Winter is here and a new year is coming! While you are thinking about new adventures and resolutions for 2020 and what changes will come for you and/or your family, help us to consider what might be in our community’s future. The Library has made important strides in the last three years and has grown through connecting with our residents at community groups, schools, clubs, business associations, and senior and social service centers. As we prepare our strategic plan for the next three years, the Library invites residents of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds to provide input into our 2020-2023 strategic plan.

We want to hear from you! Fill out a survey at the Library or online. Just visit our website and look under About EPPL > 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

You can also sign up for a Library Focus Group to share your ideas, suggestions, needs, and interests in person. Please sign up for the date and time that work best for you!

Focus groups will be held:
- Tues., Jan. 14 • 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 16 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 29 • 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 20 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Mon., Feb. 24 • 3-4 p.m.

The Library is excited to connect to our community and its values through our work with the You Are Beautiful project. Our dialogues with local students and teachers are in progress, and they have shared many positive, inclusive, and motivational ideas to choose from for a one-of-a-kind piece of public art. Staff will be evaluating responses and providing ideas to the artist. We expect the installation to take place in Spring 2020 with a celebration for the whole community. Check you-are-beautiful.com for more information about their message and examples of their work.

Let’s Connect

Winter Reading
Jan. 6 - Feb. 29
Cozy up with a good book this winter and earn yourself a treat through our Winter Reading Program! (Because why should summer have all the fun?)

Kids & Teens
(Age 0 thru Grade 12)
Stop by the Kids & Teens desk to sign up! You’ll receive a coupon to a local restaurant and a reading log/bingo card to track your progress. Finish the reading goal for your age group and receive a book, another coupon, and a prize drawing entry!

Adults
Stop by the Adult Services desk to pick up a reading log. Read two books for a gift and an entry for our prize drawing! Keep reading for additional prize drawing entries.

Winter Giving
Gifts for Adopt-a-Kid, Inc.
The Library is an annual collection site for Adopt-a-Kid, Inc., a local organization that collects gifts for families in need. Please visit our lobby for information and instructions on how to help. Thanks for helping us spread the joy of the season.

Charity Flower Sale
Thurs., Feb. 13 • 3:30-8:30 p.m.
Stop by the Library to buy flowers for Valentine’s Day! Flowers are sold by the Young Adult Council, and proceeds will go to a local charity.

Upcoming Book Releases
Adult Programs & Events

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

Computers & Technology

3D Printer: Holiday Gifts*
Wed., Dec. 4 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Make a gift for someone special using the Library’s 3D Printer! Search for ideas on Thingiverse, or try to create your own design using TinkerCAD, and pick up your printed object the following week.

Excel 2010*
Basics: Thurs., Dec. 12 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Intermediate: Mon., Jan. 13 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Advanced: Mon., Feb. 10 • 7-8:30 p.m.

SWAN Library App*
Mon., Dec. 16 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Learn how to use the Library’s new app to search the catalog, place holds, personalize your account, and keep track of your checkout history!

The Librarian Is In: Your New Device*
Tues., Jan. 7 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Did you recently get a new device and you’re not sure how to use it? Sign up for a quick tutorial!

Bullet Journaling with MS Publisher*
Thurs., Jan. 23 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Learn to make your own planner pages in MS Publisher with templates like a password cheat sheet, weekly schedule, and habit tracker.

Ancestry Library Edition*
Tues., Feb. 4 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Designing Business Cards with Canva*
Thurs., Feb. 20 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Learn how to use Canva, a free graphic-design website, to create business cards with customized colors, fonts, and layout. Participants must use an email address to create a free account on Canva.com, so please have your email login information ready when class begins.

Games & Fitness

Game Night!*
Thurs. • Dec. 5 | Jan. 2 | Feb. 6 • 6-8:30 p.m.
Come play popular board & card games, such as Unstable Unicorns, Ticket to Ride, Web of Spies, and much more! Don’t worry, if you don’t know how to play, we’ll teach you.

Chair Yoga*
Mon. • Dec. 9, 23 | Jan. 13, 27 | Feb. 10, 24 • 1-2 p.m.
Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle for this gentle exercise session. Sponsored by AgeOptions

Tai Chi*
Mon. • Dec. 16 | Jan. 6 | Feb. 17 • 1-2 p.m.
This gentle exercise is adaptable for people of all ages and abilities, and helps with circulation, flexibility, and balance. Sponsored by AgeOptions

Trivia Night
Tues. • Jan. 28 | Feb. 25 • 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 for the winning team. Check our Facebook page the day of the program to see the bonus question!

Tuesday Night Book Discussions
7-8:30 p.m.
Each book will be available at the Adult Services desk approximately four weeks before the discussion. Pick up a copy and join us to discuss over treats!

Food and Crafts

Ancestry Library Edition* Wed., Dec. 16 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Cocoa and Cookies* Registration ends 2 days before program
Mon. • Dec. 2 | Jan. 6 | Feb. 3 • 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies. Sponsored by AgeOptions

Holiday Ornament* Registration ends 2 days before program
Thurs., Dec. 5 • 1-2 p.m.
Join us and make a clothespin toy soldier ornament. Sponsored by AgeOptions

Coffee & Crochet*
Tues. • Dec. 10 | Jan. 14 | Feb. 11 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.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

Surrounded by Santa*
Tues., Dec. 3 • 7-8:30 p.m.
This interactive program is designed to help you reclaim your holidays from the media and retail frenzy. Explore what is meaningful for you vs. expectations and pressures; examine your most remembered holiday experiences; and create traditions that bring meaning back to you and your family. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Knit/Crochet-a-thon
Sat. • Jan. 11 • 1-4 p.m.
Drop in and crochet or knit blanket squares (7” x 9”) for Warm Up America! This organization provides warm blankets for those in need. Materials and patterns will be provided, but feel free to bring your own needles or hooks.

Illinois Military Monuments*
Mon., Feb. 17 • 7-8 p.m.
Join Lorenzo Fiorentino as he discusses his book about the military history of Illinois. Fiorentino is a retired major with more than 21 years of service in the Illinois National Guard and the US Army. Images that he has used have come from various archives, postcards, personal photographs, and friends’ collections. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Valentine Social* Registration ends 2 days before program
Thurs., Feb. 13 • 1-2 p.m.
Enjoy some sweet treats 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.
**Special Guests & Events**

- **Dave Herzog’s Marionettes: The Snow Show!***
  - Ages 3-12 • Tues., Dec. 10 • 7-8:15 p.m.
  - Sign up for snowy wintertime fun with Pinky and all of her wonderful wintry friends! Dave Herzog’s Marionettes bring stories and characters to life in this FUNtastic snow-filled winter adventure.

**Winter Reading**
All Ages • Jan. 6 - Feb. 29
Cozy up with a good book this winter and earn yourself a treat through our Winter Reading Program! (Because why should summer have all the fun?)

- **Kids & Teens** (Age 0 thru Grade 12) - Stop by the Kids & Teens desk to sign up! You’ll receive a coupon to a local restaurant and a reading log/bingo card to track your progress. Finish the reading goal for your age group and receive a book, another coupon, and a prize drawing entry!
- **Adults** - Stop by the Adult Services desk to pick up a reading log. Read two books for a gift and an entry for our prize drawing! Keep reading for additional prize drawing entries.

**Parents’ Night Out (and Day, Too!)*
Sat., Feb. 15 • 1-4 p.m. | Wed., Feb. 19 • 6-8:30 p.m.
Want to enjoy Elmwood Park Restaurant Week with friends or that special someone? The Library can help with that! We will have staff and volunteers on hand to entertain and feed your young ones (ages 5-11) while you enjoy all that Elmwood Park has to offer. Space is limited, so please sign up in advance. Registration begins Feb. 1.

**Family Movie Showings**
Popcorn & lemonade will be served.

- **The Lion King** (2019)
  - Mon., Dec. 2 • 7-9 p.m.
- **The Angry Birds Movie 2**
  - Mon., Jan. 6 • 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Dora and the Lost City of Gold**
  - Mon., Feb. 3 • 7-8:45 p.m.

**Beyond Books Collection**
- **LightKeeper Pro**
  - This handy gadget easily repairs strings of lights that have gone out.
- **HappyLight Touch**
  - This light therapy lamp can help improve energy, focus, and nightly sleep during dark winter months.
- **Fujifilm Instax Camera**
  - Have fun snapping holiday pictures with this instant-film camera! (Film not included.)
- **Ukulele Kit**
  - Pick up a new indoor hobby this winter and learn to play the ukulele. For information and availability, just ask at the front desk.

*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** • Thurs. • Dec. 12 | Jan. 9 | Feb. 13 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Help the Library with kids programs, special events, and charity sales. Give back to the community and be a role model, all while earning volunteer service hours.

### Fun & Games

**Gaming**
Mon. • Dec. 9 | Jan. 13 | Feb. 10 • 4-5:30 p.m.
Join us for gaming - Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite, etc.

**Magic the Gathering & Yu-Gi-Oh!**
Ages 10-18 • Every Wed. (except Dec. 25 | Jan. 1 | Feb. 26) • 4-6 p.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons**
**Grades 7-12** • Thurs. • Dec. 19 | Jan. 16 | Feb. 20 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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

#### Homework 911
**Grades K-6** • Tues. & Thurs. • Dec. 3-12 | Jan. 7-22 • 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.

#### MidKid Gaming

**Pokémon League**
**Grades 1-6** • Mon. • Dec. 16 | Jan. 27 | Feb. 17 • 4-5 p.m.

**Chess Club**
**Tues.** • Feb. 4 • 4-5 p.m.

### Food & Crafts

**PomPom Penguin**
Wed., Dec. 18 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Make a cute and soft penguin with pom poms.

**Felt Fox Cozies**
Wed., Jan. 15 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Make a cute and soft fox cozy for your mug.

### MidKid Tech Classes: Project Next Generation

**Robot Club**
**Grades 6-12** • Tues. • Dec. 3 | Jan. 7 | Feb. 4 • 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. 5 | Jan. 9 | Feb. 6 • 4-5 p.m.
Play fun games while learning basic coding through Code.org, then try your hand on some of our programmable robots!

**3D Printed Snowflakes**
**Grades 4-12** • Dec. 10 & 12 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to use the computer to create 3D models of snowflakes and then print them out on the Makerbot Replicator!

**Be Internet Awesome**
**Grades 4-12** • Tues., Dec. 17 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn the basics about computers, how to stay safe online, and how to be Internet awesome!

**Electric Origami**
**Grades 4-12** • Thurs., Dec. 19 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to fold an origami cube and make your creation glow with an embedded LED.

**Song Maker** (3-part class)
**Grades 4-12** • Jan. 14, 16, 21 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn how to use the digital audio software Mixcraft and make your own song!

**Rover Race** (3-part class)
**Grades 4-12** • Jan. 23, 28, 30 • 4-5 p.m.
Design 3D printed parts and build electric toy Rovers that run on monorail tracks.

**3D Printed Valentine** (2-part class)
**Grades 4-12** • Feb. 11 & 13 • 4-5 p.m.
Learn to use the computer to create 3D models of hearts or Valentines and then print them out on the Makerbot Replicator!

**Hand Drawn Vinyl Clings** (2-part class)
**Grades 4-12** • Feb. 18 & 20 • 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).
Kid Programs & Events

Special Guests & Events

Dave Herzog’s Marionettes: The Snow Show!*
Ages 3-12 • Tues., Dec. 10 • 7:8-15 p.m.
Sign up for snowy wintertime fun with Pinky and all of her wonderful wintry friends! Dave Herzog’s Marionettes bring stories and characters to life in this FUNtastic snow-filled winter adventure.

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. 8 - Feb. 26 • 9:30-10 a.m.
Discover stories through books, songs, puppets, and more.

Little Explorers Story Time*
Ages 6-36 months with caregiver
Mon. • Jan. 6 - Feb. 24 (except Jan. 20) • 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Explore the wonder of books, songs, and rhymes using scarves, shakers, rhythm sticks, puppets, and more. Followed by open play time.

Wiggles & Giggles Story Time
Ages 2-5 with caregiver
Mon. • Jan. 6 - Feb. 24 (except Jan. 20) • 11-11:45 a.m.
Wake up your week with books, songs, movement, and dance, followed by open play designed to build early developmental skills.

Giggles & Grins Story Time
Ages 2-5 with caregiver
Tues. • Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 • 11-11:45 a.m.
Tackle Tuesday with books, songs, movement, and dance.

Rockin’ Reads*
Ages 3-5 **Please sign up for either Wed. group or Thurs. group.**
Wed. • Jan. 8 - Feb. 26 • 10-10:45 a.m.
Thurs. • Jan. 9 - Feb. 27 • 11-11:45 a.m.
Get ready to rock with books, songs, and a puppet show followed by creative hands-on activities

Pajama Story Time*
Ages 3-8 • Thurs., Dec. 12 | Thurs., Feb. 20 • 7-7:45 p.m.
Join us for bedtime stories, songs, and more.

Homework 911
Grades K-6 • Tues. & Thurs. • 4-6 p.m.
Dec. 3-12 | Jan. 7 - Feb. 27
Need some help with your homework? Certified teachers will work with students in groups or one-on-one as time and space allow.

Letters to Santa
Ages 0-10 • Nov. 25 - Dec. 16
Drop off your letter in our special Santa mailbox in the Kids & Teens department, anytime between Nov. 25 - Dec. 16, and we’ll get that letter to the North Pole for you! Make sure to include your full name and address so Santa can respond.
*This program is sponsored by the Library’s Young Adult Council.*

Celebrate with Songs & Santa*
Ages 3-9 • Tues., Dec. 17 • 7-8:15 p.m.
Sign up and celebrate the holidays with singing, dancing, and holiday fun. We will also have a special guest!

Fun & Games

Elmwood Park Play Group (new day!)
Ages 0-5 with caregiver
Fri. • Dec. 13 | Jan. 10 | Feb. 14 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Connect, create, and play in our pop-up play space designed specially for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

New Year’s Party*
Grades 2-4 • Mon., Dec. 30 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Practice ringing in the New Year with pizza, games, and a countdown to 12:00!

Frozen Party*
Grades K-2 • Wed., Jan. 8 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Can you pin the carrot nose on Olaf or make it snow like Elsa? Come and find out at this Frozen party full of treats, games, art projects, and prizes.

LEGO Club*
Grades K-2 • Fri., Jan. 24 • 4-4:45 p.m.
This quarterly program will challenge you to build your best LEGO projects. Work alone or in groups. All projects will be on display in the Library for one month.

Little Leonards*
Ages 2-4 • Thurs., Jan. 30 • 10-10:45 a.m.
Join us in the Imaginarium to make fun, and messy, art! Please dress accordingly.

Valentine’s Party*
Grades K-2 • Thurs., Feb. 6 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Make a card and craft for that special someone, decorate a cookie to eat, and play some team-oriented games. For friends old and new!

Mad Science Club*
Grades K-2 • Tues., Feb. 11 • 4-5 p.m.
Sign up to join our mad scientists as we perform a fun science experiment!

Mardi Gras Party*
Ages 4-8 • Tues., Feb. 25 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Celebrate this annual festival with necklace and mask making, a trivia contest with prizes for all, tasting of a traditional King's cake, and a grand parade.

For more program information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Sign up online, in person, or by phone.
Thank You for Your Generosity, Wild West Style!

Over 80 people came to this year’s after-hours fundraiser to eat, drink, and dance at the Library. We had a rootin’-tootin’ time, and we hope you did, too!

Thanks again to this year’s sponsors!
Friends of the Library • Montclare-Elmwood Park Kiwanis • Culver’s Burger MooVment • Russell’s Barbecue • Arcada Theater • A-Theme Events Caporale Realty • Edward Jones • Citizens for Saviano Lagunitas Brewing Company • Arrow Body & Fender Service Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd. • Eli’s Cheesecake

Connect with Loved Ones

Do you have a loved one suffering from Alzheimer’s, dementia, or memory loss? Try one of three new memory kits in our Beyond Books collection designed to relieve the stress, anxiety, and depression of the patient, as well as reduce their agitation. The Baby Doll, Music Therapy, and Hollywood Icons therapy kits were generously provided by a grant from AgeOptions of Oak Park. For more information, please visit our website and look under How Do I? > Special Collections > Beyond Books.

The Passing of Our Beloved Kim

Kim Viita, our Head of Kids & Teens, passed away on Friday, Oct. 4. She passed peacefully, surrounded by loved ones. Kim spent her life supporting others through good works and sharing her love of reading with students. She brought a smile and positivity to all situations. She was a loving wife and mother, beloved sister, aunt, daughter, cousin, an amazing leader, and the most true and loyal friend the Library has ever seen. She will be missed greatly by all of us who knew her.

The Library will be developing a way to remember and recognize Kim’s contributions to our community. Any donations to this effort will go to the Library’s Gift Fund. For more information about donating to the Library, please visit our website and look under How Do I? > Make a Donation or Memorial.

Friends of the Elmwood Park Public Library

The Library Board of Trustees and staff extends their heartfelt thanks to retiring members Jim and Marion Ashby for their years of service to the Friends of the Library and many contributions to the community. The Friends installed a new President, Pat Lowry, in October, and she is busy recruiting new members and helping to plan special events.

The Friends support the Library through membership (just $5 a year), plus an ongoing sale shelf and annual summer sale. 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.

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.