

Our Library Supports My Personal and Professional Goals

by Danica Luttrell

One of the many benefits of being a Chatham resident is the Chatham Area Public Library. Not only is the staff incredibly kind and helpful, but the plethora of resources offered by and through the library is outstanding. I use the library in a variety of ways.

For example, I often use the library (and the app) to check out books for personal use and reading. I also use the library for professional use. Last summer and fall (2023) when I was working on my master's degree, I would often spend time in the library using their computers, knowing that I'd have a dedicated space to learn and focus. Also in the professional realm, I use the library to help supplement classroom books. For example, my students are participating in a novel-in-verse book club. The helpful staff members of the library helped me order all of these books. There were over 75 — hence the lengthy receipt in the picture! Lastly, I use the library for playtime and story time with my 2-year-old son, Leven. He loves playing in the children's area and I value and appreciate how he can play with other youngsters enjoying the space as well.

The library is an integral part of my personal and professional life, and I hope members of this community can find the benefits and joy in our local library as well!



Oh the Wonderful Things That We Have to Share!

A few of our amazing staff members are highlighting some of the traditional and non-traditional items that we have for our community to use. At the Library, we will always love books, but we also have so much more to share!



Season's Readings!

We hope your holidays are merry and bright! After the festivities wrap up, don't let the enjoyment end when January arrives. Winter is a wonderful time of year for pastimes such as: reading books, learning new skills, digitizing old photos and VHS tapes, enjoying movie nights, engaging in puzzles, practicing self-care, getting creative with crafts, or connecting with friends. The Library can assist with many of your winter activities by providing resources, spaces and inspiration.



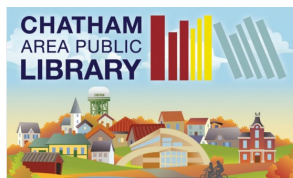
Thank you, as always, for being a valued patron. If you don't have your library card yet, I invite you to stop by, or sign up for a card on our website. I look forward to seeing you at the Library!

Amy Byers
Library Director



Now You Can Register for Your Library Card Online

In efforts to remove barriers to Library access, we are now offering online library card registration for those 18+. By registering on our website at www.chathamlib.org, those living within the Chatham Area Public Library District will be granted a digital card. This digital card will work *immediately* with our thousands of titles within our digital library. This digital card can be placed in your phone's wallet app, or you can come into the library to pick up your physical card.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to get started.



Children's Programs

The Library at Christmas in Chatham

All Ages

Offsite at Chatham Veteran's Memorial Square

Celebrate the holiday season on the Square with the Chatham Area Public Library! We're excited to share in the holiday cheer and community spirit with this year's festivities.

Tree-Lighting Storytime with Miss Amy and Miss Maddie

Friday, December 6

6:00 p.m.

Following the tree lighting ceremony, gather around for festive stories shared by Miss Maddie & Miss Amy to spark the magic of the season!



Holiday Make It-Take It

Saturday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Bring your creativity to the Square and choose from a variety of holiday crafts to make and take home!

Also, check out our holiday-themed StoryWalk!

Winter Break Activities:

Beat the winter break blues - come enjoy some family time at the library!

Family Movie DESPICABLE ME 4

All Ages

Monday, December 30

2:00 p.m.

Enjoy the further adventures of Gru and the minions! Join us for a cozy movie afternoon complete with free popcorn and lemonade.



Family Game Day

All Ages

Thursday, January 2

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Kick off the new year with some games at the library! We'll have a variety of board games set up for everyone to enjoy, or bring a favorite game from home and share it with new friends.

Children's Programs

Finals Eve

High School Students

Monday, December 16

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Why study at home alone where it's hard to focus? Come to the Library on "Finals Eve"—we will be staying open an hour later than normal to give you some extra study time. We'll have free snacks and beverages, as well as some relaxing ways to take a brain break when you need it. Watch for more details on social media and in the School District's Virtual Backpack.

After School Movies

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

All Ages

We had such a great time with our after school movies in the fall, that we're bringing them back for the winter! Join us for afternoon entertainment featuring fun family movies, complete with popcorn and lemonade. Feel free to bring a blanket, pillow, or favorite stuffed animal to get cozy while you enjoy the show. We can't wait to see you there!

Wednesday, December 11: *Home Alone*

Wednesday, January 22: *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*

Thursday, February 20 (3:00 - 5:00 p.m.) : *The Wild Robot*

Weekly Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

For children **newborn to 3** and their parents/caregivers

Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Join us for books, songs and fingerplays.

Family Evening Storytime

For children of **all ages** and their parents/caregivers

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited for stories the whole family can enjoy with a fun, preschool level craft.

Preschool Storytime

For **preschool children** and their parents/caregivers

Fridays at 10:15 a.m.

Bring your preschoolers for a fun time of stories and a craft that is just right for small hands.

No registration is required.

Imagination at work: play Veterinarian and care for animals in our updated play area!



Thanks to the Friends of the Library for supporting this temporary vet clinic with new toys and games, focused on the care of animals.

LEGO Day

Saturday, January 11

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Get ready for a morning of building, creating, and fun! We'll supply the LEGOs — just bring your imagination.

After-School STEAM: Health Heroes

Ages 5 and up

Wednesday, January 29

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for hands-on activities and fascinating facts as we learn about how our bodies work & how doctors help keep us well.

Valentine's Workshop

K - 6th Grade

Saturday, February 1

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Come enjoy a *heartfelt* crafting session at the library! We'll have all the supplies kids need to create special Valentine's crafts for friends and family.



Teen Cocoa Creations

7th - 12th Grade

Wednesday, February 12

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Students in 7th-12th grade: need a way to warm up this winter? Stop by for a fun hot chocolate experience where you can customize your drink with all sorts of toppings and syrups. Hang out with your friends, sip on your delicious creations, and relax in a cozy space!



Adult Programs

Craft with Creative Reuse Marketplace

Adults

Thursday, December 5

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Join Creative Reuse Marketplace and get **inspired** as you make Christmas ornaments for your home or gift giving. We will have fun fillers for glass ornaments and wood cutouts to decorate for instant make & take decor.



Holiday Musical Bingo

Adults

Thursday, December 12

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

How well do you know your holiday music? Join us for a Musical Bingo event to **discover** how many tunes you can name! We'll play snippets of popular holiday hits, and you'll mark your bingo card with the song title and artist. First to yell BINGO! wins bragging rights and first pick of a holiday-themed prize.

Mini "Gingerbread" House Decorating

All Ages/Family

Saturday, December 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Come and get into the holiday spirit by building and decorating "Gingerbread" houses at the library! We provide the building supplies, you provide the building skills. Will you create a traditional cottage? Or branch out into a custom-made condo? Either way, the assembly process will be a delicious way to **connect** and create!

Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up

Wednesdays, December 4, January 8, and February 5

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Keep your New Year's Resolution to exercise your mind by playing board games! We have games to choose from, or you can bring your own to teach us how to play.

Escape the Chill! -

Adult Winter Reading Challenge

Adults 18+

January 6 – February 10

The weather is cold outside, so we're inviting readers to warm, sunny locations – through the pages of a book! Our Adult Winter Reading Challenge runs January 6 – February 10. Patrons can participate on **Beanstack**, our online Reading Tracker website and mobile app. chathamlib.beanstack.org. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Illinois Libraries Present!

Virtual programs

Registration Required

Chatham Area Public Library is thrilled to join Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier virtual events featuring prominent authors. Registration links to view these author events are on the Library's events calendar.



The Magic of Raina Telgemeier (*Youth event*)

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Experience Little Women: The Musical (2022)

Friday, December 20 to Sunday, December 22, watch anytime

Chicago Pizza - Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky

Thursday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau

Thursday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.

An Evening with James McBride

Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.

Slowing Down with Amy Tan

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.

Stops at Villas of HollyBrook and SouthPark

First Friday of the month

The library delivers books to residents at Villas of Holly Brook and Villas of South Park in the lobby. If you or someone you know would like



to receive a personalized book delivery, contact the library to be added to our list. We're excited to bring the joy of reading right to your doorstep!

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help

Adults

Tuesdays in January

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Did you receive a new smartphone, tablet, or other electronic device over the Christmas holidays, but you just cannot figure out how to use it? Drop in with your questions and **connect** with an Adult Services Librarian. We can assist with things like setting up email, downloading books or apps, adjusting settings, and other general tech help.

Revitalize Your Energy for the New Year!

Adults

Tuesday, January 14

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

“**Discover** the hidden energy thieves draining your vitality and learn how to boost your energy levels for good!” Join registered pharmacist and health coach Mike Thomas as he speaks and provides free resources to **inspire** for a New You in the New Year.

Craft Supply Swap

Wednesday, January 15

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Clear out your craft supplies and pick up new ones at our Craft Supply Swap! It's a fun way to refresh your stash and get **inspired** for your next project!

Improv Workshop

Adults

Tuesday, January 21

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Registration Required

Curious about trying improv like on Whose Line is it Anyway? or SNL? Join Amber Johnson and Dave Kimsey for a fun improv workshop! Perfect for boosting public speaking, quick thinking, or tackling social anxiety in a relaxed space.

Blood Drive with ImpactLife

Thursday, January 30

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration Preferred



Help save lives at our community blood drive — your donation makes a difference!

Let's Get Crafty

Adults

First Wednesday of the month

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Crafting is for grown-ups too! **Connect**, be **inspired**, and relax with others in an easygoing environment. All supplies for our simple crafts provided — you just need to bring the conversation and imagination! To help with the purchasing of supplies, please consider a donation of \$3 per craft.



December 4

Mason Jar

Luminaries

January 8
Craft Rewind: Relive
Past Projects
You've Missed!



February 5

Valentine's Day

Wall Hanging

Local History:

The Bunns and the Peases

Saturday, February 1

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Join us for an **engaging** talk with Bob Bunn as he shares the fascinating history of two iconic heritage brands now united under one roof in Springfield. As a special treat, Chocolatier Ashley Miller will delight attendees with samples of her exquisite, handcrafted chocolates. Don't miss this unique blend of history and indulgence!

Local Writers Group:

Society of Midwestern Authors

Adults

First Tuesday of each month:

December 3, January 7, February 4

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Are you an aspiring writer, or even a published author, who would like a safe place to share your work? This friendly community can offer you constructive critiques, kind words of support and helpful knowledge along the way. Check out this group that will help you overcome writer's block and get those thoughts into polished words on paper. For more information, email pamcox@chathamlib.org.

Adult Programs

Adult Book Clubs

No registration required – books are available to check out at the Circulation Desk.

Hooked on Books

Second Wednesday of each month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Dive into the pages — where every chapter leads to lively discussions and new adventures! Upcoming Reads:

December 11 – *Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner

January 8 – *A Street Cat Named Bob* by James Bowen

February 12 – *The Underground Railroad*
by Colson Whitehead

Bite Into a Good Book

Third Wednesday of each month

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Savor some lively discussion about different genres and topics. Upcoming reads:

December 18 – *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel

January 15 – *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

February 19 – *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

Outer Edge Book Club

Third Thursday of each month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Do you love reading science fiction, fantasy and horror books? Do you love talking about the awesome authors in these genres? Then this club is for you! We welcome anyone to join! Upcoming Reads:

December 19 – *Billy Summers* by Stephen King

January 16 – *Nimona* by N.D. Stevenson

February 20 – *Lone Women* by Victor LaValle

Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, January 4

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Explore your family history with the Friends of Genealogy! **Connect, inform, and discover** support in our free, open quarterly gatherings. Whether you're a regular or dropping in for casual research assistance, join our welcoming community of genealogy enthusiasts eager to support your journey.

Great Puzzle Race

Ages 12 and up

Friday, February 7

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Registration Required

Gather your team of four and put your puzzle-solving skills to the test! Join us for an exciting competition where teams will race against the clock to complete challenging puzzles. Whether you're a seasoned puzzler or just looking for some fun, this event is perfect for everyone!

Interested individuals can reach out to Alanna at asablotny@chathamlib.org for more information or to sign up. Don't miss out on the fun — register your team today!

ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

Adults

Third Thursday of the month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration Required

Whether you're an experienced crafter or just looking to try something new, our friendly gatherings offer the perfect opportunity to **connect, create, and discover** new skills in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. To help with the purchasing of supplies, please consider a donation of \$3 per craft.



December 19
Busted Canvas Art



January 16
Wooden Spoon
Snowmen



February 20
Pop-Up
Flower Card

Weekly Card Games

Adults

Every Tuesday

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Discover the joy of our weekly card events at the library, where you can **learn** new games, **connect** with friends, and **engage** with a community of enthusiasts.



Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating

Adults

Thursday, February 13

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Come and celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating some sugar cookies in your favorite Valentine's Day shapes! Love (for frostings, icings, and other sweet things, that is) will be in the air. Cookies and supplies will be provided — come ready to **connect** and create!



Adult Lego Day

Adults

Thursday, February 27

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Rediscover your joy of building with Lego at the Library's themed Lego Challenge. Join as an individual or as a team of two and unleash your creativity during the Brick Time and then showcase your masterpiece in a friendly competition judged by fellow patrons. Come ready to engage and 'Leg Godt (Play Well)!'

Library Spotlights Local Talent in It's Largest Call to Entry Art Show

Our 15th annual Call to Entry Art show is our largest show to date! We welcomed 65 outstanding pieces of local art into our library. The show will be up until mid-January. We hope you'll stop by soon to see the beautiful work. At our reception in October, we shared awards with the following talented artists:

Best in Show:

Jenni Hughes, "Edge of Seventeen" (right)

Honorable Mention:

Michelle Smith,
"I Choose Me... I'm Sorry"

Best New Artist (Sponsored by
Sylvan Learning):

Julie Brown, "The Magician"

Honorable Mention:

Judy Barger, "Wild Poppies"

Popular Choice (Sponsored by

Julie Hale-Miller – COUNTRY Financial):

Blake Selsor, "Take a Look, It's In a Book"



Congratulations to our award winners, and thank you to all of the artists in the show for their spectacular submissions.

2024 AARP Tax Help Update

At the time of this printing, AARP tax volunteers were working on setting up locations and times for tax assistance. If the Library is a location for tax assistance, information will be posted on the Library's website by mid-January.

Home Delivery

Can't make it to the Library? The Library will come to you! The Library offers home delivery of library materials. The service is available to Chatham Area Public Library cardholders of all ages with a temporary or long-term illness, injury, impairment, medical condition, or disability who are unable to visit the library. For more information, please contact the library at info@chathamlib.org or call 217-483-2713. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

The Backyard Project Update

The Library Foundation board is thankful to all of the donors who supported this project. They have met their fundraising goal, as well as approved the drawings for The Backyard project. More details will be shared in our Spring newsletter.



SAVE THE DATE:

The 25th Annual Friends Murder Mystery original play: **Drawn and Quarticentennialed: A Silver Jubilee of Sadism** will be held on Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Tickets go on sale January 6, 2025.

For more details, visit the Library's website after the new year.

CHATHAM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

600 E. Spruce Street
Chatham, IL 62629

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

Holiday Closings

Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

New Year's Holiday

Tuesday, December 31

Closing at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1

Phone: (217) 483-2713

Fax: (217) 483-2361

 [fb.com/CAPLD](https://www.facebook.com/CAPLD)

Visit and chat with us online at
www.chathamlib.org

Library Board Members

Michael Roubitchek - President

Christine Westerlund - Vice-President

John Moore - Secretary

Vanessa Ross- Treasurer

Trustees

Dianne Roberts, Jenny Vaughn and
Rodd Whelpley

Library Trustee meetings are open to the
public and are on the **third Monday of
every month at 7:00 p.m.**

Friends' Bookstore & Donation Drop-Off Hours

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Only two banker-sized boxes of
donations at a time please.)

NON-PROFIT

U.S. Postage

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PERMIT NO 500

Sled into the Friends of the Library Bookstore!

Did you know? Chatham's best kept secret is the Friends of the Library Bookstore & Café. Oh, the treasures you might find on the shelves. Our dedicated volunteer team keeps the bookshelves organized alpha-order by author and divided into genres from thrillers to romance, historical fiction to memoirs, cookbooks to travel guides and so much more. And all at bargain prices! Best part? The money from all purchases is poured back into library programming and services like the Teen and Adult Summer Reading Programs, toys for the toddler play area, e-books, and equipment for library patrons to use, just to name a few! In 2024, the Friends donated over \$10,000 to the library! Stop by the Friends Bookstore to see the amazing deals for yourself and stock up your sled with books for the long winter months!



Friends of the Library News

At their recent meeting, the Friends of the Library board voted to move the start of their membership from a calendar year to a fiscal year. That means renewals for the upcoming year will begin in July. Thank you for your support of the Friends of the Library!