Where Life, Work, and Play Unite

Library staff are proud to serve and support the community of Elmwood Park. We strive to be a place where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to explore, connect, and create in their own unique ways. We enjoy implementing new ideas and suggestions to enhance and improve the Library experience, and want to hear from you as we plan for the future.

Please take the time to fill out a survey at the Library or on our website under About EPPL > 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, or sign up to join us for a talking session on Tues., Mar. 10 from 2-3 p.m. or on Thurs., Mar. 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our 2020-2023 strategic plan is in the works and set to launch in May 2020. Let your voice be heard!

You Are Beautiful

The Library has been working with the You Are Beautiful campaign to bring a piece of public art to our building. We met with over 1,200 students at five of our local schools to discuss how words impact us and how choosing the right ones to show care and support for others can change the world. We were very inspired to find that our students believe in the "power of yet," that it's "okay to be different," that "kindness is the new cool," and "your best is beautiful." We are currently working with artist Matthew Hoffman to finalize the poem that will be installed on the building in April. Look for an announcement about the unveiling and an outdoor celebration in early spring.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our students, principals, teachers, librarians, and parents who gave input into this project. Shekinah Lawrence (Dominican University graduate student) partnered with us to lead group discussions, evaluate feedback, and plan the installation—we couldn't have done it without her. Much appreciation to Principal Matthew Lerner (Elmwood Elementary), Library Clerk Cathy Catalano and Principal Frank Kuzniwski (John Mills Elementary), Principal Sheila Klich and art teacher Donna Vessini (St. Celestine), Principal Kevin Siebel (ECC), and Principal Rebecca Siegel (Elm Middle). Thank you to the Village EPNCO, Youth Commission, and Dominican University for their additional support.

National Library Week: April 19-25

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming communities and improving lives. This year, we invite you to Find Your Place at the Library. The library is a place where all people are welcome regardless of age, interests, or background. Whether you want to join a book discussion or a craft program, use a computer or meet in a study room, watch a movie matinee or bring your little one to story time, we encourage you to find your place at the Library, and take advantage of all we have to offer.

We’re kicking off the week with our 4th annual Edible Book Festival on Sun., Apr. 19 from 3-4 p.m. See details on the All Ages/Family Programs page. Celebrations continue into the week with morning coffee and snacks in our Snack Space Monday through Friday. Finally, if you’re on social media, join us in some #BookFace fun for the chance to win a prize! For details, visit our website and look under Programs/Events > Library Events > National Library Week.

Summer Reading: May 22 - July 31

This summer we will Dig Deeper as we read, investigate, and discover at the Library. Kids and adults of all ages are invited to join our Summer Reading Program. Earn great prizes through reading all summer long. Stop by the Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Fri., May 22 from 3-5:30 p.m. to pick up your reading log and enjoy food, games, and activities. This event is free and open to all ages. If you can't make it to the party, just stop by the Adult or Kids & Teens desk any time after May 22 to register for the Summer Reading Program and dig into reading!

Upcoming Book Releases

March

[Images of book covers]

April

[Images of book covers]

May

[Images of book covers]
Games & Fitness

**WITS Workout***
Tues. • Mar. 3 | Apr. 7 | May 5 • 1-2 p.m.
Exercise your brain with these fun activities designed to help cognitive function and memory.

**Game Night***
Thurs. • Mar. 5 | Apr. 2 | May 7 • 6-8:30 p.m.
Play popular board & card games, such as Unstable Unicorns, Ticket to Ride, and Web of Spies. If you don’t know how to play, don’t worry, we’ll teach you!

**Chair Yoga***
Mon. • Mar. 9, 23 | Apr. 13, 27 | May 4, 11 • 1-2 p.m.
Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle for this gentle exercise session. **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

**Tai Chi***
Mon. • Mar. 16 | Apr. 20 | May 18 • 1-2 p.m.
The coordination of breath and movement act as a moving meditation, which helps circulation, flexibility, and balance. This gentle exercise is adaptable for people of all ages and abilities. **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

**Trivia Night***
Tues. • Mar. 31 | Apr. 28 | May 26 • 7-9 p.m.
Bring a team of up to five 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! **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

Food and Crafts

**Tea Time***
Registration ends 2 days before program
Mon. • Mar. 2 | Apr. 6 | May 4 • 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Enjoy some tea and cookies at the Library! **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

**Coffee & Crochet**
(New Time!) Weekend Edition: Sat. • Mar. 7 | Apr. 4 | May 2 • 1-3 p.m.
Tues. • Mar. 10 | Apr. 14 | May 12 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Enjoy coffee while you crochet or knit and socialize. Bring your own supplies or use ours. Staff will be there to help on Tuesdays only. **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

**Eat & Make*** - Registration ends 3 days before program -
Sat. • Mar. 28 | Apr. 25 | May 30 • 2-4 p.m.
Mar. 28: Artichoke Dip Bread Bowls & Colorful Clothespin Magnets
Apr. 25: Butterbeer Pudding Cookies & DIY Seed Bombs
May 30: Sun-Dried Tomato Basil Pinwheels & Embroidery Hoop Sun Catchers

**Spring Craft - Yarn Wrapped Easter Eggs***
Thurs., Apr. 2 • 1-2 p.m. - Registration ends Mar. 31 -
Join us for this fun, easy, and decorative craft! **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

**Appetizer Hour***
Thurs., May 14 • 1-2 p.m. - Registration ends May 12 -
Enjoy tasty appetizers and pleasant conversation. **Sponsored by AgeOptions**

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.

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

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

Bringing Literature to Life!*
Ages 3-12 with families welcome
Mon. • Mar. 30 • 7-8:15 p.m.
Nationally known story-performer Chris Fascione acts out the best of classical and contemporary children's literature and folktales in a fast-paced, fun-filled performance. Participatory, high-spirited shows incorporate his unique style of acting, storytelling, and physical comedy.

Drop-In Activities

Spring Break Crafts
All Ages • Mar. 23-27 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Visit the Kids & Teens Department to create fantastic arts & crafts all Spring Break long! Supplies will be provided.

Family Movie Showings
All Ages • Mon. • Mar. 2 | Apr. 6 | May 4 • 7 p.m.
Snacks will be served. For more info about upcoming movies, please visit our website to see our online calendar, or check the monthly calendar at the Adult or Kids & Teens desk.

Library Book Bike - Centennial Park
All Ages • Sat., May 16 • 11-11:30 a.m.
Visit the Library Book Bike at Centennial Park and pick up a packet of seeds to plant. Weather permitting, while supplies last.

Summer Reading: Dig Deeper

This summer we will Dig Deeper as we read, investigate, and discover at the Library. Kids and adults of all ages are invited to join our Summer Reading Program. Earn great prizes through reading all summer long. Stop by the Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Fri., May 22 from 3-5:30 p.m. to pick up your reading log and enjoy food, games, and activities. This event is free and open to all ages. If you can't make it to the party, just stop by the Adult or Kids & Teens desk any time after May 22 to register for the Summer Reading Program and dig into reading!

National Library Week #BookFace Contest

In celebration of National Library Week, we invite you all to join us in some #BookFace fun for the chance to win a prize! What better way to show you’ve found your place at the Library than to share your face at the Library?

Here’s how it works: Just find a fun book cover with a person in the design, then find a way to extend the book cover with your face and/or body. Snap a photo and post it to social media using the hashtag #BookFace.

Post your #BookFace picture during National Library Week (April 19-25) and use the hashtag #epplbookface for a chance to win a prize!

Looking for more examples? Search #BookFace on social media or Google. If you need someone to help take the photo, just stop in during National Library Week and we’ll be happy to help!

Connect to the Community

Seeking a closer connection with the Elmwood Park community? Visit the Community Corner page on our website to discover local clubs, groups, commissions, and other community organizations that might be of interest to you! Just visit our website and look under Programs/Events > Community > Community Corner. If you belong to a local organization that you would like to be listed on the Community Corner page, please visit the Community Corner page and click the link for the online or printable form to provide your group’s information.

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
Call for Teen Volunteers
Are you 12-18 years old and want to help kids in your community? Become a summer volunteer! We are looking for friendly, helpful teens to assist with our Summer Reading Program. Visit the Kids & Teens desk or check our website under How Do I? > Additional Services > Volunteer for more information.

Fun & Games

Magic the Gathering & Yu-Gi-Oh!
Ages 10 and up • Every Wed. • 4 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons
Grades 7-12 • Thurs. • Mar. 19 | Apr. 16 | May 21 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Video Gaming
Mon. • Mar. 9 | Apr. 13 • 4-5:30 p.m.
Join us for gaming - Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite, etc.

Dungeons & Dragons
Grades 7-12 • Thurs. • Mar. 19 | Apr. 16 | May 21 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Food & Craft Programs

Nailed It or Failed It: Dessert Decorating Challenge*
Grades 7-12 • Wed., Mar. 4 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Take a crack at recreating some Pinterest-perfect seasonal desserts.

Bad Breakup Art*
Grades 7-12 • Fri., Mar. 20 • 4-5 p.m.
Have you experienced a bad breakup recently? Unleash your anguish by creating some bad breakup art! We will provide the materials and the playlist, you provide the heartbeat. No artistic skills necessary.

De-Stress with Doodling & Doughnuts
Wed., Apr. 15 • 4-5 p.m.
Drop in and enjoy some doughnuts as you practice zen-doodling.

Teen Book Box Subscriptions
Subscribe now for your spring 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 by March 15 to get boxes this spring (April and May). Sign up for summer boxes (June, July, August) starting on May 1. Limit 10 people per season. Must be in grades 7-12 to participate.

MidKid Programs & Events

Homework 911
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • 4-6 p.m.
Mar. 3-19 | Mar. 31 - Apr. 9 | Apr. 21 - May 7
Need some help figuring out how to do your homework? Bring your assignment to the Library! Certified teachers will work with students in groups or one-on-one as time and space allow.

Block Printing*
Mon., Mar. 2 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to make an art print using Styrofoam and ink.

Watercolors*
Mon., Apr. 6 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to use various watercolor techniques to make your next masterpiece.

MidKids Read: Book Club*
Pick up a copy at the Kids & Teens desk.

Stargazing by Jen Wang
Wed., Mar. 25 • 4-5 p.m.
Unlikely best friends, Christine and Moon’s friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness. (Graphic Novel)

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol
Wed., Apr. 29 • 4-5 p.m.
At summer camp, a brother and sister struggle with primitive plumbing, snobby tent-mates, and boys-versus-girls competitions. (Graphic Novel)

Hour of Code*
Grades 4-12 • Tues. • Mar. 3 | Apr. 7 | May 5 • 4-5 p.m.
Play fun games while learning basic coding through Code.org, then try your hand on some of our programmable robots!

Robot Club*
Grades 6-12 • Thurs. • Mar. 5 | Apr. 9 | May 7 • 4-5 p.m.
Join our Library Robotics Team and learn to use our VEX Robotics kit.

Movie Making* (6-part class)
Grades 4-12 • Mar. 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 & 26 • 4-5 p.m.
Lights, camera, action! Let’s write a script, shoot some footage, and edit it into a movie.

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

Basic Computer Skills & Internet Safety*
Grades 4-12 • Tues., Apr. 28 • 4-5 p.m.

Electric Origami*
Grades 4-12 • Thurs., Apr. 30 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to fold an origami cube and make your creation glow with an embedded LED.

Soldering* (4-part class)
Grades 4-12 • May 12, 14, 19 & 21 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn soldering safety, how to assemble components on a circuit board, and everything else you need to know to bring electronics to life!

Hand Drawn Vinyl Clings* (2-part class)
Grades 4-12 • May 26 & 28 • 4-5 p.m.
Draw a picture, bubble letters, or a cool design. Scan it. Cut it out on the vinyl cutter. Stick to a window or a wall!

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 Times**

Story sessions are designed to support your child's early development, vocabulary building, motor skills, socialization, and love of reading. All sessions are followed by play, coloring, or other activities.

**Tiny Tots**
Ages 0-35 months with caregiver

Wed. • Mar. 18 - Apr. 29 • 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. 16 - Apr. 27 • 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. 16 - Apr. 27 • 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. 17 - Apr. 28 • 11-11:45 a.m.

Tackle Tuesday with books, songs, movement, and dance.

**Rockin’ Reads**
Ages 3-5

Please sign up for either Wed. or Thurs. group for each session.

Wed. • Mar. 18 - Apr. 29 • 10-10:45 a.m.

Thurs. • Mar. 19 - Apr. 30 • 11-11:45 a.m.

Get ready to rock with books, songs, puppets, and more.

**PJ Story Time**
Ages 3-8 • Wed., Apr. 8 • 7-7:30 p.m.

Wear your PJ’s and get ready for bed with stories & songs.

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**Fun & Games**

**Unicorn Party**
Grades K-2 • Tues., Mar. 3 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Join us to celebrate mystical, magical unicorns with stories, music, dancing, a puppet show, treats, and a special unicorn craft.

**LEGO Party**
Grades K-2 • Wed., Mar. 11 • 4-5 p.m.

Have fun building with LEGOs!

**Little Leonards**
Ages 2-4 with caregiver • Thurs., Mar. 12 • 10-10:45 a.m.

Kids and parents are invited to join us to create fun and messy art! We will have paint, so please dress accordingly.

**St. Patrick’s Day Party**
Grades K-2 • Tues., Mar. 17 • 2-3 p.m.

Join us for stories, snacks, dancing, and a special craft to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. Remember to wear green!

**Spring Break Crafts**
All Ages
Mar. 23-27 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit the Kids & Teens Department to create fantastic arts & crafts all Spring Break long! Supplies will be provided.

**Elmwood Park Play Group**
Ages 0-5 with caregiver

Fri. • Mar. 20 | Apr. 17 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Connect, create, and play in our pop-up play space specially designed for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**Rock 'n' Roll Pizza Party**
Grades K-3 • Fri., Apr. 10 • 12-1 p.m.

Sign up to celebrate Rock 'n' Roll with music, pizza, and a special craft.

**Celebrate Earth Day**
Grades K-2 • Wed., Apr. 22 • 4-5 p.m.

Sign up to enjoy songs and a craft in celebration of Earth Day.

**Homework 911**
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • 4-6 p.m.

Mar. 3-19 | Mar. 31 - Apr. 9 | Apr. 21 - May 7

Need some help with your homework? Bring it 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**

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. Bring it in after every 100 books for a small prize. At 500 books you'll get a special prize, and if you finish 1000 books before your child enters Kindergarten, you’ll get another special gift!

**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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For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
Census 2020: Everyone Counts

The census is conducted every ten years to count each person living in the U.S. regardless of their country of origin or immigration status. The results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding and congressional representation for years to come. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data, so it’s important to get a complete and accurate count of everyone residing in your household on April 1. This includes: children, newborn babies, grandparents, friends, non-relatives, and anyone else living in your home.

Most households will receive an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau in the mail with instructions for responding to the census online, by phone, or by mail. The online form is estimated to take just ten minutes. Keep an eye out for a special Census station with secure WiFi in Adult Services starting in April. For more information and FAQs about the Census, visit our website and look under Programs/Events > Community > 2020 Census.

Digital Magazines through Flipster

Check out Flipster, our new digital magazine service, free with your Elmwood Park library card! Check out magazines from your home computer, or download the app on your smartphone, tablet, or Kindle Fire, and take them wherever you go. Never worry about late fees, magazines will automatically return on the due date.

Check out popular titles including Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, Newsweek, National Geographic, Better Homes & Gardens, Popular Mechanics, Prevention, Reader’s Digest, and more! For more information, visit our website and look under eBooks & More > Instructional Guides.

Beyond Books Collection - New Items

LED Lighted Magnifier: This combination light/magnifying glass is great for reading small print on newspapers, documents, labels, maps, etc. It can also be placed on its stand, which is helpful for projects with small parts, like needlepoint, soldering, or making jewelry.

Step-Counter: Tracking your steps is an easy way to help you become more active and achieve your fitness goals. No downloads or smartphone required. Just a hip clip and a step-counter with a simple one-button reset.

Items in the Beyond Books Collection can be checked out by Elmwood Park library cardholders who are age 18+. Just ask for them at the Circulation Desk.

Happy Retirement, Mary Moss!

On January 22, Mary Moss, the Head of Circulation Services, retired from the Library after 29 years of service. Mary started at Elmwood Park Public Library back in 1990 and worked for 14 years as an adult reference librarian, before moving up to the Head of Circulation Services. Mary has been integral in helping the Library navigate library software system changes, moving to a new building, renovations, staff changes, and so much more.

The Library will not be the same without Mary here. We will miss her, but wish her all the best with her retirement, and hope she has lots of fun, new adventures with friends and family.

Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library

The Friends support the Library through membership (just $5 a year), plus an ongoing sale shelf and annual book sale. Keep an eye out for their annual book sale this fall! Their hard work allows us to offer one or two $500 volunteer scholarships per year, quarterly adult and kids programs, and special additions to the Kids & Teens department, such as our puppet theater and Explore-to-Go Kits.

Want to learn more? Attend a monthly meeting (listed on the Library’s online calendar) or visit our website and look under About EPPL > General > Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library.