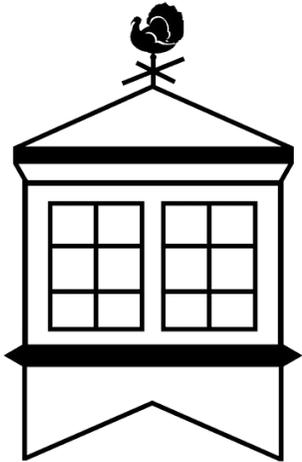


2024 FEBRUARY BULLETIN



EAST KINGSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Library's Solar Panels

by Sarah Courchesne, Library Board of Trustees

Sometimes, looking up at the resplendent and stoic turkey weathervane on top of the library, I wonder what he's thinking about. Though I will never know, I do know that, when the wind is right, and faces him east, he's able to gaze down on a smooth lawn of solar panels covering that entire side of the library's roof. As of this week, thanks to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library, the library owns those panels outright, contributing a clean stream of renewable energy into the grid, and dropping our electricity bills down to almost zero.

The Trustees of the Library want to thank both our former Director, Tracy Waldron, and our current Director, Zoe Sucu, for helping shepherd this project along. We give massive thanks to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library and the people of our town who support the Friends. Thanks to you, we are finally seeing this multi-year, multi-phase adventure in clean, green energy come to fruition!

Learn more on page 6.



***Solar panels on
backside of roof***

Get in touch!

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East Kingston, NH 03827
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@eastkingstonlibrary



East Kingston, NH Library

MONDAY 9AM-5PM	TUESDAY 11AM-7PM	WEDNESDAY 9AM-5PM	THURSDAY 11AM-7PM	FRIDAY 9AM-1PM	SATURDAY 9AM-1PM
February 2024			1	2 10am STORY HOUR 	3
5 10am STORY HOUR 1pm KNIT WITS	6	7	8	9 10am STORY HOUR 	10 11am MARDI GRAS PARTY 
12  10am SPHERO INDI 1pm KNIT WITS	13	14	15	16 10am STORY HOUR 	17
19 CLOSED	20	21	22 3:30pm MAGIC TREE HOUSE	23 10am STORY HOUR 	24
26 10am STORY HOUR 1pm KNIT WITS 5pm BoT	27 10am SPHERO INDI 3pm MAKERS MEETING	28 3pm MAKERS MEETING 5pm BOOK CLUB	29 12-2pm LEAP DAY ACTIVITIES	Winter Break	

MARDI GRAS PARTY
SAT., 1/10, 11am
Come make a masquerade mask & eat king cake.

MAGIC TREE HOUSE
THUR., 2/22, 3:30pm
An after-school program; best for ages 6-9. Take the bus to the library or get dropped off!

MAKERS MEETINGS
TUES., 2/27, 3pm
WED., 2/28, 3pm

EK BOOK CLUB
WED., 2/28, 10am
Fiction - The Dog Stars by Peter Heller.

Save the Dates for March 2023

- Mar 13 ~ Wed ~ Hello Girls, 5pm
- Mar 19 ~ Mon ~ Sphero Indi Car, 10am
- Mar 25 ~ Mon ~ Library Board of Trustees meeting, 5pm
- Mar 27 ~ Wed ~ East Kingston Book Club, 5pm



MARDI GRAS PARTY

All Ages

Saturday, Feb. 10 @ 11-12 pm

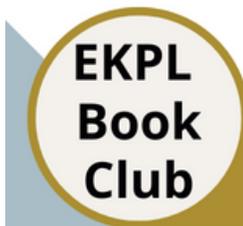
A little Mardi Gras party with a craft and King Cake. Stop by during the hour for self-guided masquerade mask decorating.

EAST KINGSTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Public is Welcome!

Wednesday, Feb. 28 @ 5pm

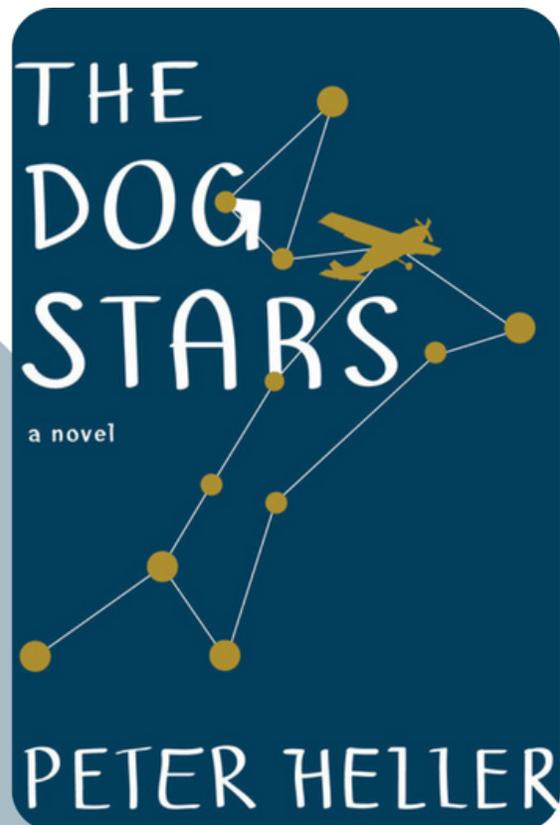
This month's book, *The Dog Stars*, is post-apocalyptic fiction.



**JOIN OUR EKPL
BOOK CLUB!
THE BOOK IS
AVAILABLE AT
THE LIBRARY.**

**2/28/24 @ 5pm
In person at the
library.**

(603) 642-8333
ekpublib@comcast.net





MAGIC TREE HOUSE BOOK CLUB



4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Book discussion
- Book themed snack
- Book themed craft/activity

Geared towards ages 5-9

2 THE KNIGHTS AT DAWN

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
3:30PM - 4:30PM**

MAGIC TREE HOUSE Book Club

Thursday, Feb. 22 @ 3:30pm

An after-school book club best for ages 5-9. All children are welcome either off-the-bus or dropped off by an adult.

Books are available at the Library.

SPHERO INDI CARS Coding for preschoolers Monday, Feb 12 @ 10am

In lieu of Monday Story Hour, join us for Sphero Indi Cars play. We'll make roads for cute robotic cars.

Best for Ages 2+ but these cars are robust ... younger folks welcome!

**Purchased by the
Friends of the East Kingston Public Library**



Sphero indi

Introduce young learners to computer science principles with screenless and app-enabled coding options!



**Monday
Feb. 12
10am**

In place of
Story Hour

A monthly
STEAM program.

WINTER

Break!

 sphero



Sphero indi

Introduce young learners to computer science principles with screenless and app-enabled coding options!

**Tuesday
Feb. 27
10am**

A Special

AGES 7+

STEAM Event

Sign-Up Requested; there are a limited number of cars

MAKERS MEETING

PULLED STRING ART

EAST KINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
47 MAPLEVALE RD EAST KINGSTON
EASTKINGSTONLIBRARY.ORG
603-642-8333

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED.

**TUESDAY 2/27
@ 3:00PM**

MAKERS MEETING

ROBOT WINDMILLS

EAST KINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
47 MAPLEVALE RD EAST KINGSTON
EASTKINGSTONLIBRARY.ORG
603-642-8333

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
SPACE IS LIMITED.

**WEDNESDAY 2/28
@ 3:00PM**

HAPPY LEAP DAY!



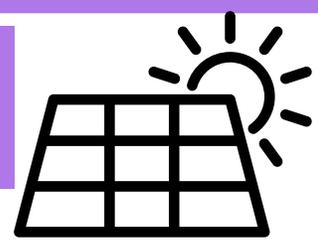
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

DROP IN CELEBRATION

12-2PM

CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES & SNACKS

The Library's Solar Panels continued from the Cover Page



The library's solar panel project has been several years in the making, and none of it would have been possible without the effort and commitment of the Friends. Back in 2016, the Friends donated \$18,000 to buy an 18 panel array that would meet about 20% of the building's overall energy needs. Those panels have been quietly sopping up sunlight since then, with no issues, problems, or need for any repairs. It was always our goal to eventually install enough panels to meet the library's entire electricity demand, but we lacked the funds to purchase any additional panels and thought we'd just have to wait several years to raise more money. Then, at a conference of the NH Library Trustees Association, we learned about an option called a Power Purchase Agreement, or PPA. Under a PPA, a solar installer builds an array on a public or private property, and then retains ownership of the array. The property owner agrees to buy all the electricity the array produces for a set period of years, at which point, the property owner can either continue buying the power, or can elect to buy the array itself from the installer, and thus own both the panels and all the power they produce. The Library Trustees signed a PPA with ReVision energy in 2018, and we became eligible to buy the array from them this January. The Friends of the Library have again stepped up with phenomenal fundraising, and donated \$40,000 for the purchase. We have now signed the agreement, sent in the check, and taken ownership of the ReVision installed panels on the roof. The existing smaller array is still merrily producing, and their combined power generation should now meet the Library's full electricity needs. We still will be paying a small utility bill to remain connected to the grid, and we also have an annual maintenance contract with ReVision to have the array inspected and serviced, but our bills for kilowatt hours drawn from Unitil should drop almost to nothing.

Knowing that we would be going fully solar, we have been shifting the Library away from propane and toward electricity wherever possible. We have replaced two of our three propane furnaces with electric heat pumps, and we are in the process of replacing our broken propane fireplace with a new electric one. Eventually, we plan to replace the final furnace with a heat pump, and also switch over our small water heater from propane to solar/electric.



Friends of EKPL News



By Nikki Cutler, Board of the Friends of EKPL

♥ Happy February! Happy Valentine's Day! ♥

We, the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library, would like to start off this newsletter by thanking Cara Gray for all that she has done as a member of our board over the past several years. Most recently she took on the responsibility of Treasurer and has done an amazing job staying on top of our budget, paying attention to detail, and handling our reporting to name just a few things. She also did a wonderful job helping me (Nikki Cutler) transition into the role of Communications director last spring and I will forever be grateful to her for that. We will miss her positive attitude and hard work ethic, but wish her the best of luck settling into her new town and being closer to family.

Cara - thank you and we wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life!



Don't forget to stop by at the Water Street Bookstore on Feb 1st to support your local bookstore as well as the Friends! And if you can't make it in person then you can always shop online too!



♥ February Specials at the Used Book Store (UBS) ♥
Open Fridays from 10-5 and Saturday 10-1

- ♥ Great selection of romance novels to celebrate Valentine's Day
- ♥ Jigsaw puzzles
- ♥ Junior classics - beautiful sets!
- ♥ Exploring - land and sea!
- ♥ Photography - great collection of books covering all DVDs
- ♥ Historical Fiction



Please follow our FaceBook Page "Friends of East Kingston Public Library," visit our [webpage](#) or email us at friendsofekpl@gmail.com for information in 2024.

Water Street Bookstore
COMMUNITY DAY

WATER
S•T•R•E•E•T
BOOKSTORE
Est. 1991

EAST KINGSTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Shop in-store or online at Water Street Bookstore on
Thursday, February 1st and 10% of sales will be donated
to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library!

125 Water Street - Exeter, NH - waterstreetbooks.com - (603) 778-9731