Library Trends Shape Future Services

Our Annual Report gives us the chance to take stock of the past year’s statistics, note how our patrons use the Library’s collections and services, and identify new and interesting patterns. The COVID-19 pandemic and our brief closure during our return to our renovated space at One South Sixth Avenue influenced some of these trends; others reflect the community’s shifting interests. The Library uses these developments to adapt quickly to current reality and anticipate future changes in our community.

The Move to Digital

We saw a significant rise in the use of our digital collections by more patrons, and checkouts of our eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital movies and music significantly increased. Existing users increased their usage during the pandemic and when our physical materials were not readily available. We noted many new users who consequently enjoyed the ease and convenience of checking out digital items. Like commercial streaming services, we saw an increase in demand for TV series, which this year eclipsed patron requests for movies on DVD. Our most popular TV series was checked out 235 times compared to 140 checkouts for our number one movie. The most popular TV series were Yellowstone, New Tricks and Game of Thrones.

Via the Library’s streaming video services, Kanopy and Hoopla Digital, patrons enjoyed award-winning feature films, documentaries, educational and international content. Our digital collections meet patrons at their point of need and are available 24/7 every day of the year. Exploring documentaries and movies from around the world let our patrons who may not have had easy access to the library (or may not have been leaving home at all) a window to the world.

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Total Circulation
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Circulations</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print</td>
<td>329,655</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaming</td>
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Continued on page 2.
Out of necessity and some pretty impressive staff invention, virtual programming for all ages skyrocketed. We reached new audiences who were previously unable to attend in-person programs and provided a convenient alternative when in-person programs were impossible. Based on community feedback, virtual programs are here to stay as they meet our patrons’ need for convenient viewing on their schedules. The Library will continue to provide a mix of virtual and in-person programming, reaching more patrons and providing options that work best for various schedules and needs.

This past year, we created fun and enriching programs with the addition of our Grab n’ Go kits and Early Literacy Parenting bags. We continue to adapt and expand these popular services for all ages.

**Collaborative Spaces**

The demand for individual workstations and study rooms will increase as some employers permanently offer remote work options. In addition, the community demand for collaborative spaces existed pre-pandemic. The Library offers places for people to study, host in-person meetings, and join virtual meetings using our state-of-art technology. Our newly-renovated community rooms provide businesses, service organizations and local community groups the opportunity to meet and collaborate.

**Community Partnerships**

Collaborative partnerships with local businesses and organizations continue to grow. We work with the St. Charles Park District, St. Charles History Museum, School District 303, and various local business and service groups to help us increase the reach of library services. In partnership with the Park District we provide a wide variety of youth and teen recreational programs such as Movies in the Park and the StoryWalk®. We worked closely with local groups and agencies for job seekers and launched a Job Board at the Library. We expanded our Outreach Service’s delivery and programs to new senior living centers. We also collaborate with area libraries to offer large-scale virtual programs for popular authors that we could not afford on our own.

**Looking Ahead**

In addition to keeping our eyes on statistics, we also read library literature and follow entertainment and publishing trends. We want to hear from you and conduct at least one community survey on a topic each year. In addition, we collect evaluations for programs, note purchase requests for our collections, and read all of your comments and suggestions. In addition to suggestions for improvement, we would love to know what you love – so we can give you more of it. Thank you for using your public library!
2nd Tuesday Book Discussion

The Library offers two book discussion groups: Mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

December 14 • Carnegie Community Room
Morning & Evening
Amoralman by Derek DelGaudio • 793.8 DEL
The December meeting will also include time to share about any books you enjoyed in 2021.

January 11 • Bisbee Conference Room
Morning & Evening
Northern Light by Kazim Ali • B ALI

February 8 • Bisbee Conference Room
Morning
The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris • FIC HARRIS

Evening
Chasing Me to My Grave by Winfred Rembert • 759.13 REM

What the Staff is Reading

The Overdue Life of Amy Byler
Kelly Harms • FIC HARMS
A warm and witty novel featuring a single mom who makes the most of an unexpected week-long (child-free) vacation in New York.

We Are All the Same in the Dark
Julie Heaberlin • FIC HEABERLIN
A page-turning, psychological thriller that takes place in a small Texas town involving a cold case and an abandoned girl. You will stay up late to finish it!

A Bad Day for Sunshine
Darynda Jones • FIC JONES
First in an exciting new series, it will make you laugh out loud and leave you wanting more. This might be the author’s best yet and a terrific audiobook, too. Perfect for those who enjoy Janet Evanovich.

Great Circle
Maggie Shipstead • FIC SHIPSTEAD
This sweeping historical saga about family, independence, love, art, flying and storytelling is an enjoyable epic tale.

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake
Tiya Miles • 306.362 MIL
A renowned historian traces the life of a single object handed down through three generations of Black women, weaving beautiful stories together and revealing how objects and their stories connect generations and represent a mother’s love.

Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist’s Memoir of the Jim Crow South
Winfred Rembert • 759.13 REM
An artist, who learned his trade while imprisoned, tells his life story. His story is illustrated with his many works of art, which are both privately owned and exhibited in museums.

Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat
Johnny Marciano • J MARCIANO
Prepare yourself to meet Klawde—a most unusual cat. This Bluestem Award nominee is SO fun—and explains so much about housecats.

Friends’ Meeting

Saturday, February 12 • 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Huntley Community Room
The Friends of St. Charles Public Library is an adult organization that raises funds to provide special programs and equipment that is beyond the Library’s regular budget. Join the group at their regular meeting. Guests are always welcome. DROP IN

Program Information

Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Books, Bites, and Brews

Thursdays • December 2 • February 3 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Riverlands Brewing Company, 1860 Dean Street, Unit A, St. Charles
Join us at our book club for adults 21 and over, held at Riverlands Brewing Company. Pizza will be provided by the Library. Participants are responsible for their own drinks and literary opinions. Our December read will be *The Little Shop of Found Things* by Paula Brackston. Our February read will be *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden. 
*St. Charles Public Library cardholders only.*  
**REGISTER**

Charlotte Bronte: The Stifled Writer *

Tuesday, December 7 • 1:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Meet Charlotte Brontë, the passionate author. Hear the story behind the written words, and learn how she, the middle child of six, survived to share their collected narratives. Visit with Charlotte in 1847, as portrayed by Laura Keyes, as she reflects on her emotionally-charged experiences. Ultimately, she must decide whether or not to submit her deeply personal manuscript of *Jane Eyre* to be published.  
*Sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library Foundation.*

Board Game Night

Wednesdays • 6:00-8:30 p.m.
December 15 • Huntley Community Room
January 19 • Carnegie Community Room
February 16 • Huntley Community Room
Join us to play games like Catan, Ticket to Ride and other modern games. Meet up with fellow board gamers. Bring a favorite game to teach new players or grab one from our collection. Find us on Meetup.com for more information under Board Games @ St. Charles Public Library.  
**REGISTER** or **DROP IN**

St. Charles Writers Group

Saturdays • 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. • Huntley Community Room
A workshop for novice or experienced writers that meets the second and the fourth Saturday of each month. The group, facilitated by Lisa Macaione, is open to all those 18 years of age or older looking for a community of writers and to improve their writing. All genres are welcome. **DROP IN**

- December 11: Literary Analysis: George Saunders
- December 18: Annual Holiday Reading by group members. The public is invited.
- January 8: New Year’s Writing Goals
- January 22: Comma Chameleon
- February 12: Writers of the Harlem Renaissance
- February 26: Revising for POV

History of the Elgin Mental Hospital

Thursday, January 13 • 1:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room
Author and historian Bill Briska will discuss the history of the Elgin Mental Hospital. As a 28-year employee and the facility's volunteer historian, Briska has authored a book on the hospital's history.  
*This program is in partnership with the Thornapple Questers.*

**REGISTER**

Architectural Tour of the World *

Tuesday, January 18 • 1:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room
Buckle your seat belts and get ready for a surprising tour. Educational entertainer Martina Mathisen will take us around the globe to discover the fantastic structures that have stunned the world. This program is open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders ages 18 and older. If space is available after November 30, non-cardholders may register. **REGISTER**

*Sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library Foundation.*

Great Decisions

Thursdays • 7:00 p.m. • Bisbee Conference Room
January 20: The End of Globalization (2021 briefing booklet)
February 17: Changing Demographics (2022 briefing booklet)
Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. The Great Decision discussion group is intended to stimulate a discussion of foreign policy issues. Participants may check out a copy of the briefing book at the Library. Participants should be ready to discuss the article prior to participation. **DROP IN**
Adult Programs

Gardening Programs

Houseplants 101

Tuesday, January 11 • 6:00-7:15 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Discover the fundamentals of indoor houseplant care with emphasis on lighting and watering basics. Learn about several species of indoor plants that work well in low-light homes and understand how to prevent, identify and troubleshoot pests and diseases in your indoor garden. Presented by Julia Zoltowsky of the Chicago Botanic Garden. REGISTER

Propagating Succulents

Tuesday, February 1 • 6:00-7:15 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Learn the anatomy and physiology of cacti and succulents as well as the cultural significance of some species. Become well-versed in the process of propagating a variety of succulents with different techniques. Presented by Julia Zoltowsky of the Chicago Botanic Garden. REGISTER

Genealogy Programs

Organizing for Genealogists

Wednesday, December 1 • 7:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Organizing your genealogy information so that you can find what you want when you want it can be a daunting task. Get tips from professional genealogist Caron Brennan on how to keep records in digital and print-based formats. REGISTER

Getting the Most out of AncestryDNA

Friday, February 4 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. OR Friday, February 18 1:00-2:30 p.m. • Computer Lab
You spit in the tube, mailed it to Ancestry, and now you have your AncestryDNA results...what do they mean? How do you get more out of that list of DNA Matches? This hands-on workshop will focus on what you can learn from looking at the Matches Predicted Relationship, the amount of Shared DNA, the Matches’ tree and Shared Matches to help determine who might be the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). Prerequisite: You must have the results of an AncestryDNA test and an account with Ancestry.com to participate. This program is limited to eight participants. The classes are the same; please register for only one. This program is open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders ages 18 and older until November 30. If space is available after November 30, non-cardholders may register. REGISTER

Lincoln on Slavery, Emancipation and Equality*

Thursday, February 10 • 1:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room
President Lincoln shares his ever-evolving perspectives on the subjects of slavery, emancipation and equality, including the relationship between the white and black races during his times. Lincoln, as portrayed by Kevin Wood, gives a brief summary of the long history of slavery in North America, focusing especially on the great debates and compromises over slavery at the time of the formation of the United States and during the subsequent 80 years. REGISTER *Sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library Foundation.

Genealogy in the Afternoon

Thursday, February 17 • 1:00-4:00 p.m. • Computer Lab
Do you need a few quiet hours to work on your family tree? Are you looking for help breaking down a brick wall? Stop by the Library on Thursday afternoon for our first Genealogy in the Afternoon. Use the time to search the Library’s databases in our Computer Lab or look through the Library’s vast collection of research materials. Our Genealogy Librarian and Program Coordinator will be there to answer questions or guide you in the right direction. Stay for a few minutes or a few hours. REGISTER or DROP IN

Program Information

Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Cooking Programs

The Great British Baking Tour*

Wednesday, December 8 • 1:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Join UK travel/relocation consultant and former UK resident Claire Evans for a delightful culinary tour of the UK, inspired by “The Great British Bake Off” television series. Learn about making a proper cup of tea, regional specialties, their origins and the particular parts of the UK they hail from. She’ll translate the trickiest parts of British recipes for Americans so you can try them in your own kitchen.

REGISTER *Sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library Foundation.

Cookbook Club

Thursdays • 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Huntley Community Room

December 16:
The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook by Emily Ansara Baines

January 20:
Eat a Little Better: Great Flavor, Good Health, Better World by Sam Kass

February 17: Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of African American Cooking by Toni Tipton-Martin

Each month, experience new recipes, sample scrumptious foods and discover cookbooks with our Cookbook Club. Try one or two recipes from the cookbook and come with reviews to discuss. Samples are optional. This program is open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders ages 18 and older. Books are available near the Research & Reading desk on the main floor. REGISTER

Chicago Deep Dish Pizza

Thursday, February 24 • 7:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Cooking instructor and certified family health coach Kristyn Slick will demonstrate how to make THE famed Chicago-style deep dish pizza from scratch, plus get a great food history lesson about this classic, too! Ingredient and tool lists will be provided. REGISTER

February Programs

January 16: The Alba Quartet Celebrates Mozart*
The Alba quartet (flute, violin, viola, cello) performs a program of the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his contemporaries interspersed with fun facts about the man and his life (and death!).

January 30: AnDréa James and Valerie Bollero
"Not" All By Myself: When Pop Steals from the Classics
What do Celine Dion and Rachmaninoff have in common? What about Elvis and Bach? Or Billy Joel and Beethoven? Classical music has been inspiring pop music for decades through its melodies and chord progressions. This new collaboration from singer AnDréa James and pianist Valerie Bollero explores the connection between the classics and some of our greatest pop songs.

February 13: EStrella Piano Duo*
Chicago-based EStrella Piano Duo will present a live concert inspired by women composers including Marie Jael, Mel Bonis, Cecile Chaminade and Fanny Mendelssohn. “Svetlana Belsky and Elena Dubovitskaya are superb pianists on their own; together as the EStrella Piano Duo, they are doubly superb,” raves John Puccio of Classical Candor.

February 20: Daniela Bisenius and Don Stille Perform Gypsy Jazz and More
Grammy-nominated Don Stille and acclaimed violinist Daniela Bisenius bring their classical training and virtuoso skills for “Gypsy Jazz and More,” an eclectic blend of high-energy gypsy jazz, gypsy swing, jazz interpretation of American songbook standards and established jazz standards.

*Sponsored by the St. Charles Public Library Foundation
**Financial Management Secrets for Every Small Business Owner: Staying on Good Terms with the Taxman**

*Tuesday, December 7 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room*

Many business presentations tell you in detail WHAT every business owner must do to be successful. In addition to telling you the WHAT, we will also tell you the specifics as to HOW to actually do it. Harry Eng, CPA, EA, National Practice Institute Fellow and SCORE Certified Master Mentor, will also cover forming your business, setting up and maintaining the financial records and paying yourself and your workers. REGISTER

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**Five Wishes: America’s Most Used Advance Care Planning Program**

*Wednesday, January 19 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room*

Talking about advance care planning and end-of-life care is difficult. Five Wishes is a valuable resource to help start, guide and document this discussion. It will prompt you to plan before a health crisis and legally document the following: a health care surrogate, choices for medical treatment, comfort and care wishes as well as what you want your loved ones to know. Jim Keller, from OnPath Financial, and Jennifer Gazda, from Arosa, will help you take the guessing out of caring. REGISTER

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**Talent Acquisition & Retention: How to Find & Keep Great Employees**

*Tuesday, February 8 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room*

Join Human Resources Management Professor Jane Murtaugh to explore talent acquisition and retention strategies you can use in your workplace as you face the reality of today’s employment challenges. We’ll focus on the challenges and opportunities available to small and medium-size employers as they work to acquire, develop and retain their human talent. REGISTER

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**The Taxman Cometh: Information to Prepare Your 2021 Taxes**

*Wednesday, February 2 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Huntley Community Room*

What does this year’s form look like? What’s different from last year? Will there be another stimulus payment or what if you didn’t get your payment last year? Harry Eng, Co-founder and Senior Partner of Fox Valley Tax Solutions, will highlight and explain what individuals need to know to optimize their personal tax return for 2021 and be prepared for 2022. REGISTER

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**Find Meaningful Employment: Learn & Network with TUG & the Library**

*Online via Zoom • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Speaker & program TBD*

December 13 • No meeting December 27
January 10 • January 24 • February 14 • February 28

Please join TUG Career Services and Business Reference Librarian Chris Flood as they welcome speakers who present the latest updates on career management, job-seeking skills, education and training. Programs will be via Zoom. REGISTER or DROP IN
Technology Programs

Enabling the Future through 3D Printing
Tuesday, December 7 • 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room
Jeremy Simon volunteers for the global organization e-NABLE. Jeremy is just one of many "Digital Humanitarian" volunteers from all over the world who are using their 3D printers to make free and low-cost prosthetic upper limb devices for children and adults in need. Learn more about e-NABLE and how 3D printing is making a difference in people’s lives. REGISTER

In-Person Computer Basics Classes Mornings
Wednesdays • 10:00–11:30 a.m. • Computer Lab
Join us for small group instruction. Our IT Educator will cover the basics so you can feel confident using your laptop, tablet or phone. Classes are open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders only. REGISTER

Using the Library’s Digital Resources December 8
Introduction to Facebook and Instagram December 15
iPhone and iPad Basics January 12
Android Phone and Tablet Basics January 19
Intro to Microsoft Word February 9
Intro to Microsoft Excel February 16

In-Person Computer Instruction Evenings
Tuesdays and Thursdays • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Computer Lab
Join us for small group instruction with our IT Educator. Classes are open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders only. REGISTER

Excel: Conditional Formatting December 2
Tinkercad 3D Modeling Software 3-day Workshop December 9, 14 and 16
Google Docs Lesson 1 January 4
Microsoft Word Lesson 1 January 6
Microsoft Word Lesson 2 January 13
Google Docs Lesson 2 January 18
Microsoft Word Lesson 3 January 20

Self-Study Computer Classes via email
Please see our website, scpld.org/computer-classes, for details. All videos offer closed captioning. Classes are open to SCPLD cardholders only. Emails are sent out on Mondays.

Take a Click on the Dark Side
Tuesday, January 11 • 7:00–8:30 p.m. • Huntley Community Room
You’ve probably heard of the dark web; however, what do you really know about this part of the Internet? How does the dark web differ from other areas, such as the deep web, surface web and the invisible web? Join faculty from Elgin Community College’s Computer Information Systems department in an exciting exploration as we take a click on the dark side and learn more about the dangers and the benefits. REGISTER

Save it to the Cloud
Thursday, February 3 • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Computer Lab
Join Mike Gershbein from Very Smart People to learn how online cloud solutions can be used to back up your documents, music and photos. He will also show the basics of onsite backup and the 3-2-1 backup strategy. Useful for safety and sharing. REGISTER

St. Charles Public Library
STC Creative Programs

Classes are open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders only. Space is limited. ● REGISTER

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Maker Mondays
10:00–11:30 a.m. ● STC Creative

- **Cricut Design Space - Intro to Cricut Maker Machine**  
  December 6

- **Brother ScanNCut Tutorial - How to Use Canvas Workspace**  
  December 13

- **Photo Buttons and Magnets**  
  January 3

- **Slow Stitching**  
  January 10

- **Heat Press Machine**  
  January 17

- **Screen Printing**  
  January 24

- **Block Printing for Beginners**  
  February 7

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Maker Repeats

Tuesdays • 6:30–8:00 p.m. ● STC Creative

- **Cricut Cutting Machine - and Cricut Design Space Tutorial**  
  December 21

- **Brother ScanNCut Tutorial - How to Use Canvas Workspace**  
  December 28

- **Screen Printing**  
  January 25

- **Block Printing for Beginners**  
  February 8

- **Slow Stitching**  
  February 15

- **Heat Press Machine**  
  February 22

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Program Information
Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Young Adult Programs

Teen Writers Group
Thursdays • December 2 • January 6 • February 3
6:00–7:30 p.m. • Carnegie Community Room
Calling all teen writers! Discuss what you’ve been reading, what you’re working on and participate in activities and discussions that can help hone your writing skills. Teens are encouraged to bring any pieces they are working on that they may want to share (but it is not required). REGISTER or DROP IN

Friday Night Movies
Fridays • 5:30 p.m. • The Loft
Beginning on December 3, The Loft will be showing a different movie each Friday night. NOTE: The Loft will still be available for studying and walk-ins, but the movie will play regardless. DROP IN

ACT Practice Test
Saturday, December 4
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Huntley Community Room
Take a free ACT practice test. The test will give students the opportunity to take a practice test in an ACT environment. Bring a pencil, calculator and a snack. Parents will receive an email with a general summary of their child’s test score within a few days. Huntington will provide a link for a Zoom presentation on the interpretation of test results. Presented by Huntington Learning Center in Geneva. REGISTER

Anime Club
Wednesdays • December 8 • January 12 • February 9
6:00–8:00 p.m. • STC Underground
Baker Community Center (lower level), 101 S. 2nd Street
Get loud and geek out with anime, snacks, and activities. Cosplay is always welcome.

All programs at the STC Underground are open to all middle and high school teens, including private schools and home-schooled students who reside within St. Charles School District boundaries. Students must submit a completed Code of Conduct signed by themselves AND a parent or legal guardian. This form can be downloaded and printed from stcunderground.com/info/. Cosponsored with the St. Charles Park District.

For questions or to register, please visit stcunderground.com/ or call (630) 513-4380. REGISTER or DROP IN

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament
Wednesday, December 22 • 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 23 • 3:00-5:00 p.m. • Grades 9-12 • The Loft
Prove you’re the best at our monthly Super Smash Bros. Ultimate for Switch tournaments! 16-player limit. Bringing your own controller is encouraged, but not necessary. No cost to participate. REGISTER

Teen Grab n’ Go Kits
All day • Grades 9-12
All materials and instructions included. Available while supplies last. REGISTER

Snowman Tea Light Ornaments
Monday, December 6–Monday, December 13
Create a snowy ornament pal, complete with light-up nose. Pick up kit in The Loft the week of December 6-13. If registering online, find December 6 on the calendar.

Volunteering
As we welcome volunteers back into the Library, please check online for high school volunteer opportunities at scpld.org/teen-volunteers.
**Junior Friends**

Grades 6-8 • Thursdays • December 2 • January 6 • February 3
6:00–7:30 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room

Interested in volunteer or service hours? Join this updated program to reach your goals while helping your community. We meet the first Thursday of every month to plan, share and lend a hand. **DROP IN**

**Lit Loot**

Grades 6-12 • Holds Shelf on Main Level
Sign up by: December 5 • January 5 • February 5
Lit Loot pick up: December 10-20 • January 10-20 • February 10-20

Sign up by the 5th of each month at 9:00 p.m. to receive a free subscription box customized just for you! Each box will contain a book specially selected for you and a few goodies, all based on the theme of the month. Keep the loot; return the book. A St. Charles Library card is required for this program. **REGISTER**

**Your Write**

Grades 6-8 • Thursday, December 9
6:00-7:30 p.m. • Helen Gale Story Room

Do you have art or writing skills you would like to share or just looking for time to work on your craft? Use this time to focus on your art or writing, share if you like! Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. **DROP IN**

**Babysitter Training**

Ages 11-15
Wednesday, December 29 AND Thursday, December 30
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. • Carnegie Community Room
FEE $30 in Library District/$45 outside Library District

This two-day training will cover all aspects of babysitter responsibilities and include babysitter resources. Students must attend both days and successfully pass all observable skills to obtain Red Cross certification. **Grant funding provided by the Friends of St. Charles Public Library.** **REGISTER**

**Mario Kart Tournament**

Grades 6-8 • Friday, January 14
5:00-7:30 p.m.
Miller Haase Community Room

Participate in a gaming tournament! Winner will receive a small prize. Game selected by the Junior Friends. **This program selection is provided by the Junior Friends.** **REGISTER**

**Anime Night**

Grades 6-8 • 6:00–7:30 p.m. • Thursdays
December 16 • January 20 • February 17
Miller Haase Community Room

Watch anime and enjoy different activities each month. Participants are expected to stay in the room for the duration of the program to prevent distractions. Attendees will vote on which anime they would like to watch at the start of the program. Feel free to cosplay! No weapons, food or drink permitted. **REGISTER**

**I <3 LEGOS!**

Grades 6-8 • Thursday, February 10 • 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Miller Haase Community Room

Participate in free build challenges! Your designs will be on display for the remainder of the month in the Youth Services department. Supplies provided. **DROP IN**

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**Program Information**

Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Virtual Story Time

All Ages • Mondays AND Thursdays • December 2-February 24
10:00-10:30 a.m. • Online via Zoom

Join us for a LIVE virtual story time from your living room! A link to join the program will be emailed the day before. REGISTER

All Ages Story Time

All Ages with Caregiver
Tuesdays, Wednesdays OR Saturdays* December 7–February 23*
10:00-10:30 a.m.
Miller Haase Community Room
*Saturday All Ages will not meet December 4 or February 5

Join us for a story time for kids and grownups alike. Please register everyone attending. Let’s have fun together! REGISTER

Twinleaf Tales

All Ages with Caregiver
Fridays • December 3 & January 7 • February 4
10:00-10:30 a.m. • Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
3795 Campton Hills Dr, St. Charles

Join us for nature-inspired stories and a take-and-make craft kit. Please register all attending children with the St. Charles Park District online at stcnature.org/twinleaf-tales or by phone at 630-513-6200. Cosponsored with the St. Charles Park District. REGISTER

Bee Bot Coding

Ages 4-6 without Caregiver
Friday, December 3 OR Thursday, January 13
4:00-4:30 p.m.
Miller Haase Community Room

Let’s play and learn some basic coding skills with Bee Bots, cute bee robots you code where to go. The same material is being covered during both programs. REGISTER

Sensory Story Time

All Ages with Caregiver
Saturdays • December 4 • February 5
10:00–10:30 a.m. • Miller Haase Community Room

Join us for a hands-on story time with music and movement! REGISTER

My First Story Time

0-24 months with Caregiver • Tuesdays: December 7-February 22* Wednesdays: December 8-February 23*
9:30-10:00 a.m. • Huntley Community Room

Lapsit story time for parents/caregivers and children. We will sing songs, read stories and play together. Simple sign language will also be covered. Come as you are! REGISTER

Two- & Three-Year-Old Story Time

Ages 2-3, with Caregiver
Tuesdays: December 7-February 22*
Wednesdays: December 8-February 23*
10:30-11:00 a.m. • Huntley Community Room

An interactive story time for children and their parents/caregivers, which include songs and stories. REGISTER

Starrytime

All Ages • Tuesdays: December 7-February 22*
6:30 p.m. • On YouTube

Get your bedtime wiggles out and wind down with this virtual evening story time filled with music, stories and movement. Missed the premiere or want to watch again? Starrytime will be available on the Library’s YouTube channel for one week.

Stories with the Nature Center

All Ages with Caregiver • Wednesdays • December 8 • January 12 • February 9
10:30-11:00 a.m. • LeRoy Oakes Nature Center • 37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Join us at the Creek Bend Nature Center at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve for fun stories and a take and make kit. After the program, explore the Nature Center and walk the trails to discover the great outdoors! In partnership with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. DROP IN

I Can Do It, Too!

Ages 2-5 • 10:00-10:30 a.m. OR 2:00-2:30 p.m.
Friday, December 17: Mealtime!
Friday, January 21: Getting Dressed
Friday, February 18: Staying Safe
Miller Haase Community Room

I can do it too, and so can you! Bring your grown-up to the Library to learn useful age-appropriate skills. REGISTER

Adopt a Plush Fish Friend

Ages 3+ • Monday, December 20 • 3:00-4:00 p.m. • Helen Gale Story Room

Plush fish are ready for their forever home! Register to adopt your new friend and take them home any time during the 3:00-4:00 p.m. hour. Check out our YouTube channel to watch a short video about what they have been doing around the Library. One fish per child, please. REGISTER
Student Programs

Bee Bot Coding
Kindergarten • Thursdays: December 9 OR December 16
4:00–4:45 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room
Let’s play and learn some basic coding skills with Bee Bots, cute bee robots you code where to go. The same material is being covered during both programs. REGISTER

Junior Historians
Grades 3-8 • Fridays • December 10 • January 14 • February 11
11:00 a.m. • YouTube
Take a step back in time and learn about the rich history of our city! Junior Historians will learn about the history of St. Charles through tours and interviews. This program is presented in partnership with the St. Charles History Museum.

Diverse Voices Book Discussion
Grades 3-8
6:30–7:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Thursday, January 13: How to Find What You’re Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani
Thursday, February 24: Twins by Varian Johnson
Discuss titles written by people of different backgrounds and experiences. Register for an emailed link to join the program. Books will be available for check out via SCPLD Book Club Service at the Youth Services Desk.
NOTE: Meets at the same time as Diverse Voices Book Club for adults. REGISTER

Art in the Afternoon
Grades 1-3 • Mondays • December 13 • January 10 • February 7
4:00–4:45 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room
Have fun creating art projects that use various techniques. REGISTER

Bee Bot Coding
Kindergarten • Thursdays: December 9 OR December 16
4:00–4:45 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room
Let’s play and learn some basic coding skills with Bee Bots, cute bee robots you code where to go. The same material is being covered during both programs. REGISTER

Squishy Circuits
Grades 3-5 • Tuesdays: January 11 OR January 25
4:00–4:45 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room
Get creative with circuitry! Build squishy circuits using Play-Doh, battery packs and light bulbs. What can you design? The same material is being covered during both programs. REGISTER

Diverse Voices Book Discussion
Grades 3-8
6:30–7:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Thursday, January 13: How to Find What You’re Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani
Thursday, February 24: Twins by Varian Johnson
Discuss titles written by people of different backgrounds and experiences. Register for an emailed link to join the program. Books will be available for check out via SCPLD Book Club Service at the Youth Services Desk.
NOTE: Meets at the same time as Diverse Voices Book Club for adults. REGISTER

Lego Marble Mazes
Grades K-8 • Tuesday, January 18
1:00–1:30 p.m. OR 2:00–2:30 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room
Create marble mazes using LEGO! How a-MAZE-ing will your creations be? REGISTER

Reading with Rover
Grades K-3 • Wednesdays • December 15, January 12 OR February 16
3:30–4:30 p.m. • Helen Gale Story Room
Bring your books or select from ours and read aloud for 15 minutes to a specially-trained therapy dog. Reading with Rover will inspire children to discover the joy of reading while developing literacy skills and confidence in a fun environment. Children must be able to read independently. REGISTER

Design It Yourself: Hot Cocoa Gift Mug
Grades 4-8 • Monday, December 20
2:30–4:00 p.m. • STC Creative & Computer Lab
Use the Cricut machine to personalize a mug and gift bag for yourself or to give as a gift. REGISTER

Program Information
Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Family Programs

StoryWalk®
All Ages • LeRoy Oakes • New story posted December 1
37W700 Dean Street, St. Charles
Come enjoy a great story in the great outdoors! Located on the east side of LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve on the Randall Road Trail. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Local Authors Visit
Ages 6-11 • Saturday, January 15 • 3:00 p.m.
Huntley Community Room
A local family wrote a book together and got it published! Authors of Pumpkin Head Tom and Mummy Mary, Mike, Leni and Libby Schrettenbrunner will explain their writing process and the steps they took to become published authors. They will inspire, encourage and teach children how to do it themselves. After the program, sign up for Winter Reading with the ReadSquared app or at the Youth Services Desk on the lower level. REGISTER

Homeschool Toolbox
Homeschool Families • Tuesday, December 7
1:30-3:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Join us for an overview of everything available at the Library for our homeschooling families: online resources, downloadable materials, collections, programs and more. Open to homeschooling parents and children. A link to the program will be emailed to you the day before the event. REGISTER

Express Yourself!
All Ages • Fridays • December 10 • January 14
February 11 • 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Miller Haase Community Room
Families, come and truly express yourself in our open arts and crafts session! Make whatever you want, however you want, with the variety of supplies we have available! Children under the age of eight must be accompanied by an adult. REGISTER

Smarty Pants
All Ages • Monday, January 17
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Huntley Community Room
Join Smarty Pants for award-winning balloon twisting and a one-of-a-kind show! After the show, kids can take photos with Smarty Pants and the big balloons! REGISTER

Miss Katelyn’s Neighborhood
All Ages • Friday, February 18
9:00 a.m. • YouTube
Let's explore our neighborhood together! Join Miss Katelyn as she meets local business owners to learn about what goes on behind the scenes.

Youth Grab & Go Kits
Grab & Go kits are available in person on the lower level beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the release day until we run out. Kits are on the maker table and all kits are Tech Free, unless otherwise noted.

Sensory Fine Motor Activity
Ages 3+ • Saturdays • December 4 • February 5
Explore your senses and build your motor skills with a take home activity!

Glowing Noon Year
Ages 4+ • Monday, December 27
Crank up the volume! Contains a simple craft and glow sticks for the whole family. A party playlist will be available on Freegal, a free music service, through the Library's website - instructions will be available in the kit. One per family, please.

Mystery Kits!
All Ages • Tuesday, December 28
We’ve brought back some of our favorite kits! All kits are labeled by age group and will have instructions and supplies inside. Will it be a STEAM project? Will it be a craft? Maybe both?! It’s a mystery!

T-REX ON THE LOOSE
All Ages • December 1 • January 1 • February 1
9:00 a.m. • Posted on YouTube
Dinosaurs in the Library? Oh no OR oh yeah! Video posted on YouTube channel every month!
Parent Programs

Just for Grown Ups

**Homeschool Toolbox**

**Friday, December 10 • 6:00-7:30 p.m. • Miller Haase Community Room**

Join us for an overview of everything available at the Library for our homeschooling families: online resources, downloadable materials, collections, programs and more. Includes a tour of the new Library. Schedule a babysitter, this program is only open to homeschooling parents! The same information will be presented at the December 7 program for families. REGISTER

**Preschool Fair**

**Tuesday, January 11 • 7:00-8:00p.m. • Online via Zoom**

Curious about preschools or child care in the upcoming year? Don’t know what to expect or where to start? Meet representatives from preschools and child care centers in our community; each will be in a breakout room to answer your questions, whether about ongoing enrollment or fall 2022 sessions. For a list of participating schools, visit our online program calendar. REGISTER

**Diverse Voices Book Discussion**

**6:30-7:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom**

**Thursday, January 13:**

*How to Find What You’re Not Looking For* by Veera Hiranandani

**Thursday, February 24:** *Twins* by Varian Johnson

Get together with other adults to discuss children’s literature from diverse voices. Books will be available for check out at the Youth Services Desk. REGISTER

**Parenting Book Club**

**Thursday, January 13 • 8:00-8:45 p.m. • Online via Zoom**

License to Parent: *How My Career as a Spy Helped Me Raise Resourceful, Self-Sufficient Kids* by Christina Hillsberg & Ryan Hillsberg

A book club just for parents, from the comfort of your own home! There’s no need to find a babysitter! Join other parents to discuss a book related to being a parent. Books are available to check out at the Youth Services Desk. A link to the program will be emailed to you the day before the event. REGISTER

**Not a Book Club Book Club**

**Adults • Thursday, February 10 • 8:00-8:45 p.m. • Online via Zoom**

Join our discussion of the book, *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child’s Brain* by Dana Suskind. Books will be available to pick up at the Library. REGISTER

**I ❤ Winter Reading**

**Friday, January 14—Monday, February 14**

Sign-up for Winter Reading online using ReadSquared*, starting Friday, January 14! Complete the goal of three hours of reading to earn an entry into a raffle. Every additional three hours read earns another entry. Complete bonus missions online for extra minutes towards your goal. The last day to log minutes for I ❤ Winter Reading will be Valentine’s Day, Monday, February 14. *ReadSquared is available through our website, scpld.org, or as a downloadable app for iPhone and Android.

Program Information

Registration for all Library programs begins Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Register online at scpld.org, by phone at 630-584-0076 x1 or in person.
Annual Report Highlights: Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Every fall, as we work on the Annual Report, we reflect on the past fiscal year and think about what we are most proud of and what we’ve accomplished. Fiscal year 2020-2021 was not without its challenges; but no matter the situation, the Library adapted and changed in order to continue providing quality services and resources to the community.

As the fiscal year began, we opened our doors at the former Haines Middle School while the Library was being renovated. The state was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we continued to find ways to serve the community. We offered Vestibule Pickup and Vestibule Printing services so patrons could borrow materials and/or print independently without the risks associated with face-to-face contact. Grab and Go kits were available to provide tech-free activities that kids could do in the safety of their homes. To ensure easy access to library cards, we launched online library card registration for residents who live in the Library District. Our adult and youth programming went virtual, and we saw increases in attendance and popularity. We took our programs outside by creating the StoryWalk®, Junior Historians and Movies in the Park.

As we entered the last quarter of the fiscal year, we were excited for our move back to One South Sixth Avenue. After all the planning and hard work, we opened our doors to the public on July 17, 2021, with a Library Grand Re-Opening Celebration. This transitional year taught us that being flexible and creative is a must. What never changed was our commitment to our core values: being Patron-centric, practicing Stewardship, Innovation and Excellence. We hope you enjoy your new Library and that it will always represent knowledge, empowerment, safety and community.

Read about all the Library’s updates and accomplishments in the Annual Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, available in print at the Library and online at scpld.org/annual-report-summary.