

Thursday, May 23, 2024

For Immediate Release

Ellsworth Public Library and Northern Light Health to launch new literacy initiative

Ellsworth - Ellsworth Public Library (EPL) and Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital are launching "Baby's 1st Library Card," a collaboration fostering early literacy and a love for reading in infants. Starting May 23, 2024, every baby born at Maine Coast Hospital will receive a welcome package that includes a board book and a complimentary voucher for a library card for the Ellsworth Public Library. Notably, the library card will be provided at no cost, irrespective of residency in funding towns.

The program underscores that it is never too early to start reading to your baby.

This initiative is made possible through funding dedicated to the memory of the late Melanie Zador, a devoted hospital volunteer and Vice President of the Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library. The program stands as a testament to her commitment to community enrichment through literacy.

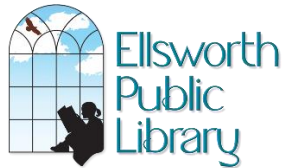
Ellsworth Public Library currently offers six recurring kid's programs. Among these, "Baby Story & Play," held every Friday from 9 AM to 9:30 AM, is tailored specifically for infants, providing an interactive and stimulating environment for early learning. The library is also a recognized Family Place Library, whose goal is to develop and institutionalize a family-friendly environment by transforming libraries into community centers for literacy, early childhood development, parent education and engagement, family support and community information.

"We are thrilled to launch this program for our newest community members and their families", shares Northern Light Blue Hill and Maine Coast director of philanthropy Sarah Joy. "What a unique opportunity to honor Melanie Zador with this collaboration with the Ellsworth Public Library." The care team in the Dixon Family Birthing Center at Maine Coast are looking forward to participating in this program by encouraging new parents to start reading to their newborns early and visit the local library.

This collaboration is part of the Ellsworth Public Library's county-wide "Your Library, Your Journey: Connecting Communities" effort. Through a variety of activities and strategic partnerships throughout the year, the library aims to reach communities where they are. This initiative aligns with the library's mission to serve as a vital hub of learning and inspiration for the residents of Ellsworth and its surrounding communities. "The Ellsworth Public Library reaffirms its dedication to being the cornerstone of the entire community," said Sarah Lesko, Library Director. "We are committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring that everyone has access to our resources."

Ellsworth Public Library
20 State Street, 04605 Ellsworth Maine
207-667-6363
www.ellsworthlibrary.net

Hours:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 9 am – 5 pm
Wed, Thurs: 9 am – 6 pm
Sat: 9 am – 2 pm



The **Ellsworth Public Library**, housed in the historic Tisdale House since 1897, is a cornerstone of the local and surrounding communities, offering a diverse collection of over 46,000 in-house items and an expanding Library of Things. In 2023, the library hosted 470 programs for all ages, fostering learning and engagement. Patrons enjoy access to 8 million items from 63 libraries statewide, along with subscriptions to 50 print publications and online services like the New York Times. With a library card, patrons also gain free passes to Down East museums. Through partnerships with local organizations, the library is committed to enhancing education, entertainment, and literacy in the community. <http://www.ellsworthlibrary.net/>

At **Northern Light Health**, we're building a better approach to healthcare because we believe people deserve access to care that works for them. As an integrated health delivery system serving Maine, we're raising the bar with no-nonsense solutions that are leading the way to a healthier future for our state. Our care team—in hospitals, primary and specialty care practices, long-term and home healthcare, behavioral healthcare, and ground and air medical transport and emergency care—are committed to making healthcare work for you: our patients, communities, and employees. To learn more about Northern Light Health and our locations across Maine, visit www.northernlighthealth.org.

Contact: Berit Becker
Communications Director
Ellsworth Public Library
bbecker@ellsworthlibrary.net
(207)-667-6363

Kelley Anne Columber
Director, Communications
Northern Light Health
57 Water Street Blue Hill, ME 04614
50 Union Street Ellsworth, ME 04605
207.374.3418
kcolumber@northernlight.org

Ellsworth Public Library
20 State Street, 04605 Ellsworth Maine
207-667-6363
www.ellsworthlibrary.net

Hours:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 9 am – 5 pm
Wed, Thurs: 9 am – 6 pm
Sat: 9 am – 2 pm