

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Don't forget to join us at the Patio Party this Saturday (weather permitting) from 1-3. Invitations were extended to the Park District staff and Board along with the architects and of course, our patrons. We're excited to formally celebrate this already popular space. Hopefully the weather cooperates. If it rains, we'll postpone to the following Saturday, June 27th.
- The parking lot was blacktopped and striped on Memorial Day. This is done every other year to maintain the lot and it's always scheduled on a day the Library is closed to the public.
- The seed library is officially closed for the season. This incredibly popular "program" was fully embraced by patrons who took approximately 7,700 seed packets! Patrons donated about 1,200 packets and the other seeds were purchased by the Library. All-in-all this was a great community building program. Kudos to our creative staff members who envisioned, planned, and implemented the seed library.
- The Library received a 98% approval rating in the 2025 City of Elmhurst Citizen Survey. The survey was done at the end of 2025 and the results were published in May. The survey is available on the City's website.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

May 2026

Summer Reading

Adult & High School Summer Reading has begun. The ADS team collaborated with Marketing and other staff to create the new program, Make Your Summer Count. This year patrons can get credit for anything they do at or involving the Library, including reading. In addition, ADS staff is doing significantly more marketing through both passive and pop-up programming. Also, patrons can get a prize for their first entry and are included in prize drawings throughout the summer. 295 patrons joined the program on the Beanstack app by the end of May, setting a record.



The glass display case was designed and built by Lauren Watson, Libby Mercado, Angelina Mazenko and the Marketing Department.

A Sample of the Activities Patrons are reporting in their MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT Check-ins:

Worked - Open seating in kids area, reading new books with my family! - Meeting Room studying - Open Seating: grabbed a couple of books and perused them while sitting on the 2nd floor - Visited with friends in children's section - Donated seeds - Rode bike to library - Planted seeds - Visited patio - NYT Games - Enjoyed sitting inside the children's area while my child went to a session and looked out at the new beautiful garden/patio - Made a Captain Kangaroo button - Using the space for focused work - Watched the movie, Remarkably Bright Creatures - Fine Print: Found summer events - Found community pancake breakfast list in the lobby - Attended Five Ingredients or Less to Impress with Chef Susan Maddox and sampled 3 delicious dishes and got the recipes to make at home myself - Just watched the Wolf of Wall Street - Studying for the Series 65 exam - Listening to Moneyball on Libby App - Open seating - Asked for book recommendations - Studying by the window near the spotlighted business books - Puzzle - We watched Trom, a 6-part drama set in the Faroe Islands that is available on Kanopy - I'm at the library! - I'm sitting at one of the tables by the window on the southern side of the second floor - I spent some time on a public computer. - Finding a new author wandering in the Fiction section - Watched today's Youtube video on the Makery and sewing machines - Advanced Excel class - Watched the NBA playoffs - I made my first 3D print! (using Tinkercad) - Creative bug tutorials on purses and seeming pants - Roku family night movies - Copies - borrowed a paper shredder



39 patrons came to a button pop-up program led by April Peck, the newest ADS staff member, and Bryan Blank.



Lauren Watson served 37 patrons at the felt drawstring bag pop-up.



Alyssa Murphy led a gaming pop-up with 33 attendees.

KIDS' LIBRARY DEPT REPORT

May 2026

Programming

Plant a Seed, Read, the Summer Reading Program is off to a great start. New this summer we are asking children to set a reading goal and to record the date for each day they read. These changes provide greater engagement with the reading program and have been received quite favorably by families. It has been fun to hear the different reading goals such as complete the entire Harry Potter series, read as much as possible, and read something other than a graphic novel. A total of 264 kids completed their 10-day check-in by May 31.



Although May is a slower programming month due to outreach visits to the schools and preschools, we still did have a few programs of note. May 4-10 was Screen Free Week during which patrons could participate in daily passive activities such as voting in pole polls, doing a group art project, and completing a dopamine menu filled with analog activities. We also held a Wild Wonder program which included taking a nature walk in Wild Park and making a nature journal. Twenty-two people attended.

Another programming highlight was Kamilla Wielgat's first Polish/English Storytime on May 18. Twenty people attended. Patrons enjoyed sharing their ties to Polish culture and the Polish community.

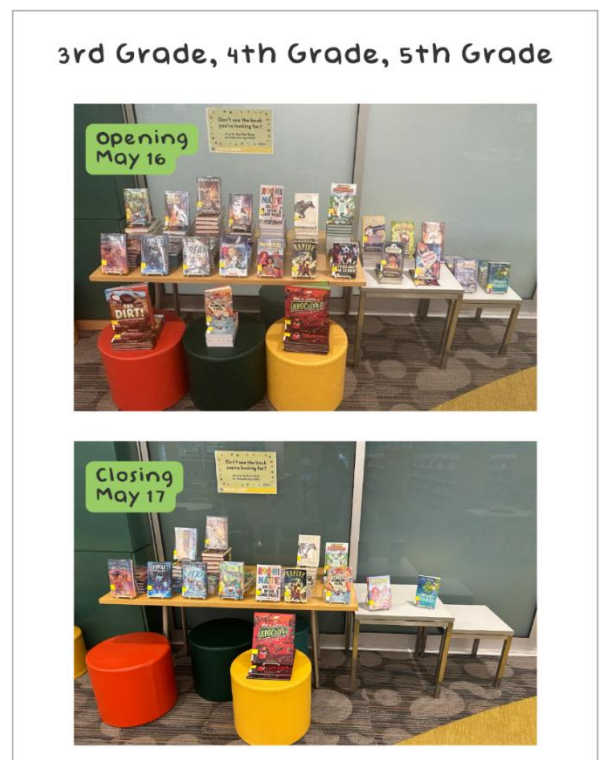


Outreach

May was a very busy month for outreach. Kids' staff visited 44 elementary school and 8 middle school classrooms and presented booktalks and information about the Summer Reading Program to 3650 students. In addition, Katie Stringwell visited two preschools and conducted 3 field trips at the library for 147 preschoolers.

Collection

The featured summer reading titles have been very popular as evidenced by the before and after pictures below after just two days of being on display.



Patio

Kelsey Wilcoxon filled the new kaleidoscope planter on the children's patio. There was a map with suggestions, but Kelsey substituted with similar colors and varieties as needed.

Patron Story

The "win" of the month was when a grandma called the help desk, trying to figure out the name of a book that she read to her kids who are now in their 30s. It was about nighttime fears, with which her granddaughter was struggling. She specifically recalled clothes on a chair that made a menacing shadow. Patty Toht finally tracked down that it was a Berenstain Bears book. The patron responded, "And THIS is why you are a FIVE- STAR library!"



May Marketing Topics included:

Summer Reading at EPL!

Set reading goals for yourself all summer for the chance to win prizes! May 16 - July 31.

For Birth-Grade 8

Plant a Seed, Read is the theme for kids' Summer Reading. Pick up a paper log to track each day you read.

For Adults and High School

Make Your Summer Count! Use the Library to score points and win prizes. Every page, every project, every visit matters. With all the ways you can spend your summer, choose EPL and count yourself in! Track your progress in the [Beanstack app](#).

New! Travel Kit

With Travel Kit, our new service, get inspiration for trip planning, or get a list of materials for a trip you already have planned. Submit a request and we will send you a list of materials to match your preferences.

You will begin by filling out a [Travel Kit Request](#) so we can get to know your goals for traveling. Then, based on your likes and dislikes, one of our expert selectors will match you with a curated list of items. Once it's finished, we will email you a list of suggested materials. We look forward to sharing our expertise with you!

Cool Tools: New Button Makers (video)

Add a touch of flair to your jacket, tote, or fridge! New button makers are available for checkout and for use in the [Makery](#). Create a design and turn it into a button or magnet. Choose from two available sizes: 1.25 inches (small) & 2.25 inches (medium). It couldn't be easier — watch the video to see how it's done. elmlib.org/youtube

Library User Story: Using the Makery for My Small Business (video)

Kate, a business owner in Elmhurst, has a new passion project: upcycling men's shirts and reimagining them as womenswear. She walks us through her process and reveals why working on projects in the Makery outranks tackling DIY projects at home. elmlib.org/youtube

eNews from 05/14




Summer Reading Begins May 16

Set reading goals for yourself all summer for the chance to win prizes! May 16 - July 31.

For Birth-Grade 8
Plant a Seed, Read is the theme for kids' Summer Reading. Pick up a paper log to track each day you read.

For Adults and High School
Make Your Summer Count! Use the Library to score points and win prizes. Every page, every project, every visit matters. With all the ways you can spend your summer, choose EPL and count yourself in! Track your progress in the [Beanstack app](#).

[Summer Reading](#)

Your Journey Starts Here

NEW AT EPL



NEW! With **Travel Kit**, our new service, get inspiration for trip planning, or get a list of materials for a trip you already have planned. Submit a request and we will send you a list of materials to match your preferences.

You will begin by filling out a [Travel Kit Request](#) so we can get to know your goals for traveling. Then, based on your likes and dislikes, one of our expert selectors will match you with a curated list of items. Once it's finished, we will email you a list of suggested materials. We look forward to sharing our expertise with you!

[Try Travel Kit](#)

Virtual Author Visit



Babel-On with R.F. Kuang
Wednesday, May 20
7-8 p.m.
Live on Zoom

R. F. Kuang's gender-bending fiction broaches ordinarily serious topics from a satirical and fantastical perspective. Academic yet approachable, Kuang's work combines history, magic, and classical literary tradition to render powerful critiques of academia, the publishing industry, and even contemporary popular culture.

This event is intended for adults.

Live on Zoom. Register to receive the information to join.

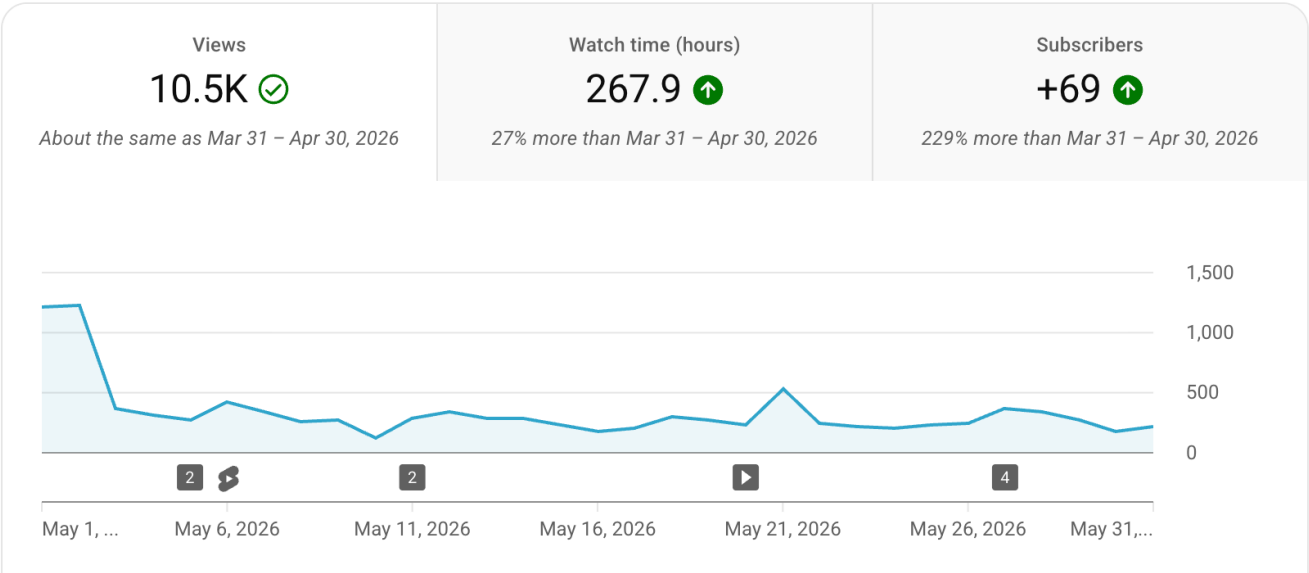
This event is made possible by ILP, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering high-quality events.

[Register](#)

Here are a few sample screenshots of our online presence from May:

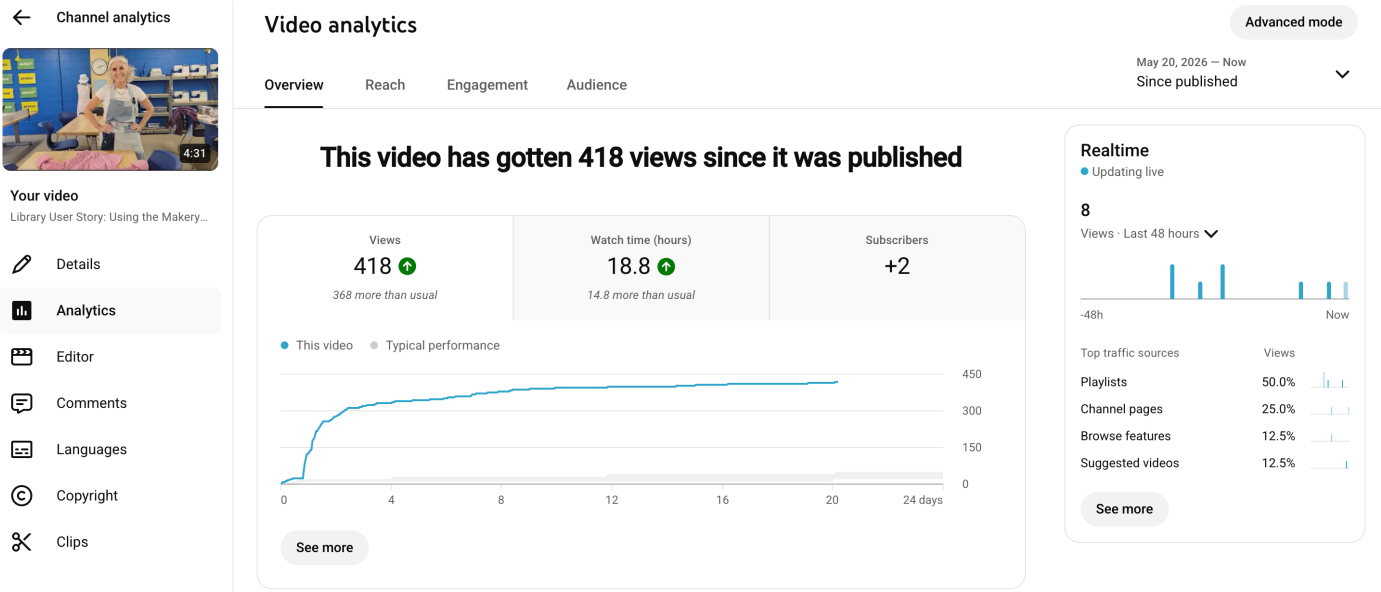
YouTube May Analytics

In May, people watched your videos 10,509 times



Most Watched YouTube Video in May

Library User Story: Using the Makery for My Small Business



Instagram Posts with the Most Likes in May



Views ⓘ

Views	1,399
Followers	95.3%
Non-followers	4.7%

From Home	1,371
From Profile	26
From Other	2

Viewers	607
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Interactions ⓘ

Interactions	29
Followers	96.7%
Non-followers	3.3%

Post interactions	29
Likes	
Shares	



28



0



Views ⓘ

Views	482
Followers	24.6%
Non-followers	75.4%

Viewers	334
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Interactions ⓘ

Interactions	34
Followers	100%
Non-followers	0%

Reels interactions	34
Likes	27
Comments	1
Saves	2
Shares	2

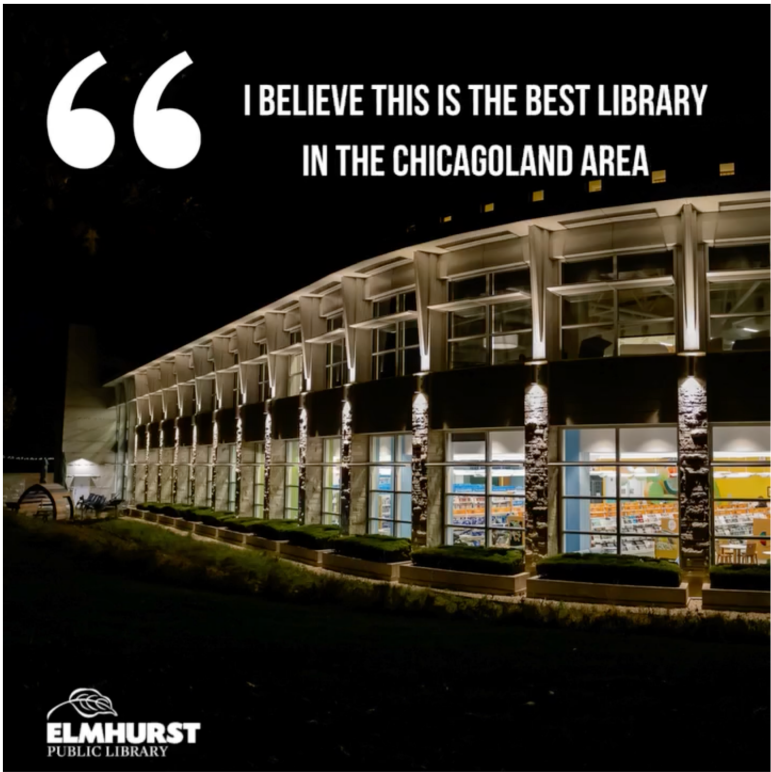
Accounts engaged



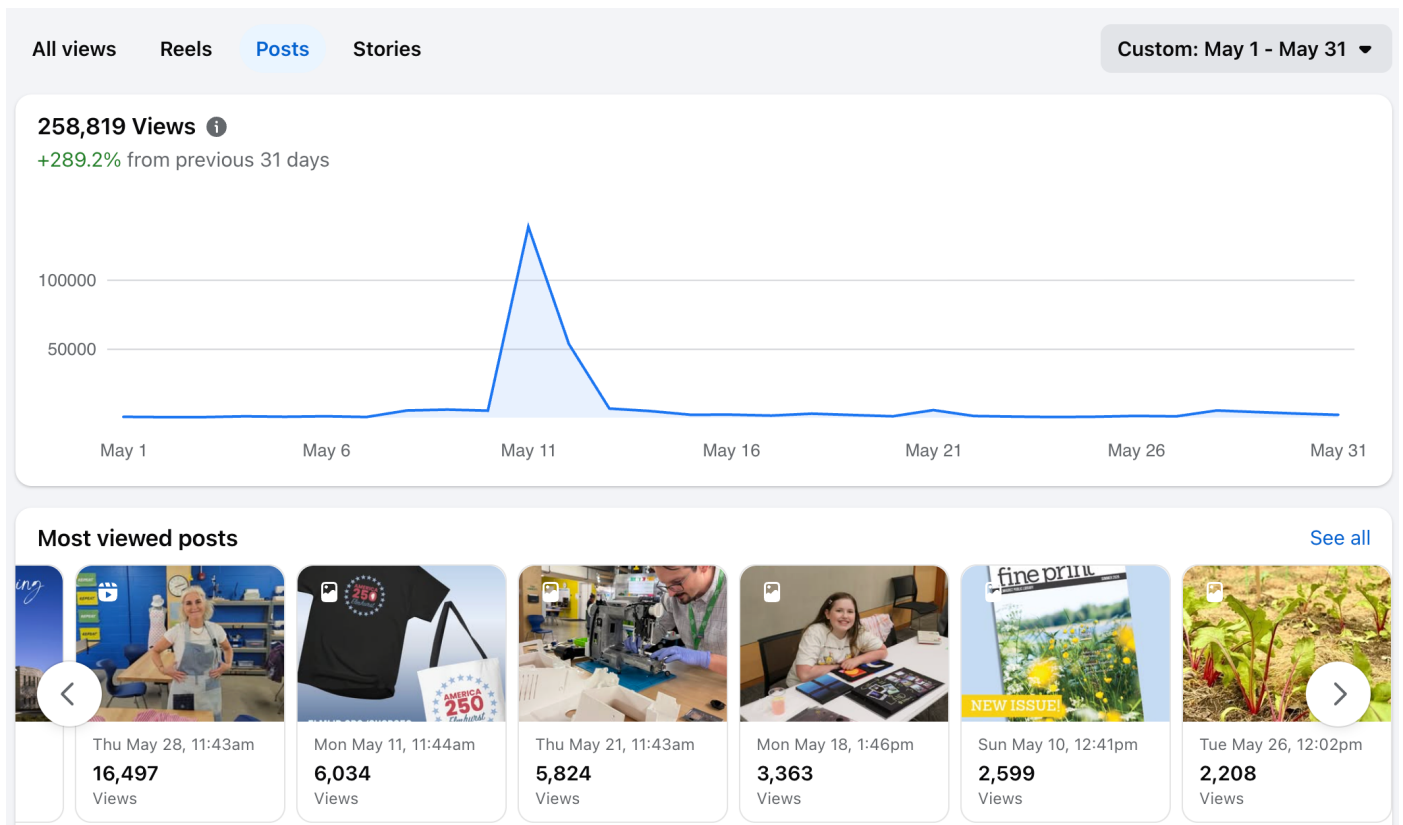
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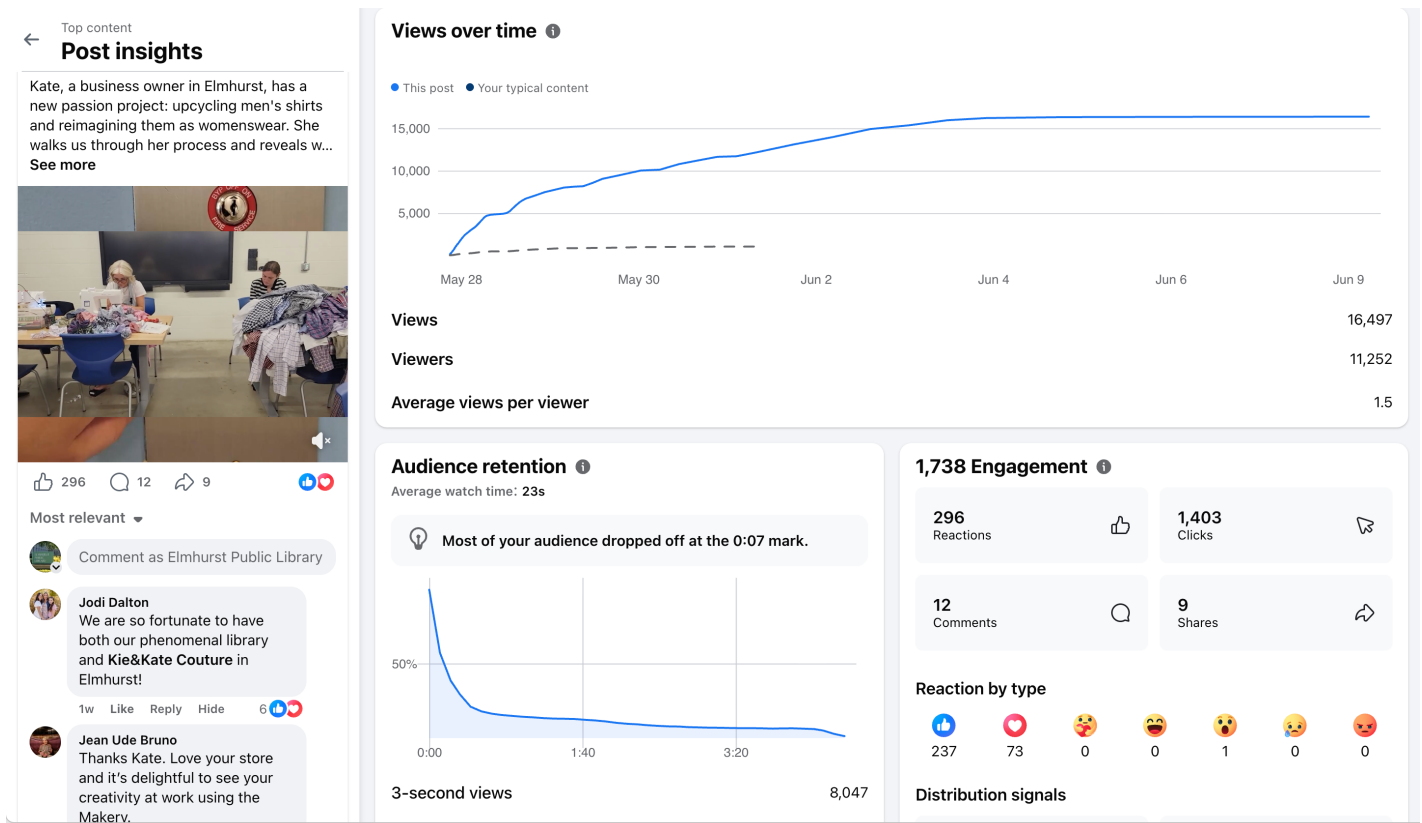
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Facebook May Analytics



Facebook Post with the Highest Engagement in May



MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

MAY 2026

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	2,213	1,885	1,919
Equipment Reservations	243	191	159
3D Prints	155	125	113



ONE OF THE BUSIEST MONTHS EVER!

Busiest months in the Makerspace based on door count

1. July 2017 • 2,334
2. June 2024 • 2,313
3. August 2017 • 2,279
4. **May 2026 • 2,213**
5. June 2025 • 2,196



MAKER SPOTLIGHT

Local small business owner Katie Kempf has become a Makerspace power user this year. She uses the embroidery, serger, and sewing machines to upcycle thrifted men's shirts into fashionable tops that she sells in her Elmhurst shop.



MAKER SPOTLIGHT

Look for "Robin's Next Trinket Trade" if you're walking the neighborhoods of Elmhurst. These residents used the Makerspace to create signage and stickers for their Little-Free-Library-esque boutique outside their home.



REACHING FORWARD NORTH 2026

Head of the Makerspace Bryan Bednarek co-presented at Reaching Forward in Rosemont with makerspace leadership from Palatine, Helen Plum, and Arlington Heights libraries. "Makerspace Mentorship: Building Confident, Capable Teams" offered practical guidance on building staff confidence, fostering peer learning, and supporting a wide range of learners in makerspace environments.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

May 2026

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See	Book Discussion	23	2
Ageless Grace	Enrich	19	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	71	4
Art Therapy Night	Create	25	1
Babel-On with R.F. Kuang	Books and Authors	6	1
Biking in Chicagoland	Enrich	35	1
Bingo	Games	11	1
Bridge and Pinochle		171	4
Canasta	Games	51	5
Chair Yoga	Health and Wellness	56	2
Ciao Italia	Gather	8	1
Coloring and Conversation	Create	8	1
Colors of Elmhurst	Create	2	1
Culture Club: The Enchanted Isles of Galapagos	Enrich	29	1
Dementia Prevention: Keys to Reduce Risk for Cognitive Decline	Enrich	51	1
Drawstring Pouches	Create	37	1
Emigration and Immigration: The Story of Your Ancestors	America 250	24	1
Excel Advanced	Technology	4	1
Excel Intermediate	Technology	4	1
Fall Prevention	Enrich	21	1
Favorite Captain Button		91	2
Five Ingredients or Less to Impress	Enrich	76	1
Friday Features	Movies	68	5
Great Decisions	Enrich	26	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents: Growing Stories	Common Connection	46	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	5	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	15	1
Library Insiders: Stroll With a Pup in the Park	Library Insiders	7	1
LinkedIn Profile Portraits	Business	25	2
Memory Cafe	Enrich	13	1
Morbid History: Because You're More Interesting When You're Dead	Enrich	44	1
Native Plants and Pollinators for Our Local Landscapes	Common Connection	30	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	37	2
Painted Wood Flowers	Common Connection	25	2
Plant Swap	Family	8	1
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	1	1
Risking It All: The Signers of the Declaration of Independence	America 250, Civic	57	1
Scrabble	Games	12	2
Silent Book Club	Books and Authors	3	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Inclusive	10	1
Trading Card Games	Enrich	6	1
Trading Travels	Enrich	4	1
Upcycled Jewelry	Create	11	1
Watercolor Spring Flowers	Common Connection	29	2
Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning	Consumer	33	1

Wonders of the Windy City: The Museum of Science and Industry	Arts and Culture	42	1
TOTALS		1,380	68
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Laser a Golf Tee Holder	Create	6	1
Make a Mother's Day Card Pop-Up		40	1
Makery Craft: Felt Needle Book	Create, Makery,	15	1
Makery Drop In Craft		110	1
Sewing 101: How to Sew a Tote	Create	6	1
TOTALS		177	5
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Exam Relax Kits	Teen Program	40	1
Teen Crafternoon: Mini Beaded Plant	Create	2	1
TOTALS		42	2
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
	Middle School		
Middle School Influencers	Influencers	6	1
Middle School Makers: Mother's Day Laser-Engraved Frame	Create	11	1
Outreach Middle School AT Bryan (6th Grade)	Outreach	208	4
Outreach Middle School AT Bryan (7th Grade)	Outreach	216	4
Volunteer orientation		54	2
Volunteer orientation		23	1
TOTALS		518	13
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Baby Play Date		13	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	6	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	7	1
Getting Started with T-Trak Model Trains	Family	42	1
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	35	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	12	1
Little Wiggles	Storytime	650	9
Make with Me: Paint Your Own Flowerpot	Makery	17	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	82	3
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (1st Grade)	Outreach	58	1
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (2nd Grade)	Outreach	56	1
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (3rd Grade)	Outreach	53	1
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (4th Grade)	Outreach	47	1
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (5th Grade)	Outreach	45	1
Outreach Elementary AT Edison (Kinder)	Outreach	59	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (1st Grade)	Outreach	68	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (2nd Grade)	Outreach	72	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (3rd Grade)	Outreach	71	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (4th Grade)	Outreach	72	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (5th Grade)	Outreach	76	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (Kinder)	Outreach	72	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (1st Grade)	Outreach	85	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (2nd Grade)	Outreach	82	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (3rd Grade)	Outreach	102	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (4th Grade)	Outreach	102	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (5th Grade)	Outreach	96	1
Outreach Elementary AT Fischer (Kinder)	Outreach	72	1

Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (1st Grade)	Outreach	99	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (2nd Grade)	Outreach	83	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (3rd Grade)	Outreach	95	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (4th Grade)	Outreach	112	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (5th Grade)	Outreach	104	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (Kinder)	Outreach	65	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (1st Grade)	Outreach	56	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (2nd Grade)	Outreach	61	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (3rd Grade)	Outreach	85	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (4th Grade)	Outreach	80	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (5th Grade)	Outreach	93	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (Kinder)	Outreach	57	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (1st Grade)	Outreach	56	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (2nd Grade)	Outreach	60	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (3rd Grade)	Outreach	54	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (4th Grade)	Outreach	66	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (5th Grade)	Outreach	52	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (Kinder)	Outreach	56	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (1st Grade)	Outreach	89	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (2nd Grade)	Outreach	98	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (3rd Grade)	Outreach	80	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (4th Grade)	Outreach	101	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (5th Grade)	Outreach	92	1
Outreach Elementary AT Lincoln (Kinder)	Outreach	65	1
Outreach Elementary Timothy Christian (2nd Grade)	Outreach	79	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT Immanuel Lutheran 3's	Outreach	10	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT Mary Queen of Heaven	Outreach	17	1
OUTREACH Preschool Field Trip Tree Town	Outreach	40	2
OUTREACH Preschool IC 4s Field Trip	Outreach	52	1
OUTREACH Preschool Immanuel Lutheran Field Trip	Outreach	28	1
Polish/English Bilingual Storytime	Storytime	20	1
Pop-up Storytime		51	2
Rainy Day Art	Create	33	1
Romp & Rhyme		176	5
Summer Reading Begins	Books and Authors		1
Weekly Scavenger Hunt	Games	268	2
Wild Wonder	Create	22	1
YMCA Training		45	1
TOTALS		4,852	82
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Entertainment Station		19	3
Puzzles		85	1
Seed Library		1,845	1
Summer Reading		311	8
The Great American Road Trip on Lg. Monitor		23	1
YouTube Recording views (Online)		206	1
Teen Passive Programs:			
Mini Beaded Plant (Passive)	Teen Program	8	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout Passive		55	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Foam Dinosaurs Passive	Play	95	1

Group Art Project Passive	Create	30	1
Guess How Many Passive	Games	64	1
Make & Take Passive	Create	228	2
Pole Polls Passive	Games	55	1
Stay & Play Passive	Play	270	2
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		4046	88
Total Passive Program Statistics		2,489	15
Total Program Statistics		1,557	73
Teen Program Grand Total		50	3
Total Passive Program Statistics		8	1
Total Program Statistics		42	2
Middle School Program Grand Total		573	15
Total Passive Program Statistics		55	2
Total Program Statistics		518	13
Kids' Program Grand Total		5,594	90
Total Passive Program Statistics		742	8
Total Program Statistics		4,852	82
Passive Program Total		3,294	26
Total Attendance		10,263	
Total Programs			196

STATISTICAL REPORT

May 2026

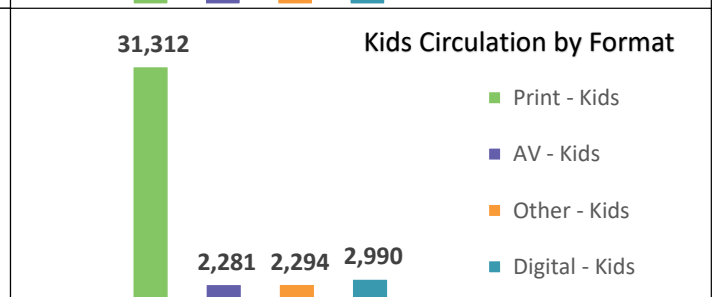
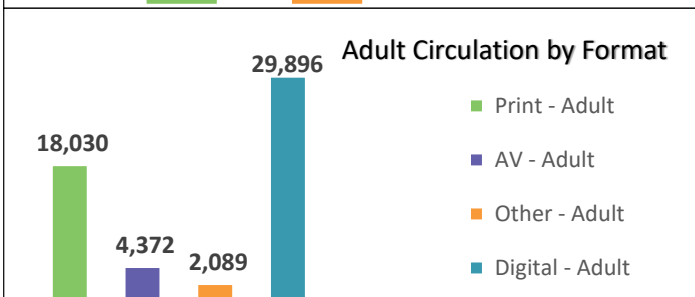
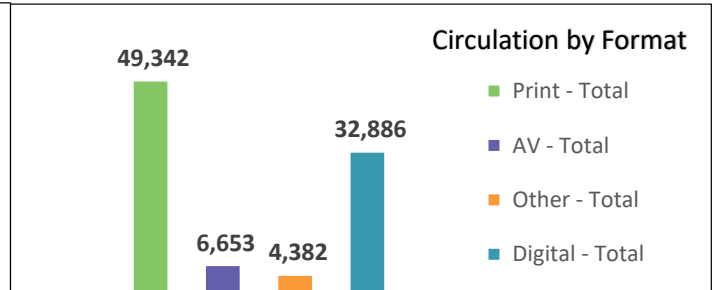
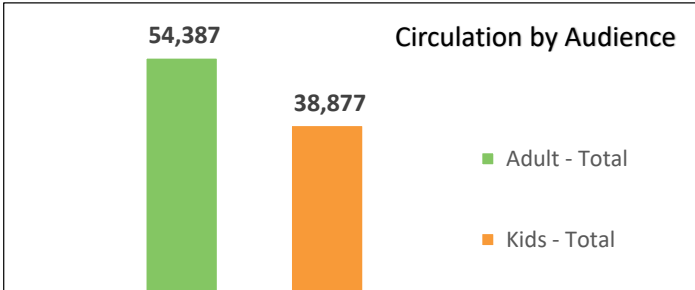
Circulation

Total Circulation
94,488 ↑ 2%
 92,828 last year
Card Holders
 25,950

Library Card Usage
10,130 ↑ 2%
 9,911 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst **227** ↓ 0%
 (Issued) 228 last year
Reciprocal Borrower **48** ↓ -14%
 (Registered) 56 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,225** ↑ 8%
 1,132 last year
Lent **424** ↓ -16%
 507 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
18,180 ↑ 7%
 17,011 last year

Website Visits
25,981 ↓ -27%
 35,543 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
58% ↑ 4%
 56% last year

WiFi Sessions
21,390 ↓ -6%
 22,723 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
4,635 ↓ -2%
 4,753 last year

Reference Questions
Adult **2,448** ↓ -13%
 2,815 last year

Kids **2,187** ↑ 13%
 1,938 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
196 ↓ -11%
 219 last year

Public Meetings
87 ↑ 9%
 80 last year

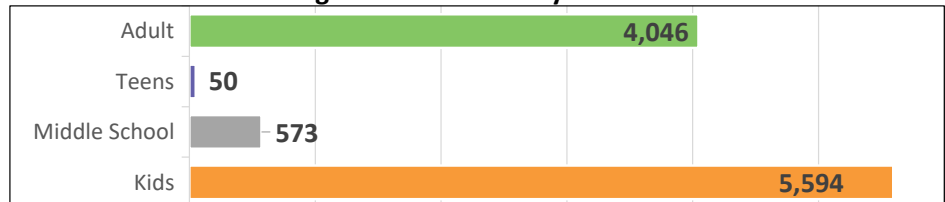
Group Study Rooms
1,754 ↓ -13%
 2,018 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
10,263 ↑ 17%
 8,746 last year

Library Programs
196 ↓ -11%
 219 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits
41,954 ↓ -1%
 42,407 last year

Walk-In
40,381 ↓ -1%
 40,612 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,573 ↓ -12%
 1,795 last year

In House Visits
Makery **2,213** ↑ 15%
 1,919 last year

Creative Studio **76** ↓ -22%
 98 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

94,488  2%
92,828 last year

Adult Circulation

54,387  6%
51,205 last year

Kids Circulation

38,877  -4%
40,492 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,225  8%
1,132 last year

Digital Material Circulation

32,886  19%
27,738 last year

Databases

6,914  -84%
42,088 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,635  -2%
4,753 last year

One on One Tutorials

30  -21%
38 last year

Number of Programs

196  -11%
219 last year

Program Attendance

10,263  17%
8,746 last year

In-Person Visitors

40,381  -1%
40,612 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,573  -12%
1,795 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

465,273  0%
466,006 last year

Adult Circulation

269,415  3%
262,063 last year

Kids Circulation

189,957  -4%
197,442 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

5,901  -9%
6,501 last year

Digital Material Circulation

161,307  15%
140,695 last year

Databases

76,804  -59%
187,616 last year

Reference Questions Total

21,661  -5%
22,743 last year

One on One Tutorials

180  9%
165 last year

Number of Programs

849  -4%
881 last year

Program Attendance

38,708  28%
30,262 last year

In-Person Visitors

191,924  -1%
193,330 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

8,428  -10%
9,370 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

153,466

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,849

Audio Visual

23,810

Digital

228,079

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 10 non-resident cards were purchased in March for a total of \$1,374.64
- We filled 4,296 holds this month.