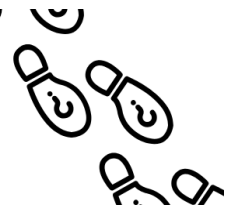




MYSTERY MARCH



Unlock the Mystery: *Break-In Challenge*

Adults

Beginning March 1

Supplies are limited to 60

Can you solve the mystery and crack the code? Grab a Break-In Bag from the Adult Services desk and use the clues to unlock the bag and uncover the loot inside! Think of it as a reverse escape room—your mission is to break in, not out.

Please return the bag and lock to the library once you've cracked the case so we can do this again. Will you rise to the challenge?

Cracking the Case: *Inside DNA Forensics*

Adults

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Hear firsthand from a DNA forensic scientist about the cutting-edge science used to solve real-life cases, including a fascinating case the speaker personally worked on. Learn how DNA analysis helps bring justice and uncover the hidden stories within the evidence.

Crime and Corruption:

True Crime Tales from Downstate Illinois

Adults

Saturday, March 22


1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

True crime author Taylor Pensoneau delves into the dark history of downstate Illinois from the Roaring Twenties to the 1960s. His books, *Brothers Notorious – The Sheltons* and *Dapper & Deadly*, explore infamous gang wars, bootlegging, gambling, and more.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHATHAM AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT

ESTD 2000

**DRAWN &
QUARTICENTENNIALED**
A SILVER JUBILEE OF SLAYINGS

 25TH ANNUAL MURDER
MYSTERY FUNDRAISER
MARCH 14 & 15, 2025
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

[CHATHAMLIB.TICKETSPICE.COM/MURDERMYSTERY25](https://chathamlib.ticketspice.com/murdermystery25)

**SEATS FILL UP FAST!
DON'T WAIT!**

Our Murder Mystery celebrates 25 years!

Our Friends began hosting a murder mystery event 25 years ago. The first ten years they used purchased scripts and modified key information. In 2010, Library Director, Amy Byers' husband Ryan began creating original, Chatham-centric scripts that highlighted events that year or at the Library. The talented, local actors included in this year's play are featured at the top of this newsletter.

Children's Programs

Summer Reading Kick-Off: Storm Science

All ages
Friday, May 30
10:15 a.m.

Get ready for an electrifying *Storm Science* program! Learn about extreme weather from real storm chasers, see incredible photos and videos from the field, and explore tornadoes, thunderstorms, and more through interactive demos. Watch a thunderstorm simulation, a tornado in a bottle, and even see how static electricity can make your hair stand on end! This exciting program is perfect for kids but fun for all ages—don't miss it!



Explore Our New Garden Center Play Area!

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, our play area is blooming with fun! Kids can explore our seasonal **Garden Center** and pretend to plant flowers, care for plants, and use fun gardening tools!

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY BOOK CAMP

June and July 2025
Ages 4 years old through
6th grade

Registration Required

Level Up at Book Camp!
Join us for games, stories,
and hands-on fun at this
year's Summer Book Camp. Each day features crafts and
activities inspired by all kinds of games: video games, board
games, and classic playground favorites.

The Book Camp starts at 10:15 am, except for 5th & 6th
graders (1:00 pm), the schedule is as follows:

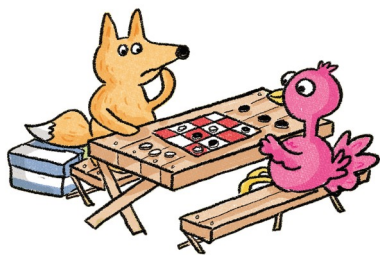
Campers aged 4 - Kindergarten – June 23, 25, 27 or
July 7, 9, 11

1st and 2nd graders – June 16, 18, 20 or July 14, 16, 18

3rd and 4th graders – June 9, 11, 13 or July 21, 23, 25

5th and 6th graders – June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

These grade levels are for the grade your child will be going
into for the 2025-2026 school year. The cost for camp is \$5
(non-refundable). See our website and Facebook page for
sign-up information beginning in March. Sign-up space is
limited and registration is required.



Summer Reading 2025: LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

June and July 2025

All Ages

Summer Reading is coming! This
means another summer of reading
and earning fun prizes.

Here are the quick facts about
Summer Reading 2025:

- ◆ Sign-up begins May 1 on Beanstack,
our online Reading Tracker website and mobile app.
(<https://chathamlib.beanstack.org>) There is a simple
Beanstack tutorial on the right side of our website.
- ◆ There are challenges for every age group! Some
children may meet the age requirement for more than
one challenge: for children aged 8, 12-year-olds going
into 7th grade, and 18-year-olds, choose the one
challenge that best suits your child.

Rubber Ducky Club for birth through age 3:

Read 30 books together and receive a rubber ducky.

Summer Reading for ages 4 – 8:

Receive prizes after each 100 minutes read.

Summer Reading for ages 8 – 12:

Receive prizes after each 150 minutes read.

7th – 12th Grade Summer Reading AND ADULTS:

Receive a virtual ticket to enter a raffle for a gift
card of your choice after every book read and be
automatically entered into a grand prize drawing.

- ◆ Read and redeem prizes between June 1 and July 31.
Summer Reading ends Thursday, July 31.



Teen Volunteer Informational Meeting

Ages 14 years – graduating high school seniors

Saturday, May 3

1:00 p.m.

Teens looking for opportunities to earn service
hours, to be involved in helping our community,
or to spend some time with younger children and be a role
model, are invited to attend our Teen Volunteer meeting.
They will learn how to be involved with the Library's summer
Book Camps. This is a volunteer opportunity in which teens
can choose just how many hours they want to offer.

Participation in library training is required to volunteer.



Children's Programs

Spring Break Activities For Kids

March 24 – 28

2:00 p.m.

Registration Required for some events

Looking for something exciting to do over Spring Break? The Chatham Area Public Library has you covered! Join us for a week of fun-filled activities, with something new happening each day.



Movie Monday – Sit back and enjoy *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*.

Tropical Tuesday – Get creative and mix up your own fun and fruity boba drink! **Registration required.**

Whatcha Makin' Wednesday – Follow along with Miss Maddie in a guided painting tutorial and create your own masterpiece! **Registration required.**



Totally Wild Thursday – Meet and learn about awesome animals from the Henson Robinson Zoo!

Funky Friday – Get ready to glow! Gretchen from Jan's Dance Studio is hosting an epic dance party.

Don't miss out on the fun—mark your calendars and enjoy Spring Break at the library! Keep an eye on our social media

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.

YA: Triwizard Trivia Tournament

7th Grade and Up

Wednesday, April 16

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Registration Required

Attention all Wizarding World fans in 7th grade and up! Get ready for a spellbinding afternoon at our magical trivia event! Test your Wizarding World knowledge with exciting trivia rounds, enjoy some themed snacks, and immerse yourself in the magic. Gather your friends and form teams of up to six—or come solo and join a team when you arrive. Dressing up is highly encouraged, so wear your robes, scarves, or favorite house colors!

Registration is required, so sign up in advance and don't miss out on this magical event full of fun, friendship, and a touch of wizardry!



After-School Movies

- ◆ Monday, March 24 – Spring Break Movie! - *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*, 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, April 23 – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 14 – *Lilo and Stitch*, 2:30 p.m.

LEGO Day

Saturday, April 26

10:00 a.m. – Noon

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

Finals Eve:

Now Two Nights of Study Time!

Students grades 9 – 12

Monday, May 19 & Tuesday, May 20

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Why study alone at home with distractions everywhere? Come to the Library for Finals Eve! This year, we're extending the event to two nights — Monday, May 19, and Tuesday, May 20, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.—so you have even more time to prepare.

We'll be staying open an extra hour to provide a quiet, focused space to study, along with free snacks, beverages, and relaxing brain-break activities when you need a mental reset. Stay tuned for more details on social media and in the District's Virtual Backpack.

Adult Programs

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.



Exploring Space with Coralie Adam

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

Documentary Screening: 9 to 5: The Story of a Movement

Friday, March 21 to Sunday, March 23, watch anytime

The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson

Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

Art and Adventures with Author/Illustrator

Dan Santat (*Youth Program*)

Saturday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.

Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

The History of American Pies... and Illinois is Well-Represented.

Adults

Saturday, March 15

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Chatham Area Public Library, in partnership with the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, is proud to present "History of American Pies...and Illinois is Well-Represented" by Catherine Lambrecht. While many people today think of a pie as a dessert, the history of the pie shows it as so much more. Both sweet and savory pies were almost as common in the everyday diet as meat and potatoes. Come and celebrate a (late) Pi Day by learning about the history of pies in Illinois and the early U.S.

Illinois Humanities is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom and the Illinois General Assembly [through the Illinois Arts Council Agency], as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations.



Drop-in Tech Help

Adults

Every Wednesdays

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Did you receive a new smartphone, tablet, or other electronic device, but 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 questions.

The Great Gatsby Centennial Celebration

Adults

Thursday, April 10

2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Sit back, grab some popcorn, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of the Great American Novels, *The Great Gatsby* with a showing of the 2013 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire.



Crafty Moms and Playful Tots

First Saturday of the Month

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Moms can connect, chat, and get creative with fun crafts while the little ones enjoy playtime together. It's the perfect mix of relaxation and community. We will have some toys for the little ones to play with. Bring your own crafts. Drinks are allowed but please no red drinks.



Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, March 29

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.

Adult Programs

Being Safe While Online

Adults

Wednesday, April 16

6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

While email, phone, text, and other scams have been prevalent for some time, they are becoming more refined, making it harder and harder to tell which emails, texts, and phone calls are scams. Nicholas Koch from *Techguard Security* will talk about email security, how to spot suspicious texts, as well as being secure when on social media. He'll also go over some best practices and helpful tips to stay safe online.

Kitchen Utensil Swap

Saturday, April 26

All Day

Calling all cooks! Is it time for some spring cleaning in your kitchen? Are your cabinets overflowing with pots, pans, and utensils you no longer use? Bring your extra cookware—pots, pans, wooden spoons, spatulas, and more—to our cookware swap and take home something new to inspire your next culinary adventure.

Please do not bring electric appliances of any kind. You can bring your cookware directly to the event OR drop items off at the Adult Services Desk starting Thursday, April 24. Everyone is welcome to join, even if you didn't bring anything!



Local Writers Group:

Society of Midwestern Authors

Adults

First Tuesday each month: March 4, April 1, May 6

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Would you like a safe place to share your work with other like-minded individuals? This friendly community of writers can offer you constructive critiques, kind words of support and helpful knowledge to help with your journey. For more information, email pamcox@chathamlib.org.



National Library Week
April 6 - 12

Let's Get Crafty

Adults

First Wednesday each 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.



March 5
Clothespin
Carrots



April 2
Dandelion
Painting



May 7
Beehive

Great Puzzle Race

Ages 12 and up

Friday, May 2 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3 ~ 1:00 – 3:00 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!

Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up

Wednesdays, March 5, April 2, May 7

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

There is always a new skill to learn or an old game to master at board game nights! Join us to keep your wits sharp as the days begin to warm up.

Adult Programs

Adult Book Clubs

Join our library's book clubs to **connect** with fellow readers, **engage** in lively discussions, and **discover** new perspectives that **inspire** and **inform** your reading journey!

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:

March 12 – *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

April 9 – *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson

May 14 – *The House is on Fire* by Rachel Beanland

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:

March 19 – *The Wide Wide Sea* by Hampton Sides

April 16 – *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

May 21 – *The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker

Outer Edge Book Club

Third Thursday of each month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Discover thrilling tales that are sure to take you out of this world! Upcoming Reads:

March 20 – *How to Sell a Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix

April 17 – *Hyperion* by Dan Simmons

May 15 – *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley

Breaking through Genealogy Brickwalls with Help

Saturday, May 10

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – 5 slots

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – 5 slots

Registration Required

Stuck on a family history brick wall? Volunteers are here to help with genealogy research, offering tips, tools, and guidance. Bring your questions, and let us help you explore your roots!

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.



March 20
Yarn Birds



April 17
Memo Boards



May 15
Decorative Notebooks

Illinois Native Plants and Wildflowers

Adults

Wednesday, May 7

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Native plants and wildflowers are great ways to help increase the biodiversity in your yard while also being low maintenance and beautiful to look at. Come join us as Karla Frank, Master Gardener, presents on native plants and wildflowers native to both the Chatham area and Illinois as a whole and how you can plant them in your own yard. Additionally, we will make a trip out to the Butterfly Waystation at the library to see some native plants in action.

Weekly Card and Board Games

Adults

Every Tuesday & Friday

1:00 – 3:30 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.

Stops at Villas of HollyBrook and SouthPark

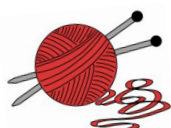
First Friday of the month

The library delivers books to residents at Villas of Holly Brook and Villas of South Park. We will meet the residents in the lobby of each complex. 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!



Chatham Knits

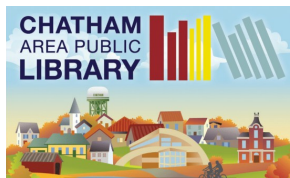
Every Wednesday
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Looking for a friendly space to knit and socialize? Join a welcoming group where you can work on your projects, share tips, and connect with fellow crafters!

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.



AARP Tax Assistance

When: Wednesdays through April 9

AARP volunteers will provide their services at the Library. Appointments must be scheduled in advance, and packets may be picked up at the library's front desk.

Link to the Tax-Aide website:

www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html

Link to our Tax Information page:

www.chathamlib.org/taxes

Art Exhibits

We are pleased to share our next art shows with you for the Spring quarter. Our art committee works hard to ensure that we can showcase many local artists within our space. Do you have a group that we should consider? Please reach out to arts@chathamlib.org.



Our next newsletter will also include more information about our annual Call to Entry Art Show.

Staff & Volunteer Art and Craft Show

Please stop by the library before March 23rd to see the outstanding talents of our very own library staff and volunteers. This collection of 40 pieces of art and crafts showcases the diverse talents of those who work and support the library.

Illinois Prairie Pastel Society

Our next show will feature Illinois Prairie Pastel Society members for their Annual Show, which will run from late March to early May.

Sangamon Watercolor Society

We are excited to welcome back the Sangamon Watercolor Society. It has been several years since they have shared their work with us. Their show will start in mid-May and run until mid-July.

Looking for something fun to do with friends this spring?

The Library has you covered! Our **Library of Things** offers a variety of yard games, sports equipment, and other unique items to make your summer unforgettable.

From giant jenga and ladder toss to fishing poles and pickleball paddles, we've got everything you need for outdoor fun. Planning a camping trip or beach day? Check out our telescope, hiking kit, or even a metal detector for treasure hunting. Whether you stay in Chatham or venture out to explore the world, we have something to enhance your spring adventures!



Level Up at Your Library
Adult Summer Reading Challenge
Adults 18+ ♦ June 1 – July 31

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

Staff Institute

Friday, April 11

Easter Eve

Saturday, April 19

Closing at 1:00 p.m.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26

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. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 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 800

CHATHAM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY REFERENDUM SHAPING OUR FUTURE

How would the library referendum affect my property taxes?



For the median home value home in our Library District (\$285,000), the estimated increase in annual taxes is

\$38.39

(\$3.20/month)

WHY NOW?

- **No Operational Tax Increase in 20+ Years**
- **Aging Building**, built in 1995 and expanded in 2009 without a funding increase
- **Over \$2M Needed for infrastructure Repairs**, major water leaks on building
- **Reserves Fall Short** to address repairs and ongoing maintenance

IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

The costly, critical infrastructure repairs must still be addressed, which may require a reduction of hours, services, and materials in order to pay for them.



Want to learn more?

www.chathamlib.org/referendum