

VOL 17 ISSUE 1



Matheson Memorial Library

NEWSLETTER

Library Closed:

Thursday, January 1st



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Chad Robinson, Director
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Happy New Year! For us here at the library, 2025 was a tremendous blur due our wonderful-yet-challenging grant. Between renovations, furniture selection, and many, many construction meetings, we certainly had our hands full. Thankfully, all of our library users have been very patient with us as we worked through all these issues...we really appreciate it! And even more thankfully, things are finally taking shape here!

We'll be starting our next phase in mid-January, in which the fiction and DVD collections will move into the newly renovated southern end of the lower level. However, these collections will still be fully browsable, and you'll get to see the first three new study rooms and our new Mary Bray Room! We think you'll like this space as much as our new Youth Services area on the upper level. In March, we're looking at a 2-3-week closure, but we'll do our best to offer at least limited library services as our construction crew finishes the lobby bathrooms, the main entrance, and finishes installing the new HVAC system. Then, our nonfiction collection can finally return from the Community Center to its new home. We're hoping for the entire project to be finished in May...or maybe even April.

There are programs happening even in the midst of construction, so read on for details on all we're cooking up for you. Don't forget that when you visit, we're here to help you find your next great read, so don't be shy! That also includes grabbing nonfiction books, which are definitely still available, though still in captivity in the Community Center. We're so excited to show off our new building, and stay tuned for a very special summer reading program utilizing all our new spaces. I hope you all have a wonderful 2026, filled with growth, learning, and of course reading!

BOOK CLUBS

PAGE TURNERS EVENING BOOK CLUB

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Teen Area of the Library



Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30 PM: *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige

This story focuses on the disappearance of Valerie Gills as she nearly completed hiking the entire Appalachian Trail.



Wednesday, February 4th: *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger

A family faces moral and ethical dilemmas after their autonomous minivan crashes, while secrets and AI technology complicate their recovery at Chesapeake Bay.

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 PM at the Teen Area of the Library



Tuesday, January 20th at 2 PM: *What Happened to the McCrays?* by Tracey Lange

This novel takes an intimate look at both sides of a failed marriage and two people who must confront the awful pain of their past or risk being consumed by it.



Tuesday, February 17th: *Eddie Winston is Looking for Love* by Marianne Cronin

This tale of friendship and kindness is about Eddie Winston, a 90 year old man who has lived and loved, but has never been kissed.

THE SHORT STORY BOOK CLUB

Meets at The Bunker Grill

N6246 Hwy 12/67 in Elkhorn

(located at Evergreen Country Club)



Tuesday, January 27th: *Silent Snow, Secret Snow* by Conrad Aiken

A 12-year-old boy, Paul Hasleman, retreats from reality into a vivid daydream of snow and becomes increasingly detached from the world around him.



Tuesday, February 24th: *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov

A young lawyer and a banker make a wager on what's worse: capital punishment, or 15 years in solitary confinement.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Note: all Adult Services programs will be at Sunset Park (200 Devendorf St., Elkhorn, WI 53121) with the exception of the February art class, which will be at the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce (203 E. Walworth St.).



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Sunset Park

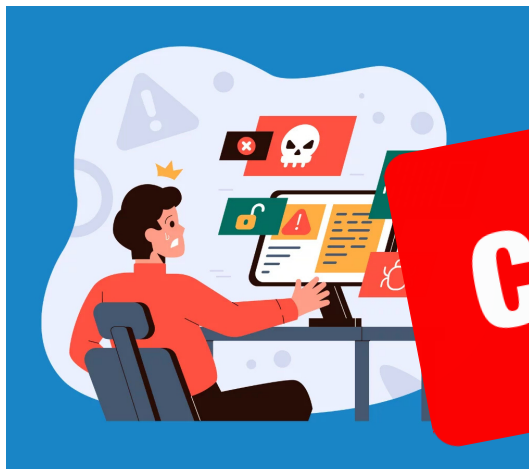
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CANCELLED

MATINEES AT MATHESON: THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939, G)

Friday, January 2nd at 1 PM at Sunset Park

Join us the first Friday of every month for Matinees at Matheson! Free popcorn, soda and candy provided by the Friends of the Library!



STAY SAFE ONLINE!

at Sunset Park

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as software to keep your computer
safe.

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DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FOR ADULTS

Saturday, January 17th from 9 AM - 12 PM
Saturday, February 14th from 9 AM - 12 PM
at Sunset Park

Join us for a game of Dungeons & Dragons for just the grown-ups! Space is limited, so please RSVP by emailing Tanner at tadamse@elkhorn.lib.wi.us.

MATINEES AT MATHESON: IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT (1934, NR)

Friday, February 6th at 1 PM at Sunset Park

Join us the first Friday of every month for Matinees at Matheson! Free popcorn, soda and candy provided by the Friends of the Library!



PAINT-IN AT THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 25th at 6 PM and
Thursday, February 26th at 10 AM
at the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce

Enjoy a relaxing painting session at the library! Due to limited space and supplies, registration is required, and opens on Monday, February 16th.

FAMILY EVENTS



PAWS TO READ

Returns in February!

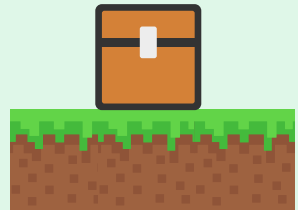
Live animals will be present in a designated space. This program is sponsored by the Lakeland Animal Shelter.



MINECRAFT HANGOUT

Weekly on Tuesdays from 4-5 PM: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Build the possibilities at the library!



POKEMON HANGOUT

Weekly on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 PM: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

Catch all the Pokémon fun at the library!



WIGGLES & WORDS STORYTIME

Weekly on Fridays from 10-11 AM: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

Build the possibilities at the library!



ERIC CARLE CELEBRATION

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 9:30 AM

Celebrate reading with the Very Hungry Caterpillar!



Flexible Facilities Grant

We're thrilled to have been selected out of the many applications in Wisconsin. A big thank you to the City of Elkhorn for supporting our application, and to the Wisconsin Department of Administration for selecting us.

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TRADING SPACES

The Youth & Adult areas are switching!

- Upstairs will be the new Youth Area, including a Young Adult room and program spaces.
- Downstairs will be the Adult Fiction, Non-Fiction, Local History, Computers, Audio Books, CDs, and DVDs.

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MOVING SPACES

- New Mary Bray Room (Tech Services)
- New Friends Room (Fireplace area)
- Friends Book Store (Lobby)
- Storyroom (Old Audio book room)

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STUDY ROOMS

- Three upstairs for families.
- Eight downstairs of various sizes.

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NEW SPACES

- New Adult Lounge
- Telehealth room
- Youth Maker Space
- Youth Activity Room

What is this grant about?

The primary objective of the Flexible Facilities Grant is to support projects that provide new, renovated, or expanded facilities and digital connectivity equipment, enabling remote access to work, education, and health monitoring activities.

Partnerships!

We're looking forward to increasing our partnerships with community organizations, including the Open Arms Free Clinic & the Walworth County Literacy Council.

- Open Arms Free Clinic offers comprehensive primary medical, dental, behavioral health, laboratory, and medication services at no cost to qualifying residents.
- The Walworth County Literacy Council educates and partners with adult learners to reach their literacy goals, thereby empowering themselves, their families and their communities.

Posters & Displays in the library!

Posters & displays are distributed throughout the library explaining the relocation of various collections.

RENOVATION UPDATE

Our contractors, volunteers, and staff are hard at work making sure your new library is better than ever as we work on the second phase of our renovation plan!



Notes from the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Matheson Memorial Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has supported us by purchasing books from our Library Bookstore. Your continued support helps us fund programs, materials, and activities that enrich our library and our community. We are excited about the changes ahead and look forward to transitioning to an updated bookstore experience in 2026.

We are also pleased to announce an upcoming Donation Day on Saturday, February 7th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Donations will be accepted in the lobby of the library. We appreciate your generosity and ongoing support of the Friends.

Please join us for our next General Meeting on Wednesday, February 25th, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce / Uncle Hunk's Junk, located at 203 E. Walworth Street. This will be our temporary meeting location for both the February and April meetings.

As we look ahead, we are especially excited to once again begin our favorite Friends activities, including bake sales, game nights, and author visits, once the library renovations are complete. We can't wait to gather together again and continue supporting the Matheson Memorial Library in meaningful and fun ways.

Thank you for being a valued part of the Friends of the Library community!