



# 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  
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- 1702 E Oak St. Mahomet, IL 61853



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

## LIVE CHAT WITH THE LIBRARY!

**OUR LIVE CHAT SERVICE IS AVAILABLE DURING OUR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.**  
Send a message through the chat page on our website or text your message to 447-442-1898, and a Mahomet Library staff member will respond!



# THE LIBRARY BOOKLET



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**MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
FALL 2024

# OPERATION GENRE- FICATION

DIVIDING THE ADULT FICTION SECTION INTO GENRES MAKES A BETTER BROWSING EXPERIENCE FOR PATRONS

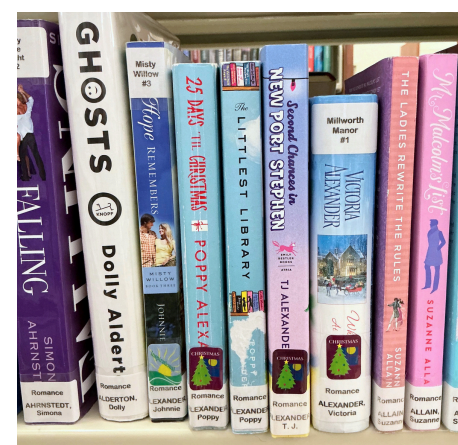


added new labels with the genre and the author's first and last name. If the book was a part of a series, a series label was added at the top of the spine. And, books whose author writes in multiple genres received a stamp inside the front cover to indicate this.

Then came the huge task of re-organizing the entire fiction section. At a recent staff training day, library staff members spent six hours moving approximately 8400 books multiple times as they cleared the shelves and sorted the books, then re-shelved each book in its appropriate genre collection. The result? Operation Genre-fication is now complete! And we're just waiting for the next time you wonder where you can find a new mystery, romance novel, fantastical tale, or story from the past.



**RIGHT COLUMN (TOP TO BOTTOM):** Staff members removing books from the shelves, re-organizing by genre, and re-shelving the books



**LEFT PAGE & ABOVE:** The adult fiction section now, divided by genre

**LEFT:** Close-up of books with the main spine label, as well as series labels; Two genre stickers (Inspirational and Christmas) remain on applicable books, as they are not classified in their own section.

"Where are your romance books?"  
"I'd like to find a new mystery to read. Where can I find all the mystery books?"  
Such questions are fairly common here at the Library. Up until this point, we've only been able point patrons in the direction of the general adult fiction section. And of course, browsing shelves upon shelves of books categorized only by the author's last name can be a daunting experience if you're not looking for a specific title.

Enter the genre-fication project - the task of dividing the adult fiction section into eight different genres. These include Mystery, Thriller, Romance, Historical, Fantasy/Science Fiction, Horror, Western, and a general fiction section.

Staff members worked for months to identify the genre (and series, if applicable) of each book in the adult fiction section. Once identified, volunteers removed the old spine labels from each book and

# KIDS PROGRAMS

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

### STORYTIME

Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
(September 3 - December 11)



**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)  
**No Storytime: October 8 & 9, November 5 & 6.**  
**No registration required.**

### ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

**Wednesdays (September 4-December 11)**  
 Join us every Wednesday for a fun, one-hour after school program! Activities will rotate monthly. 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.



#### September: Art Club

- Sept 4, 11, 25: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- Sept 18: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)

#### October: Pokémon Club

- Oct 2, 16, 30: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- Oct 9: no meeting
- Oct 23: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)



#### November: LEGO Club

- Nov 6 and 27: no meeting
- Nov 13: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- Nov 20: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)



#### December: Art Club

- Dec 4, 11: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- Grades K-5. No registration required.**

### PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

**Fridays (September 6-December 13) | 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 October 11 or November 29.**

### GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Friday, September 27 &  
November 8 | 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 also welcome to bring other graphic novels they've enjoyed.

**September: Misfit Mansion** by Kay Davault  
**November: Ink Girls** by Marieke Nijkamp  
**Grades 3-7. Registration required.**

### WACKADOO!

Saturday, September 28 | 10:00-11:30 am



Calling all fans of our favorite blue heeler dog and family! Join us at the Library for games, crafts, and activities based around the hit Australian children's show.  
**Ages 0-10. No registration required.**

### PAGE TURNERS: TWEEN BOOK CLUB

Thursday, October 24 | 4:00-5:00 pm



Dive into captivating stories with our book club for students in grades 5-8! Join us for a journey through the thrilling tale and lively discussion of *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan.  
**Grades 5-8. Registration required.**

### TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL

Saturday, November 2 | 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.**

### STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

**Goodnight Storytime:**  
Friday, December 13 | 5:30 pm  
**Good Morning Storytime:**  
Saturday, December 14 | 9:30 am



Children can drop off one stuffed animal friend to spend the night at the Library! Bring a friend to our "Good Night" Storytime. Then, stuffed friends will spend the night at the Library, and will be reunited with their human friends at our "Good Morning" Storytime. Sleepover pictures will be posted to social media throughout the evening!  
**Limit ONE stuffed animal per child. No registration required.**

# ALL AGES PROGRAMS

### FALL BOOK SALE

Thursday, October 10-Sunday, October 13



Thursday, October 10\*: 5:00-8:00 pm  
 \*Friends only - join at the door!  
 Friday, October 11: 9:00 am-6:00 pm  
 Saturday, October 12: 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
 Sunday, October 13: 1:00-4:00 pm  
**All ages. No registration required.**

### BOOK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 26 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm



Come one and all! This Halloween event is for all ages. Stop by the Library in costume and receive a book and a treat. Craft stations will be set up around the Library with fun activities for everyone.  
**All ages. No registration required.**

### MSHS MADRIGALS

Sunday, December 1 | 2:00-3:00 pm



The always amazing Mahomet Seymour High School Madrigal choir will perform selections from their show at the Library. Be prepared to be dazzled by their beautiful voices...and their Renaissance and early Baroque costumes!  
**All ages. No registration required.**

### MAKE & TAKE ORNAMENTS

Saturday, December 7 | 10:00 am-1:00 pm



Join us on the first Saturday in December for our annual ornament-decorating program! Supplies to make several different styles of ornaments will be provided by the Library. Community members of all ages are welcome to join in on the fun.  
**All ages. No registration required.**

# BUILDING FIRM FOUNDATIONS



JOIN OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD FIRM FOUNDATIONS INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO GIVE CHILDREN A STRONG START TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE!

## WHAT IS FIRM FOUNDATIONS?

When children begin kindergarten, they become part of a caring community, built around the school, which provides children and their families with support. The Firm Foundations initiative is designed to create a similar community of support for children ages 0-5 and their parents and caregivers by promoting activities and practices proven to give children a strong start to a successful life — a firm foundation.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5 who live in the Mahomet-Seymour School District can sign their children up for Firm Foundations. These children will receive the free books and be invited to join the cohort groups. However, anyone interested can attend the programs and activities. If you are not in Firm Foundations, you will see these events advertised on our website and Facebook page.

## WHY FIRM FOUNDATIONS?

- To strengthen school readiness among all children in the Mahomet-Seymour area
- To support parents and caregivers in their efforts to maximize their children's physical, mental, and emotional development
- To encourage the formation of a community of support for children and parents/caregivers in the Mahomet-Seymour area

Participating children receive a **FREE BOOK** in the mail on their birthday!

## UPCOMING:

### SOCIAL EVENTS

**Saturday, September 14 & October 19 | 10:00-11:00 am at the Library**



Meet at the Library to play, socialize, and connect!  
**September 14:** Baby Playdate (ages 0-2)  
**October 19:** Dance Party and Sing-Along (ages 3-5)

### PARENTING SESSION

**Monday, September 30 | 5:30-7:00 pm at Middletown-Prairie**

Families participating in our Firm Foundations program: Enjoy a pizza dinner at 5:30 pm, then learn more about a specific parenting topic (6 pm).  
**TOPIC:** I'm a Keepy-Uppy Expert: Perfectly Imperfect Parenting Through the Eyes of Bluey with Staci McNicholl of The Rock Counseling Group  
**Registration required if you need childcare.**

## GET MORE FREE BOOKS!

Children ages 0-5 in Champaign County can also receive a free book every month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! Register your child(ren) online through the Imagination Library website or via mail.



LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRM FOUNDATIONS & SIGN UP YOUR CHILD ON OUR WEBSITE

# TEEN PROGRAMS

## DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

**Sunday, September 15 & 29, October 20, & November 10 | 1:30-4:00 pm**



Join us for exciting DnD adventures that encourage creativity, strategy, and teamwork! There's sure to be fun at every session.  
**Grades 6-12. Registration required (register for each session individually).**

## TEEN AFTER HOURS: CANDY SUSHI & MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, September 20 | 6:00-8:30 pm**



Eat pizza and make candy sushi, all while you watch a movie on the big screen! To go along with our tasty treats, the movie we'll be showing this time is *Wonka*.  
**Grades 6-12. Registration required.**

## TEEN PUMPKIN PAINTING COMPETITION

**Saturday, October 26 | 6:00-7:30 pm**



Get in the Halloween spirit! Teens (students in grades 6-12), join us at the Library for a pumpkin painting contest, complete with spooktacular prizes! All materials and pizza will be provided.  
**Grades 6-12. Registration required.**

## TEEN CRAFT NIGHT: NO-SEW PILLOWS

**Friday, November 22 | 5:30-7:00 pm**



Not a seamstress? Not a problem! Make your own no-sew fleece pillow! You bring yourself; we'll provide all the materials for the project, plus pizza and snacks!  
**Grades 6-12. Registration required.**

# ADULT PROGRAMS

## BOOK CLUBS

### COOKBOOK CLUB

Tuesday, September 3 & Thursday, November 7 | 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.

**September:** *The Weekday Vegetarians* by Jenny Rosenstrach  
**November:** *Brilliant Bites* by Maegan Brown  
**Adults. Registration required.**

### TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Second Tuesdays (Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10) | 6:30-8:00 pm



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

**September:** *Once Upon a Wardrobe* by Patti Callahan Henry  
**October:** *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang  
**November:** *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See  
**December:** Holiday party  
**Adults. No registration required.**

## ADULT CRAFT CONNECTION



### STITCHING CIRCLE

Saturday, Sept. 7 & Oct. 5 | 10-11:30 am  
Saturday, November 2 | 1:00-2:30 pm



Connect with fellow crafters, share your skills, and learn from others! Whether you are an expert or novice, there is something for everyone in our circle. We'll provide some materials, or you can bring your own project (maybe one you've been procrastinating on!).

**Adults. No registration required.**

## ADULT CRAFTERNOON

Third Tuesdays (September 17, October 15, November 19) | 1:00-2:00 pm



Join us for creativity, conversation, and fun! Learn a new skill and make a craft with supplies provided by the Library.

**September:** Painted quilt block  
**October:** Upcycled ghost painting  
**November:** Intro to needle felting  
**Adults. Registration required.**

## ADULT TAKE & MAKE KITS

Beginning September 30, October 28, and November 25



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

**September:** Sun prints (cyanotype)  
**October:** Spooky tiny glass bottle necklace  
**November:** Origami lucky star jar  
**Adults. First come, first served. While supplies last.**

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### SENIOR TREATS & TOPICS

Second Thursdays (Sept. 12, Oct. 3\*, Nov. 14, Dec. 12) | 10:00-11:00 am



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

**Sept:** Adult Healthcare Options  
**Oct:** Estate Planning  
**Nov:** Dementia & Communication  
**Dec:** Holiday Music Memory Game  
**Adults. No registration required.**

\*First Thursday, due to the Book Sale

## OTHER EVENTS

### GAME NIGHT: LEARN TO PLAY "VILLAINOUS"

Thursday, September 19 | 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 "Villainous."

**Adults. Registration required.**

### WHAT'S IT WORTH? ANTIQUE APPRAISAL EVENT

Saturday, September 21 | 10:00-11:30 am



Curious about the value of your heirlooms, antiques, or collectibles? This special event, inspired by Antiques Roadshow, offers community members the opportunity to have their treasured items evaluated by professional appraiser, James Hatchel, of Legacy Auctions.

Who Should Attend?: antique enthusiasts & collectors; individuals with family heirlooms; anyone curious about the history/value of their possessions  
What to Bring?: Up to 2 items for appraisal (no weapons); any documentation/provenance related to items (if available)

**Adults. Registration is encouraged if bringing in items for appraisal. No registration is required to watch; walk-ins accommodated if time allows.**

### ROLE WITH IT! PLAY-READING GROUP

Sunday, October 6 | 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 *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.

**Adults. Registration required.**

## I-CASH EVENT

Thursday, October 17 | 3:00-6:00 pm



Are you missing out on unclaimed money? The Illinois State Treasurer's office holds over \$5 billion in unclaimed funds for Illinois residents, and some of it could be yours! Illinois State Treasurer's office staff will be on hand to help you discover and claim yours. They will also have information about many of their programs including College Savings, ABLE and Financial Education classes.

**Adults. No registration required.**

## BEGINNER SOURDOUGH WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 22 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Sourdough bread is trending, but do you know how to make it? Join us for a fun and interactive beginner class at the Library! We'll learn how to make and maintain a starter, the science behind the sourdough fermentation process, and tips and techniques for making the perfect loaf. Attendees will make starter in class to take home.

**Adults. Registration required.**

## ADULT HALLOWEEN BINGO & COSTUME CONTEST

Tuesday, October 29 | 6:00-7:30 pm



Get ready for a spooky evening of Halloween fun at the Library! Dress up in your favorite costume (optional, but encouraged), and compete for festive prizes in both the costume contest and BINGO games.

**Adults. Registration required.**

## COOKIE DECORATING WORKSHOP

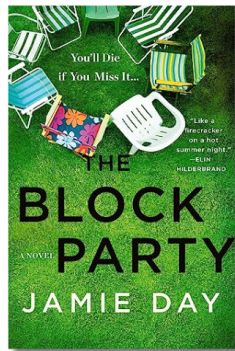
Sunday, December 15 | 2:00-3:00 pm



Good things crumb to those who wait! Come decorate sugar cookies at the Library. We'll use piping and flooding techniques with royal icing. You don't want to miss this dough-lightful workshop! Cookies and supplies will be provided.

**Adults. Registration required.**

**LINDA'S PICK:  
THE BLOCK PARTY**



The residents of the exclusive cul-de-sac on Alton Rd have many secrets. On the night of their annual block party someone is murdered. Does the real danger live close to home?

*Find it on our fiction shelves and in the Libby and CloudLibrary apps.*

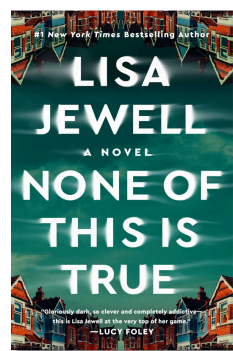
**AERA'S PICK:  
BLOODMARKED**



An amazing sequel to Tracy Deonn's first book, *Legendborn*, *Bloodmarked* is the kind of book that will never leave you after you've finished it. With amazing world building, a thrilling plot, and compelling characters, *Bloodmarked* is impossible to put down and will have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.

*Find it on our young adult shelves.*

**CAROL'S PICK:  
NONE OF THIS IS TRUE**



Two women have a chance meeting and find out their birthdays are the same day. As the women from two different backgrounds and jobs get to know each other one of them insinuates herself into the other's life and the journalist (podcaster) becomes the subject of her own true crime drama. Filled with twists and turns, this book is a great read.

*Find it on our fiction and audiobook shelves and in the Libby and CloudLibrary apps.*

# CHAT WITH THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## How Does the Library Decide What Books to Buy?



Mahomet Public Library's Board of Trustees recently noted that the Library now spends over \$100,000/year on library materials. We sat down with Library Director, John Howard, to discuss how the Library decides what to add to our collection.

**Q: Do you buy all the materials yourself?**

**A:** I buy all the books for our adult collection. Our Youth Librarian, Becca, purchases children's, middle school, and young adult materials, and other staff members purchase DVDs and music CDs.

**Q: Out of all the books published each year, how do you know which ones to purchase?**

**A:** There are several tools that we use. The first is "autopurchase." There are certain authors that are always popular. We maintain an "autopurchase" list with our book distributor, and they send us between 1-4 copies of anything new published by those authors. Kristin Hannah is a good example of a "4-copy autopurchase," but only a few authors call for that many copies. Currently we have 175 authors or series on the list, but we review and update it often. After that, we use reviews from three sources – *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *School Library Journal*. These magazines have short reviews of upcoming titles. We highlight the books that look good for our collection, and a staff member orders them. We also order some titles from the *New York Times* bestseller list. In addition, we get a weekly report which shows every item that has two or more holds from Mahomet patrons. This really helps catch things that are popular that we may have missed. Sometimes it shows us that we need to buy additional copies due to high demand. Finally, we consider purchase requests from patrons. We do not buy every single thing that is recommended, but we look at and consider every one. You can make recommendations on our website or in the Library.

**Q: What criteria do you use?**

**A:** Mostly, we try to match what we buy with what our patrons want. Over time, you learn what circulates and what is less likely to. People are different in every town, so there is no "one size fits all" for buying books. You just try to know and understand your community. There is an old but very true quote that says "A book should be a mirror and a book should be a window." People want to find books where they see themselves, but books are also the very best way I know to learn about people who are different. We try to provide a diverse collection for this reason.

**Q: We always have a good selection of nonfiction books. Is buying them different?**

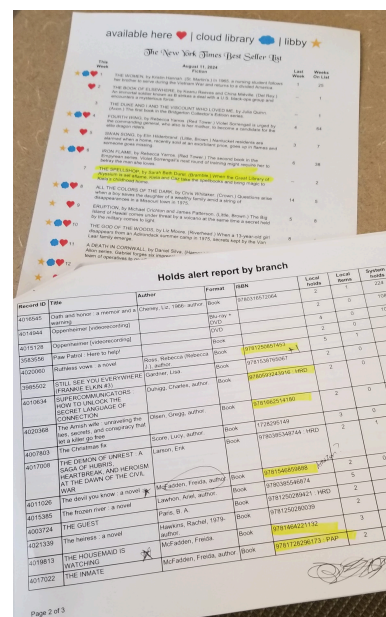
**A:** Yes. Of course we buy the most popular titles. But in nonfiction, we make a real effort to buy books that reflect a variety of viewpoints. When we buy books about politics and culture, we try to make sure different sides of an issue are represented. You shouldn't know anything about our personal beliefs by the books that we buy for the Library. Someone once said "There should be something in the library to offend everyone." I'm not sure about that, but I do believe that we learn and grow more by reading things that we disagree with.

**Q: What about eBooks vs physical copies?**

**A:** Deciding how to divide funds between physical books and eBooks is a big decision that is constantly changing. People want them both ways, and we do our best to provide them. We are spending more each year on electronic copies via Libby and Hoopla, but about 80% of our checkouts are still physical copies.

**Q: So what is the hardest thing about buying books for a library?**

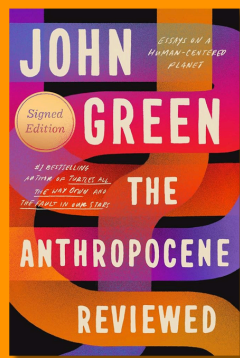
**A:** For me, it's not buying books about movies. I love books, and I love movies, but I really love books about movies! I probably buy too many of them, but I try to control myself as best I can.



A copy of a recent holds report and *New York Times* Bestsellers list with John's highlights and notes

# STAFF PICKS

**BECCA'S PICK:  
THE ANTHROPOCENE REVIEWED**



In this book, John Green focuses each essay on one subject, and rates the subject on a five-star scale. Each of the essays are unexpectedly beautiful and profound—even the one about Canada Geese. This book reminds the reader that there is so much beauty and kindness in the world, even in difficult times.

*Find it on our nonfiction shelves.*

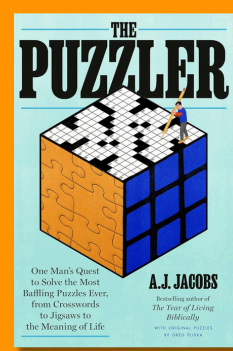
**TAMMY'S PICK:  
BOARDS & SPREADS**



Charcuterie boards are a fun and creative way to showcase bites of deliciousness. *Boards & spreads: Shareable, Simple Arrangements for Every Meal* is full of beautiful and delicious ideas.

*Find it on our nonfiction shelves.*

**KATHY'S PICK:  
THE PUZZLER**



If you like puzzles of any nature, *The Puzzler: One Man's Quest to Solve the Most Baffling Puzzles Ever, From Crosswords to Jigsaws to the Meaning of Life* is a fascinating read. It also is written with humor and has great puzzles in it, including some that have never been solved.

*Find it on our nonfiction and large print shelves.*