Looking Back & Looking Ahead

Your Library is dedicated to providing educational and innovative programs, popular materials, learning opportunities, space to meet and study, homework help, technology training, and access to possibilities.

This year, we are proud to have accomplished a major renovation of our Kids & Teens program room (The Imaginarium), worked with BCS, Inc. to host manufacturing internship programs, developed a volunteer scholarship with the Friends of the Library, and continued to have a fun presence at Village events, as well as creating special programming and collection development opportunities with AgeOptions, an advocacy group for older adults. Our second annual fundraiser, Savor the ‘70s, was a great success and will provide funds for outdoor spaces and other projects designated by the Board of Trustees.

A lobby redesign project is on the horizon, and we are eager to share this building improvement with you. Work is expected to begin in early March, and includes the Library’s lobby, front desk, and a new snack space. Thank you to all who took time to fill out our Snack Space survey. More information will be forthcoming on Facebook and our eNewsletter. Funding for this project was provided from the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of the Secretary of State, using Live & Learn Construction Grant Funds.

We greatly appreciate the support of our residents, the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce and local business partners, the Village and their event coordinators, our schools, and all who assist us in serving the community.

To talk more about current Library offerings or to make suggestions, please consider dropping by for a Snack & Chat with the Library Director and Assistant Director January 15 from 3-4 p.m. or February 21 from 6-7 p.m.

Winter Reading for All Ages
Dec. 1 - Jan. 31

Stop by the Ferrentino Room on Saturday, Dec. 1 to sign up for our Winter Reading Program, enjoy cookies, and take pictures in our holiday photo booth! There is a reading challenge for everyone—from infants to adults!

For kids, sign up and get a reading log/bingo card to track your progress. Finish the goal for your age group and receive a small packet of prizes for all your hard work. Keep reading to be entered to win awesome raffle baskets!

For adults, pick up a reading log and get a prize when you finish your first entry. For each additional entry you will be entered to win a $50 Visa Gift card!

Can’t make it Dec. 1? Sign up anytime before Jan. 31 and reward yourself for cozying up with a book!

Season of Giving

The Library is proud once again to offer a variety of ways to support good causes and help those in need this holiday season. Check inside this issue for more ways to give back this winter.

Adopt-A-Kid Holiday Giving

We will be a collection site on behalf of Cornerstone Community Outreach, which provides shelter and services for families experiencing homelessness. Gift tags will be available in our lobby starting in mid-November, and wrapped gifts should be brought to the Library by Thurs., Dec. 6.

Kiwanis Holiday Bazaar • Sat., Dec. 1 • Parks & Rec Center Parks & Rec will be hosting the second annual craft show. Visit vendors and stop by the Library’s Young Adult Council table for hot chocolate, coffee, soda, and lunch items.

Charity Flower Sale
Feb. 12 & 13 • 3:30-8:30 p.m.
The Library’s Young Adult Council will be selling roses for Valentine’s Day to raise money for the Animal Care League of Oak Park. Bring a smile to someone’s face and support a great cause.

Upcoming Book Releases

Dec.

Jan.

Feb.

J.D. ROBB
Computers & Technology

Excel 2010*
Basics: Wed., Dec. 5 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Intermediate: Mon., Jan. 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Advanced: Wed., Feb. 13 • 7-8:30 p.m.

The Librarian Is In: Social Media
Mon., Dec. 10 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Bring your general questions about using social media, such as Facebook or Instagram.

Journey through Gmail*
Thurs., Dec. 20 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Learn about Gmail and explore related services like Google Calendar and Google Drive.

Library On the Go
Thurs., Jan. 17 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Explore the downloadable eBook and audiobook options available with your Elmwood Park library card.

Word: Basics*
Wed., Jan. 23 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Social Media: Instagram*
Thurs., Feb. 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.

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Introduction to Social Media: Instagram*
Thurs., Feb. 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Movie Matinees

Wednesday Matinees • 1:30 p.m.
Watch popular new releases. Delicious popcorn provided.

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.

Games and Fitness

Chair Yoga*
Mon. • Dec. 3, 10 | Jan. 14, 28 | Feb. 11, 25 • 1-2 p.m.
Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle for this gentle exercise session.

Trivia Night
Tues. • Jan. 29 | Feb. 26 • 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.

Snack & Trivia Night
Wed. • Feb. 27 • 7-9 p.m.
Enjoy a snack while you play a variety of trivia games!

Tuesday Book Discussions

Dec. 18
Afternoon:
Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman
Evening:
Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris

Jan. 15
Afternoon:
Hilbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
Evening:
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

Feb. 19
Afternoon:
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
Evening:
The Heart by Maylis de Kerangal

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Registration for Adult programs begins now.

Featured Speakers and Events

Scrumptious Soup*
Wed., Jan. 16 • 7-8 p.m.
Warm up with A-Theme Catering and sample a delicious legume and veggie soup! This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Knit/Crochet-a-thon*
Sat., Feb. 2 • 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sign up to help us knit or crochet hats, baby blankets, or squares to donate to Knots of Love and Warm Up America. Knots of Love provides blankets for babies in the NICU and hats to cancer patients. Warm Up America assembles squares into blankets and provides them to those in need. We will provide the yarn and knitting/crochet needles, or bring your own if you prefer. Refreshments will be served to fuel our participants.

Canvas & Coffee*
Thurs., Feb. 28 • 1-3 p.m.
Join Andrea Reyes for a follow-along paint class and warm up with some hot coffee.

Food and Crafts

DIY: Holiday Handmade*
Tues., Dec. 4 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Surprise family and friends this holiday with heartfelt gifts made by you using our craft materials! We will provide ideas, but encourage you to let your inspiration guide you.

Cookie Decorating*
Tues., Feb. 12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Registration ends Feb. 10 -
Decorate chocolate truffles to eat or to share. Enjoy watching Dirty Dancing while you decorate.

Pizza, Pizza!*
Wed., Jan. 30 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Registration ends Jan. 28 -
Help us make some pizza, and then help us eat the pizza while watching the movie Mystic Pizza!

Chocolate Truffle Decorating*
Tues., Feb. 12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Registration ends Feb. 10 -
Decorate chocolate truffles to eat or to share. Enjoy watching Dirty Dancing while you decorate.

Each book will be available at the Adult Services desk approximately four weeks before the discussion. Afternoon Discussions: 1:30-3 p.m. | Evening Discussions: 7-8:30 p.m.
Young Adult Council*
Grades 7-12 • Dec. 13 | Jan. 10 | Feb. 14 • 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: Kin
Grades 7-12 • Thurs. Jan. 24 • 6:30-8:30 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
NEW
Thurs. • Dec. 6 & 27 | Jan. 3 & 31 | Feb. 28 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Drop in to play your online game of choice (Minecraft, Fortnite, World of Warcraft, League of Legends, etc.).

Fortnite Club*
Grades 4-12 • Mon. • Dec. 10 | Jan. 14 & 28 | Feb. 4 & 18 • 4-5:30 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons
Grades 7-12 • Thurs. • Dec. 20 | Jan. 17 | Feb. 21 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

How to Train Your Dragon Party
Mon., Feb. 25 • 4-5:30 p.m.
The third and final movie, How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World, comes out in theaters in February. Come celebrate Hiccup, Toothless, and the new movie with viking & dragon crafts, games, and food.

Food & Craft Programs

Gingerbread Houses*
Wed., Dec. 12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Make a delicious winter gingerbread house!

Cookies and Canvas* (Registration begins Dec. 1)
Thurs., Jan. 3 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Enjoy snacks and a painting lesson from professional artist, Andrea. Bring home your very own work of art!

Embroidery Club*
Grades 3-12 • Thurs., Jan. 17 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to embroider in this fun and instructive program.

Pancake Wars*
Mon., Feb. 18 • 2-3 p.m.
Like the TV cooking show, Beat Bobby Flay, this is your chance to beat Kim! Form a team of two and create a pancake dish to wow the judges and beat our librarian, Kim. Winners will get prizes!

Self-Portraits*
Grades 7-12 • Tues., Feb. 19 • 4-5 p.m.

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

Homework 911
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • Dec. 4-6 and Jan. 8 - Feb. 28 • 4-6 p.m.
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*
Pick up a copy at the Kids & Teens desk.
Wed. • 4-4:45 p.m.
Jan. 30 • Wish by Barbara O’Connor
Feb. 27 • The Unicorn in the Barn by Jacqueline K. Ogburn

Food & Crafts

Meet the Artist*
Wed. • 4-5:30 p.m.
Explore different artists and make your own version of the artist’s masterpiece.
Dec. 19: Basquiat
Jan. 23: Lichtenstein
Feb. 20: Klimt

Cookies and Canvas* (Registration begins Dec. 1)
Thurs., Jan. 3 • 2-3 p.m.
Enjoy snacks and a painting lesson from professional artist Andrea, and bring home your very own work of art!

Watercolors*
Wed., Jan. 9 • 4-5 p.m.

Embroidery Club*
Grades 3-12 • Thurs., Jan. 17 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to embroider in this fun and instructive program.

Self-Portraits*
Tues., Feb. 12 • 4-5:30 p.m.

Pancake Wars*
Mon., Feb. 18 • 12-1 p.m.
Like the TV cooking show, Beat Bobby Flay, this is your chance to beat Kim! Form a team of two and create a pancake dish to wow the judges and beat our librarian, Kim. Winners will get prizes!

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
Letters to Santa
Ages 0-10 • Nov. 23 - Dec. 18

The Library can help you get that important letter to Santa Claus this year!

Drop off your letter to Santa in our special box in Kids & Teens, anytime between Nov. 23 - Dec. 18, and we'll get that letter to the North Pole for you!

Make sure to include your full name and address and we'll make sure the big guy himself sends you a letter in return! This program is sponsored by the Library's Young Adult Council.

Open House for Kids & Teens: Imaginariyum Redesign
All Ages • Sun., Jan. 6 • 1-3 p.m.

The Kids & Teens story room redesign project is done, and it looks great! We are proud to present to you - The Imaginariyum!

Join us for an Open House to show off the space. There will be tours, refreshments, games, and prizes.

Family Bingo Night*
Tues., Jan. 22 • 7-8 p.m.
Join us for a fun night of Bingo! Winners will get to pick a prize from the prize table.

Family Pizza Party*
Mon., Jan. 28 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Come design the perfect pizza and have fun while it cooks. Once it's done, help us eat!

Meet President Lincoln*
Ages 5 and up • Mon., Feb. 11 • 7-8 p.m.
Come meet our 16th president the day before his birthday! Hear stories about his life and times from Honest Abe himself. Stick around after for a Q&A and take your picture with President Lincoln.

This winter, we hope you will continue to EXPLORE all the incredible things you can get with your Elmwood Park library card. Winter weather got you stuck inside? Use the Libby app by Overdrive and the Axis 360 app to access eBooks, audiobooks, and even some movies from the comfort of home.

The Beyond Books Collection has some great indoor activities, like table tennis and dominoes, or learn a new skill, like juggling or playing the ukulele! Check out an Instax camera for your next family get-together, or borrow the VHS converter to preserve your favorite family movies.

Getting an Elmwood Park library card is easy - and free! If you are 18 or older, just bring in a valid photo ID with your current Elmwood Park address. If you are under 18, just come in with your parent or legal guardian.

Family Movie Showings
Popcorn & lemonade will be served.

Hotel Transylvania 3
Mon., Dec. 3
7-8:45 p.m.

Christopher Robin
Mon., Jan. 7
7-8:45 p.m.

The House with a Clock in Its Walls
Mon., Feb. 4
7-8:45 p.m.

Robot Club*
Grades 6-12 • Tues. • Dec. 4 | Jan. 8 | Feb. 5 • 4-5 p.m.
Join our Library Robotics Team and learn to use our VEX Robotics kit.

Hour of Code*
Grades 4-12 • Thurs. • Dec. 6 | Jan. 10 | Feb. 7 • 4-5 p.m.
Play fun games while learning basic coding through Code.org, then try your hand on some of our programmable robots!

Tinkercad 3D Design & Printing* (4-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Dec. 11, 13, 18, 20 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to create 3D models and print them on the Makerbot Replicator!

Stop Motion Animation* (4-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Jan. 15, 17, 22, & 24 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how stop-motion animation works and create your own short stop-motion movie.

Photoshop Cut Up* (2-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Jan. 29 & 31 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements to edit and remix photos into wild, awesome new creations!

Vinyl Cut Valentines* (2-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Feb. 12 & 14 • 4-5 p.m.
Design and make a Valentine's Day vinyl cling using our Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutter and stick it to a flat surface.

Mixcraft Music Making* (4-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Feb. 19, 21, 26, & 28 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to use the digital audio creation software Mixcraft and make your own song!

Funding for this grant project was awarded from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required  |  Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
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. • Jan. 9 • Feb. 27 • 9:30-10 a.m.
Discover stories through books, songs, puppets, and more.

Little Explorers Story Time*
Ages 6-24 months with caregiver
Mon. • Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 (except Jan. 21) • 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. • Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 (except Jan. 21) • 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. • Jan. 8 - Feb. 26 • 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. • Jan. 9 - Feb. 27 • 10-10:45 a.m.
Thurs. • Jan. 10 - Feb. 28 • 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. • Dec. 14 | Jan. 11 | Feb. 8 • 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

Little Leonardos*
Ages 2-4 with caregiver • Wed., Dec. 12 • 10:15-11 a.m.
Kids and parents are invited to join us to create fun and messy art! Please dress accordingly.

Puzzle Day*
Ages 5-10 • Thurs., Jan. 10 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Special Guests

Ho, Ho, Ho: It’s a Christmas Show!*  
Ages 0-8 • Sun., Dec. 9 • 2-3 p.m.
Join us for Christmas songs, stories, and treats. Plus, meet a very special guest!

Dave Herzog Marionettes*  
Ages 4-8 • Tues., Dec. 11 • 7-8 p.m.
Watch as Dave Herzog brings marionettes to life in this spectacular Christmas show.

Cookies and Canvas*  
Thurs., Jan. 3 (Registration begins Dec. 1)  
Ages 2-5 with parent • 10-11 a.m.
Grades K-2 • 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Enjoy snacks and a painting lesson from professional artist, Andrea. Bring home your very own work of art!

Special Holiday Crafts & Story Times

PJ Story Time*  
Ages 3-8 • Wed., Dec. 5 • 7-7:45 p.m.
Wear your PJs and bring your teddy bear for some bedtime stories and a sing-along!

Outdoor Story Time*  
Ages 3-8 • Thurs., Dec. 13 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Join us for story time among the holiday decorations in the Circle! We’ll meet in front of the Parks & Rec. Center.

It’s All About DINOS*  
Grades K-3 • Tues., Dec. 18 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Time for a Safari*  
Grades K-3 • Tues., Jan. 15 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Celebrate MLK!*  
Grades K-3 • Thurs., Jan. 24 • 4-4:45 p.m.

We Love Eric Carle!*  
Ages 4-8 • Tues., Jan. 29 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Share the Love Stories & Fun*  
Ages 5-10 • Thurs., Feb. 14 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Oh Mr. Snowman*  
Grades K-3 • Tues., Feb. 26 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Peppa Party!*  
Grades K-3 • Thurs., Feb. 28 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Homework 911
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • Dec. 4-6 and Jan. 8 • Feb. 28 • 4-6 p.m.
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.
Thank You for Savoring the ‘70s with Us!
Over 80 people came to the Library after hours to eat, drink, and dance at this year’s fundraiser. We had a groovy time, and hope you did, too!

Thanks again to this year’s sponsors!
Friends of the Library • Montclare-Elmwood Park Kiwanis • Burger MooVment Arcada Theater • Lagunitas Brewing Company • Arrow Body & Fender Service The Printing Station • Joe Perino • President "Skip" Saviano • River Elm Properties Wintrust Community Bank • Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce • Creativita Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd. • Russell’s Barbecue • Stray Cat Tavern First Security Trust & Savings Bank • Fruitful Yield • Kimmer’s Ice Cream Sky Zone Trampoline Park (Elmhurst) • Lou Malnati’s Pizza • Ballet Légère

Congratulations, Lucas!
We are very proud to announce that Lucas McKeever, Head of Technical Services, received the TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award from the Illinois Library Association. We are proud of you and the difference you make every day for our community.

AgeOptions Grant
We are excited to announce that we are the lucky recipients of a generous grant from AgeOptions. AgeOptions is a non-profit organization that helps connect older adults with community resources. With this grant we will expand our Beyond Books collection and offer new programs in order to better serve our seniors and caregivers. We would like to hear from you! Keep an eye out for a survey this winter.

Staff Spotlight: Naomi, Circulation Dept.
Naomi Martinez has worked at the Library for two years and is studying sociology at UIC. She is sharing her expertise with us as part of UIC’s work study program to provide outreach and translation services to our Spanish speaking population. She hopes to learn more about how cultural differences may impact understanding or use of community or social services. We’re proud of what Naomi brings to EPPL—her creativity, her kindness, and her ability to welcome everyone to the Library serves us all.

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, 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.

Friends Scholarship - Application Deadline March 4
High school seniors: Are you planning to attend a college or trade school in the fall? The Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library is proud to offer one or two $500 scholarships to first-year students! Eligible students must be Elmwood Park residents and have completed volunteer service hours for the Library and Friends group. The application and instructions are available on the Library’s website under About EPPL.