Staying Connected

Libraries are a place to stretch your mind and imagination, learn something new, explore ideas, and connect with others. We miss being able to host in-person programs, events, and meetings, and understand that you miss our regular activities, too. At this time, we hope for everyone’s continued safety and good health. As the Library continues to follow state and local health and safety guidelines, staff have developed new ways to meet the needs and interests of the community.

Place More Holds: SWAN delivery has resumed, so you can now place holds on items owned by other SWAN libraries! Place holds over the phone or online through the catalog.

Curbside Pickup for Holds & Printing: Curbside pickup minimizes your exposure and helps keep everyone a little more safe. Pick up your prints curbside and get up to 20 pages free per week! Find more information about curbside services on our website under How Do I? > My Library Account > Curbside Pickup Service.

Special Collections: Try out something new! Our Beyond Books Collection has games, activities, tools, and equipment available to borrow. Check out an ice cream maker, a bocce set, a bike repair kit, and more! Kids & Teens get hands-on learning with our Explore-to-Go Kits. Learn about astronomy, architecture, knitting, coding, and more! We also have portable Blu-ray/DVD players and video game consoles. Test out a Nintendo Switch Lite, PS4 Pro, or PS VR headset to see if you like it before you invest in one for yourself!

School Support: School support is just a click away with Tutor.com, new digital research tools for grades K-12, and other educational websites. Find the links on our website. We also have copies of school textbooks for in-library use.

Technology: Walk in the Library to use a public computer, or access our WiFi from just outside the building! We also have WiFi hotspots and Chromebooks available for checkout. Our 3D printer is back online and ready for your creations. Just follow the directions on our website under How Do I > Technology > 3D Printing.

Upcoming Book Releases

September is Library Card Signup Month

What do a face mask, clean hands, and a library card have in common? They are all tools to keep you and your family safe during a pandemic! Through our online resources, curbside pickup, and limited capacity reopening, the Library is working hard to help keep you safe while still providing most of the resources you are used to. Whether you want to go on an adventure with a great book, binge your favorite TV show, start a new hobby, or use a computer to apply for a job, we can help connect you to the tools you need.

The first 250 people who register or renew their library card will receive a pocket-sized hand sanitizer and a cloth face mask. This giveaway will continue through the end of the year while supplies last. It is easy to get an Elmwood Park Library card. If you are 18 or older, bring in a valid photo ID with your current Elmwood Park address: a current Driver’s License or State ID. If you are under 18, come in with your parent or legal guardian. If you can’t make it into the Library, we are proud to offer a temporary digital card that you can sign up for from home. It provides access to all of our online resources including eBooks, eAudiobooks, online databases, homework help, and more. To obtain your digital card, just go to catalog.swanlibraries.net/eps and click Sign Up at the top of the screen. You must be at least 13 years of age to register.

Stay up to date on the Library’s hours and services

For the latest updates, please...
Check our website: elmwoodparklibrary.org
Call us: 708.453.7645 Email us: askref@elmwoodparklibrary.org
Subscribe to our eNewsletter: visit elmwoodparklibrary.org, then go to About EPPL > Newsletters > Email Newsletter Signup
Follow us on social media: facebook.com/EPPLib twitter.com/askEPPL instagram.com/elmwoodparklib
Featured Speakers & Events

Hands-On Cooking: Fermenting Vegetables (Zoom Program)*
Wed., Sept. 16 • 7-8 p.m.
Learn to ferment vegetables from the comfort of your kitchen with cookbook author and food blogger Emily Paster! In this virtual class, Emily will demonstrate how to make fermented vegetable pickles and sauerkraut using common pantry ingredients and basic kitchen tools with no special equipment required. This program is a joint program brought to you by the River Grove Public Library District and EPPL.

Allyship 101 (Zoom Program)*
Mon., Sept. 21 • 7-8 p.m.
Join Women Unite! to learn about allyship, intersectionality, and privilege—and what it means to practically live them out in your day-to-day. Women Unite! is a womxn-operated non-profit in Chicago that provides a range of consulting services to organizations seeking transformation and growth.

Astrology 101 (Zoom Program)*
Wed., Oct. 14 • 7-8 p.m.
In this introduction to astrology, Jez Layman covers sun, moon, and rising signs, planets, and houses, and teaches you how to read your natal chart so you can avoid future problems, learn your strengths, and embrace your best self.

Arts & Crafts

Virtual DIY (Zoom Program)* - Sign up ends 3 days before -
Thurs. • 1-2 p.m.
Sign up for this program in advance, and pick up your supplies at the Library one week before the program. Then join us over Zoom and we’ll make the craft together!

Oct. 1 - Halloween Wreath
Nov. 12 - Thanksgiving Garland

Games & Fitness

Virtual Chair Yoga (Zoom Program)*
Mon. • Sept. 14 & 28 | Oct. 12 & 26 | Nov. 9 & 23 • 1-2 p.m.
Join Rhonda Fentry as she guides you through a one-hour session of gentle exercise. Chair yoga is done entirely in the chair or standing next to the chair, and is great for those with limited mobility. Sponsored by AgeOptions

Virtual Trivia Night (Email or Facebook Program)*
Tues. • Sept. 29 | Oct. 27 | Nov. 24 • 7-7:30 p.m.
Trivia is now online! Sign up to receive the trivia link via email, or check our Facebook page around 7 p.m. to click the trivia link. The first person to answer the most questions correctly will win a prize! Check our online calendar or Facebook page for more details.

Zoom Programs: How Do They Work?
New to Zoom? You’re not alone!
Here’s how it works: Register in advance and we will email you the Zoom link and phone number to join the program before it starts. You can use the link to view it on an Internet-connected device, or just call the phone number to hear the audio.

Look for the email about 30 minutes before the program starts. If you join online, just follow the prompts to enter the meeting. You will have the option to turn your camera on or leave it off.

If you have any questions or problems, please call 708.453.7645 or send an email to askref@elmwoodparklibrary.org.

At-Home Access: Digital Resources
Access free eBooks, eAudiobooks, and digital magazines from home with your Elwood Park library card! Find eBooks and eAudiobooks through the Axis 360 app or the Libby app by Overdrive. Browse digital magazines through the Flipster app. For more information, visit our website and look under eBooks & more > Getting Started > Library Digital Collections + Instructional Guides.

Book Concierge
Looking for your next great read? Let us help!
Just answer a few questions about what you like to read, and a library staff member will create a personalized reading list based on your preferences. This service is open to Elmwood Park residents only.
Fill out the questionnaire on our website. Find it under Adults > Books & More > Book Concierge.

Virtual Tuesday Night Book Discussion (Zoom Program)*
7-8:30 p.m.
Each book will be available at the Adult Services desk approximately four weeks before the discussion.
Programs & Events for Kids & Teens

Note: All programs are subject to change. Please check our online calendar or call 708.453.7645 for the latest updates.

Kids

Story Times

Virtual Story Time (Zoom Program)*
Ages 0-6 with caregiver
Tues. • Sept. 1 - Nov. 17 • 10-10:30 a.m.
Join Miss Melissa for an interactive Virtual Story Time using Zoom. Sing songs, listen to stories, and socialize while staying socially distant. Register using our online calendar, and we will email you the Zoom link.

Virtual Rockin’ Reads (Zoom Program)*
Ages 3-5 with caregiver
Wed. • Sept. 2 - Nov. 18 • 10-10:30 a.m.
Join Miss Carol for an interactive Virtual Story Time using Zoom. Get ready to rock with books, songs, puppets and more. Register for the story time using our online calendar, and we will email you the Zoom link.

Bag o’ Books
Kids & Teens staff will hand-pick books, DVDs and more, just for you, based on your age and interests! Find details on our website under Kids & Teens > General > Request a Bag o’ Books.

MidKids

Virtual MidKids Read (Zoom Program)*
Gr. 3-6 • Wed. • 4-5 p.m.
Pick up a copy of each month’s book at the Kids & Teens desk, read it, and discuss it over Zoom with others who read it too! Register using our online calendar, and we will email you the Zoom link prior to the event.
Sept. 30: New Kid by Jerry Craft
Oct. 28: When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson
Nov. 18: Stepping Stones by Lucy Knisley

Virtual Teen Advisory Board (Discord Program)
Gr. 7-12
Thurs. • Sept. 10 | Oct. 8 | Nov. 12 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Share your ideas for new ways to provide library programs and services in our virtual and socially distanced environment. Earn volunteer service hours, too! Meetings will take place virtually on the Library’s Teen Discord Server. Please apply to join the server through our website under Kids & Teens > Teens > Library Discord Server.

Teen Book Boxes*
Gr. 6-12
Subscribe now for your fall 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 for the September, October, and November boxes on our website under Kids & Teens > Teens > Book Boxes.

Carryout Kits

At Home Story Time Kit*
Ages 0-6 • Pickup Week: Oct. 5-10
Kits will include bubbles, scarves, and other fun items that will help your child build their early literacy skills.

Kids Craft Carryout Kits*
PreK - Gr. 2
Pickup Weeks: Sept. 8-12 | Oct. 12-17 | Nov. 9-14

STEM Activities Carryout Kit*
Gr. K-8 • Pickup Week: Nov. 2-7

MidKid Art Carryout Kits*
Gr. 3-8

Teen Carryout Kits*
Pickup Weeks: Sept. 21-26 | Oct. 26-31 | Nov. 23-28
Sept.: Chocolate Pretzel Bark (Gr. 7-12)
Oct.: Take a Stand Activism Kit (Gr. 7-12)
Nov.: Journaling (Gr. 6-12)

Teen Discord Server
Elmwood Park Public Library now has a Discord server for teens! Discord is a group chatting platform that we can use for socializing, discussions, games, programs, and more. Join us for a virtual hangout! Fill out the application on our website in order to join. Just look under Kids & Teens > Teens > Library Discord Server.

Teen & MidKid Tech Classes: Project Next Generation
Check our online calendar for upcoming tech programs through Project Next Generation.

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).

* Registration Required  |  Registration for Kids & Teens programs begins now.  For more information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org
**Supporting the Library**

We are disappointed to announce that our annual Club Conti fundraiser has been cancelled for September 2020. We have fond memories of the costumes, music, food, and fun at our previous events and wanted to share some of our favorite photo booth memories. We are very grateful for your past support, which funded the remodeling of our Kids & Teens programming room (The Imaginarium). We are looking forward to when we can begin planning events again and get your ideas on the next theme.

In these challenging times, if you wish to support the Library, or recognize or honor a loved one or special event, please check our website for how to make a donation, adopt-a-book, or join the Giving Tree. Your support means the world to us. Any donation, big or small, can help support the Library in our efforts to serve the community. Just look under How Do I? > Additional Services > Make a Donation or Memorial.

Please note: Cash donations over $25 go directly into the Library's Gift Fund and support small scale building projects, such as carpet replacement, painting, furniture improvements, and room remodels. Smaller donations are also welcome, as they help support services, collections, and technology, like free printing through curbside pickup, virtual programming, and WiFi hotspots.

**“My Library Is...” Grant**

While the completion of our You Are Beautiful project has seen delays due to the pandemic, we are excited to announce that we have been awarded a grant from RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System) to make a promotional video to share our story and vision for our community. Our video will document carpet replacement, student participation, and the painting and installation of the piece, and will include interviews and reactions to our message "be kind. be strong. be yourself. you belong.” The grant will also fund stickers created from student artwork.

Our completed video will be available to our schools, businesses, realtors, and the Village as a way to further showcase our community’s belief in kindness and acceptance of all. Thank you to our local schools and students for their continued participation and support.

**Happy Retirement, Miss Irene!**

On June 30, after 25 years of dedicated, joyous service to the community, Miss Irene retired from the Library. She began her career in Technical Services processing books. However, her spirit could not be contained with simply getting books ready for the public - she needed to share those books!! She found her calling in the Kids & Teens department and loved working with and enriching the lives of Elmwood Park's youth. We were unable to have an in-person celebration for Irene, so we will be accepting your cards, letters, or pictures and will pass them on to her. Please place cards for Irene in the drop-box at the Kids & Teens Desk anytime we are open this fall.

**Friends of the Library**

October 18-24 is National Friends of the Library Week, and we want to thank them for all of the great work they do! Despite their ongoing sale and annual book sale being halted at this time, the Friends of the Library remain active and involved in numerous ways to support the Library. Their most recent sponsorship funds the Kids & Teens Carryout Kits. If you’d like to become a member, please send your $5 membership fee to Friends of the Elmwood Park Library at the Library’s address. The Friends are currently hosting their meetings off-site and hope to return to their regular schedule this fall or winter.