



# Library Newsletter

Summer 2026

## Summer Reading Reminders: *Sign-up Continues through July*

June & July 2026

All Ages (Adult challenge details are inside!)



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 Friday, 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.
- ◆ **7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade, choose the one challenge that best suits your child.

## New this year: *Community Prizes!*

We're making our kids' Summer Reading Challenge even more exciting this year! In addition to earning individual prizes, participants' reading minutes will now help unlock community-wide rewards.



As readers work together to reach big milestones, the library will celebrate with fun surprises like treats, special events, and even new toys in the Children's Department. There's also a change to crafts—rather than earning one at each prize level, Take & Make Crafts will be offered every other week for all registered participants (while supplies last). Be sure



to follow along on our website, Facebook page, or in the library to track progress and see what reward will be unlocked next!

## Getting Your Kicks on Route 66: *Tales from the Mother Road in Illinois*



All Ages

Tuesday, July 14

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Route 66 turns 100 this year! Join us for a fascinating presentation exploring the history of the "Mother Road". Drawing from 100 newly compiled oral histories from the Illinois State Museum, this program shares what it was really like to eat, sleep, and drive the iconic highway—including the challenges Black travelers faced and how road travel has changed over time. Come celebrate a century of America's most famous highway!

# Children's Programs

## *There is still room for your child to have fun at BOOK CAMP!*

June & July 2026

Ages 4 – 12

Registration required

*Plant a Seed, Read!* Book Camp invites kids to explore stories through planting, growing, and sharing. Each day includes games, crafts, and stories inspired by the farm-to-table concept—planting seeds, caring for growing things, and sharing the harvest together.

*New this year: camps will be organized by age instead of grade.*



### Book Camp Schedule:

- ◆ Ages 4 - 6: June 22, 24, 26 or July 6, 8, 10
- ◆ Ages 7 - 8: June 15, 17, 18 or July 13, 15, 17
- ◆ Ages 9 - 10: June 8, 10, 12 or July 20, 22, 24
- ◆ Ages 11 - 12: June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

**Book Camp sessions for ages 4 through 10 are for 3 days and last from 10:00 – 11:15 am.**

**Book Camp for 11 – 12 Year-olds lasts for 2 weeks and is from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

Book Camp groups are based on a child's age on their *first day of camp*. The cost for camp is \$5 (non-refundable). See our website for sign-up information. Sign-up space is limited.

## Summer Movies at the Library

All Ages

June 5, July 3, and August 14

2:00 p.m.

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

**Friday, June 5 – *A Bug's Life***

**Friday, July 3 – *Charlotte's Web***

**Friday, August 14 – *Voters Decide!***



## Teen Summer Hangouts

Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

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

### ◆ Tuesday, June 16, 6:00 p.m. – *Teens-Only Movie*

Kick back with friends and enjoy a movie night! Popcorn and drinks provided.

### ◆ Tuesday, June 30, 3:30 p.m. – *YA Art Lab*

Get creative in this open art session—paint, sculpt, craft, and create whatever you like with a wide variety of supplies.

### ◆ Thursday, July 16, 3:30 p.m. – *Trinket Treasures*

Join the trinket trend and create your own one-of-a-kind keychain using beads, charms, and fun trinkets!

### ◆ Friday, July 31, 3:30 p.m. – *Summerween Bash*

Celebrate Summerween with costumes, spooky snacks, blacklight pumpkin painting, and more!

### ◆ Tuesday, August 4, 3:30 p.m. – *Coffee and Chill*

Relax with chill music and cozy vibes while creating your own custom iced coffee and coloring at your own pace.



## Do Art Productions

### Wacky Art

### Gameshow

All Ages

June 23

2:00 p.m.

Get ready for the Wacky Art Gameshow—an exciting, interactive experience full of family fun! We'll create silly, imaginative drawings in a mix of team and solo

rounds, with surprises like juggling and live music along the way. It's a playful, creativity-packed event the whole family will enjoy!



# Children's Programs

## Mud Day

Ages 5 and Under  
Monday, June 29  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.



International Mud Day is Monday, June 29, and we're celebrating 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!



## The Unloveables

All ages  
Tuesday, July 21  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Macon County Conservation District will help us discover the truth about animals that are often misunderstood or not considered "cute" or "cuddly," and the important roles they play in our ecosystems. Some live animals will be part of this program.



## Baby & Toddler Move and Play Morning

Ages 2 and Under  
Saturday, July 25  
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Bring your little one to Move & Play Morning, a wiggly, giggly playtime for little ones 2 and under! From crawling tunnels to bubbles and balancing fun, little movers will build important gross motor skills while they play.



## END OF SUMMER SPLASH!

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

Celebrate the end of an amazing summer with the whole family at our End of Summer Splash! Enjoy an evening filled with outdoor water activities, the famous Splashinator game, a sweet treat from Scoop du Jour, and the ever-popular foam cannon. It's the perfect way to cool off, make memories together, and wrap up a fantastic summer at the library!



## LEGO DAY

All ages  
Saturday, August 15  
10:00 a.m. – Noon

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



## 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

**Preschool Storytime will not be held in June and July due to Book Camp, but will resume in August, on Fridays at 10:15 a.m.**  
**No registration is required.**

# Adult Programs

## Tech Made Simple

Adults

Select Saturdays

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration Required

Back by popular demand, we will be holding some exploratory courses on how to use various computer programs. Come and learn some of the ins and outs of your favorite programs and how you can use them to their full potential.

**June 6 – *Downloading and Using E-books***

**August 29 – *How to Spot the Use of AI Online***

## Tool Supply Swap

Thursday, June 11

1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Refresh your toolkit at our community **Tool Swap!** Whether you are looking for a reliable wrench, a sturdy hammer, or specialized power equipment, come trade your extras for something new-to-you. It is the perfect opportunity to declutter your garage and find the right gear for your next DIY project.

**Safety Note:** We are accepting a wide variety of manual and electric tools, but please leave **all types of saws and anything that needs more than one person to carry** at home for this specific event.

Give your well-loved gear a second life!

## AI 101: Demystifying Artificial Intelligence

Thursday, June 11

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Master AI without the jargon in this practical session designed to help business owners save time and modernize workflows through live demos of text, image, and video tools. Join Adam Gurski, AI Creative Technologist, to see AI in action and get your questions answered during our interactive Q&A.

## Lobby Delivery for Residents of Villas of Holly Brook and South Park

First Friday of the month:

Holly Brook at 10:00 a.m.

South Park at 10:40 a.m.

## Relish the Journey: Exploring the Legend of the Wienermobile

All Ages

Tuesday, June 23

6:00 p.m.

Want to learn all about the American icon that is the Wienermobile? Amber Johnson knows the history and ins and outs about the giant hot dog on wheels, along with other Oscar Mayer history. Join her down BUNderful hot dog highways to learn all about it!



## Great Puzzle Race

Ages 12 and up

Friday, June 26

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](mailto:asablotny@chathamlib.org) for more information or to sign up. Don't miss out on the fun—register your team today!



## Plant a Seed, Read – Adult Summer Reading BINGO

Adults 18+

June 1 – July 31

This summer, let your love for reading blossom! We're playing **BINGO** on *Beanstack*, and every minute you read, every activity you complete, plants the seeds of excitement—earning raffle tickets that could lead to fantastic weekly prizes. And the more you log, the closer you get to the grand prize! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to win fun prizes from local businesses. Let's grow together and make this summer unforgettable!

*This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*



# Adult Programs

## Passport Application Event

All Ages

Saturday, July 11

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Need a passport? The Chatham Area Public Library District is partnering with the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk's Office to bring convenient, one-stop passport services directly to the community. Representatives from the Circuit Clerk's passport team will be on-site to help you apply for a new passport, answer questions, and even take your passport photo.

Whether you're preparing for international travel or simply planning ahead, this is a great opportunity to complete the entire process in one place.

For questions or details about required documents, please contact the Circuit Clerk's Passport Office at 217-747-5183 or visit [sangamonpassports.org](http://sangamonpassports.org).



## Let's Get Crafty

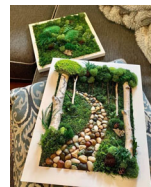
Adults

First Wednesday of each month

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Registration Required

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.



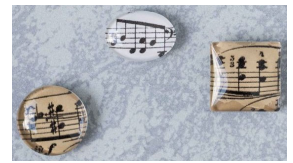
June 3

Nature-Inspired  
Wall Art



July 1

250<sup>th</sup> Celebration  
Tie Dye Tea Towel



August 12

(delayed 1 week)  
Sheet Music  
Glass Magnets

## AARP Safe Driver Class

August 12 & 13

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

\*Must attend both days\*

Registration Required



AARP Safe Driving course is coming back to the Library! **Registration cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members.** This is a two (2) day course, you must attend both days. Bring your drivers license and AARP card to the class. Check with your insurance company if this course qualifies you for a discount!

## Illinois in the Revolutionary War

Tuesday, August 18

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Uncover the daring history of the Revolutionary War in Illinois. We'll spotlight George Rogers Clark, focusing on his grueling trek through icy floodwaters to capture Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Explore the lives of Clark's lieutenants, their British rivals, and the diverse roles of American Indians in the conflict. Join Tom Emery, local historian/author, to examine these pivotal military engagements and the war's enduring legacy that continues to shape our state today.

## Weekly Mahjong Club

Adults

Every Thursday

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

Adults

First Tuesday of each month

6:00 – 7:30 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. Please email [mmeyerhoff@chathamlib.org](mailto:mmeyerhoff@chathamlib.org) if you have any questions.

# 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 10 – *Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain

July 8 – *The Secret Book of Flora Lea*  
by Patti Callahan Henry

August 12 – *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain

### 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 17 – *The second life of Mirielle West*  
by Amanda Skenandore

July 15 – *How the word is passed: a reckoning with the history of slavery across America* by Clint Smith

August 19 – *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles

### 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 18 – *Legends & Lattes* by Travis Baldree

July 16 – *Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* by Grady Hendrix

August 20 – *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel

## Community Blood Drive

Thursday, July 30

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Be a local hero at our upcoming **Community Blood Drive**. Did you know that a single donation can save up to three lives? It's a small act that makes a massive impact on our neighbors in need. **Registration link can be found on the website calendar** and help us reach our goal. Every drop counts—we can't wait to see you there!

## CRAFT NIGHT

Ages 14 and up

Third Thursday of the month

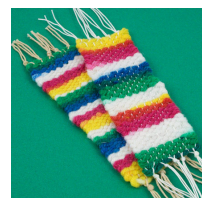
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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.



June 18  
Barrette  
Flowers



July 16  
Woven  
Bookmark



August 20  
Canvas  
Art

## Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, June 20

Saturday, August 15

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 community of genealogy enthusiasts eager to support your journey.

## Monthly Board Game Nights

Ages 10 and Up

Wednesdays: June 3, July 1, August 5

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.



## Bradley Lund Lego Lending Library

We are thrilled to bring an exciting new collection to our Library of Things, but this addition is bittersweet. The Lund family reached out to us, and we discussed how best to honor the memory of their son, Bradley. Bradley loved creating with Legos, Magna-Tiles, drawing, and playing games. To honor him, the library will begin circulating Lego kits for all to enjoy. This collection will continue to grow each year.



We have also added a new feature to The Backyard on our South lawn: a pebble harp in memory of Bradley, supported by the Library Foundation. Curious about what a pebble harp is? We invite you to visit the Backyard and listen to the soothing sounds of the harp. We appreciate the donations made to the Library Foundation's Backyard project in Bradley's memory.

Let's continue to honor Bradley through acts of kindness — join a volunteer organization, help a neighbor or friend, or perform a random act of kindness.

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## Drop-in Tech Help

**Adults**

**Every Wednesday  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Did you have a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or other electronic device, but want to learn how to use more of 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.

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## Weekly Table Games

**Adults**

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

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

## Director's Update

Summer at the Library is always a favorite, and we look forward to seeing our energetic Book Campers and Summer Readers, as well as everyone enjoying reading and building connections during these warm months. This year, things will be different because our much-anticipated building repair project is beginning. The repairs will address water infiltration on the North and East sides of the building, focused on the large clearstory windows, the surrounding stucco-like material, the rubber roof, and HVAC units.

While the project is extensive, we plan to keep our building open and accessible. However, there may be times when access to certain areas, including the front entrance, might be restricted. The project could also lead us to modify or reduce some programming. We will work with our contractor to maintain as much access as possible and will inform our community members when access is limited. Updates will be available on our website and Facebook page. Thank you for your understanding and support during this period. We're eager to celebrate the successful completion of this project with you very soon!

*Amy Byers, Library Director*

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## The Fiber Circle

**Adults**

**Every Wednesday  
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!

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## ART COMMITTEE NEWS

We hope you'll visit the Library this Summer to see two outstanding local art shows!

**June – July: Illinois Prairie Pastel Society**

**August–September: Spotlight on Chatham's  
History Through Art**

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](mailto:Arts@chathamlib.org) to be placed on the mailing list. Those on the list will receive the application via email in July. We will also share the applications in the library and on our website.

# 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

Friday, June 19

### Independence Day

Saturday, 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](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.)*

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U.S. Postage  
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SPRINGFIELD IL  
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## Friends of the Library Sweet Corn Book Sale

Saturday, July 18, 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 to everyone at 2:00 p.m. for a \$2.00 donation.** 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](mailto: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<sup>st</sup>.



## Our Little Garden Table Returns

Do you have too many veggies from your garden? We have a space for you to share them! If you have extras, we will have our garden table out at the end of June and keep it out until Labor Day. Thank you for sharing your bounty with our neighbors!

