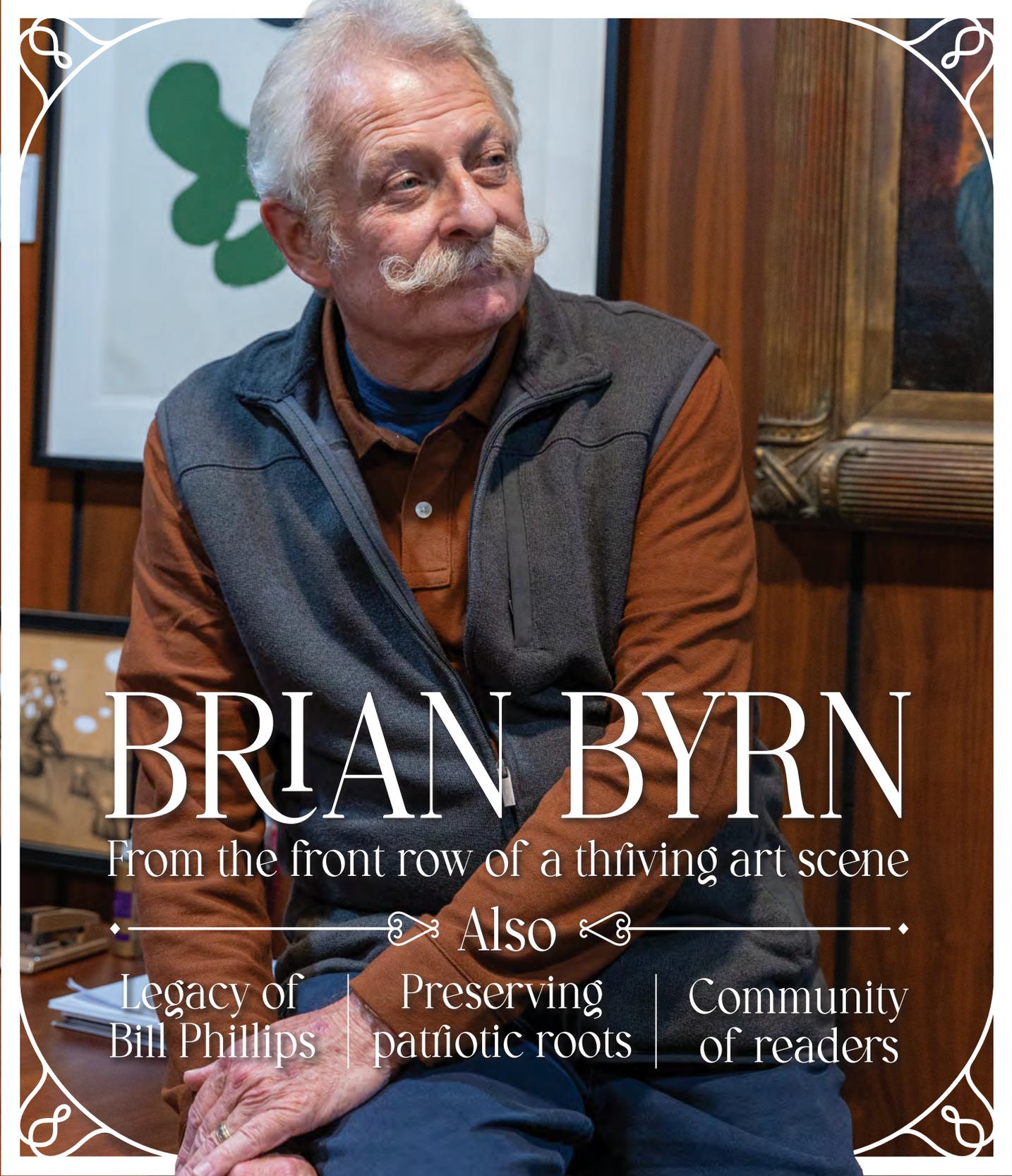


EXPLORE

SPRING 2026

ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY



BRIAN BYRN

From the front row of a thriving art scene

◆ ————— ❧ Also ❧ ————— ◆

Legacy of
Bill Phillips

Preserving
patriotic roots

Community
of readers



**THE LIBRARY IS
FOR EVERYONE**

Sign up today MyEPL.org/card



EXPLORE
VOLUME 9 - ISSUE 1

Explore is a publication of Elkhart Public Library. The magazine promotes library events, activities and more, and is available for free to the community. For the most up-to-date information about the happenings at our five locations, please visit the library's website, MyEPL.org, and follow us on social.

WE'RE ONLINE

For a complete calendar of all future events, visit MyEPL.org/events

FOLLOW US @MYEPL



LOCATIONS

Downtown
300 S. Second St., Elkhart, IN 46516
574.522.5669

Cleveland
53715 C.R. 1, Elkhart, IN 46514
574.266.2030

Dunlap
58485 C.R. 13, Elkhart, IN 46516
574.875.3100

Osolo
3429 E. Bristol St., Elkhart, IN 46514
574.264.7234

Pierre Moran
2400 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517
574.294.6418

COVER

Brian Byrn, inside his office at the Midwest Museum of American Art, surrounded by personal favorite pieces. Read more on page 14.



Contents

- 4 **From the desk of the Executive Director**
- 6 **London Martinez discovers family's Revolutionary past**
- 8 **Truth in Our History: Councilman Bill Phillips' meaningful legacy**
- 12 **Art exhibit shines a light on mental health**
- 14 **The resourceful Brian Byrn looks back ... and ahead**



- 21 **EPL Annual Report**
- 22 2025 by the numbers
- 24 Decade in review
- 26 Summer Reading
- 28 Community support
- 30 Growing Readers impacts classroom success
- 32 **Upcoming programs and events**
- 47 **Computer and technology classes**

Greetings from the Executive Director

Getting to know our impact

As I reflect on my first several months at the Elkhart Public Library, I am filled with gratitude. From day one, the welcome I've received from our staff, community partners, and residents across the service area has been exceptionally warm. Your kindness has made Elkhart feel like home faster than I ever expected.

I've had the pleasure of visiting our branches, meeting our incredible staff, and getting to know the leaders, organizations, and partners who help make this community so vibrant. Every conversation has reinforced what I already sensed — this is a place where people care deeply about their library and about one another.

In this issue, I encourage you to take a moment to explore our Annual Report, featured in a special section of Explore.

It highlights the many ways the library made an impact in 2025 — through programs, resources, partnerships, and the collective work of a dedicated team committed to serving our community.

In the coming months, I look forward to continuing these conversations, listening to your ideas, and engaging with the community at library programs, outreach events, and local gatherings. Whether we meet at a branch, at a neighborhood celebration, or across a table at a community event, I am excited to learn more about how the library can help you explore, connect, and thrive.

Thank you for making my start here so meaningful. I am honored to serve as your Library Executive Director, and I look forward to the work ahead — together.



Kristen Edson
Executive Director



Find all the ways to use your

Library card!

M U Z L C S A B Z O O P A S S E S J
 T A F E Y C Z O L H B Z M P H X U S
 O C G W D P S O A O B T S Y O T G E
 C K I A C X F K D M T R R T M L H S
 X T E N Z E E S Q E P A E I E L V S
 N L F L P I M B V W G H D N D Q Z A
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 L E T H P G D E C L Y N I K R G L U
 I A C W O B V A L P R Y W G Y N P M
 B L N N W O D J U F A T O P X I P R
 B O Z Q T K P D B D T Q R G L T G G
 Y G R G H H Z L S N O H G U J E P J
 F Y R I M I W O A C N Y D X B E Z E
 W M I S S O A N I M E U E H P M J Y

In this word search, discover all the great things you can enjoy with your Elkhart Public Library card!

Sign up today at MyEPL.org/card

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ANIME | GROWING READERS |
| BOOKS | HOME DELIVERY |
| COMMUNITY | HOMEWORK HELP |
| CLUBS | HOOPLA |
| CRAFTS | LIBBY |
| CURBSIDE CONCERTS | MAGAZINES |
| DVDS | MEETING ROOMS |
| ELKHART | MUSEUM PASSES |
| FREE | NOTARY |
| GENEALOGY | ZOO PASSES |

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.



2026

WINTER

Reading

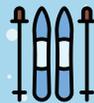
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Patriotic Connections

Using library resources, London Martinez fills in family history to join Daughters of the American Revolution

★ London Martinez traced her family roots to the American Revolution. The 250-year-old results created new opportunities.

★ She spent a week over the summer volunteering in Washington during the Daughters of the American Revolution's annual Continental Congress convention.

★ She says research done at Elkhart Public Library made it possible.

"I have been trying, as a hobby, to do my research for the patriots," says London, now a DAR member. The service organization for women connects those with American lineage dating back to the 1700s.

The process of joining DAR is not simple, London says, and it requires layers of documentation.

"You need to pull birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses and military records. If there's an adoption, you need to pull that information," she says. "The further back you go, it's not unusual to find records are destroyed by fire. You need secondary records for that."

She's traced her family history all the way back to the Mayflower.

Available free for EPL cardholders, Ancestry.com Library Edition helped her trace her family tree and find documents, like census data and birth and death certificates. Fold3, another Ancestry database in EPL's Digital Library, provided military history and records.

"I like being able to use it here. It gives you full access to Ancestry, which can be costly," she says.

Her patriot is Samuel Marion, the sixth great-grandfather on her mother's side. Samuel was a private and joined the revolution in Virginia.

London says she and 27 other DAR members trace their ancestry through Samuel's daughter, Jane. Samuel is related to Francis Marion, known as the Swamp Fox, another famous patriot and namesake for the Indiana county.



She received an email in February 2025 saying her application was approved to join the Sturgis-Niles DAR Chapter.

"It's something that's always piqued my interest," London says of the family tree search.

"I find it interesting in my day-to-day. Hundreds of years ago the people I'm finding would've walked these same areas, but it looks completely different. I find that fascinating."

London says bridging the gap between past and present makes her appreciate all of her ancestors.

"So many things in our day-to-day, they pushed for. They had to sacrifice a lot. The freedoms and opportunities we have, it gives us empathy for the things they endured," London says.

At the convention

London says she worked as a page at the DAR's annual national convention. She held doors, escorted people to different sessions, and networked with other members.

The organization calls their conference the Continental Congress in honor of the original governing body of the United States during the revolution. The event celebrates



members' work, features award ceremonies, and sets plans for future projects, according to the DAR website.

"The first night, I got to hold the Indiana flag and lead the Indiana group into the auditorium," London says. "I had a lot of pride in that."

She says the work was fun and gave her a chance to meet others, including relatives.

"It's (about) serving, to meet other women who are interested in the same background. It's not unusual to meet relatives," London says. "It all stems from having that connection to the revolution."

What's next

The mother of four says she's now working on finding more patriots in her family tree. She's working on researching descendants from her father's side of her family.

And while she was the first of her family to get a DAR membership pin, London helped her mother and grandmother join.

"It's a reverse trajectory. It's usually the other way around - mothers get their daughters to join," London says.



Explore family history and military records. Get started today in the EPL Digital Library at [MyEPL.org/genealogy](https://myepl.org/genealogy).



Meaningful Legacy

TRAILBLAZING
COUNCILMAN
WORKED TO MAKE
ELKHART BETTER

Bill Phillips was instrumental in the creation of Elkhart's Civil Rights Commission and authored equal opportunity and fair housing ordinances for the city. (Elkhart Truth photo at right by Arden Erickson)

No matter the circumstances, Bill Phillips was always going to work.

During World War II, he trained in a segregated unit. As the civil rights movement unfolded in the 1960s, he earned a historic seat on the Elkhart City Council. In an era when quality jobs were difficult to get, he rose to vice president of the local bank.

Every step of the way, Phillips was a leader and mentor.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience," the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."

Phillips used that quote in 1971 to honor the retiring mayor. But Bill Phillips himself lived by those same high standards.

Chosen to represent

Politics was neither the beginning nor the ending point of Phillips' career, but his timing was impeccable.

His city council victory in 1963 marked the first time a Black person had succeeded in a local election. The nation was coming to grips with past and ongoing discrimination. Social justice was making headway in the courts and halls of Congress.

Phillips knew Elkhart needed Black representation. He maybe wasn't sure he was the one to run. He organized a group of local leaders to talk about potential candidates.

"A couple of weeks later, we met again and nobody had come up with a name," Phillips told Elkhart Truth reporter Arden Erickson in September 1999. "Someone said, 'Why not you?'"

Some criticized Phillips for running as a Republican. He lived at the center of a deeply Democrat area in the city. He had worked in the labor movement and alongside Congressman John Brademas. Phillips said his political beliefs, though, were strongly influenced by his parents, both staunch Republicans.

"I went over to the State Theater and talked to (Republican Party chairman) Bill Miller," Phillips said. "I told him I was going to run. He didn't say much."



SERVING HIS COUNTRY • ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION
ADVOCATING FOR BLACK PROFESSIONALS • LEADING AND MENTORING

THE TRUTH IN OUR HISTORY

Whatever he was thinking, Miller did grant Phillips a favor. The chairman ensured no one else would run in the primary. Phillips wanted the Black residents of Elkhart to see someone that looked like them and would represent them on the November ballot.

Phillips won both the primary and general elections to earn his seat.

Fighting discrimination

Within his first two years on the council, Phillips fought for the establishment of a civil rights commission based at City Hall. He put forward legislation to require minimum housing standards. He succeeded in getting inspections for all owner-occupied and rental dwellings.

He became vice president of the council and chairman of the powerful finance committee in his first term. After winning re-election in 1967, he fought for an ordinance to prevent home sellers from discriminating against would-be buyers. He also pressed for legislation banning employment discrimination.

This legislative work placed Phillips ahead of the curve as courts scrambled to address similar discriminatory practices.

Mayor John Weaver brought Phillips into his administration in 1969, appointing him the first full-time airport manager. With his Naval training and a strong background in finance, Phillips oversaw the growth of the facility. Airport profits tripled and Phillips secured up to \$400,000 in federal grants.

Phillips' work brought bipartisan praise when he stepped down from his position in August 1972.

Airport board chairman Paul Pressler credited Phillips' "devotion to duty, his ability in dealing with various federal government regulatory agencies, and his leadership in developing an excellent airport for the City of Elkhart."

Foundation of leadership

Born July 16, 1925, William O. Phillips was the first of five children born to Irvin and Annie. He played football and wasn't faced with the issue of segregation until he left Elkhart High School.

Phillips was drafted into the Navy two months after graduating. Assigned to Great Lakes Naval Station for training, his unit was all Black - except for the white company commander. Mess halls were separated.



Bright and talented, he earned his assignment in air traffic control and was sent to the North Pacific as part of his service during World War II. He was not allowed to enter officer training school, however, because of the color of his skin.

Following the war and his honorable discharge, Bill Phillips began his work career in quality control at Excel Corp. He joined the Elkhart Jaycees - a service organization he later credited with building his leadership skills - and twice earned distinction as an outstanding director with the group.

For the public good

In 1960, Phillips and his young family purchased a house at Garfield and Benham. They were the first Black family to buy a house south of Indiana Avenue and the Benham West area.

"I never heard anything negative from any neighbors or anything. Elkhart, in my opinion, has always been just about one step ahead of many communities," Phillips told Elkhart Truth reporter Ryan Miller in February 1998.



■ ELKHART, IN MY
OPINION, HAS ALWAYS
BEEN JUST ABOUT
ONE STEP AHEAD OF
MANY COMMUNITIES ■

- Bill Phillips, February 1998

Racism, he said then, "certainly held down other members of my family, I am sure of that. It's held down dear friends, I'm sure of that. But personally I have been fortunate."

After leaving city government, Phillips joined St. Joseph Valley Bank, later NBD. He rose to vice president and started its small business commercial loan department.

Meanwhile, he served on the boards of Elkhart General Hospital, the Salvation Army, the NAACP, the Elkhart Rotary Club, and more. Gov. Otis Bowen named him to the Indiana Statewide Health Coordinating Council in 1978, and his appointment was renewed by Gov. Robert Orr.

In 2005, Phillips received the United Way's Arthur J. Decio Award as Volunteer of the Year.

Phillips' lifelong work was recognized with honors from Black Expo and the Urban League. He received the Lewis S. Armstrong Award for Business and Economics by IUSB.

"Elkhart has been good to me and my family and I have always felt I should do something to make the community a better place to live," Phillips said in November 1999.

Love for community

Even in retirement, Phillips kept a keen eye on the local situation.

"There are still employers in Elkhart and Elkhart County that don't have many blacks," Phillips said in a 1999 article, tying the problem to insufficient educational opportunities. "No one will give them a chance at the entry level, and that's so important. Until we get people in at the entry level, the glass ceiling has no effect."

When Bill Phillips died Oct. 27, 2012, Elkhart Mayor Dick Moore, a Democrat, remembered the Republican councilman as a "great community contributor."

"He was very broad-minded, very open-minded about things," Moore told Truth reporter Dan Spalding. "Bill recognized when somebody was doing a job - and doing it well - regardless of the politics.

"He was one of those guys they'd like to have in Washington today (who could) come to the middle of the road and talk to anybody."

Bill's son, Kerry, said, "My father was receptive to people based on just their character, and to that extent, he didn't care about race. I was always amazed at how much my father really loved this community. ...

"I was always proud of him, how he carried himself and the concern he showed for the community and his willingness and eagerness to work in the community in so many capacities geared toward making Elkhart a better place." ❧

SPOTLIGHTING



Mental health art exhibit helps audience, artists understand struggles

Visual art has healing power - it starts conversations and reduces stigma. Mental Health Association of Michiana will once again bring its art exhibition to Elkhart Public Library.

Starting Feb. 21 and running through March 10, MHAM aims to showcase local artists and how they use their work in their journey to better their mental health.

"You're taking mental health and healing and giving artists a chance to submit work that shows how art has been a vehicle for recovery or healing for themselves," says Lisa Kelly, MHAM co-founder and executive director.

Art is one of many therapeutic activities to help those struggling with their mental health, Lisa says, adding, "It's a powerful vehicle for people to heal and recover from things they've experienced."



What: MHAM Art Showcase

Where: Elkhart Public Library, Downtown Location

When: Feb. 21 - March 10



During the first showcase in 2025, about 20 artists showcased 30 art pieces at Elkhart Public Library. Artists may submit up to three works each, and items may be two- or three-dimensional.

Following the EPL exhibition, the exhibit moves to the St. Joseph County Public Library starting March 12.

One of her favorite aspects of the exhibit is opening night, when artists are invited to share about their work and what it means to them.

"One of our main program tenants is to make mental health something we're not afraid to talk about," Lisa says. "The response we got was that the most powerful part of it was hearing

how the art helped the artist. The attendees found it moving."

For more information on the exhibit and the opening night reception, visit mhamichiana.org.





RAISING THE DAD BAR

artist • educator • library advocate
Brian Byrn reflects on
significant accomplishments
made in downtown Elkhart

As Brian Byrn sorts through 44 years of memories and wisdom earned in downtown Elkhart, his superpower shines through.

He is an artist, after all.

Resourcefulness.

His recent retirement from the Midwest Museum of American Art just marks the beginning of new creative explorations. Byrn, the museum's director and longtime curator, has been in this position before.

Creating opportunity

"I felt Elkhart was my whistlestop on the way to Chicago. I had a three- to five-year plan when I stepped out of college in May 1981 ... to try and begin my professional career as an artist," he says. "The world was my oyster."

He was honored with best in show at the third annual Elkhart Juried Regional art competition. But he also won the attention of Jane and Dr. Sr. Richard Burns, the museum's founding family.

He was invited to give a talk about Edward Hopper on a bus trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. After that, she called him in for a job interview.

Resourcefulness.

"All that led to November 15th, 1981. And on my first day, Jane said, 'Looks like it's me and you, kid. Doesn't look like you're afraid to work, so let's get busy,'" Brian recalls. "... I didn't know anybody in the art community here. But I was amazed at what I saw when I walked in the front door – the scope of the main gallery at first blush."

That distance probably didn't seem as great as the divide between the art communities of South Bend and Elkhart. Brian says, "I felt there was something very insular ... and I came to learn how that played itself out."

The resourceful repair? Growing the Midwest Museum's cornerstone event.

"The Elkhart Juried Regional ... became the catalyst for: A) me meeting more artists; and B) building the kind of relationships institutionally with the art community that we saw were important," Brian says. "It's important to pay attention to what's going on in your art world."

"It's great to know what's happening in New York and Paris. But Chicago is pretty important, and Indiana has its own history of artists."

Increasing in prominence throughout Brian's tenure, the Juried Regional now connects artists from 24 counties. The museum's website touts the competition as "an important survey of the very best of what is happening currently in Michiana."

Finding needed resources

Alongside improved and deepening connections, the Midwest Museum achieved other goals.

"Scholarship in American art history has risen 1,000 fold," Brian says. "When I came here, there were three books on the bookshelf and the internal history was not vast in resources."

So, Brian – ever resourceful - made his way to Elkhart Public Library.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO

For the next four-plus decades, Brian had an office with his name on the door. But he says with joy, "I was never in it. I'd rather be downstairs on the floor and working."

Connecting communities

"The first 20 years, I was just a visitor," says Brian, a native of Lanesville, Ind., current population 935. "I was just living here, working here. I would return to southern Indiana as much as I could."

"I championed the library and its services. With no money here, I borrowed films to show. The art library was phenomenal," he says. "(Library Director) George Brich came over here and helped my first librarian get organized. Ken Brady and Pat McClure up there in A/V - so helpful. I used the Reference Department as my own personal research unit."

"I was always grateful to call up 522-KNOW on the telephone and talk with Marsha Eilers and Jan Bower and the rest of the staff."



**WHAT'S GOING ON
IN YOUR ART WORLD**



Brian had a seat on the EPL Board of Trustees from 2009-17, and he still fills the role of influencer.

"Nowadays, artists have more of an opportunity to be visible than they ever had before, using (social media) platforms," Brian says. "I tell people ... if you don't want to spend time learning it, get to your public library and take some free classes and ask at the reference desk. They'll help you tool up."

Tapping into creativity

In the 1990s, Brian says he was at a crossroads. He had stayed longer in Elkhart than planned, but the experience had given him opportunities to move on. For lots of reasons, he decided, "Guess I'll hunker down here for the long haul and see where that takes me."

Pushing all in as curator meant dedicating less time to creating art of his own.

"People say, 'Do you still make art?' Well, not like I did when I was a young person. When you're young, you can produce more," he says. "But I never let being an artist go."

Each fall, when the heavy lifting of the Juried Regional was done, Brian and his wife, Lisa, would head out to decompress. They tried Florida and the Pacific Coast before settling on trips to the Yucatán.

"My wife downloads about 20 books from the Elkhart Public Library ... and this last time, 14 days, I produced 26 finished works – watercolor, mixed media," Brian says. "I'm not saying they're all masterpieces ... but I'm not just spending my day trying to get a tan, the good Irish-Welsh man that I am."

Ever resourceful, the artist packs for portability. On these trips, he's made 226 works total, ranging in size up to 12-by-18. Brian says Jennifer Abrell, the Midwest Museum's executive director, expects him to exhibit these works ... someday.

Moving ahead

The resourceful mind always must expend creative energy, and Brian has his eyes on something new.

"I might want to travel around and podcast – The Artful Traveler, or something like that," he says. "That could be my

**I CAN WALK AWAY ... AND KNOW THIS PLACE
WILL LIVE ON FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER 50 YEARS.**



extension of contact with the art community. It could be far and wide, but there's still so much locally to uncover."

After 44 years, the Midwest Museum of American Art won't be the same without Brian Byrn. And, in Brian's view, that's all right.

"I knew my time had come, I knew my skill sets were limited," he says. "I could see the complexion of the art community ... and I just knew this was special. But I just couldn't lift the bar any higher.

"Jennifer has lifted that bar really high, and I just applaud that. Her level of expertise is incredible. ... I can walk away, be detached, and know this place will live on for at least another 50 years."

Enjoy Brian Byrn's accomplishments at the Midwest Museum of American Art. You can visit this and many other attractions by checking out Experience Passes from Elkhart Public Library. MyEPL.org/experience

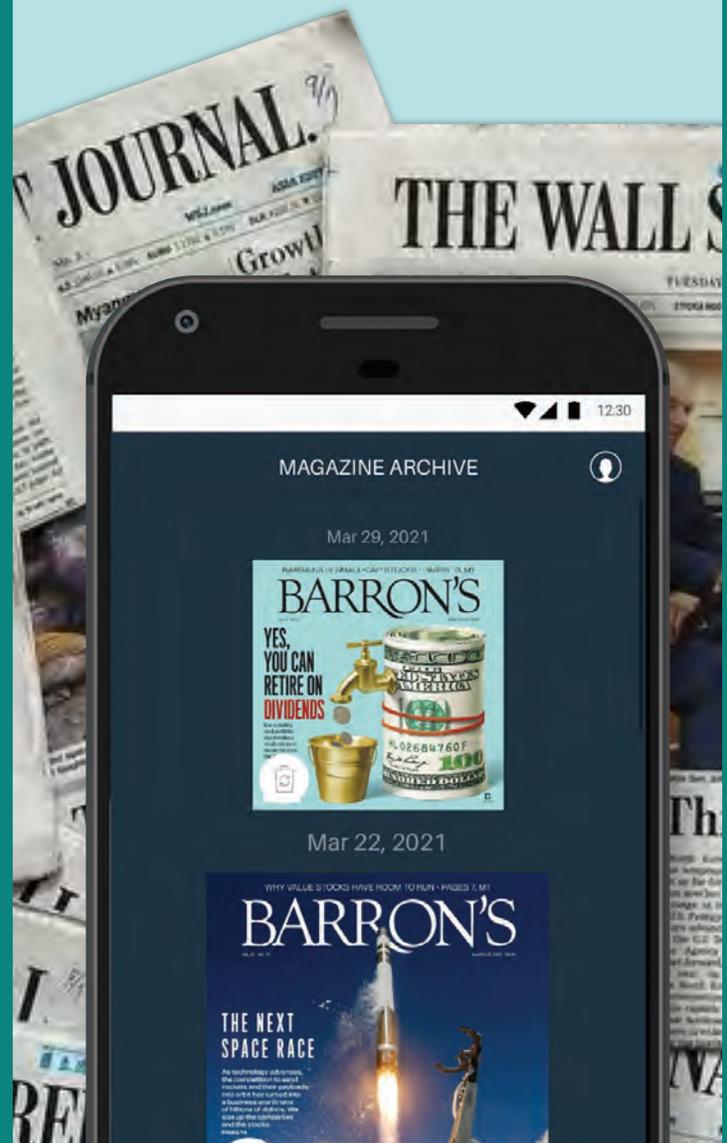


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Elkhart Public Library

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2025

Annual Report





2025 at a glance

Key metrics

217,035

people visited EPL locations in person

878

meeting room uses by community groups

10,593

homes with an EPL cardholder, up 2 percent from 2024

21,945

average number of copies and prints made per month at EPL locations



Over

25,000

community members interacted with the library through classroom visits, daycare visits, community events, festivals and more

Over

7,000

kids got ready for kindergarten through Storytimes, Growing Readers and other early literacy programming

About

20%

of library users primarily access digital books, audiobooks and streaming resources

32%

increase in card activity

16.2%

increase in preschool program attendance

102

Book Bus events

7,011

free books given out to children





10 Years

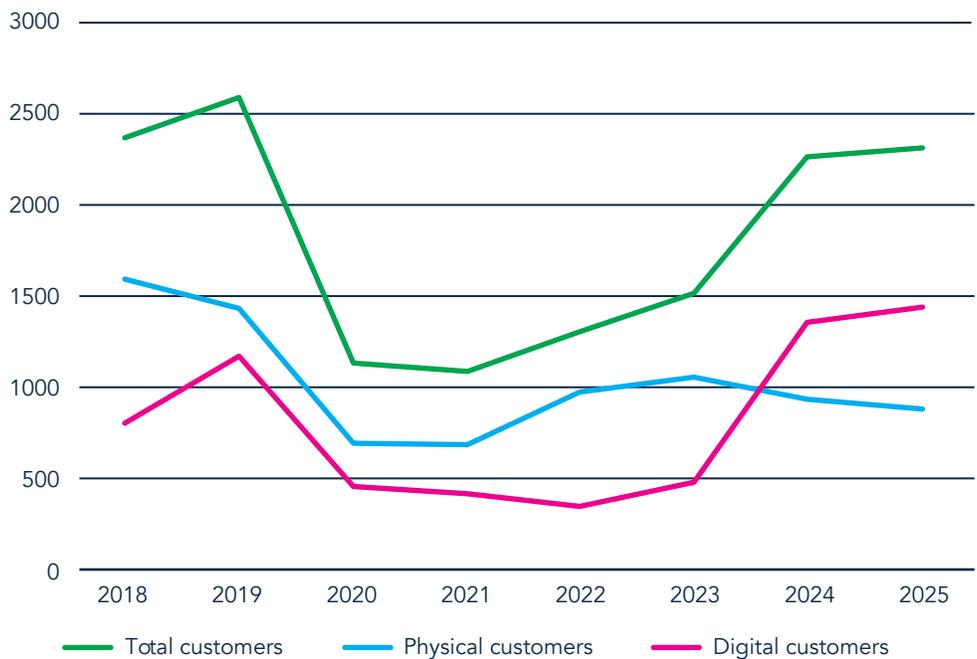
A quick look at a decade of library use

Customers by Week

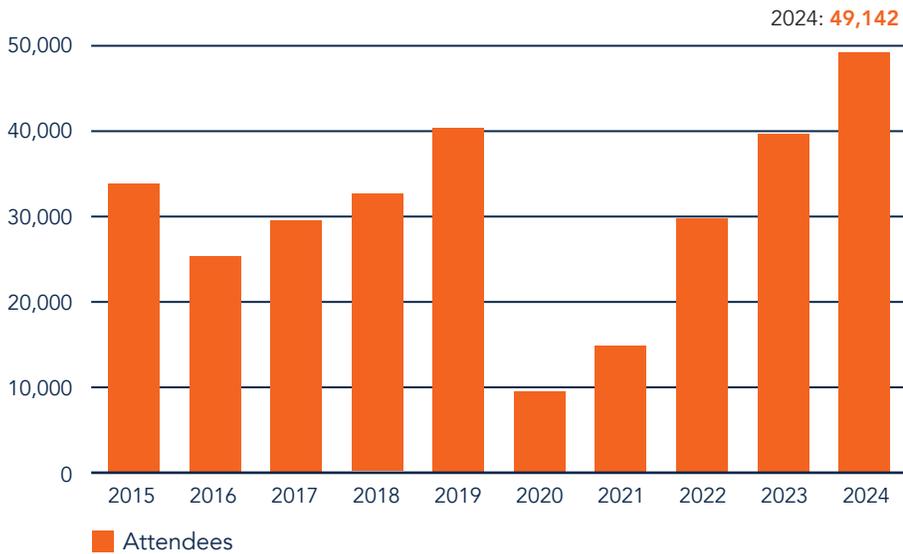
(Snapshot - 1st Week of December)

This graph shows the number of people using their library cards in person and on their devices since 2018.

In June of 2025, we had our busiest week since October 2019 - nearly 2,800 customers



Program Attendance



EPL is the 14th largest library system in Indiana.

We have the seventh-highest program attendance - almost 50,000 total in a year.

That's higher than places like Evansville, Lafayette, Bloomington and Carmel.



30%

of total circulation in
2016 was children's
materials

47%

of total circulation in
2025 was children's
materials

Summer Reading

Elkhart Public Library's signature program finished another record-setting summer

60.5%

of participants completed six weeks of reading

79.3%

of participants competed at least three weeks of reading

2,369

kids registered for a reading challenge, a 10 percent increase from 2024





614

participants read all 60 days, nearly one-third of the total readers



144

readers have been participating for at least five years



93,254

days of reading logged



Support from the community

Businesses and organizations support EPL's mission

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten support from Beacon Health Foundation



Parents are generally really excited to get some books, not every parent thinks about books when they think about what they need for their baby. But they are excited to start their library at home. We have a lot of Spanish-speaking families and it always makes them smile to see that we have Spanish-language materials... I think Beacon has put a big focus on serving the community and I think this is a really significant partnership starting with parents in the hospital and beyond.

- Emily Sagon,
manager of women's and children's
services at Elkhart General Hospital



\$15,000

Beacon Health Foundation grant supporting
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Summer Reading Challenge support from Ranger Distribution Inc.

Part of (accountability) is committing to giving without expectation. That means giving to charities that benefit the community, and (Elkhart Public Library) is a great example. - John Curran, Ranger Distribution co-founder



Elkhart
Rotary
Club





Growing Readers makes impact for students, families

Teachers see the difference one year to the next with reading tutoring program

At age 3, Jozzell was barely speaking. His concerned mom didn't know where to go. A teacher at Hawthorne Early Learning Center told his mom, Jessica Borrego, about Elkhart Public Library's Growing Readers program.

Jessica quickly enrolled Jozzell.

Library tutors helped make a difference in getting Jozzell ready to succeed in school.

Building confidence

Meredith Horvath, Jozzell's kindergarten teacher last year, said he started school "really, really quiet. The exciting part is, he gained confidence." She says the skills they work on in the classroom really stuck thanks to the outside help he received from the library.

"He would try to tap out sounds and do those things," says Meredith. "Hearing it, revisiting it, it's going to strengthen his base."

On to first grade this year at Roosevelt STEAM Academy. His new teacher, Anna Ledyard, says, "I just progress monitored him and he went up. He's headed in the right direction."

Jozzell has room to grow. "He's still trying to get to where he's hearing sounds," says Anna. But, she adds, he's continuing to work hard.

That's what Growing Readers helps build in the tutoring process.

"Even now, he'll come up after school and give me a big hug," Meredith says. "It's nice to see he's willing to do that, when before he wasn't. Confidence is huge."

Needing help

Pleased with the results, Jessica eventually enrolled Jozzell's younger brother, Jerick, too. Library tutors helped address her real concerns about their speaking and reading skills.

"When they started, you could barely understand what they were saying. Their speech wasn't developed to where they should be speaking," says Jessica.

She says when Jozzell started Growing Readers in June 2024, he didn't know the ABCs. But the extra sessions have helped his learning continue from the classroom to home.

"Just the 30-minutes, once a week, it makes a big difference," says Jessica.

Since starting in 2022, more than 200 kids have reached their reading goals or gotten their skills to grade level. Half-hour weekly lessons are two-on-one - student and a caregiver working with a certified teacher. They focus on building literacy skills to help students achieve reading success.

Jerick's journey

Becky Banas, Jerick's kindergarten teacher at Roosevelt, sees a positive change in his confidence, too.

"Being involved in another program gave him the experience that he can respond to things about a story. He's interacting with stories more, beyond just listening to it being read to him," she says.



Over **4,000**
lessons completed with
library tutors

135
students achieving
their personal goals

24
kindergarten
assessments completed

Like his brother, Jerick is also very shy. Becky says he didn't speak at all early in the year.

"Jerick has gained confidence, he wouldn't talk to me for the first few weeks and now he's voluntarily answering questions. He thinks he's going to be right," she says.

Jessica is happy for the extra help, too. She knows classroom teachers can only do so much. In a class of 15 or more students, those who are struggling may need more individual attention than possible.

"They're not able to get individual attention at school all the time," she says. "I didn't think they were going to get close. But from where they were then to where it is now, that little bit of help has made all the difference."

Where parents can turn

Finding a boost for students outside the classroom is one barrier for parents.

Teachers say parents hear their child is struggling but often don't know what to do about it.

"It's great to see parents trying to better their children," says Anna. "Any help is great. Not all parents have the knowledge or skills to support learning to read."

Becky says the toolbox teachers have to help just isn't

available for concerned parents.

"Parents don't always know what to do. They don't know what is best for their kids from an educational standpoint," she says. "If they haven't done that, there is so much you wouldn't think to do."

Knowing the library has a free service helps everyone.

"If we know that's a resource that we can give to parents, at least they have that option," says Meredith.

Besides, Becky says, "Kids get excited about Elkhart Public Library. What better place than the library?"

She says teachers tend to be upbeat that kids will get to their learning goals, and seeing the library assist classroom teachers in reaching those milestones is huge.

"We are eternal optimists; we know they will be (reading at their level)," Becky says.



For more information on Growing Readers, visit [MyEPL.org/GrowingReaders](https://www.myEPL.org/GrowingReaders) to see if the program is right for your child.

LOCATIONS

EPL is all about convenience

Cleveland
53715 Co Rd 1
Elkhart, IN 46514

Osolo
3429 E Bristol St
Elkhart, IN 46514

Downtown
300 S 2nd St
Elkhart, IN 46516

Pierre Moran
2400 Benham Ave
Elkhart, IN 46517

Dunlap
58485 Co Rd 13
Elkhart, IN 46516

HOURS	
Monday	9 am - 7 pm
Tuesday	9 am - 7 pm
Wednesday	9 am - 7 pm
Thursday	9 am - 7 pm
Friday	9 am - 6 pm
Saturday	9 am - 3 pm
Sunday	Closed

INSET MAP OF DOWNTOWN

Downtown
300 S 2nd St
Elkhart, IN 46516

Your NextRead is a click away

Sign up for monthly emails about
new releases MyEPL.org/optin



STORYTIMES

Ages 0-5. Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

Baby and Me: Music and Movement

9:30 a.m. Tuesdays | Cleveland

Bond with your little ones (ages 6-24 months). Build motor and language skills with songs, instruments and movement. This program pauses on April 7 for spring break.

Storytime with Miss Janell

9:30 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays | Osolo

Miss Janell and her puppet friends lead this active Storytime. Songs, stories, rhymes and creativity, with two sessions to serve more families.

Storytime with Miss Angie

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays | Pierre Moran

Join Miss Angie for stories, songs and crafts to build literacy skills. This Storytime pauses on April 7 for spring break.

Baby & Me

9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays | Downtown

This special Storytime is just for the littlest ones (ages birth to 24 months). Miss Allison features rhymes, playtime and stories to introduce literacy skills.

Storytime with Miss Debbie

9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays | Dunlap

Join Miss Debbie at two convenient times for stories, songs and crafts. Build literacy, motor and social skills together.

Storytime with Mr. Manley

10 a.m. Wednesdays | Cleveland

Catch preschool celebrity Mr. Manley as he leads stories, songs, activities and fun to build literacy skills. This Storytime pauses on April 8 for spring break.

Little Explorers

10 a.m. Thursdays | Downtown

Toddlers join Miss Cheryl to discover stories, music and hands-on activity stations.

Reading every day
makes a difference

 Free EPL resource

1000 Books Before
Kindergarten



Start your child's journey, one book at a time

MyEPL.org/1kBooks

DOWNTOWN

300 S. Second St., Elkhart, IN 46516 | 574.522.5669

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Baby & Me

9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

This special Storytime is just for the littlest ones (ages birth to 24 months). Miss Allison features rhymes, playtime and stories to introduce literacy skills.

Little Explorers

10 a.m. Thursdays

Toddlers join Miss Cheryl to discover stories, music and hands-on activity stations.



Kindergarten Gear Up

4 p.m. Wednesdays starting March 4

Prepare your soon-to-be-kindergartener with the skills they will need in the classroom. This is a free, nine-week program led by a former teacher.

Preschool Party: Super Kitties

1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4

Valentines activities and games inspired by the Super Kitties characters.

Sensory Playdate

10 a.m. First Fridays

Feb. 6, March 6, April 3

Let little ones explore and play using their senses. Come ready for a mess – we'll handle the clean up.

Preschool Party: Dr. Seuss

10 a.m. Monday, March 2

Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with favorite stories, games and activities.

Easter Egg Hunt for Littles

10 a.m. Tuesday, March 31

Stories and activities for preschoolers before we go on the hunt for Easter eggs. Everyone leaves with a treat.

Preschool Party: Pout Pout Fish

10 a.m. Friday, April 17

Stories, games and activities celebrating the misunderstood Pout Pout Fish.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Homeschool: Scrapbook Journal Pages

1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9

Make scrapbook or journal pages with our available supplies.

LEGO Challenge

4:30 p.m. Mondays

Feb. 23, March 23, April 27

See what you can create with your monthly challenges, and vote for your favorite build.

Homeschool: Scrape Painting

1 p.m. Monday, March 9

Create beautiful abstract designs using acrylic paint and scraping tools.

Mario Wonder on Nintendo Switch

4 p.m. Monday, March 16

Bring your friends to play Mario Wonder, team-style.



Battle of the Books

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 28

Our annual reading competition for fifth and sixth graders. Support your school and see who takes home the trophy.



Easter Egg Hunt

3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Enjoy a free puppet show with Roz Puppets. Then, go on an egg hunt around the library. Please bring a basket or bag for collecting. A second program at 5 p.m. helps us serve more families – choose the time that works best for you.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Just Dance with Nintendo Switch

2 p.m. Monday, April 6

Show off your dance skills while playing Just Dance on our Nintendo Switch.

Homeschool: Under the Sea Watercolor

1 p.m. Monday, April 13

Create sea animal pictures following step-by-step instructions.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Anime Club

4:30 p.m. First Tuesdays

February 3, March 3, April 7

Join other fans of anime and manga for discussing and watching anime, while doing a craft or enjoying Japanese snacks.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Super Mario Smash Bros.

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10

Play Super Smash Bros. on the Switch with your friends.



Scholarship Night

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17

An expert from Community Foundation of Elkhart County will talk about the universal application process and the many scholarship opportunities available to students.



 **New free EPL resource**



3 to 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Downtown library inside the children's room**

Self-guided kits for school age kids to explore science, technology, engineering and art

DOWNTOWN CONTINUED...

300 S. Second St., Elkhart, IN 46516 | 574.522.5669

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

TEEN PROGRAMS



DIY Boot Charms

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24

Make your boots as unique as you are with personalized charms.

Teen Mario Kart

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10

Race your friends on our Nintendo Switch and see if you can win the Mushroom Cup.

Beaded Plants

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17

Bring green to your space without having to keep a plant alive.

Resumé Building

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24

Whether you have work experience or are ready to jump into the job market, we're here to help you take the next steps with this free resumé workshop.

Cards with Carol

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31

Create a unique set of cards with Mrs. Carol by rubbing flowers onto paper. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Teen Lock-In

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 9

Come hangout with friends – we'll have the games, crafts and snacks.

Just Dance

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14

Show off your moves with the Nintendo Switch game Just Dance.

Pokémon Florals

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21

Turn your favorite Pokémon character into a piece of art with your favorite flowers.

TEEN PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Job Fair

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28

Find your summer opportunity at our third annual job fair for teens. Meet employers looking to hire.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Fun Family Movie

3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16

Join us on Presidents Day for a free movie and popcorn. Check Facebook.com/MyEPL to see what's playing.



Music in the Stacks

1 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Stories come to life as members of the Elkhart County Symphony accompany stories with live music and play for the whole family. The Friends of the Elkhart Public Library support this series, which also includes a final performance on Saturday, May 2.

All Ages Movie

2 p.m. Friday, April 10

Join us for free popcorn and a movie. Check Facebook.com/MyEPL to see what's playing.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Anime Club

4:30 p.m. First Wednesdays

Feb. 4, March 4 and April 1

Watch and discuss anime with other fans, eat snacks and make a craft.

Coffee and Canvas

3:30 and 5:30 p.m. Second Tuesdays

Feb. 10, March 10 and April 14

Follow along with artist Linda Pieri to create a unique painting. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

Morning Meetup with Council on Aging

9:30 a.m. Third Tuesdays

Feb. 17, March 17, April 21

Activities and topical discussions for community members looking to socialize and learn new things. Contact Audrey Rush, arush@elkhartcoa.org, for more information or to register.

February – Fraud prevention

March – Charcuterie 101

April – Painting with Linda Pieri



Open Doors: A community for Adults with Disabilities

9:30 a.m. Third Thursdays

Feb. 19, March 19, April 16

Fun, enriching activities created to support adults with intellectual disabilities. Build connections and skills while getting creative.

Cards with Carol

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31

Create a unique set of cards with Mrs. Carol by rubbing flowers onto paper. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

Crafternoon

4 p.m. Third Wednesdays

Feb. 18, March 18, April 15

Get creative and meet others while making something new.

Downtown Book Club

5:30 p.m. Last Tuesdays

Feb. 24, March 31, April 28

Upcoming books:

- February - "North Woods" by Daniel Mason

- March - "Great Divide" by Christina Henriquez

- April - "Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman



Prop Swap

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Bring a plant to propagate or use one of ours to get started. You'll also meet other green thumbs. We'll have dirt, pots and other supplies to get started.

Preserving Family Treasures

1 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Michelle Nash, curator at the Elkhart County Historical Museum, will show how you should - and shouldn't - store family treasures like photos, textiles and papers.

Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction

5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26

AI is impacting many aspects of our lives. Join this informative discussion, which will offer live demonstrations and examples of how to use the emerging technology.

CLEVELAND

53715 C.R. 1, Elkhart, IN 46514 | 574.266.2030

Visit [MyEPL.org/Events](https://www.clevelandep.org/Events) for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Baby and Me: Music and Movement

9:30 a.m. Tuesdays

Bond with your little ones (ages 6-24 months). Build motor and language skills with songs, instruments and movement. This program pauses on April 7 for spring break.

Storytime with Mr. Manley

10 a.m. Wednesdays

Catch preschool celebrity Mr. Manley as he leads stories, songs, activities and fun to build literacy skills. This Storytime pauses on April 8 for spring break.

Green Eggs and Ham Party

11 a.m. Tuesday, March 17

Our Seuss-tastic party for little ones includes activities and stories. Wear green and leave with a craft to do at home.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Tiny Art Show

Starts Feb. 2

Pick up a tiny art kit beginning Feb. 2, and return your finished artwork by Feb. 21. Your creations will be displayed beginning Feb. 25 for voting.

LEGO Club

5 p.m. Second Tuesdays

Feb. 10, March 10, April 14

Bring ideas to life by building and experimenting with our LEGOs, then show off your creation.



Passport to Possibility

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21

Celebrate excellence this Black History Month by learning about historic figures Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan and more at our interactive stations. Pick a prize for completing all stations.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Spring Break Boredom Busters

All day, April 6-11

Enjoy fresh daily Boredom Busters – crafts, games, challenges and more. Plus, we'll have Popcorn and a Movie at 1:30 p.m. Friday, showing The Wild Robot (PG, 1:42).

TEEN PROGRAMS

Tiny Art Show

Starts Feb. 2

Pick up a tiny art kit beginning Feb. 2, and return your finished artwork by Feb. 21. Your creations will be displayed beginning Feb. 25 for voting.

Passport to Possibility

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21

Celebrate excellence this Black History Month by learning about historic figures Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan and more at our interactive stations. Pick a prize for completing all stations.

Spring Break Boredom Busters

All day, April 6-11

Enjoy fresh daily Boredom Busters – crafts, games, challenges and more. Plus, we'll have Popcorn and a Movie at 1:30 p.m. Friday, showing The Wild Robot (PG, 1:42).

ALL AGES PROGRAMS



2026 Peeps Diorama Contest

April 1-14

Come by and pick up Peeps and a diorama box from March 30 to April 14, while supplies last or use your own. Drop off your Peep diorama scene from a favorite book or movie by April 14. Get all the details at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.clevelandep.org/events).



ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tiny Art Show

Starts Feb. 2

Pick up a tiny art kit beginning Feb. 2, and return your finished artwork by Feb. 21. Your creations will be displayed beginning Feb. 25 for voting.

Hooks & Needles

10 a.m. First and Third Tuesdays

Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21, and May 5

Bring your current needlework project, share and learn tips, and talk with others while you work.

Readers Roundtable

1:30 p.m. Second Mondays

Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, May 11

Share your latest read and hear about what others have read at this no-assigned-book discussion.

Crafts at Cleveland

5:30 p.m. Third Thursdays

Feb. 19, March 19, April 16

Create something new while socializing with others.

Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://myepl.org/events).

February – Spring canvas wall art

March – Diamond art plant stakes

April – Coffee filter roses



Adult LEGO Club

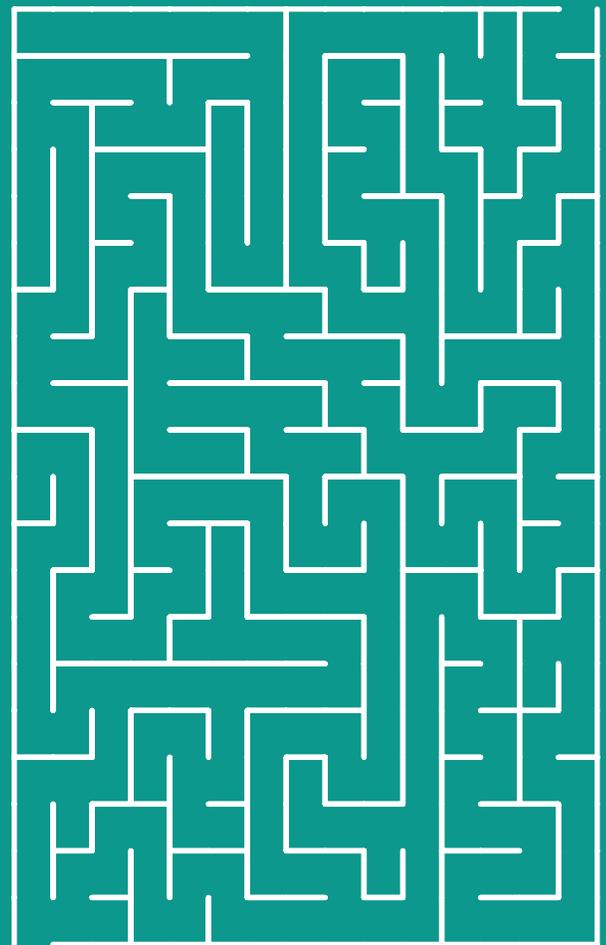
5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Kids shouldn't have all the LEGO fun. Join other adult brick builders to complete our challenge or create your own build from our LEGO stash.

EPL comes to you! Get weekly home delivery of library materials. Get started by visiting [MyEPL.org/Delivery](https://myepl.org/delivery) or by calling **574.295.2619**.

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DUNLAP

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Visit [MyEPL.org/Events](https://www.myep.org/events) for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Storytime with Miss Debbie

9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Join Miss Debbie at two convenient times for stories, songs and crafts. Build literacy, motor and social skills together.

Preschool Play-Doh Party

10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20

Get creative at our Play-Doh stations and take home your creation.

Preschool Paw Patrol Party

10 a.m. Friday, March 27

Celebrate all things Paw Patrol with activities and more.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS



Third Monday LEGO Club

3:30 p.m. Third Mondays
Feb. 16, March 16, April 20

Take a new challenge each month and see what you and others make. Enter our year-long drawing to win a LEGO set at the December program.

Homeschool LEGO Bots

1 p.m. Third Mondays
Feb. 16, March 16, April 20

Bring LEGO creations to life by working as a team to build and code something to light up, play sounds or move. This program is geared for ages 6-up. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Spring Break Craft: Birdhouse Art

10 a.m. Tuesday, April 7

Decorate a welcoming stop for migrating birds to come to. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

TEEN PROGRAMS

Creative Painting

5:30 p.m. Mondays
March 9 and April 6

Follow along with artist Linda Pieri to create a painting of the listed subject. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

March – Daffodil
April – Caterpillar

Homeschool LEGO Bots

1 p.m. Third Mondays
Feb. 16, March 16, April 20

Bring LEGO creations to life by working as a team to build and code something to light up, play sounds or move. This program is geared for ages 6-up. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myep.org/events).

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Animal Tracks

6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9

Learn to identify animal tracks with the help of an Elkhart County Parks naturalist.



ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



Books & Boots

1 p.m. Second Fridays | Ox Bow County Park
Feb. 13, March 13, April 10

Meet Miss Debbie and Elkhart County Parks naturalists for a book discussion and nature activity. Dress for the weather. Books are geared to ages 8-12, and advanced reading is not required.

Upcoming books:

February - "Swiss Family Robinson" by Johann David Wyss

March - "Brightly of the Grand Canyon" by Marguerite Henry

April - "Grand Teton Stampede" by C.R. Fulton

Spring Break Hangout

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 6

Enjoy games, crafts and books all day at the branch.

Homeschool: Dandelions

1 p.m. Monday, April 20 | Ox Bow County Park

Meet us at Ox Bow Park to learn all about the benefits of dandelions from a parks naturalist.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Dunlap Book Worms

1 p.m. Saturdays

Upcoming books:

Feb. 7 - "How the Penguins Saved Veronica" by Hazel Prior

March 7 - "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn

April 4 - "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Barnes

Pollination Talk

5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19

Learn all about pollination and keeping local bees healthy and thriving during this program led by a Master Gardener. Register at MyEPL.org/events.



Creative Painting

5:30 p.m. Mondays

March 9 and April 6

Follow along with artist Linda Pieri to create a painting of the listed subject. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

March - Daffodil

April - Caterpillar



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- Helps for adults, too

Use your library card for access

 myepl.org/info247 or www.brainfuse.com

 Free EPL resource



OSOLO

3429 E. Bristol St., Elkhart, IN 46514 | 574.264.7234

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Storytime with Miss Janell

9:30 & 11 a.m. Tuesdays

Miss Janell and her puppet friends lead this active Storytime. Songs, stories, rhymes and creativity, with two sessions to serve more families.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

5 p.m. Friday, April 3

Bring your stuffed animal friend for a Storytime, then leave them overnight at the library. We'll show you pictures of their overnight adventures when they get picked up on Saturday.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Osolo LEGO Club

3:30 p.m. First Thursdays

Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, May 7

Take a different challenge each month and share your build with others.

Unicorn Party

3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26

Stories, games and activities celebrating unicorns.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover

5 p.m. Friday, April 3

Bring your stuffed animal friend for a Storytime, then leave them overnight at the library. We'll show you pictures of their overnight adventures when they get picked up on Saturday.

Spring Break Children's Craft

All day, April 6-11

Pop into the children's room for a craft to take home with you.

Drop-In LEGO Build

9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, April 6

Join our open house LEGO build to create whatever you want. We'll take a picture of you with your creation to send home, too.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Friendship Bracelets

4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23

Make beaded bracelets for you and your bestie. Snacks provided.

What's That Snack?

4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26

What's that snack and what's better - name brand or generic? Come see if you can taste the difference. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Teen Bingo

4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30

Play bingo, eat snacks, and win prizes.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Friday Night Bingo

5 p.m. Second Fridays

Feb. 13, March 13, April 10

Bring the family for a fun night of themed bingo. Win snacks and small prizes. Register at MyEPL.org/events.
February – Hallmark movie troupe bingo
March – Music bingo
April – 80s bingo



Throwback Theatre

5 p.m. Third Thursdays

Feb. 19, March 19, April 16

Enjoy a classic family film and free popcorn.

February – "Shrek" (PG, 1:29)

March – "Matilda" (PG, 1:38)

April – "The Goonies" (PG, 1:54)

Family Movie Marathon

All day, Friday, April 24

Bring your family and enjoy popcorn and movies all day. See what's playing at MyEPL.org.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Osolo Page Turners

3 p.m. Second Mondays

Feb. 9, March 9, April 13

Upcoming books:

February - "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Boswick

March - Any book about Amelia Earhart

April - "The Clinic" by Cate Quinn

Craft Night

5:30 p.m. Third Mondays

Feb. 16, March 16, April 20

Meet others and get creative while we make a new project each month. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

February - Recycled book flower vase

March - Baby jar candles

April - Flour sack stenciling



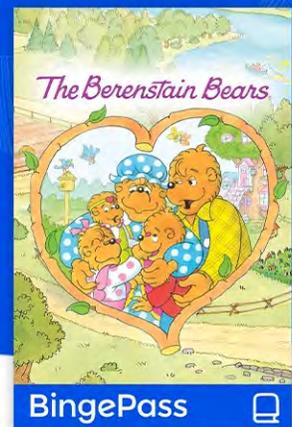
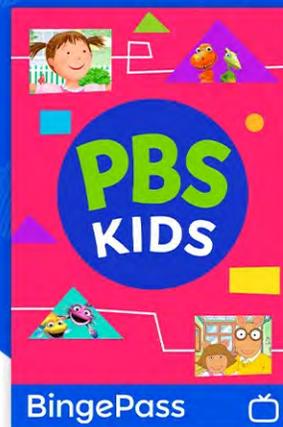
Sit & Stitch

5 p.m. Fourth Wednesdays

Feb. 25, March 25 and April 22

Learn basic crocheting skills with our simple project or bring your own current work. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

 Free EPL resource



hoopla® **BingePass**

Tons of content just for kids

Set up your free account and start checking out books, audiobooks, comics, graphic novels, videos, and music. Use your library card for access.



PIERRE MORAN

2400 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517 | 574.294.6418

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Tunes and Twirls for Tots

10:30 a.m. Mondays

Grow, thrive and bond through music at this family dancing program. We'll take a break Feb. 16 for Presidents Day and April 6 for spring break.

Storytime with Miss Angie

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays

Join Miss Angie for stories, songs and crafts to build literacy skills. This Storytime pauses on April 7 for spring break.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Family Paint by Sticker

4 p.m. First Wednesdays

Feb. 4, March 4 and April 1

Create a work of art using stickers placed on numbers. Options for adults and children will be available for all to enjoy.



Noche de Lotería

5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12

5 p.m. Thursday, April 9

Learn lotería, a fast-paced bingo-like game from Mexico. Win prizes and enjoy free snacks.

 Free EPL resource



Know *before* they go!

EPL offers free kindergarten assessments

- Based on current school standards
- 20-minute assessment given by certified teachers

Learn more at MyEPL.org/prek





ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



Monday Movies

2 p.m. Mondays

Feb. 16, March 16 and April 6

Join us for a family double feature.

February – Bad Guys (PG, 1:40) and Bad Guys 2 (PG, 1:44)

March – Zootopia (PG, 1:48) and Zootopia 2 (PG, 1:50)

April – The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG, 1:32) and The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG, 1:36)

Spring Bunny Scavenger Hunt

Starts March 16

Discover the hidden bunny characters around our branch between March 16 and April 11 to win a prize. You can also use your creativity to create a bunny in disguise for our wall of fame.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Día del Niño

5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30

Celebrate our community's children with an unforgettable evening of treats, games, prizes, piñatas and free books. The rain date, if needed for this outdoor event, will be Wednesday, May 6.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Color and Coffee

9 a.m. First Wednesdays

Feb. 4, March 4 and April 1

Relax, unwind and connect with others with free coffee, coloring sheets, and colored pencils.

2026

Homework Help

4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Runs through April 30

Mondays - Downtown & Cleveland

Tuesdays - Dunlap

Wednesdays - Pierre Moran

Thursday - Osolo

National Honor Society students help young learners. Tutoring and assistance are available on days when Elkhart schools are in session. For more information, call 574.522.2223 or visit [MyEPL.org/Homework](https://www.elkhartpubliclibrary.org/MyEPL.org/Homework)



Tech help from EPL



Sign up in person at the downtown Computer Center or call 574.294.2847 to reserve a spot in one of our computer or tech classes.

Basic Microsoft Excel

Learn the common features of spreadsheets in one hour. You'll work with columns and rows, and get the basics of copying, pasting and changing fonts.

- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29

Photoshop Elements

Explore the basics of photo editing in 90 minutes. Bring a picture you'd like to touch up - we'll show you techniques and print a copy for you to take home.

- 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8

Windows 11: An Introduction

See what's new in Windows 11. We'll cover the basics of navigating the operating system and have time for questions during this 60-minute session.

- 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26

Computer One-on-One

Reserve 30 minutes of stress-free basic computer help from our experts. From saving a file to accessing library resources, we can help. Times are available on the following dates, and sessions start at **2:30, 3, 3:30 and 4 p.m.**

- Tuesday, Feb. 10
- Wednesday, Feb. 18
- Wednesday, Feb. 25
- Tuesday, March 10
- Thursday, March 12
- Wednesday, March 18
- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Wednesday, April 22

Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction

AI is impacting many aspects of our lives. Join an informative, one-hour discussion with live demonstrations and examples of how to use this emerging technology.

- 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26



Q&A
Sessions



Computer
Training



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