

Patron Engagement

Adult Winter Reading Bingo

279 patrons participated in the winter reading challenge, which ran from December 1–February 2. 2,735 bingo squares were earned over the three months. Four winners were chosen at random and received gift cards.

Marketing Engagement

Top social media post of the month: Our most viewed and engaged with post in February was an Instagram image carousel of [book recommendations based on your favorite Muppet](#). It has over 66K views, which is higher than normal for a non-video post.

Mention on Kidlist: Local blog Kidlist featured Helen Plum on their annual list of [“10 Best Children’s Libraries with Play Areas.”](#)

Universal Class post results: On Feb 24, we posted an [Instagram carousel](#) featuring the wide variety of class options on Universal Class. Daily usage of Universal Class increased by over 60 uses the day after the post went up.

Email Newsletters: Delivered to patrons every other week. We have a total of **27,572** 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 **380** subscribers. Adult patrons can sign up on our [website](#) and select from a number of reader’s advisory tracks.



Program Highlights

Family Program Highlights

Mo Willems Party

Date: February 11

Attendance: 86

Staff: Cate Hoadley (Youth Services Assistant Manager), Joey Vichio (Library Associate II) & Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II)

Families celebrated beloved author Mo Willems' birthday with community crafts, an obstacle course, and more.

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Wonder Lab: Human Body

Date: February 23

Attendance: 48 (two sessions)

Staff: Tricia Nelson (Early Childhood Librarian), Joey Vichio (Library Associate II) & Jeannie Arinyanontakoon (Library Associate II)

Children explored different hands-on activities based on the human body. (See top right image).

Early Childhood Program Highlights

Tooth Talk with Bloom Pediatric Dentistry

Date: February 19

Attendance: 18

Staff: Tricia Nelson (Early Childhood Librarian)

Bloom Pediatric Dentistry visited the Library to share an interactive program about good brushing habits, cavity prevention, and the importance of visiting the dentist. Participants were invited to help the kangaroo brush his toothy smile. (See below right image).

Elementary Program Highlights

Watercolor and Crayon Art

Date: February 17

Attendance: 11

Staff: Alejandra Guzman (Library Associate II) & Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian)

Kids joined us for a guided drawing with white crayons and then painted with watercolors to see their picture appear.

After the guided drawing, participants created their own drawings. Some kids made self-portraits and others a picture of their family.

Spy School

Date: February 27

Attendance: 37 (two sessions)

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

Spy School engaged both K–2 and 3–5 groups in spy activities. Lombard’s newest spies received an alias and disguises. Then, spies trained using observational skills to spot differences, decoding



Participants exploring the red and white blood cell water sensory table at Wonder Lab: Human Body.



Children demonstrating their brushing skills with Bloom Pediatric Dentistry.

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ciphers using Lego, and completed a fake laser course. Finally, they created spy gadgets (pom-pom launchers for the K–2 group and LED flashlights for the 3–5 group). Many spies successfully left *Spy School* unrecognizable, even to their caregivers. (See right image.)

Teen Program Highlights

Beaded Plants

Date: February 18

Attendance: 8

Staff: Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian)

Teens crafted unique plants using wire and beads.

Presentations and Performances for Adults

Historical Highlights of the Chicago Auto Show

Date: February 6

Attendance: 27

Staff: Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian)

Car expert, Mitch Frumkin, presented historical highlights of the Chicago auto show.

Family History 101: Beginning Your Investigation

Date: February 23

Attendance: 27

Staff: David Gogo (Genealogy Librarian)

Professional genealogist, Ray Johnson, shared how to begin investigating your family history.

Senior Program Highlights

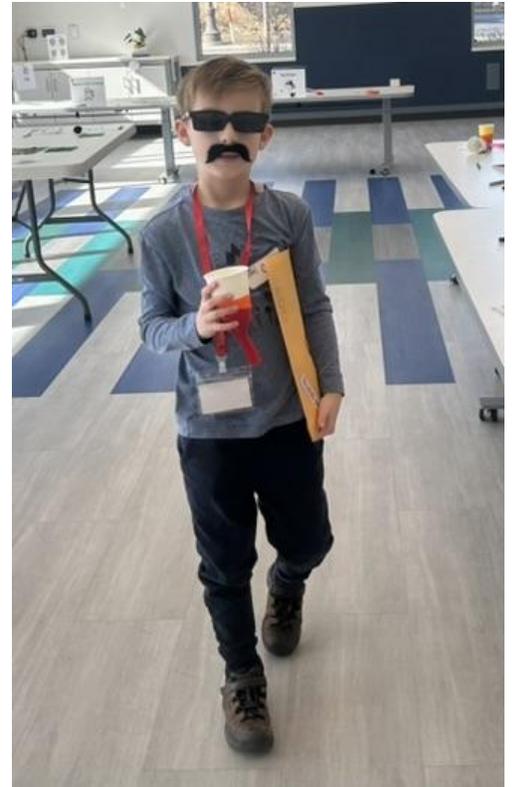
Senior Social: Audrey Hepburn as Portrayed by Leslie Goddard

Date: February 16

Attendance: 81

Staff: Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian)

HPL favorite Leslie Goddard performed and presented an information program on Audrey Hepburn. (See right image.)



A newly graduated spy from *Spy School* leaving the program, unrecognizable to his caregiver, with his name badge, disguise, and spy gadget.



A packed house for the Senior Social!

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Celebratory Events

Studio 411: Ramadan Calendar Stand

Date: February 3

Attendance: 15

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

Patrons painted a pre-cut calendar stand to count down the days of Ramadan. Attendee feedback on this event was positive.

Love Stories from History: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Date: February 4

Attendance: 32

Staff: Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian)

Romantic comedy filmmaker, Lorrisa Julianus, shared true love stories from history.

Studio 411: Scrappy Heart Block Banner

Date: February 6

Attendance: 9

Staff: Melisa Martinez (Studio 411 Supervisor)

Patrons made a banner using square blocks. (See right image.)



The Scrappy Heart Block Banner project.

Studio 411: Wooden Valentine's Day Decor Drop-in

Date: February 13

Attendance: 16

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

Patrons made a jar of hearts out of pre-cut pieces.

Community Connections

Lombard Chamber of Commerce 2026 Lunar New Year Lunch: Michelle Kilty (Adult Library Services Manager) and Ginger Kearney (Board of Trustees Treasurer) attended the luncheon, held on February 18. Attendees learned about the Domestic Violence QR Code Initiative, a program designed to quickly and safely help individuals affected by domestic violence. Judge Ann Celine Walsh, Chairperson of the Family Violence Coordinating Council, shared how the collaborative initiative brings community partners together to better support survivors. Supplies to help support the initiative have been requested.

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Community Connections Fair

Date: February 6

Attendance: 148

Partner: District 44

Staff: Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian)

Held at the District 44 Connect Center, the Community Connections Fair hosted families and staff from District 44 schools. Deidre chatted with numerous people interested in the Library's services along with many familiar Library users. The Fair was also an opportunity to speak with District 44 teachers and administrators.

Preschool Outreach Visit

Date: February 25

Attendance: 67

Partner: Co-Op Preschool

Staff: Tricia Nelson (Early Childhood Librarian) & Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II)

Tricia and Julia shared stories and rhymes with five classes throughout the morning and afternoon.

Keep it Safe

Date: February 25

Attendance: 20

Partner: BMO Bank

Staff: Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian)

Staff from our neighbors at BMO bank presented ways to prevent identity theft.

Additional Services

Find More Illinois Email Notifications: Staff learned that patrons hadn't been receiving email notifications from Find More Illinois when their holds came in. The Find More support team determined that an update in early January had created the issues, and Katie Horner (Patron Services Manager) worked with them to reinstate email notifications. Feedback from patrons indicates that everything is working properly again.

Knowledge Exchange Book Recycling: Knowledge Exchange (KE) partners with libraries to redistribute books that are no longer needed. In 2025, Helen Plum Library donated an estimated 11,100 pounds of materials, more than double the amount donated in 2024. KE provided a 2025 Environmental Impact Report based on the donated materials, noting 69+ trees saved, 229,000+ gallons of water saved, and 96,000+ pounds of CO₂ saved.

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Seed Library: David Gogo (Adult Services Librarian) is coordinating the new [Seed Library](#). Currently, seeds are being organized into packets and will be available soon. Patrons are also encouraged to donate seeds to help maintain the collection.

Facilities Updates

Comcast Gigabit Fiber: Comcast installed the new gigabit fiber internet service before opening on February 16. This replaced the Library's Comcast cable Internet service and will provide a faster and more reliable connection for staff and patrons.

EV Chargers: The Library's electric vehicle charges are no longer functioning and need to be replaced. The Library is in the process of purchasing two new chargers with a Charging Station Management System (CSMS). This should help keep the Library's chargers up and running long term as we will be less reliant on a vendor.

Original Helen Plum Library Sign: The Library's original wooden sign, conserved by The Conservation Center with funding support from the Helen Plum Library Foundation, has been returned. A commemorative plaque is on order, and the sign will be installed above the seasonal Plum House painting near the 2nd floor Conference Room in late March.

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

- Tee Jay Doors replaced eight failing hinges on the entryway doors.
- The chair rail installation started. Teen study rooms have been completed.
- The staff stairway will be cleaned and sealed soon.
- A panic button was installed under the Youth Services Desk. Prior to opening the current facilities, panic buttons were installed at the Patrons Services Welcome Desk and the Adult Library Services Desk.
- Blacktop sealing for the parking lot has been scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend.
- A patron ran over a handicap sign. He is okay. The sign will be replaced.

Meetings, Training, & Continuing Education

COD Practicum Student: This spring, the Library welcomes College of DuPage (COD) practicum student Mark Arellano. Mark will train with staff throughout the Library to learn all about how public libraries work. Mark began his practicum in February and will work with us through early May. We are grateful for the opportunity to support the COD Library Technical Assistant (LTA) program.

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CPR & AED Training: Two sessions of CPR & AED training were held for staff on February 27. The training included updated guidelines for administering CPR, which staff were able to practice on provided CPR dummies. Staff were also able to learn about proper use of the AED machine, along with a practical demonstration of the AED devices available within the Library.

February 2

- National Library Week Planning Meeting (Kristie Leslie, Emily Bradshaw, Steph Koblich & Kimberly Sipek)

February 3

- Management Meeting: Annual Priorities

February 6

- Cohosted the LACONI Technical Services Acquisitions Roundup program showcasing products and services from library material vendors (Alex Vancina)

February 10

- Northern Illinois Library Facility Managers Quarterly Meeting (Phil Lucas)

February 17

- Lilac Parade Committee Meeting
- Board of Trustees Meeting

February 18

- Management Meeting: Strategic Priorities & Initiatives FY 2026/2027
- LACONI Governing Board Meeting (Alex Vancina)

February 19

- District 88: Citizens Task Force Meeting (Anne Luzeniecki)

February 20

- 2026 ILA Conference Planning Committee meeting (Alex Vancina)

February 24

- All Staff Meetings

February 25

- Presented the Aspen Academy webinar, “Navigating Aspen and Sierra with Confidence” (Tim Mayse-Lillig)

February 28

- RAILS Board Meeting in Burr Ridge (Alex Vancina)

Meeting Attendees Glossary:

Emily Bradshaw – Content Coordinator

Steph Koblich – Graphic Designer

Kristie Leslie – Marketing Manager

Tim Mayse-Lillig – Cataloging & Systems Librarian

Phil Lucas – Facility & Security Services Manager

Anne Luzeniecki – Executive Director

Kimberly Sipek – Community Outreach
Coordinator

Alex Vancina – Technology & Metadata Services
Manager