



Library Newsletter

Fall 2026

Pardon Our Dust: We're Improving Our Space

We are thrilled to announce a major modernization project designed to upgrade our building and better serve our community. Starting August 17, we will begin essential improvements to replace aging infrastructure.

In addition to removing the north arch, we are tackling roof repairs, upgrading clerestory windows, installing new rooftop HVAC units, and replacing the leaking exterior wall cladding system. The focus will be directed at the north and east sides of the building and should be completed by late fall.

We plan to stay open during construction. Although we aim to reduce disruptions, some sections will be temporarily closed. You may notice some weekday noise from the dust-mitigating fans and repair work. Thank you for your patience and support as we work to improve your library experience.

Traffic & Parking

Library Drive: The lane right in front of the library will become a one-way street, going from north to south. No short-term parking will be available in the lane.

Parking Lot: The parking lot will remain completely accessible. If you have trouble getting inside to pick up materials, please give us a call to make arrangements.

Front Entrance and Exterior Book Drop: These will remain open throughout the project.

Moved Services & Collections

Food Pantry: Due to construction, it will be moved next to our door on the southeast side of the building.

Service Desks: Our service desks, including our circulation desk, will be moved to the center of the library. It will be short-term, but necessary so construction crews can replace the windows high above the east side of the building.

Self-Holds and Self-Check Machines: You will find them near the temporary circulation desk.

New Books, Library of Things, Newspapers and Magazines: These collections will be shifted but available throughout the project.

Office Needs: Our computers, fax machine, printer, scanner, and copier will remain available.

Room Availability

Opal Lee Chatham Local History and Genealogy Room: This room will be inaccessible for a portion of this project. Ask an Adult Services staff member for help if you need something from this collection.

Conference Room: Available after 4:00 pm. Monday-Friday, all day on Saturday.

Activity Room: Closed for the duration of the project.

Galleries: Open, no restrictions.

Study Rooms: Open, no restrictions.

Friends Bookstore & Café: This area will be closed during the window replacement portion of the project. During this time, no donations will be accepted (August 17 – October 1.) The information listed here is subject to change due to the nature of construction work. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

For up-to-date information, check out our construction page on our website: www.chathamlib.org/construction-update

Children's Programs

Genre Quest Reading Challenge

All Ages

Starting September 1

Embark on a Genre Quest reading adventure! Each month, we'll feature a different book genre along with a special **Genre Quest badge** to earn. Simply read a book from that month's genre and log your achievement on Beanstack to collect your badge. Explore new kinds of books, discover new favorites, and see how many badges you can earn throughout the year! Sign up for the reading challenge now on Beanstack, our online Reading Tracker website and mobile app (<https://chathamlib.beanstack.org>).

Genre Quest Program Series

Take your adventure beyond the page! Each month, we'll celebrate the featured genre with a special program or activity for all ages.

September – Animal Tales

Zoo to You

All Ages

Wednesday, September 9

4:00 p.m.

Meet some amazing animal ambassadors from Henson Robinson Zoo and learn about the real-life creatures that inspired some of your favorite stories and beloved book characters.



October – Chills & Thrills

Spooky Stories Under the Stars

All Ages

Wednesday, October 7

7:00 p.m.

Gather in our backyard as storyteller and musician Mike Anderson shares kid-friendly spooky stories and music. Popcorn will be provided—bring your own blanket or lawn chair for seating!



November – Nonfiction

Mini-Museum

All Ages

Wednesday, November 4

3:30 p.m.

Celebrate the world of nonfiction by exploring our Mini-Museum! Meet special guest curators and discover fascinating topics like astronomy, animals, geology, the human body, and more. There's always something new to learn!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

October 16

Drop off Animals by 4:30 p.m.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of *Winnie-the-Pooh*, the stuffed animals are taking over the library! Drop off your favorite stuffed friend on **Friday, October 16**, and they'll spend the night exploring the library, making new friends, and having their own sleepover adventure. Pick up your stuffed animal on **Saturday, October 17**, and hear all about their overnight fun! Be sure to check the library's Facebook page for photos and updates about what the animals were up to while everyone was away.

One stuffed animal per child, please.



Baby & Toddler Move and Play Morning

Ages 2 and Under

Saturday, November 7

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.

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.

Join us for stories and a craft for designed for small hands.

No registration is required.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Quacktoberfest

Fall Duck-orating Contest

Teens, Adults, and Families

Back for a second year! Give a rubber duck a festive fall makeover and enter it in our Quacktoberfest Duck-orating Contest. Sign up and pick up your duck at the Children's Department Desk beginning **September 21**. One duck per entry. Children under 13 must enter as part of a family entry and may not submit an individual entry. Teens and adults may enter individually or with a team. Ducks available while supplies last.



Spooky Stories Under the Stars

All ages

**Wednesday, October 7
7:00 p.m.**

Join storyteller and musician Mike Anderson for an evening of kid-friendly spooky stories, songs, and popcorn under the stars! Bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating.



Halloween Lego Day

All ages

**Saturday, October 10
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

What eerie things can you create with Lego? A haunted mansion? A spooky scene? A creepastastic creation? Come build something frightfully fun—then leave it with us to be displayed in the Children's Department for all to see (and maybe scream!)



Outdoor Family Movie: Hotel Transylvania

**Wednesday, October 21
6:00 p.m.**

You did it! Thanks to our amazing Summer Reading participants, our community reached all five Community Reading Goals—including earning a Family Outdoor Movie this fall! Grab a blanket or lawn chair, and join us for a fun evening in our new Backyard space. Popcorn is on us!

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
(Tuesday, October 27 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 (Thursday, October 29, 6:30 p.m.) and **Preschool Storytime (Friday, October 30, 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!



Teen/Adult Programs

***New Moon* Interactive Movie Night**

Ages 13 & Up

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 p.m.

Where have you been, loca? Back at the library, of course! Celebrate the 20th anniversary of ***New Moon*** with an interactive movie night. Join us for an audience-participation screening filled with dramatic call-outs, unforgettable moments, and the ultimate vampire-versus-werewolf debate. Snacks will be provided, interactive prop bags will be available while supplies last, and Twilight-themed attire is always encouraged!

YA: Outdoor Movie

For Students in 7th-12th Grade

Wednesday, November 11

5:30 p.m.

Join us for an outdoor movie night just for teens. We'll be showing a movie under the stars complete with free snacks! Bring your own blanket or lawn chair for maximum comfort.

National Voter Registration Day

18+

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

You can stop by the library to quickly register to vote or update your voter information, making it easy to get everything in order while you're already in the building. Staff will be available to help with the process and answer any questions you might have.

Explore Our New World Languages Collection

We're excited to introduce a growing **World Languages Collection** at the library. Right now, you'll find books in **Spanish, French, and German**, with more languages to come as the collection expands. It's a great way to discover new stories, practice language skills, or connect with materials in the language you love.

GLP-1 Health Talk with Mike Thomas

Adults

Wednesday, September 23

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration Optional (but appreciated)

With brand names like Ozempic, Wegovy, Zepbound and more, GLP-1s and their weight loss potential are all over the news. Join us as Pharmacist Mike Thomas talks about the impacts that using GLP-1s can have on your health and how to help protect yourself from some of the negative impacts being seen from long-term use.

Medicare 101

Adults

Wednesday, October 7

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a brief and helpful introduction to Medicare basics, presented by **AgeLinc: Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland**. This session will cover general information, simple best practices, and tips for protecting yourself from Medicare fraud. After a short presentation, you'll have time to ask questions and pick up take-home materials to support your Medicare planning.

Medicare 1-on-1 Consultations

Adults

Wednesday, October 21

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (1 hour time slots)

Registration Required

Need help sorting through Medicare options? Our Medicare 1-on-1 consultations offer personalized guidance to help you understand your choices and decide which plans best fit your needs. Sit down with a trained counselor from **AgeLinc** for individual support, get answers to your questions, and leave feeling more confident about your Medicare decisions. It's a great way to get clear, reliable information tailored just for you.

IHLS Library Crawl — October

Our library is excited to take part in the **IHLS Library Crawl**. It's a fun way to introduce patrons to other libraries across the Illinois Heartland Library System. Pick up a passport, visit participating libraries, and enjoy a month of discovery.

Adult Programs



Celebrate Chatham's 190th Anniversary with Us!

Thursday, October 22

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Village of Chatham is turning 190 years old, and the library is marking this milestone with a historical timeline highlighting key moments from our community's past. We're hosting a special open house reception where you can explore the timeline and enjoy a curated display of items from our local history archive.

We'll also welcome Dave Kimsey, Village of Chatham President, to share a few words about why preserving Chatham's stories matters. We'll also have treats to enjoy!

Memory Lab Showcase

Adults

Saturday, November 21

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration Required

Join us as we show-off the many ways that our Memory Lab can help you preserve your photos, film reels, slides, and videos for use now and to look back on in the future.

Weekly Table 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.

Flowvember - Period & Diaper Product Drive

Entire month of November

The library is collecting period products along with diapers in Sizes 2, 3, and 4. All donated items will be stocked in our public restrooms for community members to take as needed.

Let's Get Crafty

Adults

First Wednesday of each month

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (Change of time)

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.



September 2
S'mores Decor



October 7
Ghost Picture



November 4
Shooting Star Ornament

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 Mitchel at 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:

September 9 – *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger

October 14 – *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko

**November 11 – *The Second Mrs. Hockaday*
by Susan Rivers**

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 16 – *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller

October 21 – *The Kelloggs: the Battling Brothers of Battle Creek* by Howard Merkel

November 18 – *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Outer Edge Book Club

Fourth 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 24 – *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries*
by Heather Fawcett**

October 22 – *Stolen Tongues* by Felix Blackwell

**November 19 (Third Thursday because of holiday) –
To Shape a Dragon's Breath by Monique Blackgoose**

Fall into Adult Creativity

Each week this fall

Celebrate the cozy season, where adults can pick up a fresh take-and-make craft or enjoy other fun passive activities. Supplies are limited, so be sure to stop in early and treat yourself to a little creative autumn magic whenever you visit.

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.



September 17
Balloon art



October 15
Fabric Pumpkin



November 19
**Alcohol Ink
Ornaments**

Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, November 7

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: September 2, October 7, November 4
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.



Drop-in Technology Help

Adults

Every Thursday (*Note: change of day*)

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.

Placing a Hold Is Easy — Even During Construction!

While the library is under construction (and after we reopen), you can still place holds through our online catalog with just a few clicks. Search for your book, choose your format, and submit your request—your items will be ready for pickup. It's the simplest way to keep your reading list full during the renovation.

Share Your Collection with the Community!



Do you have a fun, unique, or meaningful collection you'd love to show off? Our library display cases are updated every month, and we'd love to feature *your* treasures next. Whether it's vintage toys, postcards, local history items, or something totally unexpected, this is a great way to share your interests with the community and brighten someone's day.

How to participate: Reach out to us to reserve a display month by emailing localhistory@chathamlib.org. Bring in your collection at the start of your scheduled month.

We'll help you set up your display in the case. You can enjoy seeing your collection admired by patrons all month long.

Did You Know the Library Loans More Than Books?



Your library card unlocks so much more than reading material. Along with books, movies, and audiobooks, we also loan out a wide variety of hands-on items you can use at home, outdoors, or with friends. It's a great way to try something new without having to buy it.

You can borrow **laptops**, a **telescope** for stargazing, a **car diagnostic tool**, **kites**, a **thermal camera**, a **record player**, a **DVD player**, **bocce ball**, and so much more.

We also offer **Book Club Kits**—perfect for friend groups, neighborhood gatherings, or anyone who wants to start a casual reading circle. Each kit includes multiple copies of a title plus discussion materials to make hosting easy.



Library Foundation

During their summer meeting, the Library Foundation board celebrated the completion of The Backyard. Their efforts and the donors' generous support created this beautiful space, for which the library board and staff are very thankful. At this gathering, the Foundation Board members decided that The Backyard would be their final project, and the board was officially dissolved.

All remaining funds and ongoing initiatives were given to the Friends of the Library. Thank you, Foundation board members, for over 20 years of supporting our library!

ART COMMITTEE NEWS

Due to upcoming building repairs and construction in the library building, **we regret to announce that this year's Call to Entry Juried Art Show has been postponed until 2027.**

Our designated gallery space is located directly beneath the site of extensive HVAC repairs and is at risk of dust accumulation. Out of an abundance of caution and for safety, we will not be able to use this space for artwork until the construction project is complete.

We are disappointed to have to postpone this year's show, but we are grateful for the opportunity to improve our space, and we hope to make Call to Entry 2027 the best one yet!

Lobby Stops at the Villas of Holly Brook and South Park

Adults

First Friday of the month

Holly Brook at 10:00 a.m.

South Park at 10:40 a.m.

Do you know someone who lives at either Holly Brook or South Park in Chatham? We make lobby stops at both facilities with books for patrons who are unable to travel to the library! Contact the library today if you or someone you know would like to join our delivery service.

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 7

Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 25

Closing at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27

Phone: (217) 483-2713

Fax: (217) 483-2361

 [fb.com/CAPLD](https://www.facebook.com/CAPLD)

Visit 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.**

Bookstore & Café Temporarily Closed, Not Accepting Donations During Construction August 17 - October 1

Updates to our social media and website will include information on when the space can be reopened and when donations can be accepted again. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

NON-PROFIT

U.S. Postage

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A Lasting Tribute: Girl Scout Troop 6246 Remembers Alma

Last year, Girl Scout Troop 6246 shared their heartfelt wish to honor their fellow troop member and friend, Alma Buhnerkempe, by creating a special tribute at the Library. As their meetings took place at the library, they agreed that it would be a meaningful way to come together and remember Alma. Today, on the south side of the library, you'll see a beautiful redbud tree planted in Alma's memory, lovingly provided by her friends in Troop 6246. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be part of this meaningful tribute to a truly special friend.

