



## OUR MISSION:

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



## REQUEST A BOOK BUNDLE FOR KIDS AND TEENS

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!



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

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# THE LIBRARY BOOKLET

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY | FALL 2025



# Expansion Excitement!

## SURVEY STATS



# THE FUTURE becomes THE PRESENT

EXCITEMENT  
BUILDS AS  
WE MOVE  
FORWARD  
WITH THE  
LIBRARY  
EXPANSION



Children and their families find a special, magical area to stretch their imagination, read, learn and play. Adults and students looking for a quiet place conducive to study and work feel welcome and productive. Groups of all sizes have room to meet and connect. Members of the community sit outside in the shade, get lunch from a food truck, or come out to hear informal live music concerts. The collection has room to grow, as do the people using the Library.

The numbers of people visiting the Mahomet Library grow each year. In 2024-25, we averaged 219 people

per day through our doors. Increasingly, we find it harder and harder to provide spaces that work for all. Our most popular programs overwhelm our program room and spill out into the halls. Built as one room, children enjoying the library make it hard for adults to read, work and study. The schedule for our program/meeting room is packed, and too often we must turn away groups looking for a place to meet.

We started planning an expansion as in 2021, and as we approach the end of 2025, we believe the time to make it happen has come.

## EXPANSION PLAN - WHAT IS INCLUDED?

The plan calls for 4 phases. To save money, we plan to move forward with Phases 1-3 all at one time. Phase 4 will happen in the future, as funding allows.

- **Phase 1: New Children's Library with Teen Room**  
Set off from the rest of the Library in its own wing, this space will serve families and students of all ages and offer plentiful room for imaginative play, as well as broader collections. Teens will have a space to call their own.
- **Phase 2: Expanded, Dividable Program/Meeting Room**  
This multipurpose room will be nearly twice as large as our existing program room to accommodate our most popular programs. It can be divided into two to offer more options for community groups to meet.
- **Phase 3: Covered Patio/Outdoor Program Space**  
This shaded space will offer opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and live music, host programs, and more. It will provide another location for our most popular programs that allows us to accommodate larger crowds.
- **Phase 4: Extended Shelving and Study Rooms (Future Plan)**  
Though it's not included in our current expansion, this phase is part of our long-term plan. Seven 1-2 person study rooms will bracket a large extension of our adult collections.

## TIMELINE

- 2021-2025:** Needs assessment and planning
- Fall 2025:** Introduction of plan to community and start of fundraising
- March 2026:** Public Referendum
- April 2027 (if referendum passes):** Groundbreaking
- June 2028 (tentative):** Full opening of the Expanded Library

**LEFT PAGE:** View of the new children's area  
**BELOW:** View from the main entrance



**ABOVE:** View of the new dividable meeting room  
**RIGHT:** Social gathering space



## EXPECTED COST AND FUNDING

Our architect is completing new estimates as this goes to press, but the most recent estimates was in the range of \$7.5 million. Funding will come from a combination of Library reserves, private fundraising, State Grant (currently estimated at \$125,000), and bonds issued via a referendum. While we will have to ask taxpayers to cover part of the cost, we are exploring every other possibility to find funds for this project in hopes that our request in March will be as modest as possible.

## HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT?

- Space for larger book collections, especially for children and teens
- New Children's Library wing will offer more materials and activities for children and families, and foster opportunities to meet/make friends
- Program/meeting room will offer more spaces for community organizations to meet, and handle large crowds for family programs with less overcrowding
- Covered pavilion/outdoor programming space will provide a shaded area for outdoor programs and another beautiful space to read or study
- Existing library will be quieter and more conducive to studying, reading, and working
- New books and materials will be displayed more prominently and be easier to find.
- The Edgar Room will become a multi-purpose community room for informal meeting, socializing, and other social activities.

**More details about the expansion can be found on the Library's website at:**

<https://mahometpubliclibrary.org/expansion-project/>



# KIDS PROGRAMS

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

### STORYTIME

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays (September 2 - December 10)**



**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 7 & 8. No registration required.**

### ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

**Wednesdays (September 3-December 10)**

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 3, 10, 24: regular time (3:30-4:30)
- Sept 17: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)



**October: Gamer's Club**

- Oct 1, 15, 29: regular time (3:30-4:30)
- Oct 8: no meeting
- Oct 22: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)



**November: LEGO Club**

- Nov 5: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- Nov 12, 19: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)
- Nov 26: no meeting



**December: Maker's Club**

- Dec 3: early dismissal (1:30-2:30 pm)
- Dec 10: regular time (3:30-4:30 pm)

**Grades K-5. No registration required.**

### PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

**Fridays (September 5-December 12) | 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 10 or November 28.**

### CHAPTER BY CHAPTER: READ ALOUD BOOK CLUB FOR KIDS

**Tuesday, September 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 3:30-4:45 pm**



Join us each week as Ms. Becca reads *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo! After listening to a few chapters, stay for a brief discussion and themed activity. **Grades K-5. No registration required.**

### LITTLE GROOVERS: MUSIC & MOVEMENT

**Every other Thursday (Sept 11 & 25, Oct 16 & 30, Nov 13, Dec 4)**



This 30 minute program is perfect for kids (and caregivers) to get their wiggles out by exploring rhythm, sound, and movement! **Ages 2-5. No registration required.**

### GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

**Friday, September 19 & November 14 | 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. **September: Very Bad at Math** by Hope Larson  
**November: First Test** by Tamora Pierce

**Grades 3-7. Registration required.**

### JR. D&D CLUB

**Saturday, September 20, October 18 & November 1 | 1:30-3:30 pm**



Join us for a series of one-shot games hosted by community member Joe Trotter. Players will practice problem solving and teamwork, while engaging in exciting adventures! **Grades 3-5. Registration required.**

### INSPIRING FUTURE AVIATORS

**Sunday, October 5 | 2:00-3:30 pm**



Bill Spencer from the Champaign County Radio Control Club (CCRCC) will inspire aviators with an exciting presentation and activity introducing key concepts of aviation.

**Grades 4-7. Registration required.**

### CARTOON CLUB

**Thursday, October 16 & December 11 | 3:30-5:00 pm**



Are you a cartoon fanatic? Join our Cartoon Club, a club for discussing cartoons instead of books! We'll watch two episodes of a cartoon, and then discuss it, just like a book club.

**Grades 3-8. Registration required.**

### STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

**Goodnight Storytime: Friday, December 12 | 5:30-6:00 pm**

**Good Morning Storytime: Saturday, December 13 | 9:30-10:00 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.**

# TEEN PROGRAMS

### TEEN D&D CLUB

**Sunday, September 7 & 28, October 19, November 9 & 30 | 1:30-4:30 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.**

### TEEN AFTER HOURS: MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

**Friday, September 12 | 5:30-7:00 pm**



Race to the finish with your friends and join us for an evening of Mario Kart, pizza, and fun! All materials and pizza will be provided.

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

### TEEN AFTER HOURS: ZOMBIE BARBIES

**Friday, October 24 | 5:30-7:00 pm**



Celebrate spooky season with pizza, friends, and a creepy craft. With a little creativity and craft supplies, turn an ordinary Barbie into something truly bone-chilling.

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

### TEEN AFTER HOURS: MOVIE NIGHT - WICKED PART ONE

**Friday, November 21 | 5:30-8:30 pm**



Celebrate the opening weekend of Wicked 2 with a refresher on Part 1! We'll provide pizza and snacks.

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



# ADULT PROGRAMS

## BOOK CLUBS

### COOKBOOK CLUB

Thursday, September 4 & November 6 | 6:30-8:00 pm



This book club is perfect for adults who enjoy cooking and sharing food together!

**September:** *Good Lookin' Cookin'* by Dolly Parton & sister Rachel

**November:** By popular request, November is all about desserts! Choose any dessert recipe from any cookbook to make and share.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Second Tuesdays (Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9) | 6:30-7:30 pm



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

**Sept:** *Go As a River* by Shelley Read  
**Oct:** *The Unmaking of June Farrow* by Adrienne Young

**Nov:** *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

**Dec:** Holiday party

**Adults. No registration required.**

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS



### CRAFT LAB: MAKERSPACE FOR ADULTS

Saturday, September 13 & November 8 | 1:00-3:00 pm



We provide space to create, experiment and connect with fellow makers. You can bring a project or try something new. ChompSaw cutter, button maker, and more. Plus yarn, thread, paper, crochet hooks, and more. All skill levels welcomed. **Adults. Registration recommended but not required.**

## ADULT CRAFTERNOON

Third Tuesdays (September 16, October 21, November 18) | 1:00-2:30 pm



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

**September:** Yarn Wrapped Coil Baskets

**October:** Terrarium or "Terrorium" (spooky theme optional)

**November:** Paint By Design

**Adults. Registration required.**

## OTHER EVENTS

### AN EVENING WITH DR. WILLIAM GINGOLD: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S STORY

Thursday, September 18 | 5:30-7:30 pm



Join us for a powerful and personal presentation by Dr. William Gingold, a Holocaust survivor and retired professor. Dr. Gingold will share his family's story of survival and resilience after escaping Nazi persecution during World War II. Born in Poland in 1939, Dr. Gingold spent part of his early childhood in the Warsaw Ghetto and displacement camps before coming to the US.

**Adults. Registration recommended but not required.**

### LEARN TO CAN

Tuesday, September 23 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Presented by Rachel Mannen at the University of Illinois Extension Master the art of canning! Learn valuable skills to preserve your harvest and enjoy delicious homemade canned good year-round.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### PLANTING A TREE

Thursday, September 25 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Join Tyler Courson, an arborist from Green View, for an engaging and practical talk on how to select, plant and care for trees that will thrive in central Illinois. Learn the best timing, placement and techniques to give your tree a healthy start and avoid

common mistakes.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### ARTIFACT DISCOVERY WITH THE MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE

Thursday, October 2 | 6:30-7:30 pm

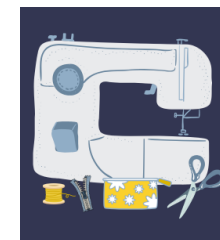


Join us at the library as a staff member from the Museum of the Grand Prairie showcases some artifacts from their education collection! Learn about the museum, local history, and interact with some unique artifacts.

**Adults. No registration required.**

### SEW TO SHARE

Tuesday, October 7 | 6:00-8:00 pm

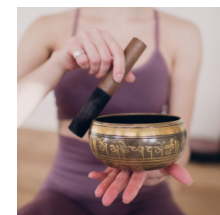


Learn how to sew a small, practical zipper bag, then make a second to donate to a girl in need. This beginner-friendly sewing class includes step-by-step instruction, with all materials provided. Sewing machines will be available.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### SOUND BATH MEDITATION WITH FLOW YOGA

Saturday, October 18 | 11:00 am-12:00 pm



Join Flow Yoga for a relaxing and immersive sound bath meditation at the library. This experience uses singing bowls, chimes and other instruments to help quiet the mind, release stress and promote relaxation. No yoga or meditation experience is needed.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### SPICE UP YOUR KITCHEN

Tuesday, October 23 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Discover the art of cooking with spices in this flavorful workshop. This session will introduce key spices, offer tips for pairing and using them, and help build confidence in the kitchen. Perfect for home cooks of all levels. Presented by Anurita Mangar.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### ADULT HALLOWEEN BINGO & COSTUME CONTEST

Tuesday, October 28 | 6:30-8:00 pm

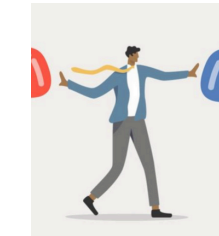


Get ready for a spooky evening of Halloween fun at the Library! Dress up in your favorite costume (optional, but encouraged), and compete for festive prizes in both the costume contest and BINGO games.

**Adults. Registration required.**

### BRAVER ANGELS DEBATE

Tuesday, November 4 | 6:30-8:00 pm



Debate with Braver Angels! The subject of the debate this time is Resolved: Abolish the Electoral College. The resolution is offered as a starting place for conversation and does not reflect the views of the Library.

**Adults. No registration required.**

### WITS WORKOUT

Thursday, November 6 | 10:00-11:00 am



It's never too early, or too late to start giving your brain the attention it deserves. Join Extension Program Coordinator Vanessa Jones for a fun and engaging class featuring interactive activities designed to challenge you mind and support brain health. **Registration required.**

### INTRO TO CANVA: CREATE A HOLIDAY CARD

Thursday, November 13 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Learn the basics of Canva, a free and easy-to-use online design tool! In this beginner-friendly class, we'll walk through the steps to design your own holiday greeting card using Canva's templates, images and text tools. Laptops will be provided, or you're

welcome to bring your own device. No experience needed. **Adults. Registration required.**

### COOKIE DECORATING WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 7 | 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. Cookies and supplies will be provided. **Middle school to Adult. Registration required.**



# ALL AGES PROGRAMS

## TEENS TEACH TECH

**Saturday, September 13 | 10:00-12:00 pm**



Need help with your phone, tablet, or computer? Want to learn how to use social media, download apps, or troubleshoot a tech issue? Stop by for free 1:1 help from local high school volunteers from M-S Interact Club. Bring your device and your questions.

**All ages. No registration required.**

## BOOK OR TREAT

**Saturday, October 25 | 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.**

## WACKADOO!

**Saturday, September 27 | 9:30-11 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 children's show.

**All Ages. No registration required.**

## MSHS MADRIGALS

**Sunday, November 30 | 2:00-2:30 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.**

## FALL BOOK SALE

**Thursday, October 9-Sunday, October 11**



Thursday, October 9\*: 5:00-8:00 pm  
\*Friends only - join at the door!  
Friday, October 10: 9:00 am-6:00 pm  
Saturday, October 11: 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Sunday, October 12: 1:00-4:00 pm

**All ages. No registration required.**

## DIY HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

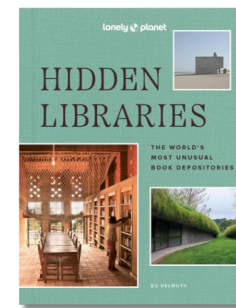
**Saturday, December 6 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm**



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.**

### TAMMY'S PICK: HIDDEN LIBRARIES



This book highlights 50 one-of-a-kind libraries from across the globe. It shares heartfelt stories from the people who visit or manage them and beautiful photos showcasing the libraries' creative designs. I loved "exploring" each library and highly recommend this book to anyone who's passionate about libraries!

**Find it on our nonfiction shelves.**

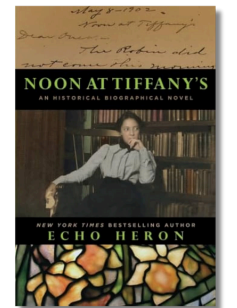
### JOHN'S PICK: DUNGEON CRAWLER CARL



Fun and funny, especially for fans of Dungeons and Dragons (DND) and other RPGs. Aliens kill 99% of the earth's population, and the survivor's must participate in an intergalactic reality show that has them navigating a fantasy dungeon and trying to survive. Carl's cat joins him and is given human intelligence and speech, making Princess Donut one of the greatest cat characters in all of literature. Exciting, fun and unexpected!

**Find it on our new fiction shelves.**

### LESLIE'S PICK: NOON AT TIFFANY'S



This historical biographical book dates back to 1888. Clara Wolcott Driscoll, a young artist from Ohio, works for 21 years under Louis Tiffany, creator of the famous Tiffany lamps and stained glass windows. Tiffany claims Clara's designs for the famous Tiffany lamps for himself, when it is really Clara that designed and made the lamps. The author, Echo Heron, discovered letters written by Clara Wolcott Driscoll and wrote the story based on these letters. It's a wonderful book if you are a historical fiction reader!

**Find it in our Hoopla app.**

# STAFF PICKS

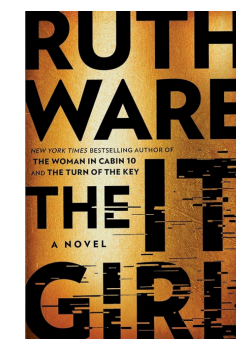
### ASHLEY'S PICK: THE LOST BOOKSHOP



If you have a general sentimental love for books and the magical world that they bring behind them, reading this book will bring that love to surface. Read through the POVs of three characters to see how they are all connected together in a profound way. This book holds various genres including historical fiction, magical realism, mystery, thriller, and a dash of romance to keep you enticed.

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

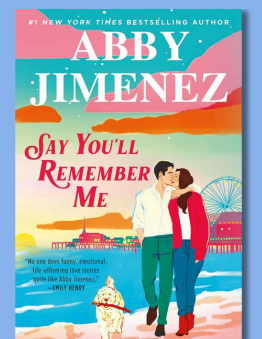
### LINDA'S PICK: THE IT GIRL



Set at Oxford College, a group of friends look up to the leader of the pack, April. When April is found dead in her dorm room, we are taken on a journey full of twists and turns to find the killer. Ware always keeps me guessing, and this one was no exception!

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

### CAROL'S PICK: SAY YOU'LL REMEMBER ME



Funny, sweet story about love and family and what brings us together

**Find it on our new fiction shelves and in the Libby app.**



# SURVEY STATS

RESULTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TAKEN BY APPROXIMATELY 500 MAHOMET RESIDENTS

92%



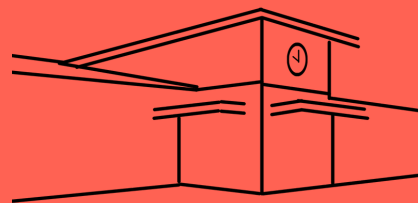
OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS GAVE THE LIBRARY VERY GOOD OR EXCELLENT OVERALL RATINGS

56.3%

OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED A LIBRARY PROGRAM IN THE PAST YEAR

87.5%

OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS USE THE LIBRARY



## MOST IMPORTANT MATERIALS FOR CHECKOUT

1. BOOKS
2. INTER-LIBRARY LOANS
3. EBOOKS & EAUDIOBOOKS
4. AUDIOBOOKS
5. BLU-RAYS/DVDS
6. BOARD GAMES

## TOP 3 THINGS THE LIBRARY DOES WELL

1. PROVIDES A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE
2. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS & EVENTS
3. ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF MATERIALS



## MOST IMPORTANT SERVICES

1. ONLINE CATALOG
2. WIFI ACCESS
3. HELP FROM LIBRARIANS



## TOP 3 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. MORE SPACE NEEDED
2. BIGGER/BROADER BOOK SELECTION
3. NOTHING - WE LOVE THE LIBRARY!

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## CHAT WITH LIBRARY DIRECTOR JOHN HOWARD



So much to say. So little space! (I'll try to be brief.)

### SUPER SUMMER

Before we say goodbye to summer, let's recognize what a great summer we had. 866 students ages 0-16 signed up for summer reading this year – I'm pretty sure that's a new record. We recorded nearly a quarter of a million(!) minutes of reading. We offered 75 programs that were attended by 5,103 people. I couldn't be prouder of our library staff – no one works harder than they do.

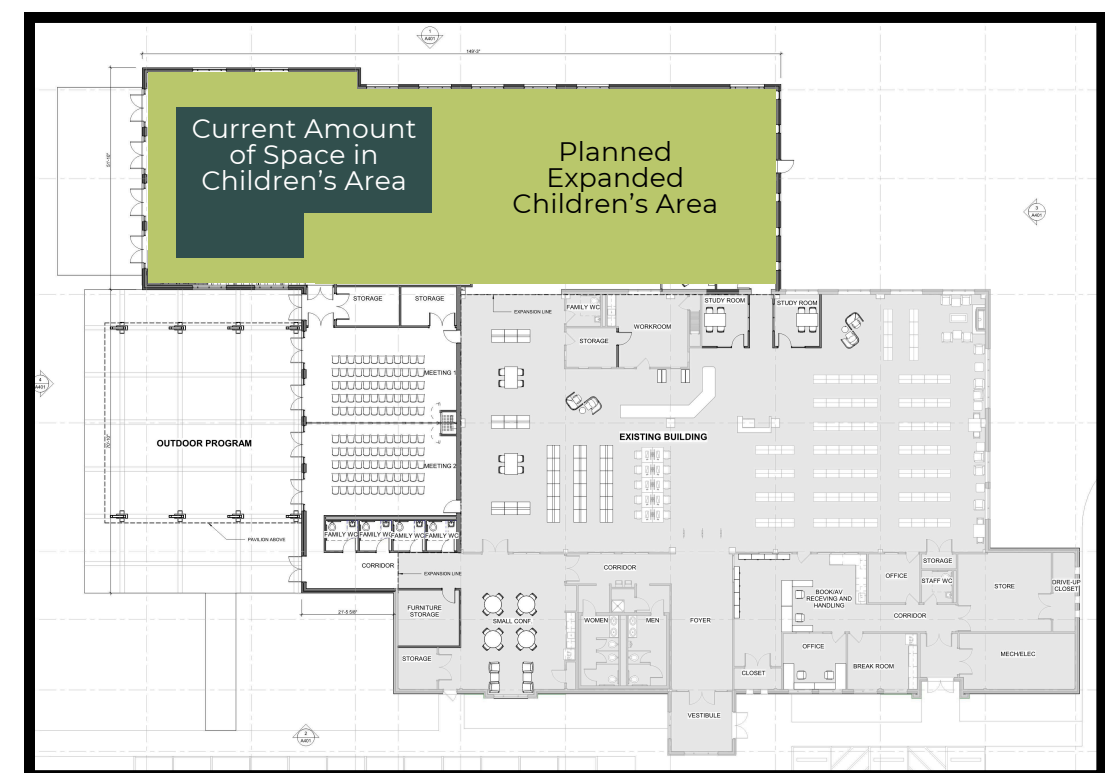
### COMMUNITY SURVEY

Nearly 500 adults, 69 teens, and 108 youth filled out our surveys. Thank you! As you can see at left, 92% rated us Very Good or Excellent, but they also offered hundreds of comments and suggestions to make us better. Rest assured, we have read every one of these, and will use that information in our planning. We can't make everyone happy, but we've gotten lots of ideas to help us be better every day.

### THINGS TO WATCH FOR THIS FALL

- Lots of great programs - visit our website for a complete list!
- The Board and staff work to create our next four-year strategic plan for 2026-29
- The library unveils (with some partners) a new resource that will serve all residents of Mahomet, even if they never enter the library. I've been dreaming about this for years – I can't wait to roll it out. More info will be coming soon.

Of course, more than anything else, this fall we will be working on our long-needed library expansion – centered around a magical new children's library. As you see in the planned floor plan, this expanded children's area will be over twice the size of our current children's area! After waiting four years for a promised state grant (we qualify every year only to be told the program hasn't been funded), the Board of Trustees is moving ahead without it. If you see me, ask me more about it. But only if you have time – I am psyched to make this possible and I love to talk about it.



Thank you for being a community that values its library, and the knowledge, wisdom, and joy it brings to those who use it. I couldn't do this without you.

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