

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- One Book, One Elmhurst has officially begun. The program invites the Elmhurst community to read and engage with the same book. This year's title, *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb, takes readers on an exciting journey to uncover a mystery around a famous composer.
- The Library Insiders programming niche for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities has really grown in popularity over the years. When a Library Trustees told us about the need for this type of specialty programming, we started to explore ideas. One particular program, No Shush Movies, has proven to be very popular. The August 25th program had just over 30 attendees. It's really incredible to see this community need being met by the Library.
- Check out the Makery Skills Lab in the latest issue of *Fine Print*. This new Makery offering doesn't require patrons to sign up for a specific class, so it will never fill up. Because Makery classes are so popular, we often have long waiting lists, with many patrons who may never get a spot in the class. The Makery Skills Lab provides another option. Patrons can come in whenever it works for them and create a craft while using Makery equipment to practice their skills and build confidence. This is a great way to make the Makery more accessible and give patrons the flexibility to learn at their own pace.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Aug 2026



Summer is Over and Fall is Un-be-leaf-ably Packed

Patrons really made their summers count at EPL, but ADS staff is moving into the fall with a lot of exciting things happening. With One Book, One Elmhurst (OBOE) coming, ADS staff have been reading *Symphony of Secrets*, preparing for book discussions and collaborating with Marketing on planning our 2nd floor OBOE exhibit. But that's not the only thing that's occupying our minds and time ...



Making Some Noise

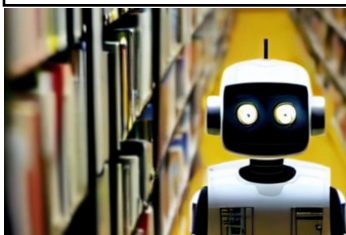
Challenged to make more programs to meet the needs of Library Insiders, Hayley Rightnowar and Lauren Watson came up with No Shush Movies (above) in the beginning of 2025. Through the program the Library invites patrons with intellectual disabilities to enjoy a movie and a craft. The program has become so popular that it needs more space. Averaging about 20 patrons, many from six area day groups, the program has started to attract more than 30 patrons regularly and hit 40 once.



Travel Kit

Travel Kit is Going Places!

The soft launch of Travel Kit, our new travel advisory service, conceived and developed by Anne Swanson, Christi Hawn and the Marketing Department, has been very successful. 20 patrons have pursued the service before our big marketing push this fall.



AI Better Schedule Another Class

Because patrons are excited to learn about AI, our July 29th Intro to AI class filled up and we scheduled a second one for mid-August to meet the demand and accommodate those on the waiting list..



Mah-Jong-ernaut!

Alyssa Murphy and Christina Racibozynski have been busy teaming up with Jez Layman to staff all of the Learn Mah-Jong programs. The game is extremely popular and patrons cannot get enough.

Karaoke a Smash Hit

Library Insiders once again enjoyed the annual Library Insider Karaoke program that is always a peak in attendance for evening Insider programs. This year Hayley Rightnowar and Sue Nunamaker added a photo booth to the fun.



Guaran-teen-ed Impact

Libby Mercado supported teens in volunteering this summer and provided them with 67.5 volunteer hours. With volunteers coming up from middle school, we're likely to see a record-setting fall as well.



Programming

With the end of the summer reading program, foot traffic in the Kids' Library decreased dramatically. August programming highlights included some outdoor storytimes, a live music concert with Ralph Covert, storytime at the Elmhurst History Museum, and a Preschool Teacher Open House.

A total of 125 people attend the Ralph's World musical concert. Billed as "the Paul McCartney of children's music," he put on a fantastic performance. His catchy tunes and silly personality were a big hit with both the little ones and caregivers here at the library. Unbelievably, for the first 20 minutes of the program, no one left, not one single person! Ralph had many longtime fans in the audience and created a ton of new fans with his toe-tapping tunes.

Storytime at the Elmhurst History Museum featured aviation with a focus on Bessie Coleman. Forty-one people attended. Several families mentioned that they had never been to the history museum before. We are so happy the museum invited us to participate with their women's history exhibit.



At least 20 area teachers attended the Preschool Teacher Open House. This year's event included a tour of the Makery. The teachers had great things to say and were really interested in using the Makery tools.

Middle School Happenings

August was filled with middle school successes.

- 4 middle school girls had a blast playing pop-up mini golf in the stacks.
- 9 creative students participated in the Sticker Studio in the Makery.
- 15 influencers played scavenger hunt bingo.
- 38 hungry tasters ranked their favorite local ice creams.

Pop-up Mini Golf



Sticker Studio



Mystery Scoops Ice Cream Tasting



August Marketing Topics included:

Cool Tools Graded Booklist (video)

School is back in session, and our experts have compiled reading lists to make it easier to find what you're looking for! elmlib.org/youtube

Local Author Fair

On Saturday, August 29, the Library welcomed over 200 visitors who came out to explore the work of more than 50 local authors and show their support.

New EPL Merch: Read Outside

EPL's online gift shop has two new designs you won't find anywhere else: [Patio Book Club](#) and [Read Outside](#). Order EPL merch to let people know the joy of reading outdoors! elmlib.org/myepl

Story Walk (video)

Enjoy some early literacy and time together in nature. Take a walk with us and learn about *Wind Watchers* by Micha Archer, the book featured for the StoryWalk at Eldridge Park. elmlib.org/youtube

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

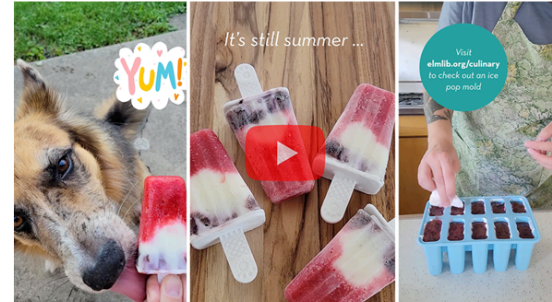
Popsicle Ice Mold (video)

This cool, refreshing ice pop recipe captures the flavors of the berry patch! Make summer last a bit longer by trying these at home — and remember to share! elmlib.org/youtube

eNews from 08/27



Treat Yourself!



This cool, refreshing ice pop recipe captures the flavors of the berry patch! Make summer last a bit longer by trying these at home — and remember to share!

Check out an [ice pop mold](#) from the [Culinary Cupboard](#) collection.

Watch

Local Authors at EPL



Stop in on **Saturday, Aug. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** for our annual Local Author Fair. Authors will be available to discuss their writing, answer your questions, and sell signed copies of their books.

[See a full list of participating authors.](#)

For Real-World Skills



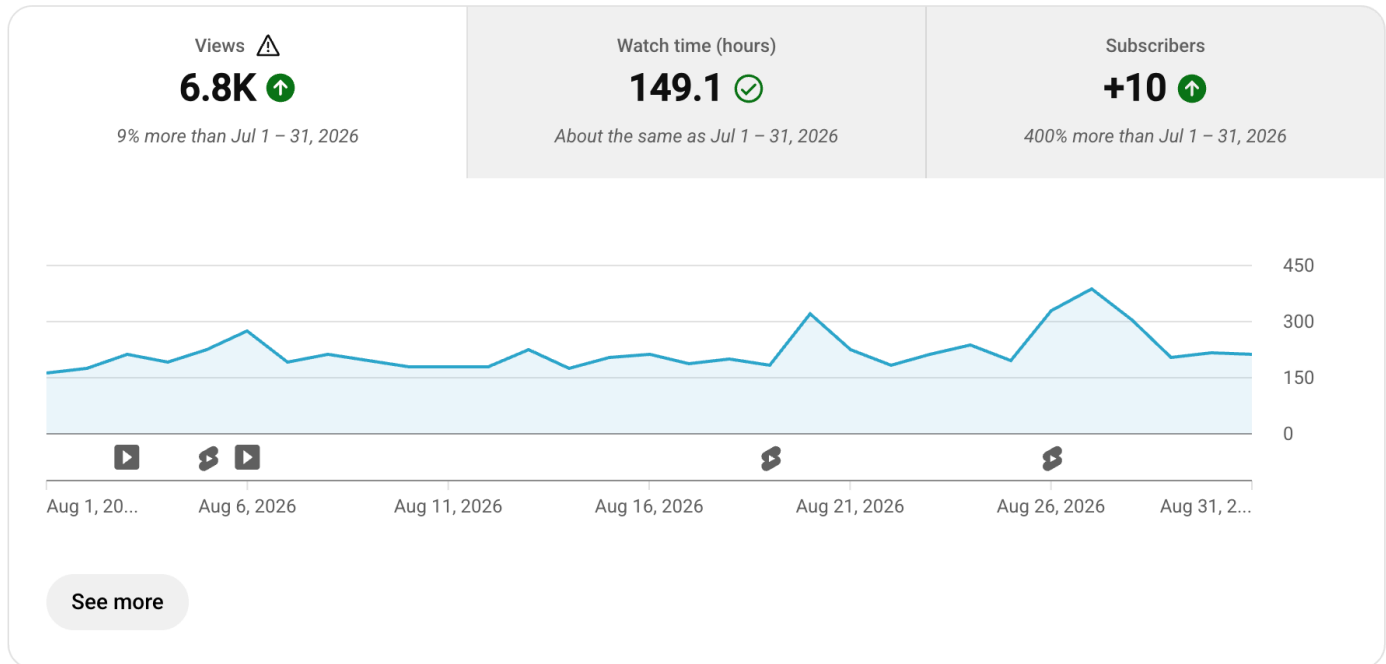
LinkedIn Learning offers online video courses on popular topics like Microsoft Excel, A.I. fundamentals, project management, and design foundations with Adobe programs.

The online tutorials on [LinkedIn Learning](#) help you sharpen your software, technology, creative, and business skills by providing instruction from leading experts. Learn at your own pace. It's free with your library card!

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

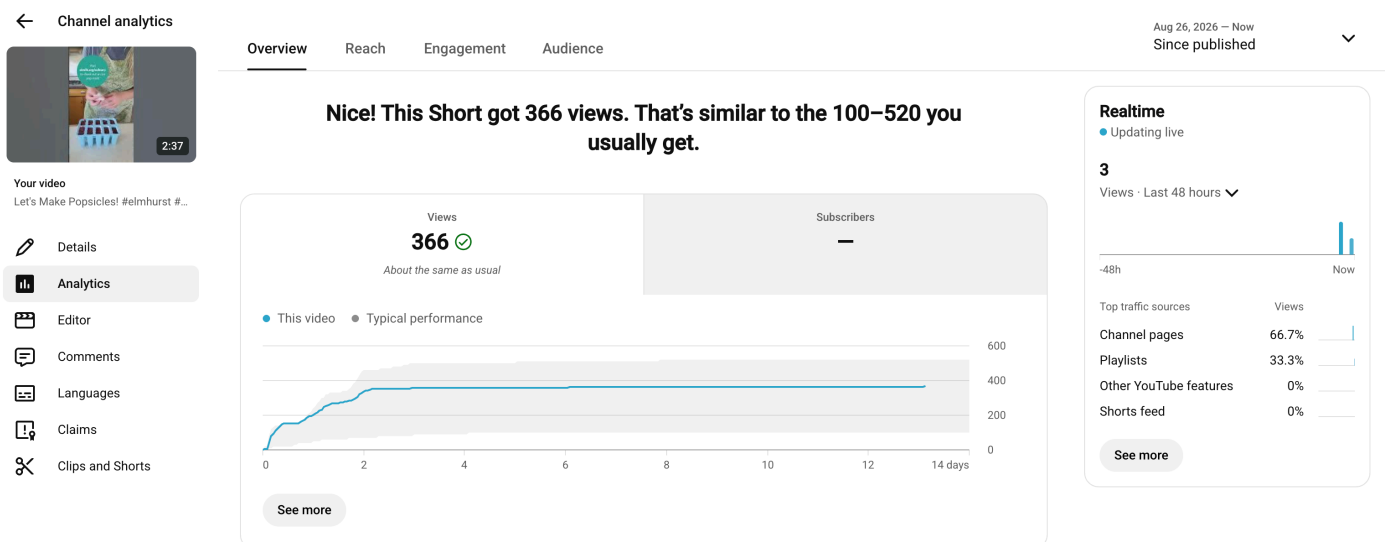
August YouTube Analytics

In August, people watched your videos 6,796 times



See more

August Most Watched YouTube Video: Let's Make Popsicles!



August Instagram Posts with the Most Likes



 askelmhurst



askelmhurst We're thankful for beautiful days when Summer Storytime can be outside on the lawn! Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through the end of August. In case of inclement weather, outdoor storytimes are moved indoors and ticketed. eplib.org/storytime

#summer #librarylife #storytime

5w

 3 comments from Facebook

View insights

Boost post



73 likes

August 3



 askelmhurst



askelmhurst Congratulations to Allison and her family! She made her summer count by participating in EPL's Summer Reading program for adults and teens. She was the lucky winner of the July prize pack.

3w



ndladyirish Thank you so much, EPL! 🍷

3w 2 likes Reply



rickys_radical_reads That tote is AMAZING!!!

3w 1 like Reply

View insights

Boost post





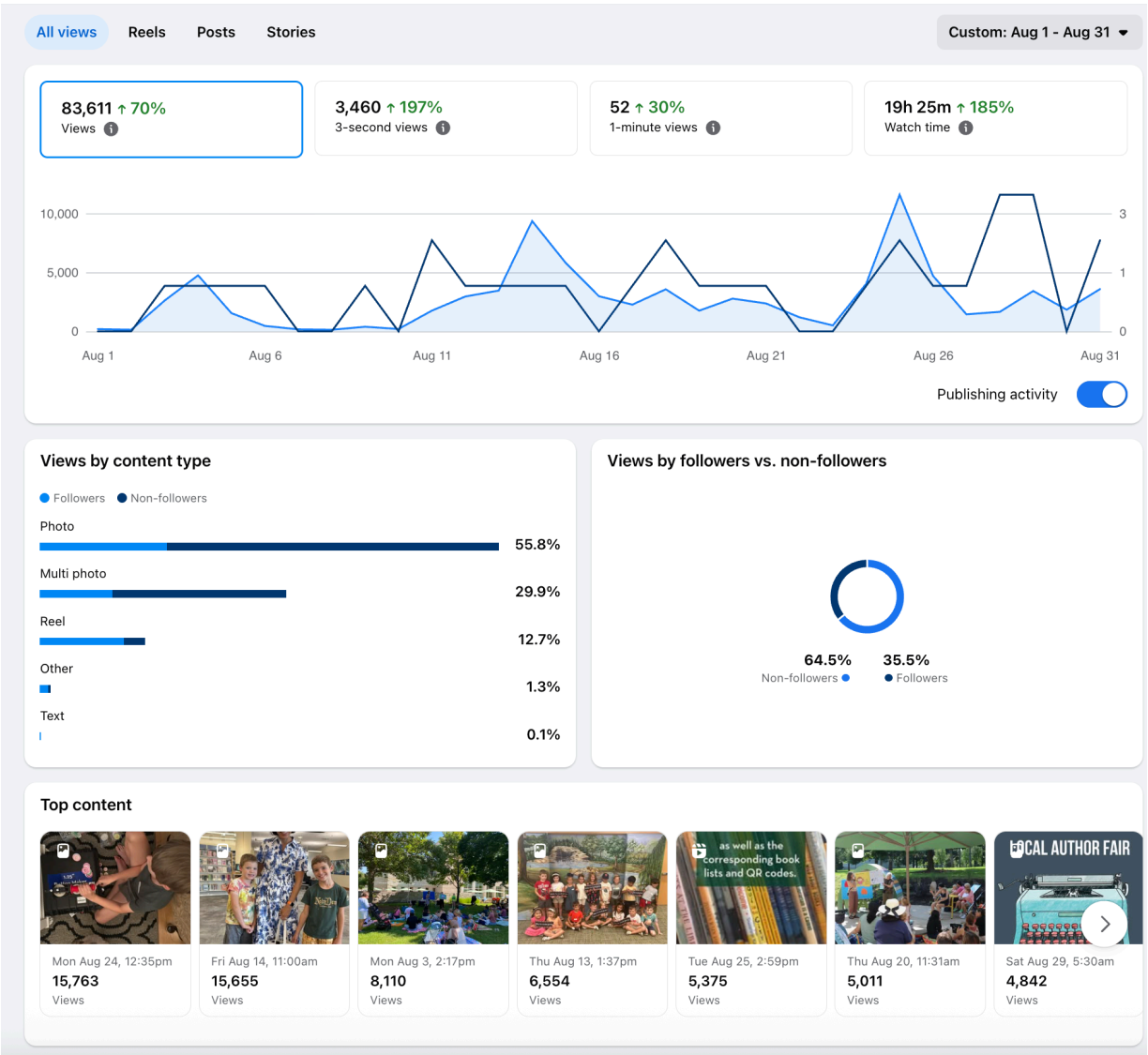
Liked by wheatonlibrary and 59 others

August 12

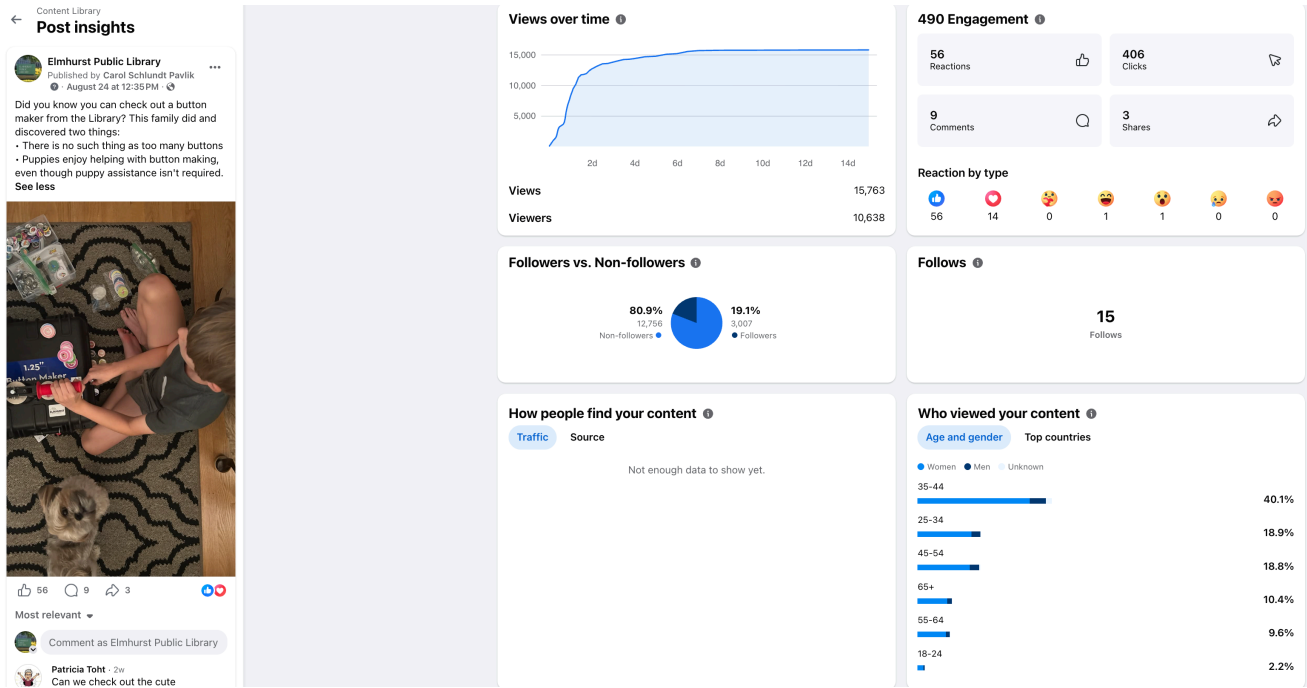
 Add a comment...

Post

August Facebook Analytics



August Facebook Post with the Highest Engagement



MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2026

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	2,013	2,363	1,790
Equipment Reservations	212	255	176
3D Prints	98	131	64



SEWING TRAINING

In September, the Makery is starting a new sewing program. So in August, the staff sharpened their sewing skills! Each Makery staff made a practice tote bag, tested out the instructions, and made sure we're all prepared to assist and answer questions for the upcoming program.



NEW TUTORIAL - LASER ETCH A LUGGAGE TAG

Now available on Niche Academy is a staff made tutorial on laser etching aluminum luggage tags in the Makery. This accompanies the new Travel Kits service offered in the Adult Services Department. Patrons can access the tutorial by visiting the Makery web page and clicking the Equipment Tutorials button.



LASER ETCHED WINE BOTTLE

Here's a clever way to use the laser! Makery Program Specialist Leslie LeResche taught patrons how to laser etch an empty wine bottle. After etching the bottle with a unique design, they filled it with battery powered fairy lights to make a beautiful decorative piece.



DROP-IN CRAFT

A cute, crafty way to beat the heat -- a rainbow fan! In August, 127 patrons made a simple fan. The drop-in craft is an all-ages craft available to anyone who visits the Makery. There's a new one each month.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

August 2026

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Acrylic Ink Botanical Painting	Create	24	2
Adult Book Discussion: <i>James</i> by Percival Everett	Book Discussion	11	2
Ageless Grace	Enrich	25	1
All About Pickling	Common Connection	69	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	87	4
Beaded Succulents	Common Connection	26	2
Behind the Stars: The Remarkable Women Who Helped			
Build Chicago	America 250	48	1
Bingo	Games	23	1
Board and Card Games Open Play	Games	10	1
Board Game Night	Enrich	40	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	71	4
Bulb Basics	Common Connection	22	1
BYOC (Bring Your Own Craft)	Create	11	1
Canasta: Open Play	Games	59	5
Chair Yoga	Health and Wellness	54	2
Choose Your Own Adventure on the Oregon Trail	Games	15	1
Ciao Italia	Enrich	9	1
Coloring and Conversation	Create	9	1
Creative Cardmaking	Create	21	2
Culture Club: St. Louis: Gateway to the West	Enrich	32	1
Excel Advanced	Technology	5	1
Excel Intermediate	Technology	11	1
Friday Features	Movies	47	3
Genealogy: Uff Da! Researching Norwegian Roots	Enrich	13	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	23	1
In Stitches	Create	6	1
Intro to A.I.	Technology	7	1
Learn To Play Mah Jongg		29	3
Library Insiders: Karaoke!	Library Insiders	20	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	30	1
Local Author Fair	Books and Authors	250	1
Memory Cafe	Enrich	15	1
Mobile DMV	Consumer	45	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	26	2
Outreach Visit: Roosevelt Salt Creek (Do Not Publish)	Inclusive	21	1
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	1	1
Romantic Reads: <i>Book Lovers</i> by Emily Henry	Book Discussion	9	1
Scrabble	Games	10	2
Seed Collecting 101	Common Connection	37	1
Sketching Elmhurst	Create	5	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Inclusive	11	1
The All-Time Best Comedians	Enrich	32	1
Trading Travels	Enrich	7	1
TOTALS		1,326	64
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
I Want to Make a T-Shirt	Create	11	1
Makery Craft: Seed Mosaic	Create	12	1
Sew a Tote	Create	6	1

Sublimate a Seasonal Sign	Create	5	1
TOTALS		34	4
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Color & Chill	Create	10	1
Teen Crafternoon: Decorate a Mini Tote Bag	Create	6	1
Teen Take & Make	Create	10	1
TOTALS		26	3
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Middle School Influencers	Gather	15	1
Middle School Makers: Sticker Studio	Create	9	1
Mystery Scoops	Food and Drink	38	1
Pop-up Mini Golf	Gather	4	1
TOTALS		66	4
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
1BBK Pop-up Party	Early Learning	30	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	18	1
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time	STEAM	30	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	15	1
Make with Me: Garden Flags	Makery	4	1
Mini Makers: Polymer Clay Flower Pendant	Makery	28	2
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	64	5
Movies in Wilder Park: <i>A Minecraft Movie</i>	Movies	150	1
Outreach AT D205 New Educator Academy (PreK-12th)	Outreach	65	1
Outreach Preschool AT Immanuel Lutheran	Outreach	60	1
OUTREACH YMCA VISIT	Outreach	183	11
Preschool Teacher Open House	Outreach	20	1
Ralph's World	Music	125	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	180	5
Storytime at the Elmhurst History Museum	Storytime	41	1
Summer Storytime	Storytime	893	12
TOTALS		1,906	46
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Recording of Route 66 (Online)		25	1
Entertainment Station		24	4
Puzzles		85	1
The Great American Road Trip on Lg. Monitor		20	1
OBOE Listening Stations		14	2
Makery Passive Programs:			
Makery Drop In Craft		127	1
Teen Passive Programs:			
Back to school Mood voting poster	Teen Program	66	1
Charmed Keychains	Teen Program	20	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout	Create	25	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Make & Take	Create	780	2
Stay & Play	Play	206	2
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		1655	78

Total Passive Program Statistics	295	10
Total Program Statistics	1,360	68
Teen Program Grand Total	112	5
Total Passive Program Statistics	86	2
Total Program Statistics	26	3
Middle School Program Grand Total	91	6
Total Passive Program Statistics	25	2
Total Program Statistics	66	4
Kids' Program Grand Total	2,892	50
Total Passive Program Statistics	986	4
Total Program Statistics	1,906	46
Passive Program Total	1,392	18
Total Attendance	4,750	
Total Programs		139

STATISTICAL REPORT

August 2026

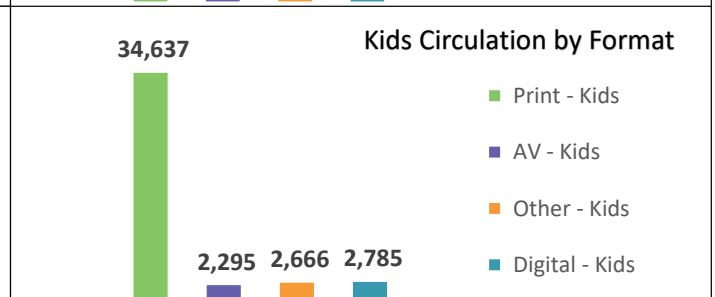
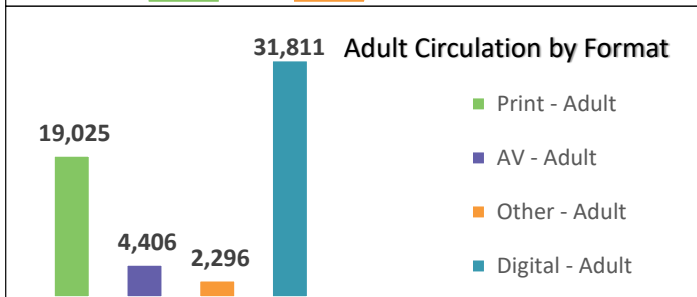
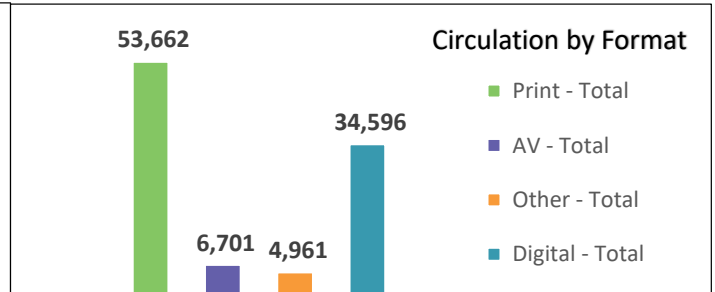
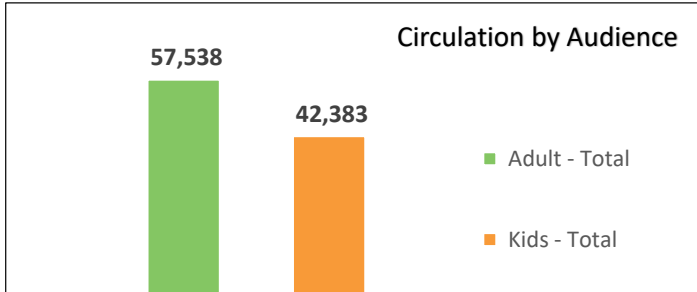
Circulation

Total Circulation
101,094 ↑ 9%
 92,403 last year
Card Holders
 26,552

Library Card Usage
10,308 ↑ 4%
 9,931 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst 268 ↑ 29%
 (Issued) 208 last year
Reciprocal Borrower 63 ↓ -15%
 (Registered) 74 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed 1,174 ↑ 7%
 1,097 last year
Lent 507 ↓ -11%
 569 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
17,892 ↓ -4%
 18,572 last year

Website Visits
26,864 ↓ -35%
 41,311 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
57% ↑ 4%
 55% last year

WiFi Sessions
19,158 ↑ 4%
 18,476 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
4,024 ↓ -2%
 4,090 last year

Reference Questions
Adult 2,833 ↓ -9%
 3,122 last year

Kids 1,191 ↑ 23%
 968 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
139 ↓ -1%
 141 last year

Public Meetings
77 ↑ 10%
 70 last year

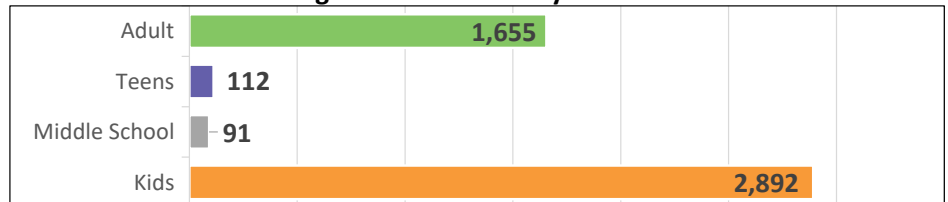
Group Study Rooms
1,519 ↓ -4%
 1,587 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
4,750 ↑ 7%
 4,457 last year

Library Programs
139 ↓ -1%
 141 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits
40,159 ↓ 0%
 40,234 last year

Walk-In
38,532 ↑ 0%
 38,462 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,627 ↓ -8%
 1,772 last year

In House Visits
Makery 2,013 ↑ 12%
 1,790 last year

Creative Studio 67 ↑ 10%
 61 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

101,094  9%
92,403 last year

Adult Circulation

57,538  10%
52,204 last year

Kids Circulation

42,383  8%
39,103 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,174  7%
1,097 last year

Digital Material Circulation

34,596  25%
27,598 last year

Databases

8,653  -25%
11,596 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,024  -2%
4,090 last year

One on One Tutorials

48  37%
35 last year

Number of Programs

139  -1%
141 last year

Program Attendance

4,750  7%
4,457 last year

In-Person Visitors

38,532  0%
38,462 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,627  -8%
1,772 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

779,384  2%
763,431 last year

Adult Circulation

442,695  5%
421,304 last year

Kids Circulation

327,110  -2%
332,253 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

9,580  -3%
9,874 last year

Digital Material Circulation

262,533  18%
223,312 last year

Databases

131,893  -43%
230,516 last year

Reference Questions Total

37,906  -2%
38,697 last year

One on One Tutorials

298  7%
279 last year

Number of Programs

1,460  -5%
1,532 last year

Program Attendance

60,190  24%
48,540 last year

In-Person Visitors

320,797  0%
322,284 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

13,629  -7%
14,657 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

149,791

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,834

Audio Visual

22,745

Digital

222,494

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 16 non-resident cards were purchased in June for a total of \$1,490.19.
- We filled 4,638 holds this month.
- 1 new "Cards for Kids" non-resident card was registered for free this month.