

Community Connections – Outreach

Community Partners

SHIP/Medicare Counseling

Date: August 7

Attendance: 3

Partner: Illinois Department on Aging

Staff: Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian)

The Illinois Department on Aging provided Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counseling for patrons.

Protecting Your Identity and Other Assets

Date: August 12

Attendance: 44

Partner: Lombard Bank & Trust

Staff: Courtney Rose Welsh (Adult Library Services Programming Librarian)

Staff from Lombard Bank & Trust held an informative session on digital safety best practices. This session was one of the highest attended sessions the bank has ever held. We are looking forward to partnering with them again in the future.

Mom and Baby Hour

Date: August 13

Attendance: 13

Partner: Edward-Elmhurst Health Center

Staff: Tricia Nelson (Early Literacy Librarian)

Tricia shared ways libraries can support new moms and infants through their early literacy journey.

District 88 Networking Event: Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian) and Tabatha Anderson (Youth Services Manager) attended the Work-Based Learning Networking Event at District 88 to learn more about possible partnership opportunities with District 88 regarding career education and job training for high school students.

Home Delivery: Isabella Herrera (Home Delivery Specialist) and Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian) prepped and made 54 home deliveries in August.

School Connections: Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian) promoted Library services to local principals and signed up schools for school bag services. Tricia Nelson (Early Literacy Librarian) contacted local preschools to share about Library services and invite them to participate in the upcoming Preschool Fair in November.

Program Highlights

Early Literacy Program Highlights

S'mores Storytime

Date: August 12

Attendance: 31

Staff: Tricia Nelson (Early Literacy Librarian) & Alejandra Guzman (Youth Services Library Associate II)

Caregivers and their children enjoyed s'mores and a special storytime with books and songs about fireflies and camping.

Elementary Program Highlights

STEM Building Challenge

Date: August 5

Attendance: 14

Staff: Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian) & Chris Sowl (Youth Services Library Associate II)

With toothpicks, mini marshmallows, and an introduction to architecture, students used their creativity to build marshmallow structures both up and out (see right image).



Two builders deeply engaged in the creative process during the *STEM Building Challenge*.

Teen Program Highlights

Volunteer Thank You Party

Date: August 17

Attendance: 9

Staff: Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian)

Summer Volunteers enjoyed ice cream and played board games in celebration of their hard work this summer.

Adult Program Highlights

Comparing the Genealogy Big Four: Ancestry, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, and MyHeritage

Date: August 25

Attendance: 35

Staff: Lance Garrison (Adult Library Services Librarian)

Caron Primas Brennan presented these popular databases for genealogy research.

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Computer Classes

Sessions: 12

Attendance: 49

Staff: Erin Bigger-Goldlust (Digital Services & Instruction Librarian) & Lance Garrison (Adult Library Services Librarian)

Popular classes this month were ChatGPT, Canva, Pixler, and Excel. Lance continued observing some classes and assisted with the Drop-in Tech Help days.

Senior Program Highlights

Senior Social: Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement

Date: August 18

Attendance: 50

Staff: Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian)

Chris Vallilo performed songs of the Civil Rights movement on six different guitars (see right image).



Chris Vallilo performs during the August Senior Social

Presentations and Performances for Adults

Community Concert with Mark Dvorak

Date: August 3

Attendance: 52

Staff: Stephanie Howes (Adult Library Services Assistant Manager)

Mark Dvorak hosted a Community Concert with participants encouraged to bring an item to donate to Outreach House. Donations were dropped off at Outreach House in mid-August.

Small Business Ownership with Soapy Roads of Lombard

Date: August 27

Attendance: 32

Staff: Courtney Rose Welsh (Adult Library Services Programming Librarian)

Brooke Bingaman presented on starting a small business.

Studio 411 Program Highlights

Parent and Child Craft: Wooden Sign

Date: August 9

Attendance: 24 (2 sessions)

Staff: Cate Hoadley (Youth Services Assistant Manager) & Melisa Martinez (Studio 411 Supervisor)

Families made wooden signs using paint and vinyl pieces from the Cricut machine (see right image). It was the first time in the Studio for many of the adults. They appreciated the opportunity to create something with their children.



Finished Bluey sign from the Parent and Child Craft: Wooden Sign.

Studio 411: Create a Color-Changing Cup Using Sublimation

Date: August 11

Attendance: 15

Staff: Melisa Martinez (Studio 411 Supervisor)

Patrons used the Sawgrass SG500 Sublimation Printer and cup press to decorate a cup (see below right image).

Studio 411: Layered Wooden Floral Art

Date: August 5 & 12

Attendance: 17

Staff: Melisa Martinez (Studio 411 Supervisor) & Afra Siddiqui (Adult Library Services Associate II)

Patrons painted a 3D art piece cut using the Epilog Fusion Maker Laser Cutter and Engraver.



An example of a color-changing cup made with sublimation.

Collection Management

LibraryIQ: LibraryIQ is now available for all selectors. Training sessions were held in August. LibraryIQ provides tools for making data-driven collection management decisions, including circulation trends, over- and understocked areas based on usage, recommendations based on bestseller and award lists, diversity analyses, custom report builder, and more. Selectors appreciate the clear information Library IQ provides for collection management.

StackMap: StackMap locations were enabled for some collections on the 2nd floor, including Teen materials. The adult collection shifting project is underway; additional areas will be added following completion.

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Interlibrary Loan: Patrons are finding and using our Interlibrary Loans services. We experienced an influx of requests, when one patron requested nearly 100 items via FindMore within the span of a couple of weeks. We currently do not limit the number of FindMore requests, but we are evaluating that practice. As a reference, requests placed through WorldCat currently have a limit of eight requests per week per patron.

Renewals: Patron manual renewal settings were updated. Previously, patrons could manually renew borrowed items the maximum number of times immediately after checkout to extend the loan period to nine weeks. Following the update, patrons cannot manually renew items more than one week before the due date or, for items with one-week checkouts, more than three days before the due date. These changes do not affect the automatic renewal system already in place.

Bilingual Books: Alejandra Guzman (Youth Services Library Associate II) is researching bilingual storytime books to add to our Professional Collection as she plans our monthly Cuentos en Español (Spanish storytime) in the fall.

Patron Engagement

Marketing Engagement

Top social media post of the month: Our most-viewed post of the month was a [video collaboration](#) with Bourbonnais Public Library (BPL) with over 4,400 views. After a meeting and tour, we created a popular video.

Email Newsletters: Email newsletters are delivered to patrons every other week. We have a total of **26,775** email subscribers. Individual subscribers may receive more than one targeted email newsletter. For example, a parent may receive Elementary and Middle School Newsletters for their children as well as the Adult Newsletter. Additionally, the NextReads newsletter is a reader's advisory service with a total of **349** subscribers. Adult patrons can sign up on our [website](#) and select from a number of reader's advisory tracks.

Staff Updates

New Staff:

- Griselda Hernandez, Patron Services Assistant
- Kalan Naylor, Patron Services Assistant
- Kimberly Sipek, Community Engagement Coordinator

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Exiting Staff:

- Isabella Herrera, Home Delivery Specialist
- Laurie Kells, Patron Services Assistant
- Clover Dort, Shelving Assistant

A current list of job openings is available on our website: [Employment Opportunities | Helen Plum Library](#).

Facilities Updates

Building Updates: Phil Lucas (Facility & Security Services Manager) coordinates building maintenance, repair, and ongoing testing.

- Chair rail and other wall protection samples have arrived. Order and installation are coming soon.
- Exterior window cleaning has been scheduled.
- Multiple carpet spots cleaned, and paint touch-ups completed throughout the building.
- The lighting driver arrived for the nonfunctional ceiling fixture in the Hub.
- A technician came out in mid-August to repair the Drive-Up window. Staff have not reported any further issues.

Meetings, Training, & Continuing Education

Staff Training

COD Practicum Student: This fall, the Library welcomes College of DuPage (COD) practicum student Michelle Moreno. Michelle will be training with staff throughout the Library to learn all about how libraries work. Her first shift was Friday, August 29. She will work with us through early December. We are grateful for the opportunity to support this program as several of our team members have earned or are working towards an LTA (Library Technical Assistant) from COD.

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Meetings and Professional Development	
August 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helen Plum Library Foundation Meeting (Tyler Works)
August 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LMCC Marketing Committee Meeting (Emily Bradshaw)
August 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board of Trustees Special Meeting
August 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Administrative Assistant Networking Group meeting via Zoom (Jenn Ferguson)• Northern IL Library Facility Managers meeting (Phil Lucas)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Luzeniecki led a building tour for Batavia Public Library staff
August 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ILA Marketing Forum meeting (Emily Bradshaw)• Completed a 6-week cataloging basics course hosted by Illinois Heartland Library System's Cataloging Maintenance Center (Skye Palumbo)• Attended the first meeting of the ILA 2026 Conference Planning Committee (Alex Vancina)
August 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board of Trustees Meeting• WILIUG Steering Committee meeting (Alex Vancina & Tim Mayse-Lillig)
August 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management meeting
August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated the IUG Sierra System Administration forum via Zoom (Alex Vancina)

Staff Glossary:

Emily Bradshaw – Content Coordinator

Jenn Ferguson – Executive Assistant

Phil Lucas – Facility & Security Services Manager

Anne Luzeniecki – Executive Director

Tim Mayse-Lillig – Cataloging & Systems Librarian

Skye Palumbo – Acquisition Specialist

Alex Vancina – Technology & Metadata Services Manager

Tyler Works – Assistant Director