

### Patron Engagement

**Book Bike:** The Library has purchased [a tricycle style book bike](#) with support from the Helen Plum Library Foundation. The book bike includes a branded, front cargo box that staff can use to transport library items, program supplies, and other materials to locations in the community. Staff plan to use it for pop-up storytimes and local engagement events, such as the Lilac Parade. The Library’s goal is to increase the reach and visibility of staff in the community in a fun and engaging way. Delivery is expected by April 2026.

**Website Homepage Update:** Library Staff completed a redesign of the homepage and launched it on January 13.

- **Access:** Facilitate quick access to core library services and improve access for mobile device users (55% of our website traffic comes from mobile devices)
- **Promotions:** Boost library services, resources, and programs
- **Communication:** Share key messages, such as what is important to the Library and reinforce our Mission/Vision/Strategic Goals
- **Engagement:** Encourage engagement and actions

The primary changes include:

- **New featured content blocks:** For highlighting programs, resources, and services. Will update monthly.
- **Updated quick links:** Adding "Calendar" and "Reserve a Room" buttons.
- **New book list sliders:** Monthly picks for all age groups that link to Aspen lists.
- **New Featured Event category:** For highlighting specific programs on the homepage.

These updates better position the homepage as an entry point to discovering and accessing key Library’s services. The website team will monitor and assess homepage usage and make needed adjustments to ensure it aligns with the Library’s goals and meets the needs of its users.

### Marketing Engagement

**Top social media post of the month:** Our most-viewed social media post of January was [a photo](#) of the Fiber Arts Group on Facebook. It received 13.2K views and had over 100 “likes.”

**Email Newsletters:** Delivered to patrons every other week. We have a total of **27,586** 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 **378** subscribers. Adult patrons can sign up on our [website](#) and select from a number of reader’s advisory tracks.

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

**New NextReads Genre:** Starting in January, the Library added Historical Fiction to the lineup of NextReads email offerings. It already has 27 subscribers.

### Program Highlights

#### Family Program Highlights

##### **Storytime with Glinda**

**Date:** January 19

**Attendance:** 150

**Staff:** Tricia Nelson (Early Childhood Librarian), Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II), Joey Vichio (Library Associate II) & Cate Hoadley (Assistant Manager)

Glinda traveled all the way from the Land of Oz to bring families a magical storytime (see right image). It was a *popular* event attended by lots of littles in costumes, and it received numerous rave reviews by grownups.



Families enjoying Storytime with Glinda.

#### Elementary Program Highlights

##### **Kid Chemists**

**Date:** January 22

**Attendance:** 13

**Staff:** Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian) & Abi Caskey (Library Associate II)

Thirteen K–2 kids experimented with baking soda, vinegar, soap, and more to produce chemical reactions (see right image). They measured, predicted, observed, and drew conclusions about the substances they worked with. They also prepared and left with their own polymer: slime!



Two young scientists observing different chemical reactions.

#### Teen Program Highlights

##### **3D Printed Keychains**

**Date:** January 7

**Attendance:** 11

**Staff:** Deidre Winterhalter (Elementary Services Librarian) & Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian)

Middle Schoolers created letter keychains by learning or developing skills in the 3D Design software, *Tinkercad*. Participants learned how to size, merge, and change object properties.

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

### ***Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting***

**Date:** January 10

**Attendance:** 12

**Staff:** Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian) & Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II)

TAB Members completed an analysis of Teen Library Services using a SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) framework to provide feedback. (See above right image.)



The TAB provides feedback on Teen Library Services.

### **Adult Library Program Highlights**

#### ***HPL Puzzle Exchange***

**Date:** January 10

**Attendance:** 140

**Staff:** Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian) & Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II)

The puzzle exchange featured over 550 donated puzzles (see right image), and over 120 people visited in the first hour. At the end of the day, only 12 puzzles remained. Another exchange is planned for July.



Tables full of puzzles at the Puzzle Exchange.

### **Senior Program Highlights**

#### ***Senior Social: Remember When?***

**Date:** January 19

**Attendance:** 50

**Staff:** Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian)

Humorist Todd Hunt presented various pop culture phenomenon over the years. (See right image.)



Patrons enjoying the Senior Social: Remember When?

### **Presentations and Performances for Adults**

#### ***Sunday Music Series: Robyn Vitson***

**Date:** January 11

**Attendance:** 27

**Staff:** Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian)

Patrons warmed up on a chilly afternoon with music from the vocalist.

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

### ***New Year Healing Meditation***

**Date:** January 14

**Attendance:** 12

**Staff:** Katie Cortesi (Senior Outreach Librarian)

Umesh Bhatia presented on meditation and its benefits.

### ***Cut the Chaos, Reduce the Stress: The Impact of Good Time and Task Management***

**Date:** January 28

**Attendance:** 52

**Staff:** Courtney Rose Welsh (Programming Librarian)

Jennifer Barnes of JB Organizing gave practical tips on task management and organization strategies.

### **Studio 411 Program Highlight**

#### ***Studio 411: Paper Rose Shadow Box***

**Date:** January 27

**Attendance:** 14

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

Patrons created a shadow box made of paper roses using pre-cut pieces from the Cricut. (See right image.)



The paper rose shadow box.

## **Community Connections**

### ***Improv Workshop***

**Date:** January 6

**Attendance:** 21

**Partner:** Reality DuPage (DuPage County Health Department)

**Staff:** Caitlin Atkinson (Teen Librarian)

Teens participated in various games and activities to help develop social and emotional skills. Activities were presented by group therapists from Compass Health Center – Oak Brook.

### ***Kindergarten Storytime Visit***

**Date:** January 21

**Attendance:** 70

**Partner:** Madison Elementary School

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

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

Madison Elementary Kindergarten students enjoyed stories, songs and rhymes, and a snowman craft. Alejandra delighted students in the bilingual classroom with her Spanish version of *The Truth About the Couch* by Adam Rubin, with accompanying Spanish songs and rhymes.

### ***Elementary School Visit***

**Date:** January 28

**Attendance:** 21

**Partner:** Pleasant Lane Elementary School

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

As part of District 44's "Mini-Course" initiative for students to experience a variety of non-school classes, Pleasant Lane School invited Helen Plum Youth Services staff to share a storytime and craft with K–2 students. Staff presented animal themed books, songs, and a tiger puppet craft.

### ***Partners in Play: It's a Zoo***

**Date:** January 28

**Attendance:** 121

**Partner:** The Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative & The DuPage Children's Museum

**Staff:** Tricia Nelson (Early Childhood Librarian), Cate Hoadley (Assistant Manager) & Julia Kindelin (Library Associate II)

Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative (GECC) and the DuPage Children's Museum brought their interactive zoo and habitat exhibit to the library. Families appreciated this unique experience and the wonderful literacy-rich giveaways GECC was able to provide.

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## Additional Services

**Blinkist:** In early January, the Library added Blinkist to our online resources. Blinkist provides summaries of adult non-fiction titles in text or audio formats. Summaries are made by humans (not AI) and approved by book publishers.

**Museum Adventure Pass:** Due to continual high demand, the Library expanded pass availability to 12 passes per site, which is the maximum allowed.

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## Facilities Updates

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

- A "No Parking" sign was installed for the drive-up window/outdoor book drop area.

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

- Fire alarm and sprinkler inspections were held. There were no deficiencies.
- HVAC filters in the building have been replaced.

**Comcast Gigabit Fiber:** Comcast finished construction of a gigabit fiber Internet circuit to the Library in January. The Library is now working on completing the installation process in the server room and expects to switch over from Comcast cable service in February.

**EV Chargers:** The EV chargers have been offline for an extended period. The vendor has been contacted, and staff hope to have a solution to the problem soon.

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## Meetings, Training, & Continuing Education

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January 7

- Speaker Assistance & Resources Subcommittee Meeting for the 2026 ILA Conference (Alex Vancina)
- Completed *Budgeting for Libraries* online course from Carl Vinson Institute of Government at University of Georgia online (Anne Luzeniecki)

January 9

- Management Meetings: Employee Evaluation Procedures & Customer Service Training Objectives for Staff

January 12

- Building Tour & Meeting with Village President Anthony Puccio, Village Manager Scott Niehaus, Assistant Village Manager Nicole Aranas, and HPL Board President Allison Pinkett-Floyd (Anne Luzeniecki)

January 13 & January 30

- Meetings with HPLF leadership (Anne Luzeniecki)

January 20

- Lilac Parade Committee Meeting
- Board of Trustees Meeting

January 21

- Lilac Time Meeting with members of the Village, Lombard Park District, and Lombard Historical Society (Kimberly Sipek)

January 23

- Management Meeting: 2026/2027 Priority Planning
- RAILS Board Meeting in Burr Ridge (Alex Vancina)

## JANUARY 2026 – LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

January 26

- Library tour with Rep. Margaret DeLaRosa (Anne Luzeniecki)
- RAILS Consortia Committee Meeting (Alex Vancina)
- District 88: Citizens Task Force Meeting (Anne Luzeniecki)

January 27

- All Staff Meetings
- Kickoff meeting for the Look at Lombard Committee (Kimberly Sipek)
- LACONI Governing Board Meeting (Alex Vancina)

### **Staff Glossary:**

Anne Luzeniecki – Executive Director

Kimberly Sipek – Community Engagement Coordinator

Alex Vancina – Technology & Metadata Services Manager