



OUR MISSION:

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

BY THE NUMBERS: OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

792

participants ages 0-18
(plus over 340 adults!)

84

total summer
programs & events

245,725

total minutes read by SRP
participants ages 0-18

465

students finished their
entire reading log

5,011

people attended summer
library programs

22,736

total children's and teen books
circulated between May-July

CONNECT WITH US!



MahometPublicLibrary.org



staff@mahometpubliclibrary.org



217-586-2611



mahometpubliclibrary.org/chat
OR text 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



MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY • FALL 2026

THE LIBRARY BOOKLET

Sharing our
LIBRARY JOY!!

STAYING OPTIMISTIC AND HEARING YOU!

OUR EXPANSION PROJECT & PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD

After the Library's March 2026 expansion referendum fell just 25 votes short of approval, the Library Board and staff took the opportunity to pause, listen, and reconsider the best way to move forward.

LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

Since the referendum, we have heard from many residents about the Library's expansion plans. A common theme has been the importance of distinguishing between needs and wants, while also recognizing that many residents would like to see the community address school crowding issues first. That feedback has led to some changes in our expansion plan.

Most notably, the proposed covered patio and outdoor programming space has been removed, reducing the projected cost by approximately \$1.4 million. While an outdoor programming area would have been a valuable addition, the Library's most pressing needs are inside the building.

Two priorities remain at the center of the revised plan:

- 1) a larger Children's Library & dedicated Teen Room (bottom picture)
- 2) a larger, dividable Community Room (top picture)

BUILDING A COMMUNITY EFFORT

In June, the Library worked with Ashley Stewart of Every Library Institute on an Expansion Roadmap session. The discussion looked beyond the building itself and focused on what will be needed for a successful expansion effort. One key takeaway was the importance of broader community involvement. The Friends of the Mahomet Public Library, community organizations, businesses and individual residents can all have a role in helping shape and support the project. An expansion is ultimately a community project. We look forward to working with the community to find ways in which more people can be involved.



GETTING THE TIMING RIGHT

We have also heard from residents who would prefer to address school crowding issues before considering another Library referendum. Final decisions about the next steps for the Library expansion will be made following the November school referendum. In the meantime, the Library will continue refining the project, listening to residents and exploring ways to make the expansion more financially achievable.

EXPLORING PRIVATE FUNDING

Over the summer, the Library hired a professional fundraising consultant to conduct a feasibility study. The consultant is evaluating whether private donations and other sources could reduce the cost of the project and how much could realistically be raised privately before the Library brings another proposal to taxpayers. We expect to receive the consultant's report in September. The results will help guide the Library Board's decisions about the project's future.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you are interested in helping—whether through fundraising, volunteering, outreach, sharing ideas or simply staying informed—we would like to hear from you.

Learn more about the project at mahometpubliclibrary.org/expansion-project



CELEBRATING LIBRARY KIDS...

ONE OF OUR FREQUENT LIBRARY VISITORS, ALMA (AGE 10), SHARES WHY SHE LOVES THE LIBRARY!

Q: Why do you love the Library?

A: I love it because it has so much information. And because you can find adventure in a book. Plus you can see your friends there. There's also great staff that would help you find any book.

Q: What is your favorite library program? Why is it your favorite?

A: Elementary Explorers Club. There are so many people, some you may not know, some you do know. It's also a new opportunity to learn a new skill.

Q: Why is the Library important to you and the community?

A: Books, audio books, educational programs, fun programs, and a nice place to meet. My Girl Scout troop likes meeting there because the room is nice and there is something for family members to do while they wait.

Q: What should more people know about the Library?

A: Ms. Becca puts books in the woods! They partner with the Champaign Forest Preserve for the StoryWalk at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Ms. Becca chooses books based on nature and the season.

Q: What is the best book you've checked out at the Library?

A: *Escape At 10,000 Feet* By Tom Sullivan



Alma shows off a project she made at one of our library programs

...AND NEW STAFF ROLES!



TY LABORAY OUR FIRST TEEN LIBRARIAN

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: Hello! I have been working at the Library for a little over two years now. I first moved to the area in 2019 to attend the UIUC where I received both a Bachelor's Degree in English and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences. While at UIUC, I was a two-year member of the Marching Illini and it was in this group that I met my now-fiancé. We live together in a cute little house with our four cats (Ghost, Kashmir, Titus, Mac) and a lively garden! Now that I am out of school, I enjoy spending my free time reading, drawing, gardening, and playing video games. Come and say hi if you see me around the Library!

Q: What aspect of being the Library's first Teen Librarian are you most excited about and why?

A: Being the Library's first Teen Librarian is an incredible honor, and I am absolutely thrilled to continue working with the Mahomet community. One of the aspects I am most excited about is being able to build a welcoming environment for the teens in the library—especially when considering how few third spaces are left for people their age to hang out at. I hope to be able to foster a place in which Mahomet teens can feel safe, understood, and appreciated.

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

A: I would be a character in the Warriors series by Erin Hunter! I'm not sure which one I would be since there are so many of them, but I would probably be in ShadowClan because I enjoy the gray morality of the group and their fierce loyalty to one another. When I was younger I would daydream about how cool it would be to become a warrior cat and run around the woods with all of my cat friends instead of doing homework and I would be lying if I said that the thought wasn't still appealing from time to time.

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

A: All of the resources we have available here! Need a laptop? We've got some you can check out. Want to watch something but don't have the streaming service? We've got Roku sticks to check out. Did someone accidentally cut through a wire in your yard and now you have no internet? We have hotspots for you to check out. There are so many resources available at the library that it's difficult to list them all—so come in and discover them today!

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

A: I'm currently reading a few different books! *Godkiller* by Hannah Kaner (adult fantasy), the *Pandora Hearts* manga by Jun Mochizuki (YA), and *When We Were Monsters* by Jennifer Niven (YA).

FROM DREAM... TO REALITY!

MISS BECCA SHARES A JOYOUS LIBRARY MOMENT WHILE ATTENDING THE ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

I just met Kate DiCamillo.

I've dreamed about going to ALA Annual since I was a kid and my mom would bring back suitcases full of swag. This year, the conference was in Chicago and I was lucky enough to register. I knew Kate DiCamillo had been to ALA before, but didn't see her listed on any of the schedules after I registered for the conference. I was disappointed, but knew I would have a great time anyway.

On Friday, at the exhibit opening ceremony, I wandered by the Candlewick booth to look at the new 20th anniversary edition of *Edward Tulane*. That's when I saw a poster. The poster said "Join us on Sunday, June 28th from 12-12:30 for a photo op with Kate DiCamillo." I asked the Candlewick rep if the poster was real. And I won't lie, when she said yes, I teared up.

I was in 6th grade the first time I read *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. I sat in the MSJH library during study hall and read it in one sitting. I cried when Edward was thrown overboard and I cried again at the end. I've come back to *Edward Tulane* at some of the most difficult and important moments in my life. Each time I read it, I'm reminded of the power of stories and the power of hope.

Last year, I got my very first tattoo: the illustration of Edward sinking in the ocean after being thrown overboard.

Today I got to show Kate DiCamillo my tattoo. And I got to tell her thank you. I told her that my mom is a librarian who met her many years ago. And I told her that I'm a librarian now, too.

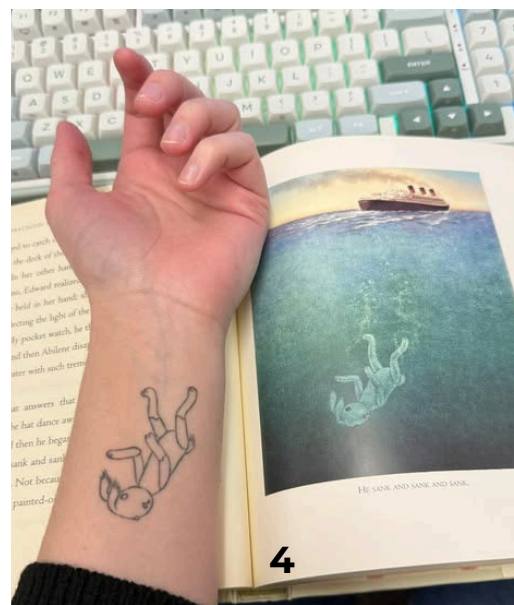
And then I cried. And then she cried. And then she asked if she could give me a hug.

There was a huge line of eager librarians waiting behind me, so our meeting was brief. But I am so grateful I had the opportunity to thank the person whose stories have meant the world to me, both as a young reader and a librarian.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Do you have a meaningful library story you'd like to share with us?

We'd love to hear how libraries have made an impact in your life! Share your story by sending an email to staff@mahometpubliclibrary.org.



WHAT BRINGS MISS BECCA LIBRARY JOY?

AFTER A VERY BUSY & SUCCESSFUL SUMMER, MS. BECCA TAKES A FEW MOMENTS TO REFLECT ON THE PEOPLE & THINGS THAT BRING HER LIBRARY JOY

1 FANTASTIC CO-WORKERS

I am so lucky to work alongside the most kindhearted and diligent Library staff. Keeping up with the chaos of Summer Reading, surging circulation demands, and steadily increasing foot traffic is no easy task, but the staff at MPL takes everything in stride. Our library would not be able to provide the programs, resources, and services we offer without the dedication and tenacity of our small-but-mighty staff. In the month of July alone, the Library circulated 13,344 items from our physical collection!

2 THE LITTLEST LIBRARY LOVERS

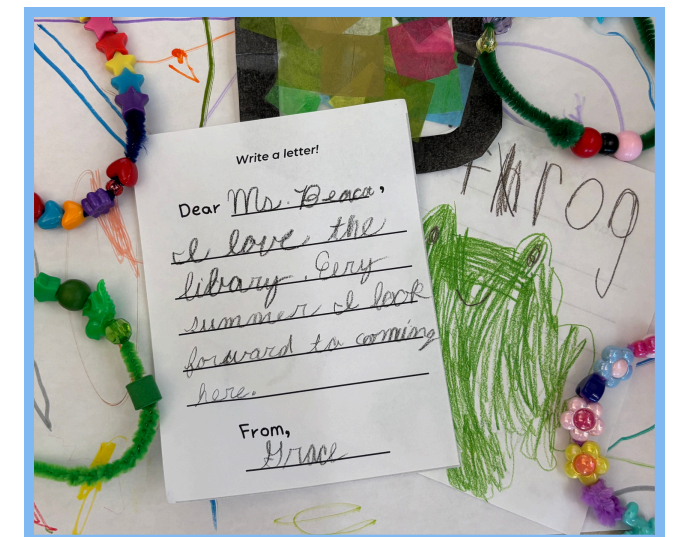
I love working with library patrons of all ages, but nothing brings me more joy than being introduced to the newest members of our Library community! Just recently, one of my storytime regulars came to the library dressed to the nines. When I asked what the special occasion was, her caregiver shared that she had just gone to meet her new baby sister, and that they were so excited to introduce her to the Library. I've seen children as young as 3 months old receive their first library card, and it is such a joy to watch the littlest library lovers grow!

3 A COMMUNITY THAT READS

Between May 23rd and August 1st, the young people in our community logged over 240,000 minutes of reading! That's equivalent to 166 days of consecutive reading! While some people might try to tell you that kids these days aren't interested in books, I think our Summer Reading numbers say the opposite. I feel so lucky to live and work in a community that truly values the importance of reading and nurtures that passion in the younger generations.

4 GIFTS FROM THE HEART

One of the best parts of being a children's librarian is the notes, drawings, and handmade gifts I receive from library kids. I have a bin in my office full of treasures I've been gifted, as well as a scrapbook full of the notes kids have put in my mailbox. From pony bead bracelets and finger paintings to heartfelt letters and notes—each gift reminds me how much the Library means to the kids I serve. One of the most recent notes in my mailbox read: "Dear Ms. Becca, I love the library. Every summer I look forward to coming here." This note was a great reminder of why we do what we do, especially in the exhausting final weeks of Summer Reading.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

ALL AGES

BOARD GAME SOCIAL HOUR

First Thursdays (September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3) | 6:30-7:30 pm



Looking for someone to play games with? Join us for a relaxed evening of board games, card games, chess, mah jongg, and more in a relaxed atmosphere. Play one of the library's games, bring a favorite from home, or learn something new from other participants.

Adults/minors with adult. Registration recommended but walk-ins are welcome.

STOMP, ROAR, EXPLORE! DINOSAUR PARTY

Saturday, September 12 | 10-11:30 am



Get ready to stomp, roar, and explore at our Dinosaur Party! Young paleontologists are invited to join us for a prehistoric adventure featuring a dinosaur-themed scavenger hunt, trivia, and crafts! Whether you're a fan of the towering T. rex, gentle giants, or speedy raptors, this program is sure to be a roaring good time for kids and their caregivers!

All Ages. No registration required.

FALL BOOK SALE

Thursday, October 15-Sunday, October 18



Thursday, October 15*: 5-8 pm
*Friends only - join at the door!
Friday, October 16: 9 am-6 pm
Saturday, October 17: 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, October 18: 1-4 pm
All ages. No registration required.

BOOK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 31 | 10 am-12 pm



Book or Treat is back! Put on your favorite costume and join us at the library for a spooktacular Halloween celebration. Kids can enjoy Halloween-themed crafts, games, and other festive activities, then pick up a free book and a special goodie bag while supplies last.
All ages. No registration required.

WINTER & HOLIDAY DECOR SWAP

Saturday, November 7 | 10-11 am



Refresh your holiday decorating without spending a dime! Bring in gently used winter and holiday decorations to swap with others in the community. Participants may bring up to one medium-sized box or tote of clean, gently used decor items. Drop off items between 10-10:30 am and browse. The swap will begin at 10:30. See our website for more donation guidelines and information.
All ages. No registration required.

MSHS MADRIGALS

Sunday, November 29 | 2-2:30 pm



Join us for a special performance by the Mahomet-Seymour High School Madrigals. Dressed in Renaissance costumes, the ensemble will perform enchanting a capella holiday selections. Seating is first come, first served.
All ages. No registration required.

DIY HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

Saturday, December 5 | 10 am-12 pm



Get ready for the winter holiday season with some fun DIY ornament crafts, perfect for the whole family! We'll supply all the necessary supplies to make 3 adorable ornaments.
All ages. No registration required.

DROP-IN GIFT WRAPPING

Sunday, December 6 | 1-4 pm



Skip the mess at home and wrap your holiday gifts at the Library! We'll have wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, tape and more. You're also welcome to bring your own supplies, if you just need a quiet space to work.
All ages. No registration required.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Saturday, December 12 | 2-3:30 pm



Celebrate the season by building a festive gingerbread house! Gather your family or friends and work together in a team to decorate your holiday masterpiece using graham crackers, icing, and a variety of candies. All supplies are provided and everyone who attends will be entered into a door prize drawing.
All ages (children should attend with an adult). Registration required (one registration per team).

TEEN

TEEN CRAFT CAFE

First Thursdays (September 3, October 1, November 5) | 4-5:30 pm



Calling all crafty teens! Looking for a chill space to hang out with your friends and do some crafting? Join us for crafty activities, snacks, music, and conversation! We'll have a variety of craft supplies available: beads, paint pens, button makers, and more!
Grades 6-12. No registration required.

TEEN D&D CLUB

Sunday, September 13, October 4 & 25, November 15 | 1:30-4 pm



Library staff member, Ty, will lead a group of 6th-12th graders through a 4-part Dungeons and Dragons campaign. The group will meet once every three weeks and play through an extended campaign full of adventure and magic.
Grades 6-12. Registration (for all sessions together) required. Attendance at each session is expected.

TEEN GENRE BOOK CLUB

Monday, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 16 | 4-5 pm



Are you a teen who loves reading but hates being told what to read? Our Teen Genre Book Club is just the thing for you! Each month, we will pick a new genre to feature. Participants are invited to choose a book that fits into the selected genre (September: realistic fiction; October: horror; November: fantasy) and be prepared to talk about it while we enjoy snacks and refreshments.
Grades 6-12. Registration required.

TEEN GAME CORNER

Thursday, September 24, October 29, November 12 | 4-5:30 pm



Tired of trying to get together with friends to play games but having no space to do so? Look no further than the library! We have snacks, board games, and a Switch, now all we need is you!
Grades 6-12. No registration required.

TEEN AFTER HOURS CRAFT NIGHT: BOOK BEDAZZLING

Friday, September 25 | 5:30-7 pm



Looking for a way to make your bookshelf shine? Come to the library! We will be bedazzling book covers while enjoying pizza and refreshments. You may bring your own book or choose from a selection of provided books. We will supply all materials, pizza, and refreshments.
Grades 6-12. Registration required.

TEEN AFTER HOURS CRAFT NIGHT: CREEPY CLAY CREATURES

Friday, October 23 | 5:30-7 pm



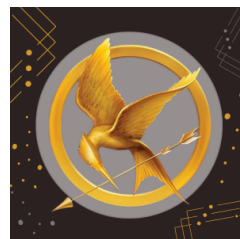
October means it's time for some spooky crafts! Join us at the Library for a night of creating creepy clay creatures. We will provide all the materials, as well as pizza and refreshments to enjoy!
Grades 6-12. Registration required.

Teen programs continue on next page ->

TEEN

TEEN AFTER HOURS: HUNGER GAMES TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, November 6 | 5:30-7 pm



Do you think you know the world of The Hunger Games? Then come and test your knowledge against other fans of the bestselling series as we prepare for the premier of Sunrise on the Reaping movie! Everyone will have a chance to win themed prizes. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

Grades 6-12. Registration required.

KIDS

LITTLE GROOVERS! MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Thursday, Sept 3 & 17, Oct 1 & 29, Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 | 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! We'll explore rhythm, sound, and movement with a fun selection of songs and dance geared toward children ages 2-5!

Ages 2-5 & caregivers. No registration required.

WONDER CLUB

Thursday, September 17, October 22, November 19 | 1-2 pm OR 4-5 pm



Curious students in grades 2-5 are invited to join us for Wonder Club! At each monthly session, we'll explore a different question and complete a hands-on activity to put learning into practice!

Sept: How are books made?

Oct: What are stars made of?

Nov: How do animals communicate?

There will be TWO sessions with the same topic and activities each month. Please register for ONE session. Grades 2-5. Registration required.

WEEKEND STORYTIME

Saturday, September 19, October 10, December 12 | 10-10:30 am



Start your weekend off strong with stories, songs, and smiles at our monthly Weekend Storytime! Children ages 0-6 and their caregivers are invited to join us for a fun-filled program featuring engaging books, music, and movement that promote early literacy skills and are sure to spark a love of reading.

Ages 0-6. No registration required. No Weekend Storytime in November due to the Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

FIRST CHAPTER FIGHT CLUB

Monday, September 21, October 19, November 23 | 3:30-4 pm (Grades K-3)
OR 4:30-5 pm (Grades 4-6)



Don't judge a book by its cover! Judge it by its first chapter! Listen to Ms. Becca read the first chapters of several different books, then pit them against each other in a battle of the books to decide the winner! Each month, we'll focus on a different genre:

September: Survival and Adventure Stories

October: Mysteries

November: Historical Fiction

Grades K-3 (3:30 pm session) OR Grades 4-6 (4:30 pm session). No registration required.

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Goodnight Storytime:

Friday, November 13 | 5:30-6 pm

Good Morning Storytime:

Saturday, November 14 | 9:30-10:00 am



It's time for our annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Bring a stuffie to the Library for a special "Good Night Storytime" on November 13, then leave them behind for an exciting overnight sleepover! While the Library is closed, the stuffed animals will enjoy their own slumber party and adventures. Return in the morning on November 14 for a "Good Morning Storytime," pick up your stuffed friend, and see photos of all the fun they had overnight! Limit one stuffed animal per child. If you cannot attend the Good Night Storytime, you may drop off an animal starting at 9 AM on November 13.

Ages 0-10. Limit ONE stuffed animal per child. No registration required.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

STORYTIME

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
(September 1-December 9)



Baby Storytime: Tuesdays, 9:30-9:50 am (ages 0-18 months)

Toddler Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:15-10:45 am (ages 18-36 months) ***new time***

Preschool Storytime: Wednesdays, 10 am (ages 3-5)

No Storytime on November 3 or 25. No registration required.

ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

Wednesdays (September 2-December 9)

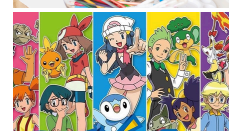
Join us every Wednesday for a fun, one-hour after school program! Activities will rotate monthly. We'll usually meet from 3:30-4:30 pm, but we'll move it up to 1:30-2:30 pm on early dismissal days.



September: Art Club

- Sept 2, 9, 23, 30: regular time (3:30)

- Sept 16: early dismissal (1:30)



October: Pokémon Club

- Oct 7, 21, 28: regular time (3:30)

- Oct 14: early dismissal (1:30)

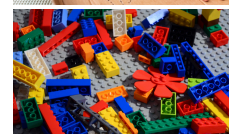


November: Maker's Club

- Nov 4, 18: regular time (3:30)

- Nov 11: early dismissal (1:30)

- Nov 25: no meeting



December: LEGO Club

- Dec 2: regular time (3:30)

- Dec 9: early dismissal (1:30)

Grades K-5. No registration required.

PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

Fridays (September 4-December 11)
| 10-11 am



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

Ages 2-5. No registration required. No playdate on October 16 or November 27.

ADULTS

BOOK CLUBS

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Second Tuesdays (September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8)
| 6:30-8:00 pm



Join us for thoughtful conversation and good company at our monthly Tuesday Night Book Club! We read a mix of popular fiction and standout titles across genres, with an emphasis on stories that spark meaningful discussion. New members are always welcome. No

registration is necessary. Copies of each month's selection are available at the Library circulation desk.

September: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

October: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

November: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

December: Holiday/End of the Year Party

Adults. No registration required.

COOKBOOK CLUB

Thursday, September 17 & November 12 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Join us at the library, to explore new recipes, share cooking tips, and enjoy delicious food together! This program is intended for adults who enjoy cooking and sharing food together. All experience levels are welcome.

Each Cookbook Club will feature a selected cookbook and attendees

will bring a dish from the book to share. Copies of the cookbook will be available one month in advance at the Library's circulation desk.

September: *Of Course It's Good!* by Jessica Secrest

November: *Baking Yesteryear* by B. Dylan Hollis

Adults. Registration required.

ADULTS

CRAFTING AT THE LIBRARY

ADULT CRAFTERNOON

Third Tuesdays (September 15, October 20, November 17) | 1-2:30 pm



Spend a relaxed afternoon creating a new craft! Each month we focus on a different project. No experience is needed and all supplies are provided. Registration is required due to limited materials.

September: Book bedazzling

October: Silhouettes

November: Dried orange and cinnamon garland

Adults. Registration required.

ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

Last Tuesdays (September 29, October 27, November 24) | 6:30-8 pm



Can't make our daytime Crafternoon? Join us for Craft Night! We'll be making the same project offered at Crafternoon, just at an evening time. Each month we focus on a different project. No experience is needed and all supplies are provided. Registration is required due to limited materials.

September: Book bedazzling

October: Silhouettes

November: Dried orange and cinnamon garland

Adults. Registration required.

MONTHLY EVENTS

BOARD GAME SOCIAL HOUR

First Thursdays (Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3) | 6:30-7:30 pm



Looking for someone to play games with? Join us for a relaxed evening of board games, card games, chess, mah jongg, and more in a relaxed atmosphere. Play one of the library's games, bring a favorite from home, or learn something new from other participants.

Adults/minors with adult. Registration recommended.

LESSONS FOR LIVING: GARDENING ON A BUDGET

Thursday, September 10 | 10-11 am



Learn how to start a container garden that nourishes your body and wallet. Starting a container garden can benefit your budget and be a fruitful hobby that satisfies your taste buds. Learn about the start-up expenses for a container garden and plan your produce to supplement your budget.

Lessons for Living is a free webinar series from the U of I Extension. Attendees will meet at the Library and watch the webinar together.

Adults. Registration required.

LESSONS FOR LIVING: FUR REAL COMPANIONSHIP

Tuesday, October 13 | 2-3 pm



Explore the healing power of companionship, even if you can't care for a pet yourself. Discover the fantastic benefits animals bring to older adults. Research shows that pets can chase away loneliness, provide a sense of purpose, and get you moving. Explore fun alternatives for those who can't care for a pet.

Whether you're an older adult, family member, or a caregiver, this workshop will offer valuable insights and tips on how furry friends can enrich lives and create lasting bonds.

Lessons for Living is a free webinar series from the U of I Extension. Attendees will meet at the Library and watch the webinar together.

Adults. Registration required.

LESSONS FOR LIVING: BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND

Thursday, November 12 | 10-11 am



Learn simple, powerful ways to support those with dementia in your community. More than 7 million Americans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and many more live with other forms of dementia that impact their independence and well-being. This training allows participants to

become a Dementia Friend – someone who understands what it's like to live with dementia and knows simple, practical ways to offer support. Lessons for Living is a free webinar series from the U of I Extension. Attendees will meet at the Library and watch the webinar together.

Adults. Registration required.

OTHER EVENTS

MEDICARE 101

Wednesday, September 16 | 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.

TRUTH & BEAUTY: TELLING OUR STORIES IN WRITING THAT MOVES & MATTERS

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



In this interactive presentation and workshop led by Rachel DeWoskin, we will talk about reading, writing, traveling, listening, and imagining, all as ways to freshen and widen our perspectives. Connections to one another through stories, poems, and conversation will help us determine what we mean by truth in a moment when the notion and the word are contested. Together, we will explore poetic/philosophical truth along with "objective truth," and make mini wonder books, lists of questions, and ways to approach those questions through writing. Participants will write something – anything from a single line or list to a poem or scene – that feels beautiful and therefore true, or true and therefore beautiful. Presented by Rachel DeWoskin, award winning author of five novels, a memoir, and two poetry collections.

Adults & High School Students. Registration required.

FALL HOME MAINTENANCE 101

Thursday, September 24 | 6:30-7:30 pm



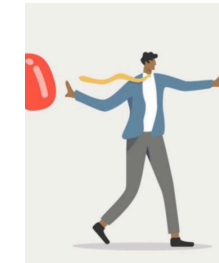
Get your home ready for the colder months with this interactive workshop led by Mariah Madison, founder of Let's Eat Mud. Learn the essential fall maintenance tasks that help prevent costly repairs, improve energy efficiency, and protect your home through the winter. We'll cover seasonal

inspections, common problem areas, simple maintenance you can do yourself, and how to know when it's time to call a professional.

Adults. Registration required.

BRAVER ANGELS DEBATE

Monday, September 28 | 6:30-8 pm



Debate with Braver Angels! The subject of the debate this time is "Should Illinois use independent committees to redraw electoral districts?" 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.

BEGINNER SOURDOUGH WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 6 | 6:30-8 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.

Adults. Registration required.

GROWING YOUR MONEY: SAVING & INVESTING BASICS

Thursday, October 8 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Ready to take the next step with your finances? This beginner-friendly program will cover the basics of saving and investing. Learn about high-yield savings accounts, CDs, retirement accounts, and stock market investing. Presented by Nick Schneider, First State Bank of

Forrest and Andy Ehrlich, Prudential Advisors

Adults. Registration required.

ADULTS

MOBILE DMV POP-UP

Saturday, October 24 | 10 am-2 pm



Representatives of the Secretary of State's office will be on hand to assist with renewing or correcting driver's licenses, converting existing standard driver's licenses into REAL ID driver's licenses, obtaining renewed or first time Standard or REAL state IDs, issuing free

state IDs for seniors aged 65 or older, and purchasing license plate stickers. Attendees can also register to vote and be an organ/tissue donor.

Adults. Register (beginning October 10) for a time slot.

HALLOWEEN BINGO

Wednesday, October 28 | 6:30-7:30 pm



Get into the Halloween spirit with an evening of bingo! Feel free to wear a costume if you'd like, but there's no costume contest, just plenty of chances to win prizes, enjoy some laughs, and celebrate the season.

Adults. Registration required.

HATE: ITS EVOLUTION & HOW TO FIGHT IT

Thursday, October 29 | 6:30-8 pm



Join Dr. William Gingold, a child survivor of the Holocaust and retired clinician and educator, as he explores the origins and impact of hate and how education can help prevent it. Drawing on both personal and professional experience, Dr.

Gingold offers a powerful perspective on fostering understanding, empathy, and respect.

Adults. Registration required.

For more program information and registration links, please visit the events page on our website:

mahometpubliclibrary.org/events

STORYTIME, DECONSTRUCTED

Have you ever stopped by the Library during one of our weekly storytimes and wondered, "What the heck is going on in there?" It may look like chaos—bubbles, giggles, wiggles, and the excited voices of 20+ toddlers. But hidden underneath all that chaos is something greater than the sum of its parts: essential early literacy skills put into practice. Here's how Ms. Becca works in the 6 key early literacy skills into a typical toddler storytime:

1 PRINT MOTIVATION

This skill is summarized as the general enjoyment of reading and books. To encourage print motivation, Ms. Becca strives to make her storytimes as fun and engaging as possible, which in turn makes the kids more eager to return to the Library for storytime. Book-ending each storytime with bubbles and singing some favorite children's songs between books is a great way to keep kids engaged and excited about books!

2 VOCABULARY

Between the ages of 0-5, a child's brain is constantly absorbing new information and making important connections. Introducing children to books, songs, and rhymes that contain words they might not hear in everyday conversation is a great way to start building a strong vocabulary in their early years!

3 PRINT AWARENESS

This skill describes a child's understanding that letters and words, when organized in a certain way (such as left to right, or in sentences), carry meaning. Ms. Becca demonstrates print awareness during storytime by pointing to the words on a page as she reads them aloud.

4 NARRATIVE SKILLS

This skill is defined by a child's ability to recall details from a story and retell a story from beginning to end. Ms. Becca's storytimes often feature stories and songs that children are likely familiar with (such as the "Itsy Bitsy Spider," or *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*). Repeated readings and post-reading comprehension questions are great ways to practice narrative skills!

5 LETTER KNOWLEDGE

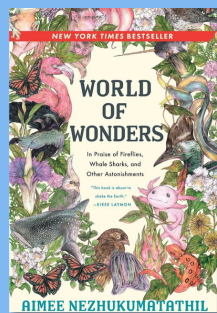
A child's knowledge of the alphabet should not end with the ABC song. It's also important for children to know the visual differences between the letters, as well as the sounds they make. In storytime, Ms. Becca might point to a letter on the page and ask the children to help her sound it out. Alphabet books, which tell a story following the letters and sounds of the alphabet, are another great way to incorporate letter knowledge into storytime!

6 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Being able to recognize and manipulate the sounds in spoken language is a fundamental skill in early literacy development. At every storytime, Ms. Becca gives each child an opportunity to say their name out loud. Then, we break down the name into syllables with hand claps and repeat the sounds as a group. This is a fun and easy way to practice phonological awareness, and it also helps Ms. Becca learn the names of all her storytime kids!



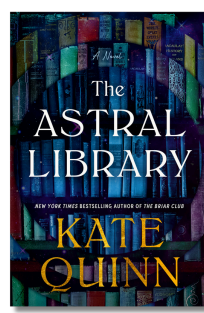
KATHY'S PICK: WORLD OF WONDERS



The author takes something in nature, a plant or animal, gives a bit of a description of it and then relates it back to memories of her life. It's a lovely book and encourages the reader to slow down, pay attention, and cherish our natural world.

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

ALYSSA'S PICK: THE ASTRAL LIBRARY



Kate Quinn lends her signature historical-style storytelling to fantasy in this book. Book lovers and library fans will appreciate the literary references and reflections on the importance of libraries.

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

LINDA'S PICK: THE READING LIST



Amazon's summary says it best: An unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR JOHN HOWARD



The community has had a lot to say to us over the last 18 months, between our community survey, our narrowly failed referendum, and the interviews we have been doing over the summer. While we have heard mostly positive feedback, there have been suggestions for how we can be even better. I'd like to look at some of what we heard, and what we are doing with the information.

WE'RE LISTENING – PART 1: ADULT PROGRAMMING

There was a lot of enthusiasm for our adult programs, but a few suggestions as well. With that in mind, I think this fall features the best lineup of adult programs we have had in the 8 years I have been here – from popular speakers like William Gingold, lifestyle programs on cooking, crafts and décor, a brand new swap opportunity, and much more. See all our program listings on pages 6-10.

We heard frustration that our popular crafting series was only held during the work day – Alyssa will be offering that twice each month with one held at 6:30 pm. Please do your best to attend these things – we tend to repeat programs that are popular. And I hope you will recognize that our adult programs are organized and run by one part-time person who is budgeted about six hours per week specifically for this. Alyssa does a LOT with that time!

WE'RE LISTENING – PART 2: EXPANSION

One comment I was a bit surprised to hear, but that we heard enough times to take it very seriously, was that many people felt that the covered patio that was to be used as additional study space, informal meeting space, and for outdoor programs, was more of a “luxury” than a need. The Board and staff discussed this at some depth. While there is no doubt that this space would be well used, in the end we had to agree that compared to the need for a larger children's library and a larger, dividable community room, the patio could be considered a luxury. As we discussed this, we realized that the plans we created were done in 2021, and that the need for outdoor program spaces looked much more critical during COVID than it does now. With some regret, we have removed that from our immediate plans. This will reduce the overall cost of the project by \$1.4 million.

We also heard from the community that they value the Library and see the need for expansion, but are more concerned about crowding in the schools. We aren't giving up, but we will continue seeking private funds and see what the results of the November school referendum are before taking our next steps.

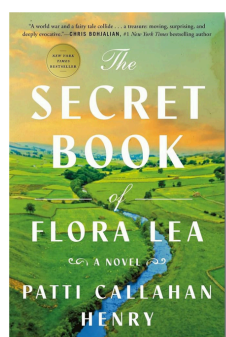
WE WILL CONTINUE TO LISTEN

Library leadership, including our Board of Trustees, wants to keep hearing from you. On the About the Library and Contact Us menus of our website, you can find ways to reach out. If you see me in the Library or out on the street, don't hesitate to pull me aside and share your thoughts. Mahomet Public Library is YOUR community library, and we want to listen to you.

John

STAFF PICKS

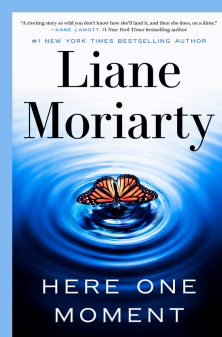
JENN'S PICK: THE SECRET BOOK OF FLORA LEE



Set in England during WW II, two sisters go to the country to live with a mother and her son to avoid war-torn London. Hazel, the older sister, comforts her 5 year sister Flora with magical tales of a make-believe world of Whisperwood. Hazel loses Flora but the stories of Whisperwood resurface 20 years. Could they lead Hazel to finding Flora? This book celebrates the power of stories in our life and how lost connections can be restored through them.

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

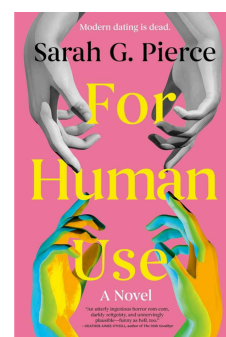
STAFF PICK: HERE ONE MOMENT



A woman penned “The Death Lady” wanders up and down the aisle of a plane pointing at each passenger saying their cause and age of death. Her predictions start to come true causing chaos in each passenger's life. Would you want to know when your time is coming?

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

MEGAN'S PICK: FOR HUMAN USE



When LIV, a swipe app that lets users purchase “emotional support” embalmed corpses launches, it's an instant hit. LIV valuations balloon into the billions, corpse social media influencers become a Thing, and a whole (not-so-sub)culture of LIVing with the Dead rises to a frenzy, leaving skeptical finance bro Tom to fight the dystopian present from within—all while falling in love with Mara, the stepsister/exgirlfriend of his nemesis, making his life even more complicated.

Find it on our fiction shelves.