



**OUR MISSION:**

Together we create a welcoming community that empowers everyone to learn, connect, create, and grow.

connect



MahometPublicLibrary.org



staff@mahometpubliclibrary.org



217-586-2611



mahometpubliclibrary.org/chat OR text your message to 447-442-1898



Monday-Thursday: 9 am-8 pm  
Friday: 9 am-6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am-5 pm  
Sunday: 1-5 pm



1702 E Oak St. Mahomet, IL 61853



Mahomet Public Library



# THE LIBRARY BOOKLET



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# DREAMING

# of the FUTURE

## WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S LIBRARY BUILDING

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

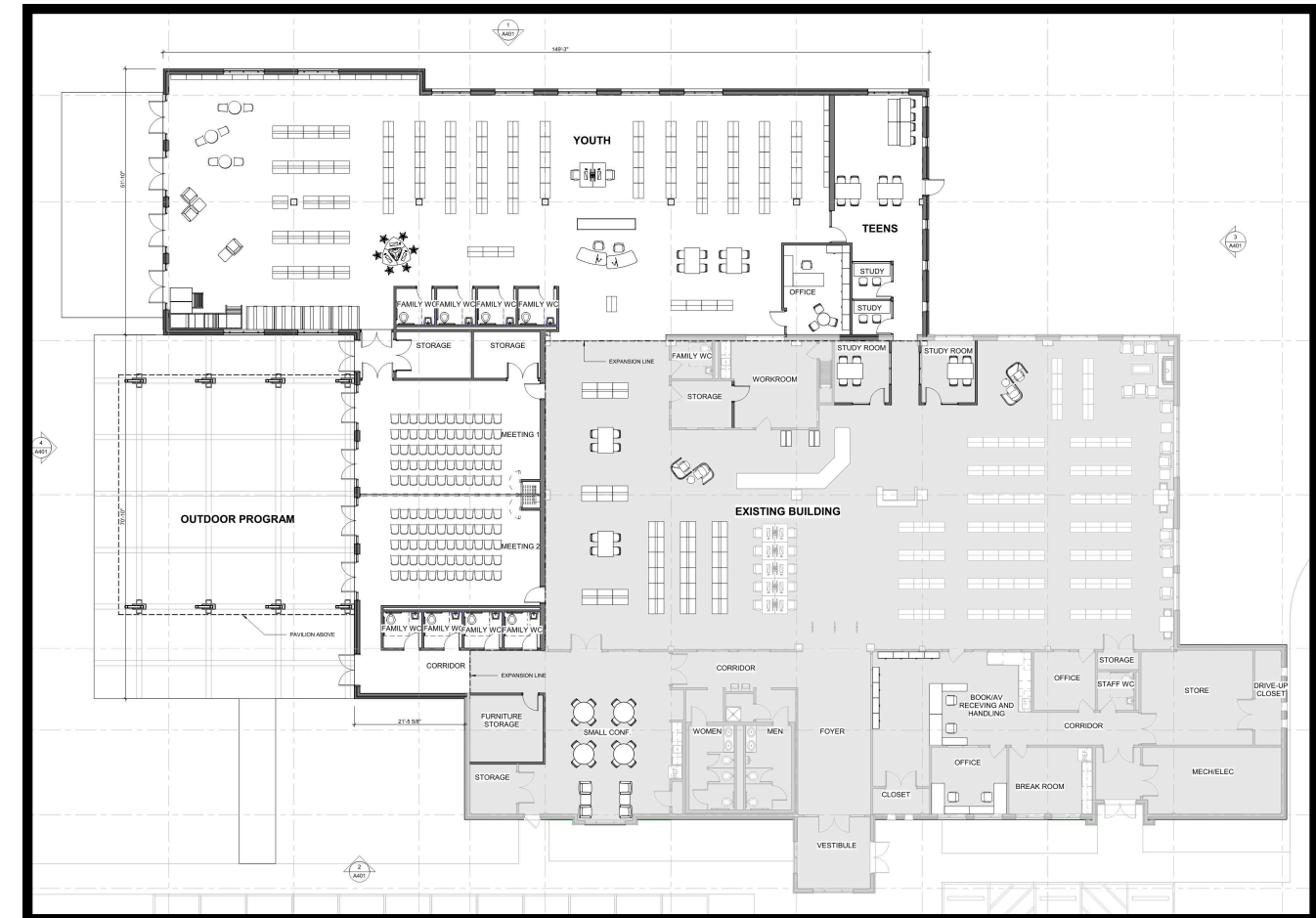
The Library moved into its current building on Highway 150 in 2010. In 2007, as part of the planning for this building, a consultant advised the Library Board of Trustees that, based on the population and expected growth, a building of 26,000 square feet was needed. The initial plan presented to the community was for a building of that size, but in the end, the taxpayers approved funding for a 13,300 square foot building. That is the building you see today.

While the building is a beautiful structure, which has held up well in its first 14 years, population growth and the heavy usage of the building have made expansion necessary. Some of the issues we've experienced include:

- The children's area is jam-packed with kids and their adults, especially after programs.
- Demand for the meeting room and study room far exceeds the capacity of our existing rooms.
- Difficulty in providing quiet workspaces for those wanting to study.
- Library shelves filled to capacity – while the total size of our physical collections barely exceeds the "minimal" standard for our population size, according to state standards.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, library users showed enthusiasm for programming held outdoors. Unfortunately, we have little shade for such events.

## FLOOR PLAN FOR PHASES 1-3

Areas in grey indicate existing Library; White areas indicate new spaces



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2019, the Board of Trustees and staff began a wide-ranging process to determine the greatest needs for a library building designed to grow with the community over the next 20+ years. A four phase plan came out of several meetings with the library consultant and architects. These phases include:

- **Phase 1:** New Children's Library and Teen Space
- **Phase 2:** Large Dividable Meeting Room
- **Phase 3:** Covered Outdoor Patio/Program Space
- **Phase 4:** Expansion of Adults Stacks and Teen Space

The following pages show and provide information about the Board's vision for these spaces.



VIEW FROM THE MAIN ENTRANCE AFTER THE EXPANSION

## Phase 1: Children's Library & Teen Space

The largest and most prominent part of the expansion will be a new 7200 sq. ft. Children's Library with a dedicated Teen Room. The children's area is the most heavily used, and most crowded area, in our existing Library. The new space will have more room for children to read and participate in activities, and a glass wall will separate this area from the main body of the Library. The wall will help reduce sound in the rest of the Library. This space will take up a new wing located north of the existing children's area.



### DEDICATED TEEN ROOM

Libraries across the country have found that making a dedicated space especially for teens makes it far more likely that teens will use the library. We want our community's teens to know that we welcome them and that we have a friendly space for them to use.

The portion of the main Library where our Teen Space currently sits will be redesigned to offer a second study room. This study room will be open to the whole community.



## Phase 2: Large, Dividable Meeting Room



The Edgar Room, our only meeting room, is booked daily for library programs and public use, often hosting multiple events in a single day. Phase 2 features the addition of a significantly larger meeting room that can be subdivided into two rooms, which will double the number of groups we can serve.

The area that is currently the Edgar Room will become a social space for the community – a warm and welcoming room with comfortable chairs and lots of sunlight where the public can visit or have informal meetings such as bible studies or book clubs. This room will also offer a place to eat and drink while being productive.



## Phase 3: Patio & Outdoor Programming Space



One lesson that we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic is that our patrons really enjoy outdoor programming during warm weather months.. Unfortunately, the Library just doesn't have any shade to offer protection from the sun during these events. Phase 3 includes a covered outdoor patio with space for programs, concerts, and even studying outdoors.

Our current goal is to complete the first three phases of this project all at once. Phase 4 is expected to take place at some point in the future, as funding allows. This phase includes an expansion of the adult collection space, seven new 1-2 person study rooms along the eastern wall, and an expansion of the teen area to include additional study space for teens.

## Phase 4: Adult Stacks & Teen Space Expansion & Study Room Addition

## Status of Expansion & Expected Funding

How and when we move forward on this project currently depends on the Public Library Construction Grant Act program, managed by the Illinois State Library. Through this grant program, our library could receive up to 43% of the project cost from the State of Illinois.

In both 2022 and 2023, the Library submitted a grant application focusing on Phases 1-3. Both years, we were notified that while we qualified for the grant, we would not receive it because no funding had been appropriated to the program that year. We recently submitted the application again for 2024. (This program is in a similar cycle prior to 2019. When the legislature did appropriate funds in 2019, the libraries who had repeatedly applied were the first to be funded.) Assuming a successful state grant, the Library Board plans to fund the project in the following way:

<b>Expected Total Cost of Expansion:</b>	<b>\$7,400,000</b>
<b>Planned Sources of Funding (Estimated):</b>	
State Construction Grant	\$2,750,000
Library Reserves	\$750,000
Donations from Individuals	\$1,500,000
Bonds Raised with Referendum	\$2,400,000

The Board believes it can fund these needed improvements while asking local taxpayers for less than one third of the overall cost. Due to the structure of existing financing, we expect that the bonds for this program could be done with no increase in tax rates, or a very minimal increase.

For more information, or if you would like to help, please reach out to John Howard, Library Director ([director@mahometpubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@mahometpubliclibrary.org)) or Kevin Kelsey, Board of Trustees President ([kkelsey@mahometpubliclibrary.org](mailto:kkelsey@mahometpubliclibrary.org)).

# ALL AGES PROGRAMS

## SCHOOL'S OUT! ICE DADDY'S PARTY

Tuesday, May 21 | 1:30-3:30 pm



School's out, and the fun begins! Let's celebrate with free frozen Ice Daddy's treats for kids, courtesy of Classic Plumbing. Don't forget to get signed up for summer reading!

**All ages. No registration. Free treats for kids only.**



## ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Monday, June 3 | 10:00-11:00 am



Embark on a global adventure! Encounter captivating live animals from six continents with Sharon and Dan Peterson of Incredible Bats. Witness the wonders of nature and get up close with select creatures after the presentation. Don't miss this wild experience for children of all ages!

**All ages. No registration required.**

## SPY SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

Saturday, May 25 | 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Get ready for the ultimate summer kickoff bash! We'll have an "I Spy" themed walk from Barber Park to the Library, inflatables, carnival games, face painting, music, summer reading sign-up, and more! Free food (hot dogs and chips) will begin at 11:00 am, until we run out.

**All ages. No registration required.**

### PREMIER SPONSORS:



This event supports your community through the Rotary Club of Mahomet and the Friends of the Library.

## MOVIE ON THE LAWN

Saturday, June 29 &  
July 27 | 7:00-10:00 pm



Join us for summer nights of fun and films! Enjoy outdoor games and treats from Ice Daddy's at 7 pm. The movie starts around 8:30 pm, when it gets dark! You're also welcome to bring your own snacks, and lawn chairs or picnic blankets.

**June 29: Super Mario Bros**

**July 15: Finding Nemo**

**All ages. No registration required.**

## FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT! CARDBOARD CAKE DECORATING CONTEST

Saturday, June 1 | 10:00 am OR 1:00 pm



Get ready to craft and conquer! Join our cardboard cake decorating challenge, where teams of up to five will have 60 minutes to transform ordinary materials into a beautiful cake. Win a delicious prize! Register for either the morning or afternoon competition. Don't have a team? We'll pair you up! Children 10 and under, register with an adult teammate.

**Teams of up to 5. Registration required.**

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, July 21 | 2:00-4:00 pm



Get ready for a scoop of community appreciation! Join us for an ice cream social hosted by the Library's Board of Trustees. Enjoy free ice cream (and toppings!) and connect with the leaders dedicated to serving your Library. A sweet celebration awaits!

**All ages. No registration required.**

# FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS

weekly summer fun for all ages!

## 10:00-11:30 AM\* AT THE LIBRARY

### JUNE



**DIY BUBBLE  
WANDS**  
and bubble party on  
the Library Lawn!



**DIY SENSORY  
BOTTLES**  
Unleash your  
creativity while  
exploring the  
soothing world of  
sensory play!



**REMARKABLE  
REPTILES\***  
presented by the  
Homer Lake  
Interpretive Center



**LIVE CONCERT\***  
presented by  
children's musician  
Marko Polo

### JULY



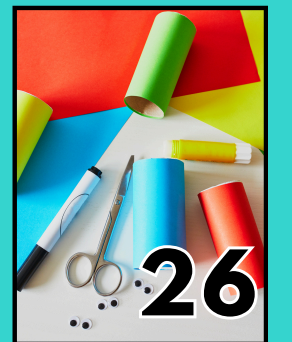
**DIY BINOCULARS  
& NATURE WALK  
FLOWER POTS**  
Make your own  
binoculars and  
scavenger hunt flower  
pot for your next  
nature adventure!



**TRASH TO FUN:  
DIY RECYCLED  
TOYS**  
Turn trash into  
treasure! Transform  
them into toys to  
play with!



**FIRE AND ICE  
SCIENCE SHOW\***  
by Absolute Science;  
Explore the coolest  
and hottest  
experiments that will  
blow your mind and  
ignite your passion  
for science!



**TRASH TO ART:  
CREATIVE  
RE-USE ART**  
Unleash your inner  
artist! Turn ordinary  
trash into art  
masterpieces!

\*Marked programs end at 11:00 am.



# SUMMER READING

MAY 21 - AUGUST 1

## • KIDS •

### BIRTH TO FIFTH GRADE

- 1) Use your reading log to track your minutes read and earn beads for your brag tag! Finish your whole log and receive a **FREE BOOK, Monicals coupon, and star to put up on the wall** in the children's area.
- 2) Earn stickers for your badge book full of bonus reading challenges. Complete all the challenges to get a **water bottle or tote bag**.

## • COMMUNITY • PRIZES

### HELP US "UNLOCK" PRIZES FOR EVERYONE!

- 1) Download the "Reader Zone" app or log in on their website.
- 2) Enter your total number of minutes read.
- 3) If the community reads a certain number of minutes in total, we will unlock the following special community prizes:

- **25,000 Minutes:** Rainbow Doodle Tablets
- **50,000 Minutes:** Duplo LEGO Table
- **100,000 Minutes:** Yoto Players
- **175,000 Minutes:** Mini Golf in the Library

## • TEENS • SIXTH TO NINTH GRADE

- 1) Use your reading log to track your minutes read.
- 2) Finish your whole log and receive a **FREE BOOK and Monicals coupon**.

## • ADULTS • TENTH GRADE AND UP

For every 10 hours you read, fill out a **raffle ticket** for a chance to win a gift card from a local business!

More information: [www.mahometpubliclibrary.org/events/summerreading](http://www.mahometpubliclibrary.org/events/summerreading)

# KIDS PROGRAMS

## STORYTIME

Tuesdays & Wednesdays (Tuesday, June 4 - Wednesday, July 31)

- Baby Storytime:** Tuesdays, 9:30 am (ages 0-18 months)
- All Ages Storytime:** Wednesdays, 10 am (ages 0-5 years)



## STORYTIME: WEEKEND EDITION

Saturday, June 22 & July 27 | 9:30-10:30 am

Children and families are welcome to join us for an all ages-style storytime featuring rhymes, songs, and books, followed by a fun, themed craft!

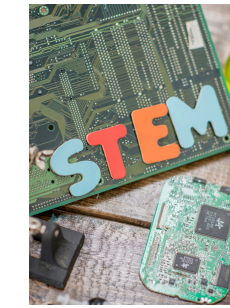
## ADVENTURES IN ART

Every other Tuesday (June 4 & 18, July 2, 16, 30) | 3:30-4:30 pm

- Make an art project at the Library to take home! Each meeting, we'll make a new project.
- June 4:** DIY stamps
  - June 18:** Beaded windchime
  - July 2:** 3D doodlebug
  - July 16:** Popsicle stick lantern
  - July 30:** Shrinky dinks
- Grades 2-5. Registration required.**

## SUSTAINABLE STEM

Every other Wednesday (June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24) | 3:30-4:30 pm



Come put your STEM skills to work! At each session, we will tackle a fun STEM project that emphasizes sustainability and taking care of the environment.

- June 12:** Bug hotel
- June 26:** Seed paper
- July 10:** Recycled lava lamps
- July 24:** Ocean clean-up challenge

**Grades 2-5. Registration required.**

## TAKE & MAKE KITS FOR KIDS

Beginning June 24 & July 29



Take home a craft kit each month! Kits will include instructions and supplies for a craft.

- June:** DIY Freeze Pop Sleeves
- July:** Popsicle Stick Airplanes

**Suggested age range: 6-12. First come, first served. While supplies last.**

## GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Friday, June 28 & July 26 | 4:00-5:00 pm



Calling all graphic novel enthusiasts! Join us as we read and discuss a set graphic novel at each book club session. Participants are welcome to bring and/or talk about other graphic novels they've enjoyed.

- June:** *Hilo the Boy Who Crashed to Earth* by Judd Winick
  - July:** *Saving Sunshine* by Saadia Faruqi
- Agnes 8-13. Registration required.**

# ADULT PROGRAMS

## ADULT CRAFT CONNECTION

### ADULT TAKE & MAKE KITS

Beginning May 28, June 24, & July 29



Pick up a kit with supplies and instructions for a craft to make at home!

**May:** Clay pot mushroom

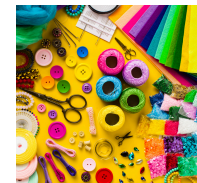
**June:** Beaded suncatcher

**July:** Reusable beeswax wrap

**Adults. First come, first served. While supplies last.**

### ADULT CRAFTERNOON

First Tuesdays (June 4 & July 2) | 1:00-2:00 pm



Craft with friends! Make a craft with supplies provided by the Library OR bring your own craft to work on!

**June:** Diamond painting

**July:** Bullet journaling

**Adults. No registration required.**

### STITCHING CIRCLE

Third Tuesdays (June 18 & July 16) | 1:00-2:30 pm



Enjoy a (new) crafty hobby and conversation! Bring your fiber arts project to the Library to work on while socializing with others. Beginners welcome.

**June:** Learn to crochet

**July:** Learn to knit

Some supplies will also be available for use.

**Adults. No registration required.**

### PEN TO PAPER: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 8 & July 20 | 2:00-3:30 pm



Get creative! This writing workshop is for all adult writers. Writers will have a chance to share their work and receive feedback from fellow writers. **Adults. Registration required.**

### YOGA ON THE LAWN

Thursday, June 13 & July 11 | 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 29 & July 27 | 9:30 am



Downward Facing Dog. Warrior Pose. Lotus Position. Join us for a session of yoga on the library lawn led by Certified Yoga Instructor Colleen Crawford.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### ROLE WITH IT! PLAY-READING GROUP

Sunday, July 14 | 2:00-4:30 pm



Join the Library's play-reading group for theatre enthusiasts! Enjoy a live reading of a full-length play. Participants will be assigned roles and receive a script at the meeting. This session, we'll read through the play *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

**Adults and Teens. Registration required.**

### PLANT SWAP

Saturday, July 20 | 11:00 am-12:00 pm



It's time for a plantastic exchange! Bring your beloved plants, rooted cuttings, and seeds to the Library. Share the plant love and take home some new leafy pals. Just remember to bring your plants in pots you're ready to bid farewell to, then let the "plant swap" commence!

**Adults. No registration required.**

## BOOK CLUBS

### COOKBOOK CLUB

Tuesday, June 4 | 6:00-7:30 pm



This book club is perfect for adults who enjoy cooking and sharing food together! This summer, choose one of your own favorite recipes to make and share with the group. All of these recipes will be made into a group cookbook that will be shared with all of the Cookbook Club participants!

**Adults. Registration required.**

### TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Second Tuesdays (June 11, July 9, August 13) | 6:30-8:00 pm



Join us each month at the Library as we discuss that month's great read!

**June 11:** *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutano

**July 9:** *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

**August 13:** *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer

**Adults. No registration required.**

# TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS

## TEEN CRAFTIVISTS

Thursday, June 6 & July 11 | 5:00-7:00 pm

Monday, June 24 & July 22 | 5:00-7:00 pm



Join us for an inspiring opportunity! Teens in grades 6-12 can unleash their creativity while making a difference in our community. Create art with purpose at each session, earning service hours with our librarian's approval. No service requirement? No problem! All are

welcome for purposeful fun. And, pizza will be served!

**June 6:** Fleece tie blankets

**June 24:** DIY greeting cards for seniors

**July 11:** Rock painting

**July 22:** Mini golf designs

**Grades 6-12. Registration required.**

## PAGE TURNERS: TWEEN BOOK CLUB

Thursday, June 13 & July 18 | 4:00-5:00 pm



Dive into captivating stories with our summer book club for students entering grades 5-7. There's a new adventure each month, so join us for a journey through thrilling tales and lively discussions!

**June 13:** *Every Soul a Star* by Wendy Mass

**July 18:** *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

**Grades 5-7. Registration required.**

# BEYOND *the* BOOKS

Everyone knows that you can check out books, movies, music, and audiobooks from the Library. But, they're not the only things to borrow!

## BOARD GAMES

Check out a board game or two from the Library and have a family or friend game night! Browse the games on the shelves behind the copier at the Library or request one through our catalog.

### Board Game Checkout Limitations:

- Patrons may check out up to 2 games at a time.
- You may keep the games for one week, with 3 renewals if no one else is waiting for the game.
- To request a board game, search our catalog and place a hold, or ask library staff for assistance.

## ROKU STREAMING STICKS

Each Roku Streaming Stick provides access to the following:

- One of our paid streaming services (Apple TV, BritBox, Disney+, HBO Max, Hulu, Netflix, Paramount+, or Peacock)
- PBS Kids
- The Roku Channel
- The Library's Movies Anywhere account, with access to hundreds of movie titles

### ROKU Streaming Stick Checkout Limitations:

- Mahomet Library cardholders only
- One streaming device PER HOUSEHOLD at a time
- You may check the device out for one week.
- There are no renewals.
- Overdue fines will accrue at \$1.00 per day.



## WONDERBOOKS

Follow along as the book reads to you! Wonderbooks are print books that have a built-in audio player. The players have two settings - reading and learning modes. Listen to the books with or without headphones. Both picture book and chapter book titles are available.

### Wonderbook Checkout Limitations:

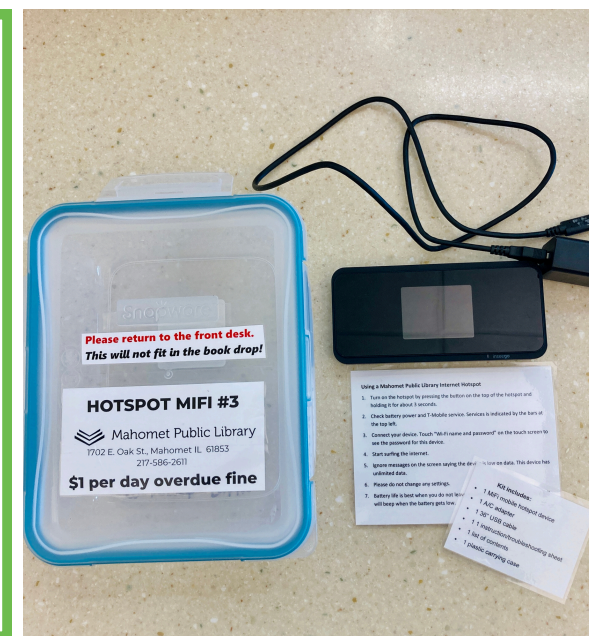
- These books may be checked out by any patron with a library card in our library system.
- You may check out the book for three weeks, with three renewals if no one else is waiting for the title.
- You may check out up to 20 titles at a time.
- Place a hold if the one you want is not available.
- There are no overdue fines.

## HOTSPOTS

Need internet on the road? Still trying to get internet set up at your house? The Library has five T-Mobile MiFi hotspots available for patrons to check out!

### Hotspot Checkout Limitations:

- Mahomet Library cardholders only
- You may check the device out for one week.
- There are no renewals.
- Hotspots are available on a first come, first served basis only. There are no holds.
- You and members of your household must wait 7 days between the time you return a hotspot device and check out another one.
- You may be blocked from checking out hotspots if you repeatedly return them late.
- Overdue fines will accrue at \$1.00 per day.



## NO LIBRARY CARD NEEDED: PUZZLE EXCHANGE TABLE

Looking for a new puzzle to do but don't want to buy one? Need something to do on a rainy or too-hot-to-be-outside day? Our puzzle table is perfect for you!

The puzzle table works like a Little Free Library: Take a puzzle and bring it back when you're finished with it. You can also donate puzzles for others to do. No library card required!

*Please note: Puzzle donations must be in their original puzzle box and have all the pieces.*



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR

love

To celebrate Library Lovers' Month in February, we initiated a campaign inviting patrons to share their love of the Library with us through a survey. You did not disappoint. The reviews were glowing! Specifically, you raved about our staff and our fun programs for all ages. You described Library staff members with words such as dedicated, friendly, outstanding, accommodating, welcoming, and knowledgeable. Your kind words truly resonate with us and inspire us to continue serving our community with passion. You sure know how to make our hearts flutter!



## CHAT WITH THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

### The Future of Our Library (and Libraries in General)



The opening pages of this issue show something very exciting – a planned expansion of our Library building. But, as we prepare to invest in this project, it brings up some fair questions.

- What is the future of Mahomet Public Library?
- Why is this expansion needed?
- Are libraries even needed anymore?

That's a lot to cover in one page but let me offer a few thoughts.

#### What is the future of Mahomet Public Library?

It is both the same as, and different than, the past. It is the same because we still foster literacy for all ages. Schools teach how to read; we support parents in getting kids ready to learn, and let children experience the joy of reading by choosing for themselves what excites them. Studies show that reading makes adults more empathetic and able to understand others. I LOVE movies, but only a book puts you inside the head of someone who lives a life very different than yours. Sharing information, making technology available, offering info on current events - all these goals are the same.

But many of those things have changed. People still want books and audiobooks, but now we let them download and read on their phones/devices. Movies as well. People used to come in to read the local newspaper. Now every Mahomet Library patron can read the News-Gazette and other papers online with their library card. We still do programming, but it has become an even bigger part of what we do. As an organization that serves the public, we try to be nimble and ready to try new things to achieve our mission more fully. I always love hearing suggestions and feedback about how we are doing.

#### Why is this expansion needed?

In short, it is because the Library is busier than ever, and in many ways, busier than it ever has been. Our circulation of books and other items, people through the door, and program attendance continue to grow. A few specifics:

- Several times per year, we have programs that burst out of the Edgar Meeting Room and leave people standing outside doors and in hallways trying to take part.
- Our children's area is packed after nearly every children's program. More than ever, children are asking their parents to bring them to the Library to play, do our scavenger hunt, and choose books. More space for our youth is our biggest need.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that people really like outdoor programming, and being outdoors gives us more space to accommodate lots of attendees.

#### Are libraries even needed anymore?

You know I am going to say yes. Across our nation, the demand for libraries and library services remains high. Libraries make information, technology resources, and access to reading available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. In many communities, libraries are becoming community centers where people meet. Whether you use it regularly or not, the Library is always here for you. And we are here to stay.