



FISCAL YEAR
2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

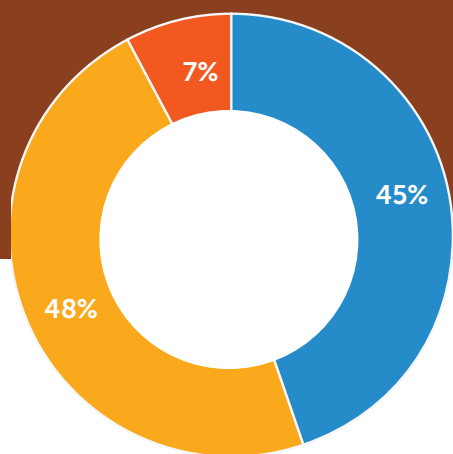
NEW COLLECTIONS

Young Adult (YA) Read-Along & Young Adult Award Collections

The YA Read-Along collection includes VOX Books and Wonderbooks for popular YA titles. The YA Award Collection includes titles nominated for the Lincoln Award.



COLLECTION ITEMS OWNED



205,463 Digital
194,597 Books
30,839 Movies, Music, & More

430,899 Grand Total

Rising Reads Collection

To support literacy at all ages, we created a collection of high interest, low reading level (hi/lo) books that appeal to older audiences through mature themes and characters.

Popular Online Resources

Most Popular Resources Overall

1. AtoZ Databases
2. The New York Times All-Access
3. Freegal

Top Music Genres in Freegal

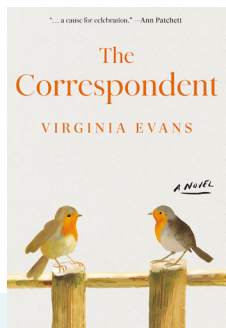
1. Rock
2. Pop
3. Electronic

Top Titles in Newsbank

1. Daily Herald
2. Kane County Chronicle
3. Chicago Sun-Times

WHAT YOU READ, WATCHED, & LISTENED TO!

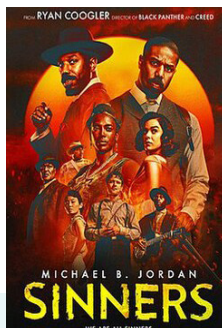
TOP CIRCULATING TITLES BY COLLECTION



ADULT FICTION
The Correspondent
by Virginia Evans



ADULT NONFICTION
The Let Them Theory
by Mel Robbins



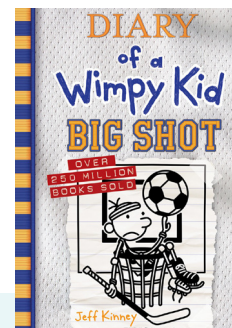
ADULT MOVIE
Sinners



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



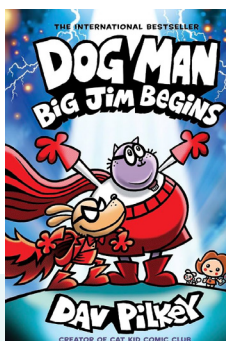
YOUNG ADULT FICTION
Sunrise on the Reaping
by Suzanne Collins



YOUTH FICTION
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot
by Jeff Kinney



YOUTH PICTURE BOOK
The Pigeon Needs a Bath!
by Mo Willems



YOUTH GRAPHIC NOVEL
Dog Man: Big Jim Begins
by Dav Pilkey



YOUTH MOVIE
A Minecraft Movie



VIDEO GAME
The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild



PHYSICAL ITEM
Toniebox Kits



MUSIC CD & VINYL
The Life of a Showgirl
by Taylor Swift

Over 1,200

Patron purchase requests added to the collection

46

Clubs supported through Book Club Service

5,263

Items supplied to our community book clubs

1,196

Borrowed items from libraries around the country through interlibrary loan

853

Items sent out through interlibrary loan

102,901

Holds pulled for our community

57%

Youth Services Audio Collection grew to meet patron demand. More VOX Books, Wonderbooks, Yoto cards, and Tonie figurines were added.

INCREASING ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

EXPANDING SERVICES

- **Citizenship Classes:** Launched in fall 2025, these classes provide educational support for community members preparing for the citizenship process.
- **Bilingual Program Specialist:** The Library expanded Spanish-language programming which strengthened engagement through game nights and other community-focused events.
- **Expanded Language Access:** The Library now offers Spanish and Polish online library card registration, Spanish-language library card forms, and bilingual staff support.



BRINGING THE LIBRARY TO YOU



11,500
Items

OUTREACH DELIVERED

This year, our Outreach Team delivered 11,500 circulating items to patrons in our community.

-  **Patron Point:** This year, the Library launched Patron Point, an online registration tool that offers immediate digital library card access.
-  **StoryWalk®:** In partnership with the Kane County Forest Preserve, the Library expanded our StoryWalk® to Tekakwitha Woods, doubling outdoor literacy opportunities and building on the success of the LeRoy Oakes partnership.



COMMUNITY BOOK DROPS

Patrons returned **21,190** items to book drops throughout the community. There are five book drops throughout the Library District, making it easy to return materials close to home.



LIBRARY ON THE GO!

Through pop-up events in the community, the Library increased awareness of our resources, engaged new audiences, and registered residents for library cards.

SPACES FOR EVERYONE



SELF-CHECK STATIONS

Two new ADA-accessible self-check stations were added to the main and second levels of the Library to make checking out more convenient for all patrons.



INTERACTIVE LIBRARY BUS

This summer, the Library introduced a new, interactive, ADA-compliant bus in Youth Services. It quickly became a favorite destination for families.

"I love how adults can play with their children inside the bus!"
—Patron Comment

ACCESSIBILITY

The Library enhanced accessibility throughout our spaces with ADA improvements, including Braille signage, and updates to our parking lot to create safer walkways and centralized accessible parking. In addition, the Library added ADA-friendly tables to the main level Snack Stop.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS



250th LIBRARY CARD DESIGN CONTEST

In partnership with the America 250th initiative, the Library launched a community-wide contest inviting patrons to design a commemorative limited-edition library card. The winning entry was selected and debuted on July 1.



- Library staff participated in the D303 Transition Program's Mock Job Fair.
- Students from St. Charles East High School participated in the D303 Work-Based Learning Program, contributing to library projects and daily operations through a variety of support tasks.
- Collaborated with District 303 through school visits, kindergarten nights, early literacy outreach, presentations, and hands-on activities.
- Held our first D303 professional development training for librarians and Library staff on Diversity in Literature.
- Partnered with the Mayor of St. Charles to present *Invite a Judge with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford*.
- Hosted the City of St. Charles' Intergovernmental Community Resource Night, sponsored by the Equity & Inclusion Commission.
- Partnered with the Kane County Adult Detention Center to provide withdrawn Library materials for inmate use.

Has the Library had a meaningful impact on you?



SHARE YOUR STORY

We launched a community campaign inviting patrons to share how the Library has enriched their lives, with stories featured on a dedicated webpage.

CAREER FAIR

Attendance at our annual Career Fair doubled compared to the previous year. The Library also collaborated with Batavia and Geneva librarians to host a regional Teen Job Fair.

"The Library has been a part of my entire life from an early age and I've never stopped going. I am so proud of the St. Charles Library and appreciative of all they do for our community."
– Mayor Clint Hull



209 Attendees

- Partnered with the St. Charles Park District to launch Barnyard Books, combining storytime experiences with visits to Primrose Farm.
- Collaborated with Anderson Animal Shelter on the Day of Service program, where families created toys for shelter animals.
- Offered Reading with Rover with the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club, helping children build confidence and reading skills.
- Participated in the Cycle into Summer Bike and Walkability Event, promoting library resources and distributing 3D-printed bike accessories.
- The Community Cabinet received and distributed tens of thousands of shelf-stable food items, helping support neighbors experiencing food insecurity.
- Our Board President, Mary Kruse, presented at the State of the City on May 6 at the Arcada Theatre.
- Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley welcomed Tracy Kelsey as their new Director.



MARCH BOOK MADNESS

Library staff participated in the D303's March Book Madness selection committee. The Youth Department hosted a month-long display of the nominated books, allowing district students to read the titles and vote for the winning books.

STORIES UNDER THE SKY

We expanded collaboration with the St. Charles Park District by launching the "Stories under the Sky" series in local parks.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteers supported the Library with **310** hours of service this year, including assistance with programs, special projects, and other Library activities.
- We hosted a volunteer appreciation event, recognizing the incredible work volunteers do to support our community.
- To help support other local community partners, the Library hosted our inaugural Volunteer Fair, welcoming **14** nonprofit organizations and **47** attendees.
- The Teen Advisory Board remained active with **21** students serving during the 2025-2026 school year.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Showcasing our summer reading theme, the Library won second place in the nonprofit category at the 2026 St. Charles St. Patrick's Day Parade.



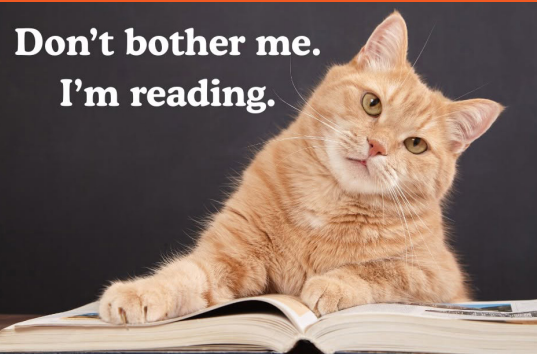
WE CREATED

- 635 3D Items Printed
- 535 STC Creative Reservations
- 205 Sound Studio Reservations

"Staff helped me with a project using the Cricut (my first time) and were amazing! Thank you for such a great service and knowledgeable staff! :)"
—Patron Comment



Don't bother me.
I'm reading.



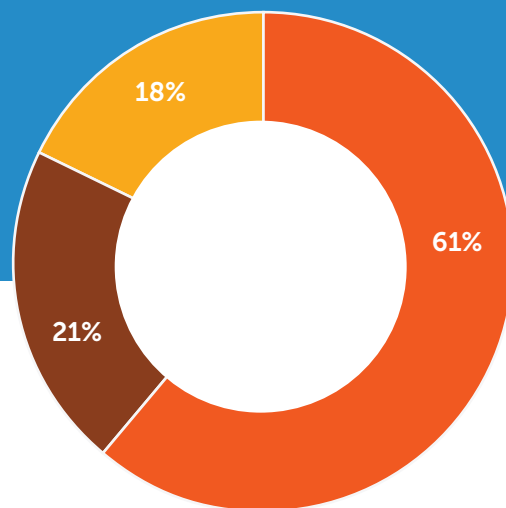
JOIN OUR SOCIALS



TOTAL CIRCULATION

- 639,094 | Books
- 220,139 | Digital
- 184,136 | Movies, Music & More

1,043,369 Grand Total



- For the fourth year in a row, our Library circulated over **1 million** items.
- Digital circulation has more than doubled in the past five years. Now, almost one out of every five check-outs is digital.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMING



Patrons learned about Chinese tea traditions and preparation techniques while sampling two varieties of tea.



We celebrated America’s 250th anniversary with Leslie Goddard’s living history portrayal of Abigail Adams.

- Hosted Illinois Poet Laureate Mark Turcotte as the featured speaker for the St. Charles Writers Group.
- Moderated a book discussion with award-winning journalist Nico Lang.
- Celebrated Japanese culture through Cherry Blossom Festival and Joyous Japan programs featuring Yvonne Wolf and Brian Michalski.
- Women Spies in World War II featured compelling stories of the women who served as spies during the war.
- Launched American Mahjong series of programs in early 2026. This program quickly became one of the Library's most popular recurring programs.



BIRDS OF PREY

Avian ambassadors from Kane Area Rehabilitation and Education for Wildlife (KARE) introduced attendees to some of their feathered residents!

"Excellent program! I wasn't expecting live birds, but they were absolutely beautiful and I enjoyed learning about them."
–Patron Comment

CURLING 101

To coincide with the Winter Olympics, a group from Windy City Curling delivered a lively and engaging introduction to the sport!



SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES



ONSITE PROGRAMMING STATS

	Attendance	Programs Held
Adult	9,140	635
Teen	2,712	147

TEEN PROGRAMMING



1,328
Teens

In addition to our Teen programs, teens engaged with passive programming and activities in The Loft.



5-MINUTE MAKES SCREENPRINT TOTE BAG

STC Creative staff are very helpful, informative, and kind. I enjoyed the variety of programs.
—Patron Comment

125
Teens

OPEN MIC



The Teen Open Mic Series welcomed teens across four programs during the school year.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING STATS

	Attendance	Programs Held
Adult	3,684	291
Teen	1,425	64

STC CREATIVE



CRAFT OF THE MONTH Plant Propagation Station

TAKE AND MAKE: DIY Fabric Wreath Kit



- STC Creative continued to be a popular destination for technology and creative programming. The most popular programs this year included our smartphone photography class and garden stakes at the Maker Table.
- In April, our IT Educator began offering computer programs at Hunt Club Village.

SUMMER READING

Plant A Seed. READ

ADULT

857

Adults Registered

874,726

Minutes logged

542

Halfway Milestone

469

Finishers

YOUNG ADULT

168

Teens Registered

214,510

Minutes logged

98

Halfway Milestone

87

Finishers

YOUTH SERVICES

2,569

Children Registered

2,523,049

Minutes logged

1,670

Halfway Milestone

1,353

Finishers



SUMMER READING KICKOFF

The annual Summer Reading Kick-Off Party welcomed approximately **500** community members for a day of music, games, foam-filled fun, and family activities. The event was made possible through a generous \$5,000 donation from the Friends of St. Charles Public Library.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING



GREAT BIG BUBBLE SHOW

ONSITE PROGRAMMING STATS

46,064 Attendance

678 Programs Held



OUTREACH

Youth Services Outreach staff provided Library services beyond the building.

27,980 Attendance

924 Programs Held

418+ Hours



S'MORE MOVIE NIGHT



FIREFLY THEATER



DINOSAUR DIMENSIONS

1,860
Children
Engaged

Hosted Hidden Dinosaur (DINOvember), a month-long search for a hidden dinosaur throughout the Library.

135
Attendees

Presented Really Chilly!, a celebration of winter and the conclusion of the Winter Reading program.

236
Attendees

Hosted a Winter Olympics program in support of the Winter Reading theme.

125
Attendees

Presented Tie-Dye, which explored creativity and color through hands-on family projects.

40
Children

Hosted the New Big Sibling Party. Activities focused on caregiving, empathy, and social-emotional learning.

STEWARDSHIP

BUDGET

Total Expenditures: **\$9,744,554**

- 67% Personnel
- 12% Collection Materials
- 7% Administration & Supplies
- 5% Facility & Maintenance
- 5% Debt Payments
- 4% Information Technology

Total Income: **\$10,178,557**

- 94% Local Tax Revenue
- 3% Interest
- 2% Grant & Gifts
- 1% Fines, Fees, Photocopies

How far
does your
dollar
stretch?



MILESTONES

Staff Anniversaries

- Barry Lassiter, 10 years
- Lisa March, 10 years
- Rob McKiness, 10 years
- Junior Renteria, 5 years
- Hector Robledo, 5 years

Retirements

- Amanda Kaiser, Technical Services Manager
- Doug Perry, IT Network Systems Administrator
- Nancy Roder, Circulation

106
Employees

7 years
Average Tenure

Promotions:

- Adrienne Novy to Circulation Associate
- Jane Piraino to Collection Development Librarian
- Victoria Lazarski to Youth Services Assistant Manager
- Julie Tegtmeier to Project Manager

New Positions:

- Visual Media Specialist, Mel Guerra
- Bilingual Program Specialist, Viannett Caballero

1,905
Hours

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Employees completed professional development through training opportunities focused on building new skills, strengthening existing expertise, and exploring innovative approaches to better serve our community.

NOTABLE EVENTS



■ All-Day Staff In-Service in November

■ Members of the SCPLD staff are on all four of the statewide committees to select the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) Readers' Choice Book Award nominees.

LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Staff from many departments attended national library conferences including: Public Library Association Conference, American Library Association Conference, Reaching Forward Conference, SWAN Expo Conference, Computers in Libraries Conference, COSUGI (Customers of SirsiDynix User Group, Inc) Annual Conference.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE LIBRARY

A team of staff work behind the scenes to keep the Library running smoothly each day. Some of the highlights from the year are:

- Our Information Technology team completed **620** technology checks, preparing Beyond Books items for circulation and ensuring they were ready for patron use.
- **900** work tickets were answered by the Facilities team, ranging from the simple to complex to keep the Library running.
- Circulation completed a large-scale inventory and collection shifting project which helped to keep our catalog up to date, and our shelves organized, browsable, and accessible for all patrons.
- Our Adult Services team added shelf talkers in stacks to improve browsability for our patrons.
- The Communications & Marketing staff created countless custom-designed marketing and outreach materials for Library programs and initiatives.
- The Administration team coordinated meeting room bookings and notary appointments, and purchased materials for the entire Library.



LIBRARIAN FOR A DAY

HAVE YOU TRIED? HAVE YOU READ?



SUBSCRIPTION BOX READING PROGRAMS

Two new subscription box programs, Rising Readers (K-2) and Bookish Box (Grades 3-5), were introduced to inspire a love of reading. Each themed box includes a book and companion activities, and both programs regularly reach capacity with waiting lists.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Babysitter Training



Noon Year's Eve

SUNDAY CONCERTS SERIES



The Library's Sunday Concert Series continued to enrich the community with a diverse lineup of live musical performances throughout the year, featuring genres ranging from classical and jazz to contemporary pop.



Immersive events for the 2025-2026 fiscal year included: *Falling into Autumn*, *Coco Sing-A-Long* and *100 Years of the Winter Olympics*.

READING CLUBS



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Learning to read begins long before kindergarten. Join us on this journey to help create a brighter future for your child.





BORROW THE UNEXPECTED



You can always discover something new with Beyond Books, our collection of unique items. The collection includes everything—from laptops and hotspots to home improvement tools and outdoor games! This collection is designed to help you learn, create, explore, and try before you buy.



Check out the collection

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Family Memory Tool

Digitize your photos and home movies with our slide and photo converters.

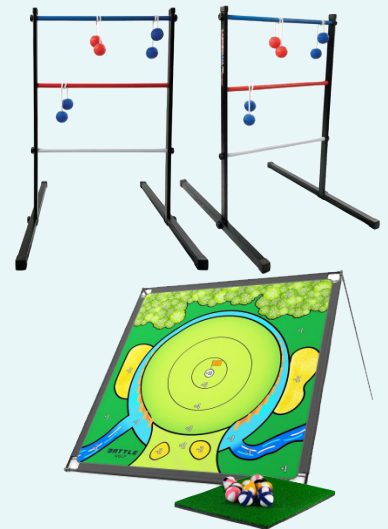


Special Events

Get the party started with our karaoke machines, photo backdrops, and projectors/screens.

Outdoor Fun!

Enjoy the outdoors with our collection of outdoor games.



BOOK CLUB TOP TITLES

Book Discussions for Adults

The Library offered a variety of book discussion groups throughout the year.



Book Club Service

Make your book club even better with our Book Club Service! We can provide copies for your club, help you choose the perfect title, and offer discussion guides that keep the conversation going!



Theo of Golden
by Allen Levi

The Wedding People
by Alison Espach

*Remarkably Bright
Creatures*
by Shelby Van Pelt

The Frozen River
by Ariel Lawhon

Culpability
by Bruce Holsinger

FRIENDS & FOUNDATION



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of St. Charles Public Library are a group of volunteers that support and help fund Library programs, services, and amenities that fall outside the Library's budget.

\$13,000

Raised through book sales

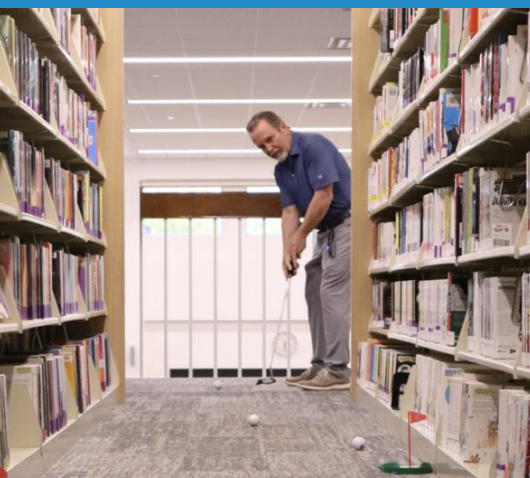
2,200

Volunteer hours

- Summer Reading sponsorship
- Staff recognition
- Scholarships
- Special programming support



FOUNDATION



GOLF GALA FUNDRAISER

In the spring, the Foundation hosted an "After Hours at the Library: Golf Gala" fundraiser with interactive stations throughout the Library, including an immersive show of golf courses, putting contest in the stacks, golf trivia, golf putting clinic, 19th hole serving refreshments and appetizers, and raffle baskets.

The Foundation funded projects throughout the year.

\$50,500 Total in support



- \$15,000**
Adult concerts and programs
- \$5,000**
Youth concerts and performers
- \$10,000**
Repair and rebrand the exterior monument signs



- \$8,000**
RFID Reader to allow staff to process inventory faster and ensure books are shelved properly
- \$7,500**
Immersive technology software for Library programming
- \$5,000**
One Book, One Community reading program
- \$1,350**
The purchase of three paintings from the John and Carol Abel Art Collection auctioned off by Fine Line Creative Arts Center. Two pieces are by artist W. Scott Wilson and one is by Jerry Smith.

FOUNDATION DONORS



Donate
Here



\$1-\$49

Thomas & Mary Brown
Diane L. Chapman
Joanne Desimone
Sena Drawer
Brooke Glynn
Mary C. & Jim H. Hannah
Beth M. Hjort
Melissa Llamas-Moreno
D.M. & J.H. Stockman
Beatrice Sutton, In Memory of
John Slusser
Tsipas Family
Jeanne Turczak
Pam Turriff

\$50-\$99

Jody & Mike Acers*
Pamela Becker*
Marilyn Brink
James Carney, In Memory of
Larry Maholland
Gail Collins
Bonnie Dearborn
Lesley Fagot
Diana Fischer-Woods
Brooke Glynn
Kenneth C. Graham
Donna R. Isbell
Sue Klinkhamer
Michael & Mary Kruse, In Honor
of SCPL Administration Team
Liz Kusper
Wendy Landers
Arthur Mollenhauer, In Honor of
Mary Rose Vincolese

Norris Cultural Arts Center, In Memory
of Mary Ann Tilton

Nan Rowell
Mary Jo Savol
Bernie Shannon*
Dr. J. Richard & Sandra C. Toleikis
Sandra Weber

\$100-\$249

Ron & Judi Asselborn
Anne Becker
Roxanne Bell
Michele Brandt
Diana Brown**
Kathryn Carr
Biana Castro
Richard Collins
Lynn Elam
Thomas & Claudia Frost
Madonna Giamberdino
Barbara A. Harp
Peter & Mary Kay Herbert
Lou & Mary Holland
Nadi Ilivanov
Mark & Marcia Koenen
Steve & Cheryl Ledbetter
Ronald E. & Maureen A. Lehman*
Jan Marchese
Sherry L. Martin
Julie Nyquist
Brian & Staci Olson
Brooke Pacelli
C. Alfred Patten
Gene & Peggy Redlin
Maureen Salesky
John & Sherry Schmidt
Mary Ellen Segraves
Abigail Solazzo
John W. & Patty Stacey
Marci Sterkel
Robert & Kathleen Sunderbruch
Thomas & Barbara Turcan
Susan Van Duyne

\$250-\$499

Donald & Elizabeth Cress
Sharon Darling
Gloria A. Klimek
Mason, Faith, Hoscheit & Lefelstein DDS
Marjorie Meanger
Mark & Pam Salomone
Timothy & Jane Shelton
Strohschein Law Group LLC
Joseph & Susanna Vitale

\$500-\$999

Kimberly Ayars*
Barbara Backley
Terry Berkhout
Wyonne Hegland
John & Pamela Marck
Priola Family Donor Advisory
Katherine A. Thomson

\$1,000 & Up

Estate of John & Carol Abel
Thomas S. Ainsworth
Kevin & Margaret Brewner
Peter Darling, In Memory of
David Darling
John & Bonnie Dauer
Joy Duerr
Mike & Nancy Hill
In Memory of Jane Holderfield
Norman & Barbara Huntley
Sharon Maholland
Joanne R. Mann
Raymond P. Rogina & Diane L. Cullen
Carol Slusser
Martha E. Vanko
Susan A. Watkins

*In Memory of Thomas Leach

** In Honor of Diane MacNeille, and
In Memory of Douglas Brown

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