration of the front desk, and addition of new signage. While much work will take place before opening hours, please take note of areas that are under construction or blocked off. We ask that you use caution, especially with small children or if you have mobility issues. Please speak to a staff member if you require assistance or accommodation in accessing the Library during construction. Construction updates will be placed at our entrance, on our website, Facebook page, and eNewsletter. Funding for this project was provided from the Illinois State Library, a department of the Secretary of State, using Live & Learn Construction Grant Funds.

We appreciate the responses to our Snack Survey and are eager for the grand opening of the new space. As always, staff are happy to answer questions or listen to your ideas. All are welcome to fill out a comment form in-house or on our website, or attend one of our Snack & Chats (April 18 at 6-6:45 p.m. and May 14 at 9:30-10:15 a.m.)

If you haven’t yet attended a program using our 3D printer or a puppet show in the newly remodeled Imaginarium, checked out the items in the Beyond Books collection, or taken our AgeOptions survey for older adults and caregivers, we invite you to visit and see all we have to offer. If you are a senior or a caregiver, please stop by the Adult Services desk and fill out a quick survey. Our goal is to develop programs, collections, and services that better serve your needs, and so your feedback is essential.

Take a look through this newsletter for information on Teen book subscription boxes, May the Fourth fun, and AgeOptions grant programs. In addition, be on the lookout for a staff member riding our Book Bike to school visits and programs at parks this spring and summer.

In the summer and fall of 2019 we will be evaluating the impact of our 2016-19 strategic plan and beginning to schedule community discussions and focus groups in order to inform the development of a 2020-23 plan. Stay tuned on how you can help us shape our future!

Teen Book Box Subscriptions

Teens in Grades 7-12 can sign up for the Library’s new Teen Book Boxes. Choose a genre (like horror, fantasy, sci-fi, etc.) and pick up a box at the beginning of each month with one or two books and some fun treats! Once you’re done, return the book and box, but keep the treats.

Sign up now to get boxes this spring (March, April, May). Signup for summer (June, July, August) starts on May 1. Limit 10 people per season.

AgeOptions - Senior Survey

We have received a generous grant from AgeOptions, a non-profit organization that helps connect older adults with community resources.

If you are a senior or a caregiver, please stop by the Adult Services desk and fill out a quick survey. Our goal is to develop programs, collections, and services that better serve your needs, and so your feedback is essential.

Help Lines

It can be hard to ask for help, especially when you’re going through a difficult personal situation. To make it easier, the Library has posted links and phone numbers to organizations offering help and support to people experiencing:

- Homelessness
- Food insecurity
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Suicidal thoughts
- Immigration issues
- LGBTQ issues
- Mental health or physical safety issues

If you or someone you know is struggling, please consider reaching out to one of these organizations, and know that you’re not alone.

Information is posted on our Community Information bulletin board and on our website (elmwoodparklibrary.org) under How Do I? > Additional Services.

Upcoming Book Releases

March

Harlan Coben - Run Away
Catherine Coulter - The Secret History of the Comet People
Greg Iles - Cemetery Road

April

James Patterson - 18 Abduction
John Sandford - Neon Prey

May

Jeffery Deaver - The Never Game
Janet Evanovich - Big Kahuna
Danielle Steel - Blessing in Disguise
**Computers & Technology**

**Excel 2010**
- Basics: Tues. Mar. 12 • 7-8:30 p.m.
- Intermediate: Mon. Apr. 15 • 7-8:30 p.m.
- Advanced: Tues. May 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.

**The Librarian Is In: Your New Device**
- Thurs. Mar. 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.
- Bring in your new device and get help from a librarian!

**Food and Crafts**

**Yogurt Bar**
- Mon. Mar. 4 | Apr. 1 | May 6 • 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Start your month off right with fruit and yogurt at the Library. *Sponsored by AgeOptions*

**Coffee & Crochet**
- Tues. Mar. 12 | Apr. 9 | May 14 • 10-11 a.m.
- Enjoy coffee and treats while you crochet or knit and socialize. Bring your own supplies or use ours. Staff will be there to help. *Sponsored by AgeOptions*

**Spring Into Healthy Eating with Seasonal Salads**
- Wed., Apr. 24 • 7-8 p.m. - Registration ends Apr. 22
- Learn to roast vegetables, make croutons, and build healthy salads with Cheryl Muñoz of Sugar Beet Schoolhouse. *Sponsored by AgeOptions*

**Afternoon Ice Cream Social**
- Thurs. May 30 • 1-2 p.m. • *Sponsored by AgeOptions*

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**Games & Fitness**

**Chair Yoga**
- Mon. Mar. 11, 25 | Apr. 8, 29 | May 6, 13 • 1-2 p.m.
- Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle for this gentle exercise session.

**Tai Chi**
- Mon. Mar. 18 | Apr. 15 | May 20 • 1-2 p.m.
- Join certified instructor Gail Galivan for this gentle exercise, which is adaptable for people of all ages and abilities. The coordination of breath and movement act as a moving meditation, which helps circulation, flexibility, and balance.

**Trivia Night**
- Tues. Mar. 26 | Apr. 30 | May 28 • 7-9 p.m.
- Bring a team of up to four people to Russell’s Barbecue for a night of fun, challenging trivia, and prizes. Check our Facebook page the day of the program to see the bonus question!

**Movie Matinees**

**Wednesday Matinees • 1:30 p.m.**
- Watch popular new releases. Delicious popcorn served.

**Film Lovers’ Friday • 1:30 p.m.**
- Enjoy older movies based on a monthly theme.
- For info about upcoming movies, please call, visit our website, or get a monthly list at the Adult Services desk.

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**Language & Literature**

**Hora de Conversación | Godzina Rozmowy**
- English Conversation Hour
- Wed. Mar. 6, 13, 20 | Apr. 3, 10, 17 | May 1, 8, 15 • 7-8 p.m.
- Acompanños para una hora de conversación guiada en inglés. Dołącz do nas za godzinę rozmowy po angielsku.
- Join us for an hour of guided conversation in English.

**Tuesday Book Discussion**
- Afternoon: 1:30-3 p.m. | Evening: 7-8:30 p.m.
- Each book will be available at the Adult Services desk approximately four weeks before the discussion.

**Featured Speakers and Events**

**What Are Your Coins Worth?**
- Tues. Mar. 5 • 7-8 p.m.
- Dave Ekstrom, member of the American Numismatic Association, will discuss coin, currency, gold, and silver values. Bring a few coins, gold, or silver items to be appraised for free after the presentation, time permitting. *This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

**Medicare Fraud and Abuse: How to Prevent/Detect/Report**
- Thurs. Mar. 7 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- AgeOptions Senior Medicare Patrol team will discuss how older adults can prevent, detect, and report possible fraud.

**Colorful Garden All Season Long**
- Thurs. Apr. 11 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Kim Elison from Pesche’s Garden Center will share ways to keep your garden in bloom. This program is brought to you by the Library and the Elwood Park Garden Club. The program will start with a brief meeting of the Garden Club. See what the club does and feel free to join.

**Retirement: Making Your Money Last**
- Thurs. Apr. 25 • 1-1:45 p.m.
- Financial advisor Joe Perino will discuss sustainable strategies for managing income and expenses during retirement. Explore ways to address key concerns and prepare for the unexpected.

**WWII Radio Hour**
- Thurs. May 9 • 7-8:30 p.m.
- Performers from Nostalgia Entertainment will recreate a 1940s radio show with Andrews Sisters-style tunes and choreography, comedy sketches, and a touching tribute to Veterans of the US Armed Forces. *Sponsored by AgeOptions*

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**For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org\* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.**
Teen Programs & Events (Grades 6-12, unless otherwise noted)

**Young Adult Council***
Grades 7-12 • Mar. 14 | Apr. 11 | May 9 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Join the Library’s volunteer group to gain service hours, help raise money for local charities, have some fun, and become eligible for the new Friends of the Library scholarship!

**Teen Movie: The Hate U Give***
Grades 7-12 • Wed. Mar. 27 • 6:30-8:45 p.m.
Popcorn and lemonade will be served, but feel free to bring your own peanut-free snacks.

**Food & Craft Programs**

**DIY Photo Wreath***
Mon., Mar. 25 • 7-8 p.m.
Make a wreath to display your favorite pictures.

**Eat & Make Teen***
Wed., Apr. 17 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Chow down on some delicious puppy chow while we make some cool melted crayon art.

**Embroidery Club***
Grades 3-12
Thurs., May 23 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to embroider in this fun, instructive program.

**Spinning Top Art***
Wed., May 29 • 7-8 p.m.
Use spinning tops to make cool designs.

**MidKid Programs & Events (Grades 3-6, unless otherwise noted)**

**Homework 911***
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • 4-6 p.m.
Mar. 5-21 | Apr. 2-11 | Apr. 23 - May 2
Homework got you confused and a little frustrated? Bring your assignment to the Library! Certified teachers will work with students in groups or one-on-one as time and space allow.

**MidKids Read: Book Club***
Wed. • 4-4:45 p.m.
Pick up a copy at the Kids & Teens desk.
Mar. 27: Princess Academy by Shannon Hale
Apr. 24: Restart by Gordon Korman
May 29: Rhyme Schemer by K.A. Holt

**Food & Crafts**

**DIY Photo Wreath***
Mon., Mar. 11 • 7-8 p.m.
Make a wreath to hang and display your favorite pictures.

**Clay Sculptures***
Wed., Mar. 13 • 4-5 p.m.

**Meet the Artist***
Wed. • 4-5:30 p.m.
Explore different artists and make your own version of the artist’s masterpiece.

**Loom Weaving***
Wed., Apr. 10 • 4-5 p.m.

**Guerrilla Gardening: Seed Bombs***
Mon., Apr. 22 • 7-8 p.m.
Make seed bombs with us, then go find a place that could use some beautification to drop them. The materials will decompose leaving the seeds to sprout and bloom!

**Spinning Top Art***
Wed., May 8 • 4-5 p.m.
Use spinning tops to make cool designs.

**Embroidery Club***
Grades 3-12
Thurs., May 23 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to embroider in this fun and instructive program.

**Teen Movie: The Hate U Give***
Grades 7-12 • Wed. Mar. 27 • 6:30-8:45 p.m.
Popcorn and lemonade will be served, but feel free to bring your own peanut-free snacks.

**Fun & Games**

**Magic the Gathering & Yu-Gi-Oh!***
Ages 10-18 • Every Wed. • 4-6 p.m.

**Gamerz***
Thurs. • Mar. 7 & 28 | Apr. 4 & 25 | May 30 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Drop in to play your online game of choice (Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, League of Legends, etc.).

**Fortnite Club***
Grades 4-12 • Mon. • Mar. 4 & 18 | Apr. 1 & 15 | May 6 & 20 • 4-5:30 p.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons***
Grades 7-12 • Thurs. • Mar. 21 | Apr. 18 | May 16 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Fun & Games**

**Chess Club***
Mon. • Mar. 11 | Apr. 15 | May 13 • 4-5:15 p.m.

**Fortnite Club***
Grades 4-12 • Mon. • Mar. 4 & 18 | Apr. 1 & 15 | May 6 & 20 • 4-5:30 p.m.

**Pokémon League***
Grades 1-6 • Mon. • Mar. 18 | Apr. 22 | May 20 • 4-6 p.m.
**Kid Programs & Events**

**Special Guests**

**Infinity and Beyond Presents:**

**Music and Movement***
Ages 2-5 • Tues. • Apr. 2 | May 7 • 12:15-1 p.m.
Join us for this exciting class of music and movement for little ones presented by Infinity and Beyond Academy.

**Story, Craft, & Play Times**

Story sessions are followed by open play time designed to stimulate and support your child's early development, motor skills, problem-solving, and socialization.

**Tiny Tots**
Ages 0-35 months with caregiver
Wed. • Mar. 20 - May 8 • 9:30-10 a.m.
Discover stories through books, songs, puppets, and more.

**Little Explorers Story Time***
Ages 6-36 months with caregiver
Mon. • Mar. 18 - May 6 • 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Explore the wonder of books, puppets, bounces, and rhymes.

**Wiggles & Giggles Story Time**
Ages 2-5 with caregiver
Mon. • Mar. 18 - May 6 • 11-11:45 a.m.
Wake up your week with books, songs, movement, and dance.

**Giggles & Grins Story Time**
Ages 2-5 with caregiver
Tues. • Mar. 19 - May 7 • 11-11:45 a.m.
Tackle Tuesday with books, songs, movement, and dance.

**Rockin’ Reads*** • Ages 3-5
Please sign up for Wed. or Thurs. group for each session.
Wed. • Mar. 20 - May 8 • 10-10:45 a.m.
Thurs. • Mar. 21 - May 9 • 11-11:45 a.m.
Get ready to rock with books, songs, puppets, and more.

**Elmwood Park Play Group**
Ages 0-5 with caregiver
Fri. • Mar. 8 | Apr. 12 | May 10 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Connect, create, and play in our pop-up play space specially designed for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**More Fun Programs**

**Yoga for Kids***
Ages 7-11 • Mon. • Mar. 18 | Apr. 15 • 7-8 p.m.

**Little Leonardos***
Ages 2-4 with caregiver • Wed., May 15 • 10:15-11 a.m.
Kids and parents are invited to join us to create fun and messy art! Please dress accordingly.

**Eat-za Your Pizza!***
Grades K-2 • Thurs., May 16 • 4-5 p.m.
Join us to learn about pizza and MAKE pizza. Yum!

**Homework 911**
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • 4-6 p.m.
Mar. 5-21 | Apr. 2-11 | Apr. 23 - May 2
Homework got you confused and a little frustrated? Bring your assignment to the Library! Certified teachers will work with students in groups or one-on-one as time and space allow.

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1,000 Books Before Kindergarten encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their kids. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the goal in three years while providing children with essential early literacy skills.

To make it even more fun, sign up at the Kids & Teens desk to get a tracking sheet, and bring it in after every 100 books for a small prize! At 500 books you’ll get a special gift, and if you finish 1,000 books before your child enters Kindergarten, you’ll get a certificate and an extra special gift pack!

**Did you know…?**
Research shows that being read to during early childhood is the most reliable predictor of school success. It can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare kids to enter Kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most importantly, sharing books with kids promotes a lifelong love of books and reading. It is also a great way for kids and their caregivers to bond!

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**Special Holiday Crafts & Story Times**

**Elephant Adventure***
Grades K-2
Thurs., Mar. 7 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**It's All About the Pug***
Ages 4-8
Tues., Mar. 12 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Hello Sunshine!***
Ages 3-8
Thurs., Mar. 21 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Welcome Spring***
Grades K-2
Tues., Mar. 26 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice***
Grades K-2
Tues., Apr. 9 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**All You Need Is Love!***
Ages 4-8
Tues., Apr. 16 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Earth Day Extravaganza***
Grades K-2
Thurs., Apr. 18 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Rainbow Fun***
Ages 3-8
Thurs., Apr. 25 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**The Adventures of Mermaids***
Ages 3-8
Tues., May 7 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Friendship Story Time***
Ages 3-8
Thurs., May 9 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Let’s Explore Africa***
Grades K-2
Tues., May 21 • 4-4:45 p.m.

**Birdie Story Time***
Ages 3-8
Thurs., May 30 • 4-4:45 p.m.

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* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
Make an edible literary creation and bring it to the Library for viewing, voting, and eating! Your creation could be inspired by a book character, a book cover, or a book title. We’ll vote for winners in four categories: Kids, Teens, Families, and Adults. Then we’ll eat it all! Everyone is welcome to vote & eat.

Viewing and voting begins at 3 p.m. Eating begins at 3:30 p.m.
Bring entries starting at 2 p.m. the day of, and the related book if possible.

Library Week: Make a Bookmark*
Thurs., Apr. 11 • 4-4:45 p.m.
It’s National Library Week, so come make a beautiful bookmark for all your reading!

Family Bingo Night*
Tues., Apr. 23 • 7-8 p.m.
Join us for a fun night of Bingo! Winners will get to pick a prize from the prize table.

May the Fourth - Star Wars Program*
All Ages • Sat., May 4 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
The Force is strong with this one... Stop by anytime during this 2-hour program to complete your Jedi training with various Star Wars themed crafts, games, food, and activities. The rest of the day check throughout the Library for more Star Wars related celebrations. May the Fourth be with you!

May the Fourth by Star Wars Day*
All Ages • Sat., May 4 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
The Force is strong with this one... Stop by anytime during this 2-hour program to complete your Jedi training with various Star Wars themed crafts, games, food, and activities. The rest of the day check throughout the Library for more Star Wars related celebrations. May the Fourth be with you!

TinkerCAD 3D Design & Printing* (4-part class)
Grades 4-12 • May 14, 16, 21, & 23 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to create 3D models in TinkerCAD and print them on the Makerbot Replicator!

Vinyl Cutter* (2-part class)
Grades 4-12 • May 28 & 30 • 4-5 p.m.
Design and make a cool vinyl cling using our Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutter.

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.

Mango Languages is an interactive language-learning program you can use for free with your Elmwood Park library card! Just download the app or find the link on our website under Research/Learning > ESL & Languages.
Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library

The Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library raise money through membership and book sales to support the Library. They provide funding for kid and adult programs throughout the year, offer volunteer scholarships, and donate important items—such as furniture and interactive play equipment—to help keep our Library a comfortable and engaging place to explore, connect, and create.

Membership is $5 per year. Whether or not you choose to be an active volunteer, every membership helps. Find the membership form and meeting information on our website under About EPPL > General > Friends.

Patron Spotlight: Judy Negron

When Judy Negron first went to a vinyl cutting program at the Library, she decided to make something for her daughter: a mason-jar nightlight with the silhouette of Tinkerbell inside. Since then, Judy has been using the vinyl cutter once a year to make a gift for her daughter's teacher. She uses the school's annual theme to create an iron-on vinyl design, which she uses to make a custom-made canvas tote bag for the teacher. We're so glad to see patrons use our programs and materials in such generous and creative ways! What would you make with the Library's vinyl cutter? Come EXPLORE the possibilities!