



FISCAL YEAR
2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY CABINET

In February 2025, the Library launched the Community Cabinet, a mini food pantry available during regular hours. This initiative was in partnership with an Eagle Scout and local businesses. Sponsorship of the Community Cabinet has brought new relationships with local restaurants, city government, nonprofits, finance companies, and many more.



MARKETPLACE

New display furniture was added to the main level, which included tables in the lobby to showcase Lucky Day books and shelving for Adult New collections of fiction, nonfiction, and media.



TERRACE GARDEN MURAL

The stunning new Terrace Garden Mural, commissioned by the Friends of St. Charles Public Library, celebrates native plants and pollinators through vibrant artwork by local artists Danielle Casali and Sam DeCarlo. Designed as a space for reflection and remembrance, the mural also offers community members a chance to honor loved ones with personalized recognition nameplates.

City Insider

The City of St. Charles launched its first podcast, City Insider, recorded in the Library's Sound Studio. Through candid conversations with staff and elected officials, the show offers a behind-the-scenes look at the people and stories powering essential city services.



"The St. Charles Library is an AWESOME resource and one of the BEST reasons to live here."
—Patron Comment

New Library App

The St. Charles Public Library app launched in March with program registration, study room booking, and the ability to place holds—all in one convenient app!



ADA Audit

The Library worked with consultants WT Group for a comprehensive ADA audit to determine recommendations to improve accessibility in our building and maintain a welcoming environment for all.

Out and About City of STC featuring the Library

Former St. Charles Mayor Lora Vitek selected the Library to be featured in the city's new video series "Out and About." The mayor interviewed a staff member, Nick Chaney, who showcased the Library's programs, services, and resources.

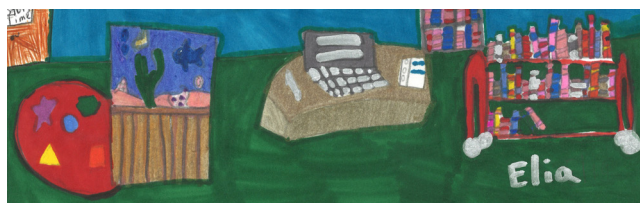
Business of the Month

The Library was selected as Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month in September.



BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST

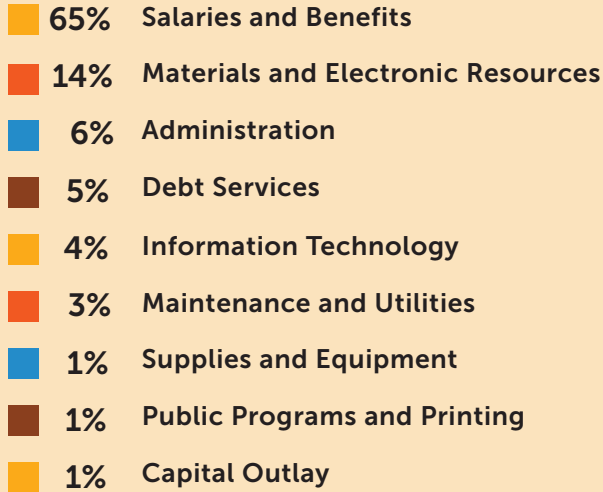
The Library launched a bookmark contest for patrons and staff to celebrate National Library Week. Participants were invited to create artwork depicting "what draws them to the Library." Winners in five categories had their artwork made into professionally printed bookmarks that were given away at the Library. Winners were also recognized on social media.



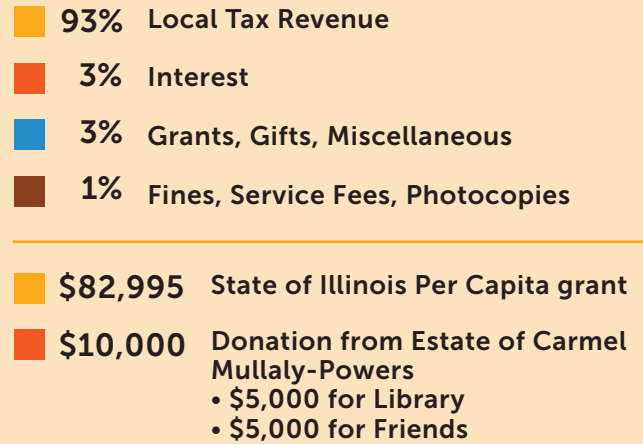
STATISTICS

BUDGET

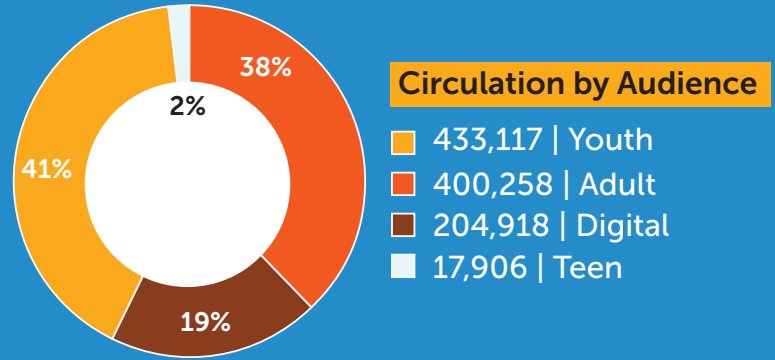
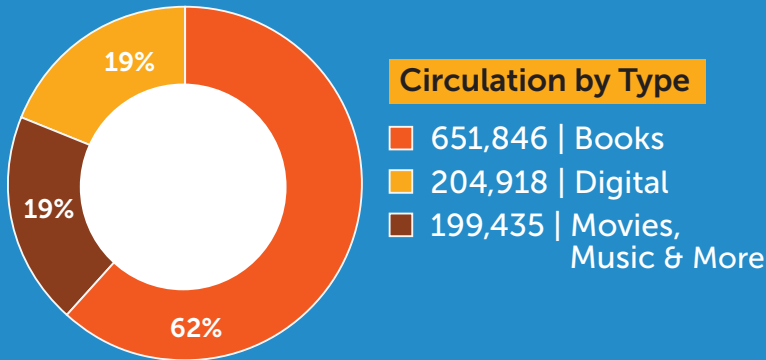
Total Expenditures: **\$9,423,913**



Total Income: **\$9,793,359**



Total Circulation: **1,056,199**



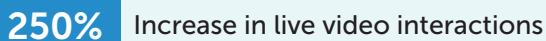
SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Stories

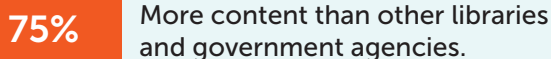
The Library began adding stories to Facebook. Stories are posts that sit at the top of the users' Facebook app, making them easy to find.



Facebook Live Videos

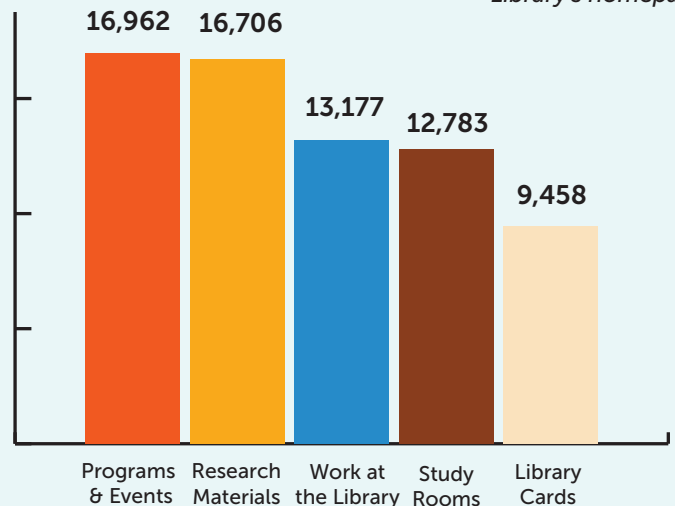


Facebook Published Content



TOP 5 WEB PAGE VIEWS

There were **429,873** visits to the Library's homepage



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



29,061
Library Cardholders



361,458
Visits to the Library



21,193
Public Computer Sessions



6,098
Study Rooms Reserved



85,465
Questions Answered by Staff



5,079
Items provided to Book Clubs Service



155,341
Wi-Fi Connections

696

Notary Transactions

59

Voter Registrations

476

Meeting rooms booked by outside groups

347

Museum Passes checked out

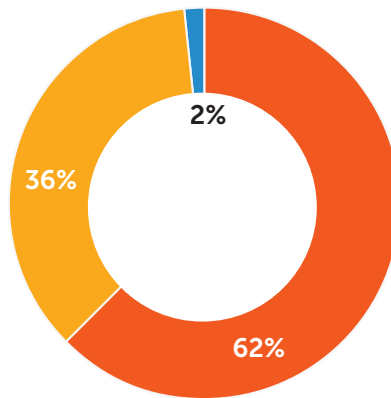
417

Volunteer Hours

623

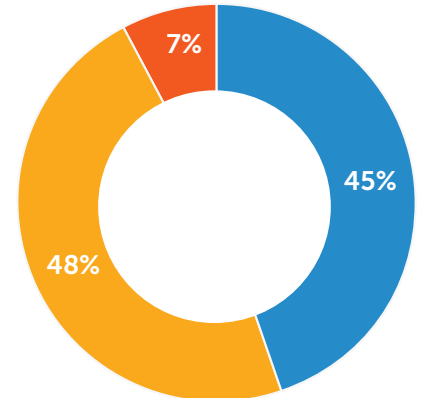
3D Items Printed

Collection by Audience



136,058 Adult Collection
77,571 Juvenile Collection
3,616 Teen Collection

Collection by Format



197,291 Digital
186,134 Books
31,111 Movies, Music & More

TOP 10 MOST POPULAR ITEMS

ADULT FICTION
The Women
by Kristin Hannah

ADULT NONFICTION
The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness
by Jonathan Haidt

YOUNG ADULT FICTION
Sunrise on the Reaping
by Suzanne Collins

ADULT TV SHOW
Ted Lasso: The Richmond Way

VIDEO GAME
Mario Party Superstars

ADULT MOVIE
The Fall Guy

YOUTH GRAPHIC NOVEL
Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder
by Dav Pilkey

YOUTH FICTION
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School
by Jeff Kinney

YOUTH PICTURE BOOK
The Pigeon has to go to School!
by Mo Willems

YOUTH MOVIE
Inside Out 2

"You have such a good book selection. It's hard to leave any books on the shelf whenever I come in."

—Patron Comment

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE RESOURCES



Highlighted Additions

- *Wall Street Journal*
- *Washington Post*
- PolicyMap

Language Learning – Most Popular

- Mango - Korean
- Pronunciator - Spanish

Top Digital Content

- Top Audiobook: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- Top eBook: *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins
- Top Digital Periodical: *The New Yorker*
- Top Digital Video: *Midsomer Murders: Season 2*

Online Courses – Most Popular

- Creativebug: Intro to Needle Felting
- Gale Courses: Introduction to QuickBooks Online
- LinkedIn Learning: What Is Generative AI?
- Niche Academy: SCPLD Cricut Tutorial
- O'Reilly: Software Development – Programming Languages – Python

The State of Illinois provided 27 new free online resources.



Fun fact:

The St. Charles Public Library has the **highest** physical circulation in the **SWAN consortium** which includes **100 libraries** in the Chicagoland area.

The Library purchased **678 physical items** and **223 digital items** based on patron requests, and we **borrowed 1,738 items** from libraries around the country via Interlibrary Loan.

In the past year, our total physical circulation reached **851,281 items**. Of these:

- **816,966 items** checked out in the Library
- **34,315 items** checked out at the drive-up window




"I was thrilled to walk in and see brand new books just waiting to be checked out."
–Patron Comment

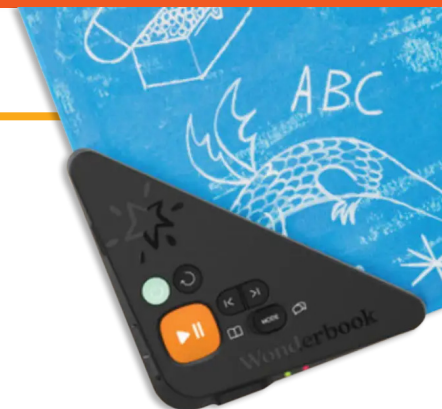


TONIES®

The Toniebox is an innovative audio player designed to bring audio stories, music, and learning to life for kids of all ages. Easy to use and perfect for little hands, Tonies feature everything from Disney favorites and bedtime stories to mindfulness activities and interactive learning experiences. The Toniebox offers screen-free, engaging storytelling fun.

NEW COLLECTIONS IN THE LIBRARY

-  Kids' fiction read-alongs (audio and book in one)
-  Vinyl records (popular music collection in Beyond Books)
-  A new ESL collection to support Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley tutors and new English language learners



NOTABLE YOUTH PROGRAMS



287
Attendees

LIBRARY OLYMPICS

In celebration of the Paris Olympic Games, patrons participated in themed activities based on real Olympic Games such as rock'em, sock'em robots (boxing), frog diving (diving), high jump, long jump, and more! Families created their own "country" flag to carry around as they participated.



AGE	PROGRAM	ATTENDEES
All Ages	61	30,109
Early Childhood	378	14,077
Elementary	188	6,067
Middle School	55	443
TOTALS	682	50,696

Music and Movement

An alternative Storytime to meet sensory needs has quickly become popular. Presented once a month, this program combines rhythm, dance, and instrument play to encourage physical activity and early literacy in a fun, energetic environment.



1,019
Attendees

LEGO Club
LEGO Club is a weekly favorite for school-age kids to build, collaborate, and problem-solve.



144
Attendees

Block Party
Preschool age children had a blast building with Big Blue Blocks, jumbo linking cubes, and foam blocks, and also creating colorful mosaic paper art.



24
Graduated

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
Children graduated from reading 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten; this is the first graduation with this program.



STORYTIME

One of the Library's most popular and beloved programs.

258 sessions

7,317 participants



56
Attendees

Homeschool Hangouts

This program brings homeschooling families together monthly to engage and explore new ideas together. It began in January with two families and progressed to eight families. Children participated in a variety of activities and learned to work with others.

81
Attendees

Family Book Tasting

This storytime gives families a monthly opportunity to discover read-aloud and chapter books, sparking conversations, and shared reading time as a family.

551
Registered

Winter Reading "Isn't Reading Sweet?"

The Library's Winter Reading was a success as we came together to celebrate the sweetness of reading.

"I absolutely loved my first storytime at the Library for my son! It is such a magical experience."
—Patron Comment

SUMMER READING 2025

891

Adult registrants

155

Young Adult registrants

2,467

Youth registrants
(12% increase from 2023)

3,829,334

Total minutes read

800

Attendees at the Kick-Off Party



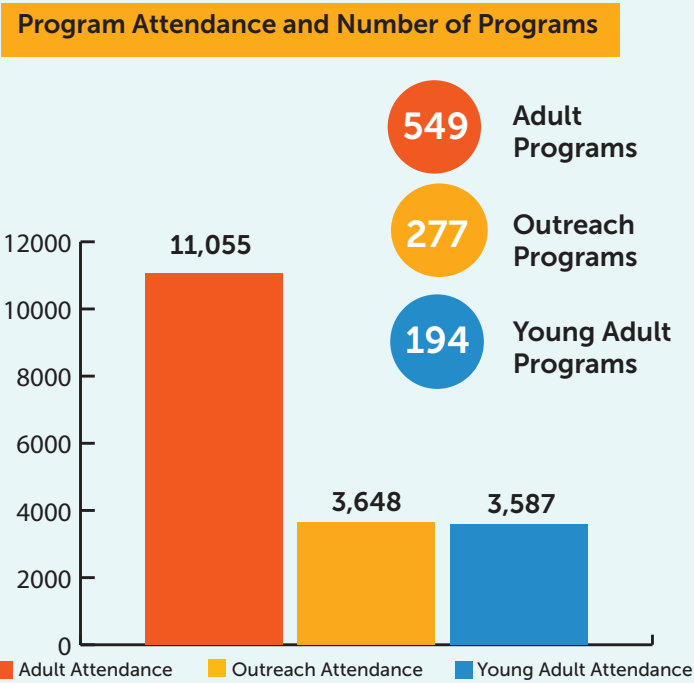
NOTABLE ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS



STC IMMERSIVE

The Library announced the launch of STC Immersive, a dynamic blend of technology, storytelling, and visual effects that offers a rich experience for all ages. Its first event, *From the Earth to the Moon – An Immersive Celebration of the Visionary Authors that Inspired Space Exploration*, was launched in March 2025. Staff-produced shows came to life on the Library’s 10-foot-high by 36-foot widescreen. Thanks to the St. Charles Public Library Foundation for providing funding.

PROGRAM STATISTICS



Freedom Songs: The Music of Black History
We hosted a powerful performance by Bright Star Touring Theatre.



The Art of Weaving: Illinois Prairie Weavers Guild
We welcomed the Illinois Prairie Weavers Guild for a special hands-on event.



Career Fair
The inaugural Career Fair in fall 2024 welcomed **23 employers** and over **100 attendees**.



ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

October buzzed with excitement as over 20 well-attended programs brought *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin to life. From bee-themed crafts to thought-provoking discussions, the month-long celebration culminated in a memorable evening at the historic Arcada Theatre, where Garvin shared excerpts and insights from her heartwarming novel. Thanks to the Friends of St. Charles Public Library and the Library Foundation for funding.



Arts and Crafts Programs

The Library's arts and crafts programs were a hit with adult patrons, offering a chance to learn a new skill, spark creativity, and have fun.



YOUNG ADULT

- The Loft welcomed over **4,392** high school students this year.
- Passive programs in The Loft engaged over **800 teens**.
- Exam Cram (winter session) was attended by **461** students.



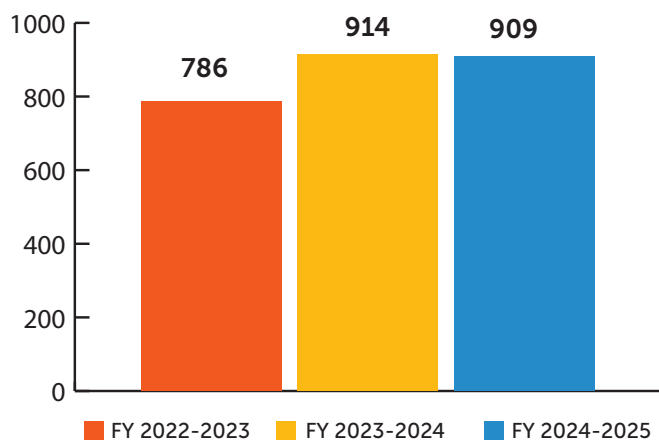
NOTABLE ADULT PROGRAMS



SUNDAY CONCERTS

This year, 15 concerts drew over 900 attendees. Genres include classical, jazz, popular, folk, and Brazilian choro. The Library is grateful to the St. Charles Public Library Foundation for its generous sponsorship.

"I look forward to attending your Sunday concerts!"
–Patron Comment



Concert Attendance

STC CREATIVE



5-MINUTE MAKES

These drop-in programs are held in STC Creative. They offer patrons a craft they can make quickly and take home.



CRAFT OF THE MONTH

These programs focus on teaching patrons how to use tools in STC Creative. Each month, patrons can register and make a craft using the Cricut, heat press, mug press, or other maker equipment.

NEW & EXPANDED SERVICES



New Cardholders!

All new SCPL cardholders receive a welcome email containing helpful information on how to access accounts, utilize the Library's many resources, and attend programs. Patrons also have the opportunity to take a photo with one of three newly created Library card props to celebrate becoming a library cardholder.

Educator Cards

Revamped local educator cards increased access to school staff, which made the checkout process smoother.

385
Educator
Cards

PROJECTS

The Human Services Resources brochure was updated and redesigned. This guide features essential contact information, a description of local services, helpful tips, and emergency hotlines, guiding patrons to the appropriate resources in times of need.

Cell phone boosters were installed on the lower level and main floor to help increase cell phone coverage.

The fireplace in the main public area of the Library received a facelift with the addition of porcelain tile in a herringbone pattern to help bring a modern look that will also withstand high temperatures.

The Circulation department implemented significant technological improvements, including the use of the circTRAK Shelf Management Wand for checking in and completing an inventory of Library materials.



Book a Librarian

This new service allows patrons to use the expertise of the SCPL librarians. From researchers to genealogists, technical pros to database gurus, the Library can tailor our services to meet the needs of the community. By reserving a one-hour personalized assistance session, patrons can unlock the full potential of the Library.

Nonprofit Survey

A cross-departmental committee developed a five-question survey sent to local nonprofits to better understand their needs. The feedback helped identify what these organizations value and expect from the Library. In response, the Library created a customized folder that includes resource documents on fundraising, grants, management, marketing, and library services.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In conjunction with our strategic goals, the Library focused on developing new partnerships and expanding our presence within the community. These efforts not only introduced the Library in new and unexpected places, but also highlighted our involvement in meaningful, visible ways.



MEET THE MASCOTS

The Library worked with the St. Charles Business Alliance to create a new sponsorship, "Meet the Mascots," for Scarecrow Festival 2024. Library staff dressed in popular and fun mascot costumes, including dinosaurs, Bluey, and Mario. Our highly-visible placement on First Street Plaza drew many kids, families, photos, and smiles.

Decommissioned Library Technology
Equipment was donated to The Power Up Project, where it's refurbished and distributed to individuals and organizations in need throughout Chicagoland.

Hosted Neighboring Libraries
The Library hosted staff from other SWAN libraries (Batavia, Downers Grove, and Addison) to show them our Library's processes and workflows.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree Giving Program
This helps children in need by providing new clothing and toys. New, unwrapped gifts are collected at the Library and donated to the Salvation Army. This year, we collected a record number of donations.

Paint the Town Banner
Staff participated in *Paint the Town in a Banner Way*, sponsored by the St. Charles Arts Council. Our banner was showcased with other area businesses and local artists in Mount Saint Mary Park.

Community Artist Gallery
The Library showcases local artists, giving visitors a chance to view different styles and mediums. We also partnered with the St. Charles Arts Council for the 2024 Plein Air event.



St. Charles Writer's Group celebrated its 30th anniversary.

- St. Charles Youth Commission**
Library staff collaborated with the St. Charles Youth Commission to promote intergenerational programming.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade**
Staff brought the stars to the parade as the Library highlighted the first Immersive program, *From the Earth to the Moon*. Planets, along with the Immersive logo, adorned the Library van.
- D303**
SCPL hosted new Get Carded/Literacy Nights for D303 schools, which increased student card registration. The Library ended the year with **1,282 active student cards**.
- D303 RISE**
Students and coaches visited monthly for checkouts, book talks, and activities.
- Fox Valley Special Recreation Association**
The Library continues to work with Fox Valley Special Recreation Association by providing bi-monthly programming and serving on the board of their foundation.
- Elgin Mental Health Hospital Collaboration**
The Library donates withdrawn materials to support the hospital's library and patients, extending the life of our resources and enhancing their educational and recreational programs.

Youth Services collaborated on **41 programs** with the St. Charles Park District

Highest attended programs were:

143	120	117
Movie in the Park	The Mitten Storytime and Activities	Turtle Races



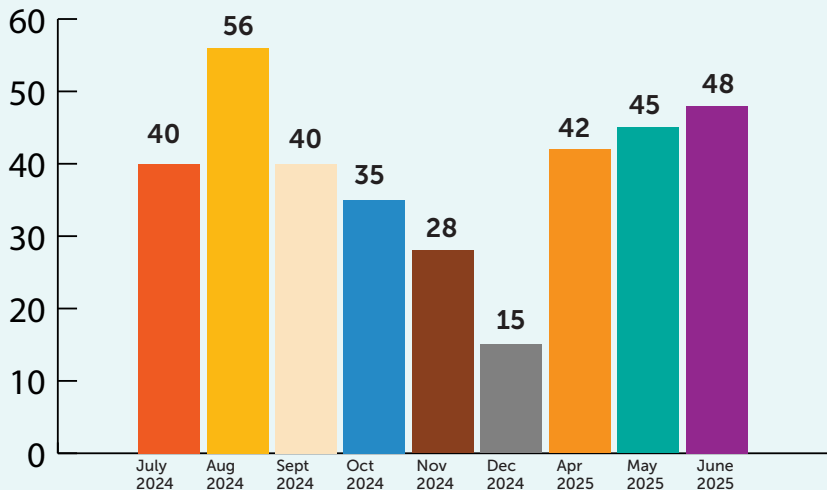
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 6, the Library made a debut appearance at the Sheriff's National Night Out, a popular family-friendly annual event. The event included community vendors, emergency vehicles on display, and representatives from the Bomb Unit, S.W.A.T., K-9 Patrol, and Office of Emergency Management Agency.

The StoryWalk®

The StoryWalk® is a partnership with the Kane County Forest Preserve. Books are displayed outdoors to combine reading and outdoor activities. Each month, a new book is displayed at LeRoy Oakes on the path to Randall Road. The StoryWalk® continues to grow every year in popularity.

349
Total Attendees



"Such a good story and the perfect length! First time seeing this—we loved it and will be back! There was a lot of thought put into this, and it shows! Wonderful job!"

—Patron Comment

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

MILESTONES

Staff Anniversaries

30 yrs. – Lynda Spraner

15 yrs. – Brandon Buckley, Christine Steck

10 yrs. – David Kelsey, Kersten Wright

5 yrs. – Viviana Jimenez, Patty Lakoma,
Sarah Pistilli, Amy Vidlak-Girmscheid

100+
Employees

4
Internal
Promotions

17
New Hires

6 years
Average
Tenure

New Positions:

- Bilingual Circulation Outreach Specialist
- Youth Programming Librarian
- Adult Services Assistant Manager

Staff Contributions to Committees and Professional Activities

- Kate Boyle, Youth Services Early Literacy Librarian, serves on the committee for the Monarch Award: Illinois' K–3 Reader's Choice Award.
- Megan Meidel, Youth Services Reader Services Librarian, serves on the committee for the Bluestem Award: Illinois' Grades 3–5 Reader's Choice Award.
- Amelia Thomas, Youth Services Librarian, serves on the committee for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award (Grades 4–8).
- Julie Tegtmeier, Cataloging and Data Librarian, was elected as Membership and Communications Chair for the Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group.
- Mary Miller, Youth Services School Services Librarian, presented at the Illinois Youth Services Institute on "eResources for Everyone."
- Kelly Stulgate, Youth Services Manager, served as Vice President in 2024 for LACONI Youth Services Section; became Section President in 2025.
- Jasmina Lapo, Circulation Manager, chaired the Circulation RoundTable Networking Group, representing the Library and leading discussions on circulation topics.



Librarian Darcy Tatlock was named Kiwanian of the year in September 2024.

Staff receive opportunities throughout the year to attend training and development classes and conferences. In the past year, staff reported a total of 2,041 training hours.

- Staff In-Service days in November 2024 and April 2025 focused on customer service, safety training and drills, and community resources such as Lazarus House, LVFV, and Family Guidance Center.
- Altogether Human Resources Conference
- American Library Association (ALA) Learning Collection Development Crash Course
- American Library Association (ALA) Project Management Course
- Annual CPR training for 30 staff
- Back in Circulation Conference
- Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group, Inc. Conference
- Illinois Master Gardener coursework
- Individual DiSC Assessments
- Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association (IPELRA) Annual Conference
- Library Administrators Council of Northern Illinois (LACONI) UnConference
- OCLC Resource Sharing Conference
- Public Library Association (PLA) Webinars
- Quilting and embroidery classes at Creative Sewing & Quilting in Geneva
- Reaching Forward Conference
- System-Wide Automated Network (SWAN) Expo Conference
- Youth Mental Health First Aid certification

GROUPS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Since their establishment in 1978, the Friends continue to support the Library with donations that sponsor programs and services.

Friends' Donations supported:

- Library Staff recognition gifts
- Scholarship awarded to a staff member for continuing education
- Summer Reading incentives for adults and youth
- Summer Reading Kick-off Sponsor
- Babysitter Workshops
- Other special programs

BOOK SALE

The Friends' used book sale continues to be a great source of revenue. The sales in October 2024 and April 2025 were once again very successful, bringing in over **\$13,000**. During the holiday season, the Friends offered wrapped children's books for sale, logo mugs containing packages of cocoa, and mystery wrapped books with a tea bag, and a bookmark for cozy reading. These sales make it possible for the Friends to continue to offer financial support for Library programs.



TERRACE GARDEN MURAL

The largest project this year was a mural for the Library Terrace Garden, commissioned by the Friends and dedicated in June. The mural depicts native flowers and pollinators in bright, vivid colors. The mural also features a large mosaic moth where patrons can purchase a tile to recognize or memorialize family members.



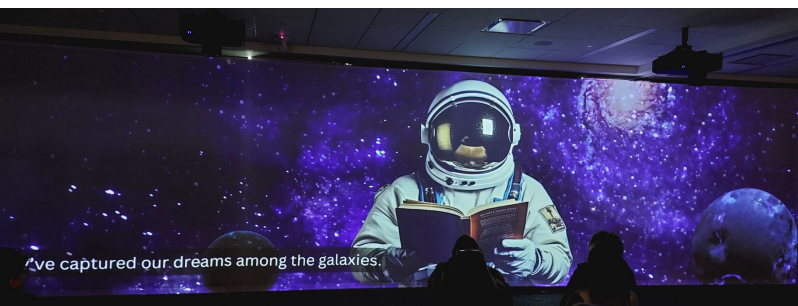
VOLUNTEERS

Friends volunteers have given over **1,887 hours** of their time sorting all of the donated and withdrawn books, as well as working at the book sales, summer reading kick-off, and wrapping books for our annual Holiday Book Sale.

**35%
increase
in hours**



GROUPS



REBRANDING CAMPAIGN

The Library's Communications and Marketing staff worked closely with the Foundation to successfully complete a rebranding campaign. The informational and donor brochures were given a modern, streamlined design with new colors and images, and concise, easy-to-read layouts. Both pieces were printed and uploaded to the Library's website.

The Foundation's new online donation software was also added to the website and promoted to patrons, along with improvements to their web presence.

FOUNDATION

The St. Charles Public Library Foundation was established 30 years ago by a group of dedicated residents who were passionate about supporting the Library in its mission to offer quality information, programs, and lifelong learning resources to the community. The work done by the Foundation is a direct result of the generosity of our donors, as well as annual fundraising events.

The Foundation works to ensure that patrons are engaged at all levels. Several examples of items funded by the Foundation include:

- Concerts and educational, historical adult programs
- The new Immersive equipment
- Artwork to add to the Library's collection
- Accessibility Collection
- STC Creative equipment



FOUNDATION DONORS



\$1-\$49

Robert Carne
Caroline Ciliberti*
Sena Drawer
Mary C. & Jim H. Hannah
Patricia Kitner*
Cheryl Lippold*
Melissa Llamas-Moreno
Linda Pierpoint
Frederick M. & Sharon M. Schmidt*
Geri Shouba*
Beatrice Sutton,
In Memory of John Slusser
Tsipias Family*

\$50-\$99

Linda Bell*
James Carney
Bonnie Dearborn*
In Memory of Margaret Emmendorfer
Frank & Virginia Hammelman*
Peter & Mary Kay Herbert*
Donna R. Isbell
Dr. J. Richard & Sandra C. Toleikis
Mary Jo Savol
Bonnie Streid*

\$100-\$249

Ron & Judi Asselborn
Kathleen Brens*

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Cali
James W. & Kathleen D. Fleming*
Tom & Claudia Frost**
Barbara A. Harp
In Honor of Ken Hasz
Jack & Rosemary Hood
Dr. Judith C. Hopkins
Roger & Barbara Johnson
Gloria A. Klimek**
Mark & Marcia Koenen
Steve & Cheryl Ledbetter
Pamuella F. Mann
Edward & Sandra Marth*
Alice A. Muehlethaler*
Julie Nyquist
Brian & Staci Olson**
In Honor of Alfred & Maurine Patten
C. Alfred & Maurine Patten
David & Judith Peterson*
Gene & Peggy Redlin
Timothy & Patricia Renaud-Gallagher
John & Sherry Schmidt
Tim & Jane Shelton
Abigail Solazzo
Robert & Kathleen Sunderbruch
Katherine A. Thomson
Thomas & Barbara Turcan
Susan Van Duyne

\$250-\$499

Donald & Elizabeth Cress
Robert & Mary Ellen Gephart
Andy & Pamela Marck
Mason, Faith, Hoscheit & Lefelstein DDS
Marjorie Meanger
Pam Salomone
Heather Swanson
Joseph & Susanna Vitale

\$500-\$999

John & Carol Abel
Barbara Backley
Terry Berkhout
Wyonne Hegland**
In Memory of Jane Holderfield
Arthur Mollenhauer
Priola Family Donor Advisory
Town House Books & Café

\$1,000 & Up

Thomas S. Ainsworth
Kevin & Maggie Brewner**
Dauer Family
Joy Duerr
Mike & Nancy Hill
Norman & Barbara Huntley
Sharon Maholland**
Raymond P. Rogina & Diane L. Cullen
Carol Slusser**
Martha E. Vanko
Susan A. Watkins

*Memory of Mary Ann Tilton

**Memory of Mary Ann Tilton and
General Donations

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

Mary Kruse, President
Bonnie J. Dauer, VP/Secretary
Michael J. Hill, Treasurer
Claudia Frost, Trustee
Allison Lanthrum, Trustee
Barbara Diepenbrock, Trustee
Jane Shelton, 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