

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 IN REVIEW

You sure kept us busy in 2025!
Let's look back at the stats for
one great year

323,205 Total Checkouts



243,598

physical materials
checked out



79,607

digital materials
checked out



116,140

total visitors



38,948

questions answered
at the public desks



9,529

hours
study rooms
were used



15,577

computer
sessions



774

passport
appointments



241

license plate
renewals



1,135

events
scheduled



25,864

people attended
our events

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, February 2 and March 2, 6:30–7 pm

Wednesdays, February 18 and March 18, 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, February 4–18 and March 4–18
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

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

Family Storytime

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Saturdays, February 7 and March 7, 10–10:45 am

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

REGISTRATION begins January 15 for February events and February 15 for March events unless otherwise noted.

Valentine's Day Storytime

Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursday, February 12, 10-10:45 am
Join us for stories, songs, and rhymes all about friendship and love. Then make a fizzy heart craft! **R**

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Storytime

Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursday, March 5
10-10:45 am

Join us for a picture book celebration including stories, songs, and a craft. 1000 Books participants and newcomers are welcome. Books from storytime can be added to your log!



Mathematics Circus

Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver

Sundays, February 15 and March 15, 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**

Ready, Set, Alphabet

Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver

Saturday, February 21, 10-10:45 am

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



Motor Skills Morning

Ages 18-36 months with a parent/caregiver

Wednesdays, February 25 and March 25
10-10:45 am

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

Tots Dealing with Big Feelings Storytime

Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursday, March 19, 10-10:45 am

We'll talk about managing feelings through stories, songs, and activities and leave this storytime with strategies to handle emotions that can be overwhelming. This session's feeling focus: Happiness. **R**



Cuddle Bugs Baby Massage

Birth to 24 months with a parent/caregiver

Saturday, March 28
10-11 am

Explore the health benefits and techniques of infant massage, stretching, and aromatherapy with certified infant massage instructor, Loredana Tomasello. This class will also include information on toddler techniques and parental self-care. **R**



Mini Music Makers

Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver

Thursdays, February 26 and March 26
10-10:45 am

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



REGISTRATION begins January 15 for February events and February 15 for March events unless otherwise noted.

Drop-in Craft: Make Your Own Valentines

All Ages

Sunday, February 1 through

Saturday, February 14

Stop in the Library between February 1 and 14 to create as many Valentine's Day cards as you would like!



Middle School Hangout

Grades 5-8 (Ages 10-14)

Tuesdays, February 3 and March 3, 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

Thursdays, February 5 and March 5, 6:30-7:30 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.



Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles

Monday, February 16, 2-3 pm

An up-close, hands-on presentation featuring live reptiles and amphibians from around the world.

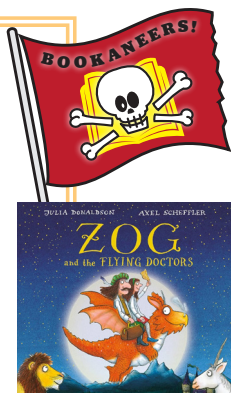
BOOKANEERS!

Grades K-2

Wednesday, February 11

4:30-5:30 pm

Join us for a book adventure! We'll read a book out loud then create props to act out exciting parts of the story together. This month's featured story is *Zog and the Flying Doctors* by Julia Donaldson. **R**



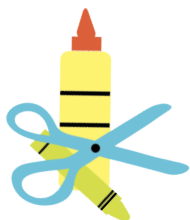
Crafty Saturday

All Ages

Saturdays, February 14 and March 14

9:30 am-4:30 pm

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



Puzzles & Prose

Family

Saturdays, February 14 and
March 14, 2–4 pm

Drop in for a relaxing afternoon
doing jigsaw puzzles and
listening to audiobooks.
February's story is *Flora &
Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo.
April's story is *Wedgie & Gizmo*
by Suzanne Selfors.



Family Crafting

All Ages

Monday, February 16, 6:30–7:30 pm: Desserts

Saturday, March 21, 10–11 am: Spring

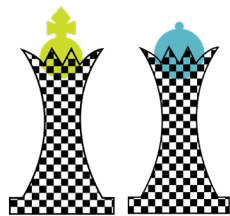
Drop in with the whole family to make fun crafts.
Projects are intended for ages 3–10, though younger
children with a grown-up and older children are
welcome to participate.

Chess Academy

Grades 1–8

Thursdays, February 19
and March 19
7–8 pm

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



LitLoot Middle School

Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–14)

March 1–14

LitLoot is a free literary
subscription box filled
with a custom selected
library book and other
goodies. To subscribe to March's box,
register between March 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**

LitLoot
Middle School

Read to a Rainbow Dog

Grades 1–5

Tuesday, March 10, 6:30–7:30 pm

Trained therapy dogs patiently listen
to your child as they read
from a book of their choice.
Participants should be able
to read independently
for their full 15-minute
session. To register, visit
the Youth Services Desk
or call 847-965-4220 x2. **R**



Goofball Science Club

Grades 5–8

Friday, February 20 and Tuesday, March 24
4:30–5:30 pm

Join us for a middle school hangout
where we do the fun parts of science
experiments. In February, we're
building ball runs. In March, we're
making push puppets. **R**



Family Engineering Night

All Ages

Thursdays, 7–8 pm

February 26: Bubble Window

March 26: Cranky Birds

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**

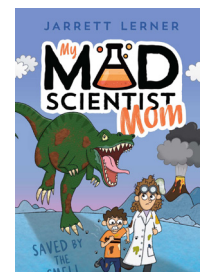
Family Reads

Grades 1–3

Wednesday, March 11

6:30–7:15 pm

Read the book of the month,
*My Mad Scientist Mom: Saved
by the Smell* by Jarrett Lerner
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 February 1. After you
register, pick up your free copy of the book
of the month at the Youth Services Desk. **R**





Jr. Puzzle Gauntlet

Grades 1-3

Thursday, March 12, 4:30-5:30 pm

Puzzle Gauntlet

Grades 4-8

Wednesday, March 18, 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**



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. When life gives you lemons, make STEMonade.



R = Registration is required

LitLoot

Grades 9-12

February 1-9

LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other free goodies. Subscribe to February's box at 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**



EARN SERVICE HOURS

Teen Volunteer Drop-in

Mondays, February 2 and March 2, 6-8 pm

Students grade 9-12 can drop-in and earn community service hours for completing fun and meaningful tasks. No registration is required.

Scholarships, Grants, and Loans

(Online)

Thursday, February 5, 5:30-6:30 pm

This workshop will provide insider information on college cost-reduction strategies such as scholarships, grants, and loans to help make your college planning both successful and affordable. **R**



We challenge you to read 100 books before graduating high school and win big along the way! Participants will receive raffle prizes and rewards for various book milestones. To sign up and learn more visit mgpl.org/100books.

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

Wednesdays, February 4 and March 4, 10–11 am
Socialize as you play. Small prizes will be awarded to those who Bingo!

Arts and Crafts

Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am
February 11: Valentine's Day Coasters
March 11: Stained Glass Watercolor
Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project.

Trivia

Wednesdays, 10–11 am
February 18: Romantic Comedies
March 18: Oscar Season
Test your knowledge of iconic moments in history and pop culture.

Wits Workout

Wednesdays, February 25 and March 25, 10–11 am
Maintain and enhance your cognitive function and memory with this interactive event.

Project Management 101 - Part 2 (Online)

Tuesday, February 3, 7–8 pm
Join us for Part 2 of our project management series. PMI-certified instructor Michael Spilg will give a beginner-friendly introduction to using AI tools like ChatGPT to boost project productivity. Learn key concepts—from prompt engineering to bias awareness—plus recommended resources to continue your learning. No prior experience is required. **R**

ESL

games and gab
(conversation)

Fraturdays, February 6 and March 6, 10–11 am
Practice your English conversation skills while playing games. **R**

Intro to Machine Sewing

Saturday, February 7, 2–4:30 pm
Sewing expert Mike Hall will go over all the basics of setting up and using a sewing machine. Sewing machines and supplies will be provided. **R**

Evening Craft for Adults and Teens

Tuesdays, 6–7:30 pm
February 10: Valentine's Day Coasters
March 10: Stained Glass Watercolor
Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project. **R**

Medicine Cabinet Essentials

Thursday, February 12, 2–3 pm
Join Aaron Oliver, PharmD as he discusses over-the-counter medications everyone should have in their medicine cabinet and how to properly store them. **R**

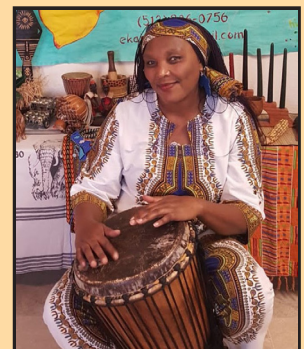


African Art and Folktales

(Online)

Thursday, February 12
7–8 pm

This virtual program led by Kenyan educator and storyteller Elizabeth Kahura will celebrate African American Heritage Month by bringing Africa's history to life through stories, cultural artifacts, and interactive activities. **R**



Healthy Living

Chair Yoga

Fridays, February 13, February 20, and March 13
9:30–10:30 am (In Person)

Led by certified yoga instructor Joan McGee.

Fridays, February 27 and March 27

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, February 14 and 28, March 14 and 28
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**

The Life of Bessie Coleman

Sunday, February 15, 2–3 pm

Bessie Coleman, portrayed by her great niece Gigi Coleman, shares her experiences which led her to become the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license. **R**



Online Night with a Museum: Lake Placid Olympic Museum (Online)

Tuesday, February 17, 7–8 pm

Learn how the Lake Placid Olympic Museum preserves and celebrates the legacy of the 1980 Winter Games. Join us for an engaging look at the history and impact of this iconic Olympic community. **R**

Echoes of Hiroshima, A Survivor's Story (Online)

Thursday, February 26, 7–8 pm

Join us for a moving program commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. This event pays tribute to nuclear war while sharing a message of peace. **R**

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Saturday, February 21, 10 am–12 pm

Refresh your jigsaw puzzle collection by swapping one of your gently used ones for a new-to-you puzzle. Choose one puzzle for each one you bring. Puzzles must be complete, at least 500 pieces, and in the original box. Drop off puzzles at the Info Desk starting on Saturday, February 14.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Sunday, February 22, 2–4 pm

Teams of up to four can test their skills by racing to complete a 500-piece puzzle. All puzzles are the same, and no one may see the puzzle until the timer starts. Have one person from your team register. **R**



Exploring Spices (Online)

Spice: Ground Turmeric

Sunday, February 22, 2–3 pm
(pickup starts February 1)

Explore spices from around the world in this flavorful and seasonal event. Pick up the spice sample and then explore the taste by making any dish of your choice. At the end of the month, we will meet over Zoom to share results and experiences. **R**



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

Tuesday, February 24, 7–8 pm

The record-breaking author of *Goosebumps* and *Fear Street* discusses his illustrious and ever-growing body of work with horror expert Becky Spratford. **R**

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



MOVIES

Oscar Prediction Ballots

Friday, February 6
through
Friday, March 13

Pick up an Oscar ballot at the
Info Desks and guess the winning
movies for a chance to win a
movie theater gift card.



MGPL After Dark: *Wicked: For Good*

Friday, March 13, 6:30–9 pm

Watch this critically acclaimed film, enjoy complimentary popcorn, and have a chance to win door prizes. As an angry mob rises against the Wicked Witch, she'll need to reunite with Glinda to transform herself, and all of Oz, for good. (2025, PG, 2 hr 30 min). This event is also the last chance to fill out an Oscar prediction ballot.



INDIE MOVIE NIGHT

Little Forest

Wednesday, February 4
6–7:45 pm

A young woman grows tired of life in the city and returns to her hometown in the countryside. (2018, Korean, PG-13, 1 hr 45 min) **R**



Hamlet

Wednesday, March 4, 6–8 pm

Shakespeare's classic tragedy is reimagined for the modern day as a gripping psychological thriller with Sir Ian McKellen reprising his lead role as Hamlet. (2024, NR, 2 hr) **R**



TUESDAY MOVIES @ MGPL

I Am Big Bird: The Carol Spinney Story

Tuesday, February 3
10–10:30 am

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

Tuesday, March 10
10 am–12 pm

Race

Tuesday, February 10
10 am–12:15 pm

Leap Year

Tuesday, March 17
10–11:45 am

Mission Impossible - The Final Reckoning

Tuesday, February 17
10 am–12:45 pm

Freakier Friday

Tuesday, March 24
10 am–12 pm

Dial M for Murder

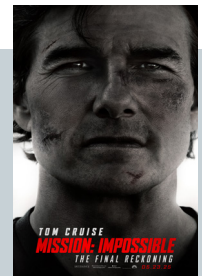
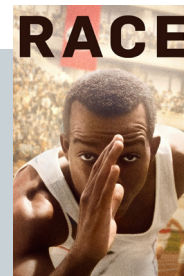
Tuesday, February 24
10–11:45 am

Legally Blonde

Tuesday, March 31
10–11:30 am

The Naked Gun

Tuesday, March 3
10–11:30 am



AI 101

Thursday, February 26, 2–3 pm

Join author and educator Theresa Benson (The AI Quilter) for a thoughtful, myth-busting introduction to AI. Learn how tools like ChatGPT and image generators function and the ethical and creative concerns that surround their use. **R**

Because I Matter: Breast Cancer Education

Thursday, March 5, 2–3:30 pm

Community Health Educator and MammaCare® certified BSE instructor Sophia Ottomaneli will provide the latest information on breast cancer and teach the MammaCare® Method, the recognized standard for performing breast self-examination. **R**



Brush Calligraphy: Basics

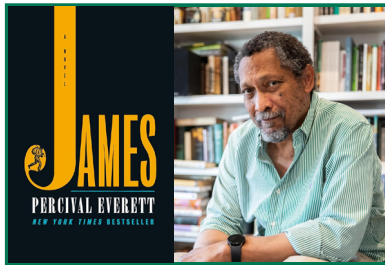
Saturday, March 7, 10–11:30 am

Learn how to write with a brush pen by practicing basic strokes and the lowercase alphabet with Audrey Ra of Audrey Ra Design. Beginners welcome! **R**

Joyous Japan

Thursday, March 12, 2–3 pm

Using vivid storytelling and original photography, world traveler Brian Michalski retraces his unforgettable five-week journey through Japan, from cherry blossoms and Shinkansen rides to remarkable cuisine, culture, and local encounters. **R**



Beyond the Page with Percival Everett (Online)

Thursday, March 19, 7–8 pm

Join us for a virtual interview with Percival Everett, the 2025 Pulitzer Prize winner and one of the most inventive, fearless voices in contemporary fiction. Explore his novels, his creative process, and the stories behind his most celebrated books. **R**

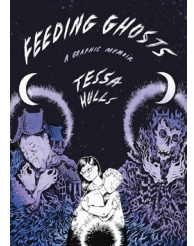
This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a state-wide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

Book Discussion Groups

Readpool: Adult Graphic Novel Discussion Group (Online)

Feeding Ghosts
by Tessa Hulls

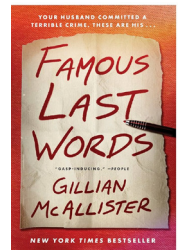
Monday, February 23, 7–8 pm **R**



Between the Lines

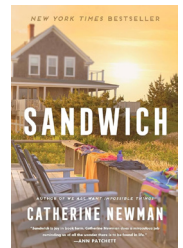
Famous Last Words
by Gillian McAllister

Thursday, February 19, 10–11 am (In Person)
Tuesday, February 24, 7–8 pm (Online)



Sandwich
by Catherine Newman

Thursday, March 19
10–11 am (In Person)
Tuesday, March 24
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

A Sitting in St. James
by Rita Williams-Garcia

Wednesday, February 11
7:30–9 pm

Half Life
by Jillian Cantor

Wednesday, March 11
7:30–9 pm



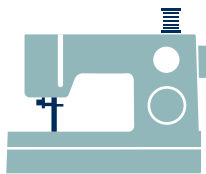
Meets monthly at the Skokie Public Library Cosmos Room.

Sew a Zippered Pouch

Sunday, March 22, 2–4:30 pm

Sewing expert Mike Hall will teach the basic sewing machine stitches used to construct a zippered pouch. Sewing machines and supplies will be provided.

Prior sewing machine experience is required. **R**



Concert: Erik Donner's Oldies Show

Sunday, March 29

2–3 pm

Join us for a rocking set paying tribute to Erik's father, influential 60's musician Ral Donner, as well as legendary artists Elvis, Buddy Holly, Johnny Cash, and more. **R**



Computers and Technology

Cut the Cable Cord

Thursday, February 5, 10–11 am

Tired of overpriced cable TV services? Learn about popular video streaming services and devices used to stream content. **R**

Android Phones for Beginners

Monday, March 9, 2–3:30 pm

Learn how to manage settings, discover hidden features, and more on your Android phone. Bring your Android device and login information. **R**

iPhones for Beginners

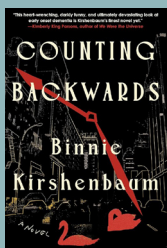
Thursday, March 19, 2–3:30 pm

Learn how to manage settings, discover hidden features, and more on your iPhone. Bring your Apple device and login information. **R**

Civic Engagement Book Picks

Visit 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.

Disability Awareness

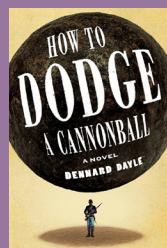


Counting Backwards
by Binnie Kirshenbaum

Antiracism



Original Sins
by Eve Ewing



*How to Dodge
a Cannonball*
by Dennard Dayle

Immigrants & Refugees



The Persians
by Sanam Mahloudji

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
Events: mgpl.org/events
Catalog: catalog.mgpl.org

Phone

Main: 847-965-4220

Email

Adult & Teen Services: info@mgpl.org
Youth Services: ysinfo@mgpl.org
Check-Out Desk: 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.

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.



**MORTON GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Introducing

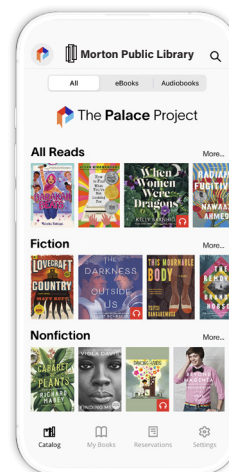
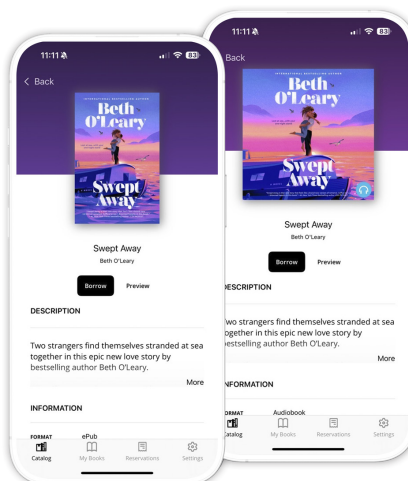


The Palace Project

We are happy to introduce our newest digital resource for e-books and audiobooks, The Palace Project. In early December 2025, the eRead Illinois collection (previously available through the Boundless app) transitioned to this new app, which offers over 32,000 titles. You are allowed up to 5 checkouts at a time, with a 14-day loan period.

Dive into a vast collection of ebooks and audiobooks, ranging from classic novels to the latest bestsellers. Whether you're into romance, mystery, nonfiction, or science fiction we have something for everyone.

To get started, download The Palace Project app via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If you have any questions, please contact the Library at 847-965-4220x1. Happy reading!



MGPL Download & Stream

Vol. 50, No. 1

MGPL's newsletter is published six times a year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pam Leffler

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Emily Macejak, President
Joanne Pelletier, Secretary
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Iliana Gonzalez
Mohammed Hussain
Tamara Jost
Kim Moldofsky

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