



125 S. Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126-3298
(630) 279-8696 • Fax (630) 516-1364 • www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org

NEWS RELEASE

November 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
Cheryl Moore, public information coordinator
Office: (630) 279-8696 ext. 306
Fax: (630) 516-1364
E-mail: cheryl.moore@elmhurst.org

Elmhurst Public Library is Busier Than Ever

ELMHURST, IL — Do you have a hard time finding parking at the Elmhurst Public Library? Lately, parking spaces have been at a premium because residents are taking advantage of collections, services, and programs in record numbers. Recently ranked as the #6 library in the nation by Hennen's American Public Library Rating (HAPLR) Index *, EPL has had more than 291,000 people come through its doors in the last six months, a 7% increase from the same period last year. That's an average of 1,600 visitors each day, seven days a week. One thing is certain: Elmhurst residents love their library.

The library's 85 public computers are busy morning, noon, and night. Free high-speed internet access makes the library appealing to many, and library software enables them to produce professional-looking documents and resumes. In the past six months, library computers were used 40% more than during the same period in 2008. And that doesn't even count people who bring in their own laptops to connect to the wireless internet available everywhere in the building.

Job-seekers have transformed the library into a de-facto career center. They search employment listings, research companies, attend programs on resume writing and improving job skills, and catch up on the latest employment news in any of the roughly 40 newspapers the library carries. Many call back to tell staff, "I got the job!"

In 2009, the Kids' Summer Reading Program, which helps kids maintain reading skills over summer vacation, set a new record with more than 5,225 children participating. Adult program attendance has increased 40% during the past six months as more people have discovered this free source of informative entertainment.

-more-



125 S. Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126-3298
(630) 279-8696 • Fax (630) 516-1364 • www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org

page 2 of 2

It's not just young kids and adults using library resources. Twice a year, the library holds a multi-day "Study for Finals" program for teens, complete with tutors. The program is hugely popular, with so many teens coming throughout the three days that the library can't count them all!

And did you know that 30,443 Elmhurst residents have library cards? That's 72% of the city! And those cards aren't just placeholders in wallets. They are being used to check out books, movies, magazines and more at a record pace. From May-October, the library circulated 781,000 items, a 9% increase.

Looking ahead, residents who are interested in learning more about World War II, submarines, or deep-sea diving –or who just enjoy a good adventure tale– will want to attend the second-annual ELMHURST READS series beginning in February. The topic for 2010 is "Shadow Divers" by Robert Kurson, and the series will conclude with an appearance by the author in mid-March. More details will appear in the library's January/February newsletter, Fine Print, which is mailed to every home in Elmhurst.

"The Library has so much to offer, and it is gratifying to see Elmhurst residents take advantage of these opportunities," says Library Director Marilyn Boria.

So, you see that while parking might be limited, the library is working hard to provide the services, educational programs and, of course, books that Elmhurst residents want. And if you're worried about parking, or just don't want to get out of your car, call 630-279-8696 and ask to pick up your items at the drive-up window. Or use library resources 24/7 at www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org.

The Elmhurst Public Library strives to enrich life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to explore, learn and grow. EPL offers the support and resources for Elmhurst residents to develop a love of reading; access information for work and learning; pursue interests that will enrich their lives; understand changes in technology, society and culture; and gather and interact with each other. Elmhurst Public Library is a place for discovery at the heart of the community.

** in its population category*

#####