

New & Noteworthy



The Library's Birthday Bash

On July 21, community members are invited to celebrate the library's 150th birthday. The festivities will include a presentation on the library's history, refreshments, and fun giveaways.



Exploring STEM at the Library

On July 18, kids can spend their Saturday afternoon visiting various discovery stations including magnets, rock identification, and the Van de Graaff generator. This event is presented in partnership with Absolute Science, which specialize in fun, interactive, and educational science programs.

Program Highlights



19th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

On June 13, more than 500 community members came out to Douglass Park for the library's annual Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration. Attendees enjoyed performances by the Active Senior Choir and Afro D & Global Soundwaves while staying cool with icy treats provided by Kona Ice. Several organizations and local resource groups were in attendance including Carle Health, Head Start, and Work for Illinois.



The History of Bookbinding

On June 10, 37 community members gained insights on the history of different bookbinding techniques and learned how to make their own book. This Crafty Adults session was the latest collaboration between the library and the University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



Kids & Teens Summer Studio Hours

During the summer, kids and teens can drop-in to the Studio Tuesday through Thursday for fun activities, games, and crafts. Recent projects included painting watercolor flowers, screenfree coding, 3D printing, and giant games.

Douglass Branch



Makerspace Usage

During June, 32 community members utilized the Makerspace during two drop-in sessions held on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Friday Night Jam Sessions

At June's Jam Session, the 14 community members in attendance shared their talent through music and spoken word.

Book Giveaways

Staff gave out 10 children's books in the month of June to add to their growing home libraries.

DIY Kids

During the month of June, 55 kids attended DIY Kids and experimented with tech toys and made creative projects including yarn paintings and tie-dye t-shirts.

Weekly Storytimes

In June, 212 community members attended the various storytimes offered weekly including Baby, Toddler, Pajama Storytime, and Mother Goose on the Loose.

Club Fred

Last month, 109 kids attended Club Fred across 13 sessions, participating in a variety of games and activities.

Customer Comments

Thankful for Library Staff

Staff provided assistance finding live concert DVDs featuring all of a customer's favorite bands. They were thrilled with the selections, and as they were leaving, they thanked staff warmly and said, "Thank God we have librarians!"

Learning Continues Throughout the Summer

Comments from parents who brought their children to Studio summer programs included, "I love all of the STEAM activities offered!" and "This was so much fun! We are always looking for screen-free options during the summer."

A Short but Impactful Visit

A customer shared that she wasn't from the area but was waiting for her next train and decided to visit the library. She commented that the library was both wonderful and beautiful and that staff were very kind.

No Such Thing as Too Many Book Requests

After staff helped a customer place requests on five books, the customer apologized for asking for so much. Staff reassured them that the library is always happy to help. The customer expressed their appreciation for the staff member's patience and for clearly explaining the process over the phone.

Making New Connections

A customer approached staff before trivia started and said that it was her first time at the program and that they were sent by her friend group to, "scope out the place and see if it was worth it to come to trivia." The staff member assigned her to a team and introduced her to her new teammates, and noticed that they struck up a conversation right away. Before leaving, the customer shared that she would definitely be bringing her friends in next month because it was so fun and the topics were very interesting.