



EXPLORE

SUMMER 2026

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THE SUMMER ISSUE

Keeping families coming back

Sweet summer rewards

Reading isn't just for kids



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EXPLORE
VOLUME 9 - ISSUE 2

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

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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

Oso

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

Pierre Moran

2400 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517
574.294.6418

COVER

Megan, Andrea and Joyce McGuire take a selfie at Pierre Moran's Fun in the Sun. Find 2026 Fun in the Sun dates on page 41. Photo by Sam Householder

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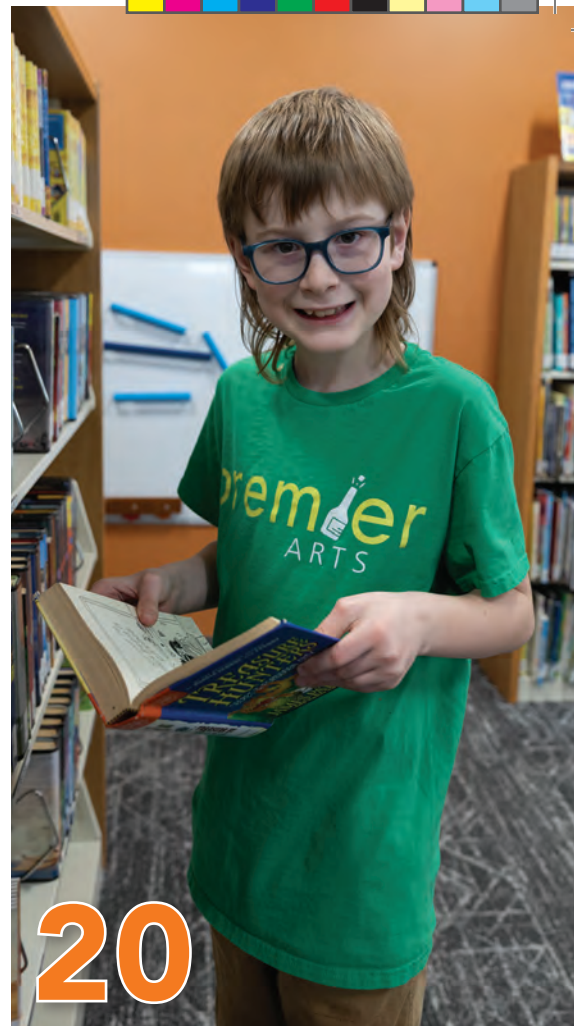
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Greetings from the Executive Director

Get involved with the library this summer

Summer at EPL is all about fun and connection through books, experiences, and time spent together as a community. This year, I'm excited to share two big ways you can be part of what's ahead.

First, our Summer Reading Challenge is expanding to include adults. Adults can use Beanstack to track their reading, and we encourage all adults to participate in family and all-ages events. This matters because children build strong reading habits when they see adults in their lives modeling the joy and value of reading and because we truly want to read with everyone.

Second, we're entering a major season of community engagement as we begin our facilities master plan. This process will help shape EPL's spaces,

services, programming and priorities for the next five to 20 years. Your feedback will also inform our next strategic plan, which will launch in 2027. We want to hear what you'd like to see in our buildings, programs, and service offerings so the future of EPL reflects the community we serve.

I hope you'll join us this summer through the reading challenge, by sharing your input, and enjoying events like Curbside Concerts and other library gatherings. We can't wait to see you out in the community.



Kristen Edson
Executive Director



Scan the code to leave feedback or learn more about our facilities master plan



THE NEXT CHAPTER



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your discussion group

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FINDING A PLACE IN AMERICA

Life, liberty ... and
uncertainty: Migrants
navigate the process
to live in northern
Indiana

Thousands of immigrant families live and work in Elkhart County. For many, navigating the United States' immigration system is not only complex — it is deeply personal.

At the Center for Healing & Hope in Goshen, that reality is part of everyday life.

Jane Ross Richer, Immigrant Resource Coordinator, works closely with families trying to understand their options, resolve urgent needs, and, in many cases, simply stay afloat.

Her connection to that work is not only professional.

Jane herself is an immigrant.

FROM ETHIOPIA TO AMERICA

Born in Ethiopia, Jane's British parents were missionaries. Her father, a doctor, worked with patients affected by leprosy, a group she describes as "some of the most marginalized people on earth." At 6 years old, a civil war forced her family to leave. They were invited to the United States, eventually settling in New Jersey.

Despite arriving with legal support and stability, the transition was not easy.

"It was still stressful. It was still a culture change, especially for my mom. ... She was very depressed for a long time after moving here." Jane recalls.

The experience shapes her understanding of the immigrant journey today. Even in what might be considered a "best-case scenario," adaptation came with emotional and cultural challenges.

That contrast is never far from her mind.

"If it was hard for our family, who had everything laid out like a red carpet. I can't even imagine what it's like for others," says Jane.

Today, that perspective informs how she works with immigrant families in northern Indiana - many of whom face far more complicated circumstances.

A COMPLEX SYSTEM

To understand those challenges, it helps to look at how the immigration system itself is structured.

Rubí Astello, a U.S. Department of Justice-accredited representative at La Posada Immigrant Aid in Elkhart, explains that immigrants generally fall into two categories: those who entered the country with authorization, and those who did not.

Individuals entering with a visa or other form of legal inspection have clearer pathways.



ELKHART COUNTY: HOW WE GOT HERE

Just about 250 years ago, while the Continental Army advanced its goals in the Revolutionary War, French traders named this area.

The earliest appearance of "Coeur de Cerf" in print came about in 1779, according to "Taproots of Elkhart History" by Emil V. Anderson. "Elk's Heart" described a Potawatomi area through which a river passed.

To better understand who Americans are today, it's important to examine the migrations that gradually shaped the makeup and culture of this region. History, after all, is built every single day.

A treaty in 1821 opened the area. Baptist missionaries Isaac and Christiana Polke McCoy led one of the first substantial groups through, bringing wagons with about 30 people, whites and indigenous.

They didn't stay long, but Isaac's wife did their laundry in the creek north of the river. He named Christiana Creek for her, but according to a March 1980 article by Virginia Mayberry in *The Elkhart Truth*, "Less flattering is the tale that the minister named it because it babbled and chattered so incessantly that it reminded him of his wife's conversation."

Chief Pierre Moran of the Potawatomi took ownership of land in the Treaty of 1821, and he sold a portion to Dr. Havilah Beardsley in 1831. Beardsley's 1848 home is part of today's Ruthmere Museum campus.

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Some may adjust their status through family petitions, employment sponsorship, or humanitarian protections such as asylum. Over time, lawful permanent residency — and eventually citizenship — may be possible.

But for those who entered without inspection, the situation becomes significantly more complex.

“They entered in a way that was not authorized. The key point is that they entered the territory without an inspection,” Rubí explains.

Without that initial legal entry, individuals lack lawful immigration status within the country, limiting access to employment authorization, identification, and many public services.

Even so, certain legal options may exist depending on the circumstances — including U visas for victims of crimes or family-based petitions.

Still, Rubí emphasizes that every case is different, and outcomes are never guaranteed.

That legal framework is something Jane sees play out in real time — not as policy, but as daily life.

“People don’t know how many doors are closed to immigrants,” she says. “They think it’s being taken care of and it’s not.”

BARRIERS FACING FAMILIES

In her work, the consequences are often immediate and practical. Many of the people she meets are not unemployed, but underemployed — working inconsistent hours to just try and cover rent, utilities, and basic needs.

“People are underemployed. They work one or two days a week and are just trying to make ends meet,” says Jane.

Without access to stable income or safety nets, even minor setbacks can escalate quickly. A missed paycheck, an unexpected bill, or a car repair can disrupt an entire household.

Something as small as a flat tire can trigger a crisis.

“All they need is help fixing a flat tire and they can keep going,” Jane says.

Language and cultural barriers add another layer. For many, the transition to life in the United States comes with a loss of confidence and identity.

“When you’re learning a new language, you feel like a kid again. You feel incompetent,” she says.

That shift can affect not only individuals, but entire families. Traditional roles change, responsibilities shift, and stress can build in ways that are not always visible from the outside.

At the same time, Jane is quick to point out what is often overlooked.

“The immigrants who are here, come here

Jane Ross Richer





Rubí Astello

because they want to work," she says. "They are tight-knit family people who take care of each other."

'LOVE ... BEYOND ANYTHING'

In her experience, immigrant households are often defined by shared responsibility. Children help care for younger siblings. Teenagers step into adult roles when needed.

Families rely on one another in ways that are both practical and deeply rooted in culture.

"I had experience with two young men from different families. (Their) mothers had health issues, and I was just blown away by their love, care, and concern," she says. "One of them, only 17, is now supporting his entire family. The love that these guys have for their mothers is beyond anything I've ever seen in my life."

According to Jane, the challenges for families begin long before arrival. "People don't understand where (immigrants) came from, why they left, or how difficult it was to get here," Jane says.



...continued from page 7

Anderson documents several early land deals in his book, but also President Andrew Jackson's policies like the Indian Removal Act. From the Trail of Tears to the Potawatomi Trail of Death, forced marches ended in tragedies and forever altered the human landscape of the region.

Some white settlers were leery of the native inhabitants and made "hasty preparations ... to defend the area in case of an uprising," according to the city's 1958 centennial program. "The threat, the fear, the emotionality of the rumor ran rampant, but soon ran their course without incident."

The white population north of the St. Joseph River, served by the Pulaski post office, grew to 200 by 1836. On the high banks of Christiana Creek, a paper mill and flour mill were built. The tavern industry started, as well.

Steamboats carried products away to Lake Michigan and brought in supplies, according to a centennial publication put together by Elkhart elementary teachers. The first train entered Elkhart in 1851, and a railroad roundhouse opened in the late 1860s.

These mid-century developments brought Irish and German immigrants, followed later by Mennonite and Amish communities whose roots traced back to Central Europe. Population was starting to make significant gains, and the business and industry climate were growing.

The building of dams in 1866 and 1910 met the growing power demands. The waterways consistently provided the resources to live, work and play.

By the mid-1920s, Elkhart's population was 35,000. This growth, in part, resulted from railroad companies recruiting significant numbers of Black workers to fill jobs during World War I.

Then and now, more people have been needed to fill jobs. From horse-drawn carriages to band instruments to medical innovations to recreational vehicles, employment is the tie that binds an area's history.

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She recalls hearing stories of crossing deserts, witnessing violence, or experiencing separation from family members during their journey.

"The trauma is incredible. And then they finally make it," Jane says.

NEW DIFFICULTIES

In many cases, arrival is not the end of hardship. It's the beginning of a new set of obstacles.

Understanding the full picture requires both perspectives – the legal structure and the human experience.

Rubi's work helps define the system — its categories, its processes, and its limitations. Jane's work reveals how those structures affect real people, in real time, within communities like Elkhart County.

Their perspectives offer a clearer understanding of immigration not only as a legal process, but as a lived reality shaped by uncertainty, resilience, and the search for stability.

Because behind every case, every application, and every status — there is a human, a story. ☪

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Center for Healing & Hope – chhclinics.org
La Posada Immigrant Aid – laposadaaid.com
La Casa de Amistad – lacasaamistad.org
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services – uscis.gov/citizenship

Online resources at MyEPL.org/Info247
LearningExpress
HelpNow Brainfuse
Gale Legal Forms
Transparent Language





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In the last 50 years, the Elkhart region has experienced significant growth in its Hispanic and Latino population. Tied closely to the manufacturing and agricultural industries, Census data now shows roughly two in 10 county residents identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Elkhart's story, like that of so many across the United States, shows no community is static and history is never finished. Immigrants have reconfigured the social fabric across centuries.

Explore the downtown library's extensive local history resources and check out these titles from the Elkhart Collection.

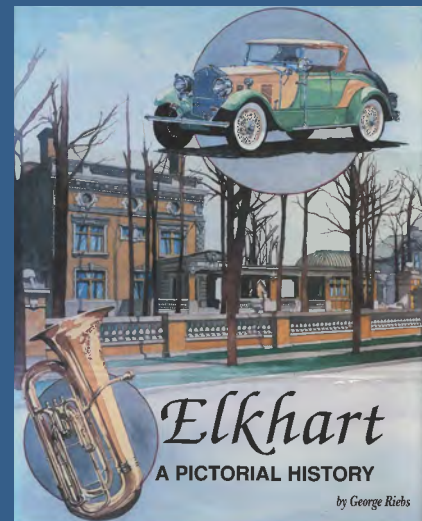
"Taproots of Elkhart" by Emil V. Anderson

"Elkhart, the City with a Heart" by Patricia Geedy

"The City with a Heart"

"A Standard History of Elkhart County, Vols 1 & 2"

"Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County" and "Pioneer History of Elkhart County" by Henry S.K. Bartholomew

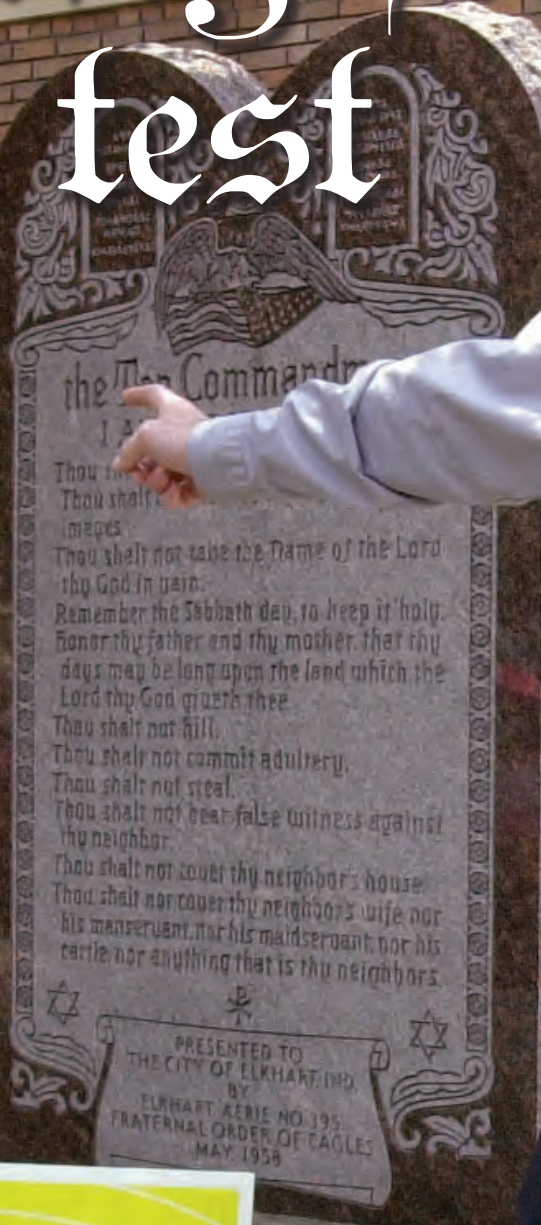


"Elkhart: A Pictorial History" by George E. Riebs

"A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of Elkhart County"

Putting faith to the test

**ELKHART'S TEN
COMMANDMENTS
MONUMENT STOOD
IN JUDGMENT FOR
FOUR YEARS**



KEEP THE

1. Have No Other Gods
2. Don't Worship Idols
3. Don't Take The Lord's Name In Vain
4. Remember the Sabbath

10

5. Honor Your Parents
6. Do Not Kill
7. Do Not Commit Adultery
8. Do Not Steal
9. Do Not Lie
10. Do Not Covet

COMMANDMENTS

Elkhart Mayor Dave Miller gestures during a news conference outside city hall in May 2001. (Elkhart Truth photo by Mary Franke)



The Truth in Our History

FROM THE ELKHART TRUTH COLLECTION

That last part is something the people organizing the monument's dedication in 1958 saw coming ... but hoped could be avoided.

"Americans have inherited moral power from the founding fathers of our country," the Rev. W.W. Kenhell, president of the Elkhart Ministerial Association, was reported to have said that day. "And if they will accept the precepts of the Ten Commandments, it will provide their redemption from today's strife and tears."

Making a case ...

In the spring of 1998, the Indiana Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the city of Elkhart. Two men claimed the monument in front of city hall - with a line announcing, "I am the LORD thy God" - violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

The community responded swiftly.

"Not only do I believe that this monument should remain in its current location," city attorney Paul Eash said, "I endorse the 10 points inscribed here."

"I don't understand why people get so upset at the Ten Commandments," said the Rev. Dick Kallenberg of St. John the Evangelist Church. "They really are the basic laws of human civility."

"Civil liberties throughout the state of Indiana must be in astonishingly good health," Larry Murphy proclaimed in his Elkhart Truth editorial about the ICLU on April 28, 1998. "... These stalwart defenders of fundamental American rights must have concluded that no one in this state is suffering from discrimination, no one's speech is being stifled, no one's vote is threatened, no one's trial has been unfair. What a wonderful state, where the worst threat to liberty is a rock!"

Richard Leib, a business owner and Truth columnist, wrote in a letter to the editor, "I would like to point out to the ACLU that right beside the monument is nothing - just a big empty space. So, perhaps, those atheists that are bothered by the commandments should simply look at the empty space, which represents their beliefs."

... and weighing the law

It was a lightning-fast response in defense of a monument few recognized existed in its spot. But that's not to say 100 percent of the community stood firm that government property was an appropriate place for this monument.

"(S)ome argue ... the Ten Commandments are a guiding principle of justice that is pertinent to our legal system," wrote Kyle Hannon, a Truth columnist and future city councilman and Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce president. "Fine.



he unveiling of the Ten Commandments monument at Elkhart's city hall was worth a headline at the top of the following day's newspaper.

For 40 years of days and 40 years of nights, the granite slab stood in its quiet, informative way, not too far to the right of city hall's front door. At

some point, decades of unattended landscaping started to obscure parts of the stone.

Then, a clap of thunder caused by the collision of religion and government brought Elkhart a four-year storm of constitutional dilemma.

Courts gave muddled guidance.

Legal bills rolled up.

And a community engaged in strong - yet peaceful - debate about the meaning of the First Amendment.

And I'll bet there are other worthy statements appearing in The Koran, The Talmud, The Book of Mormon and the writings of Scientology. If you include those writings then you have the kind of open display that might pass Supreme Court scrutiny. If you exclude those other writings, then you are endorsing one type of religion over another.

"It's the idea of government and religion walking hand in hand that gets troublesome."

Eash presented a resolution to the city council in defense of the stone. "It is a historic monument, designed so not to offend anyone," the attorney told The Truth's Rick Meyer for an article on May 5, 2001. "It's not on an intrusive location. It doesn't force people to see it."

The measure passed 8-1, with Ellen Krulewicz dissenting. "It's not whether we believe in God," she said. "It's whether the monument is appropriately situated on city property."

This was the heightened level of commentary and action just 10 days after the ICLU asked the city to move the stone.

Only four years to go.

Wendell Norwood parked in front of Elkhart's city hall during May 2002 to protest court decisions requiring the removal of the Ten Commandments monument from public property. (Elkhart Truth photo by Mary Franke)



Renewed faith

In the decade after World War II, the nation collectively considered its moral standing. The horrors of the Nazi regime. The consequences of the atomic bomb. The divisions caused by segregation. Americans had plenty of chances to be self-reflecting.

Many turned to their faith to show the way forward.

From the East Front of the Capitol, President Dwight Eisenhower opened his 1953 inaugural address with a prayer.

"Give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong, and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby, and by the laws of this land," Eisenhower said. "Especially, we pray that our concern shall be for all the people, regardless of station, race or calling."

"May cooperation be permitted and be the mutual aim of those who, under the concepts of our Constitution, hold to differing political faiths; so that all may work for the good of our beloved country and Thy glory."

A Minnesota judge already had been working to refocus offenders on right versus wrong. E.J. Ruegemer started a movement with a simple decision in his courtroom during a 1946 case. Instead of sentencing a young man to jail for stealing a car, he instead ordered him to learn the Ten Commandments.

Hollywood calling

As a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Judge Ruegemer sought a wider scale distribution of the Commandments as fliers to public places, churches and youth organizations, according to a 2001 Wall Street Journal article. The judge eventually pressed the service club to install copies in courtrooms and schools.

Famed filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille, ready to release his big-screen epic about the Decalogue, saw this as an opportunity to create lasting displays. Stars of the movie, including Charlton Heston, appeared around the country with Eagles groups. They unveiled countless granite monuments listing the Ten Commandments.

On the Friday following Memorial Day 1958, the larger of the two available sizes was installed outside city hall in Elkhart.

Robert Long, the city controller, accepted the monument on behalf of Mayor E.L. Danielson. Local officers with the Eagles joined Catholic and Protestant leaders and a Jewish rabbi to proclaim "the monolith ... should serve as a reminder of God's laws to the hearts and minds of all who see it," according to The Elkhart Truth report on May 31 that year.

The status given to Rabbi M.E. Finkelstein of Temple Israel at the Elkhart unveiling was not accidental.

Invited with purpose

In the 2001 Wall Street Journal article sparked by the legal fight in Elkhart, reporter Jess Bravin wrote about a complaint



Jim Bontrager (left) and Bob Weaver organized the private efforts starting in May 2002 to try and keep the Ten Commandments monument in front of city hall. (Elkhart Truth photo by Larry Tebo)

received in Minnesota 40-some years before about a monument being placed on public property.

“When a Minneapolis rabbi protested that the project ‘represents a serious threat to ... the classic American principle of separation of Church and State,’ Judge Ruegemer sought advice from Paramount (Studios),” Bravin wrote. “Jewish concerns posed ‘a serious and very delicate problem,’ responded the late DeMille publicist Donald Hayne in a letter to Ruegemer.

“Among other ideas, he advised lining up, in each town, the local Protestant, Catholic and civic authorities and then hoping that the local Jewish group may not choose to stand out against the majority opinion. The plan may have worked in Elkhart ...”

The Establishment Clause confirms government neutrality on the issue of religion. Government can neither prefer one religion over another nor favor religion over non-religion.

The 1958 dedication addressed private concerns about the First Amendment issue. The 1998 lawsuit brought other perspectives into the public conversation.

Split decisions

Michael Suetkamp, an atheist, joined the ICLU lawsuit with plaintiff William Books because “(o)ften people are quick to forget that whatever rights they enjoy are enjoyed equally by others as well,” he told The Truth’s Nancy Bounds in a May

2001 email. “They don’t seem to understand that the rest of us enjoy the same freedom of conviction that allowed them to make their decision of conscience.

“We will just have to keep reminding them.”

The two sides split the opening decisions.

Judge Allen Sharp of U.S. District Court in South Bend favored the city’s defense. A divided Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals declared the ICLU was right and the monument’s placement violated the Establishment Clause.

In the spring of 2001, the eyes of the nation were on Elkhart. The Supreme Court weighed whether to hear the case.

“I think it will encourage more people to pray,” Elkhart Mayor Dave Miller said in The Truth on March 10, 2001. “... It will remind people that their religious freedoms are not immune from attack.”

The 700 Club, a syndicated television talk show appealing to the Christian perspective, interviewed breakfast goers at Old Style Deli and the Daily Grind. Conservative political commentator William F. Buckley wrote about the case in National Review. Dr. Laura Schlessinger told her 18 million daily radio listeners to sign petitions to support Elkhart and organize in their home communities.

“I’m delighted to have someone with (Schlessinger’s) prestige and notoriety speaking out in defense of our efforts to save

the Ten Commandments monument," the mayor said. "... (J)ustices on the Supreme Court read papers, listen to radios and have friends, too. There's every opportunity they may be warmed to our effort because of the publicity."

No more arguments

The case wouldn't be decided on public opinion, though. In fact, the case wouldn't be definitively decided at all. At the end of May 2001, the Supreme Court announced it would not hear arguments.

In a rare turn, Chief Justice William Rehnquist authored a statement about why the court should have accepted the case. Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia agreed. Noting the depiction of Moses holding the Ten

Commandments in their own courtroom, Rehnquist indicated the time was right to consider whether the Decalogue was permissible due to historical and cultural significance.

Justice John Paul Stevens admonished his colleagues and Elkhart leaders in their attempt to redefine the monument's secular purpose.

"The graphic emphasis placed on those first lines is rather hard to square with the proposition that the monument expresses no particular religious preference," Stevens wrote. "... All three (speakers at the 1958 dedication) spoke not of the 'cross-cultural ... significance' of the Ten Commandments, but of the need for every citizen to adopt their precepts so as to obtain 'redemption from today's strife and fear. To dismiss that history in favor of a resolution issued by the Elkhart Common Council on the eve of litigation is puzzling indeed."

The Supreme Court's move ultimately put the issue back in Sharp's district court for further consideration.

Costly defense

"Clearly," The Elkhart Truth editorial stated on May 30, 2001, "most people in the Elkhart community want to keep the monument in its place at the Municipal Building where it stood without complaints for 40 years. ... Although judicial opinions are muddled, a way can be found for the monument to stay."

The Miller administration proposed adding four more monuments with historic texts. Cases in other locales with various circumstances crowded into the judicial circle, giving Sharp plenty to consider.

"I pledge my commitment to the end to preserve not only the granite monument's place in our city, but also the Ten Commandments' place in our hearts," Miller declared in his July 2001 State of the City address. "In my opinion, there is no place in the City with a Heart where the Ten Commandments do not belong."

The judge eventually decided in May 2002 the remedy would not be acceptable. He also ruled it was time for the city to pay more than \$60,000 in legal reimbursement to the ICLU. Miller said the ruling "really took the wind out of our sails."

City leaders announced the monument's relocation to private property on North Main Street at the river. "It was a very easy decision," said Brian Buckley, vice president of land donor Banks Corp.

"If our religious liberties are going to be preserved," Mayor Miller told The Truth, "we will need new judges to defend them. And the

Workers secure the Ten Commandments monument before its removal from public property in August 2002. (Elkhart Truth photo by Fred Flury)



prospects for that happening soon are dismal.”

But several families in Elkhart responded to these developments with action of their own.

'Last hill on the prairie'

Bob Weaver and Jim Bontrager took the lead. They raised funds, organized vigils, and acted as spokesmen for the citizen movement. Wendell Norwood flew an upside-down U.S. flag from his parked truck outside city hall. Groups large and small showed their support at the monument.

In just a few weeks, Bontrager said, donors contributed \$40,000 to a community legal defense fund. They took steps to form a political action committee, and they asked Judge Sharp to enter the case as a defendant.

“We’ve lost on so many fronts what is good and right in America,” Weaver, the son of former Mayor John Weaver, told *The Truth* for a May 29, 2002, article. “I look around and this seems like the last hill on the prairie.”

The group put together a full-page newspaper ad as a call to action. “Judicial activism is destroying this nation. ... Friends, the problem is no longer ‘out there.’ It’s in our community and as stewards of freedom will we balk at Our responsibility to peacefully stand for truth?”

While his administration made plans for moving the stone, Miller was grateful to the group for their efforts. He offered to give them time to organize, but he said he couldn’t risk more taxpayer money.

“If the supporters of the Ten Commandments are successful in entering the case ... more power to them. I support their efforts,” Miller said. “... and appreciate the respect they’ve shown me by not insisting I expend any more of the city’s resources.”

'All of heaven was crying'

Truth editors, though, were cutting bait after four years of support.

“(T)he move has been delayed. The holdup is unfortunate. It prolongs a controversy that has run its course and should be concluded,” editorial page editor Larry Murphy wrote on June 4, 2002. “Those who want to continue the court battle seem to be saying two different things - that the monument should stay as a civic endorsement of religion, and that it can stay constitutionally because its purpose is predominantly secular. Both things can’t be true at once.”

Local faith leaders shared their varying views with *The Truth*. Pastor Michael Muccio of Elkhart Christian Center offered, “It’s really ridiculous to have to cower to a few people’s opinions.” Pastor David Bibbee of Elkhart City Church of the Brethren said, “My faith is not tied up in pieces of granite. It’s not an external object to us. It’s something that we live out in our own lives.”

On Aug. 8, 2002, workers spent three careful hours cutting the monument from its 7-foot base. Truth reporter Terry Mark

Elkhart Mayor Dave Miller poses in front of the Ten Commandments monument in May 2001. (Elkhart Truth photo by Mary Franke)



described the scene: “A few minutes after all the workers had left Thursday morning, taking the Ten Commandments monument with them, an elderly woman walked to the front of city hall wiping away tears. Staring glumly at the muddy flower bed where the monument had stood since 1958, the woman declared that ‘all of heaven was crying.’”

A week later, Judge Sharp declared the lawsuit over. He would consider no more arguments.

A time for renewal

About 200 people came to Main Street in late September 2002 to witness a rededication of the Ten Commandments.

“Today, we’re here to celebrate God’s word, God’s commandments, which are posted at the gateway of our city,” announced Pastor Scott Tuttle of River of Life Church. “... This wasn’t just a Charlton Heston movie. This is real life. I’m here to tell you today these laws are still relevant to you and I in 2002.”

Workers from the city’s street and parks departments had finished installation of the Ten Commandments the week before. The Truth’s Terry Mark reported drivers in the 400



Supporters gather for the rededication of the Ten Commandments monument on North Main Street in September 2002. (Elkhart Truth photo by Fred Flury)

block of Main saw a sign noting, "Slow. God at Work."

During the rededication, the Rev. Donnell Brown of Agape Missionary Baptist Church led those attending in reciting the Commandments. "We need to know them in our hearts," Brown said, "so we can live them together."

Interpretations


The Ten Commandments monument stood again, though moved from the city's public property. Debate on the overall issue has not ended.

In 2003, Weaver and Bontrager succeeded in leading officials to install a famed copy of the Commandments alongside reprints of other historic documents at the Elkhart County Administration Building in Goshen. At least two governors have attempted to have a monument placed on the statehouse grounds in Indianapolis. Most recently, a state lawmaker introduced a bill in 2026 to have the Ten Commandments posted in public schools.

Supreme Court justices charted a new path in 2022 for interpreting the First Amendment. Abandoning the long-held legal "test" for the Establishment Clause, as was used in the Elkhart case, justices determined history and traditions must be given due consideration.

One of the first statements by Weaver's group, made in a newspaper ad May 15, 2002, appealed to tradition.

"Our forefathers founded this nation upon the Christian faith and it will live so long as the Lord is our God. ... We must return to the faith of our fathers," according to the advertisement placed by the families of Weaver and Jeffrey Schaffer, along with "our friends who share our faith." The ad continued, "The choice is clear. It is repent or perish, revival or ruin, Christ or chaos."

John Krull, executive director of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, also staked a claim rooted in history. At the height of the Elkhart debate in May 2001, he told *The Truth*, "We feel that our take on this was drafted and spread by James Madison when the Founding Fathers made the First Amendment. The Bill of Rights isn't up for popular vote." 

TAKE THE LIBRARY WITH YOU THIS SUMMER

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anytime, anywhere

MYEPL.ORG/INFO247



A young girl with colorful face paint is balancing on a green foam roller at an outdoor event. She is wearing a purple tank top and blue shorts. The background shows a grassy area with other people and trees.

SUMMER READING

Library challenge keeps
participants coming
back year after year

Adeline Pickett at the 2021
Summer Reading Prize Party

GROWS WITH FAMILIES

A

fter six summers of being in the Summer Reading Challenge, Brittney Pickett knows what's changed with her kids.

Clay, now age 10, and Adeline, now age 7, now read to her. Brittney used to be able to choose any book. The kids are picky about what they read ... and make their opinions known.

Parenting is like that, but the benefits always outweigh the change.

Spending time together as a family.

Preventing summer learning loss.

And motivating the kids to read what they want.

Brittney says those factors make Elkhart Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge something her family looks forward to between each school year.

"It's a low-barrier way to connect the importance of reading with the kids," Brittney says.

The rewards and the flexibility to participate will have families like hers coming back for another fun summer.

GROWING WITH THE KIDS

"It was a good motivation for us to read together," Brittney says about the decision to join Summer Reading years ago.

"We already read three books before bedtime every night. But, in the summertime, when there wasn't school or maybe we were outside more than we were stuck inside, it was a good reminder to sit down and read together."

She says participation in their home is different these days. For one, Adeline and Clay are much more opinionated on the books they choose.

"Clay wants to read his own books. They both don't want to read the same books over and over. Now they read to us," Brittney says.

"It's more fun to read to myself," Adeline adds.

For the Gaertes, another Summer Reading family, they read in many ways.

"It helps when they can pick out their own reading materials," says Charissa, mom of Isabelle, age 11, Amelia, age 8, and Jordan, age 6. "I work one-on-one with Amelia and Jordan, but when they get older, they can do it independently."

Isabelle, who will be in at least her seventh Summer Reading Challenge in a row, now reads to her younger siblings.

"It encourages that relationship," Charissa says. "It pushes both of them. It's good for them to work together."

With three kids of varying ages, Charissa says having each kid read on their own remains a work in progress.

The Gaerte kids, Amelia, Isabelle and Jordan, during the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge.



“ I think it is really empowering and important for kids to experience.

- Brittney Pickett, mom of two

“Slowly but surely,” she says. “We have a wide span – from a fifth-grader to a kindergartener. Isabelle is totally independent.”

FINDING THEIR VOICE

Summer Reading mom Sara Bowen has seen the independence grow in her kids, 9-year-old Isayah and 11-year-old Amelia.

“In the beginning, it was us reading to them. Now they’re reading more and their minutes count for how much they read themselves,” Sara says.

And with the kids reading on their own, they are start learning in different ways, she says. The last couple of summers, for instance, Sara began encouraging Isayah and Amelia to review the books they were reading.

It helped unlock new ways of reading for them, she says.

“It’s been a good way for them to look back at the book and think about what they’ve read and what their favorite part was,” Sara says. “And what happened in the book, rather than just going through the book quickly. It gives them a chance to think about it as well.”

Sara, an English as a New Language teacher in the Penn-Harris-Madison District, says book reviews contribute to the reading comprehension skills kids need.

“It sustains their knowledge of how to read it,” she says.

And it keeps those skills sharp over the summer months when learning loss is common.

“If kids go too long without reading or doing some sort of educational work, they have to restart at the beginning of the year,” she says.

EMPOWERING READERS

Brittney says that her kids, Clay and Adeline, also started to complete reviews.



Clay, Brittney and Adeline Pickett at Dunlap Branch.

“They had never done a review before summer reading,” she says. “It’s giving them an opportunity to voice their opinion and have their voice heard on things they were actively reading at a young age. I think it is really empowering and important for kids to experience.”

It also sparks interest. Clay, for example, started writing his own book. And Brittney says they worked on another story as a family.

“I started writing a book about a turtle who is sad because he has a plain shell. He sees the colorful shells and he wants one. But he ends up liking his own shell,” says Clay. “It’s about how you’re perfect no matter what.”

Sara adds that each of her kids takes something unique from their reading.

“It’s different for each kid,” she says. “My daughter really likes nonfiction, so we’ve learned a lot through books.”

KEEPING KIDS INVOLVED

The Summer Reading Challenge builds engagement with its popular rewards, parents say. Incentives are the needed push on those days when kids just don't want to read.

"Some days we can sit down and read several books, some days we might only get one in," says Brittney.

And logging into the Beanstack app is a fun reward all on its own, she adds.

"They like to scan the books (into the app)," she says.

"They're the motivating factor for logging. We never want to have a gap (in days read)."

Rewards to local places like Secret Door Games, Chick Fil-A, Freshieez and more help, too.

"There might be some days when they don't want to read. But they know. 'I really want this reward.' Or, 'This is something I get to celebrate at the end of summer party.' It helps remind them to stick to it," says Brittney.

She says the family likes to gather their rewards and make an outing to redeem them.

"During ArtWalk, we walk around, and the kids get to redeem the rewards they earn," she says.

Charissa says it's nice to be able to support local businesses, too.

It's been a good way for them to look back at the book and think about what they've read and what their favorite part was...

- Sara Bowen, mom of two

"I like how the rewards zero in on local businesses. It helps for us to know those places and that they are local," she says.

Plus, kids get a free book after three and eight weeks of reading and another for completing all 60 days.

"I think having books as a prize is good to have," Charissa says.

The rewards keep it inclusive for families, says Sara.

"It's very simple and we've always enjoyed the prize selection. There's something there for everyone," Sara says.

And beyond the motivation, it gives families a reason to spend time together.

continued on page 24

Isaiah Bowen, picking out books at Dunlap Branch.



“ We're grateful for the program and look forward to it... I'm glad libraries around here have something to offer.

- Charissa Gaertes, mom of three

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

In busy summer months, filled with activities and trips, the Summer Reading Challenge can be a time to slow down and spend time together.

“We love the (bonus) experiences included in the app, whether it's going on a walk or having a picnic,” says Brittney. “It encourages us to get outside and do something together as a family.”

Brittney says they set aside time daily to read, either together as a family or separately yet all in the same room. She says it emphasizes its importance.

“It's a good opportunity to get to come together as a family,” says Brittney. “I love reading, so I want them to have that same experience. It's something that's good for them and they get enjoyment out of.”

For Charissa, the ease of opening the Beanstack app to log books from anywhere means summer travel doesn't slow down their participation.

“We can take it when we visit family,” she says. “You always have your phone. You have vacations, so it's easy to take places. We have our stack of books and take it with us.”

And after all these years, these families are looking forward to another summer of reading and rewards.

“I think it's a great program. It's a great way to entice kids and families who don't necessarily read as much during the summer,” says Sara.

“We're grateful for the program and look forward to it,” Charissa says. “I'm glad libraries around here have something to offer.”

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge starts May 22. Turn to Page 27 to learn more and get started.

The Gaertes, Heath, Isabelle, Amelia, Jordan and Charissa at Dunlap Branch.



YOUR LIBRARY CARD... THE ONLY SUPERPOWER YOU NEED

GET FREE ADMISSION AT PARTICIPATING ATTRACTIONS WITH AN EPL EXPERIENCE PASS. SEE THE FULL LIST AT MYEPL.ORG/EXPERIENCE-PASSES OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

HOLY BUDGET CRISIS, BATMAN!

POW

RELAX—
EPL'S FREE EXPERIENCE
PASSES SAVE THE DAY!





Summer ART Contest

Open to ages 0 - 17 | Entry period June 1 - 30
Winners announced at the Summer Art Contest Party

Get started, details and categories at
MyEPL.org/ArtContest



Read **WHAT**
you want

Track **WHEN** ★
you read
★ gameboard or Beanstack

Know your **WHY**
Reading every day
earns rewards and
prize entries!

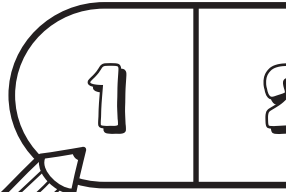


It's that easy!
MYEPL.ORG/SUMMER

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Start!



Color a square for
each book you read! Begin on Fri

KIDS REWA

ADULT PRIZ

*while supplies last rec

	27	26	You Pick!	24	23	22	21	20
	28							
	30	31	You Pick!	33	34	35	36	37
		Kids Free Book 3 Adult Prize Entries	60	59	58	57	56	55
			Finish!					



2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>for every day you n Friday, May 22</p> <p>WARD DAY*</p> <p>PRIZE ENTRY</p> <p>st redeem by July 23</p>		<p>READ WITH EVERYONE!</p>			10		
19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
		<p>KEEP GOING!</p>					
55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48

Para la versión en español del reglamento del Reto de lectura de verano, por favor vaya a MyEPL.org/verano

HOW TO USE YOUR GAMEBOARD

1. Fill in or color a square for every day you read, starting Friday, May 22.
2. Bring in your game board to claim your rewards along the way.
3. Keep reading! Each day gets you closer to more rewards.
4. Decorate your board. It's made to fill in and color however you want. Your final piece might be shared on our social channels.
5. All prize drawing entries must be entered by July 20. Redeem rewards at a library location no later than Thursday, July 23.

HOW TO WIN

Earn great prizes and rewards by reading what you want, when you want this summer. Entries for our prizes are earned by submitting a book review, or reading days, but you will earn rewards along the way just for reading.

PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winners will be announced on Thursday, July 23, at the Summer Reading Challenge Prize Party.

Check [Facebook.com/MyEPL](https://www.facebook.com/MyEPL) for full details.

Contest is open to residents of the city of Elkhart, Osolo, Concord and Cleveland townships, as well as students attending any public or private school in the Elkhart Public Library service area. Full details on prizes and eligibility are on MyEPL.org/summer.

ADULTS

Prize Drawings

Winners will receive \$100 gift cards. Read all 60 days and receive an EPL tote bag!

KIDS

Read every day to earn entries for these prize drawings

- 4H Fair admissions and wristbands
- LEGO Robot Roller Coaster
- Bean Bag Chair
- Ball Pit and Crawl Tunnel
- National Geographic Kits - Science and Circuits
- Dollhouse
- \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Card

You Pick Rewards

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



and more!

Grand Prize

INDIANA DINOSAUR MUSEUM PRIZE PACKAGE WITH BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR, RESTAURANT MEALS AND HOTEL STAY

Entrants must be age 18 or younger, read books between Friday, May 22 to Monday, July 20, 2026. To enter for the grand prize, submit a book review in one of the following ways:

- Via Beanstack, our summer challenge app
- Online at MyEPL.org/grandprize
- Drop off at any Elkhart Public Library locations (return boxes included)

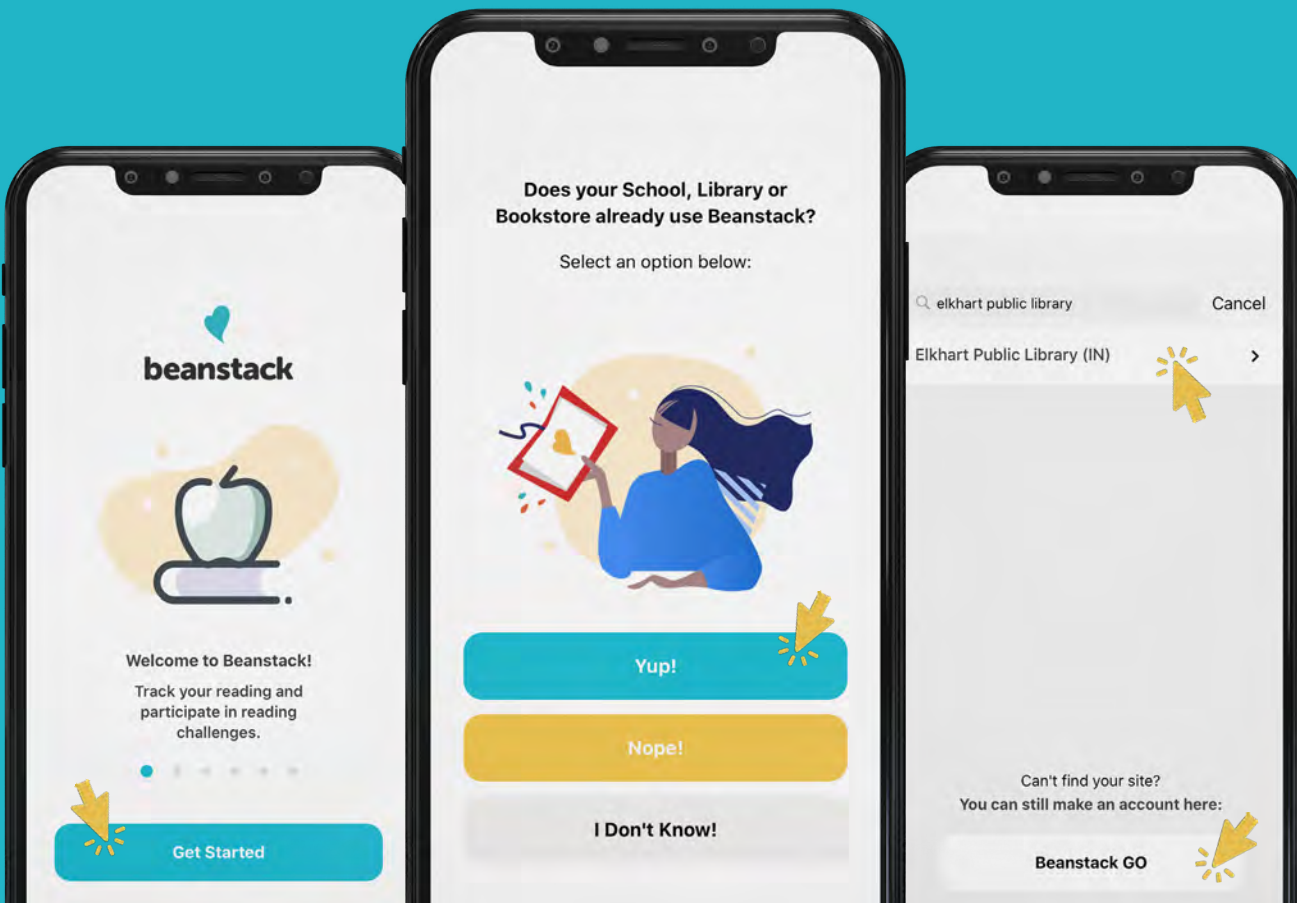
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE PRIZE PARTY!

3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 23
Lifeline Premier Arts Campus

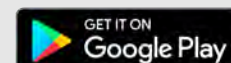
2721 PRAIRIE ST, ELKHART, IN 46517

GAMES, FOOD AND MORE
DETAILS AT MYEPL.ORG/SUMMER

How to use Beanstack



- ✓ Download the Beanstack app at onelink.to/beanstack or visit MyEPL.beanstack.com
- ✓ Search for Elkhart Public Library in the Find a Site feature
- ✓ Create your account
- ✓ Get started reading and doing activities!



nted!

GET KIDS READING? PIZZAS, TACOS AND MORE ARE A WELCOME TRADE, STORE MANAGERS SAY

Free products cost businesses money. But Steve Olinger actually welcomes it when summer hits.

The owner of Freshieez provided 2,000 free pizzas for EPL's Summer Reading Challenge last year. The experience for Steve, though, is priceless.

"It's the joy of seeing every kid's face. We get a picture of them every time," Steve says. "It's that feel-good story everyone loves."

Alongside Elkhart Public Library, local businesses support the Summer Reading Challenge with rewards. Like Freshieez, places like Chick-fil-A and Taco Bell and – new this year – Shirley's Popcorn come through in big ways to incentivize kids to read.

They all help EPL and Ranger Distribution Inc., the Summer Reading Challenge's presenting sponsor, meet the big goal: getting kids into books.

"It was well worth it," says Steve from Freshieez, who worked with Lisa Yoder State Farm to split costs. "And it was fun."

Ellie Male, owner of Elkhart's Chick-fil-A, provided about 1,500 kids' meals last summer.

continued on page 34



"We need kids who love reading. That's where my heart and my mind go," Ellie says.

The challenge reflects the skills she sees in her workforce. Hard work, determination and consistency come to mind.

"Picking up a book and reading. Putting down the phone and tablet are skills we need out of these kids. I see the correlation there," Ellie says.

And local business leaders say there are benefits for them.

Being part of the community

Giving back is a cycle of good for businesses, managers say.

"It's a circle of life type of thing," says Jamie Tate, operations director for Delight Restaurant Group. "If you give back to the community, they will give back to us. That allows us to employ people and gives us customers. It pays it forward."

Taco Bell provided 2,000 coupons for free tacos to summer readers.

Additionally, Jamie says Delight Group's Taco Bell also supports the Boys and Girls Club and Junior Achievement programs locally.

Steve says Freshieez's commitment to the community was a founding principle.

"If you want to stay in this community, then you must be a part of it. It was built into our business plan to be involved," he says.

The Wall of Fame inside his restaurant highlights other local businesses. It's there to build up other small business owners.

"That's what it's all about. Because we help the community market their business, too," he says. "By being a part of the public library, it shows how much we get involved."

Supporting education

Additionally, supporting kids' education benefits businesses.

"We were able to inspire kids to read," Steve says. "It's all about kids' education."

Steve says he gets excited when the kids get their pizzas.

"Parents come in and tell us how happy they are and how happy the kids are," he says.

Ellie loves seeing the benefits for kids by making reading something they want to do.

"As a mom and working with so many teenagers, anything we can do to get them off their phones. I'm happy to play a small part in that," she says.

Looking ahead to summer, giving away their product is a welcome problem.

"We hope to get lots of kids reading. We would love to match or exceed last year's participation. Lots and lots of meals given away because lots and lots of kids are picking up a book and reading," Ellie says.

"We'll do it no matter what," says Steve. "We enjoy it. It's that story you want to hear. There's enough going on in the world today. We need more feel-good stuff."

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge starts Friday, May 22. See page 27 to get started.



Catch the Reading Wave



MatchBook

Get personalized book picks from our librarians, tailored to you
MyEPL.org/MatchBook

Book Bundles

Tell us what your kids love, we'll build a custom book bundle for pickup
MyEPL.org/Bundle



This Challenge isn't ju

Rebecca Steffen with her grandson Noah at the Osolo Branch



Summer Reading invites all ages to participate, building even more good reading habits

Rebecca Steffen needs no motivation to read.

The retired executive assistant says she usually has three or four books going at a time on her Libby app. That includes the title she's reading for the Owls Book Club she runs, too.

Rebecca will never say no to a good challenge.

"It keeps me going every day to make sure I do it," she says. "I think the challenge is fun."

This winter, Rebecca was the winner of a Bird in the Hand restaurant gift card in Elkhart Public Library's Winter Reading Challenge. She read nine books in January and February.

She picked up her prize at Osolo Branch, where she comes at least weekly with her 6-year-old grandson, Noah. Rebecca and her husband moved to Elkhart in 2023 to be closer to family and watch Noah after school.

"We come and pick out books every week," she says. "He likes me to read to him while he eats dinner. He'll eat if I read."

This year, EPL's Summer Reading Challenge brings adults into the mix, encouraging reading alongside kids. It's a welcome addition for avid readers and families looking to spend time together.

Summer fun

Kids seeing their parents reading for enjoyment backs its importance, according to United Through Reading. That group is a not-for-profit committed to expanding connections – particularly within military families – by reading together.

By including parents and caregivers in the Summer Reading Challenge, EPL seeks to build on success.

Parents don't need the same kind of motivation

just for kids anymore

as their children to read every day. But having a reason to pick up a book daily helps.

"It's fun to see what you're reading and see what you can achieve in that time," says Libby Stout, a frequent participant in Winter Reading and other EPL challenges. "I've never won anything, but I read every day."

Between Hoopla and Overdrive, Libby says typically has three different books going at a time.

Libby's children, 6-year-old Rosalee and 9-year-old Frank, have made the Summer Reading Challenge an annual event in their home.

"It fights the summer slide," she says. "They're growing in their reading skills. It's fun for us."

Bringing families together

Rebecca says if she counted kids books on her Beanstack app, her book count would be 80 or more each month.

"It puts families more together when you do that," says Rebecca, who enjoys historical fiction and inspirational nonfiction. "I know sometimes adults, particularly working parents, it's hard to find time. Having something to encourage them to read alongside their kids or pre-teens is a really good idea."

Flexible options for participating appeal to families, too.

For Libby, as her kids get older, she says reading chapter books together will be a part of their routine.

"I picked out some chapter books I thought we could read this summer," she says. "If we did a chapter a night, it could be really fun."

Parents and caregivers can use the Beanstack app or a paper gameboard, just like kids. Adults will earn prize entries throughout the summer for gift card drawings at the end of the challenge.

Turn to page 27 and get started in the Summer Reading Challenge.



Libby Stout at the Dunlap Branch

8 COMMON AI QUESTIONS...

answered by a human

Artificial Intelligence - AI for short - and machine learning have been making headlines and popping up in our everyday lives. While exciting, this emerging technology is changing almost constantly.

Eric Nord, Elkhart Public Library's Computer Services Department Head, provides some answers to the most common questions he hears about AI. For a deeper dive, join him at the downtown library for "Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction" at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25.

What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence. These include understanding language, recognizing patterns, solving problems, or making predictions. AI does not "think" or "feel" - it processes information based on patterns in data.

How does AI learn?

AI learns from large amounts of examples and data. If you show AI millions of images, it begins to recognize patterns like shapes, colors, and objects. This process is called machine learning. It improves its accuracy by adjusting its internal settings based on feedback.

Is AI safe?

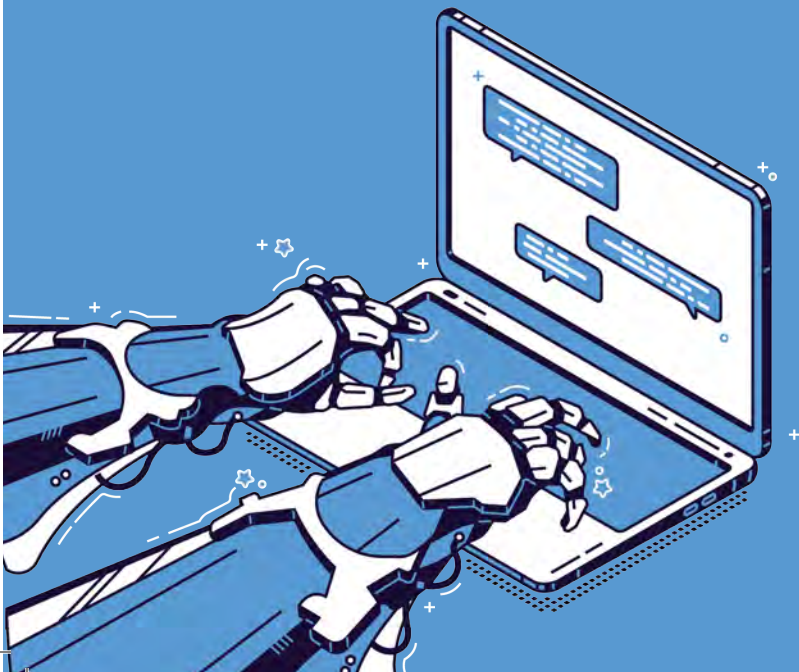
AI is generally safe when used responsibly. The main risks come from human misuse, inaccurate information, or overreliance on automated systems. Good safety comes from transparency, oversight, and using AI as a tool — not a replacement for human judgment.

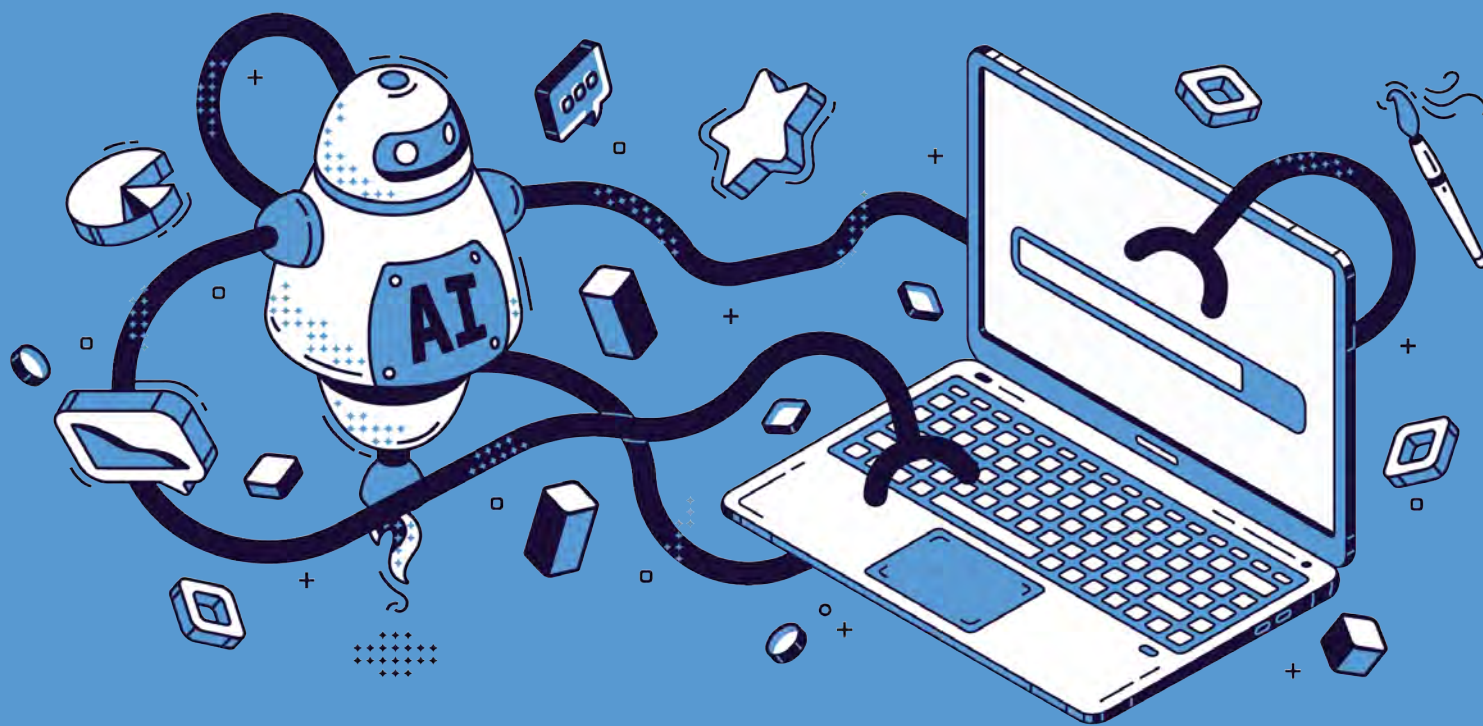
Why does AI sometimes get things wrong?

AI can make mistakes due to:

- Bad or incomplete data
- Misinterpreting the prompt
- Overgeneralizing patterns
- Not understanding context like a human

It's important to always verify information from AI against reputable sources.





What are some good uses of AI?

- Drafting documents, emails, or reports
- Research assistance
- Creating class lessons or study guides
- Language translation
- Brainstorming and idea generation
- Coding and debugging help
- Customer support
- Creative tasks (images, outlines, scripts, etc.)

AI is strongest when paired with human oversight.

What are some things AI should not be used for?

- Replacing human decision-making in moral or spiritual areas
- Diagnosing medical conditions without a professional
- Writing academic work without proper citation
- Spreading misinformation
- Manipulating people
- Sensitive legal or financial decisions without expert review

AI excels at assistance, not authority. Basically, it is good at finding and listing facts, not understanding context.

How do I write a good AI prompt?

Great prompts are:

Clear: Say what you want.

Specific: Provide details or examples.

Purpose-driven: State your goal ("Write a summary," "Create a lesson plan").

Contextual: Include your audience ("fourth graders," "coworkers," "teens").

Example:

"Explain the U.S. Constitution to a group of eighth graders using simple language and one analogy."

How accurate is AI?

AI accuracy varies. It is strong when:

- Information is well documented
- The topic is common or factual
- The user provides details

AI is weaker when:

- Topics are obscure
- Facts are rapidly changing
- Emotional or subjective judgment is needed

Always fact-check important information.

LOCATIONS

EPL is all about convenience

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

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

Inset Map of Downtown:
Downtown
300 S 2nd St
Elkhart, IN 46516

QR Code: Scan here for road construction information near Osolo Branch

Your NextRead is a click away



Sign up for monthly emails about new releases [MyEPL.org/optin](https://www.elkhartpubliclibrary.org/MyEPL.org/optin)



STORYTIMES

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

Storytime with Miss Janell

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

Join Miss Janell and her puppet friends for an active Storytime with songs, stories, rhymes and creativity. Two sessions are offered to serve more families.

Baby & Me: Music and Movement

9:30 a.m. Tuesdays | Cleveland

Movement and music build motor and language skills. Mr. Manley leads this program for young ones ages 0 to 24 months as well as their caregivers.

Storytime with Miss Angie

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays | Pierre Moran

Miss Angie leads early literacy activities with stories, songs and crafts. This Storytime takes a pause July 7.

Baby & Me

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

Introduce literacy and books to the littlest ones, from birth to 24 months. Miss Allison leads stories, rhymes and songs, and each week wraps up with playtime.

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 in May | Cleveland

9:30 & 11 a.m. Wednesdays June and July | Cleveland

Mr. Manley helps build literacy skills with fun and interactive stories. For the summer months starting June 3, this Storytime will have two sessions.

Little Explorers

10 a.m. Thursdays | Downtown

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



DOWNTOWN

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

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Sensory Play Date

10 a.m. First Fridays
May 1, June 5 and July 3

Bring the little ones in play clothes explore and let them learn using their senses.

Baby & Me

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

Introduce literacy and books to the littlest ones, from birth to 24 months. Miss Allison leads stories, rhymes and songs, and each week wraps up with playtime.

Little Explorers

10 a.m. Thursdays

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



Ice Cream Social

3 p.m. Friday, May 29

Enjoy free ice cream, games and a craft to celebrate the start of summer.

Toy Story Preschool Party

1 p.m. Wednesday, May 13

Games, activities and crafts inspired by Toy Story characters.

Art Contest Studio Day

4 p.m. Friday, June 5

4 p.m. Monday, June 22

Using a variety of our supplies, construct or draw or paint your own work of art to enter the Summer Art Contest.

Make It and Take It: America's 250 Birthday Week

June 29-July 3

Drop in for a different daily craft to celebrate the 250 years of America.

Building Block Preschool Party

10 a.m. Friday, June 12

Preschoolers can explore and build with DUPLOs, Magna-Tiles, wooden blocks and more.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



Glow-in-the-Dark Toddler Rave

10 a.m. Friday, July 10

Dance in the dark with black lights, glow sticks and bubbles.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Homeschool: Small Canvas Painting

1 p.m. Monday, May 11

We'll supply the canvas acrylic paint. You contribute your creativity.

Ice Cream Social

3 p.m. Friday, May 29

Enjoy free ice cream, games and a craft to celebrate the start of summer.



Art Contest Studio Day

4 p.m. Friday, June 5

4 p.m. Monday, June 22

Using a variety of our supplies, construct or draw or paint your own work of art to enter the Summer Art Contest.

Clay Monster Sculptures

4 p.m. Monday, June 15

See a demonstration of how to use air-dry clay, then create your own monster with it to take home.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



Playground Games

1 p.m. Friday, June 26

Enjoy outdoor stations of activities like jump rope, water balloon toss, and more.

Make It and Take It: America's 250 Birthday Week June 29-July 3

Drop in for a different daily craft to celebrate the 250 years of America.

Tie Dye Party

4 p.m. Monday, July 6

Use one of our shirts to turn into your tie-dye masterpiece. We'll show you all the steps and let you get creative.



Dinosaur Days

4 p.m. Monday, July 13

Come see a velociraptor and a baby dinosaur up close, and take part in a fossil dig.

DIY Pet Rocks

4 p.m. Monday, July 20

Turn a rock into your new best friend with our crafting supplies.

Water Gun Painting

4 p.m. Monday, July 27

Make a unique art piece using watercolor-filled squirt guns.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Anime Club

4:30 p.m. First Tuesdays
May 5, June 2 and July 7

Join other fans to watch anime, work on a craft, and try Japanese snacks.

Teen DIY: Moss Mirrors

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12

Bring good vibes and a fairytale feel to your space. This mini mirror project will make your reflection even more magical.



Super Mario Wonder

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

Play the popular Mario game with your friends on our Nintendo Switch.

Teen DIY: Painted CDs

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 26

Create colorful recycled art using vintage music and movies. Bring your own discs or use ours.

Art Contest Studio Day

4 p.m. Friday, June 5

4 p.m. Monday, June 22

Using a variety of our supplies, construct or draw or paint your own work of art to enter the Summer Art Contest.



What's Inside?

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9

Use reverse engineering skills to take things apart. Discover what's actually inside old electronics or toys and find out how they work.

DOWNTOWN CONTINUED...

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

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

TEEN PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Teen Movie

4 p.m. Tuesday, June 16

Bring your friends to hang out and watch "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" (PG-13, 1:44).



Teen and Me Flower Arranging

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 23

Parent-and-teen teams are invited to learn the basics of arranging a bouquet. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Cupcake Wars

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14

Put your creativity, ingenuity and decorating skills to use and decorate your cupcake in a limited amount of time. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Super Smash Bros.

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21

Come play Super Smash Bros. on our Nintendo Switch. Bring your friends for more fun.

ACT & SAT Prep with Sylvan Learning

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 28

Get tips on preparing for the ACT or SAT test, and learn about recent changes to the tests. Snacks will be served. Attendees will receive a coupon for a free ACT or SAT test at a Sylvan location. Register at MyEPL.org/events.



Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Real Story

1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1

A historical reenactment interprets "The Little House on the Prairie" author's story in a new way. Hear Laura's personal hardships and struggles that inspired her enduring books. This program is recommended for ages 10 and up.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS



Music in the Stacks

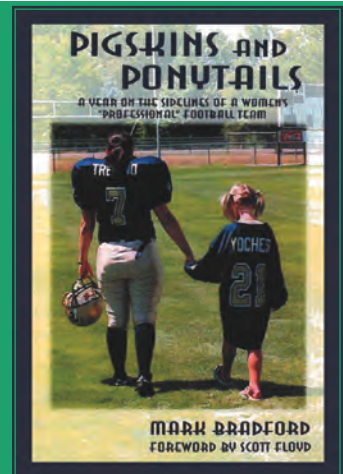
1 p.m. Saturday, May 2

Books come to life as members of the Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra accompany stories read by librarians during this special Storytime for the whole family. This program is supported by the Friends of Elkhart Public Library.

Pigskins & Ponytails: The story of a women's professional football team

7 p.m. Saturday, May 16

An immersive storytelling program featuring players and coaches of the 2002 South Bend Golden Hawks, a professional women's tackle football team. This event features first-hand accounts and reflections of learning the game, the challenges the team faced, and what it all means to them today. Narrated by South Bend Tribune sportswriter Mark Bradford and presented in partnership with The Acting Ensemble of Mishawaka.



Fun Family Movie

4 p.m. Monday, June 8

Join us for free popcorn and showing of "GOAT" (PG, 1:33).

Potawatomi Zoo to You

3:30 and 5 p.m. Monday, June 29

Animal ambassadors from the zoo present this educational live animal program. Two sessions are available to serve more families.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



One Piece Day

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 30

Fans of One Piece, or anyone who wants to be a pirate, are welcome to dress up and join the scavenger hunt, try axe throwing, build a ship, and much more.

Art Contest Party

4 p.m. Friday, July 10

Celebrate the artists of the Summer Art Contest. Winners and prizes will be announced and artwork can be picked up.



Summer Reading Prize Party

3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 23

Lifeline Premier Arts campus
2721 Prairie St., Elkhart

Celebrate the Summer Reading Challenge with games, face-painting, free food and more.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Adult Anime Club

4:30 p.m. First Wednesdays

May 6, June 3 and July 1

Discuss anime, meet fellow fans, enjoy snacks, and make a craft.

Coffee and Canvas

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

May 12, June 9 and July 14

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

Cut the Cord

10 a.m. Saturday, May 16

Get informed about everything you need to consider before you cancel your cable service. Learn about library resources and streaming options.

Morning Meetup with Council on Aging

9:30 a.m. Third Tuesdays

Socialize and learn new things with crafts and guests each month.

May 19 – Diamond art and mini spa day with skin care expert Joan Garber

June 16 – Patriotic craft and guest speaker Amy Stryker from Voter Outreach Elkhart County

July 21 – Candle-making and guest speaker Thomas Rose, author of "Balloon in a Box: Coping with Grief"

Crafternoon

4 p.m. Third Wednesdays

Spend the afternoon creating with fun people.

May 20 – Birds and bees vintage bookmark

June 17 – Diamond art



Open Doors: A community for Adults with Disabilities

9:30 a.m. Third Thursdays

May 21, June 18 and July 16

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

DOWNTOWN CONTINUED...

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

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED...

Curbside Concerts

7 p.m. Fridays starting May 22

The best rooftop stage in Elkhart returns. Bring a camp chair and enjoy the music. Beverages and food available for purchase. Get the details at

MyEPL.org/Curbside.

May 22 – Darryl Buchanan and the Soul Motown Allstars

May 29 – BLAMMO

June 5 – The Erly

June 12 – Starlord

June 19 – Zion Lion

June 20 – St. Eve and The Vibe

June 26 – High Gravity

July 3 – Paul Erdman, Marcus Clingaman and more
kickoff America 250 weekend

Downtown Book Club

5:30 p.m. final Tuesday of each month

Upcoming books:

May 26 - "Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali

June 30 - "All the Colors of the Dark" by Chris Whitaker

July 28 - "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt

Teen and Me Flower Arranging

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 23

Parents and their teens are invited to learn the basics of arranging a bouquet together. Register at

MyEPL.org/events.



WordPlay at the Jazz Fest

10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 20

WordPlay is an open-mic experience for poets, songwriters and creatives of all types. This special Elkhart Jazz Festival morning event will be on the library's indoor stage. Free to attend and open to all, these events honor the late John Homan and carry on his creative legacy.

Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Real Story

1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1

A historical reenactment interprets "The Little House on the Prairie" author's story in a new way. Hear Laura's personal hardships and struggles that inspired her enduring books. This program is recommended for ages 10 and up.

100 BLACK SONS PRESENTS



JUNETEENTH

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 18 | Downtown

Bring the family to this free festival featuring live music, vendors and more

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. Every Monday in May
10:30 a.m. June 8 and 22
10:30 a.m. July 13 and 27

Grow, thrive and bond through music at this family dancing program. This program is weekly through May and moves to second and fourth Mondays for June and July.

Storytime with Miss Angie

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays

Miss Angie leads early literacy activities with stories, songs and crafts. This Storytime takes a pause July 7.



Squirt Gun Painting for Tiny Picassos

10 a.m. Wednesday, June 10

Unleash your inner artist with squirt-gun watercolors. We'll finish with a bubble bash and ice pops. Rain date will be 10 a.m. Thursday, June 11.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS



Summer Reading Kickoff: Sundae Spectacular

3 p.m. Friday, May 22

Jump start your Summer Reading Challenge with a mini ice cream sandwich sundae and toppings (while supplies last). Plus, bubbles. And sidewalk chalk. And books.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Double Feature Flicks

2 p.m. Wednesdays

Count on a timeless gem and a latest hit - we're pairing classic family movies with new releases. These double features come with free popcorn.

May 27 - "Matilda" (PG, 1:38) & "GOAT" (PG, 1:40)

June 24 - "Finding Nemo" (G, 1:40) & "Hoppers" (PG, 1:44)

July 29 - "Big Hero 6" (PG, 1:42) & "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" (PG, 1:38)

Fun in the Sun

3:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays in June

Bring the entire family to each neighborhood branch on Mondays in June for games and free Kona Ice. Claim your Summer Reading Challenge rewards and visit the Book Bus, too. This program is supported by the Friends of Elkhart Public Library.

June 1 - Osolo

June 8 - Cleveland

June 15 - Pierre Moran

June 22 - Dunlap

Craft Your Own Squishy

3 p.m. Wednesday, June 3

Everyone in the family can create their own squishy with memory foam, scissors and paint, while supplies last. Little crafters under the age of 8 should have an adult sidekick for this activity.

DIY Painted Suncatchers

3 p.m. Wednesday, July 1

Families and friends can work together to create colorful suncatchers (while supplies last). Adult supervision of children will be required.

Roz Puppets presents "Dinosaur Pirates"

4 p.m. Monday, July 20

Gather your crew for a swashbuckling puppet adventure. Guaranteed fun for the whole family.



Lotería: Back to School Edition

4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5

Come into Pierre Moran for a lotería fiesta! Win awesome goodies like school supplies and enter surprise backpack raffles. Plus, munch on popcorn as we play.

CLEVELAND

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

Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Baby & Me: Music and Movement

9:30 a.m. Tuesdays

Movement and music build motor and language skills. Mr. Manley leads this program for young ones ages 0 to 24 months as well as their caregivers.

Storytime with Mr. Manley

10 a.m. Wednesdays in May

9:30 & 11 a.m. Wednesdays June and July

Mr. Manley helps build literacy skills with fun and interactive stories. For the summer months starting June 3, this Storytime will have two sessions.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

LEGO Club

5 p.m. Second Tuesdays

May 12, June 9 and July 14

Bring your ideas to life by building and showing off your creation.



Spanish Together

3 p.m. Thursdays June 4-July 16

During this seven-week program, elementary-age students can begin to learn Spanish in an age-appropriate way. Lessons will include vocabulary, songs, games and activities. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

TEEN PROGRAMS

LEGO Club

5 p.m. Second Tuesdays

May 12, June 9 and July 14

Bring your ideas to life by building and showing off your creation.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS



Family Read-In

6 p.m. Friday, May 22

Check off the first day of the Summer Reading Challenge at our after-hours family read-in. We'll share a short fun story and then break out for individual reading time with snacks. Bring a book or ... we always have some you can borrow.

Fun in the Sun

3:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays in June

Bring the entire family to each neighborhood branch on Mondays in June for games and free Kona Ice. Claim your Summer Reading Challenge rewards and visit the Book Bus, too. This program is supported by the Friends of Elkhart Public Library.

June 1 – Osolo

June 8 – Cleveland

June 15 – Pierre Moran

June 22 – Dunlap



Picnic in the Park

11:30 a.m. First Fridays

June 5, July 3 and Aug. 7

Pack a lunch and join Mr. Manley at the Cobus Creek County Park pavilion for stories, games, and outside activities. This park is located on C.R. 8, just down the street from Cleveland Branch.

Happy Birthday America Art Project

June 29-July 25

Decorate a star to add to our map as we celebrate America's 250th birthday with this collaborative art project. Enjoy snacks (while supplies last) at our kickoff event on Monday, June 29.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Hooks & Needles

10 a.m. First and Third Tuesdays

May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16, July 7 & 21, and Aug. 4
Bring knitting, crochet or other projects to work alongside and socialize with other needle crafters.

Readers Roundtable

1:30 p.m. Second Mondays

May 11, June 8, July 13 and Aug. 10

Join other avid readers to talk about your recent reads and hear about upcoming titles at this "no-assigned book" club.



Gardening Q&A

5:30 p.m. Monday, May 11

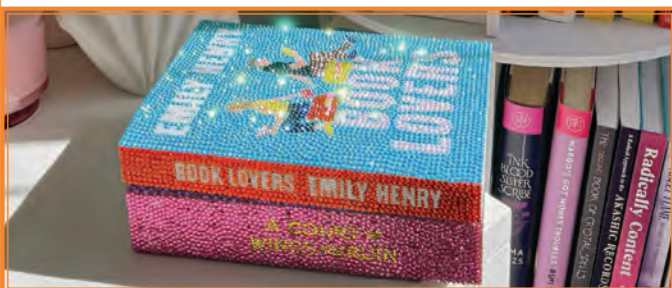
Master Gardener Gwen Ferland answers your questions – however big or small - to help you have a great growing season.

Adult LEGO Club

5:30 p.m. Second Thursdays

May 14, June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13

LEGO is for adults, too. Create based on a challenge, or build freely. Meet others and snack while you work.



Crafts at Cleveland

5:30 p.m. Third Thursdays

Create something new while in the company of other crafters. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

May – Beaded plants

June – Book bedazzling, so bring your favorite book to decorate

July – Decorative wood toys

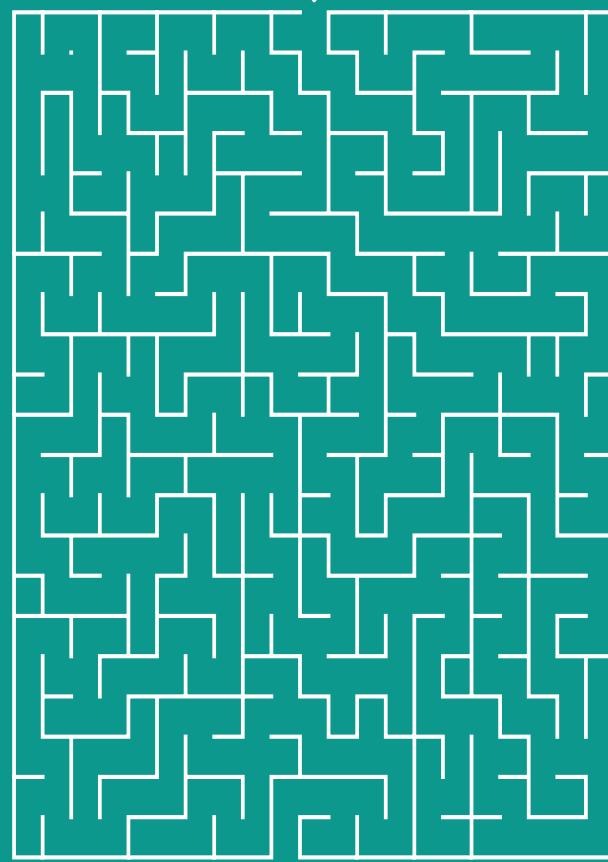
Free EPL resource



Great reads delivered

Start at MyEPL.org/Delivery or call
575.294.2619

HELP THE BOOK BUS



GET BACK TO THE LIBRARY



DUNLAP

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

Visit [MyEPL.org/Events](https://www.myepl.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 Playdough Party

10 a.m. Friday, May 6

Use your imagination and create while moving through the activity stations.

Pioneer Toys

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

Gets hands-on with the toys kids played with in the settler days. An Elkhart County Parks naturalist will lead the program, then you'll make a toy of your own to take home.



Patriotic Preschool Party

10 a.m. Friday, June 26

Learn a little, read a little, move a little and make a little. Wear messy clothes and celebrate America's birthday.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Homeschool LEGO Bots

1 p.m. Third Mondays

May 18, June 15 and July 20

Work as a team to build something, then use coding to make it light up, play sounds or move. Best for children ages 6 and up with reading skills and ability to follow directions.

LEGO Club

3:30 p.m. Third Mondays

May 18, June 15 and July 20

Take a new challenge each month and share what you can create with other kids. Plus, enter our year-long drawing to win a LEGO set at the December program.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...



Pioneer Toys

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

Gets hands-on with the toys kids played with in the settler days. An Elkhart County Parks naturalist will lead the program, then you'll make a toy of your own to take home.



Tin Can Punch with Elkhart County Parks

4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4

Meet Miss Debbie at Ox Bow County Park to make a tin can lantern. An Elkhart County Parks naturalist will help you learn about its American folk-art tradition.

Candle Making

4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25

Get ready for the lights to go out. Join Miss Debbie at Ox Bow Park to learn how to make candles, just like our ancestors.

Fireworks Salt Painting

10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 29

Create a painting of fireworks using watercolors and salt. Two available times for this program will help us serve more families. Register for a session at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myepl.org/events).

Junior Theater Camp

2 to 5 p.m. July 6-10

Miss Debbie and Miss Nicole lead another round of theater camp. With parts for children ages 6-14, you'll go through practice and rehearsal before performing for friends and family at 6:30 p.m. Friday night. Register at [MyEPL.org/events](https://www.myepl.org/events).

TEEN PROGRAMS

Homeschool LEGO Bots

1 p.m. Third Mondays
May 18, June 15 and July 20

Work as a team to build something, then use coding to make it light up, play sounds or move. Best for children ages 6 and up with reading skills and ability to follow directions.

Pioneer Toys

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

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Candle Making

4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25

Get ready for the lights to go out. Join Miss Debbie at Ox Bow Park to learn how to make candles, just like our ancestors.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Books & Boots

1 p.m. Fridays
May 8, June 12 and July 17

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

Upcoming books:

May - "Heartwood Hotel: Family Forever" by Kallie George

June - "My Side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George

July - "The Perilous Performance at Milkweed Meadow" by Elaine Dimopoulos

ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Rockets Red Glare Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off

3 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 22

Get set for the Summer Reading Challenge with popcorn and activities. Make a film canister rocket. Plus, pick up some great books.



Fun in the Sun

3:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays in June

Bring the entire family to each neighborhood branch on Mondays in June for games and free Kona Ice. Claim your Summer Reading Challenge rewards and visit the Book Bus, too. This program is supported by the Friends of Elkhart Public Library.

June 1 – Osolo

June 8 – Cleveland

June 15 – Pierre Moran

June 22 – Dunlap

Roz Puppets presents "Dinosaur Pirates"

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9

Gather your crew for a swashbuckling puppet adventure of prehistoric proportions. Guaranteed fun for the whole family.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Dunlap Page Turners

1 p.m. Saturdays

Upcoming books:

May 7 - "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus

June 13 - "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge

July 11 - "Trouble in Treewater" by John Chris

SBMF Blood Drive

1:30 p.m. Friday, July 10

Drop in or sign up ahead of time at GiveBloodNow.com to make a difference in your community.

OSOLO

3429 E. Bristol St., Elkhart, IN 46514 | 574.264.7234
Visit MyEPL.org/Events for more

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Appreciation Card Workshop

May 4-9 & June 15-20

Drop in these weeks and have a young one use our supplies to create heartfelt cards for Mother's Day, Father's Day or Teacher Appreciation Day.

Storytime with Miss Janell

9:30 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays

Join Miss Janell and her puppet friends for an active Storytime with songs, stories, rhymes and creativity. Two sessions are offered to serve more families.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Appreciation Card Workshop

All day May 4-9 & June 15-20

Drop in these weeks and have a young one use our supplies to create heartfelt cards for Mother's Day, Father's Day or Teacher Appreciation Day.

Osolo LEGO Club

3:30 p.m. First Thursdays

May 7, June 4, July 2 and Aug. 6

Take a new challenge each month. Create by yourself or with a friend, and share your build with everyone.



Mammals with Elkhart County Parks

11 a.m. Thursday, June 11

Learn about mammals with hands-on activities and artifacts. Explore their habits and homes with an expert from Elkhart County Parks. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Ranger Quest

10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 17

Ranger Nhim from Elkhart City Parks will join us for an outdoor quest in Walker Park. We'll leave as a group from the branch, and we'll return to the library for a story and snack. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Children's Summer Craft

June 29-July 3

Drop in anytime to the Children's Room to make a seasonal craft with our available supplies.

Worms! Worms! Worms!

10 a.m. Thursday, July 9

Read about worms, examine live worms and discover the importance these squirmy creatures have on our planet. Hear stories and create a model in an earth habitat. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

Creation Station

July 13-31

You bring the creativity, we'll have the supplies. Make anything you can imagine during this drop-in activity.

TEEN PROGRAMS



Chapter Chasers

5 p.m. Second Wednesdays

Grab a copy of the book to read at the branch before we meet. Then, come talk about it over snacks. Geared for kids ages 9 and up.

May 13 - "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown

June 10 - "Front Desk" by Kelly Yang

July 8 - "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry

Finals Week Wind Down

4 to 6 p.m. May 25-29

Take a break from stress. High schoolers are invited to unwind and recharge during finals week. Each afternoon will feature calming activities and creative projects in our relaxed space.

Teen DIY: Yarn Wrapped Letters

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 26

Use various yarn colors to create a unique and customized letter for your space.

Zine Workshop

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 30

Explore your creativity and self-expression by designing a zine. We'll have everything you need to express yourself with a mini publication to share. Register at MyEPL.org/events.

TEEN PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Teen Dancing Person Paperweight

2 p.m. Tuesday, July 21

Create a bendable and customized dancing person paperweight that's all your own.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

May The Fourth Be With You Movie Marathon

10 a.m. Monday, May 4

Drop in from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the original "Star Wars" trilogy - "A New Hope," "Empire Strikes Back," and "Return of the Jedi." Plus, activities for kids while they watch.

Friday Night Bingo

4:30 p.m. one Friday each month

Win snacks and prizes during these themed events. A great excuse to get out of the house.

May 8 – Ocean creatures bingo

June 19 – Playing card bingo

July 10 – State trivia bingo

Throwback Theatre

5 p.m. Third Thursdays

Bring the family for free popcorn and a nostalgic family movie.

May 21 – "Beethoven" (PG, 1:27)

June 18 – "A Goofy Movie" (G, 1:18)

July 16 – "Free Willy" (PG, 1:52)



Summer Reading Kickoff Party

3:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 22

Get everything you need for the Summer Reading Challenge, along with temporary tattoos, snacks, crafts and – of course – books.

Family Movie Marathon

9 a.m. Friday, May 29

Drop in to an end-of-school all-day movie marathon of family favorites.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 1:46)

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG, 1:34)

Dog Man (PG, 1:33)

The Wild Robot (PG, 1:41)

The Bad Guys (PG, 1:40)

ALL AGES PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

Mid-Day Matinees

Various times and days

Come in for an afternoon movie and free popcorn. Thursday, May 28 – "The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants" (PG, 1:28) at 2 p.m., followed by "Zootopia 2" (PG, 1:48) at 4 p.m.

Friday, June 19 - "GOAT" (PG, 1:40) at 2 p.m.

Monday, July 6 - "Hoppers" (PG, 1:44) at 2 p.m.

Fun in the Sun

3:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays in June

Bring the entire family to each neighborhood branch on Mondays in June for games and free Kona Ice. Claim your Summer Reading Challenge rewards and visit the Book Bus, too. This program is supported by the Friends of Elkhart Public Library.

June 1 – Osolo

June 8 – Cleveland

June 15 – Pierre Moran

June 22 – Dunlap

Rock Painting

Friday, June 5

Drop in anytime during the day and relax while painting. Take home your finished rock or leave it to brighten up our outdoor space.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Osolo Page Turners

3 p.m. Second Mondays

Upcoming books:

May 11 - "Someone Knows" by Lisa Scottoline

June 8 - "The Spectacular" by Fiona Davis

July 13 - "My Friends" by Frederik Backman

Craft Night

5:30 p.m. Third Mondays

Get creative while meeting others and learning new skills.

May 18 – Upcycle basket

June 15 – Mod Podge makeover

July 20 – Pounded flower prints

Sit & Stitch

5 p.m. Fourth Wednesdays

May 27, June 24 and July 22

All skill levels are welcome – come with your needlework project and enjoy the creative company.



RELIVE YOUR

FAVORITE

CONCERT

MOMENTS



Exclusive Curbside Concerts interviews, behind-the-scenes videos and more — subscribe on  YouTube to see the latest content



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.

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, May 5
- Wednesday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 20
- Tuesday, June 9
- Thursday, June 11
- Wednesday, June 17
- Tuesday, July 7
- Tuesday, July 14
- Wednesday, July 22

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, June 24
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 29

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, June 25

 Q&A
Sessions

 Computer
Training

 Meet Your
Device

CURBSIDE CONCERTS



7 PM

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

5.22 DARRYL BUCHANAN 5.29 BLAMMO
6.05 THE ERLY 6.12 STARLORD 6.19 ZION LION
6.20 ST. EVE AND THE VIBE 6.26 HIGH GRAVITY

★ SPECIAL EVENT ★

CELEBRATING AMERICA 250

7.3 PAUL ERDMAN AND MARCUS CLINGAMAN

— MYEPL.ORG/CURBSIDE —