LIBRARY

Obscurity Book Club

Find out what books are on tap!
Page 8

Al and Cyber Security

Protect yourself online! • Page 12

Storytime

Celebrate your child's love of reading! Page 15





PROGRAM REGISTRATION & PAYMENT INFORMATION

For more information, payment options, and to register, please visit our website at www.tcpld.org or call (630) 365-2244.

Programs with this symbol®require preregistration.

Programs with this symbol \$ have a fee for participation.

REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS OPENS ON DECEMBER 18.

In-person registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
Online and phone-in registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
`See online calendar for more information.
https://elburn.librarymarket.com

VIRTUAL PROGRAM GUIDE

A full virtual version of this program guide is available online. Use the QR or visit our website to view. Registration pages can easily be found by clicking on the desired program in the virtual guide.



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

The Town & Country Public Library will be closed on the following days:

December 24 & 25, 2023

December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve
January 1, 2024

February 2, 2024

March 31, 2024

March 31, 2024

May 27, 2024

Memorial Day

Fall Program Guide Cover Art Contest winner Hailey Casburn is shown here with her winning entry. We want to thank everyone for all the wonderful entries and congratulate Hailey for her winning piece!





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the place to connect

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LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Burroughs, President
Mary Cherry, Vice President
Kelly Gagne, Secretary
Ann Jumonville, Treasurer
Brandi Krall, Trustee
Christine Porter, Trustee
Matt Timko, Trustee

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday 1:00–5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.





FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE

The Friends' most recent donation was from the proceeds of the ongoing Book Nook sales and growing membership fees. This donation was used to sponsor a special outreach program for the residents of The Meadows, purchase sensory toys and puzzles for children and additional books for all ages. This donation will also include the purchase a CNC machine for new on-shelf signage as well as for future use. In 2024, we plan to donate to the library to provide Wi-Fi printing throughout the building for all patrons. This will be possible from our Mother's Day weekend Flower/Plant sale, Book Nook and membership fees of only \$5.00 each.

The popular annual Mother's Day weekend Flower/Plant Sale and Spring Garden raffle will be held May 10th and 11th, 2024. We have a variety of 4.5" annuals, locally grown geraniums, million bells, petunias, begonias, dragon wings, heliotrope, coleus, spikes, ivy and more. Specialty plants as well as 10" mixed combo baskets are also available. Preordering online begins mid-April at www.elburnfriends.org or by calling Joan Hansen (630) 251-4628. All proceeds benefit our library.

The FOL continue to maintain the Book Nook in the lobby area and cart adjacent to the coffee bar. We accept donations during library hours. No encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, VHS or items not suitable for resale. For more information, contact our website maintained by Robert W. Harford.



The Friends of the Library (FOL) President, Joan Hansen, presents a check for \$3,000 to Suzann Gemini, Interim Library Director, at the September 11th library trustees meeting. Trustees L-R: Brandi Krall, Kelly Gagne, Ann Jumonville, Dave Burroughs, Mary Cherry, Matt Timko and Christine Porter.



Meet our new Library Director, Megan Shumaker

Town and Country Public Library is thrilled to announce the appointment of Megan Shumaker as the new Library Director. Megan, a familiar face in our community, has a remarkable 16-year tenure with the library, starting as a Library Page in 2007 and progressing through various roles, culminating in her most recent position as the Adult Services Manager for the past 4 years.

Earning a Master of Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana Wesleyan University, Megan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role. Her journey in the library has been driven by a deep love for both the institution and the community it serves.

"I am honored and excited to take on the role of Library Director," said Megan Shumaker.

"The Town and Country Public Library holds a special place in my heart, and I am eager to lead it into the future, and to continue to provide high-quality materials and programs while introducing new services to meet the ever-changing needs of our community."

Megan's commitment to the library's mission is evident in her plans. As the new Library Director, she aims to not only maintain the library's reputation for excellence but also to enhance its services to better serve the community. Megan envisions bringing more awareness to how the library can enrich the lives of patrons, emphasizing the integral role it plays in the community.

Join us in congratulating Megan Shumaker on her well-deserved appointment as the Library Director, and let's look forward to a bright and enriching future for the Town and Country Public Library under her guidance.



Arts & Crafts Programs

Craft Club

(R)

(R)

Thursday, January 18, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m.

Craft Club is a monthly gathering for adults that have a passion for any sort of crafting. Some supplies will be available, but feel encouraged to bring your own as well.

Ages: Adult

Winter **Paint-Along**

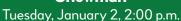


Monday, January 22, 6:30 p.m.

Create a beautiful winter painting as you follow along step-by-step with instructor Libby Henderson. All skill levels are welcome; no prior painting experience is required.

Ages: Adult

Needle-Felted Snowman



Make a little woolly snowman complete with a warm scarf and cozy ear muffs! Join Natasha Lehrer Lewis, of Esther's Place for a fun winter needle felting class. This 4" tall snowman makes a great ornament and a fun winter break activity!

Ages: 9 - 18

Needle-Felted Birds



Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

Come create an adorable critter who happens to love reading! Natasha Lehrer Lewis, of Esther's Place, will be teaching how to sculpt wool into this cute little bird- with a choice of fun colors to pick from. This needle felting project is creative and sure to be lots of fun too! Ages: 14+

Floral Arranging



Join Peggy Garvin of Garvin Gardens for her popular floral arranging class. Participants will need to provide their own scissors/shears.

2 times are offered for this session.

Annual Container Garden

Tuesday, May 14, 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Registration opens on April 15

Ages: Adult

Twoosy Doodlers



Wednesday, January 10, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.

This special parent/child class is a highly recommended first Toddler Art Class. Children will learn about color, texture and more while experimenting with new, engaging material.

Ages: 2 with caregiver



CRAFTS

ARTS &

6

Arts & Crafts Programs

Art in the Afternoon ®

Have fun creating seasonal art projects!

Thursday, January 25, 1:00 p.m. Snowperson in a Blizzard

Thursday, February 22, 1:00 p.m. Sweater Bears

Thursday, March 21, 1:00 p.m. Easter Hens

Thursday, April 18, 1:00 p.m. Paper Plate Flowers

Ages: 3 - 6

Crafter-work:



Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.

Stop by after work (anytime between 5:30-8:30) for some arts and crafts with friends!

> February: Book Art Heart April: Squeegee Art

> > Ages: Adult

Homeschool Art Series



Fridays at 2:00 p.m. Beginning February 9

Come and join us for a creative art experience! We will explore several art mediums such as watercolor, oil pastels, foil art, drawing, stamping, and more! This is a wonderfully messy class, so appropriate clothing is encouraged. Ages: 7 - 12

Art Afterschool



Hang out with your friends while you learn about different artists and new techniques!

Ages: 9 - 13

Wednesday, January 24, 4:30 p.m. Watercolor Northern Lights

Wednesday, February 21, 4:30 p.m. Pop Art Pets

Wednesday, March 20, 4:30 p.m. Picasso Portraits

Wednesday, April 17, 4:30 p.m. Flowers on Canvas

Ages: 5 - 9

Thursday, January 25, 4:30 p.m. Felt Snowglobes

Thursday, February 22, 4:30 p.m. Pop Art Pets

Thursday, March 21, 4:30 p.m. Egg Carton Hens

Thursday, April 18, 4:30 p.m. Paper Plate Flowers

Crafternoon



Join us at the library each month for seasonal crafting fun! Both February and April's craft will be 2 day projects.

Wednesday, January 10, 4:30 p.m. Sock Snowperson

Wednesday, February 7 & 8, 4:30 p.m. Pinch Pot Heart Dish

Wednesday, March 6, 4:30 p.m. Origami Shamrocks

Wednesday, April 3 & 4, 4:30 p.m. Hanging Clay Bird

Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 p.m. Tin Can Lanterns

Ages: 9 - 18



Entertainment Programs

Midday Monday

Let's Plan a Trip to Europe Monday, January 15, 2:00 p.m.

This presentation covers time honored advice and new recommendations for planning a great European vacation.

Black Sox, Billy Goats & da' Monsters of da' Midway Monday, February 12, 2:00 p.m.

Discover Chicago's sports lore with Clarence Goodman, exploring iconic moments like the "Called Shot" and "The Flu Game."

Helen Keller: Champion of the Disabled Monday, March 18, 2:00 p.m.

Experience Helen Keller's life through her perspective, from childhood to her literary achievements. Join us for an inspiring program.

Unsinkable Spirit: Women of the TitanicMonday, April 15, 2:00 p.m.

Historian Jo Ann Tufo explores Titanic's female passengers, offering a fresh perspective on their experiences and the ship.

> An Introduction to the East Asian Garden Monday, May 20, 2:00 p.m.

Explore East Asian garden aesthetics with Yvonne Wolf. Delve into Confucian symbolism, stress relief, and cultural history .

Ages: Adult

Virtual Author Visits ®

Join us for this series of interviews with some incredible authors!

Thursday, January 11, 7:00 p.m. Cory Doctorow

Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. Julia Quinn

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. Ruth E. Carter

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. Temple Grandin

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Kal Penn

Ages: Adult

Obscurity Book Club ®

Join us at Obscurity for a lively book club!

Wednesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m. *Red Team Blues* by Cory Doctorow

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m. Queen Charlotte by Julia Quinn

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. The Art of Ruth E. Carter

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Visual Thinking by Temple Grandin

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. You Can't Be Serious by Kal Penn

Ages: Adult

Noon Book Discussion

The third Tuesday of the month at 12:00 p.m.

Join the Noon Book Discussion Group for a lively discussion about some of today's most popular books. Books can be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

Ages: Adult

Entertainment Programs

Tea & Tales

Thursday, January 18, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, 4:30 p.m.

Join Mrs. Hansen for a tea party and books! Bring your teacup from this summer and your favorite stuffed friend. Don't forget to wear your fancy clothes. We will be serving a beverage & light snack. You are welcome to bring your own snack.

Ages: 5 - 8

Tween/Teen Scene: **Teatime Book Club**

Wednesday, January 17, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 p.m.

Bring your friends (stuffed or human) and join Mrs. Hansen for teatime. We will be serving a beverage & light snack (or bring your own) and reading chapter books. Fancy clothes optional! Copies of the book will be available to check out.

Ages: 9 - 14

Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for this presentation with Yvonne Wolf and explore the Chinese zodiac's influence on personal growth and life aspects. Discover hidden qualities in your zodiac animal and understand why life begins anew at age 60 in the Chinese world.

Ages: Adult

Chinese Lunar Year Event Year of the Dragon

Saturday, February 10, 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon - the wood Dragon to be precise- with a family fun event! Explore Lunar New Year history, savor diverse foods, experience Chinese fashion, crafts, calligraphy, and enjoy interactive games at our event.

Ages: Everyone

Film Club

®

Select Fridays, 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a movie night with friends as Film Studies instructor Joshua Casburn helps us to experience movies in a new way. This semester, we'll be taking a look at hidden gems of the film world. Join us to experience some of the best movies you've probably never heard of.

Ages: Adult



History & Genealogy Programs

Genealogy Seekers ®

Exploring the Greatest Generation

Thursday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.

Explore records outside the National Archives to build a detailed story of your veteran's service history.

Wide World of Passports

Thursday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.

Explore diverse passports beyond the U.S., delving into various countries and eras to enhance genealogical research skills.

Declutter Your Photo Life

Thursday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Transform family photo chaos into an organized archive. Learn to sort, use software, and back up strategies.

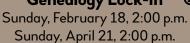
Double-Take for More Research Clues Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Unlock hidden clues about ancestors in vital records, censuses, and city directories. Revisit existing records for new discoveries.

Cyber Sleuthing Your Family Tree Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

Learn tips to evaluate online information, combining subscription databases and free genealogy sites for family tree research. Ages: Adult

Genealogy Lock-In



Access all our materials and get advice from seasoned genealogy researchers.

Ages: Adult

Family History Study Hall

Wednesday, January 17, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2:30 p.m.

Family History Study Halls are for genealogy enthusiasts to gather, share resources, and collaborate on research.

Ages: Adult

Family History Writers

Wednesday, January 10, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 7, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2:30 p.m.

Join a monthly group for those interested in writing down their family stories.

Ages: Adult

The Kane County Genealogical Society will host monthly genealogy programs at the library every 4th Thursday at 7p.m.. Check our calendar for details.

The Town and Country Public Library has partnered with the Kane County Genealogical Society to make the Lawrence J. Martin Heritage Center available to the public.

Hours:

Friday: 10a.m. - 2 p.m. 2nd Saturday of the month: 10a.m. - 2 p.m.

Appointments strongly encouraged Email the

Kane County Genealogical Society kcgsinfo@gmail.com



GENEALOGY

HSTORY

Hatha Yoga

® \$

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. Winter Session January 8- March 25

\$5000 for 10 classes

Spring Session April 8- May 20 \$3500 for 7 classes

Grab your yoga mat and towel, put on comfy clothes, and get ready for a relaxing hour of yoga with seasoned instructor Lynn Meredith.

Ages: Adult

Home & Wellness Programs

Chair Yoga



Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. Winter Session January 11- March 28 \$50⁰⁰ for 10 classes

> Spring Session April 11- May 23 \$3500 for 7 classes

Experience chair-assisted yoga with Lynn Meredith—gentle, non-strenuous exercises offering yoga benefits without the floor. Bring a yoga block and strap.

Ages: Adult

Family Yoga Series

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for family yoga where we will focus on our breath and move through yoga postures all while connecting deeper and having fun!

Ages: 5 - 12 & their families

Discover with Me **Dance Class Series**

Wednesday, May 1, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.

Through exploration, and gross motor development exercises, children will blossom with each passing class. Attire is comfortable clothing and socks. Ages: Walking - 3 with Adult

Cultivating Longevity ®

Thursday, January 11, 2:00 p.m.

Discover strategies for optimal health and joyful aging with Penny Bergstrom of Pound 4 Pound Fitness. Learn to manage stress, enhance sleep, and prepare balanced meals. Explore ways to keep active, promoting strong bones, muscles, balance, flexibility, and joint mobility for a full life now and in the future.

Ages: Adult

Medicare Basics



®

Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 6:00 p.m.

Anyone turning 65 or approaching retirement is welcome to attend this informative seminar on Medicare.

Ages: Adult

Learning & Discovery Programs

Be Safe Online

R

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.

Enhance your cybersecurity knowledge in this session. Learn to prevent online credit card and identity theft with practical tips: manage passwords, avoid malware, and develop online smarts for a secure digital experience. Empower yourself with essential skills to navigate the online world safely and conveniently.

Ages: Adult

Cyber Security for Small Businesses Monday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.

Join local IT expert Ed Sehr for practical practices, employee training, data backup, customer trust.

Ages: Adult

Al: ChatGPT and Beyond

Tuesday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.

ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence nowhere and are taking the world by storm. We'll look at the most discussed Al implications of artificial intelligence in the

Ages: Adult

Let's Build It: **Crazy Circuits**

®

(R)

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Tuesday, January 9, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m.

Join the fun as we design, build, and test circuits! Learn electrical engineering basics through hands-on projects, exploring how electricity shapes our daily lives. No experience needed—just curiosity!

Ages: 5 - 10

Preschool **Exploration Station**

Thursday, February 1, 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 29, 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.

Bring your little ones to the library for a fun afternoon of learning and exploration with friends. Enjoy activities like blocks, coloring, puzzles, and more no registration required!

Ages: 3 - 6

Tween Scene:

STEAM Challenge

Wednesday, January 31, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 28, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 4:30 p.m.

Come have a blast with Mrs. Hansen! challenges each class. Ready for the fun?

Ages: 9 - 13

& DISCOVER

EARNING.

Learning & Discovery Programs

Birds of Prey: R Owls

Tuesday, January 16, 4:30 p.m.

Get ready for an owl-packed adventure with the Traveling Naturalists from the the library transforms into a wild space, fascinating world of owls in a fun and interactive session!.

Ages: Everyone

Nature Detectives

(R)

Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 p.m.

Embark on an exciting library adventure with the Traveling Naturalists from Kane County Forest Preserve! Explore local wildlife through clues and adaptations. Identify animals using skulls, bones, fur, tracks, and scat. Put your detective skills to the test in this hands-on workshop.

Ages: Everyone

Native Plants for Your Home Garden

Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Discover native plants with Elburn's Master Gardener, Bill Waters, in a two-part workshop. Learn landscaping benefits, plant suitability, sourcing, and integration for a harmonious and sustainable environment.

Ages: Adult

Designing, Installing, and Maintaining a Native ® **Plant Garden**

Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Join Elburn's Master Gardener. Bill Waters, in a follow-up workshop. Explore on your design for a personalized touch!

Ages: Adult

Northern Lights 101

R

Monday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.

Embark on a captivating exploration with night-sky photographer Libby Henderson. Uncover the science, folklore, and photography techniques for the elusive Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis. Discover the best practices to witness and capture this rare phenomena, enhancing your understanding and photographic skills for a magical experience. This program promises an engaging journey into the wonders of the night sky.

Ages: Adult





COVER





EARNING & DISCOVERY

Kindergarten Readiness

® \$

Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 9

Set your child up for kindergarten success! Enroll in our Kindergarten Readiness Winter/Spring classes, reinforcing fine motor, early literacy, math, and social skills. Open to children entering kindergarten in Fall 2024.

Ages: 4 - 5

Homeschool Science



Come out to the library for some fun, educational homeschool science classes! This class incorporates both classical and book-based approach to science.

> Ages: 9 - 12 Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. February 6 - April 30

Ages: 6 - 8 Tuesdays, 2:15 p.m. February 6 - April 30

Sensory Playtime

Friday, January 12, 10:00 a.m. Friday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.

during our special playtime. Explore stations

Ages: 0 - 8

Tween/Teen Scene: **Creative Writing Workshop**

Thursday, February 1, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, February 29, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 4:30 p.m.

Calling teen/tween writers! Unleash your creativity in an inspiring workshop designed for ages 9 and up. Build, develop, and share your stories, poems, or graphic novels with like-minded peers.

Ages: 9 - 14

The Great North American Eclipse

(R)

Tuesday, March 12, 6:00 p.m.

Gear up for the celestial event of the decade! Join Michelle Nichols, Adler's Director of Public Observing, to prepare for the Great North American Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Discover the science behind eclipses and when and how to view Planetarium. Then, make sure to stop in the library between April 5th - 7th for

Ages: Everyone



Youth Programs

R

STORYTIME

Baby & Toddler R **Storytime**

Fridays, 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. beginning January 12

Storytime for babies and toddlers combines enjoyment and enrichment! Miss Nancy's learning plan includes songs, flannel board activities, and stories that all work to enhance the development of early literacy.

Ages: 0-5

Mixed Age Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. beginning January 9

Join Miss Nancy for an all-ages story time full of songs, fingerplays, flannel board activities, stories and a craft.

Ages: 0-8

Sensory Storytime

Saturday, January 20, 10:30a.m. Saturday, February 17, 10:30a.m. Saturday, March 16, 10:30a.m. Saturday, April 20, 10:30a.m.

Join us for a special story time! All kids, all abilities, will love the interactive stories, songs, and movement. Enjoy extra sensory fun during read-alouds and music/movement.

Ages: 0 - 8 with caregiver

Spanish Immersion Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. beginning January 10

Immerse in language-learning fun with Señora Silvana! Enhance Spanish skills through stories, vocabulary songs, crafts, and games. All Spanish levels welcome. Join the adventure!

Ages: 1-5 with caregiver





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