

footnotes

ela area public library's newsletter December 2025 – February 2026



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I ♥ EAPL

Little Free Pantry

1,000 Books Turns 10

HVAC Renovations Expected in Late Winter/Early Spring

This winter, we will replace many components of our HVAC system that have reached the end of their useful life. This includes our chiller which will be replaced with a more energy-efficient unit. As specified in our 10-year facilities plan, the project is funded using reserves – no new taxes. We anticipate that there will be very minimal disruption to the public during the project.



NEW! Little Free Pantry – Take What You Need; Give What You Can

In an effort to help alleviate local food insecurity, the Library has established a Little Free Pantry inside the building across from the Meeting Rooms on the first floor. The small, free food pantry includes nonperishable, unexpired food items and goods. Items in the pantry are available to anyone in need.



How Can You Help?

If you would like to donate supplies, please drop them off in the bin located in the vestibule on the first floor during library hours. Please do not place donations on the shelf in the pantry area.

Scan the QR code for a list of acceptable donations.

Library Field Trip!

Annual Kindergarten Tours Give a Behind the Scenes Look at EAPL

We love our kindergarteners! Over the course of two weeks in October, we welcomed 306 kindergarteners from 15 classes (St. Francis de Sales School & District 95). The construction-themed visit included a read-aloud, time to engage in STEAM and literacy-based activities in our play construction site, and a tour of the Children's Department. The tour included stops at Forge makerspace, Check Out, and behind-the-scenes visits to the automated book return and the drive-up window.

Coming in May, families with children ages 3-7 can also enjoy the Library's construction site play literacy program. Watch for more information about this Play & Learn experience in the spring.



Your Library Where Minds Grow & Hearts Glow This Season at the Library! ♥



Outdoor Heart

Stop by and check out our eighteen foot tall radiant heart – beautiful during the day and even more spectacular at night. It perfectly frames you and your love so come take a selfie and don't forget to tag the Library! #SeetheHeartatElaLibrary
Through Sun., Jan. 11

Holiday Photo Op & Crumbl Cookie

Strike a pose under our outdoor heart just in time for the holidays. Wear your matching holiday outfits (optional) and smiles for the perfect pic. Bring your own camera. FREE Crumbl cookies for all photo-taking participants, while supplies last. Weather permitting.

6-7pm Wed., Dec. 3 (NR)

11-12pm & 3-4pm Mon., Dec. 29 (NR)



Guess How Many Candy Hearts

Available at Check Out (November) and Reference Department (December). Winners announced December 30.



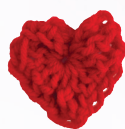
**Drop-in Craft:
Decorate a Photo Frame
Dec. 1-30 in Forge**



Cup of Kindness Cocoa Party

Stop by this cozy open house to celebrate a winter of kindness. Kids of all ages are invited to customize and sip hot cocoa while enjoying heartwarming crafts and activities that reveal the power of being kind.

2-3:30pm Fri., Jan. 2, all ages with an adult (NR)



Fill a Heart 4Kids Collection

Crochet a heart for this nonprofit organization based in Lake Forest that serves homeless and foster children throughout the area. Each crafted heart attaches to a children's care package. Drop off your hearts at the Information Desk. For more information, contact Debbie at dmiller@eapl.org.



Show Your Love

We've stocked our Threadless store with new Library merch. Scan the QR code to visit elafoundation.threadless.com.



adult programs

Unless noted:

- Registration is required for all programs.
- Registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.
- In-person programs are held at the Library.
- For adults ages 18+.



The Chris White Trio

Holiday Mitten Tree

Place new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves on the Library's Mitten Tree located in the lobby. All donations benefit local agencies in need.

Dec. 1-29

Senior Scrabble Club

Looking for a little friendly competition? Join our Scrabble Club and play against friends and members of the community. Senior adults of all skill levels are welcome. Refreshments and supplies will be provided.

10am-12:30pm Mondays, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2 (R)

Alzheimer's Support Group

This monthly drop-in event provides information and support to those in a caregiving role. For further information, please contact Lisa Gaggiano at Ela Township 55+ (847) 438-9160.

7-8pm Tuesdays, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3 (NR)



Discover Kwanzaa: Meaning, Symbols, and Traditions (Zoom)

Celebrate the spirit of Kwanzaa with storyteller Elizabeth Kahura. Discover the holiday's origins, explore its seven guiding principles, and learn the meaning behind its

symbols. Enjoy an inspiring program filled with music, poetry, and the beauty of Kiswahili. Presented by Elizabeth Kahura, a Kenyan native in the United States since 1995 and cultural ambassador for African knowledge. Co-sponsored with the Algonquin Area Public Library. Families welcome! **Registration is currently open.**

7pm Tues., Dec. 2 (R)

Holiday Photo Op & Crumbl Cookie

Strike a pose under our outdoor heart just in time for the holidays. Wear your matching holiday outfits (optional) and smiles for the perfect pic. Bring your own camera. **FREE** Crumbl cookies for all photo-taking participants, while supplies last. Weather permitting.

6-7pm Wed., Dec. 3 (NR)
11am-12pm & 3-4pm Mon., Dec. 29 (NR)

A Charlie Brown Christmas with The Chris White Trio

The Chris White Trio returns! Experience a bit of nostalgia as The Chris White Trio performs *A Charlie Brown Christmas* soundtrack this holiday season. Chris has performed at the top jazz clubs in Chicago such as Andy's, The Green Mill and the Jazz Showcase. **Registration is currently open.**

7pm Wed., Dec. 3, all ages (R)

Blood Drive

Donate the gift of blood. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Held in the Meeting Room.

12-5pm Thurs., Dec. 4 (R)

Chair Yoga and Meditation (Zoom)

Yoga is for every body! Join instructor Isabel Raci in a gentle seated yoga and meditation session, perfect for seniors and those with limited mobility. Attend any or all sessions.

6-7pm Thursdays, Dec. 4 and Feb. 5 (R)

Ela Township Social Worker in the Library

Stop by to chat or find wellness, medical, or emergency resources for a family member or yourself. Held at the tables outside Forge.

3-5pm Mondays, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9 (NR)



Cast Iron Cooking & Care

Learn how to cook with cast iron, from seasoning your pan to cleaning and caring for it. Chef Susan Maddox returns to share tips and tricks for cast iron cookware care and demonstrate some delicious recipes utilizing them. Space is limited.

7pm Tues., Dec. 9, Registration begins Nov. 24 (R)

Warm Up Lake Zurich

Join us monthly to discuss, share and learn about yarn crafting, from crocheting to knitting. Have fun and socialize as we work on projects. Donations of crafted items are accepted for local charities. All skill levels are welcome.

4pm Thursdays, Dec. 11, Jan. 8*, Feb. 12* (R)

***Held in Forge**

Ela Library Quilt Talks

Join us monthly to discuss, share and learn about fabrics and quilt making. All skill levels are welcome. "Show and tell" is always a fun feature! Donations of quilted items are accepted for local charities.

6:30pm Thursdays, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12 (R)



BOOK DISCUSSIONS/CLUBS

Registration is required with a valid email address.

• Ages 18+

Senior Book Discussion (Zoom and In Person)

10-11am Mondays (R) 2nd Floor Conference Room

Dec. 8 *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Feb. 9 *Murderland* by Caroline Fraser

Books & Brews

Buffalo Creek Brewing, 360 Historical Ln., Long Grove

7-8:30pm Tuesdays (R)

Dec. 9 *We Do Not Part* by Han Kang

Feb. 10 *King of Ashes* by S.A. Cosby

Queer Book Club

A welcoming and safe space to explore, read and discuss LGBTQIA+ themed books, while making a themed craft. Let's celebrate diversity, creativity and the power of storytelling together!

7pm Thursday, Ages 18+ (R)

Jan. 15 *The In-Between Bookstore* by Edward Underhill

Dewey Dining Book Club

Love to cook? Come and experience new recipes, sample delicious foods and discover cookbooks with our Cookbook Club – Dewey Dining. Register and grab a copy of the selected cookbook at the Information Desk. Pick out a recipe and email it to Renée at rstein@eapl.org or call 847-438-3433 ext. 217 a week before the discussion. Bring your treat to share while we discuss the cookbook with one another. Please note that the Library cannot take responsibility for any food allergies.

1:30pm Thursday (R)

Jan. 15 *Magnolia Table (Vol. 1)* by Joanna Gaines

Nonfiction Book Club

Join us quarterly to discuss a wide range of nonfiction books. Held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

7-8:30pm Thursday (R)

Jan. 22 *How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days* by Kari Leibowitz



128TRY Annual Reading Program

Allow us to treat you to 12 different genres and topics to stretch your reading horizons in 2026.

Participants can enjoy a book of their choice within each topic or try something from the selected reading lists curated by our librarians. Read a book within all 12 topics to complete the challenge and receive a prize. Register and log your books through the Beanstack app.

Visit www.eapl.org/events/reading-challenges for further details and registration instructions.

January 1 – December, 31 2026 (R) – Prize pickup starts Mon., Mar. 2, 2026 and run through Fri., Jan. 8, 2027



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY

Genealogy Interest Group

Join us monthly to enjoy personal research time and learning opportunities alongside others who enjoy this popular hobby. Bring your questions and share research strategies. Newcomers welcome!

2-4pm Tuesdays, Dec. 9*, Jan. 13, Feb. 10 (R)

*Dec. 9 – *Using AI in Genealogical Research*

Guest speaker Bob McHenry presents on the topic of artificial intelligence. Learn about how AI can help with genealogical research from an everyday researcher just like you. See real world examples of this powerful tool in action.

NEW! Night Owl Genealogy

Unable to attend our afternoon Genealogy Interest Group? Join us in the evening for personal research time and learning opportunities alongside others who enjoy this popular hobby. Bring your questions and share research strategies. Newcomers welcome!

6:30-8:30pm Thursdays, Dec. 11*, Jan. 15, Feb. 12 (R)

*Dec. 11 – *Using AI in Genealogical Research*

Guest speaker Bob McHenry presents on the topic of artificial intelligence. Learn about how AI can help with genealogical research from an everyday researcher just like you. See real world examples of this powerful tool in action.

I Have a Civil War Ancestor...Now What? (Zoom)

Civil War soldiers often left a rich genealogical paper trail. Join Brian Rhinehart from CivilWarRecords.com to discover which records are available from the National Archives, which records are available online, and how to access them all.

7-8pm Thurs., Jan. 29 (R)



ILLINOIS LIBRARIES PRESENT



Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig in Conversation with Mark Bazer (Zoom)

Join us for author of Pulitzer Prize-winning *King: A Life*, Jonathan Eig. Vividly written and exhaustively researched, this is the first major biography in decades of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files.

7pm Tues., Jan. 13 (R)



Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine in Conversation with Becky Spratford (Zoom)

Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine, *The Guinness Book of World Records* "most prolific author of children's horror novels," discusses his illustrious and still-expanding body of work.

7pm Tues., Feb. 24 (R)



These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of the Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com.

adult programs

Unless noted:

- **Registration is required for all programs.**
- **Registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.**
- **In-person programs are held at the Library.**
- **For adults ages 18+.**

Queer & Crafty

Join us for a relaxed environment to chat and enjoy fellowship. Bring your current craft or select from available options. Coffee, tea, and baked goods will be provided. Allies welcome!

1-3pm Sun., Dec. 14, ages 18+ (R)



Festive Holiday Carolers Concert

Get into the holiday spirit and join us for an evening of a cappella. Performing in classic Dickens-style, a quartet from Nostalgia Entertainment will perform traditional and contemporary Christmas and Hanukkah favorites. All ages welcome.

7pm Mon., Dec. 15, all ages (R)

Memory Café

Memory Café is designed to provide social connections for those with memory issues and their care partners. Each month features a different theme and can include music, art projects, guest presenters, animal therapy, and more. Each activity is designed to be “no fail” and encourage connections with others in the group. Questions? Contact Pam Pellizzari at Barrington Area Council on Aging (BACOA) (847) 381-5030.

10-11:30am Tuesdays, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17 (R)

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Inglés como Segundo Idioma

Free English classes for adults at the Library. Class: 9:15am-12pm Tuesday/Thursday.

Clases de Inglés gratuitas para adultos en la biblioteca.

Clases: 9:15am-12pm Martes y Jueves.

For more information/Para más información: (847) 949-2200 x1399.

Get to Know Your Ela Township

Representatives from the Ela Township community center will be on hand to answer questions and share information about upcoming events and services for youth and seniors.

10am-12pm Mondays, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Lobby



Before You Call the Handyman

Dan Findley, professional handyman and licensed building engineer, discusses several of the most common fixes you can do for yourself with a small home tool kit. In a fun and engaging format, Findley covers both common home repairs as well as preventative maintenance for beginner homeowners.

7pm Tues., Jan. 13 (R)



Neurodiverse Meetup Group

Do you identify as neurodiverse? This informal gathering is for adults 18+ with Autism level 1 diagnosis, ADHD, or who otherwise identify as neurodiverse. Join us to share common experiences, play some games and connect with each other.

5-6:30pm Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 (R)

Chocolate Tour of the Mouth

Let's delight your taste buds! Morke's Chocolates presents a chocolate tour, where you'll have the opportunity to taste a variety of chocolates and learn fun facts about the history of these sweet treats. Tour includes a container to take home samples and the opportunity to chocolate dip some treats. Space is limited.

7pm Wed., Jan. 21, Ela cardholders only (R)

Fabric Workshop Day

Use our spacious meeting room to work on your quilting projects! Sewing machines, cutting mats, iron and sewing notions will be available for use.

10am-4pm Sat., Jan. 24 (NR)

LZHS Theatre Preview of Chicago: Teen Edition!

Get ready for a dazzling performance as Lake Zurich High School presents *Chicago: Teen Edition!* This preview offers a sneak peek at the high-energy songs, sharp choreography, and standout student talent that bring this Broadway favorite to life.

6:30pm Mon., Jan. 26 (NR)



An Evening with Paul Lisnek: Civic Awareness with The League of Women Voters (Zoom)

WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek returns to speak about Illinois politics as well as help prepare participants for the upcoming midterm elections in November. Lisnek has been the political analyst for WGN-TV since 2008.

7pm Tues., Jan. 27 (R)



Date Night Cuisine

Plan a special date for the foodie in your life with the help of Chef Susan Maddox. She'll share several recipes from start to finish for your next perfect evening together. Samples served.

7pm Wed., Feb. 4, registration begins Jan. 2 (R)

AARP Free Tax-Aide

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides free tax assistance to anyone. Call 224-326-0605 to schedule your appointment. Tax assistance is held in Meeting Room A&B, unless noted.

Saturdays only, Feb. 7–Apr. 11, registration begins Jan. 2 (R)



All events are for ages 20–39.

Pages & Prompts: A Journaling Workshop

Start the new year with intention. Explore different journaling styles, from bullet and junk journaling to reflection prompts and creative exercises. Discover what works best for you! All supplies included though personal notebooks are welcome.

6-7:30pm Tues., Jan. 27 (R)

Boy Band Trivia Night

"Tell me why..." you wouldn't want to test your 90s and 00s boy band knowledge! From "Bye Bye Bye" to "The Right Stuff," relive the hits, the heartthrobs, and the harmonies to see who truly reigns supreme in a boy band trivia nostalgic night for adults in their 20s and 30s.

6-7:30pm Wed., Feb. 18 (R)



Salsa Dancing for Beginners

Learn to dance Salsa, one of the most popular dances in the world, with staff from Desueno Dance. Join us for a fun evening of dance with step-by-step instruction. No experience or partner needed.

7pm Tues., Feb. 10 (R)



Echoes of Africa: Art and Folktales (Zoom)

Let's celebrate Black History Month. Hear about Africa's rich heritage through traditional folktales, fables, and myths alongside arts and crafts, wood carvings, handmade instruments, clothing, jewelry, and cultural artifacts. Presented by educator Elizabeth Kahura, a Kenyan native and cultural ambassador for African knowledge. *Co-sponsored with Algonquin Area Public Library.*

7pm Thurs., Feb. 12, All Ages (R)

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a discussion program on world affairs that meets eight times throughout the year. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions briefing book, watching a DVD provided by the Foreign Press Assoc. and meeting to discuss. Visit fpa.org for topics. Email rstein@eapl.org for more details.

1-2:30pm Tues., Feb. 17 (R)



BUSINESS

Investing Overview with Eric and Ethan Rosenbloom

Join investment advisors Eric and Ethan Rosenbloom as they look at the current market and discuss ways you can stay ahead of the curve when times get tough.

6:30pm Wed., Dec. 10 (R)

Changing Gears In Your Career

Are you looking for a job or hoping to change gears in your career? Join us to learn some tips, tricks and exercises that will help you along your journey towards a satisfying career.

6:30pm Wed., Jan. 21 (R)

Project Management 101 (Part 1) (Zoom)

Join us for a project management presentation. Explore key tools through sample projects, and discover resources for certifications like PMP, ACP, and CAPM. Michael Spilg, PMI-certified instructor, will offer a beginner-friendly overview of project management methods, including Traditional, Agile, and Hybrid approaches. While we'll briefly mention PMI and the PMP certification, the main focus is on understanding how different project types are managed. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

7pm Thurs., Jan. 22 (R)

Project Management 101 (Part 2) (Zoom)

In the second session, you will discover how artificial intelligence can enhance your project management practice. Michael Spilg, PMI-certified instructor, will offer a beginner-friendly overview of AI tools like OpenAI ChatGPT and provide an introduction on how to utilize them to enhance project productivity. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

7pm Tues., Feb. 3 (R)

Motivation 101

Do you have a project you need to tackle? An idea you want to make a reality? Come learn some tips and tricks to keep yourself motivated and positive as you forge ahead.

6:30pm Wed., Feb. 25 (R)



Lake Placid Olympic Museum (Zoom)

At the end of the 1980 Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic and Winter Sports Museum, a private, not-for-profit museum, opened at the former Austria House in Lake Placid. Today, the Lake Placid Olympic Museum is home to North America's second-largest Winter Olympic artifact collection. Hear stories from their collection as we celebrate the 2026 Winter Olympics. *Co-sponsored with Schaumburg Public Library District.*

7pm Tues., Feb. 17 (R)

computer programs

Due to the popularity of computer classes, please do not register for classes you have already taken within the last year.

Unless noted:

- *Registration is required for all programs.*
- *Registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.*
- *In-person programs are held in the Library's Computer Lab.*



OFFICE/GOOGLE APPLICATIONS

Online Classes with LinkedIn Learning

For computer programs not offered in person, we recommend using LinkedIn Learning, which you can access with your library card. Scan the QR code for more information or visit:

www.linkedin.com/learning-login/go/elibrary.

Here are a few suggested classes:



Word Essential Training
PowerPoint Essential Training
Photoshop 2024 Essential Training

Google Drive Basics

Prerequisite: Comfortable with computer & mouse
Google account required for this class.

Learn the many ways in which Google Drive can be used for uploading, organizing, and sharing files in the cloud.

2-3:30pm Thurs., Jan. 29 (R)

Google Sheets

Prerequisite: Comfortable with computer & mouse
Google account required for this class.

Learn how to create and manage spreadsheet data using the basic features of Google Sheets.

NOTE: Please have your google account username and password available for this class.

2-3:30pm Thurs., Feb. 19 (R)

ADVANCED TOPICS

Scan Your Photos – Fast! (Zoom)

Learn how to scan photos quickly, organize scanned photos and make basic edits with the Library's new Epson FastFoto scanner.

10-11am Thurs., Dec. 11 (R)

Digital Tools for Wellness & Planning (Zoom)

Discover a variety of apps designed to support self-care and boost personal organization, from mood trackers and habit builders to digital planners and productivity tools. This online session will introduce user-friendly options like Finch, Notion, and Google Calendar to help you stay balanced and on track.

2-3:30pm Wed., Jan. 7 (R)

Bring Your Memories to Life with iMovie!

In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to turn photos and videos into a short movie using iMovie on your Mac or iPhone. Add music, titles, and transitions, then share with family and friends.

7-8:30pm Thurs., Jan. 8 (R)

Reference Solutions You'll Fall For

Learn to navigate this online database that provides a directory of U.S. companies and consumer information, including homeownership, demographics, and purchasing behaviors. Job seekers, businesses, students, and entrepreneurs will gain access to the most current data to research, plan, and make informed decisions.

7-8pm Tues., Jan. 20 (R)

GetSetUp: Technology You'll Love

Discover the joy of learning with GetSetUp, which offers live and on-demand classes designed by and for older adults, helping you build skills, explore passions, and connect with others. From cooking and history to technology and exercise, there's something for everyone to love.

11am-12pm Tues., Feb. 3 (R)

Convert Video to Digital Format (Zoom)

Learn how to easily convert your VHS or DVD into a digital format on your flashdrive using one of the digital converters in the Digital Media Lab.

10-11am Thurs., Feb. 5 (R)

forge **programs**

Unless noted:

- **Registration is required for all programs.**
- **Registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.**
- **In-person programs are held in Forge at the Library.**



Check our Forge page for updates and hours.



Our holiday crafting series is back—just in time to spark your seasonal creativity! Join us for 12 Days of Making, a festive lineup of fun and easy DIY projects perfect for gift-giving, decorating and getting into the making spirit.



Starting December 1, tune in to Forge's YouTube channel every weekday at 6pm (Monday–Friday) for a new video release. That's 12 creative projects from December 1–16!

Take Home Crafty A Kits

Kits include supplies, directions and video instruction (unless otherwise noted). Available for pick up in the Forge starting on the date specified. Kits available while supplies last. Ages 18+.



Bookish Cross Stitch

Learn how to cross stitch in this month's craft kit. Includes hoop, fabric, thread and needle. **Note:** finished product won't fit inside hoop.

Pick up begins:
10am Mon., Feb. 9 (NR)

Gift Wrapping Workshop

Need space and a little privacy to wrap your gifts? Bring up to two presents and we'll provide the wrapping paper, scissors, tape, and plenty of festive cheer! While you're here, get up to two custom gift tags engraved on our laser cutter—free.

3-5pm Fri., Dec. 19 or 1-3pm Sat., Dec. 20, ages 14+ (R)



Family Cookie Cutting Board

Create a personalized family display that looks like freshly baked cookies on a cutting board.

6pm Tue., Jan. 13, ages 14+ (R)

Fountain Pen Calligraphy

Try your hand at calligraphy and writing cursive using a fountain pen!

6pm Wed., Jan. 14, ages 14+ (R)



Sewing Basics

Learn to use a sewing machine and create a simple project. All materials and equipment provided. Due to high interest, registration is limited to one class per person, per season.

6-8pm Mondays, Jan. 19 or Feb. 16, ages 14+ (R)

Miniature Painting

Come paint a miniature that can be used in your own role playing games.

6pm Mondays, Jan. 26 and Feb. 9, grades 3-5 (R)

K-Craft Night: Shrinky Dinks Charm Bracelets

Shrink down pre-made designs and use the Forge jewelry tools to create your own charm bracelet while chatting with other fellow K-pop and K-drama fans.

7pm Tue., Jan. 27, ages 14+

Made in Forge

Learn and make unique items using our equipment in small sessions. Each participant can sign up for one session per activity.

11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Thursdays, ages 14+ (R)

• **Jan. 29 – Monogram Scarf**

• **Feb. 5 – Wind Spinner**



Heart Shaped Photo Holder

Create a heart shape photo holder to display photos your love ones!

6pm Tue., Feb. 3, ages 14+ (R)



Talavera Painting

Learn the history of Mexican Talavera painting and paint your own design on a terracotta pot.

6pm Wed., Feb. 19, ages 18+ (R)

teenprograms

Unless noted:

- For grades 6-12.
- Registration is required for all programs.
- Registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.
- In-person programs are held at the Library.
- Questions, contact Readers' Services at readers@eapl.org.



Pick up an application at the Library starting Mon., Dec. 15. This group of teens, **grades 6-12**, are dedicated to enhancing library services for teens. Members meet regularly to plan events, volunteer for special projects, and participate in service projects to help the community. They also promote library programs in their schools, clubs, and social groups, acting as ambassadors within the community.

Applications available Dec. 15 – Jan. 15, grades 6-12

Study Hall

Study rooms full? No worries! Come study with friends in a relaxed space just for teens. We'll have brain-boosting snacks, plus tips and tools to make homework less stressful, so you can study smarter, not harder.

- 4-7pm Tues., Dec. 16, Wed., Dec. 17, Thurs., Dec. 18 (R)
- 4-6pm Thursdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26 (R)



Crochet Club

Whether you're a beginner looking to start or a seasoned crocheter bringing your current project, all are welcome at this cozy gathering. Supplies are provided.

- 2-4pm Mon., Dec. 22 (R)
- 6-7:30pm Tues., Jan. 20 and Feb. 24 (R)



Sew a Book Sleeve

Keep your books warm this winter. Learn how to sew a quilted book sleeve and corner bookmark. Select a free book to keep.

3-5pm Tues., Dec. 30 (R)

Magnetic Northern Lights Painting

Learn the science behind the northern lights while painting them using magnets! Try out various techniques to achieve your masterpiece.

6-7:30pm Wed., Jan. 28 (R)



Strategies for a Smarter College Search (Zoom)

The college admissions landscape is more challenging than ever. Learn how to navigate the major shifts to college admissions, including redesigned SAT/ACT exams, increased selectivity at state schools, authentic applications, and changes in financial aid/scholarships. Join us as we partner with national college expert Heidi King from College Inside Track for this informational event.

6:30pm Wed., Feb. 4 (R)



Rainbow Macramé Keychains

Show off your pride and create fun keychains as unique as you are! Learn simple macramé techniques while making a colorful accessory to keep or gift.

6-7:30pm Thurs., Feb. 12 (R)

What You Need to Know When Your Teen Turns 18

When your child turns eighteen, they become legal adults, and your access to their financial, medical, and educational records is limited without proper authorization. Be prepared with the right documents and learn to unlock these limitations and maintain peace of mind. Presented by Shire Law Group PC.

6-7pm Wed., Feb. 25 (R)

TEEN WINTER READING CHALLENGE

CHILL & READ



Chill out this winter with a great book! Cozy up, relax, and earn prizes as you read. Complete fun reading challenges/activities and mark off your squares. Pick up a bingo card at the Library starting December 15.

Mon., Dec. 15 – Sun., Feb. 15, grades 6-12



1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

The 1000 Books Foundation launched their project in 2013. The goal was to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers. The American Academy of Pediatrics also encourages parents of new babies to read aloud to them each day and strengthen the relationship between caregivers and children.

Inspired by this, the Children's Department began their own program on Jan 2, 2016. Our goal is to encourage families to make reading a routine. The best way to ensure a child has the skills necessary to learn to read is having someone read aloud to them. Reading together supports both early literacy skills and language development. To date we've had more than 125 kids complete the program!

It might seem overwhelming, but reading 1,000 books to your child before kindergarten can easily be achieved. Just one book every day for three years equals 1,095 books! And by the time you're done, your child will have heard so many stories, learned hundreds of new vocabulary words, and built a love of books and reading that will last a lifetime.

Want to join our program? Here's how it works:

- Show your Ela Library card at the Children's Desk and complete a short registration card for your child (ages 0-5).
- Receive a log to keep track of your reading and a free tote bag to carry all your books.
- Read whatever books you like. You can check out books at the library or read books from home. Read new books or old favorites, read the same book again and again— all reading counts!
- Complete 1,000 books, then pick up your t-shirt prize and take a photo with our finisher sign.

Where Are They Now?

Matilda completed our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program back in 2017. Now that she's in 5th grade, we caught up with her to find out what she's currently reading and get her thoughts about the Library.



What is your favorite book/author you've found at the Library?

I really enjoyed Jennifer Nielsen's *The Scourge*, as well as Julie Abe's *Eva Evergreen* books. There are a lot of books I like; it's hard to choose favorites.

What kind of books do you enjoy reading the most?

I like lots of mystery books, as well as books that are whimsical and fanciful although the details make them seem real.

What is your favorite thing to do at the Library?

I enjoy finding a comfy chair and reading as long as I can, and ALL the programs!

How do you usually find a new book to read?

I like checking out the Book Nook and just trying something random. I usually don't even read the back!

Do you have your own library card? What do you remember about getting it?

I love my library card; I still remember the excitement of carefully signing my name in my neatest handwriting.

What is your favorite part of the Library?

My favorite part of the library is the wide range of different books, and all the smiling librarians!

If you could add one new thing to the Library, what would it be?

Kits for writing your own books.

What are you reading right now?

13-Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths, *The Fort* by Gordon Korman, *Pages & Co: The Book Smugglers* by Anna James, *Storm Blown* by Nick Courage

Why is the Library important to you?

The library is a place where I can find the answers to all of my questions.

kids **programs**

Ela Library cardholders have priority registration. Non-Ela cardholders may be placed on the waitlist for an event and notified by email. An adult must remain in the building while their children age 10 and under are attending programs.

December registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.

January registration begins Jan. 2 at 9am.

February registration begins Feb. 1 at 12pm.



Kids Book Match

Want personalized book recommendations from a children's librarian? Fill out our online form or visit the Children's Desk for a paper form and we'll email you a list of new favorites!

For independent readers through grade 6 (R)

Holiday Photo Op & Crumbl Cookie

Strike a pose under our outdoor heart and enjoy a free Crumbl cookie. See page 3 for details.

6-7pm Wed., Dec. 3 (NR)

11-12pm & 3-4pm Mon., Dec. 29 (NR)



Share a Cup of Kindness – Children's Winter Reading Challenge

Are you up for a challenge combo of reading and random acts of kindness? Stop by the Children's Desk to pick up a bingo card full of ideas to warm your heart this winter.

Mon., Dec. 15 through Sun., Feb. 15, ages 0-12 (R)

Sensory STEAM Explorers

Spark curiosity and ignite your child's love for discovery! This playful, hands-on program is designed for preschoolers to explore the wonders of the world around them through interactive experiments and sensory-based learning.

10am Mondays, Dec. 15 and Feb. 23, ages 3-5 with an adult (R)

Vision Boards

Manifest the best year ever using craft materials to create a personalized vision board that represents your goals and dreams for 2026!

4:30pm Tues., Dec. 16, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)

Squishy Lab

We provide the recipe and ingredients to make slime during this hands-on workshop. Adults must be prepared to help their children. Dress for a mess.

Ages 3-10 with an adult (R)

- **4:30pm Wed., Dec. 17 or Thurs., Dec. 18**
– tinsel slime
- **4:30pm Wed., Feb. 18 or Thurs., Feb. 19**
– snow slime

LEGO Club

If you enjoy building with LEGO bricks, this program is for you! Create and construct using your own ideas or try one of our challenges.

Unaccompanied kids in grades 1-5 (NR)

- **11am Tues., Dec. 23**
- **4pm Fri., Jan. 16**
- **4:30pm Wed., Feb. 4**

Family Winter BINGO

Warm up at the library and join a cool game of winter-themed bingo. Games are ongoing; drop by for friendly competition and a chance to win fun prizes.

10-11am or 2-3pm Mon., Dec. 29, ages 5 and up with an adult (NR)

Noon Year's Eve Party

Dress in your best to ring in the new year with friends at the library! Help us count down to a mid-day balloon drop and celebrate with crafts, snacks, music and games!

11:30am-12:30pm Tues., Dec. 30, ages 3-8 with an adult (R)



Firefly Family Theater: Spark's Snow Day

Snow came early in Firefly Grove this year, so Spark the Firefly gets to experience her first snow day! Join Spark as she learns all about snow, hibernation and exciting winter activities like sledding and ice skating. The show includes puppets, original music, interactive movement and lots of winter fun for families! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

10:30am Fri., Jan. 2, recommended for ages 2-7 (NR)



Kindness Cards ♥

We'll be crafting with kindness all day! Bring some heart and creativity and we will provide the rest of the supplies to make handmade cards to be donated to Cards for Hospitalized Kids. Your heartfelt messages will be distributed to children's hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses around the country.

9:30am-5pm Fri., Jan. 2, all ages with an adult (NR)

Young Scientists

Explore the wide world of science! We'll share hands-on experiments and engaging activities for a morning full of fun discoveries.

10am Mon., Jan. 5, grades K-2 with an adult (R)



Family Cookie Decorating

Cookies by Em will supply the cookies, icing and sprinkles, and we will share a few decorating tips and tricks. Then you can design and decorate your own delicious cookies—the hardest part will be deciding whether to share or eat them all yourself! Cookies and icing contain wheat, milk and egg.

1:30pm or 3pm Mon., Jan. 5, families with children in grades K-5 (R)

Preschool Playtime

Learn and practice through play! Preschoolers can build important early childhood skills with sensory and play stations designed just for them.

10am Thurs., Jan. 8, ages 3-5 with an adult (NR)

Indoor Snowball Fight

We challenge you to the ultimate indoor snowball fight! Build your own fort using the materials provided, see how it holds up against your opponents, and put your snowball launching skills to the test.

- **4pm Wed., Jan 14, unaccompanied kids in grades K-2 (R)**
- **4pm Wed., Feb. 11, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)**

Parachute Play

The sky's the limit during this active playtime featuring colors, silly songs and games, and, of course, the parachute! Adult participation is required.

9:30am Fridays, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20, ages 2-4 with an adult (R)

Family Rock with Rock 'n' Kids



Music and movement are on the menu for this highly engaging family event! This movement-based program uses music to facilitate learning with activities including rhythm instruments, work on gross and fine motor skills and imaginative play. Adult participation is required.

Ages 1-5 with an adult (R)

- **9:30am or 10:15am Wed., Jan. 21**
- **9:30am or 10:15am Sat., Feb. 14**

Kids Yoga

Tracey Kreiling from Mindful Movement Yoga will guide kids through a fun and simple mindfulness movement class. Be kind to yourself and enjoy moments of stillness and breathing techniques to relax.

4:30pm Wednesdays, Jan. 21 and 28, unaccompanied kids in grades K-5 (R)

Bath Bomb Workshop

Enjoy a hands-on adventure in this fun and fragrant workshop as we make custom snowflake bath bombs!

4pm Tues., Jan. 27, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)

Preschool Yoga

Little ones can learn fun and simple yoga poses while enjoying a story to encourage kindness to themselves and others. Tracy Kreiling from Mindful Movement Yoga presents this engaging and relaxing class for preschoolers and their caregivers.

10am Wednesdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 18, ages 3-5 with an adult (R)

Cup of Kindness Cocoa Party



Stop by this cozy open house to celebrate a winter of kindness. Kids of all ages are invited to customize and sip hot cocoa while enjoying heartwarming crafts and activities that reveal the power of being kind.

2-3:30pm Fri., Feb. 13, all ages with an adult (NR)

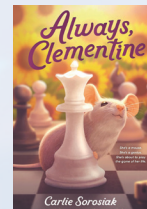
BOOK CLUBS

Graphic Novel Book Club

You love graphic novels—now come talk about them! Share what you enjoyed (or didn't) about this month's title and trade recommendations to find new favorites. Snacks will be provided. Registrants can pick up their copy of the book at the Children's Desk beginning January 2.

4:30pm Tues., Jan. 20, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)

Kids Book Club



Always, Clementine

Scurry over to the library to meet Clementine (a certified genius mouse) as she searches for a home and a way to rescue her friends. We will try maze- and chess-inspired activities as we discuss *Always, Clementine* by Carlie Sorosiak. Snacks will be provided. Registrants can pick up their copy of the book at the Children's Desk starting January 2.

4:30pm Thurs., Jan. 29, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)



Murder at the Museum

A mystery is afoot, and we need your help to solve the case! Join Montgomery Bonbon, a 10-year-old detective in disguise, to figure out whodunnit in *Murder at the Museum* by Alasdair Beckett-King. We will chat about the book, have snacks, and make a mystery craft. Registrants can pick up their copy of the book at the Children's Desk starting February 1.

4:30pm Wed., Feb. 25, unaccompanied kids in grades 3-5 (R)

kids **programs**

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December registration begins Dec. 1 at 9am.

January registration begins Jan. 2 at 9am.

February registration begins Feb. 1 at 12pm.

Crafternoon

Enjoy an afternoon of crafting with friends and create your own one-of-a-kind project.

Unaccompanied kids in grades K-5 (R)

- 4pm Wed., Dec. 10 – winter yarn gnomes
- 4pm Wed., Jan. 7 – paper snow globes
- 4pm Tues., Feb. 17 – collage bookmark

Drop-In Crafts

Stop by the Children's Department to design a unique craft project with the materials provided.

All ages with an adult (NR)

- 9:30am-4pm Sat., Dec. 27 and
12:30-4pm Sun., Dec. 28 – wishing wand
- 9:30am-5pm Fri., Jan. 23 and
9:30am-4pm Sat., Jan. 24 – heart wreath



ARTS & CRAFTS

Mini Makers

Preschoolers can practice their art and fine motor skills in a crafting class made just for them! Dress for a mess as we create original art projects.

Ages 3-5 with an adult (R)

- 10am Wed., Jan. 14 – igloo stamp art
- 10am Wed., Feb. 11 – axolotl potato print



DIY Valentines

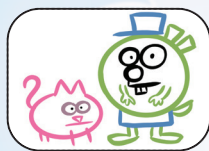
Make unique valentines for your friends and family. But be sure to save a little creativity and kindness to create a few extra to be distributed at local senior living facilities. A collection box will be available in the crafting space, and our Outreach Librarian will deliver your special handmade valentines to seniors in time for the holiday.

All ages with an adult (NR)

- 1-5pm Fri., Feb. 6
- 9:30am-4pm Sat., Feb. 7
- 12:30-4pm Sun., Feb. 8

Cartooning with Mark Anderson

Join Mark for these lively, interactive cartooning classes. The library will provide your supplies.



Cartoon Castoffs

Oh sure, there's a lot of popular and recognizable cartoon characters out there, but that's not who we're drawing. Let's meet

Greeney, Larry Loofah Loafers, Boo Boo La La, and Dog-Man-Dog!

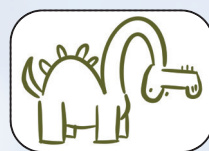
4:30pm Thurs., Dec. 11, unaccompanied kids in grades K-5 (R)



Cup of Cartoon Kindness

Join us for a special Winter Reading themed session of Cartooning with Mark Anderson!

4:30pm Tues., Jan. 6, unaccompanied kids in grades K-5 (R)



Disingenuous Dinosaurs

Did you know every day scientists are discovering new and exciting heretofore unknown dinosaurs? It's true! Is that what we're drawing?

No. Mark just made up a bunch of totally hilarious fake dinosaurs! Take that, science!

2pm Mon., Feb. 16, unaccompanied kids in grades K-5 (R)





STORYTIMES

Toddler Storytimes – Winter Session

There's no sitting still in this lively storytime! Together we'll enjoy stories, songs and rhymes all selected to engage your active toddler! Register once to save your child's spot for all classes in this 6-week session.

Ages 18-35 months with an adult (R)

- 9:30am Mondays, Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16
- 9:30am Thursdays, Jan. 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19

Drop-In Storytimes

Stop by with your kiddo for a casual storytime experience.

All ages with an adult (NR)

- 10:30am Mondays, Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16
- 9:30am Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17

Preschool Storytimes

Young children will explore the world through stories, songs and crafts specifically selected for their developmental stage. Register once to save your child's spot for all classes in this 6-week session.

10:30am Thursdays, Jan. 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, ages 3-5 with an adult (R)



Pajama Family Storytimes

Gather the whole family for fun and cozy stories, songs and a collaborative craft.

Pajamas are encouraged!

6pm Mondays, Dec. 15 and Feb. 23, ages 2-6 with an adult (NR)



FOR BABIES

Baby Playdate

Stop in for a special baby playtime! You and your baby can play and explore sensory bins while visiting with other families. Dress for a mess to create a keepsake art project, while supplies last.

9:30-11am Fri., Dec. 5, ages 0-18 months with an adult (NR)

Baby Storytimes

So much more than stories! Join us for lots of movement and smiles as we share songs and rhymes chosen specifically for this age group. You'll go home with new tools to sing your way through diaper changes, mealtimes and anytime, making your day easier and enriching your child's language and literacy skills. Stay after storytime to chat with other caregivers as your little ones play.

10am Fridays, Dec. 19, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, ages 0-18 months with an adult (NR)

Baby Rock with Rock 'n' Kids



Get ready to wiggle and giggle with your tiniest dancer! Baby Rock is a unique combination of sensory experiences with stimulating music and exercises to help strengthen and stretch your baby. Activities include sing-a-longs, simple instruments, sensory props and motion exercises. Adult participation is required.

9:30am or 10:15am Fri., Jan. 9, ages 3-12 months (non-walkers) with an adult (R)



Baby Obstacle Course

Calling on-the-go babies and toddlers! Whether your little one is crawling, walking, running or something in between, stop by this open house for a fun challenge that will help them develop motor and sensory skills.

9:30-11am Fri., Feb. 6, ages 6-24 months with an adult (NR)

****ECRWSS****
Postal Customer

Art Gallery and Display

The Library has a dimensional art space in addition to the Art Gallery. Works of emerging and established local artists are displayed. For more information about the art featured, visit the Information and/or Reference Desks.

Art Gallery (Second Floor)

Dec.– Jan. Jayanne Ridder Paintings

Display Case (Children's Department)

Dec.– Jan. Five Star Creative Goods Custom Woodworking

February Cub Scout Pack 237 Pinewood Derby

Discover Something New

eapl.org/databases

EAPL patrons can explore genealogy, cooking, crafts and news from anywhere, 24/7. Check out these online favorites, FREE with your library card.

HeritageQuest

Explore a robust collection of genealogical records including city directories, wills, vital records and U.S. Federal Census records (1790-1950). Search for a parent or grandparent in census records to uncover details such as their occupation, age at first marriage, home address, military service, national heritage or year of immigration.



Participate in live and on-demand classes, designed for and taught by older adults, to enhance skills and foster social connections.

creativebug®

Nurture your creative side with video classes taught by experts on topics including painting, knitting, crafting, sewing, Cricut, STEAM for kids, and more.

Chicago Tribune

Choose between a traditional newspaper-style reading experience or the complete website with articles available as soon as they're published.



275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Library Board

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Kathy Caudill–Vice President
Tracy Suykerbuyk–Treasurer
Betty Birner–Secretary
Adam Gira
Crystal Steker
Karol Sucec
Erica Christianson–Executive Director

Board meetings are open to the public and are held in person. They begin at 6pm on these Tuesdays: Jan. 20 and Feb. 17. No meeting in December.

Library Hours

Monday – Thursday	9am – 9pm
Friday	9am – 6pm
Saturday	9am – 5pm
Sunday	12 – 5pm

Currently Scheduled Library Closings

Wed., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Thurs., Dec. 25	Christmas
Wed., Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Thurs., Jan. 1	New Year's Day

Phone

(847) 438-3433

Program Registration

Register online at www.eapl.org. For more information, call the Information Desk at (847) 438-3433 or the Children's Dept. at (847) 438-3840.

If you need an accommodation for a visual, hearing or other disability, please let us know at least two weeks before the program you plan to attend.

Footnotes is published to inform patrons about Ela Area Public Library District news, programs, materials and services.

Editor: Valerie Stern

Graphic Artist: Jennifer Nickels



www.eapl.org