



Library Newsletter

Summer 2025

The Library Foundation's Backyard Breaks Ground



Construction for The Backyard began on May 9 with a spectacular ground breaking, and our goal is to have the Backyard ready for a huge end-of-summer Splash in August!

Thanks to generous support and years of planning, the vision for **The Backyard at the Library** is nearly a reality. We've been working toward a welcoming outdoor space where stories come to life, imaginations grow wild, and community connections flourish.

The bids are in, and we're starting to build — but we're **\$50,000 short** of bringing this dream to life.

We're almost there, but we need your help crossing the finish line. Can you help us close the gap?

That means every gift today helps us create a space that the whole community can enjoy **by the end of this summer**.

This is more than just landscaping or benches. The Backyard will be a **place for families, students, and neighbors of all ages** to gather, explore, and thrive. It's an investment in our town, our children, and our shared future.

Every dollar counts. Whether you can give \$5, \$50, or more, your support makes a real difference. Together, we can transform this vision into a vibrant, living space that Chatham can enjoy for generations to come. Visit chathamlib.org/capld-foundation to donate or learn more.

Let's build something beautiful — **together**.

*Please note, portions of our property, on the south side of the lot will be impacted by this construction.



Chatham Strong Our hearts continue to be with everyone in our community who is grieving and healing. We've recently updated our list of grief and healing books to better support children, families, and anyone navigating loss. You can view the updated collection here: www.chathamlib.org/chathamstrong

As always, the library is here for you — not just with books, but as a place of comfort and community. All are welcome.

Children's Programs

There is still room for your child to have fun at 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 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

**Book Camp for ages 4 through 4th grade is from
10:15 – 11:15 am.**

5th and 6th grade Book Camp is from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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 for sign-up information. Sign-up space is limited and registration is required.



Kids at Work: Explore Our New Construction Zone Play Area!

The playhouse has transformed into a bustling building site – thanks to support from the Friends of the Library! Kids can build with blocks, dig with toy bulldozers and excavators, and use pretend tools to bring their big ideas to life. Don't forget your hard hat!

Summer Movies at the Library

All Ages

June 6, July 2, and August 1

2:00 pm

Beat the heat and enjoy a movie along with free popcorn and lemonade!

Friday, June 6 – *Super Mario Bros.*

Wednesday, July 2 – *Wreck-It-Ralph*

Friday, August 1 – *Voters Decide!*

Summer Reading Reminders

Summer Reading Sign-up Continues Through July

There is still plenty of time to participate in Summer Reading with challenges for every age group. Read and log minutes between June 1 and July 31. Summer Reading ends Wednesday, July 31. Prizes may be redeemed until August 15.



- ◆ **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 /Adult Summer Reading:**
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.

*For children aged 8 or 12-year-olds going into 7th grade, choose the one challenge that best suits your child.

Level Up: YA Hangouts

For Students Going into 7th – 12th Grade

Teens- don't forget to register for Summer Reading, too!

Tuesday, June 17, 3:30 p.m. – *Candy Crunch: Taste, Test & Mix Station.* Sample a variety of freeze-dried candy, vote for your favorite, and make a mix to take home.

Thursday, July 10, 5:00 p.m. – *Pet Picasso & Pizza Party:*

Turn your pet (or favorite animal) into a funky work of art and fuel your creativity with pizza! All supplies and snacks provided.



Registration required.

Friday, July 25, 3:30 p.m. – *Coffee & Chill:* Relax with an afternoon of sipping coffee (hot or iced), listening to music and coloring. All drink and coloring supplies provided.

Wednesday, August 27, 3:30 p.m. – *Who Lives in a Pineapple? Trivia:* Test your knowledge of everyone's favorite sponge, his underwater friends, and their wacky adventures. Bring your friends and have tons of F.U.N.!

Registration Required.

Children's Programs



Mud Day

Ages 5 and Under
Saturday, June 28
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

International Mud Day is June 29, but we're celebrating early on Saturday, June 28 with a special Storytime and muddy outdoor fun!

Rain or shine, wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty — we'll hose off when we're done. Don't forget a towel!

No registration required—just come ready to play!

Reptiles of Illinois

All ages
Tuesday, July 15
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.



The Macon County Conservation District will introduce us to native snakes and turtles while teaching what makes reptiles so unique — and why they matter. Live animals will be part of this fascinating program!



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. No Family Storytime on July 10.

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. Preschool Storytime will not be held in June and July due to Book Camp, but will resume in August.

No registration is required.

End of Summer Splash!

Families
Thursday, August 7
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family for an evening of fun including water games, a sweet treat from Scoop du Jour, and the return of our epic Mega Foam Blaster! Kids can dive into a mountain of bubbles (quick-drying, non-staining, and safe for kids, clothes, and the environment). It's the ultimate way to wrap up the summer — see you there!



LEGO Day

Saturday, August 30
10:00 a.m. – Noon

It's time for another awesome Lego day! Just bring yourself and your imagination, we'll supply the LEGOs!

Join Us In Celebrating the Joy of Reading!

As part of our initiative to promote early literacy, we are excited to share that every child (from ages 0 -15) who gets their first Chatham Area Public Library card will receive a complimentary "I Got My Library Card!" tote bag, featuring our very own literacy dinosaur, Lyle Barry. This initiative is sponsored by our Friends of the Library.



These bags were specifically chosen to fit picture books, which are popular for our young readers. The bags even include a library card holder to help keep everything they need for their trip to the library in one place!

Pick one up when your young person gets their first Chatham Area Public Library card at our Library. Bags available while supplies last.

The free tote bag program is available for residents of the Chatham Area Public Library District.

Adult Programs

Free For All: The Public Library Viewing

Adults

Thursday, June 5

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Join us for a screening of the new Independent Lens documentary *Free for All: The Public Library*. This film tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen. From the pioneering women behind the “Free Library Movement” to today’s librarians who service the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all.



Laugh Out Loud at the Library! *Cards Against Humanity: Family Edition*

Adults

Tuesday, June 17

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for *Cards Against Humanity: Family Edition* — a cleaner, wackier spin on the classic party game. Compete to create the funniest answers using ridiculous and clever wordplay. Perfect for players 18 and up, whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro. **Registration required.**

Sparkle & Swap: Jewelry Exchange

Adults

Tuesday, June 24

All Day

Looking to refresh your jewelry collection without spending a dime? Bring gently used jewelry you no longer wear and trade it for something new-to-you. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and more—if it shines, it swaps!

It's a fun and eco-friendly way to update your accessories while connecting with fellow jewelry lovers. No money, just swapping! Bring a few pieces to trade and leave with some fresh finds.



Protect Yourself: *Scam & Identity Theft Awareness*

Adults

Wednesday, June 25

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join the Outreach Liaison for the *Illinois Attorney General's Office* and an officer from the *Chatham Police Department*, for an eye-opening presentation on common scams and identity theft. Learn how to protect yourself and where to turn for help if you or a loved one is affected. Don't miss this vital opportunity!



Unlock your Summer Adventures!

Use your library card to access *Explore More Illinois* — a program that offers free admission or special discounts to dozens of museums, zoos, gardens, science centers, and other cultural attractions across the state. Perfect for all ages! Reserve *Explore More Illinois* passes online using your library card and PIN.



Drop-in Tech Help

Adults

Every Wednesday

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Going on a vacation this summer and don't want to lug around a bag of beach reads with you? Want to learn how to access eBooks on your phone or tablet as you take to the open road? Drop-in on Wednesdays where you can get one-on-one time with your friendly Adult Services Librarian as we solve issues and learn about your technology together.

Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, June 21

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

Passport Event

Saturday, July 26

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Now is the perfect time to update your passport! Passport agents from the *Sangamon County Circuit Clerk's Office* will process passport applications from **9:00 a.m. to noon**

Saturday, July 26. Standard passport fees will apply, and applicants should receive their passports within 4 – 6 weeks. This is a very popular event, so please plan accordingly.

If interested in obtaining a passport, please bring the following:

- ◆ A certified copy of your birth certificate and/or expired passport (no photocopies)
- ◆ Valid photo ID
- ◆ Approved passport photo (For \$10.00, they can provide you with a passport photo)
- ◆ Certified copies of court orders for name change, custody or adoption decrees
- ◆ Two checks or money orders to pay applicable fees

For details on the fees, visit the *Circuit Clerk's website*. If you have any questions, please visit the website or call the circuit clerk's passport office in advance at 217-747-5183.



Learning How to Clone Your Plants for Beginners

Adults and Teens

Monday, July 28

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Are you a new or casual plant parent? Do you want to learn how to get FREE plants? Come and "grow" your knowledge in what plant propagation has to offer! Join us as we will learn how to "clone" your plants by taking a cutting off of one plant and placing it in a propagation box for it to put down roots and grow. We will provide all necessary materials (both organic and in-organic) as well as take-home instructions on how to care for your green newborn. You just bring a green thumb and a willingness to learn!



Let's Get Crafty

Adults

First Wednesday each month

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. UPDATED TIME

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.



June 4
Framed Macrame
Sun



July 2
Hammered
Flowers Print



August 6
Book
Planter

Blood Drive

Thursday, July 31

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Help save lives by donating blood at our community blood drive on **Thursday, July 31**. Your donation can make a real difference for those in need. Registration is requested to ensure a smooth and efficient process. Sign up on our website and be a hero in your community!

Diabetes & Healthy Living:

Simple Steps for a Healthier You

Adults

Thursday, August 7

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join us for an informative presentation on diabetes and healthy living, where you'll learn practical tips for managing and preventing diabetes through nutrition, exercise, and lifestyle choices. Discover how small changes can make a big impact on your overall well-being! *Presented by HSHS Educators.*

Adult Programs

Adult Book Clubs

Join our library's book clubs to **connect** with fellow readers. *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:

June 11 – *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger

July 9 – *The Caretaker* by Ron Rash

August 13 – *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom

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:

June 18 – *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis

July 16 – *One Summer, America; 1927* by Bill Bryson

August 20 – *Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule*
by Jennifer Chiaverini

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:

June 26 – *She Who Became the Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan

July 17 – *The Last Time I Lied* by Riley Sager

Local Writers Group:

Society of Midwestern Authors

Adults

First Tuesday of each month: June 3, July 1, August 5

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Are you looking for a safe place to share your work with other like-minded individuals? This friendly community of writers offers constructive critiques, kind supportive feedback and invaluable knowledge to help with your journey. For more information, email pamcox@chathamlib.org.

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.



June 26
Drip Pots



Jul 17
Alcohol Ink Coasters



August 21
Pinch pots

Great Puzzle Race

Ages 12 and up

Friday, August 8 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 9 ~ 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Registration Required



Gather your team of up to 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!

Don't miss out on the fun — register your team today!

Paint & Unwind for Adults

Adults

Tuesday, August 26

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun and relaxing painting session led by an instructor who will guide you step-by-step through a complete project. Whether you're a beginner or just looking to get creative, this is a great way to unwind and try something new. All materials provided. **Registration required.**



The Fiber Circle

Adults

Wednesdays

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Love fiber arts like knitting, crochet, embroidery, or weaving? Bring your current project and join us for a relaxed and welcoming evening of creativity and conversation. Whether you're a seasoned stitcher or just getting started, this is a great space to share tips, get inspired, and connect with fellow crafters of all kinds!



Weekly Card and Board Games

Adults

Tuesdays & Fridays

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

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

Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up

Wednesdays, June 4, July 2, August 6

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Heat frying your brain? Cool off in the library and grow those little grey cells by playing a fun and challenging board game at the library.

Weekly Mahjong Club

Adults

Thursdays

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Think Mahjong looks tricky? Don't worry—we'll teach you! No experience needed, just come ready to have fun, meet new people, and learn a great game. Friendly vibes, good company, and guaranteed laughs. Join us!



Friends of the Library Sweet Corn Book Sale

Saturday, July 19

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Don't miss the Sweet Corn Book Sale before you head off to the festivities at the park. Enjoy bargain prices for a large assortment of items.



Special Perk - Friends Members

are invited early for a "Power Hour" from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Not a member? You can join that morning!

Also, the **Bargain Sale opens for everyone at 2:00 p.m. for a donation of \$2.00.** What a deal! (Please note: No advance stockpiling of books is allowed.)

Want to volunteer? We can always use help setting up and taking down the sale. Contact friends@chathamlib.org if you or your group is interested in assisting.

Please note: The Friends Bookstore will NOT accept donations throughout July due to preparations for their annual Booksale. They will welcome back donations on August 1.

Our Little Garden Table is Back!

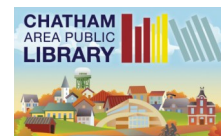
For the past four years, community members have generously brought surplus fruits and veggies from their gardens to share with their neighbors. Starting at the end of June and running through Labor Day, please feel free to drop off your surplus items for others to enjoy.

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.



"Frames of Equity – Healing through Art"

Exhibit runs from June 7 – 21

Experience the power of art to inspire unity and empathy at a traveling exhibit by award-winning artist, Michelle Smith, in partnership with the United Way of Central Illinois. This exhibit fosters inclusivity and sparks meaningful dialogue on race and identity through compelling visual storytelling. Reception will be held on Tuesday, June 10, from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

In July, we will share information regarding our annual **Call to Entry** art show, which will be held this fall! If you would like to be considered for our Call to Entry show, please email Arts@chathamlib.org to be placed on the mailing list.



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

Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19

Independence Day

Friday, July 4

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. unless otherwise stated.**

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.)

Please note: The Bookstore will NOT be accepting donations in July.

NON-PROFIT

U.S. Postage

PAID

SPRINGFIELD IL

PERMIT NO 800

A Big Thank You to Our Amazing Community!

Our Referendum passed last April, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported it. Your votes will help us move forward with essential building repairs, long-term planning, and the addition of new services that we hope will enrich the Chatham community for years and decades to come. Thanks to your support, we will continue to provide a place where everyone can learn, grow, and connect.

We will continue to provide updates regarding our next steps. Our priority is to repair the North and East sides of our building. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Thanks again for your support.

Michael Roubitchek, Library Board President, and Amy Byers, Library Director, on behalf of our Library Board of Trustees and staff

