



connect



MahometPublicLibrary.org



staff@mahometpubliclibrary.org



217-586-2611



mahometpubliclibrary.org/chat



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



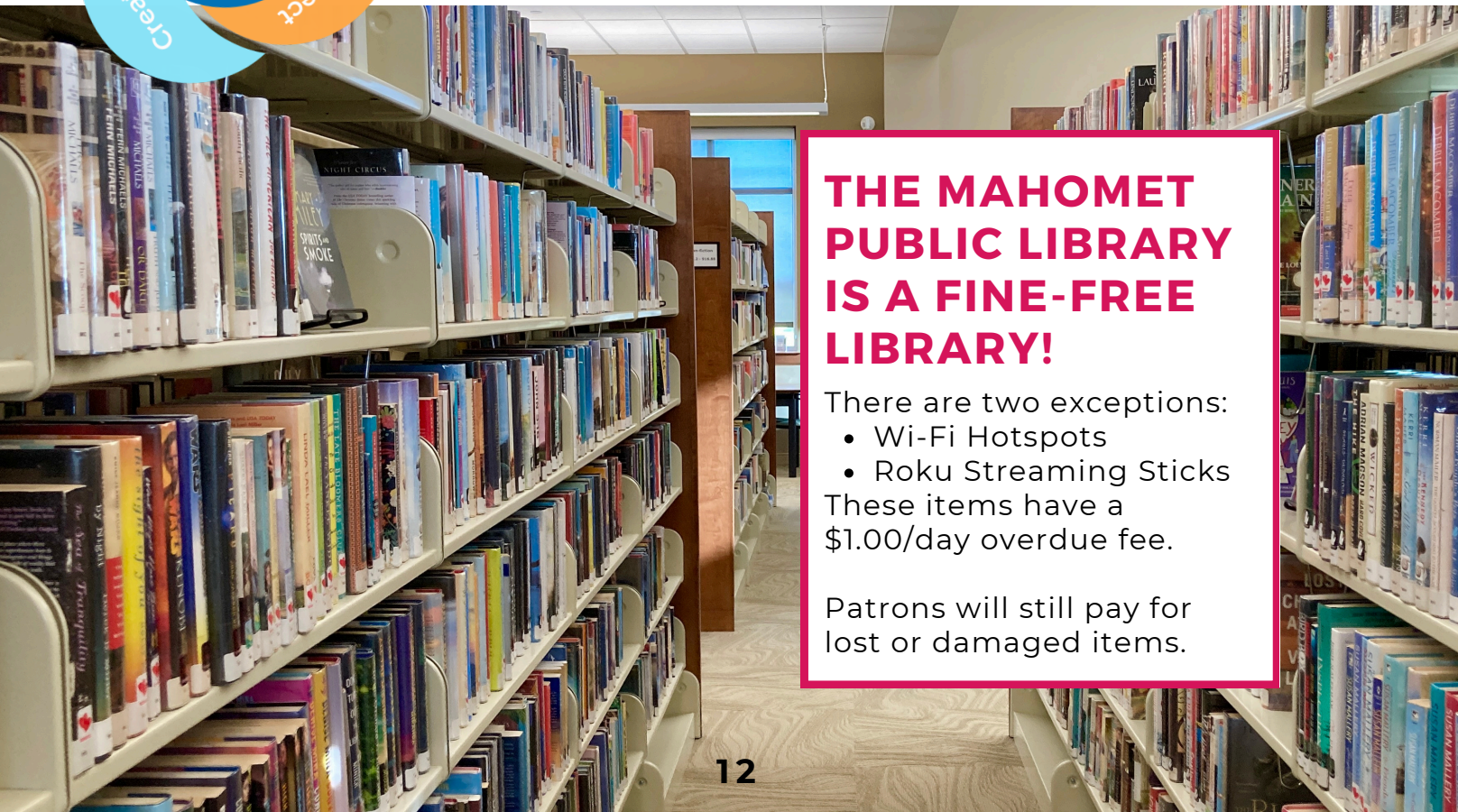
1702 E Oak St. Mahomet, IL 61853



Mahomet Public Library



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



THE MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY IS A FINE-FREE LIBRARY!

There are two exceptions:

- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Roku Streaming Sticks

These items have a \$1.00/day overdue fee.

Patrons will still pay for lost or damaged items.

THE LIBRARY BOOKLET



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PUZZLE
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MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY
WINTER/SPRING 2024



CHAT WITH THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

all about our eResources!

Nearly all of us have our smartphones with us at all times, which means we could have a book with us at all times as well! Download one (or more!) of our eReading apps - Hoopla, CloudLibrary, and Libby - and have a book to read or listen to within minutes. Not sure what app to download? Have questions about how eResources work? Can't find the title you're looking for? Library Director John Howard is here to answer some of our most frequently asked questions regarding our eReading apps.

Q: What are the main differences between the eReading apps?

A: CloudLibrary and Libby (by Overdrive) are pretty similar. Both offer eBooks and eAudiobooks to check out and download. Both have most of the current bestsellers, but you usually have to wait some time for a copy to come available. Hoopla is a bit different. Anything on Hoopla can be checked out immediately, with each person getting 5 checkouts per month. It also includes movies, TV, and comic books, along with eBooks and eAudiobooks. But it has fewer of the most recent bestsellers. I use all three, depending on what I am looking for.

Q: Why do I have to wait so long for my eBook/audiobook?

A: Publishers charge a MUCH higher price to libraries than they do to consumers. Let's use the new John Grisham book, *The Exchange*, as an example. You can buy the hardcover for \$18.99, or the kindle version for \$14.99, and you own them. The Library has to pay \$55.00 per eBook copy, and the copy disappears after two years. And that copy can only be downloaded by one person at a time. For the eAudiobook of the same title, the Library would pay \$95.00 for a permanent copy or \$47.50 for just 12 months. With these prices, we provide as many copies as we can, but we just can't afford to buy multiple copies. (The newest James Patterson eBook is \$75 for 24 months!)

Q: I have a Kindle. What apps can I use?

A: Any of the three work on a Kindle Fire Tablet by downloading the apps. But only Libby allows you to check out library books to your black and white kindle reader. It is pretty easy, though, so if you haven't tried it you should.

Q: Why are some of the books in this series missing?

A: Most books we buy disappear, or need to be repurchased, after 12-24 months. We do this for the more popular series, but often the price is too high if the series isn't getting checked out often. Let us know if you think we are missing something important!

Q: I want to read an eBook/audiobook that isn't available on any of the apps. Can you purchase a copy for me?

A: We happily take recommendations for digital purchases. We have the most control over our Libby collection, so that is where we buy them. Not all recommendations are purchased due to the price and likely demand, but we consider every title you request.

Q: I downloaded one of the apps, but I don't know how to use it. Can you help me?

A: Absolutely. We'll help you set up your library card, show you how to find good books and how to download them. I recommend you use our Book-a-Librarian service, to arrange a free 30-minute session with one of our staff. Just call or go to mahometpubliclibrary.org/bookalibrarian/ to set a time.



REQUEST A BOOK BUNDLE FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Are you stuck trying to find books your child/teen will love? Looking for books about specific topics? Try our Book Bundle service!

Fill out our Book Bundles form on our website to tell us a little bit about what you're looking for, and our knowledgeable library staff will put together a custom bundle of up to 10 books.



Request a Book Bundle!



MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!

TAMMY CAPUTO

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was born in Danville, Illinois. My husband Jim and I have been married for 36 years, and have two adult children, two grandchildren, and two cats. My first career was as a computer programmer/systems analyst. My second (and favorite) career is as a librarian. I have 22 years of experience working in libraries—7 years in Mahomet-Seymour school libraries and 15 years at the Mahomet Public Library. My hobbies include reading, cooking, traveling, and gardening.

Q: What is your favorite part about being the Assistant Director of the Library?

A: The visioning sessions I have with our director, John Howard, are my favorite part of the job. There are great things on the horizon for your library and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Q: If you could be any book character, who would you be?

A: Winnie-the-pooh! He is a problem solver and he values friendships. He likes to have fun and he loves honey. We are a lot alike!

Q: What is one thing you wish more people knew about the Mahomet Public Library?

A: We are not just a "library of books." We are a library of connections, opportunities, knowledge, technology, fun and games, stories and crafts, conversations, and more. Stop by and explore your library. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Q: What book(s) are you currently reading?

A: I'm currently reading *The Wisdom of Sundays : Life-Changing Insight from Super Soul Conversations* by Oprah Winfrey.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

PLANT SWAP

Saturday, March 23 | 2:00-3:00 pm



Attention green thumbs and leaf enthusiasts! It's time for a plantastic exchange! Bring your beloved plants, 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! **All ages. No registration required.**



SPRING USED BOOK SALE

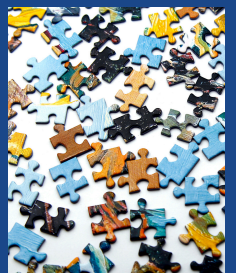
Thursday, April 18 - Sunday, April 21



Thursday, April 18*: 5:00-8:00 pm
*Friends only - join at the door!
Friday, April 19: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Saturday, April 20: 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday, April 21: 1:00-4:00 pm
All ages. No registration required.

FIFTH ANNUAL JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

Saturday, May 4 | 1:00 pm



This popular event is back! Get ready to piece together a victory at the Library's yearly puzzle competition. Race against the clock as participants strive to complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle faster than competing teams. Are you up for the challenge? **All ages. Registration (as a team of up to 4 people) is required.**

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Tuesday, January 2 -
Thursday, February 29



Calling all adult and teen bookworms! Pick up a reading log from the Library and earn a raffle entry for every 5 hours you spend reading. **Adults and Teens.**

TEEN ART NIGHT

Thursday, February 29 &
April 25 | 6:00-7:30 pm



Unleash your artistic talents and join us for a fantastic journey of creativity at Teen Art Night!
February: Book Nooks
April: Beaded Friendship Necklaces/ Keychains
Grades 6-12. Registration required.

DIY EARRING WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 7 | 1:00-2:30 pm OR 6:00-7:30 pm



Discover the art of crafting beaded earrings, perfect for adorning yourself or gifting to a friend. We've got all the bling you need—just bring your creativity! **Adults and Teens. Registration (for ONE session) required.**

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

WRITE ON! TEEN WRITING GROUP

Thursday, January 11 &
March 28 | 6:00-7:30 pm



Keep your writing skills sharp! This writing group for teens will meet every other month to talk about different aspects of the writing process and take turns sharing our work with the group. Creative writers of all levels are welcome!
Grades 6-12. Registration required.

PEN TO PAPER: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS

Second Saturdays
(January 13, February 10,
March 9, April 13) | 2:00-3:30 pm



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

GAME NIGHT: LEARN TO PLAY "CONCEPT"

Thursday, February 8 | 6:00-8:00 pm



Join us for a fantastic night of board games at the Library! We've got a special treat as Andy from Rad Lad Games teams up with our library staff member, Ashley, to guide you through the intriguing gameplay of "Concept." Then, dive into the game, with Andy and Ashley there to answer questions and offer assistance. **Adults and Teens. Registration required.**

ROLE WITH IT! PLAY-READING GROUP

Sunday, February 25 & April 28 | 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.
February: *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder
April: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
Adults and Teens. Registration required.

ALL ABOUT SOLAR ECLIPSES

Thursday, April 4 | 11:00 am-12:00 pm



Come learn about solar eclipses with University of Illinois Astronomy graduate students, Liam Nolan and Spencer Hulsey, before the upcoming solar eclipse. **Adults. No registration required.**

ADULT PROGRAMS

BOOK CLUBS

COOKBOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 9 & March 5 | 6:00-7:30 pm



This book club is perfect for adults who enjoy cooking and sharing food together! Choose a recipe from the selected cookbook to make and share with the group.

January 9: *Half Baked Harvest Every Day* by Tieghan Gerard

March 5: *Magnolia Table Vol. 1* by Joanna Gaines
Adults. Registration required.

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Monthly Tuesdays (January 16, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14) | 6:30-8:00 pm



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

January 16: *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal

February 13: *Maame* by Jessica George

March 12: *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams

April 9: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

May 14: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
Adults. No registration required.

WINTER CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 1 & 15 | 7:00-8:00 pm

This book club studies one book in depth over multiple sessions. This February, they will discuss the book *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin. During each meeting, the group will have a facilitated discussion about a different section of the book.

Adults. Via Zoom. Registration required.

SPRING CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 21, April 11 & 25 | 7:00-8:00 pm

This book club studies one book in depth over multiple sessions. This spring, they will discuss the book *Four Hundred Souls*, edited by Ibram Kendi and Keisha Blain.

Adults. Via Zoom. Registration required.

DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS

Monthly Thursdays (January 25, February 22, March 21) | 6:30-8:00 pm



Is it possible to discuss "difficult" or divisive issues without resorting to yelling, name calling or simply spouting slogans? How can we solve our society's most challenging issues without talking to each other? Come listen and participate while local experts and members of the community dig into some of our most divisive issues, with the hope that all of us can improve our ability to do the same.

January: Gun Violence & Gun Control

February: Immigration in America

March: The Role of Police in Society

Adults. No registration required.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

BACK TO THE 80'S!

Saturday, February 10 | 6:00 pm

Location: Our Lady of the Lake Church

We're getting the band back together for a reunion tour, but could secrets past and present result in a murder? Break out your jean jacket, Izod shirt, leg warmers, and shoulder pads for a night of fun and drama! Enjoy a great dinner, a retro drink, and a chance to solve a mystery. Come wearing your totally tubular 80's look – prizes will be awarded for the most rad outfits.

Adults. Registration (ticket) required.



SENIOR TREATS & TOPICS

Fourth Mondays (January 22, February 26, March 25, April 22) | 2:30-3:30 pm



Designed for our retired adults, each month promises an exciting speaker with insights on various topics, accompanied by delightful treats! Join us for a thrilling blend of knowledge...and indulgence!

January: Understanding Medicare with Nicole Mitchell of Champaign County Healthcare Consumers

February: Using Library eResources with Library Director John Howard

March: TBD

April: Ways to Pay Online with Nick Schneider of First State Bank of Forrest

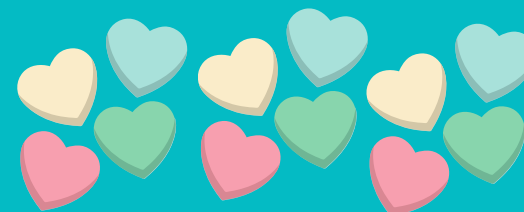
Adults. No registration required.

VALENTINE BINGO

Tuesday, February 13 | 1:00-2:30 pm

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" in an afternoon filled with fun and anticipation. Local businesses have generously donated exciting prizes. Join us for this delightful Valentine-themed event!

Adults. Registration required.



ADULT CRAFT CONNECTION



ADULT CRAFTERNOON

Monthly Tuesdays (January 9, February 6, March 5, April 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!

January: Make your own candle

February: Heart string art

March: Pressed flower frame

April: Sock bunny

Adults. No registration required.

STITCHING CIRCLE

Third Tuesdays (January 23, February 20, April 16) | 1:00-3:00 pm



Enjoy a crafty hobby and conversation!

Bring your fiber arts project to the Library to work on while socializing with others.

Some supplies will also be available for use.

Adults. No registration required.

No meeting in March or May.

ADULT TAKE & MAKE KITS

Weeks of January 29, February 26, March 25, April 29, May 27



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

January: Wooden bead keychain

February: Yarn stamped greeting card

March: Pinecone clothespin

April: DIY lip balm

May: Clay pot mushroom

Adults. First come, first served.

While supplies last.

ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPLY SWAP

Saturday, May 11 | 10:00-11:00 am

*Supply drop-off begins Sunday, May 5



Got a surplus of gently-loved or even brand-new art and craft supplies collecting dust at home? Eager to dive into a new hobby without breaking the bank on fresh materials? Beginning May 5, drop off supplies in good condition that you're ready to part with. Then, at the swap, snag some supplies for your creative adventures, free of charge!

All ages. No registration required.

KIDS PROGRAMS

STORYTIME

Tuesday, January 9 - Wednesday, April 24*



Baby Storytime: Tuesdays, 9:30 am (ages 0-18 months)
Toddler Storytime: Tuesdays, 10 am (ages 18-36 months)
Preschool Storytime: Wednesdays, 10 am (ages 3-5 years)
***No Storytime: Tuesday, March 19 or Wednesday, April 3.**
No registration required.

ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

Wednesdays (January 10 - April 24)

Join us every Wednesday for a fun, one-hour after school program! Activities will alternate monthly between Art Club and LEGO Club. We'll usually meet from 3:30-4:30 pm, but we'll move it up to 1:30-2:30 pm on early dismissal days.



Art Club

- January 10, 17, 24: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- January 31: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- March 6: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- March 20, 27: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- No Art Club on March 13



LEGO Club

- February 7, 14, 28: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- February 21: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- April 3, 17, 24: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- April 10: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)

Grades K-5. No registration required.

PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

Fridays (January 12 - April 26) | 10:00-11:00 am



Enjoy open-ended play time every Friday! Each session will feature a different assortment of toys and activities.

Ages 3-5 (younger siblings welcome).
No registration required. No playdate on April 5 or 19.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Friday, February 2 & March 1 | 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.

February: *The Witch Boy* by Molly Knox Ostertag
March: *Stargazing* by Jen Wang
Ages 8-13. Registration required.

BEACH BLANKET BINGO

Monday, March 11 | 10:00-11:30 am



Dive into Spring Break fun at the Library! Grab your beach blanket or towel, take a seat, and join the BINGO extravaganza for a shot at scoring some awesome prizes. This special program is exclusively for little beachgoers. Let the Spring Break celebration begin!
Grades PreK-5. Registration required.

TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL

Saturday, February 17 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm



Kids, grab your favorite stuffed sidekick and join the incredible Vet Med students from the University of Illinois for a check-up! Your plush pals are in for a treat as they undergo a thorough examination, complete with temperature and weight checks. But that's not all – our expert vet students will tackle any other concerns your cuddly companions might have.
Ages 0-10. Limit ONE stuffed animal per child. No registration required.

CRAFTING THE COSMOS: ECLIPSE CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Tuesday, March 26 | 3:30-5:30 pm



Prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse by joining us at the Library for crafts that are truly out of this world! While the crafts are tailored for kids in grades K-5, everyone is welcome to come and participate!
Crafts geared towards grades K-5, but anyone is welcome to participate.
No registration required.



FIRM FOUNDATIONS: SOCIAL EVENTS

Fourth Saturdays (January 27, February 24, March 23, April 27) | 11:00 am-12:00 pm



Enjoy activities, playtime, movement, and social time with both new and old friends!

January 27: Get Messy: Process Art for Toddlers (ages 2-3)

February 24: Baby Playdate (ages 0-2)

March 23: Dance Party at the Library with Kristina, from Decently Bold FIT (ages 3-5)

April 27: Sensory Exploration Stations (ages 0-5)

For children (and their caregivers) who are enrolled in our Firm Foundations program. No registration required.



FIRM FOUNDATIONS: PARENTING SESSIONS

Monday, January 29 & April 29 | 5:30-7:00 pm

Location: Middletown-Prairie

Families participating in our Firm Foundations program: Enjoy a pizza dinner, then learn more about a specific parenting topic!



Schedule for each evening:

5:30 pm: pizza

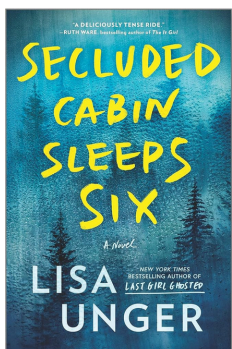
6:00-7:00: speaker(s)

January 29: Parenting the Strong-Willed Child with Christine Leeb, Parent Coach and Child Development Specialist and founder of Real Life Families

April 29: Preparing Your Child for Preschool or Kindergarten with Mahomet-Seymour Schools teachers

For caregivers of children ages 0-5 who are enrolled in our Firm Foundations program. Childcare IS provided. Please register if you need childcare.

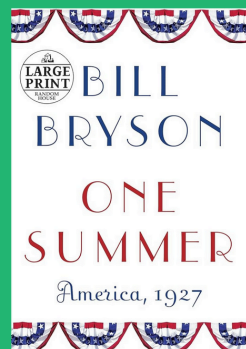
**LINDA'S PICK:
SECLUDED CABIN SLEEPS SIX**



WARNING: Do not read in a secluded cabin at night! Three couples head off to a cabin in the woods for a relaxing weekend away from their high tech jobs. Who among them has a secret to hide? It will be a memorable, but hardly relaxing, trip. I devoured it in 2 days! This one will keep you turning the pages.

Find it on our fiction, Large Print, and audiobook shelves and in the Libby and Hoopla apps.

**JOHN'S PICK:
ONE SUMMER: AMERICA, 1927**



Bill Bryson is a great storyteller. Here he takes one place and time - the summer of 1927 in America - and puts the reader into that time. From Charles Lindbergh's flight to Babe Ruth at his best, from the true crime cases that fascinated America to the first Ponzi scheme, you will feel like you were alive during this eventful summer in our country's history.

Find it on our nonfiction, Large Print, and audiobook shelves, and in the CloudLibrary or Libby apps.

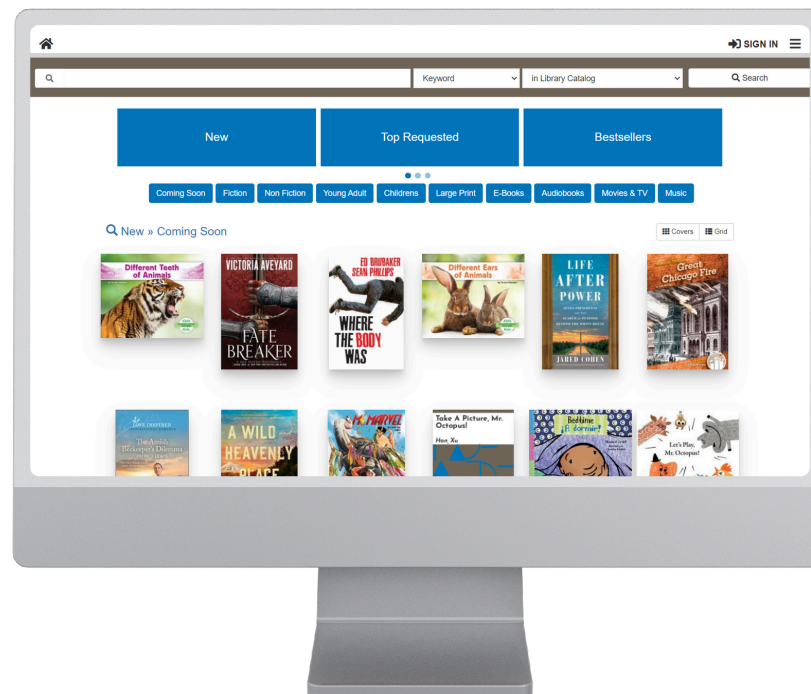
**BECCA'S PICK:
THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING**



The First Day of Spring is a haunting, but ultimately hopeful story about a young mother trying to reconcile with her deeply troubled past. This is a great book for anyone who enjoys psychological novels with profound character development.

Find it in the Libby app or request a copy from another library.

MEET YOUR LIBRARY'S NEW CATALOG!

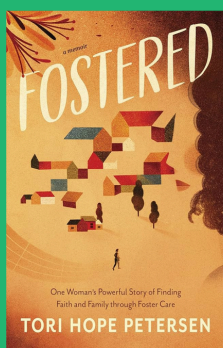


NEW FEATURES:

- View all the formats of a title together in one place.
- View and check out eResources in one place.
- Get personalized content recommendations.
- Browse staff-created lists.
- Create, manage, and share your own lists.
- Save searches to track favorite authors, series, and formats.
- Enjoy responsive viewing on any mobile device or tablet.

STAFF PICKS

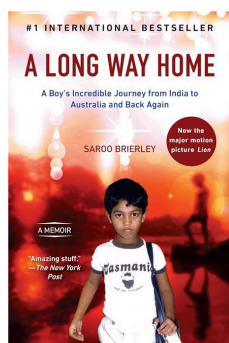
**LEAH'S PICK:
FOSTERED**



Fostered is the story of Tori Hope Peterson, who grew up in the foster care system, living in twelve different foster homes. Despite the many adverse experiences, Tori overcame the odds and now is a foster, adoptive, and biological mom who works with organizations as an advocate for vulnerable populations. *Fostered* is an inspirational story full of hope, overcoming, and redemption.

Request a copy from another library.

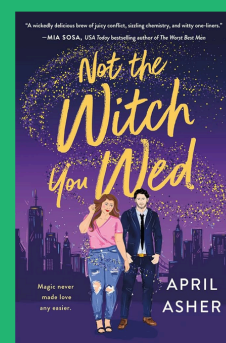
**TAMMY'S PICK:
A LONG WAY HOME**



This is a true story about a 5 year old who finds himself worlds away from his family. The emotions I felt as I read his story ranged from sadness and fear to hope and joy. I couldn't put the book down.

Find it on our nonfiction shelves, and in the Libby, CloudLibrary, or Hoopla apps.

**KATHY'S PICK:
NOT THE WITCH YOU WED**



Not the Witch You Wed is a breezy little fluff of a modern romance with supernatural characters and laugh out loud fun.

Find it in the Libby, CloudLibrary, or Hoopla apps or request a copy from another library.



This improved experience is brought to you by the Mahomet Public Library and SHARE, the largest automated library consortium in North America.

DATES TO REMEMBER



VOTE AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday, March 19 | 6:00 am - 7:00 pm

Vote at the Library on Election Day. The drop-off ballot box for mail-in ballots located in the parking lot will also be open until 7:00 pm.



CHECK OUT MAHOMET!

Week of April 7-13

Celebrate National Library Week! Show your library card at local businesses to receive a discount/freebie.