Shining Lights

As our community continues to contend with and adapt to changes in work, school, and home life due to the pandemic, the Library, too, continues to develop new ways to meet your needs. To address the economic hardship that these times have brought, the Library board voted to decrease library fines and fees.

The winter months can be hard, but the Library can provide resources and tools to make things a little brighter. Call us for book recommendations, register for a virtual program or carryout kit, or try one of many other fun new things these winter months.

- Apply for or renew your library card and receive a free face mask and mini hand sanitizer (while supplies last).
- If you can't make it in, sign up for a digital access card to download our eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines, and use our databases, including Tutor.com for 1:1 homework help and test prep materials. To sign up for a digital access card, visit catalog.swanlibraries.net/eps and click Sign Up.
- Get connected at home by checking out a WiFi hotspot, laptop, DVD player, or videogame console. More gadgets coming soon!

While there are struggles, there are also shining lights. Kindness, cooperation, strength, and resilience remain strong in our community, especially in our young people. Here's a shout out to all the students who participated in crafting our one-of-a-kind art installation with the You Are Beautiful campaign: "be kind. be strong. be yourself. you belong."

While the installation will not be able to go up until Spring, the artwork created in class visits at D401 schools and St. Celestine will warm your heart more than hot chocolate or a fireplace. Take a look at their reflections on being unique, positive, kind, and a good friend on our Google Photo album. Visit elmwoodparklibrary.org and look under About EPPL > You Are Beautiful.

Winter Reading Program: Dec. 1 - Jan. 31

Make some cocoa, grab a blanket, & cozy up with a good book this winter to earn a treat through our Winter Reading Program!

Kids & Teens – Sign up online through Beanstack and track your activities, or stop by the Library to get a paper bingo sheet. Earn a book, mug, and hot cocoa for finishing your reading challenge.

Adults – Sign up online through Beanstack and log the books you’ve read, or stop by the Library to pick up your reading log. Read two books for a gift and a prize drawing entry. Keep reading for more prize drawing entries.

To sign up online, visit: elmwoodparklibrary.org/WinterReading

Thank you to The Friends of the Library for generously sponsoring this program.

Curbside Holds Pickup Service

Just stopping by to pick up your holds? Call for Curbside Pickup throughout the winter months, and we will bring your items out to you! For Curbside Pickup, call 708.453.7645.

To stay up-to-date on the Library’s hours and services, feel free to contact us. Please see our contact information on the back page.

Family/All Ages Programs (see back page)

Check the back page to see programs for all ages and families, including a StoryWalk® in Central Park, Holiday Cards To-Go, and a Virtual BINGO Night!

We're eager to install our public art piece and get feedback from the community. Stay tuned for opportunities to appear in our video, funded by the RAILS "My Library Is..." Grant!

Upcoming Book Releases
Programs & Events for Adults

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

Arts & Crafts

Virtual DIY (Zoom Program)*
Thurs. • 1-2 p.m. • Sign up ends 4 days before
Sign up for this program in advance, and pick up your supplies at the Library a week before the program. Then join us live over Zoom and we will make the craft together!
  Dec. 3 - Holiday Ornament
  Feb. 4 - Valentine’s Day Card

Virtual Gift Wrapping Party (Zoom Program)*
Tues. • Dec. 8 • 7-8 p.m. • Sign up ends Dec. 4
Join Mandy for a virtual gift wrapping party where she will show you her favorite gift wrapping techniques. Wrap your presents and enjoy a sweet treat together, virtually. Register and pick up your party pack a week before the program.

Take-Home Knit/Crochet-a-thon*
Jan. 4 - 25 • Sign up ends Jan. 2
Sign up for our third annual knit/crochet-a-thon to make blanket squares for Warm Up America! This year’s event will be a take-home program. The participant who makes the most blanket squares by Jan. 25 will get a prize! Register by Jan. 2, then pick up your supplies at the Library starting on Jan. 4.

Virtual Program: Bullet Journaling 101 (Zoom Program)*
Thurs. • Jan. 7 • 7-8 p.m. • Sign up ends Jan. 3
Join Andrea and learn about bullet journaling, a pen-and-paper organizational method that’s like a planner, but with more flexibility. Andrea will discuss the basics of bullet journaling and provide examples of how other people bullet journal. Register and pick up your starter kit a week before the program.

Food & Drink

Virtual Taste Test: Chocolate (Zoom Program)*
Thurs. • Feb. 18 • 1-1:45 p.m. • Sign up ends Feb. 14
Join us for a virtual taste test! Register and pick up the supplies a week before the program. Join the Zoom program and we will taste the chocolate together and vote on our favorite!

Games & Fitness

Virtual Chair Yoga (Zoom Program)*
Mon. • Dec. 14 & 28 | Jan. 11 & 25 | Feb. 8 & 22 • 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. • No Trivia in Dec. | Jan. 26 | Feb. 23 • 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?
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.

Beyond Books Collection

Tired of your games at home, or want to try out something new? Check out a game from the Beyond Books Collection and have fun while staying safe at home! We have table tennis, dominoes, and a game of horseshoes that’s light enough to play indoors. We plan to add even more games this winter. To see all the items in the Beyond Books collection, including technology, memory assistance kits, and other useful items, visit our website and look under How Do I? > Special Collections > Beyond Books.

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.

For more information visit elmwoodparklibrary.org

* Registration Required | Registration for Adult programs begins now.
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 information.

**KIDS**

**Letters to Santa**
Ages 0-10 • Dec. 1-11
Drop off your letter in our special Santa mailbox in the Kids & Teens department, anytime between Dec. 1 - Dec. 11, 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.

**Story Times**

**Virtual Story Time (Zoom Program)**
Ages 0-6
Tues. • Dec. 1 & 8 | Jan. 5 - Feb. 23 • 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
Wed. • Dec. 2 & 9 | Jan. 6 - Feb. 24 • 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.

**MidKids**

**Virtual MidKids Read (Zoom Program)**
Gr. 3-6 • Wed. • 4-4:45 p.m.
Pick up a copy of each month’s book and a snack at the Kids & Teens desk. Read the book 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.

Dec. 16: *This Was Our Pact* by Ryan Andrews
Jan. 27: *Twins* by Varian Johnson
Feb. 24: *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte

**Teens**

**Virtual Teen Advisory Board (Google Meet)**
Gr. 7-12
Thurs. • Dec. 10 | Jan. 14 | Feb. 11 • 6:30-7:30 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 using Google Meet. Register using our online calendar, and we will email you the meeting link.

**Teen Book Boxes**
Gr. 6-12
Subscribe for your Teen Book Boxes! Choose a genre (like horror, fantasy, sci-fi, etc.) and pick up a box 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 December, January, and February boxes on our website under Kids & Teens > Teens > Book Boxes.

**Remember to check the back page for all ages and family programs!**

**Let us help you stock up!**

**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 > Special Collections > Request a Bag o’ Books.

**Vacation Bags**
Going on vacation with the kids? Let us put together a bag of books, movies, and other items to help keep everyone entertained. You can even request a portable DVD player to help you watch movies on the go. Just let us know when you plan to return from your trip, and we will set the due date for three days after that. Find details and the request form on our website under Kids & Teens > Special Collections > Vacation Bags.

**Carryout Kits**
Register and receive the supplies you’ll need for a creative project or activity at home! Pick up your kit at the Kids & Teens desk anytime the Library is open during the designated week, then bring it home and have fun!

**Kids Carryout Kits**
PreK - Gr. 2
- Pickup Dec. 7-12: Snowman Craft
- Pickup Jan. 11-16: Whale Tails Craft
- Pickup Feb. 8-13: Valentine’s Heart Craft

**STEM Carryout Kit**
Gr. K-12
- Pickup Nov. 30 - Dec. 5: Rock Candy Canes
- Pickup Jan. 4-9: LED Light Bookmarks
- Pickup Feb. 1-6: LEGO Mania

**MidKid Art Carryout Kits**
Gr. 3-6
- Pickup Dec. 14-19: Mini Canvas Art
- Pickup Jan. 19-23: Knit a Snake
- Pickup Feb. 15-20: No Sew Heart Pillow

**Teen Carryout Kits**
Gr. 7-12
- Pickup Dec. 14-19: DIY Stress Ball
- Pickup Jan. 25-30: Mug Cakes
- Pickup Feb. 22-27: Mini Book Keychains

**Teen & MidKid Tech Classes: Project Next Generation**
Check our website for upcoming tech programs through Project Next Generation: www.elmwoodparklibrary.org/png

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
Elmwood Park StoryWalk®: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
All Ages • Dec. 12 - Jan. 8 • Central Park
Visit Central Park between Dec. 12 and Jan. 8 to read Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas in our first ever StoryWalk®. Enjoy this festive book by following the StoryWalk® path through Central Park. When you are finished reading, scan a QR code to get directions to the Library to pick up a Grinch-themed craft and a candy cane.

This is a fun and socially distant family event for kids of all ages. Please remember to stay at least six feet from other families while enjoying the story. If you cannot maintain six feet of distance, please wear a mask. When you pick up your craft, masks are required for everyone ages 3 and up inside the Library. No registration required. Craft available while supplies last.

We would like to thank the Elmwood Park Neighborhood Civic Organization, The Village of Elmwood Park Public Works, and Girl Scout Brownie Troop #45821 for sponsoring this event. This Troop of 3rd graders supported this project by donating funds, selecting the book, and helping us set up the StoryWalk® signs. Thank you to all of our sponsors.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Arts & Crafts

Holiday Cards To Go
All Ages • Dec. 21-23 • All Day
Stop by the Kids & Teens department to pick up supplies to make holiday cards at home. No registration required. While supplies last.

Thank You Notes To Go
All Ages • Dec. 28-30 • All Day
Stop by the Kids & Teens department to pick up supplies to make thank you notes at home. No registration required. While supplies last.

Scavenger Hunts

Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
Ages 3 and up • Jan. 2-31 • All Day
Your favorite book characters are hiding in the Library. Drop in all month long to search for them in the Kids & Teens department.

Black History Month Scavenger Hunt
Ages 3 and up • Feb. 1-28 • All Day
Notable figures from Black history are hiding in the Library. Drop in all month long to search for them in the Kids & Teens department.

Virtual Family BINGO Night*
All Ages • Thurs., Jan. 28 • 7-8 p.m.
Join us online for a fun game of BINGO! Register online and we will email you directions and the virtual meeting link before the event.

Your Library at Home: Digital Resources

Access free eBooks, eAudiobooks, and digital magazines from home with your Elmwood 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.

Friends of the Library

We are so grateful to the Friends of the Library for their continued support and dedication during these uncertain times. While book donations and sale shelves are paused for now, the Friends of the Library remain active. Their most recent sponsorship funds the entry prizes for this year’s Winter Reading Program.

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 soon.