
Our Shared Shelf



Message from our 2026-2027 Board President

I am truly honored to step into the role of president for the Friends of the Library. For me, the library is an essential pillar of our community. I originally joined the board out of a strong desire to support our public library system and advocate for literacy and lifelong learning programs for all residents.

When I am not volunteering with the Friends, I work in commercial lines insurance for an independent brokerage, where I specialize in helping small business owners successfully navigate the insurance aspects of their companies. Home for me is Eau Claire, where I live with my husband. We are also proud parents of two daughters currently away at college: our oldest at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul and our youngest at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato.

I am excited for the year ahead and look forward to connecting with many of you as we continue to champion our library.

Sara McIlquham



September Volunteer Opportunities

Check out these volunteer opportunities. If you have questions, please reach out to Stacy or Astrid.

- Friends Bookstore Volunteer
- Friends Book Sale on Saturday, 9/26/2026
[Book Sale Volunteer Sign-Up](#)
- Library Card Crawl Event on Saturday, 9/26/2026
[Card Crawl Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

contact: friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us or call 715.831.5301

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library to Alter Operating Hours this Fall

To best serve the community while responsibly managing public resources, the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library will update its operating hours beginning Tuesday, September 8.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in June, the new schedule aligns staffing with peak usage times, ensuring maximum support when customers need it most.

New Library Hours (Effective Sept. 8):

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Following its 2022/23 renovation and expansion, the library added two new public service points to meet growing community demand. A recent data-driven usage review showed that early mornings (9–10 a.m.) and late Saturday afternoons see the lowest foot traffic. Adjusting these hours allows the library to reallocate existing staff to fully cover all service points during peak times—improving customer care without adding tax-funded positions.

This optimization directly supports the library's 2024–2026 Strategic Plan goals of operational efficiency, responsive service, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

While the hours are changing, the library's focus remains the same: providing knowledgeable, welcoming service while connecting the community with the resources, programs, and opportunities it values.

Bookstore Featured Collection

Each month, the bookstore will feature a special collection area. Our featured special collection for September is Oversize Non-Fiction books. Stop in and check out some beautiful oversize books that we have on display





Shop our Free Will Donation Bag Sale!

The Friends will be hosting a Free Will Donation Bag Sale on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RCU Dabble Box on Level 0 of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library.

This sale will feature fiction, non-fiction, children's/teen books, audiobooks, and DVDs. Grab a bag, shop the sale, and make a donation to the Friends. Proceeds from our sales support programs and services at the library. There will be bags available at the sale or one of your own.

The Friends of the Library Bookstore also features a great selection of items and will be staffed during the sale. Items in the bookstore are NOT part of the Free Will Donation Bag Sale, but are available for purchase at our everyday value prices.

Paid Parking is in effect in the city of Eau Claire

In case you hadn't heard, the city will begin charging for parking downtown starting on August 1st. Below is a link to a map with the rates. These are only in effect Monday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. There are 2 free lots for library patrons: the free two-hour parking across Dewey (up against the concrete wall) and the lower-level parking area at the library. These two areas may fill up more quickly due to patrons not wanting to pay for parking in the other areas of the city.

Parking Map with Rates and Lot Location/Descriptions: [EC Parking Map](#)
Here is the city's website with more information: <https://www.parkec.org/>

Please let us know if you have any questions!
