



FISCAL YEAR  
**2023-2024**

# ANNUAL REPORT

# STATISTICS

## BUDGET

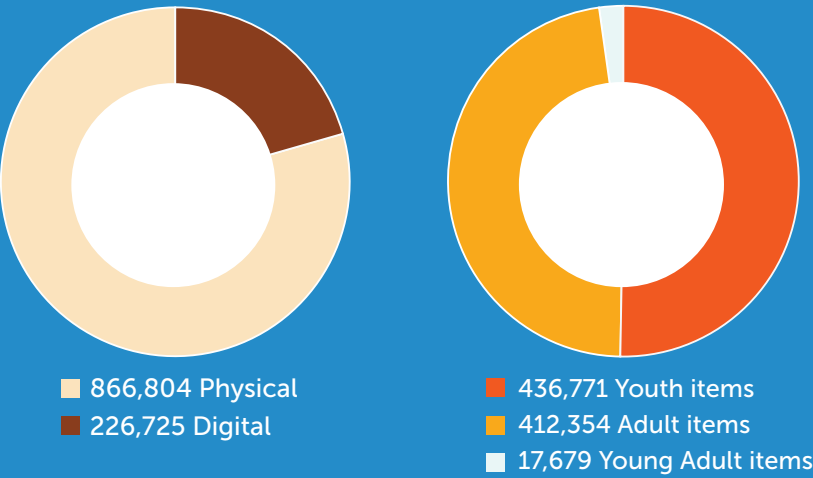
Total Expenditures: **\$8,562,850**

64.6%	Salaries and Benefits
14.9%	Materials and Electronic Resources
5.8%	Debt Services
5.4%	Administration
3.8%	Information Technology
3.4%	Maintenance and Utilities
1.4%	Public Programs and Printing
0.7%	Supplies and Equipment

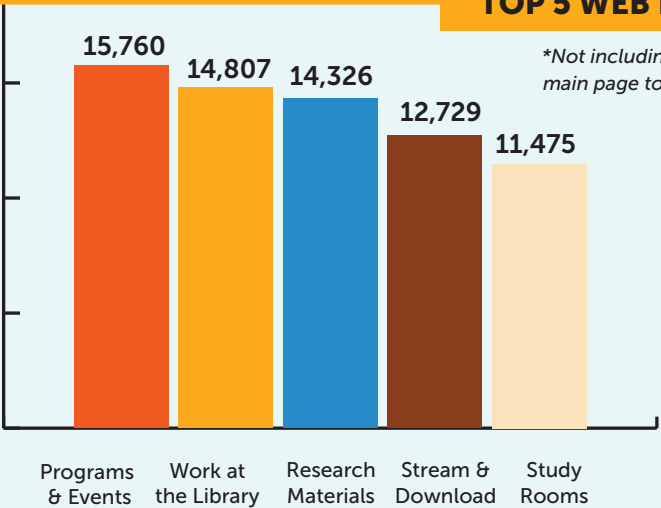
Total Income: **\$9,259,497**

93.3%	Local Tax Revenue
3.6%	Interest
1.8%	Grants, Gifts, Miscellaneous
1.3%	Service Fees, Photocopies

Total Circulation: **1,093,529**



### TOP 5 WEB PAGE VIEWS



*\*Not including the Library's main page total of 405,529*



**30,827**  
Library Cardholders



**312,058**  
Visits to the Library



**21,353**  
Public Computer Sessions



**6,284**  
Study Rooms Reserved



**739**  
3D Items Printed



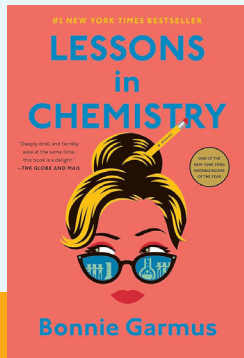
**114,036**  
Questions Answered by Staff



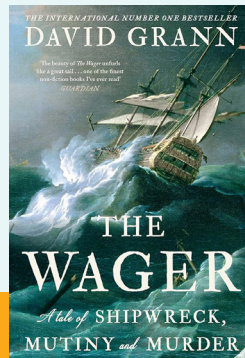
**577,547**  
Visits to the Website



## TOP 10 MOST POPULAR ITEMS



ADULT FICTION  
Lessons in Chemistry  
Bonnie Garmus



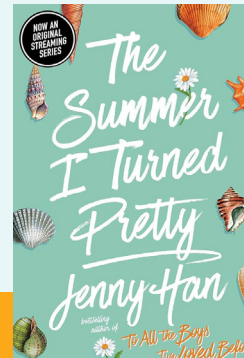
ADULT NONFICTION  
The Wager: a Tale of  
Shipwreck, Mutiny and  
Murder David Grann



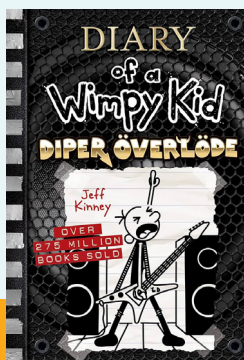
ADULT MOVIE  
Oppenheimer



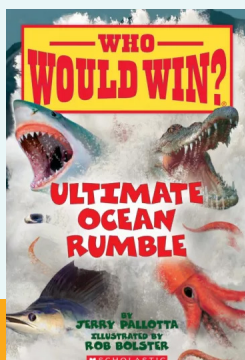
ADULT TV SHOW  
1923, a Yellowstone  
Origin Story: Season 1



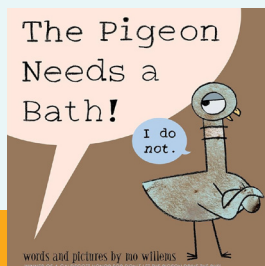
YOUNG ADULT  
FICTION  
The Summer I  
Turned Pretty  
Jenny Han



YOUTH FICTION  
Diary of a Wimpy  
Kid: Diper Överlöde  
Jeff Kinney



YOUTH NONFICTION  
Ultimate Ocean  
Rumble Jerry Pallotta



YOUTH PICTURE BOOK  
The Pigeon Needs a  
Bath! Mo Willems



YOUTH MOVIE  
The Super Mario  
Bros. Movie



VIDEO GAME  
The Legend of  
Zelda: Breath of  
the Wild

732

Notary  
transactions

359

Museum Passes  
checked out

11,052

Monthly  
eNewsletter  
Contacts

477

Participants  
enjoyed the  
StoryWalk

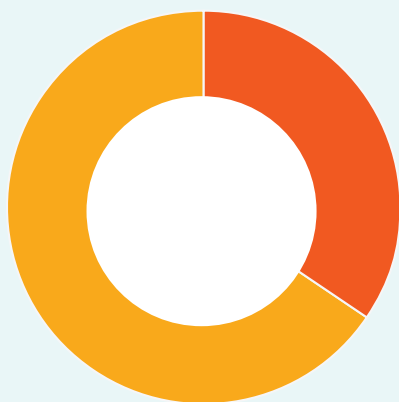
372

Meeting rooms  
booked by  
outside groups

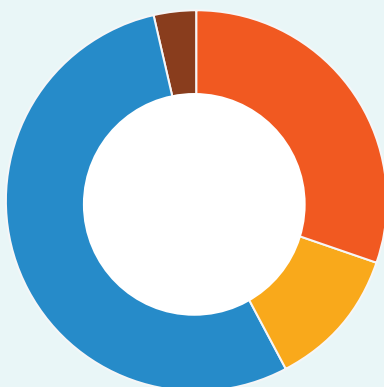
26.4k

Facebook  
Reach

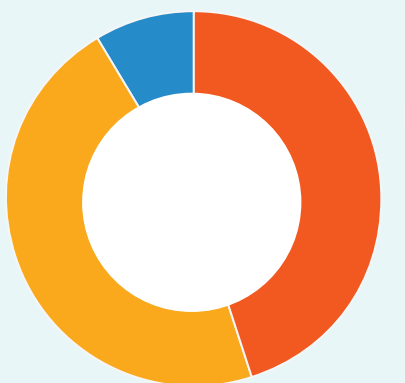
## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



■ 143,113 Adult Materials  
■ 75,935 Youth Materials



■ 117,073 Adult Services Books  
■ 65,519 Youth Services Books  
■ 26,040 Adult Services AV  
■ 7,416 Youth Services AV



■ 185,592 Print Titles  
■ 180,504 Downloadable Titles  
■ 33,456 AV Titles



## DATABASE HIGHLIGHTS

### Downloadables – Top Titles

- Top Book – *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- Top Digital Periodical – *Chicago Tribune*

### Language Learning – Most Popular Languages

- Mango - Korean
- Pronunciator - Ukrainian

### Online Courses – Most Popular Courses (by students enrolled)

- Creativebug - Creativity Through Marbling: An Introduction
- Gale Courses – Discover Sign Language
- Niche Academy – St. Charles Public Library Cricut Tutorial





## YOUTH SERVICES ACCESSIBILITY COLLECTION

The Youth Services Accessibility Collection reflects the Library's commitment to providing access to diverse resources for children and teens with disabilities. The collection, funded by a generous donation from the Maholland Family, provides opportunities for families to utilize items aiding in everyday living and celebrating inclusion and access.

### Who HQ Book Series

Based on frequent patron feedback, the popular Who HQ series of children's nonfiction books was separated from the rest of nonfiction and shelved together for an easier browsing experience.

### Lucky Day Books

Lucky Day books continue to be popular with readers. We provide extra copies of popular titles that typically have long holds lists. By boosting the number of copies we put on the shelf, more patrons may have a "Lucky Day" when they find a new book.

**Book Club Service** added five new clubs this year and provided **5,790 items**.

### Fun fact:

There are  
**5 book drop locations**  
throughout St. Charles,  
South Elgin, Wayne, and  
Valley View. In total, the  
facilities team has collected  
**over 28,000 items**  
from the book drops  
this past year.

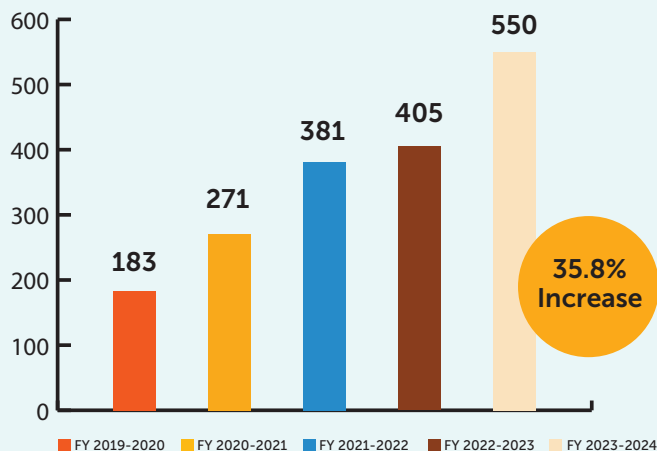
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"On a scale of 1 to 100, I give our library a 110."  
—Patron Comment

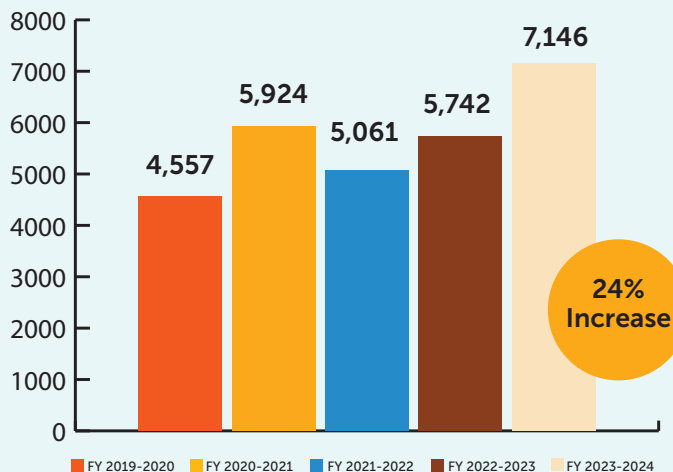
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# NOTEWORTHY PROGRAMS

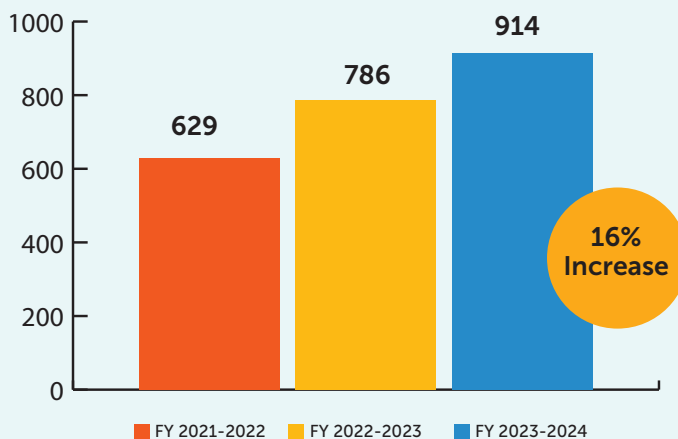
## ADULT PROGRAM STATISTICS



Number of Adult Programs Offered



Number of Adult Program Attendance



Concert Attendance

## MONTHLY REGISTRATION

In early 2024, the Library changed the process for program registration. Instead of people registering for the entire quarter on one day, patrons can register monthly. Online program registration now opens on the first of every month for the following month's programs.



### Music of the West African Kora:

The Library hosted a special concert featuring the music of the West African kora with Sean Gaskell. Many songs played on the kora preserve an 800-year history dating back to the founding of the Mande Empire.

### Sublimation crafts and Glowforge:

Drop-in programs were favorites with patrons.

"I had no idea there are so many tools and options here. Count on me coming back in."  
—Patron Comment



### Financial Literacy Month:

Financial experts Terry Savage, Karen Chan, and Ed Gjertsen presented educational and informative programs in October.

### Virtual Museum of Geology:

Throughout June, the Library proudly presented the Virtual Museum of Geology's traveling display showcasing a range of geological specimens including minerals of differing colors, shapes, crystal forms, sizes, and rarity, as well as fossils from different eras.

### Seed Library:

Over 5,000 seed packets were given out from our Seed Library.





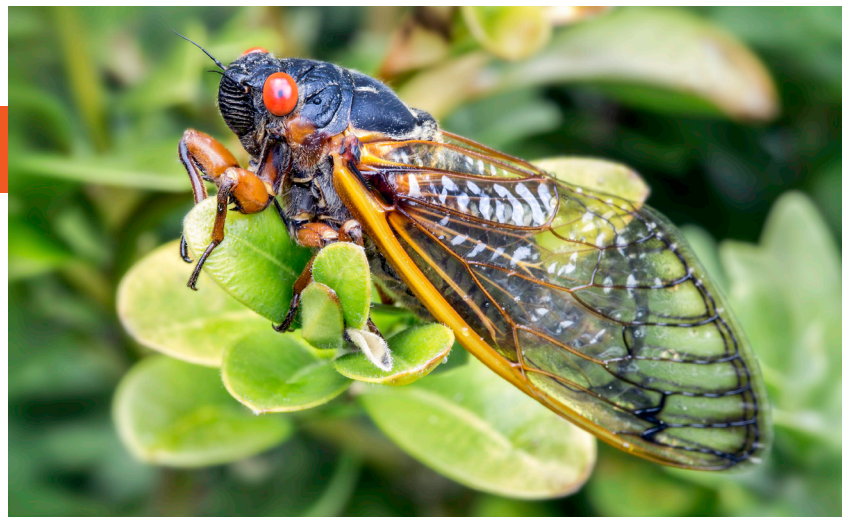
## Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

On Monday, April 8, the St. Charles area was able to observe 90% of the solar eclipse. The Library hosted a viewing party for patrons. Participants were provided with free solar viewing glasses, and safely gazed at the eclipse after enjoying astronomy-themed snacks and beverages.



## Cicadas: A Periodic Phenomenon

In 2024, Illinois witnessed the emergence of three distinct broods of periodic cicadas, a rare and fascinating natural event. Horticulture educator Jamie Viebach offered an in-depth exploration of the cicadas' history, life cycles, and the potential impacts of their emergence on local plants and our daily lives.



"I just want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for offering such amazing programs at the Library"

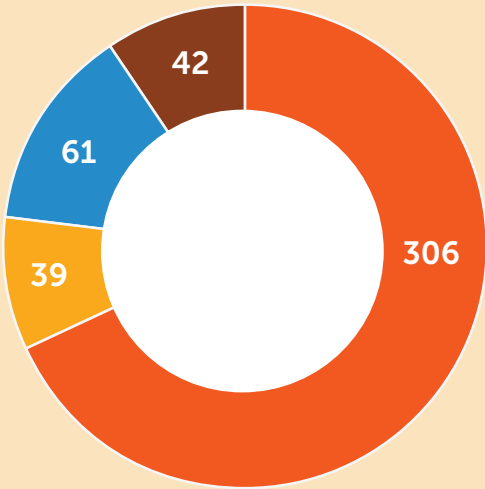
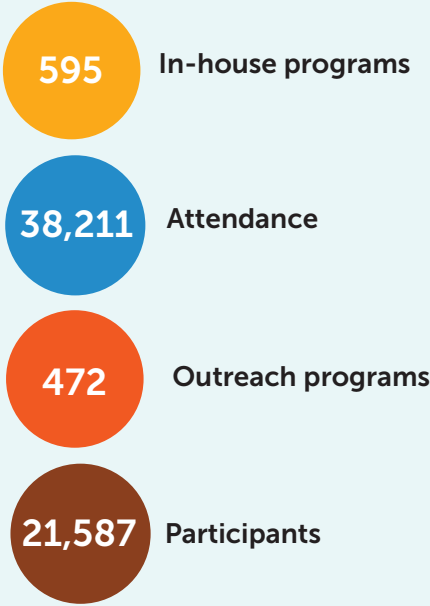
—Patron Comment



# NOTEWORTHY PROGRAMS



## YOUTH STATISTICS



- Early Childhood 68.3%
- Elementary 13.6%
- Middle School 9.4%
- All ages/Families 8.7%

### Youth Services In-House Programs by Age Group

"My 3-year-old granddaughter and I enjoyed the 2 & 3 year-old storytime. I used to bring her dad, so it's wonderful that they continue to offer this amazing program."  
—Patron

**618**  
Highest attended Youth program was Mario Day 3/10/24

**552**  
Kids registered for the Winter Reading Program



## FAVORITE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

**119**  
Baby Prom

**106**  
It's Fall Y'all

**104**  
Rubber Ducky Bubble Party

**53**  
LEGO Community Build  
People worked together to create Main Street with LEGOs

**362**  
Week of the Young Child  
A week of activities to celebrate our youngest patrons

## FAVORITE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**Paint the Path**  
In partnership with St. Charles Arts Council



## All Ages/Families Popular Events

**442**  
Miller's  
Petting Zoo

**213**  
Trick or  
Treat Parade

**175**  
Pumpkin  
Decorations

**151**  
Raptors  
in Your  
Neighborhood



## STORYTIME

Our age-specific storytimes have seen tremendous growth this year. We offer three sessions per week, featuring engaging, age-appropriate activities.

- My First Storytime for ages 0-23 months
- Two sessions of 2 & 3-Year-Old Storytime

### Lit Loot

A free subscription box that patrons in grades 4-8 can register for. Each box contains an informational sheet, coloring bookmark, snack, activity, and a personalized book selection - all based on a theme that changes monthly.

### 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

This ongoing program was revamped with a new look, new prizes, parenting tips, and procedures to better engage patrons.

## SUMMER READING 2024



**869** Adult registrants

**134** Young Adult registrants

**2,311** Youth registrants  
(12% increase from 2023)

**3,299,529** Total minutes read

**1,525** Attendees at the Kick-Off Party

**READY, SET,  
READ!**  
SUMMER READING





## BRANDING CAMPAIGN

Our Library's exciting rebranding campaign launched in January 2024. One of our goals was to update our look for a modern, recognizable, and fun style that resonates with our community. The project brought our brand to life with a fresh new logo, a vibrant newsletter redesign, eye-catching van wraps, dynamic banners, and more.



### NEW LOGO

The new logo draws inspiration from the various facets of the Library. The triangles in the design showcase the various angles of the building, capturing elements like the entrance and features throughout the Library. The uplifting and bright colors were chosen to reflect a simple and timeless design.

### REDESIGNED NEWSLETTER!

In February, our newly-designed quarterly newsletter launched with an exciting new look and size.

- Redesigned layout
- Cost savings with smaller size
- Decreased paper usage
- Digital edition always available

"I love the new colors, shapes and design!"  
—Patron Comment

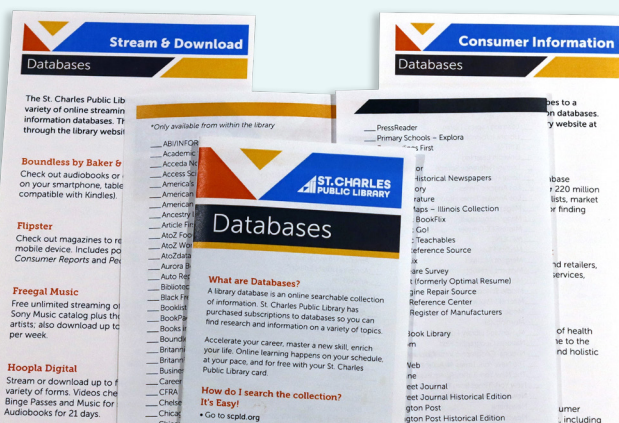






# Inspiration Awaits!

**COLLABORATIVE & PROMOTIONAL PIECES**  
 Our key marketing pieces received a fresh update, too! Unleashing our brand's message in bold, imaginative ways became a top priority. This included business cards, stationery, signage, digital screens, and more. Newly-branded banners were created for downtown St. Charles streetlights and colorful, engaging banners for the Library parking lot. Also, our vibrant new van wraps showcase our dynamic, fresh look as they cruise throughout the community on book runs!





## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



### BIG TRUCK SHOW

Staff participated in community events such as the St. Charles Park District's Big Truck Show. This event provided opportunities to register new cardholders, promote our services, and engage with the community.

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Our Library staff loves connecting with the community all year long!

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#### Library Card Sign-Up Month:

In September, we celebrated Library Card Sign-Up Month and also attended the St. Charles North versus St. Charles East high school football game.

**Local Partners:** The Library works with local partners to host donation boxes in our lobby throughout the year, which support funding and resources for local non-profits including Lion's Club, Toys for Tots, Salvation Army, Big Hearts of Fox Valley, holiday lights recycling, etc.

**Library Leaders:** Monthly meetings were held with other Intergovernmental bodies to discuss collaboration opportunities and to share important information.

**City of St. Charles:** The Library partnered with the City of St. Charles to offer additional public parking when the Library is closed.

**Fox Valley Literacy Volunteers:** Reaches local adults with a need for language tutoring services. Our Library hosts trainings and provides space for LV employees and volunteer tutors.

**Scarecrow Fest:** The 38th annual fest was full of family-friendly activities. We offered on-the-spot library card sign-ups, promoted library services, and reminded patrons of the diverse resources we provide.

### IT'S OUR FOX RIVER DAY

It's Our Fox River Day – Youth and Adult departments of the Library worked with Friends of the Fox River to provide educational programming and engage people with their community.



- Senior Health and Wellness Fair:**  
 Senior residents learned about our services and wellness databases and registered for library cards at Elgin Community College.
- Senior Outreach Services:**  
 Numbers returned to pre-COVID 2019 levels with over 400 participants and a handful of new facilities.
- Summer Reading School Visits:**  
 18 preschools, elementary, and middle schools were visited, covering 7,969 children, parents, and teachers throughout our community and School District 303.
- Preschool Fair:** More than 12 schools participated in our event where over 30 patrons came to connect with school representatives and learn about their preschool options.
- D303 March Madness Book:**  
 Our youth department hosted D303 elementary school LRC directors and Sarah Marcheschi from Town House Books to help select their 2024 titles.
- Elgin Symphony Orchestra:**  
 This new partnership will allow us to bring more incredible performances to our Library throughout the year and foster an appreciation for symphonic music within the community.

## FOX VALLEY SPECIAL RECREATION

Our staff worked closely with Fox Valley Special Recreation, offered monthly programming for adults with disabilities, and served on their foundation board.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

### 1st Place St. Pat's Day Parade:

We colored the world for the judges at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and won first place in the non-profit category. Inspired by the children's book *Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Crayons*, the Library brought crayons to life in our new branding colors.





## HIGHLIGHTS



### STC CREATIVE

STC Creative is a do-it-yourself Makerspace and Sound Studio.

This year, STC Creative added a Brother embroidery machine, Cricut heat press, and a second heat press.



#### New library card types

Educator cards were introduced for teachers who work in the Library District to take full advantage of what the Library offers for curriculum and instructional support. Free non-resident cards are now offered to disabled veterans to better provide library resources to those who served our country.

#### Reduced printing and paper usage

Instead of printing daily reports, circulation staff use a new mobile app to process patron holds. This streamlined process decreases the processing time for holds.

#### Instant Language Assistant (ILA)

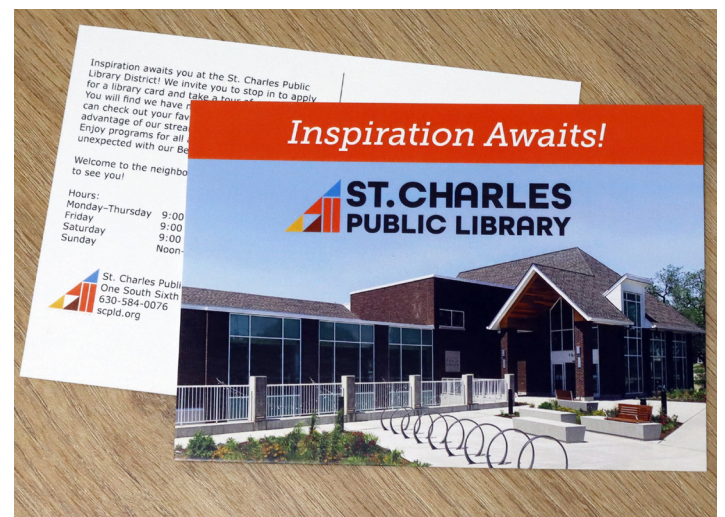
Staff are using the Instant Language Assistant (ILA) device to communicate with visitors who do not speak English. The ILA offers dual screens and supports real-time conversation in multiple languages, ensuring effective communication.

#### Library Award

The Library was awarded the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association Partnership Award for working with and offering programming for adults with disabilities.

#### Cell Boosting Project

We completed the cell boosting project in June 2024 which amplifies a cell phone signal to improve coverage and data speeds.



### NEW HOMEOWNER POSTCARDS

We continue to mail welcome postcards to new homeowners, inviting them to sign up for a library card either in person or online. This effort also extends to households outside the Library District who are eligible to purchase library fee cards.



## PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

Library staff spent over 1,300 hours completing Professional Development.

Annually, Library staff are offered the opportunity to become certified in CPR, First Aid, and AED.

Staff enjoyed participating in library conferences, including the American Library Association Conference in San Diego, the Illinois Library Association Conference in Springfield, the Public Library Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio, and the Reaching Forward Conference held in Rosemont.

David Kelsey, Outreach Librarian, presented at LACONI, RAILS's program Serving Patrons with Dementia and Illinois Outreach Day B'Long.

Julie Tegtmeier, Cataloging & Data Librarian, served on the committee to form the Illinois Cataloging Mentorship Program (iCAMP), a year-long initiative designed to foster both professional and personal development among participants.

Kate Boyle, Youth Services Early Literacy Librarian, was appointed to the Monarch Selection Committee.

Amelia Thomas, Youth Services Librarian, was appointed to the Caudill Committee.

### Other training sessions staff attended:

- IPELRA Legislative Update and Supervisor Training
- PowerUp Conference
- Altogether HR Source Annual Conference
- Educator's Neighborhood
- Using AI in Family History Research
- Senior Programming in Public Libraries
- Canva for Genealogy

## MILESTONES

Trustee Michael J. Hill – **20 years**

Trustee Claudia Frost – **5 years**

Trustee Shane Hampton – **5 years**

"Keep on hiring fabulous people!  
Everyone is very helpful."  
—Patron Comment

### Staff Anniversaries

**15 yrs.** – Brian Meyer

**10 yrs.** – Joanna Besser and Kersten Wright

**5 yrs.** – Kate Boyle, James Colborn,  
Alice Morrow, and Amelia Thomas

### Staff Retirements

**5 yrs.** – Brian Dunk

**26 yrs.** – Nancy Huntsha

**4 yrs.** – Jill Larson

**23 yrs.** – Jane Shelton

In 2024  
we welcomed  
**25** new employees  
**16** promoted internally

We have  
**100**  
Library employees

## GROUPS

### VOLUNTEERS

The Library is fortunate to have teen and adult volunteers assisting with youth and adult projects.

496  
Hours

Adult services  
volunteers

159  
Hours

\* Youth services  
volunteers

30

Volunteer Brunch  
attendees

*\* One Youth services volunteer completed 100 hours of service.*

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



The Friends continue to support the Library with financial donations since they were established in 1978.

### BOOK SALE

The Friends three-day book sales in October 2023 and April 2024 were very successful, bringing in over **\$12,000** in revenue.

### Friends Volunteers

Over  
1,400  
Hours

Sorted all donated and withdrawn books, as well as working at the book sales, summer reading kickoff, and wrapping books for their annual Holiday Book Sale.

### Friends' Donations supported this fiscal year:

- Library staff recognition
- Scholarship awarded to staff member for continuing education
- Summer Reading Program giveaways and kick-off party
- Babysitter Workshops
- Other special programs
- Notable community book donations for local teachers for their classrooms, to the Kane County Jail for inmates and the family waiting room, and to a local Veteran's group





## FOUNDATION

The St. Charles Public Library Foundation was established 30 years ago by a group of local residents who were passionate about offering quality information, programs, and lifelong learning resources to the community. This legacy continues today in the physical spaces, artwork, musical programs (including supporting the new partnership with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra), historical portrayals, STC Creative, and new collections in the Library.



## BOOKS & BRUNCH

The Foundation's signature fundraising event, Books & Brunch, took center stage on Sunday, October 1, at the St. Charles Country Club. The highlight of the event was a captivating keynote speech by Scott Turow, the award-winning and national best-selling author. Over 200 guests were charmed by Turow's witty, entertaining, and informative lecture.



Watch for many new and exciting things coming in the next year as a direct result of the generosity of our donors. All for the love of libraries!

## FOUNDATION DONORS



### **\$1-\$49**

Elmer & Diane Anderson  
Thomas & Mary Brown  
Edward Gabrielse  
Saige Kaplan  
Kenneth & Rebecca McCabe  
Susan Wagoner  
Jane Ann Willard

### **\$50-\$99**

Mary Beck  
Craig Brueske & Dawn Lassiter-Brueske  
Gordon Drawer  
Mary Fuelling  
John & Edie Glenn  
Candace Grzadziel  
Catherine Harrington  
Peter & Mary Kay Herbert  
Roger & Barbara Johnson  
June Jones  
Wendy Kent  
Michael & Mary Kruse  
Charlotte Landmeier  
Kelly Leahy  
Greg & Theresa LeCompte

Jan Marchese  
Mary Mignin  
Kay Morrisroe  
Barbara Orlando  
Richard & Carol Peck  
Kristie Sandoval  
Anne Marie Sanecki  
Richard & Joni Senkpeil  
Brian Sullivan  
Suzanne Thorne  
Susan Wallenius

### **\$100-\$249**

Ron & Judi Asselborn  
Douglas & Diana Brown  
Phil & Lynn Cali  
Kathleen Connolly  
Ann Dwyer  
James & Kathleen Fleming  
Pat Geaman  
Tony & Donna Giamberdino  
Kim Gifford  
Pierre & Christine Gregoire  
Barbara Hallberg  
Barbara Harp  
Douglas Hoefener  
Judith Hopkins  
Heide Hughes  
Judith Hunnicutt  
David Hunt  
Leslie & Marjorie Johnson, Jr., and Susan Prigge  
Gregory & Lynda Karr  
Patricia Kitner  
Gloria Klimek  
Christine Kluck  
Mark & Marcia Koenen  
Constantine & D. Janice Konstans  
Stan Korwin



Andrew & Allison Lanthrum  
Steve & Cheryl Ledbetter  
Bruce & Alice MacCallum  
Sheila Mackenzie  
Pamuella F. Mann  
Joseph Mannon  
Mason, Faith & Hoscheit DDS, Ltd.  
Robert McBride  
Susan McDowell  
Brian & Staci Olson  
C. Alfred & Maurine Patten  
Barbara (Kelly) Potts  
Priola Family  
Timothy & Patricia Renaud-Gallagher  
Carol Ann Richeson  
Maureen Rogina  
John & Sherry Schmidt  
Timothy & Jane Shelton  
Donna Siegler  
William & Marilyn Stewart  
Bob & Kathy Sunderbruch  
J. Richard & Sandra Toleikis  
Tom & Barbara Turcan  
Janet Vanthournout  
Mary Walker  
Janice Williams

## **\$250-\$499**

Donald & Elizabeth Cress  
Tom & Claudia Frost  
Robert & Mary Ellen Gephart  
Andy & Pam Marck  
Ed & Sandra Marth  
Marjorie Meanger  
Dr. Scott Prose & Dr. Tara Grzetic  
Raymond Rogina & Diane Cullen  
Linda Smith  
Susan Van Duyne  
Joseph & Susanna Vitale

## **\$500-\$999**

John Abel  
Barbara Backley  
Terry Berkhout  
Community Foundation  
Sharon Darling  
Mary Ann Tilton

## **\$1,000 & Up**

Kevin & Maggie Brewner  
John & Bonnie Dauer  
Jon & Joy Duerr  
Wyonne Hegland  
Michael & Nancy Hill  
In Memory of Jane Holderfield  
Norman C. & Barbara A. Huntley  
Sandy Jensen  
Sharon Maholland  
Carol Slusser  
Martha Vanko, In Memory of Dr. John G. Vanko  
Susan Watkins

### **How Foundation Funds Are Used**

Funds support a variety of cultural and educational programs and projects that are available and accessible to all members of the community.



# *Inspiration Awaits!*



One S. Sixth Avenue  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
630-584-0076

## **Hours**

Monday–Thursday	9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Noon–5:00 p.m.

## **Library Board Members**

Robert T. Gephart, President  
Mary Kruse, VP/Secretary  
Michael J. Hill, Treasurer  
Bonnie J. Dauer, Trustee  
Claudia Frost, Trustee  
Shane Hampton, Trustee  
Allison Lanthrum, Trustee

Kate Buckson, Library Director

## **Mission Statement**

We support the growth and creativity of the individual and build the spirit of the community by providing welcoming spaces, robust collections, responsive services, and enriching programs.

## **Vision**

Inspiration awaits