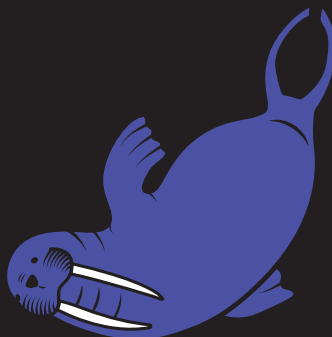
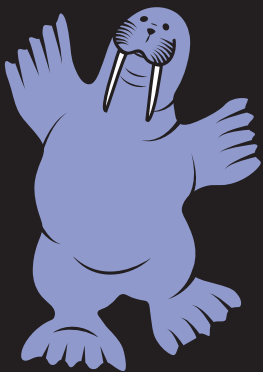


**WINTER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**



# WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Birth – Grade 8

December 20–January 31

Read and earn prizes this winter!

Stop by the Youth Services  
Desk starting December 20  
to register, pick up your log,  
and get reading!

Registration is required



## Storytimes and More . . .

### Monday Morning Playgroup

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Mondays, 9:30–11 am

Drop in for some open-ended play and meet new friends at our weekly playgroup.

### Bedtime Stories & More

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Mondays, December 1 and January 5, 6:30–7 pm

Wednesdays, December 17 and January 21, 6:30–7 pm

Spend time winding down for bed with a few stories and songs.

### Listen Up!

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Tuesdays, 10–10:45 am or 11:15 am–12 pm

Listen to stories, sing songs, and more at this all-ages storytime!

### Toddler Time

Ages 18–36 months with a parent/caregiver

Wednesdays, December 3–17 and January 7–21  
10–11 am

Get your little one acquainted with the Library at this toddler-riffic storytime. To attend, children must be between 18 and 36 months old at the time of the class.

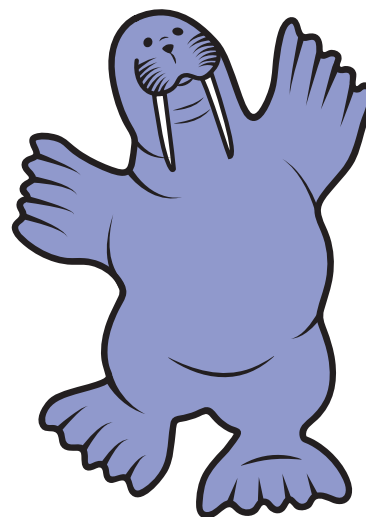
### Wee Read

Birth to 24 months with a parent/caregiver

Fridays, 9:30–10:15 am or 11–11:45 am

(no class December 26 and January 2)

Stories and songs for our littlest listeners. Please bring a tummy time mat or blanket for the baby. Older siblings welcome.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD

R = Registration is required

REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

## Build-a-Reader Storytime

Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver

Sunday, December 7, 3–3:45 pm

Join us for a fun storytime featuring our transportation-themed DUPLO Read & Build set. Siblings are welcome but build and craft supplies are limited to registrants. **R**



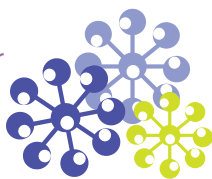
## Winter Storytime

Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursday, December 11

10–10:45 am

Enjoy stories about snow and make a puffy paint snow craft! **R**



## Family Storytime

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Saturdays, December 13 and January 10, 10–10:45 am

Bring the whole family to this storytime filled with books, songs, and fun.

## Mini Music Makers

Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursdays, December 18 and January 29, 10–10:45 am

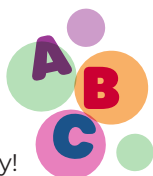
Feel the rhythm; hear the rhyme. It's Mini Music Maker time! **R**

## Ready, Set, Alphabet

Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver

Saturday, December 27, 10–10:45 am

Drop-in and build early literacy skills with alphabet activities. Be prepared to get messy!



## Family Dance Party

All Ages

Friday, January 2, 10–11 am

Get up and dance to some family-friendly tunes!

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.



## Tiny Science

Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursday, January 8

10–10:45 am

Discover more about the world through stories and activities. This month's topic: Volcanoes. **R**



## Mathematics Circus

Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver

Sunday, January 18, 2–3 pm

Come one, come all to a math-tacular spectacular! We'll leap into mathematics with games, stories, and creative play that add up to a circus full of fun. **R**

## Puppet Craft Storytime

Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursday, January 22, 10–10:45 am

A puppet storytime for preschoolers. We'll each make a simple puppet craft then use them to act out our stories and songs. **R**

## Motor Skills Morning

Ages 18–36 months with a parent/caregiver

Wednesday, January 28, 10–10:45 am

Drop in with your toddler for a variety of activities designed to build their motor skills and exercise their brains.



REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

## Middle School Hangout

Grades 5–8 (Ages 10–14)

Tuesdays, December 2 and January 6, 4–5 pm

De-stress and hang out with other middle schoolers! We'll provide snacks, activities, and games to get you through the school week.

## LEGO Builders

Grades K–8

Thursday, December 4, 6:30–7:30 pm

Friday, December 26, 3–4 pm

Build something amazing with the Library's massive LEGO collection! Start with one of our monthly challenges then let your imagination guide you in a free build.



## Family Engineering Night

All Ages

Thursdays, 7–8 pm

December 11: Catapults

January 22: Magnetic Pencil Levitation

Once a month, we turn a STEM idea into an engineering project. Projects are intended for school-aged kids and above, though younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up. R

## Crafty Saturday

All Ages

Saturdays, December 13 and January 10, 9:30 am–4:30 pm

Drop in the Youth Services Department to make a seasonal craft while supplies last.

## Family Crafting

All Ages

Monday, December 15, 6:30–7:30 pm: Winter/Mittens

Saturday, January 24, 10–11 am: Snow

Drop in with the whole family to make fun fall crafts. Projects are intended for ages 3–10, though younger children with a grown-up and older children are welcome to participate.

## Goofball Science Club

Grades 5–8

Tuesday, December 16 and Friday, January 30

4:30–5:30 pm

Join us for a middle school hangout where we do the fun parts of science experiments. In December we're dissecting owl pellets. In January, it's dancing oobleck slime. R

## Shining Light Votive Craft

Grades 3–8

Thursday, December 18, 4–5 pm

Create a glowing room decoration for yourself or to give as a gift. R

## Saber Guild Presents:

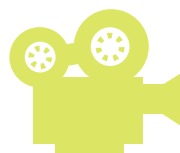
### Youngling Lightsaber Training

Saturday, December 20

Grades 1–3: 1–1:45 pm

Grades 4–8: 2–2:45 pm

Learn the art and discipline of the lightsaber with Chicago's own branch of Saber Guild, the international costumed performance group. Light side? Dark side? All younglings are welcome. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, 18 years or older. R



## Winter Break Movies

All Ages - Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

Monday, December 22  
3 pm

Home Alone  
(1990, PG, 1 hr 43 min)

Monday, December 29  
3 pm

Lilo & Stitch  
(2025, PG, 1 hr 48 min)



## STEAM Stop: Sail Car Challenge

All Ages

Tuesday, December 23, 2–3 pm

Stop by the Activity Room for hands-on fun with science, technology, engineering, art, or math. You may join in at any time during the session. Projects are intended for school-aged kids and above, though younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up.

## Measner Magic

All Ages

Tuesday, December 30, 2–3 pm

Come see John Measner's magic show, featuring illusions that will amaze the entire family.



## Make a New Year's Crown

All Ages

Wednesday, December 31, 9:30 am–4:30 pm

Stop by the Youth Services department to make a fabulous crown to celebrate the new year (while supplies last).

## LitLoot Middle School

Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–14)

January 1–14

LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other goodies. To subscribe to January's box, register between January 1 and 14. We'll contact you when boxes are ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. **R**



## Crafternoon

Grades K–8

Friday, January 2, 2:30–3:30 pm

Drop in for an afternoon of open-ended crafting with a wide variety of materials.



## Jr. Puzzle Gauntlet

Grades 1–3

Thursday, January 8, 4:30–5:30 pm



## Puzzle Gauntlet

Grades 4–8

Wednesday, January 13 4:30–5:30 pm

Do you have what it takes to beat the Puzzle Gauntlet? The Puzzle Master devised a series of devious challenges to test your STEAM skills and cunning to the max. Should you triumph, you will unlock the snack-a-licious treasure stash. **R**

## Dungeons & Dragons

Grades 5–8

Saturday, January 10, 2–4 pm

Have you ever dreamed of fighting monsters or casting spells? Immerse yourself in the magical world of Dungeons & Dragons in this one-shot sessions. Snacks provided. All experience levels welcome. **R**



## Mini Masterpieces

Grades 1–5

Wednesday, January 14, 4:30–5:30 pm

Create like the great artists! We will look at the artwork of well-known artists and then use them as inspiration to create our own works of art. This session's artist: Wassily Kandinsky. **R**

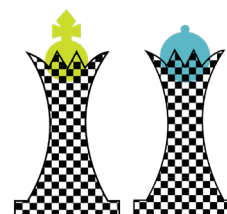
## Chess Academy

Grades 1–8

Thursday, January 15

7–8 pm

Learn how to play chess with chess master Chris Christmas. All skill levels welcome.

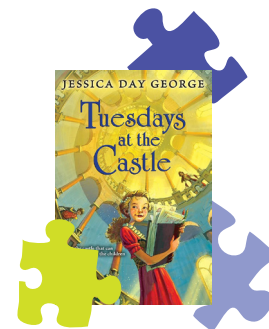


## Puzzles & Prose

Family

Saturday, January 17, 2–4 pm

Drop in for a relaxing afternoon doing jigsaw puzzles and listening to audiobooks. This month's story: *Tuesdays at the Castle* by Jessica Day George.



## DIY "Pet" Adoption

Grades K–3

Monday, January 19, 3–4 pm

Adopt a pet your adult can't say no to! Participants will craft their very own "pet", fill out adoption papers, and then decorate a home for their pet to live in. **R**

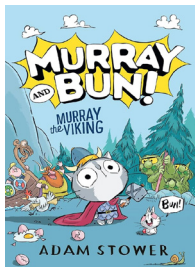


## Family Reads

Grades 1-3

Wednesday, January 28  
6:30-7:15 pm

Read the book of the month, *Murray and Bun!: Murray the Viking* by Adam Stower aloud at home with your family. Then bring a grown-up with you to discuss and explore the story with a hands-on activity. Registration for book club starts on December 1. After you register, pick up your free copy of the book of the month at the Youth Services Desk. **R**



## STEMonade Stand

Stop by the STEMonade Stand located at our Lincoln Avenue entrance for project kits to do at home. Each kit is sealed inside a zip-top bag with instructions and STEM connections. For more information and updates on biweekly projects, visit [mgpl.org/stemonade](http://mgpl.org/stemonade). When life gives you lemons, make STEMonade.



**R** = Registration is required

## LitLoot

Grades 9-12

December 1-15

LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other free goodies. Subscribe to December's box at [mgpl.org/events](http://mgpl.org/events). We'll contact you when your box is ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. Library card required. **R**

LitLoot

## FINALS Finals Exam Cram

Wednesday, December 17  
5-10 pm

The Library will stay open late for students in grades 9-12. There will be extra group study spaces and quiet study spaces, as well as therapy dogs available to help with pre-finals stress. Pizza, snacks, and beverages will be served.

Therapy Dogs



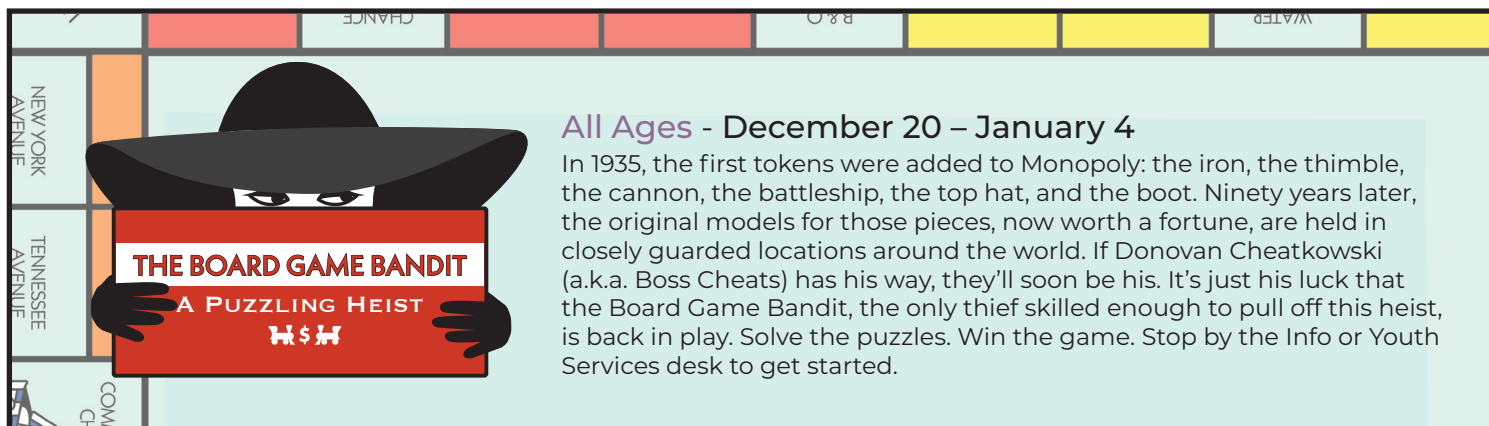
Pizza, Snacks, Beverages



## All Ages - December 20 - January 4

In 1935, the first tokens were added to Monopoly: the iron, the thimble, the cannon, the battleship, the top hat, and the boot. Ninety years later, the original models for those pieces, now worth a fortune, are held in closely guarded locations around the world. If Donovan Cheatkowski (a.k.a. Boss Cheats) has his way, they'll soon be his. It's just his luck that the Board Game Bandit, the only thief skilled enough to pull off this heist, is back in play. Solve the puzzles. Win the game. Stop by the Info or Youth Services desk to get started.

THE BOARD GAME BANDIT  
A PUZZLING HEIST



# ADULTS

## Senior Activity Kits

Stay busy and keep your brain active with creative activities and informational materials for seniors. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

## Adult ESL Activity Kits

Practice English with monthly ESL Activity Kits for adults. Each kit may contain vocabulary puzzles, idioms, suggested activities, or a short reading exercise, along with the monthly issue of *Easy English News* newspaper. Suitable for all skill levels. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

## Social Seniors

Join us for a variety of fun activities. Seating is limited, so register early to guarantee your spot. **R**

### Bingo

Wednesday, December 3, 10–11 am

Socialize as you play. Small prizes will be awarded to those who Bingo!

### Arts and Crafts

Wednesday, December 10, 10–11:30 am

Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project. December's project is hot glue snowflakes.

### Trivia

Wednesday, December 17, 10–11 am

Test your knowledge of iconic moments in history and pop culture. December's trivia topic is legends of music.

## Discover Kwanzaa: Meaning, Symbols, and Traditions (Online)

Tuesday, December 2, 7–8 pm

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 music, poetry, and the beauty of Kiswahili.

Co-sponsored by the Algonquin Area Public Library District. **R**



## ESL Games and Gab (Conversation)

Friday, December 5, 10–11 am

Practice your English conversation skills while playing games. **R**



## Performance: The Roots of Tap

Sunday, December 7, 2–3 pm

Living National Treasure Reginald "Reggio the Hooper" McLaughlin will bring the roots of tap dance to life through performance and historical storytelling. **R**

## Evening Craft for Adults and Teens

Tuesday, December 9, 6–7:30 pm

Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project. December's project is hot glue snowflakes. **R**

## Back to Mayberry:

### The Life of Andy Griffith

Thursday, December 11, 2–3:30 pm

Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss the life and career of actor Andy Griffith, from his beginnings as a University of North Carolina graduate to his rise as a television and film icon. **R**



## Healthy Living

### Chair Yoga

Friday, December 12

9:30–10:30 am (In Person)

Led by certified yoga instructor Joan McGee.

Friday, December 19 and January 23

9:30–10:30 am (Online)

Led by certified yoga instructor Susan Wilkens.

Practice seated poses in one of the gentlest forms of yoga, available online or in person. All experience levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes. Please use a steady chair without arms (if possible). **R**

## Crafting For Charity

Saturdays, December 13 and 27, January 17 and 31  
9:30–11:30 am

Create handmade knitted and crocheted crafts for local organizations. Please bring your needles and/or hooks and some acrylic yarn. Seating is limited, so guarantee your spot by registering ahead of time. We are currently accepting yarn donations. **R**

## Improvised Jane Austen

Sunday, December 14  
2–3 pm

Improvised Jane Austen is a comedic ensemble that creates unscripted performances using Jane Austen's tropes, themes, and language. These improvised stories will delight audiences with a modern sense and sensibility. Come for the humor, stay for the heart! **R**

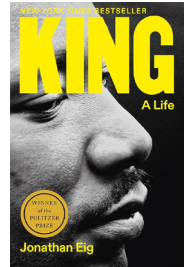


## Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig (Online)

Tuesday, January 13, 7–8 pm

Join us for a virtual interview with Jonathan Eig, the bestselling author of six books, including his most recent Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Martin Luther King Jr., *King: A Life*. **R**

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a state-wide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.



## INDIE MOVIE NIGHT

**Lee**

Wednesday, December 3  
6–8 pm

This WWII historical drama is based on a true story of war correspondent and Vogue photographer Lee Miller as she trades the glamour of fashion for the horrors of the front line. (2024, R, 2 hr) **R**



## Thrifty & Tidy: 10 Easy Ways to Save Money (Online)

Thursday, January 8, 7:30–8:30 pm

Put more money back in your pocket! Expert organizer and author Jamie Novak will provide 10 easy organization tips that will help you save money. **R**

## TUESDAY MOVIES @ MGPL

### *The Phoenician Scheme*

Tuesday, December 2  
10–11:45 am

### *Superman*

Tuesday, December 9  
10 am–12 pm

### *Pride & Prejudice*

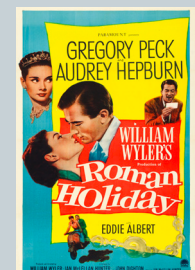
Tuesday, December 16  
10 am–12 pm

### *Kicking & Screaming*

Tuesday, December 23  
10–11:30 am

### *Roman Holiday*

Tuesday, December 30  
10 am–12 pm





## Needle Felting Craft with Natasha Lehrer Lewis (Online)

Wednesday, January 21, 7–8 pm

Fiber artist Natasha Lehrer Lewis will teach you how to create a Northern Cardinal, the Illinois state bird, using needle felting techniques. A kit with supplies will be available to pick up beforehand. **R**

## Project Management 101 (Online)

Thursday, January 22, 7–8 pm

Michael Spilg, PMI-certified instructor, will offer a beginner-friendly overview of project management methods, including Traditional, Agile, and Hybrid approaches. Explore the key tools of project management through sample projects. He will also provide a short overview of resources for PMP, PMI, ACP, and CAPM certifications. No prior knowledge or experience is required. **R**

## The Oscar's and Chicago (Online)

Wednesday, January 28, 6–7 pm

Film expert Kelli Marshall will explore Hollywood's most prestigious award show and its unexpected connections to Chicago. Hear tales of winners, nominees, and game-changers who hail from Chicago and its suburbs. **R**

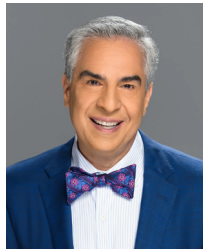


## Civic Awareness Series: An Evening with Paul Lisnek (Online)

Tuesday, January 27, 7–8 pm

The League of Women Voters of the Palatine, Schaumburg, and Barrington Areas and various Illinois libraries are kicking off of our 2026 Civic Awareness Series, an event dedicated to the continued civic education and engagement of our patrons.

We are thrilled to welcome WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek to start our series. Lisnek will speak about Illinois politics and provide information on this year's midterm elections in November. **R**



## New Year's Luminaria

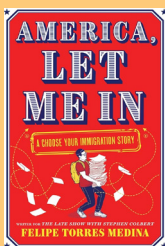
Join us for the 5th and final year of lighting up the Library and welcoming in the New Year! Beginning December 12, stop by the Library and put your good wishes on a paper lantern. Then join us on Wednesday, January 1, from 6–8 pm to view the lanterns safely lit up outside in front of the Library. Cocoa and cookies will be provided, and pup cups for your four-legged companions (while supplies last).



## Civic Engagement Book Picks

Visit [mgpl.org/civics](https://mgpl.org/civics) for staff-curated lists of resources related to a variety of topics. Not sure where to begin? We have selected a few titles to help you get started.

### Immigrants & Refugees



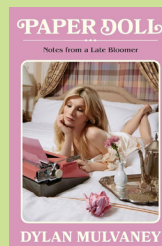
*America, Let Me In*  
by Felipe Torres Medina

### LGBTQ



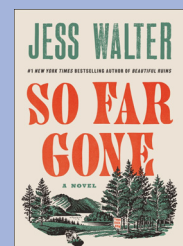
*Necessary Fiction*  
by Eloghosa Osunde

### Gender



*Paper Doll:  
Notes From a Late Bloomer*  
by Dylan Mulvaney

### Voting & Elections



*So Far Gone*  
by Jess Walter



## Computers and Technology

### Book A Librarian

Morton Grove cardholders can schedule a Book A Librarian appointment for one-on-one help at [mgpl.org/book-a-librarian](http://mgpl.org/book-a-librarian). Some of the topics that we can help you with include:

- Computer basics (using a mouse, managing files and folders)
- Internet basics (setting up and using email, social networking)
- Device help (smartphones, tablets, e-readers)
- Borrowing library e-books and e-audiobooks
- Using library online resources (databases)



**CRICUT  
MACHINE**

Morton Grove cardholders ages 14 and up can make a reservation to create Cricut projects, such as paper crafts, vinyl decals, and personalized items. There will be a small cost for materials. For learning resources, project ideas and material costs and to request a reservation go to [mgpl.org/create](http://mgpl.org/create).



## Book Discussion Groups

### Readpool: Adult Graphic Novel Discussion Group (Online)

*Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*  
by Tom King  
Monday, December 15, 7–8 pm **R**



### Between the Lines

#### Favorite Books of 2025

Tuesday, December 16, 7–8 pm (Online)

Thursday, December 18, 10–11 am (In Person)

Rather than read and discuss a specific book, come prepared to talk about your favorite book (or books) you read in 2025

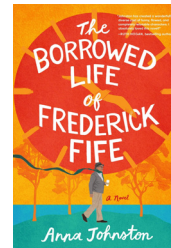
#### *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston

Thursday, January 15

10–11 am (In Person)

Tuesday, January 20

7–8 pm (Online)



Between the Lines is held on two different days, either in person or on Zoom. New members are always welcome! **R**

### LitLounge

#### Litera-cheers! Best of 2025

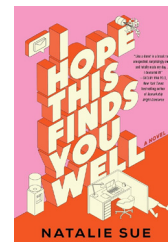
Wednesday, December 10, 7:30–9 pm

#### *I Hope This Finds You Well* by Natalie Sue

Wednesday, January 14

7:30–9 pm

Meets monthly at the Skokie Public Library Cosmos Room.



# Our First Annual Giving Campaign

We are excited to launch the first annual giving campaign for the Morton Grove Public Library. This campaign is aimed at raising funds for our general operating fund, ensuring that MGPL continues to be a vibrant, welcoming place for all community members.

## Why Your Support Matters

The Library is more than just the books on our shelves. At MGPL, we:

- Offer digital resources, download and streaming services, a Library of Things collection, and more
- Host educational programs, storytimes, and events for all ages
- Provide services such as passport services and license plate renewals. We also offer study rooms and other spaces to do work
- Maintain new initiatives like the Seed Library, Museum Passes, school outreach, and homebound delivery
- Support access to technology (computers, printing, scanning) and other learning tools

Your gift through this annual giving campaign will help us respond to emerging needs, expand collections, pilot new services, and more. Your generosity will help make it possible.



## Ways to Give

- Online at [mgpl.org/support](https://mgpl.org/support)
- Check made payable to "Morton Grove Public Library"

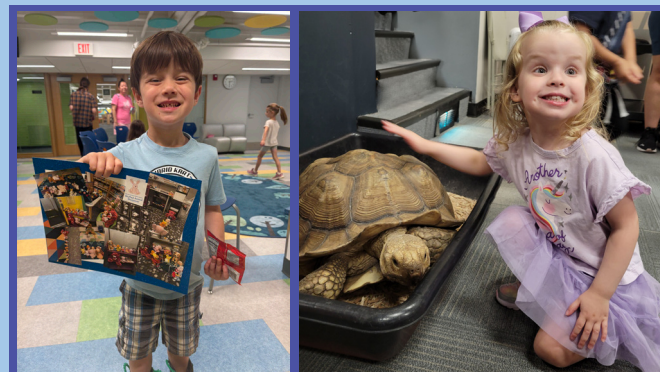


### Are you, your trust, or business only able to donate to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations?

We have you covered! Though MGPL is not a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we are still able to accept donations through the Illinois Library Association's "Fund for Illinois Libraries." The process is a bit different but easy to follow:

- Make checks payable to Illinois Library Association. Please write "Morton Grove Public Library" in the memo line.
- Send checks to:  
Illinois Library Association  
560 W. Washington Blvd., Ste 330  
Chicago, IL 60661

All gifts are tax-deductible as permitted by law.





6140 Lincoln Avenue  
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2989

#### Library Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm  
Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm  
Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm  
Sunday, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

#### Online

Website: [mgpl.org](http://mgpl.org)  
Events: [mgpl.org/events](http://mgpl.org/events)  
Catalog: [catalog.mgpl.org](http://catalog.mgpl.org)

#### Phone

Main: 847-965-4220

#### Email

Adult & Teen Services: [info@mgpl.org](mailto:info@mgpl.org)  
Youth Services: [ysinfo@mgpl.org](mailto:ysinfo@mgpl.org)  
Check-Out Desk: [circinfo@mgpl.org](mailto:circinfo@mgpl.org)

#### Social Media



#### PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY

Attendance at Library programs constitutes consent to be photographed or videotaped for Library purposes. If you or your child do not wish to be photographed or videotaped, please notify staff.

#### SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Patrons needing special assistance should call 847-965-4220 or email [info@mgpl.org](mailto:info@mgpl.org).

#### CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

Events are subject to change and may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Call the Library at 847-965-4220 to confirm scheduled events.

#### LIBRARY CLOSINGS

December 24 and 25 for Christmas  
December 31 closing at 5 pm for  
New Year's Eve  
January 1 for New Year's Day

#### Vol. 49, No. 6

MGPL's newsletter is published six times a year.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pam Leffler

#### LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Emily Macejak, President  
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Mohammed Hussain  
Tamara Jost  
Kim Moldofsky

The Board meets on the second  
Thursday of every month at 7 pm.



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Permit No. 28

## ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

### LIBRARY UPDATES

It's been another exciting year at MGPL! From great programs to new services, there's a lot to celebrate. Here are a few library updates and highlights from 2025.

#### Library Renovations Continue

In mid-October we started the next round of library renovations, this time focusing on the east side of the building. We gutted the multi-stall bathrooms, abated the asbestos in the mastic previously used for installation of carpet tiles, and started re-laying out the new bathrooms. We hope that by the time you receive this issue, the flooring has been laid on the east stairs leading down to the lower level and the carpet installed in the east entrance, up to the Info East Desk.

This will leave one last project for this round of renovations: recarpeting the Baxter Auditorium. This project is set to begin in January 2026 and will take up to four weeks. Because of this, the Baxter Auditorium will not be available for events. You may notice a lighter event calendar in January. Regularly scheduled events that take place in this room have been cancelled or moved online or to the Activity Room. Please check our online calendar for those details. For more information about the renovations and for updates throughout the project, go to [mgpl.org/library-renovations](http://mgpl.org/library-renovations).

#### Passport Services

The Library became an official passport acceptance facility in October 2024. Since then we have processed over 700 applications. Through this service we help submit your DS-11 form (for new passports) and verify required documents. We can take your passport photo too. For more information and to schedule your appointment, go to [mgpl.org/passports](http://mgpl.org/passports).

#### New Trustee

At a special board meeting at the end of June, the Library Board appointed a new trustee to fill the seat of Trustee Laima Puzzo, who retired after seven years of service. We warmly welcome Iliana Gonzalez, whose term will run through April 2027. Learn more about our newest Board Member at [mgpl.org](http://mgpl.org).

