

Connect with the library in 2021

By Paulina Poplawska, Library Director

As the New Year begins, many face challenges that impact our daily lives. Dealing with stress and uncertainty can feel overwhelming at times. It's a good time to rely on calming activities, support from close ones, and library services that make life a little easier.

1. Audiobooks – Thinking you're too busy to read? Try out an audiobook! Have an audiobook popped in a player in your car to enjoy while commuting or download one onto your computer or phone via Libby to listen to while you're completing tasks around the house.
2. Virtual programs – Virtual programs continue in the New Year. Check out a pre-recorded storytime with Ms. Kathryn, the Youth Services Librarian on Monday and Wednesdays available on the library's YouTube channel. The Youth Services department also has monthly STEM programs, a Teen Talk Books program, and on January 19, 2021, a Foodie Faces/Health Snack Competition that we partnered with Allina's Health of New Ulm on to help you keep your family's healthy eating resolution for the year.

For the adults, we'll have Bizarre History of Minnesota with Chad Lewis on Thursday, January 21. Join the author, researcher, and explorer for a presentation on the Bizarre History of Minnesota featuring forgotten newspaper stories and accounts of oddities, medical anomalies, strange creatures, and more, this presentation will change the way you view Minnesota's past! The presentation will be presented virtually through Zoom.

To register for the library's live virtual programs, check out the library's Facebook event for the link or call the library.

3. Winter Reading Program – Ready to monopolize the books you love and maybe a few new ones too? Join our Adult Winter Reading Program and mark off spots on your Readopoly board by reading books. Pick and choose or roll your way around. Each set you complete earns you one drawing for Chamber Bucks as well as a free book for each participant that completes a set! Stop by the service desk to pick up your Readopoly Board with the rules and instructions on how to play. The program starts on Friday, January 15 and lasts through Sunday, February 28.
4. Get Creative – We're excited to debut Creativebug! With the click of your library card number and PIN you can set up a (free!) account with the platform that

offers online video arts and crafts workshops and techniques. Learn how to paint, knit, crochet, sew, screen print, and more.

5. Explore your Genealogy – Ancestry Library Edition continues to provide remote access to library cardholders. You can log in through the library's catalog with your library card number and PIN.
6. Contactless Pickup – We continue to provide contactless service to patrons who would rather not come into the library. Not sure what to read next? Let us know what genres you enjoy and we'll fill a bag with five titles we think you'd enjoy.

The library is open Monday to Thursday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The outside book drop is now open 24/7. We continue to quarantine materials that come back. Computer use continues to be limited to 30 minutes. The library will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. As always, we look forward to seeing you in the library, safe and healthy, soon!