



# Library Newsletter

Fall 2025

## The Smartest School Supply? Your Library Card!

As the school bells ring and backpacks zip up, it's the perfect time to celebrate the power of lifelong learning and all the amazing resources your library card unlocks: **knowledge, creativity, inspiration, and connection.**

Whether you're just starting to explore the world or are deep into your learning journey, the Chatham Area Public Library has something for everyone, every step of the way.

### Start Strong with 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Building a love of reading begins early! Our **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** program encourages families to read together regularly, helping young children develop early literacy skills that will support them for life. Families can track their progress with the Beanstack app, earning fun milestones along the way.

### A Place to Learn and Grow

Need a quiet space to study, work on a project, or meet with a tutor? We offer comfortable study rooms and collaborative workspaces that are free and open to the public. Whether you're prepping for an exam or diving into your next big idea, we've got the space for you.

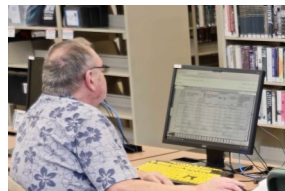


### Access to Trusted Information Anytime, Anywhere

Your library card gives you free access to a wide variety of online databases, including tools for research, job hunting, travel, legal issues and more. You can also stay informed with digital access to the **State Journal-Register** and other local and national newspapers from the comfort of your home.



### Grow at Your Own Pace—At Any Age



Your Library is also a place where lifelong learners thrive. Adults can explore genealogy resources, join one of our 3 book clubs, research hobbies or health topics, or simply enjoy reading for pleasure via physical books or eMedia. No matter your age or interests, you'll find something here to keep your mind active and engaged.

A library card is more than a school supply—it's a passport to a lifetime of discovery. Sign up in September during **Library Card Sign Up Month**, either in person or online, and let your learning journey begin.

**And don't forget:** Every child (ages 0–15) who signs up for their first library card receives a free **"I Got My Library Card!"** tote bag featuring Lyle Barry, our literacy dinosaur—thanks to support from the Friends of the Library!



# Children's Programs

## The Many Worlds of Magic

Step into a new realm each month with our magical program series celebrating fantasy books and mythical adventures!

### ***Magical Creatures 101:***

**September 3, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Discover the real animals that inspired some of your favorite magical creatures! Meet live owls, a snake, and more in this interactive program with a wildlife expert, featuring a live owl flight demo. **For all ages.**



***Wings of Fire: Dragon Eye Craft:* October 20, 4:00 p.m.**

Inspired by the Wings of Fire series, create your own shimmering dragon eye art. **For kids age 7 and up.**

**Registration is required.**

***Narnia Guided Painting:* November 5, 3:30 p.m.**

Join Miss Maddie for a guided painting session as we capture a snowy Narnia scene, complete with the iconic lamppost. **For kids age 7 and up. Registration is required.**

## Bike Rodeo

**Wednesday, September 17**

**5:00—7:00 p.m.**

Come for the fun in our parking lot when the Chatham Police Department puts on its annual Bike Rodeo!

## Say It. Out Loud . . .

### ***Twilight Interactive Movie Night***

**Ages 13 and Up**

**Wednesday, September 24**

**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Twilight*'s book release with an interactive screening of the iconic 2008 film—complete with audience call-outs, dramatic reactions, and plenty of sparkle. Whether you're Team Edward, Team Jacob, or just in it for Charlie Swan's mustache, come enjoy the movie with a fun twist. Prop bags will be provided while supplies last (we'll share the full list of included items closer to the event), and costumes or *Twilight*-themed flair are always welcome.



## Teen Paint Night

**For students in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**November 12**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Registration Required**



Get cozy and creative at the library! We're kicking back with a fall-themed painting night—no experience needed. We'll have all the supplies, some chill vibes, and plenty of snacks while you follow along and make your own seasonal masterpiece. Come hang out, relax, and paint with friends!

## After School Movies

**All Ages**

**2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Returning this fall: After-school movies! Looking for a little entertainment in the afternoon? Come join us for a movie! Enjoy a fun flick with our famous popcorn and lemonade, together with friendly faces here at the Library. If desired bring a blanket, pillow, or favorite stuffy to make yourself comfortable.

**September 24: *Sky High***

**October 29: *Scooby-Doo Mystery Marathon***

**November 19: *The Land Before Time***

## 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.**

# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



## Craftober

For kids up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Registration Required

Families with children up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to our fall Craftober events! We will have a variety of fall and Halloween-themed crafts to make and popcorn to munch on. It's the perfect way to get into the fall spirit! Choose from the afternoon session October 1, or evening session October 2.

Registration is required for either event.

### Craftober Afternoon

October 1  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### Craftober Family Craft Night

October 2  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



## Monster Match-Up!

Last fall you crowned the best candy—now it's time to choose the ultimate monster! From Elmo to Dracula, Mike Wazowski to the Loch Ness Monster, 64 creatures are going head-to-head in a bracket-style showdown. Pick up your bracket at the library, submit your completed picks by Friday, September 19 for a chance to win a prize, and come to the library starting September 15 to vote each round. For all ages. (One entry per person, please.)

## Halloween Lego Day

October 25  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
All Ages

What spooky things can you build with LEGO? A haunted house? A creepy creature? Come create something frightfully fun—then leave it with us to display in the Children's Department for all to see (and maybe scream!)



## Teen Fright Night Flick

October 22  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join us for a spooky outdoor movie night just for teens! We'll be showing a frightfully fun Halloween movie under the stars complete with a DIY soda bar, snacks, and a creepy Halloween photo booth where you can snap a fun pic.

### Halloween After-School Movie: Scooby-Doo Mystery Marathon

A collection of classic, kid-friendly mysteries—perfect for spooky season!

October 29  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

## Spooktacular Halloween Storytimes!

Join us the week of Halloween as our regular storytime programs get a festive twist!

All three of our weekly storytimes—Baby & Toddler Time, Family Evening Storytime, and Preschool Storytime—will feature Halloween-themed books, songs, and activities.

### Baby & Toddler Time

(October 28 at 9:45 & 10:45 a.m.) will include Halloween stories, fingerplays, and songs perfect for little ones age 0-3. Costumes encouraged!

### Family Evening Storytime

(October 30 at 6:30 p.m.) and

### Preschool Storytime

(October 31 at 10:15 a.m.) will feature fun Halloween read-alouds followed by a spooktacular craft! Kids are welcome to come in costume to help make the week extra festive.

**No tricks—just treats and tales!**

# Adult Programs

## Healthy Living Series

Adults

Second Wednesday of the month

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Join us for this series focusing on older adult health, wellness, and lifestyles. **Synergy HomeCare** will lead these presentations and interactive programs as you learn about topics on preserving your health, wellness, and lifestyle.

### Mind & Body Wellness with Chair Yoga

September 10

### Aging Parents and Community Resources

October 8

### Senior Scams

November 12

## New Possibilities: What's Next for Those 55+?

Adults

Tuesday, September 16

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Life transitions after 55 can be exciting—and a little uncertain. This engaging session explores how values, priorities, and purpose can guide your next steps. Anne Godman with **Compass and Keys**, an experienced career coach, will highlight three meaningful paths: volunteering, entrepreneurship, and new employment. You'll discover practical resources to help you explore each one. If you're asking, "What can I do now?" this is the perfect place to start.

## Constitution Day BINGO!

Adults

Wednesday, September 17

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Come and celebrate Constitution Day with BINGO! Instead of numbers, we will be testing your knowledge on the American Constitution and general citizenship information. This BINGO will be based on both the US Citizenship Test and the Illinois Constitution Test, taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Illinois Libraries Present!

Virtual programs

Registration Required

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Illinois Libraries Present is a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier virtual events.

### Finding the Clues: Then and Now with Steve Burns

Tuesday, September 16

### Beyond the Screen: A "Wicked" Conversation with Marissa Bode

Tuesday, October 21

### Kenji López-Alt: A Journey Through Food and Science

Tuesday, November 18



## Leaf It to Us: Tools, Plants & Tips for Fall Gardens

Wednesday, September 17

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Mary Kay Hinkle, a member of the **Springfield Civic Garden Club**, will join us to share expert tips on preparing your garden for winter, plus some favorite tools and go-to plants and trees. Whether you're a longtime gardener or just curious about getting started, this is a great chance to learn, ask questions, and connect with fellow plant lovers.

## Yoga for All: Breathe, Stretch, Restore

Fourth Tuesday of the month:

September 23, October 28, November 25

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Take a break, slow down, and reconnect with yourself. Yoga for All is a gentle, inclusive class designed to help you release tension, calm your mind, and build a sense of balance—both physically and emotionally.

No prior experience is needed, and all bodies and abilities are welcome. Chairs will be provided for those who prefer or need seated support. **Please bring your own yoga mat and any props you wish to use.**

# Adult Programs

## Empower to Save:

### *Opioid Response & Naloxone Access*

Wednesday, September 24

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join Joan Stevens from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health for a free program on opioid overdose prevention. Learn how to recognize the signs of an overdose, respond safely using naloxone (Narcan), and receive free naloxone kits and training.

## Capital Area Concert Band Performance at the Library

All Ages

Tuesday, October 7

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us as the Capital Area Concert Band performs a selection of their season's musical pieces. This talented group of 40+ members aims to bring joy through music!

## Community Resources Fair

Saturday, October 11

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Explore the services and resources available in our community! Connect with local organizations dedicated to support, enrichment, and positive change. Learn about programs that meet your needs, discover new ways to get involved, stay informed, and make a difference. Watch Facebook and our online calendar for participating organizations.

## Weekly Mahjong Club

Adults

Thursdays

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Mahjong is always buzzing with energy at the library—it's social, lively, and a whole lot of fun! Whether you're a seasoned player or familiar with the basics, there's a table for you. We offer tables for different experience levels so everyone can enjoy a great game. **Have your own Mahjong set? Bring it along so everyone can get in on the action!**

## 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.



September 3

Book Fall

Flower Arrangement



October 1

Burlap or cloth

wrapped pumpkin



November 5

Wood Bead

Snowman

## Puzzle Exchange

Tuesday, October 21

Love puzzles? Swap your completed ones for something new at our Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange! Bring in gently used puzzles (with all pieces, please) and pick out a fresh challenge to take home.

## Medicare Made Simple:

### *Your Enrollment Questions Answered*

Wednesday, October 15

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an Educational Medicare Annual Enrollment Seminar presented by Houston Insurance to learn about important plan updates for 2026. Receive expert guidance on your options so you can make confident coverage choices.

## Society of Midwestern Authors

Adults

First Tuesday each month

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Looking for a supportive place to share your writing? This community of local writers offers constructive feedback and advice on your submissions. For more information, please email [mmeyerhoff@chathamlib.org](mailto:mmeyerhoff@chathamlib.org).

# Adult Programs

## 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:

**September 10 – *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Gunn**

**October 8 – *The Mighty Red* by Louis Erdrich**

**November 12 – *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro**

### 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:

**September 17 – *The Reading List* by Sarah Nisha Adams**

**October 15 – *The Greater Journey, Americans in Paris* by David McCollough**

**November 19 – *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden**

### 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:

**September 18 – *Hell Followed With Us* by Andrew Joseph White**

**October 16 – *The Sun Down Motel* by Simone St. James**

**November 20 – *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology***

## Friends of Genealogy

**Adults**

**Saturday, September 13 & Saturday, November 8**

**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 genealogy enthusiasts eager to support your journey.

## ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

**Ages 14 and up**

**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.



**September 18**  
**Book Page Wreath**



**October 16**  
**Clay Ghosts**



**November 20**  
**Pebble Snowman**

## Hello Girls! Of World War I

**Adults**

**Wednesday, November 5**

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Join us as Rosemary Connolly shares the lives of the Hello Girls of World War I! When the U. S. entered the war in 1917, telephone communications were in chaos. They called for young women volunteers to operate telephone switchboards. For many, it was their first time away from home. Discover how they influenced the war's later stages and how they fought for recognition when they got home.

## Great Puzzle Race

**Ages 12 and up**

**Saturday, November 15**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Registration Required**

Gather your team 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!

Individual participants are also welcome – reach out to [reference@chathamlib.org](mailto:reference@chathamlib.org), and we'll group you with fellow enthusiasts. Prizes await the most adept puzzlers!

# IHLS Library Crawl 2025

Month of October

Join the *IHLS Library Crawl* this October! Visit libraries across Illinois, collect stamps at each stop, and enjoy each library's unique charm.



## Family Winter Selfies

November 17- December 6

Capture the magic of the season! Stop by our festive photo spot and snap your own picture—perfect for cards. Please note: no photographer will be provided, so don't forget your phone or camera! There will be a tripod provided.

## Drop-in Tech Help

Adults

Every Wednesday

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Want to learn how to access eBooks on your phone or tablet? Drop-in on Wednesdays for one-on-one help from your Adult Services Librarian as we troubleshoot and explore tech together.

## Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up

Wednesdays, September 3, October 1, and November 5

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Looking to learn a new board game, or show off your gaming skills? Join us in the library for one of our Wednesday game nights. We have a variety of games to try and fun folks to try out your game-winning strategies.

## 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.

## Weekly Card and Board Games

Adults

Tuesdays & Fridays

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.



## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library recently voted to induct Ryan Byers as an honorary lifetime member. Ryan has volunteered his time and creativity to create 15 original Murder Mystery plays for the Friends of the Library. The funds raised by the Murder Mystery fundraiser enable the Friends to continue supporting our Library with additional resources, programming, and equipment that might otherwise be unavailable. We applaud Ryan's dedication to our Library and look forward to sharing his next Murder Mystery script with our community in March 2026! Thank you, Ryan!

## Building Update

Our Board of Trustees has been busy addressing the longstanding water and leak issues in our building — problems we shared with the community earlier this year. Planning is currently underway, with the goal to start repairs on the North and East exterior parts of the building during the first half of 2026. We'll keep you updated as this project progresses.

## ART COMMITTEE NEWS

October – January

Our Call to Entry Art Show is back! Our Art Committee is delighted to showcase the talents of our local artist community to our patrons. We'll need your help to present the Popular Choice Award, which is determined by public vote. **Stop by the library from October 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> to help us choose our winner!** Our reception and awards event will be held on October 18th. Please follow us on social media, on our website, or stop by the Library for more information.

# 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

### Labor Day

*Monday, September 1*

### Thanksgiving Day

*Thursday, November 27*

### Thanksgiving Holiday

*Friday, November 28*

**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](http://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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## Library Foundation

# The Backyard at the Library: First Chapter Complete

We've been hard at work in The Backyard at the Library, and we can't wait to share this space with you! **We'd like to invite our supporters to join the Library Foundation Board for a Chatham Area Chamber Ribbon Cutting and opening reception, held on September 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

This project came to life thanks to generous private donations from individuals, businesses, and community groups who believe in the potential of this space for the Chatham community. We continue to be amazed and humbled by your support. Together, we've transformed a vision into a reality: a place where kids can play, families can gather, and stories can unfold under the open sky.

While the first phase is nearly complete, we're not done dreaming. As we look ahead to what else The Backyard can become, we still need your support to help us to continue to grow. To make a gift, visit:  
[givebutter.com/FinishLinetotheBackyard](https://givebutter.com/FinishLinetotheBackyard)

We're so grateful to everyone who made this possible.

See you in **The Backyard!**