



Library Newsletter

Winter 2025/2026



The Backyard is OPEN!

Thanks to our donors and the incredible Foundation Board, the Library now has an outdoor space for hosting programming and events! This space is open for everyone in the community to connect, learn, and grow. Our opening reception last September gave us a chance to thank all our donors and supporters. We're excited to share this new chapter in our library's history with you! In the coming months, we'll work on additional phases of this project, including seating and artwork. Thank you for your patience as we continue transforming our space for everyone to enjoy!

Your voice matters! Share your ideas for the future of the Library!

The Library is planning for the next 20 years, and we're excited to hear your ideas! Starting in mid-December, you can share your thoughts through a **community survey on our website**, designed to help shape our library's future.

Plus, please join us at a **Community Meeting on Wednesday**, **January 21**, **at 5:30 pm** where you can share your ideas and help create an exciting future for our Library. Together, we can build a Library that truly grows with and for our community!

In Memory of Our Beloved Colleague and Friend, Meghan Harmon

The Library has recently placed a special planter outside our building, adorned with three kaleidoscope pieces on top. This installation was chosen to



honor and celebrate the memory of our former co-worker and friend, Meghan Harmon, whose presence brought color, sparkle, and warmth to our library and community.

Just like a kaleidoscope transforms everyday light into something beautiful and everchanging, Meghan had a unique way of bringing joy and inspiration to those around her.

We hope this memorial will serve as a beautiful reminder of Meghan's impact on everyone who knew and loved her.

Lights, Camera, Read!

Adult Winter Reading Challenge
Adults 18+

January 5 – February 16

Grab your popcorn, the show is about to begin! We present to you our Adult Winter Reading Challenge which will run January 5 – February 16. Viewers are rating it 5 stars! You won't want to miss your chance to participate!

Children's Programs

The Library at Christmas in Chatham

All Ages

Offsite at the 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

Friday, December 5

Following the tree lighting ceremony, gather around for festive stories shared by our librarians to spark the magic of the season!

Holiday Make It-Take It

Saturday, December 6

9:00 a.m. - Noon

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

The Many Worlds of Magic

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

Olympian Camp Challenge

K – 6th Grade

Wednesday, December 10, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Join us for a Camp Half-Blood adventure! Kids will take on Greek mythology—themed STEAM challenges, crafts, and games that will put their heroic skills to the test.





The Wicked Wand Workshop

All Ages

Wednesday, January 14, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Create your very own magical wand inspired by Elphaba and Glinda! Kids can decorate wands with beads, ribbons, and sparkles.

Wonderland Mini Golf

All Ages

Saturday, February 21, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Step into Wonderland and journey through a whimsical mini golf course filled with curious surprises and playful challenges.

Ask a Vet with Jessica Ostermeier, Ball-Chatham Veterinary Services

K – 6th Grade Wednesday, December 3 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Ever wondered what it's like to be a veterinarian? Come meet a real local vet and learn all about caring for animals!

Kids will get to see some of the tools vets use, hear fun animal stories, and ask their own questions about working with pets.

Finals Eve: Now Two Nights of Study Time!

High School Students

Monday, December 15 AND Tuesday, December 16 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 so you have even more time to prepare for finals.

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.

LEGO Day

All Ages

Saturday, January 3, 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 Movies

All Ages 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Come on in for some afternoon entertainment featuring fun family movies, complete with popcorn and lemonade.



Wednesday, December 17: Elf

Wednesday, January 21: The Bad Guys 2

Monday, February 16: How to Train Your Dragon (2025)

Children's Programs

Winter Break Activities:

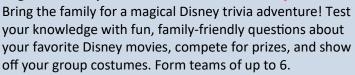
Beat the winter break blues – come enjoy some family time at the library!

Disney Family Trivia

All Ages

Tuesday, December 30 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Registration required.



Family Board Game Day

All Ages

Friday, January 2

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Kick off the new year with Game Day! Play our board games or bring a favorite to share with friends.

Family Movie - Dog Man

All Ages

Monday, January 5

2:00 p.m.

Join us for a cozy movie afternoon complete with free popcorn and lemonade.

Toy Swap

Saturday, January 17 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Have gently used toys your kids no longer play with? Swap them for something new-to-you at our Library Toy Swap! Bring up to five clean, complete, and working toys to the Children's Desk January 12-16 to receive a ticket for each toy you donate. Use your tickets to "shop" on Saturday, January 17, 10-11:30 a.m. for something different. Check our website or Facebook for toy guidelines and rules.

Valentine's Workshop

K – 6th Grade Saturday, February 7 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.

YA Sweetheart Treats

7th – 12th Grade Wednesday, February 11 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Get creative in the sweetest way! Dip and decorate pretzels, cookies, and other goodies to make

delicious Valentine treats for someone special—or to keep for yourself. All supplies provided.



Baby Olympics

Ages 2 and Under Tuesday, February 24 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Get ready for a morning of adorable athletic fun in place of our regular Baby-Toddler Storytime! Babies and toddlers ages 0 – 2 can crawl, toddle, and play through fun Olympic-style



challenges—because every little athlete's a champion!

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.**

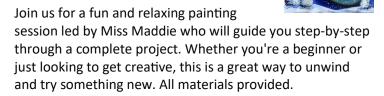
Bring your preschoolers for a fun time of stories and a craft that is just right for small hands.

No registration is required.

Adult Programs

Paint & Unwind for Adults

Adults
Thursday, December 11
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Registration required.



DIY Gift Wrapping

December 10 - December 23

Need to wrap some holiday gifts in secret where prying eyes can't see? Stop by our gift-wrapping station in the Opal Lee Genealogy Room during Library open hours until Tuesday, Dec. 23! *Limit of five gifts per person.*

Sustainability Starts at Home

Adults

Saturday, January 10 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join Cassie from Illinois EPA for an inspiring "tour of the home" focused on practical ways to live more sustainably. Learn how to apply the **waste hierarchy**—reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink—throughout your home to save resources and money. Cassie will also discuss why sustainability matters and what changes may be on the horizon. Leave with simple, realistic steps toward a greener lifestyle.

Technology Class - Microsoft Word

Adults

Saturday, January 17 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Are you interested in learning about Microsoft Word? Back by popular demand, we will be holding an exploratory course on how to use Microsoft Word. Come and learn some of the ins and outs of Microsoft Word and how you can use it to write/type almost anything!

Illinois Libraries Present!

Virtual programs
Registration Required

Illinois Libraries Present is a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier virtual events featuring prominent authors. Registration links to view these events are on the Library's events calendar.



Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.

Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine

Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Improv Workshop

Adults

Thursday, January 22 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. Registration Required

Are you a fan of shows like "Whose Line is it Anyway?" and would like to try it yourself? Maybe you want to improve your public speaking or learn to think faster on your feet. Join Amber Johnson and Dave Kimsey, members of Capital City Improv, for an exciting improv workshop.

Chair Yoga

Fourth Tuesday of the month: NO December Class, January 27, February 24, 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

Mahjong for Beginners Training

Wednesdays, January 7 & 14 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Registration (Limit of 6) and Attendance Required for both days

You'll learn the basics of this intricate, fast-paced, and strategic game.

After these initial lessons, you can continue your learning with mentored play sessions during the Library's regular Mahjong group on Thursdays, January 22 and 29. Experienced players will guide you at each table to help you practice, understand the finer points of the game, and connect with other local players.

Once you've completed the mentored sessions, you're invited to join the library's ongoing Thursday Mahjong Club to keep building your skills and enjoy friendly play.

Craft Supply Swap

Wednesday, January 28 All Day

Clear out your craft supplies and pick up new ones at our Craft Supply Swap!
Bring items like yarn, fabric, beads, and paper to trade with fellow crafters. It's a fun way to refresh your stash and get **inspired** for your next project!



Hamilton Sing A-long

Ages 13+ Saturday, January 31 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Don't throw away your shot—join us for a Hamilton Sing-Along at the library!

We'll be showing the hit Broadway musical on the big screen at the end of January, with lyrics so you can belt out your favorite songs right along with the cast. Whether you know every word or you're new to the revolution, this is your chance to experience Hamilton in a fun, relaxed, and welcoming setting.

Bring your friends, warm up your vocal cords, and get ready for an afternoon of music, history, and energy that will have you saying, "Satisfied!"

Let's Get Crafty

Adults

First Wednesday of 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.



December 10 2 x 4 Snowman



January 7 Watercolor Sunrise



February 4
Q-tip Heart
Painting

Weekly Mahjong Club

Adults Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Registration Required

Mahjong is always buzzing with energy at the library—it's social, lively, and a whole lot of fun! If you're an experienced player or



already know the basics, we'd love for you to join the table. The more seasoned players, the better the game! Have your own Mahjong set? Bring it along so everyone can get in on the action!

Society of Midwestern Authors

2tlub4

First Tuesday of each month 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Are you looking for a safe and supportive place to share your written works with like-minded individuals? This friendly community of local writers offers constructive criticism and feedback on your submissions and invaluable knowledge on what steps to do next. For more information, please email *mmeyerhoff@chathamlib.org*.

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:

December 10 – The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz **January 14 – The One Man** by Andrew Gross **February 11 – The Briar Club** by Kate Quinn

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 17 – Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen **January 21 – Walk into the Woods** by Bill Bryson **February 18 – Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus

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:

December 18 – Mr. Mercedes by Stephen King **January 15 – Wool: The Graphic Novel** by Hugh Howey **February 19 – Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up Wednesdays, December 3, January 7, and February 4 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.

ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

Ages 14 and up Third Thursday of the month 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Registration Required

Whether you're a seasoned 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 18 Jane Austen's Birthday Tea Cup Candle



January 15 Tinted Mason Jars



February 19 Macrame Heart Magnets

Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, January 3 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Explore your family history with the Friends of Genealogy!

Connect, inform, and discover support in our free, open bi-monthly gatherings. Whether you're a regular or dropping in for casual research assistance, join our welcoming genealogy enthusiasts eager to support your journey.

Great Puzzle Race

Ages 12 and up Friday, February 20 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration Required

Gather your team (up to four) and put your puzzle-solving skills to the test! Join us as teams 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!

Drop-in Tech Help

Adults

Every Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Need help downloading a library eBook or audiobook? Stop by for one-on-one assistance! Staff can show you how to use Libby, Hoopla, Cloud Library, borrow titles, and trouble shoot issues with your phone, tablet or eReader. No appointment needed—just bring your device, passwords and library card.

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 Table Games

Adults

Every Tuesday & Friday 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us each week for table games
— a fun and relaxed way to
unwind, challenge your mind, and



connect with others over classic and new favorites. Whether you're a seasoned player or just curious to try something new, there's a seat at the table for you!

RENAISSANCE SCIENCE, MAGIC, AND MEDICINE IN HARRY POTTER'S WORLD

The traveling exhibit "Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine in Harry Potter's World," from the National Library of Medicine, will be on display at the library from February 9 through March 21.

ART COMMITTEE NEWS

Our 16th annual Call to Entry Art show is our largest yet! We received over 100 pieces from both new and returning local artists for this year's jury. Out of those, more than 60 outstanding artworks are now on exhibit. The show will remain on display until mid-January. We hope you'll visit soon to enjoy the beautiful art. At our October reception, we awarded prizes to the following talented artists:



Best in Show: Tracey Maras - Discovering

Best in Show Honorable Mention: Rita Williams -

Heather Renee in the Dress

Best New Artist: Hannah Edwards - *Untitled*Best New Artist Honorable Mention: Caitlin Little -

Breakina Free

Popular Choice: Blake Selsor - Athena, Goddess

of Wisdom

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

Help Us Tell Chatham's Story!

Do you have old photos, favorite memories, or fascinating stories from Chatham's past? We'd love to see and hear them!

The Chatham Area Public Library's Adult Services
Department is building a **community timeline** to celebrate
the Village's **190th anniversary in October 2026**—and
your memories can help bring our shared history to life.

Visit our website for more information.

Home Delivery

Can't make it to the Library? The Library will come to you! The Chatham Area Public Library provides home delivery of library materials. This service is available to all Chatham Area Public Library cardholders who have a temporary or long-term illness, injury, impairment, medical condition, or disability and are unable to visit the library.

For more information, please contact the library at *info@chathamlib.org* or 217-483-2713.

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

Wednesday, December 24 Thursday, December 25

New Year's Holiday

Wednesday, December 31 Closing at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 1

Phone: (217) 483-2713 **Fax:** (217) 483-2361

fb.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 typically on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (exceptions: December: No Scheduled Meeting, January: Meeting starts at 5:30)

Friends' Bookstore & Donation Drop-Off Hours

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

"Dear Santa:" The Holiday

Tradition Returns

Have you been good this year? Share it with the Big Man himself! Write a letter to Santa at the Library this holiday season. The Library has coloring sheets and card templates for your letters! You can drop them off in the box at the Library or hand your card to him at *Light Up the Park - Chatham Friends of the Parks*, which runs until December 25th.



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CAN YOU GUESS

SAVE THE DATE:

The 26th Annual Friends Murder Mystery original play: *Chatty Chatty Die Die: A Tale of Tumult, Turmoil, and Talk Shows* will be held on Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, 2026.

Tickets go on sale January 5, 2026. For more details, visit the Library's website after the new year.