

## New & Noteworthy



### New Storytimes, a Community Job Fair, and Collaborations with Unbooked

We are introducing three new storytimes this fall including two sessions of a Saturday Storytime at the Main Library and a Pajama Storytime on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening of the month at the Douglass Branch. This fall's Community Job Fair (9/15) includes 20+ area employers and career resources on site. Attendees will have the chance to win a new Chromebook or gift card to Macy's for new interview attire. In celebration of Illinois Manufacturing Month, the Champaign County EDC will also be hosting another Manufacturing Job Fair (9/29) bringing abundant opportunities for job seekers in our community. Our Unbooked series has some exciting upcoming collaborations! Our Reader's Advisory group will be recommending books, movies, podcasts, and more during our first Unbooked | In Concert featuring Wildwood String Band (8/29) and a Puzzle Pop-up Sale in the FriendShop Bookstore during Unbooked | Puzzle Peace (9/19).



### Community Job Fair

Looking for a job? We can help.

- 20 area employment resources
- Enter for a chance to win a Chromebook!

Monday  
September 15  
5:30–7:30 pm

Part of the Get that Job! series  
[champaign.org/career](http://champaign.org/career)



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## Program Highlights

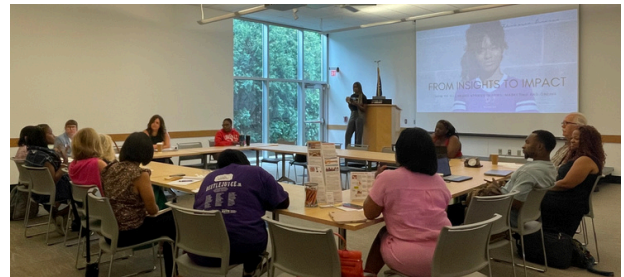


### **Friday Evening Hours at the Library Are Well Received**

Friday evening hours returned to the Main Library on July 11. Adults have been excited to have events available on Friday evenings. Unbooked drew 109 attendees in its first month. Unbooked Kids offered a range of drop-in activities from Legos to crafts and saw 187 attendees in the first month noting that many families with children floated between Unbooked Kids and the new drop-in hours in The Studio throughout the evening.

### **United Way of Champaign County's Women United provide a \$4,000 literacy grant for Mother Goose on the Loose (MGOL)**

This literacy grant will allow Mother Goose to provide books and programming to school-aged children who currently attend the MGOL partner locations, but who have outgrown the pre-school age range. This effort will support literacy development for school-aged children by providing age appropriate books to encourage building home libraries as well as engaging literacy activities during monthly visits.



### **Two Popular Four Part Series'**

The July four part series on Appreciating Nature with Dr. Michael Jeffords (pictured left) drew a lot of interest and saw a total of 168 attendees. Also well attended throughout the month was Shannon McFarland's four part series From Insights to Impact (pictured right) with a total of 44 attendees participating in her workshop.

### **Butterflies Amaze and Dazzle!**

On July 12, we welcomed 586 community members to spend time in an indoor butterfly tent to observe live butterflies!



## Oceans of Possibilities! Summer Reading Results

As of August 14, we've had 4,514 community members participate in the Oceans of Possibilities! Summer Reading Challenge. Library Staff design the challenge to engage all ages—participants have included 2,383 kids, 1,016 teens, and 1,115 adults. We estimate that 1 in 5 kids and teens in Champaign have had a chance to read and win prizes this summer. We've given away 4,939 prize books to young readers as a way to help build home libraries in our community.

## An Incredible Day to Celebrate Summer Reading!

1,030 community members joined us on August 3 to celebrate the close of the Summer Reading Challenge!



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## Douglass Branch



### **Introducing a New Storytime to the Douglass Branch**

Storytimes continue to be very popular at the Douglass Branch Library with over 300 parents, caregivers and children ages 0-5 in attendance during July alone. The Douglass Branch staff will be introducing a new Pajama Storytime on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm beginning September 2. Parents, caregivers, and children are invited to wear their pajamas and join in for stories, songs, and fun!

### **Friday Night Jam Sessions**

During July, we hosted Friday Night Jam Sessions where 25 attendees enjoyed music by DJ Rollie, food, dancing, spoken word, karaoke, and great conversation. The next Jam Session will be August 22.

### **The Makerspace Workshops and Drop-in**

This summer, The Makerspace has continued Saturday drop-in hours with 26 total participants in July. The Intro to Sewing workshop (7/16) was well received and at capacity with 4 customers in attendance.

### **DIY Kids and Club Fred**

We hosted DIY Kids activities with 88 participants exploring tech toys, building pool noodle creations, and constructing cup lighthouses, galaxy jars, and paper pinwheels last month. Club Fred saw 22 visits for kids ages 6-11 as excitement grows about access to the gaming and virtual reality stations in The Makerspace.



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# Customer Comments

## Top Tier Compliments on the Importance of Libraries

A staff member helped a very enthusiastic customer get a library card. Upon receiving their card, they said, "This is the best thing that's happened to me all week; and I've had a lot of good things happen this week. That tells you how important the library is to me." The customer checking out at the next station overheard and informed him, "This library is the best place in town."

## Friday Evening Crafting in The Studio Brings Joy

In conversation with a customer about the restored Friday evening hours at the library, a customer shared, "The crafts in the evenings are such a great idea! Thank you!"

## Tech Workshops Provide Confidence

After wrapping up the Intro to Kindles tech workshop, a customer shared that they now feel more comfortable with using their device and trying different things with it, instead of being frozen and not knowing where to start. The customer shared that staff made the class easy to understand and helped with her confidence.

## Community Excitement Over Friday Evening Hours

A customer stopped by info to let staff know that they were "pumped" about the extended hours on Friday. They shared that they filled out the community survey and asked that we extend the Friday hours. They were so grateful that we listened to their feedback.

## Community Excitement Over Friday Evening Hours

A family with a young child was picking out their first prize book for the Summer Reading Challenge. The parent was very excited that she could track the reading time with the Beanstack app! Holding up a Llama Llama board book she remarked, "We borrowed this book the last time we were here and my son liked it so much that we just bought one downstairs (at The FriendShop) for him!"

## Parent and Child Share Love for Butterflies

In a social media post, a community member shared their experience visiting the library during our Bedazzling Butterflies event! They loved their time feeding butterflies and commented that it was "so cool" to be able to have this experience at the library.



## Growing Older with Bubbles

A member of our community on social media shared a photo of their child at the Summer Reading Celebration with the caption, "Few years later...older kids make bigger bubbles". We love to see kids growing up at the library!

