



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



VOTE AT THE LIBRARY!

The Mahomet Library is a polling place on voting day, Tuesday, March 17. Vote at the Library between 6:00 am and 7:00 pm.

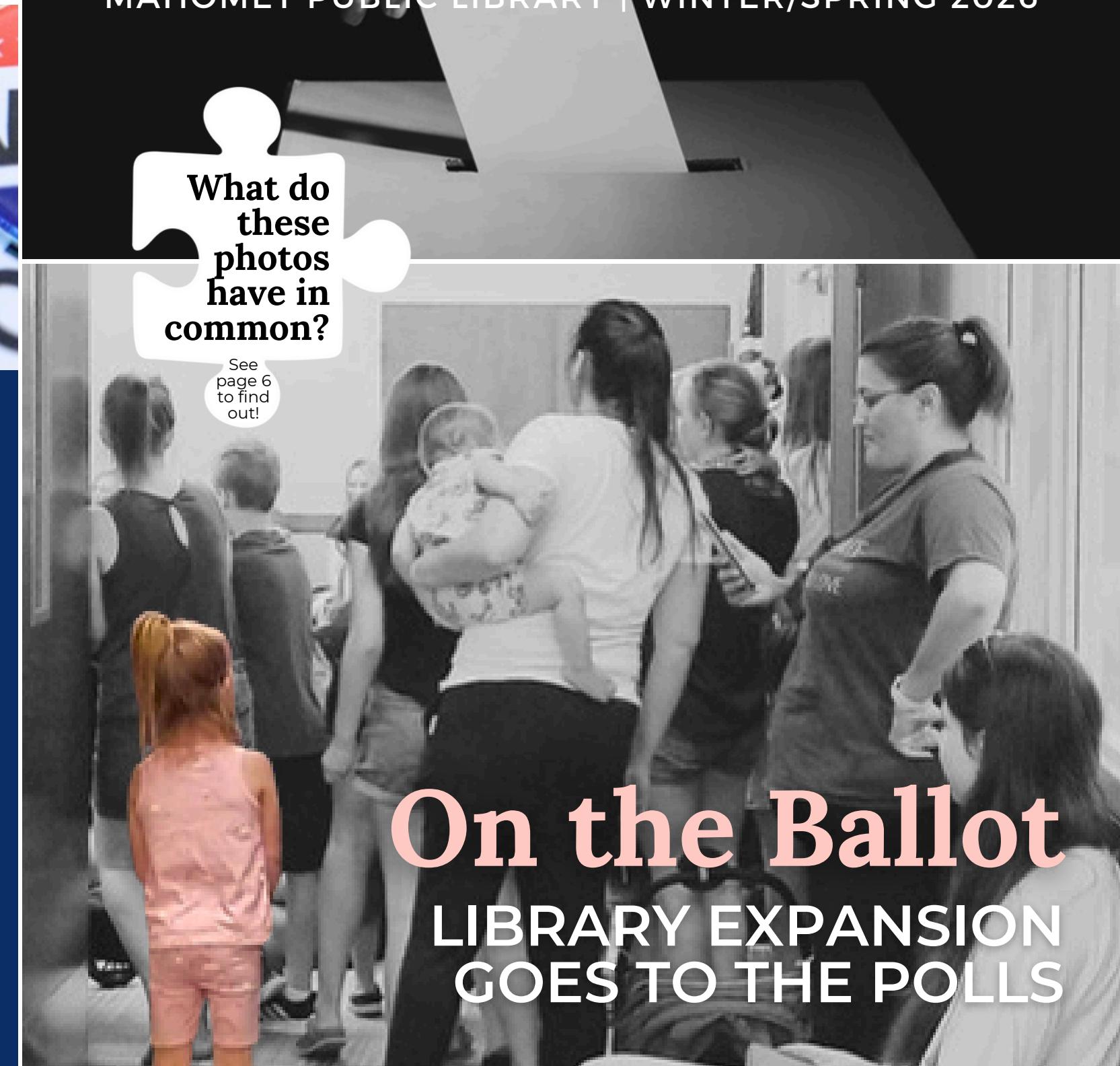


connect

-  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

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY | WINTER/SPRING 2026



On the Ballot
LIBRARY EXPANSION
GOES TO THE POLLS

ON THE BALLOT: LIBRARY EXPANSION GOES TO THE POLLS

REFERENDUM IN A NUTSHELL

The Library will take its project to the voters this spring.

- Date:** March 17th, 2026 (or earlier with early or mail-in voting)
- Purpose:** The Library has outgrown its home and we need to expand.
- Background:** After years of planning, we have a strong design that will meet the needs of the community for the fewest dollars possible.
- Funding:** The Library has committed or identified funding for 15% of the \$10,500,000 cost. There will be a referendum for the remaining \$8,925,000.
- Impact:** This project will increase your property taxes by less than 1% – \$5.33/month for a \$300,000 home.

A GROWING LIBRARY NEEDS TO GROW!

When we opened the doors to our current building in 2010, library usage immediately jumped by over 30%, as the community enjoyed the larger space, dedicated children's area, new community and study rooms, and more materials than our old building could have ever held.

RIGHT:
View of the new Children's Library



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As the community grew, the Library grew with it, offering creative programs for all ages; providing new material types to meet changing needs, such as Roku sticks, Vox books, board games, and educational kits; and rearranging our furniture and shelving as needed. We have done the most we can do with the space that we have, but now we are simply overcrowded:

- Our children's area is often crowded with children and their caregivers, making it difficult for them to comfortably use the space and access materials and activities.
- Our community room is too small for our most popular programs, forcing us to either limit participation or have patrons standing outside the doors, struggling to see and hear.
- We only have one study room and one community room, forcing us to regularly turn individuals and community groups away.
- Our shelves are full, and we can only make room for new materials by removing other items long before we would prefer to do so.



TOP: View of the expanded Library from the west side

BOTTOM: View from the main entrance

AN EXPANDED LIBRARY

We are excited to share that, after years of planning and preparation, we have a library design that will give the community more free space to gather, work, and study; more programs and events for children, families, teens, and adults, and more space to house books, movies, and other materials.

NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARY & DEDICATED 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 to 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.

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, so we have designed a Teen Room just for them.



LARGE, DIVIDABLE COMMUNITY ROOM

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

PATIO & OUTDOOR PROGRAM SPACE

One lesson we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic is that our patrons really enjoy outdoor programming during warm weather months, but the Library doesn't have shade to offer protection from the sun during these events. A covered outdoor patio will provide space for programs, concerts, and even studying or working outdoors.

CHANGES TO THE EXISTING SPACE

Moving children, teens, programs, and meetings into the expanded library will allow us to rearrange our current space to better meet community needs:

- The current Edgar Community Room will become a free gathering space for informal meetings and visits, with food and drink allowed.
- The current teen area will become a new study room.
- The adult collection and work areas will expand into the current children's areas.

A THOUGHTFUL PLAN

This is not an impulsive decision, but one driven by data: we are out of space and we are struggling to provide for the community's library needs. Once we realized this, library staff and trustees took several years to create a plan that would meet the needs and yet be as cost efficient as possible:

- We worked with a library consultant, who developed a requirements plan based on input from staff, trustees, and public surveys.
- We hired an architect who specializes in public libraries to create a design and provide cost estimates.
- We hired a financial consultant to create a plan that would allow us to not only build the expansion, but also maintain the facility and continue to provide library programs and services.



STEWARDS OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Library staff and trustees never lose sight of the fact that we are stewards of your tax dollars and we must meet the needs of the community in the most cost effective way possible. The Library has been adding countless programs and services while barely changing what you pay in property taxes! Check out this real example from a home in Mahomet:

Property tax history from an actual home in Mahomet					
Year	Net Taxable Value*	Total Tax Paid	Library Tax	Schools Tax	Village Tax
2021	\$68,340	\$5,506	\$209	\$3,161	\$578
2022	\$72,650	\$5,815	\$215	\$3,359	\$603
2023	\$79,330	\$6,279	\$211	\$3,676	\$644
2024	\$87,860	\$6,815	\$219	\$4,068	\$671
% Increase 2021-2024	28.56%	23.78%	4.78%	28.69%	16.09%

*Net taxable value is approximately 1/3 of the full home value

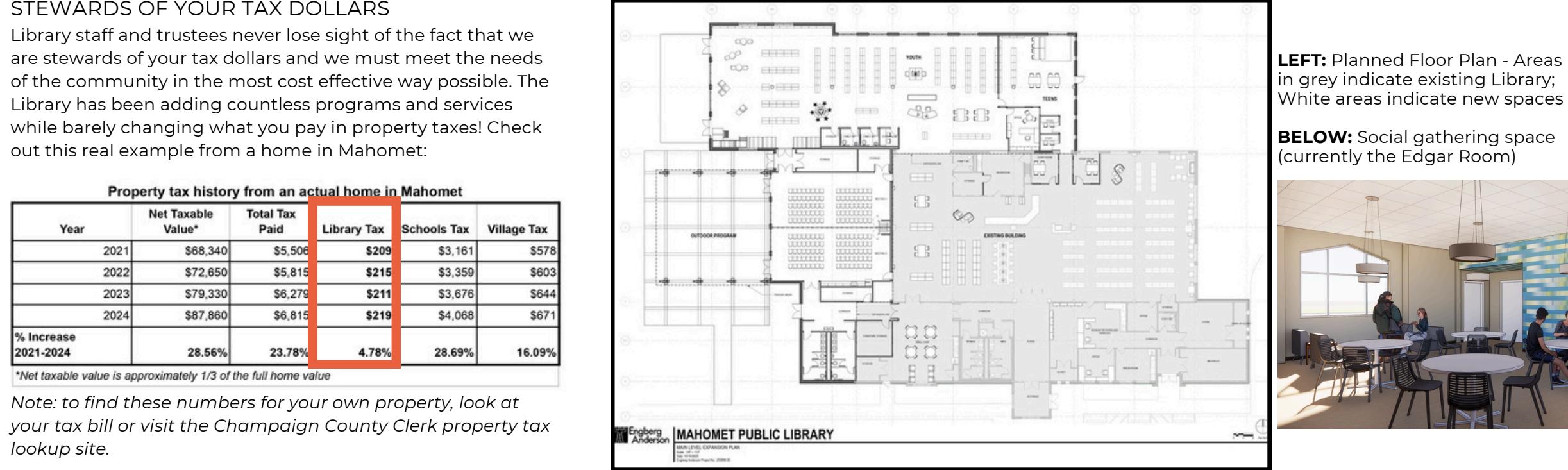
Note: to find these numbers for your own property, look at your tax bill or visit the Champaign County Clerk property tax lookup site.

Library Tax Rate: The overall tax rate levied by the Library on Mahomet property dropped from 0.3061 in 2021 to 0.2494 in 2024. That is a reduction of 18.5%! For the property listed above, the increase in actual tax paid to the Library came almost entirely from the 28.5% increase in property value, not from the Library raising tax rates.

Refinancing Savings: In 2019, the Library Board went to considerable effort to refinance the bonds on the existing building. This work did not bring any more income to the library, but it did save taxpayers \$230,000.

Savings Toward Expansion: Despite continually increasing programs and services, the Library has set aside some funds every year to be used on this expansion project.

LEFT: View of the new dividable meeting room
BELLOW: Outdoor programming/gathering space



LEFT: Planned Floor Plan - Areas in grey indicate existing Library; White areas indicate new spaces

BELLOW: Social gathering space (currently the Edgar Room)

LET'S TALK DOLLARS

PROJECT COST

The total cost of the library expansion and near-term repairs and maintenance for the existing facility is estimated to be \$10,500,000. The Board of Trustees has committed to covering the first 15% (\$1,625,000) through a combination of:

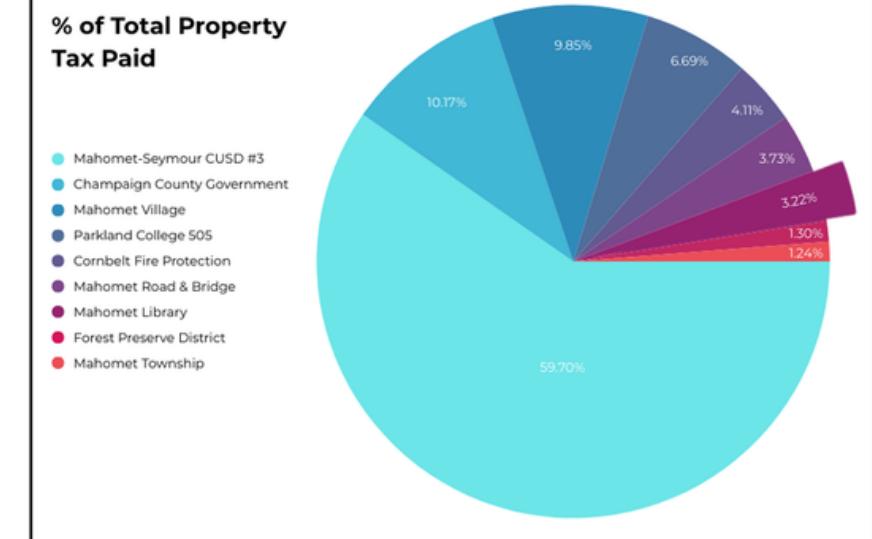
- Library reserves that have been built up for this project since 2010,
- Voluntary donations from the community, and
- Grants.

The remainder of the costs depend on passing a bond referendum for \$8,925,000 on March 17, 2026.

IMPACT ON YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

This project will increase your total property tax bill by less than 1%.

Less than 1%? How can it have so little impact? It's simple: the library represents a small portion of your property tax bill, so our request will have a minimal effect on your tax bill.



Payments on the new bonds will begin immediately after the retirement of construction bonds for the current building, minimizing the increase in property taxes. The current estimated impact on property taxes is \$5.33 per month for a \$300,000 house.

HOME VALUE	ANNUAL INCREASE	MONTHLY
\$100,000	\$18.61	\$1.55/month
\$200,000	\$41.31	\$3.44/month
\$300,000	\$64.01	\$5.33/month
\$400,000	\$86.71	\$7.23/month
\$500,000	\$109.41	\$9.12/month

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM DOESN'T PASS?

While we truly believe this expansion is in the best interests of the community, if we are not able to move forward we will continue as we have been doing, providing the best library programming, services, and materials that we can in our limited space.

Unfortunately, this means we will continue to:

- Turn children and families away from programs due to lack of space,
- Lack room for all the materials we need as the population grows,
- Have limited availability of meeting space for community groups,
- Lack sufficient quiet work/study space, and
- Have an overcrowded children's area, especially before and after programs.



Families stand outside the Edgar Room during a program, trying to hear and see. Inside the Edgar Room, every bit of floor space is being used.



The photos below were taken during a live animal program in summer of 2024. The room was packed, and the little girl in pink (top photo) found herself on the outside, missing it. We can only imagine how she felt.

Throughout our planning, we have kept this image in our minds. Children and teens want to be in our library. We want to be sure we have the space to welcome them. With this expansion, we can make that happen.



For more information about the expansion project, please visit the expansion page on our website: <https://mahometpubliclibrary.org/expansion-project/>

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

LIBRARIES ARE MAGIC! TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Saturday, February 7 | 10 am-12 pm



Help us celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day" and join us for some magical crafts and activities! **Children and caregivers of all ages welcome. No registration required.**

TEENS TEACH TECH

Saturday, February 21 | 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.**

MINECRAFT PARTY!

Saturday, March 7 | 10:00-11:30 am



Celebrate all things Minecraft with drop-in crafts and activities at the Library! Activities will be geared toward school-aged children, but younger siblings and caregivers are welcome to join in on the fun! **All ages. No registration required.**

PLANT SWAP

Saturday, March 14 | 11:00 am-12:00 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 BOOK SALE

Thursday, April 23-Sunday, April 26



Thursday, April 23*: 5:00-8:00 pm
*Friends only - join at the door!
Friday, April 24: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Saturday, April 25: 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday, April 26: 1:00-4:00 pm
All ages. No registration required.

SEVENTH ANNUAL JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

Saturday, May 2 | 1:00-3:00 pm



This popular event is back! Get ready to piece together a victory at the Library's yearly puzzle competition. Race against the clock and 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.

ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPLY SWAP

Saturday, May 9 | 9:45-10:30 am



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? From May 3-8, 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!

Swap Schedule:

9:45-10:00 am: Those who donate will receive a voucher for early entry to the swap.

10:00-10:30 am: Public entry (everyone who did not donate supplies) begins

10:30 am: Anyone is welcome to take the remaining materials, even if you have already filled a bag.

All ages. No registration required.

KIDS PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

STORYTIME

Tuesdays & Wednesdays (January 13 - April 29)

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 on Tuesday, March 17.
No registration required.

ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

Wednesdays (January 14-April 29)

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.



PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

Fridays (January 16-April 17) | 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 25 due to book sale.

LITTLE GROOVERS: MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Every other Thursday (January 15 & 29, February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26, April 9) | 10-10:30 am

Your littles are invited to wiggle, giggle, and groove their way to fun while engaging their imaginations, enhancing motor skills and building social connections!
Ages 2-5. No registration required.

SCHOOL'S OUT! MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Monday, January 19, February 16, April 6 | 2:00 pm

Join us for a special movie on the big screen at the Library! Snacks will be provided.
Jan: Dog Man
Feb: The Wild Robot
Apr: The One and Only Ivan
Recommended for ages 5 and up. No registration required.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Friday, January 23 & March 6 | 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.
January: Schoolbot 9000 by Sam Hepburn
March: DnDoggos: Get the Party Started! by Scout Underhill
Grades 3-7. Registration required.

LIBRARY LAB: ROBOT MAZES

Saturday, January 24 | 2:00-3:00 pm

A-maze-ing! Work with a group to design your own maze, and then use our library iPads to navigate a robot through the course!
Grades 2-5. Registration required.

JR. D&D CLUB

Saturday, February 28, March 28, & April 18 | 1:30-3:30 pm

Registration is required to participate in this program. Please register for each session separately. Calling all young adventurers in grades 3-5! Join us at the Library for a series of one-shot D&D games led by community member Joe Trotter!

Players will practice problem solving and teamwork while engaging in exciting adventures filled with magic and action!

Grades 3-5. Please register for each session individually.

BEACH BLANKET BINGO

Thursday, March 19 | 10-11:30 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!
Ages 5-12. No registration required.

LIBRARY LAB: CODING WITH SCRATCH JR.

Saturday, March 21 | 2:00-3:00 pm

Crack the code! Use the Library's iPads to learn basic coding skills with Scratch Jr. We'll learn how to make short animated videos using code!
Grades 2-5. Registration required.

CARTOON CLUB

Thursday, February 19 & April 16 | 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.
February: Amphibia
April: Avatar: The Last Airbender
Grades 3-8. Registration required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

WINTER READING PROGRAM

WARM UP WITH A GOOD BOOK!

Friday, January 2 - Saturday, February 28



Cozy up and read this winter with our Winter Reading Challenge for Teens & Adults! Pick up a reading log from the Library and earn a raffle entry for every 10 hours you spend reading. Four prize baskets are up for grabs! Whether you like novels, audiobooks, or graphic novels, every hour counts.

Adults and Teens.

BOOK CLUBS

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Second Tuesdays (January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12) | 6:30-8:00 pm



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

January: *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams

February: *James* by Percival Everett

March: *The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson* by Ellen Baker

April: *Lula Dean's Little Library of*

Banned Books by Kirsten Miller

May: *Sandwich* by Catherine Newman

Adults. No registration required.

COOKBOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 5 & April 9 | 6:30 pm



Explore new recipes, share cooking tips, and enjoy delicious food together! This book club is perfect for adults who enjoy cooking and sharing food together. All experience levels are welcome. Choose a recipe from the selected cookbook to make and share with the group.

February: *There's Always Room at the Table* by Kaleb Wyse

April: *What Goes with What* by Julia Turshen

Adults. Registration required.

MULTIPLE SESSION PROGRAMS

ADULT CRAFTERNOON

Monthly Tuesdays (January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21, May 19) | 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.

January: Woven Mug Rug

February: Paper Cone Wreath

March: Pressed Flower Luminary

April: Beaded Succulents

May: Perler Bead Magnets

Adults. Registration required.

KEYS TO HOME OWNERSHIP: LEARN HOW TO BUY A HOUSE

Every Other Thursday (February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26) | 6:30-7:30 pm



Buying a home can feel hard, but it doesn't have to be! Join local real estate agent Kurtis Decker and special guests to learn how the process works. Each class will cover a different step, from getting a loan to closing day. Ask questions, meet local experts, and feel ready to buy

your first (or next) home.

Session 1 (Feb 12): Get Ready to Buy or Sell Learn how to get your money ready to buy or sell a home. A local lender will explain loans, down payments, and how to get pre-approved.

Session 2 (Feb 26): Understand Contracts and Disclosures Buying or selling a home means signing a lot of papers. A local attorney will explain what they mean and how to protect yourself.

Session 3 (March 12): Learn about Home Inspections Find out what home inspectors look for and what to do if repairs are needed. Learn how this step helps before you close.

Session 4 (March 26): Get Ready to Close the Deal Learn what happens at the end of the home buying process. A title expert will explain how to keep your money safe and what to expect on closing day.

Adults. Register for each session individually.

OTHER EVENTS

CREATE YOUR 2026 VISION BOARD

Thursday, January 15 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Set your intentions for the year ahead by creating a personalized vision board. Choose to craft your with traditional materials or design a digital version in Canva that we'll print for you. You'll be guided through the process to help you visualize your goals and dreams for 2026. All supplies provided, but feel free to bring any personal materials or images you'd like to include.

Adults. Registration required.

BUDGET BASICS

Thursday, January 22 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Join Nick Schneider from First State Bank of Forrest for a practical, easy-to-follow introduction to personal budgeting. Learn how to track income and expenses, set realistic goals and create a budget that works for you. Whether you want to save more, spend smarter, or simply feel more in control, this session will help you create a fresh financial start for the year ahead.

Adults. Registration required.

BEGINNER SOURDOUGH WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 27 | 6:30-8:00 pm



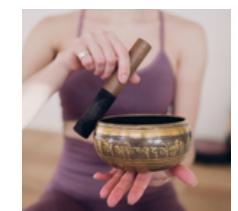
Join us for a beginner sourdough class at the Library! This class is perfect for anyone interested in learning the art of sourdough baking. We'll learn how to make and maintain a starter, the science behind the sourdough fermentation process, and tips for making the perfect loaf.

Attendees will be provided with some starter and instructions to take home.

High School & Adults. Registration required.

SOUND BATH MEDITATION

Saturday, January 31 | 2:00-3:00 pm



Join us 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.

Presented by Yoga with Marissa.

High School & Adults. Registration required.

PAINT YOUR PARTNER

Wednesday, February 4 | 6:30-8:00 pm



Grab your sweetheart, or your friend, and join us for a lighthearted evening of creativity and laughter! We'll take on the viral Paint Your Partner challenge where you'll paint a portrait of each other (no experience required). We'll provide the supplies, snacks and mocktails. Just bring your sense of humor!

Adults. Registration required.

VALENTINE BINGO

Thursday, February 12 | 1:00-2:30 pm



Celebrate Valentine's season with fun afternoon of Bingo at the library! Enjoy friendly competition, light refreshments, and the chance to win fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses. Bring your friends, your sweetheart, or come solo. Please register; space is limited.

Adults. Registration required.

MURDER MYSTERY FUNDRAISER DINNER

Saturday, February 14 | 6:00 pm |

Location: at the Farm Credit Union



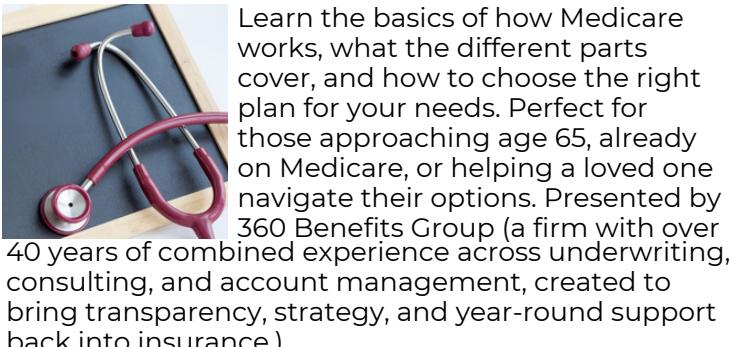
Rent a tux, break out the Aqua Net and a strapless gown, and return to high school. This year's murder mystery is set at Prom! Interact with the jock, the nerd, the stoner, the popular girl and more as you navigate a mystery pulled from all your favorite teen movies. Join us for "A Poisonous Promenade."

Adults. Ticket (\$55) required.

ADULT (CONT.)

MEDICARE 101

Tuesday, February 24 | 6:30-7:30 pm

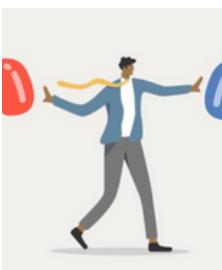


Learn the basics of how Medicare works, what the different parts cover, and how to choose the right plan for your needs. Perfect for those approaching age 65, already on Medicare, or helping a loved one navigate their options. Presented by 360 Benefits Group (a firm with over 40 years of combined experience across underwriting, consulting, and account management, created to bring transparency, strategy, and year-round support back into insurance.)

Adults. Registration required.

BRAVER ANGELS DEBATE

Tuesday, March 3 | 6:30-8:00 pm



Debate with Braver Angels! The subject of the debate this time is TBD. Residents are invited to attend and participate. Braver Angels debates encourage listening and active conversation. They are moderated to ensure that conversation remains civil and both sides are heard.

Adults. No registration required.

AN EVENING WITH DR. WILLIAM GINGOLD: A HOLOCAUST STORY

Thursday, March 5 | 5:30-7:00 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

part of his early childhood in the Warsaw Ghetto and displacement camps before coming to the US.

Adults. Please register as space is limited.

LEARN TO CRICUT: MAKE YOUR OWN VINYL DECAL

Tuesday, March 31 | 6:30-8:00 pm



Curious about how a Cricut works? In this hands-on class, you'll learn the basics of Cricut Design Space and create your own custom vinyl decal to take home. Perfect for beginners interested in trying out Cricut crafting. All materials provided.

Adults. Registration required.

ROAD TRIP READY

Tuesday, April 28 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Get your car ready for your next road trip! Join us for an informative program on basic car maintenance and how to prepare your vehicle for a trip. It will include practical tips on things like checking tires and fluids, understanding regular maintenance schedules and knowing when it's best to DIY versus bring your car in for service. Presented by Scott Miller from Bulldog Automotive.

Adults. Registration required.

ASK AN ARBORIST: CARING FOR YOUR TREES

Thursday, April 30 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Keep your trees healthy and resilient this season. Local arborist Tyler Courson from Greenview will share practical advice on pruning, spotting signs of disease or damage, and knowing when to call a professional. Bring your questions (or photos) for expert guidance during this interactive session.

Adults. Registration required.

TEEN PROGRAMS

WARM UP WITH A GOOD BOOK!

Friday, January 2 - Saturday, February 28



Cozy up and read this winter with our Winter Reading Challenge for Teens & Adults! Pick up a reading log from the Library and earn a raffle entry for every 10 hours you spend reading. Four prize baskets are up for grabs! Whether you like novels, audiobooks, or graphic novels, every hour counts.

Adults and Teens.

TEEN AFTER HOURS YAPPIN' HOURS: POWERPOINT PARTY

Friday, February 13 | 5:30-8:00 pm



Calling all students in grades 6-12 who love to yap about anything and everything! The Library is hosting an after-hours powerpoint party for teens! You'll have 30 minutes and free use of the library's iPads to craft a brilliant slideshow presentation on the topic of your choice. Then, each participant will get 5 minutes to present their slideshow to a captive audience. Pizza and refreshments will be provided!

Grades 6-12. Registration required.

TEEN AFTER HOURS CRAFT NIGHT: PAINT YOUR PET!

Friday, March 27 | 5:30-7:30 pm



Students in grades 6-12: join us for a fun craft night at the library! We'll provide all supplies needed to paint a perfect portrait of your pet! Plus, pizza and refreshments will be served! Don't have a pet? No problem! Paint your favorite animal or whatever floats your boat!

Grades 6-12. Registration required.

TEEN D&D CLUB

Sunday, January 18, February 8, March 1 & 22 | 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. Space is limited. Registration (for all sessions together) is required.

TEEN AFTER HOURS CRAFT NIGHT: TIE-DYE TOTE BAG

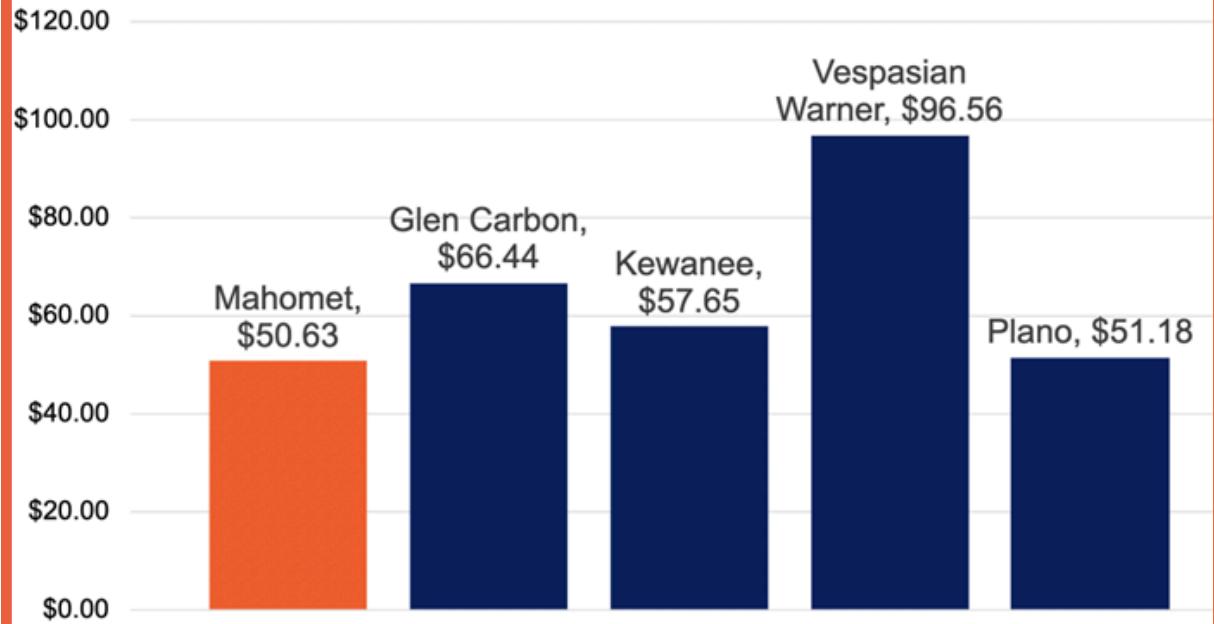
Friday, April 17 | 5:30-7:00 pm



Students in grades 6-12: join us for a fun craft night at the library! Learn how to tie-dye a tote bag! All supplies needed will be provided. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Grades 6-12. Registration required.

Total Expense per Population Served



Students from the Gies College of Business at UIUC performed a benchmark study for the Library, comparing your library with others that serve communities of similar size. We're proud to show you that, even with all the programs and services we provide, we have been able to do it efficiently! We take the responsibility of managing your money seriously.



EVERYTHING MAHOMET

A NEW WAY TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Since the loss of the Mahomet Citizen newspaper, community leaders have often heard "there is no place to go to find out what's going on in Mahomet." As a result, residents too often have to turn to social media for their answers to questions. In 2024, Library Director John Howard began conversations with former Village President Sean Widener and new Village President Jason Tompkins. They wondered if there was a better way to provide accurate, unbiased information to the community, and if the Library could be part of the solution.

These conversations led to a consensus for the Library, Village, and Chamber of Commerce to work together to create a community website called EverythingMahomet.com. In September, the Library hired Kim Arnold of Mahomet to write articles and manage content on the site. (Many know Kim as the writer of the Mahomet Area Living magazine.) As of the time this was written, the website is expected to go live on January 2, 2026.

Everything Mahomet is intended to serve as a "one-stop-shop" for community information needs with applicable links to other Mahomet businesses and institutions. It will feature weekly articles of interest and a full community calendar. Unlike a social media page, the website will not include comments on individual articles. The site is not ad-supported. It is completely funded by the Library, Village, and Chamber of Commerce. However, there will be opportunities for feedback and interaction, and the website is expected to grow and develop as the community shares what they want to see included on the site.

"We want Everything Mahomet to be pro-Mahomet, and to reflect the needs of our community" says Library Director John Howard. "As we try to decide what to include, our driving question will be 'what information are Mahomet residents looking for?'" He emphasized that the comprehensive community calendar will be a central feature of the website, and that the site will depend on local individuals to submit content for the calendar.

Some additional features of the website include:

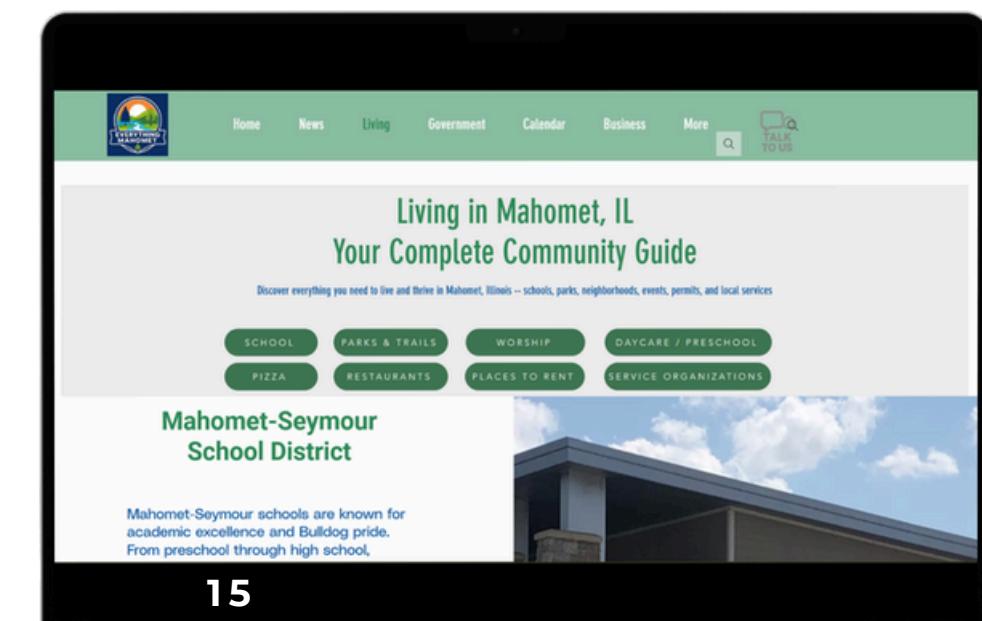
- Ask Kim, a monthly column where residents submit questions, and Kim Arnold researches and answers those questions. This is based in part on the popular "Ask Kathy" column found Fridays in the News Gazette.
- Garage sale listings
- A complete business directory of the Mahomet area, provided by the Chamber of Commerce
- A community guide with listings for churches, daycares, places to eat, places to rent and more

Howard noted that the website that launches January 2nd will be far from a finished product. More content will be added on a regular basis, based on community feedback. "Be patient with us" he added. "We won't literally have EVERYTHING in Mahomet at first, but with your suggestions, we plan to create a site that really fills your needs."

DID YOU KNOW?

With prices rising on everything, your library is working hard to lower any cost barriers for our community. In an effort to reduce frustration and challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, we temporarily suspended overdue fines. This temporary change ended up becoming permanent, and **we officially went fine free in April of 2021!**

Please Note: There are two exceptions to the rule - hotspots and Roku streaming sticks both have a \$1.00/day overdue fine. Patrons will still pay for lost or damaged items.



More info & checkout limitations available on the Beyond Books page on our website

More info & checkout limitations available on the Children's Library of Things page on our website

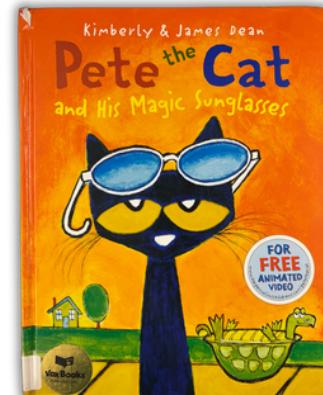


ROKU STREAMING STICKS

Each Roku Streaming Stick provides access to one of our paid streaming services (Apple TV, BritBox, Disney+, Hallmark+, HBO Max, Hulu, Netflix, Paramount+, Peacock, PrimeVideo, or Shudder), PBS Kids, the Roku Channel, and Movies Anywhere. Streaming sticks can be checked out by anyone who has a Mahomet Library card.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS

The Library has two laptops, with Microsoft Office installed, available for Mahomet Library patrons to check out.



VOX/ 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.



TRACE & WRITE BOARD

Practice writing with our Trace & Write Alphabet Center!

MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

EXPLORE THE MANY "THINGS" YOU CAN CHECK OUT WITH YOUR MAHOMET LIBRARY CARD!



HOTSPOTS

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



BOARD GAMES

Check out a board game or two from the Library and have a family or friend game night!



LEARN TO TELL TIME! CLOCK KIT

Practice telling time with our Turn & Tell clock!



BOTLEY, THE CODING ROBOT 2.0

Learn to code through screen-free play! Make Botley move in six directions, put on a light show, or code by color.



TALKING MICROSCOPE

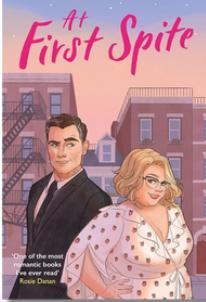
Explore the magic of the microscopic world with 20 slides packed with amazing images of bugs, plants, and more!



YOTO PLAYERS & CARD SETS

The Library has Yoto Player bundles and story card packs available for Mahomet Library patrons to check out. Yoto players are screen-free audiobook players that use story cards to play content.

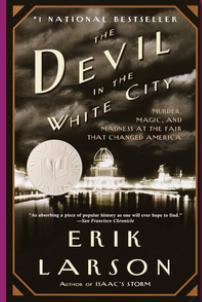
MEGAN'S PICK:
AT FIRST SPITE



This book is delightfully odd. What starts out as a romcom soon develops into a poignant, sweet, & spicy story about two sad, beautifully flawed characters who care deeply for each other. But Dade never lets the heaviness outweigh the joy inherent to the romance genre. Dr. Matthew Vine is the most compassionate hero in contemporary romance (while still giving grump. Trust me, it works). Body positivity. Mental health representation.

Find it on our fiction shelves and in the Hoopla app.

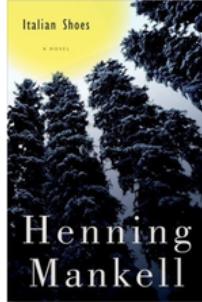
JOHN'S PICK:
DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY



Nonfiction that reads like an exciting novel. The 1893 Chicago Worlds Fair is a fascinating story. Add one of America's first serial killers to the mix, and you have a great story.

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

GRETCHEN'S PICK:
ITALIAN SHOES



This book is a wintry tale of isolation, acceptance & forgiveness, and finding friendship/love in unique circumstances.

Find it on our fiction shelves and in the Hoopla app.

CHAT WITH LIBRARY DIRECTOR JOHN HOWARD



Doing two major projects at the Library at once? The last few months have been among the busiest of my career. But both projects say something about what the Mahomet Public Library is all about.

Our Library Expansion Project goes to the ballot on March 17th.

I love it when people ask me about this project. Even when their concern is about rising property taxes. Property values, and therefore property taxes, have risen quite a lot in the last several years. Believe me, the

Board and I are very aware of this fact. But here is what I tell people when asked:

- Rather than asking taxpayers to fund the entire project, our Board has committed to finding funds for the first 15% of the project from other sources, including savings we have been putting aside for years.
- If you look at page 4, you will see that from FY2021-FY2024, the library tax on an actual house in Mahomet went up only 4.8%, compared to an increase of 23.8% overall.
- We look for little ways to save taxpayers money. Last year, we found that by switching to a different bank for our checking account, we could bring in almost \$2,200 more in interest each year. This lets us improve services without asking for more taxes.
- By expanding now, we begin payments for our new bonds right after we retire the existing bonds. This limits the disruption on taxpayers.
- In the end, we will get a beautiful, magical children's library that will be a source of pride for our community, more than double our space for programs and community meetings, add space for teens, make the Library quieter, and go from one to FIVE study rooms.

And this project will do all of this while increasing property taxes less than 1%.

I can't and won't tell you how to vote this March. But I hope you will vote, and will consider the list above when making your decision.

Meanwhile, EverythingMahomet.com is now live!

On page 15, you saw that the Library is managing a new website intended to give Mahomet residents a central place to find accurate, helpful information about our community. This is a vision I have had for the community for several years, and I am grateful to the Village and the Chamber for helping make it happen in 2026. There are many ways that the Library can provide information to our community. I hope that you find this one useful.

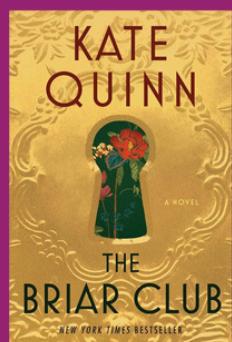
What do these two projects have in common?

I think they both show that we are always looking for ways to serve our community better. We are never satisfied. We try our best to provide our community with a library that truly serves you, while being careful with taxpayer dollars. Talk to me if you want to learn more or have ideas. My door is always open.

John

STAFF PICKS

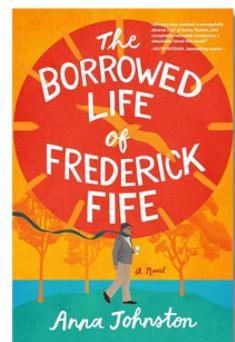
JENN'S PICK:
THE BRIAR CLUB



The Briar Club is a historical fiction set during the 1950's. Briarwood House is a boarding house for women. The book opens with a murder and each chapter of the book highlights the life and character of the residents. Quinn creates wonderful characters who quickly become like good friends. This book has it all - suspenseful plotline, well-crafted characters, and a satisfying ending.

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

LINDA'S PICK:
THE BORROWED LIFE OF
FREDERICK FIFE



A heartwarming novel about an elderly man down on his luck falling into good graces by taking over the identity of a curmudgeon at a local retirement home. What ensues is a change in the hearts of many, and a story about love triumphing over grief. You'll fall in love with Fred!

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

STAFF PICK:
MARIA



This wonderfully written historical fiction will open your eyes to a whole new side of Maria Von Trapp that you may have not known before. Follow Fran as she frequently meets with Maria, unraveling her true past, both good and bad. If you have any sentimental connections to the "Sound of Music" musical, you are in for a real treat.

Find it on our fiction shelves.