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January 17 - 30, 2020

BEHIND THE DESK

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF NEWSLETTER

EPL: Still a Five-Star Library!



Ranked by *Library Journal*, EPL earned five out of five stars — one of only seven libraries to earn that distinction in Illinois!

[Read More](#)

Sign Up: Week of Workshops

Sign-up sheets for the Week of Workshops January 27-31 are now up in the Staff Lounge. Please check with your supervisor, if applicable, and sign up for the sessions you wish to attend. Space is limited as most sessions will be held in the Gathering Room.

The **Virtual Dementia Tour** is a special interactive program presented by Metropolitan Family Services on Thursday Jan. 30. Please sign up for one, 10-minute time slot, but plan

to spend about 30 minutes at this program.

Other details:

- Copies of *Dopesick* are still available through Marcy if you wish to attend a book discussion.
- Lunch will be served starting at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 30
- There will be a trail mix bar and a mindfulness coloring station set up in the Staff Lounge all week

[The schedule](#) is posted throughout the building. Contact Kristin S. with questions.

EPL in the News: Read to the Dogs



A staff photographer from *Suburban Life* visited the Library on Jan. 11. Check out [these adorable photos](#) of kids reading to dogs during KL's popular monthly program!

User Story: Girl Scouts in Makery

Erin, an Elmhurst patron, writes, “The Library staff ran a program in the Makery for our Girl Scout troop of twenty girls. The girls had an absolute blast! They created two custom projects, a tote bag and a fall banner. Many girls said it was their favorite outing of the year. Thank you for providing access to the Makery, leading the girls, and challenging them to create!”

Do you have an idea for a user story? [Contact Anne S.](#)

Library of Extraordinary Staff
Bryan Blank
Head of Adult Services



When Bryan came to EPL in January of 2004 he was greeted with a pizza party. He chose to believe it was in his honor. In reality, it was a free lunch for staff to brighten up a busy day at the Library, full of students on school holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday. Bryan came to EPL after working at OPPL for 5 years. His career at EPL started by serving as the webmaster, teaching computer classes, and working at the Adult Services desk. He later became Assistant Head of ADS, then

Department Head.

"I'm responsible for the smooth functioning of the department, so I support the staff who work here and help them do their jobs, which involves everything from pinch-hitting during a security situation to covering a program for someone, covering the desk when needed, and then moving us forward as we need to change. These things are not hard to do because we have such a good crew of people, who speak up when things aren't going right or when they have questions, and people who come up with ideas for things that need to change. So while it's my job to do these things, sometimes I feel that I just facilitate it and the team does it. I try to stay 'hands-off,' to make sure that everybody has the tools they need to do their job, to give people the opportunity to do their job, and support them in doing it."

Bryan points to two signs on his computer monitor. One says, "WAIT" and the other, "Make an offer of yourself." These are reminders to himself about possible ways to handle situations. There's also a cutout picture of a beach ball, as a reminder that sometimes he needs to give someone back their ball, or delegate. He notes, "When someone comes to you with a problem or concern, taking care of it isn't always the answer." Another posting on his monitor reads, "fundamental attribution error," a reminder that people tend to believe that other people's behavior directly corresponds to their character, although we should actually also consider the situation that a person is in, which might influence their actions and words. Bryan says, "I like working with people—staff and patrons. What makes it interesting is the way that people surprise you—in positive and negative ways. People are always interesting."

In addition to leading ADS, Bryan works the 2nd Floor Information Desks, teaches technology classes, leads book discussions, developed and leads the Beer Club, and creates displays, too. About EPL, Bryan says, "I like what everyone likes: the great team

we have in this organization. More than anything, I think it's what makes the organization successful.”

During his free time, Bryan enjoys spending time with his wife, Paula—watching movies and TV, baking, and reading books. Right now they're reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. He also likes to walk their dog, Mayzie, and teach her new tricks. Bryan likes to experiment with cooking, too, and to feed other people because, he smiles and says, “Food makes people happy.”

HR Corner: Wellness Screening

Monday, Jan. 27 • 7-10 a.m. • Large Meeting Room

(Check the brochure for [additional dates at other locations](#))

Give yourself a fresh start for the new year. Schedule your health screening today!

These screenings consist of a comprehensive wellness panel, an assessment tool that evaluates your lifestyle as well as your current health status, and additional tests.

What does the wellness screening provide?

- 37 component blood chemistry profile
- Educational report
- Blood pressure
- Body mass index (BMI) reading
- Health assessment
- Additional test options available.

[Pre-register by going to empowerhealthservices.info](#) or call (866) 367-6974

(tel:8663676974) to schedule an appointment.

[More Info](#)

Save the Date: Staff Enrichment

Outlook Tips and Techniques

Wednesday, Jan. 22 • 10 a.m. (15-30 minutes)

Admin. Conference Room

Census 2020

Monday, Feb. 3 • 2- 3 p.m. • Kossmann Room

Tuesday, Feb. 4 • 10-11 a.m. • Kossmann Room

Learn about the U.S. Census and how it affects Illinois, Elmhurst, EPL, and you. Come away with answers to the questions patrons (and you!) might be asking about this decennial event.

EPL: a great place to work!

Library Assistant KL

Technology Assistant ADS

elmlib.org/jobs

Visit the Wall of Fame

Staff Favorites: We asked, you answered!

What's your Word of the Year for 2020?

Answers: Up, Intentional, Reflect, Flexibility, Hope.

For next time: What was the first thing you bought with your own money?

Answer here



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