

New & Noteworthy



Discovering New Stories with the Spring Reading Challenge

Starting January 1st, children ages infant through 5th grade can collect prizes for completing 25 days of reading. Prizes will be awarded halfway through the challenge after 12 days of reading followed by a final prize when readers complete all 25 days.

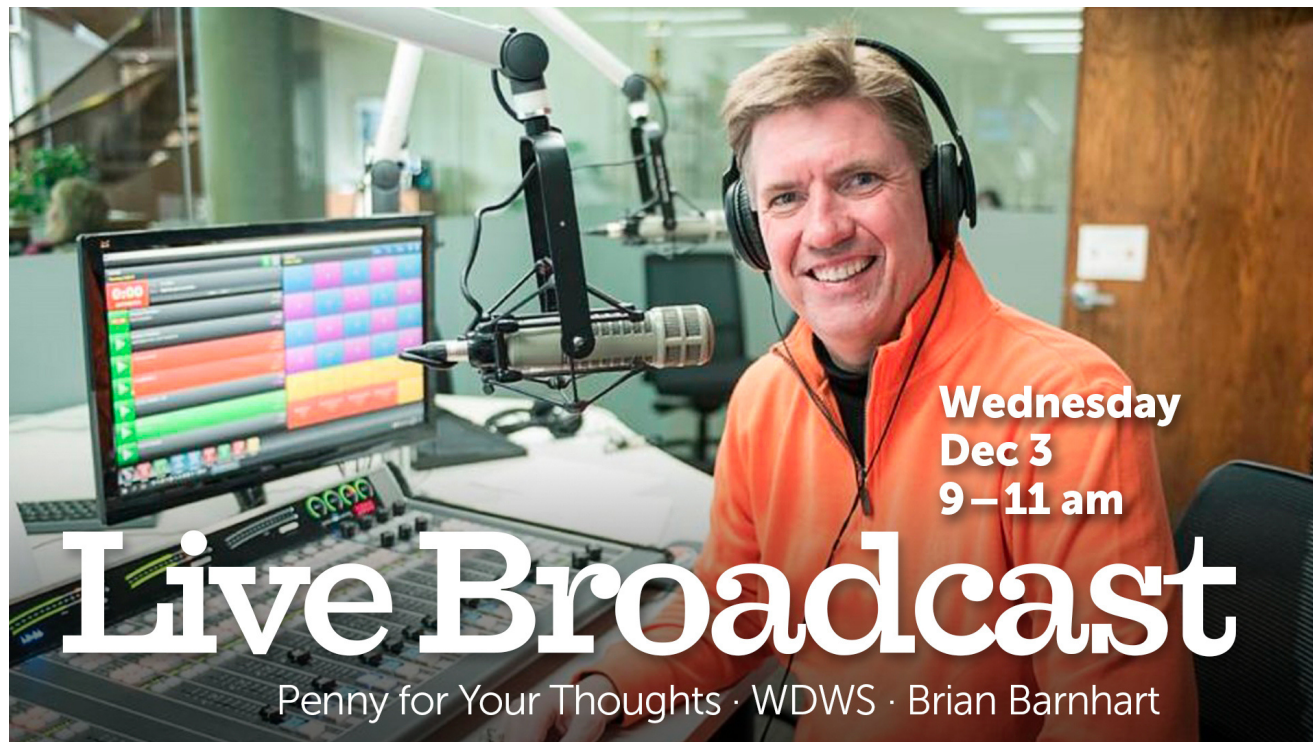


Award-Winning Authors and Aspiring Authors

Award-winning cookbook author Kenji López-Alt will share his cooking insights, techniques, and culinary journey during a virtual visit hosted by Illinois Libraries Present on Tuesday, November 18th. Aspiring authors can also gain inspiration by hearing the winners of this year's short story contest read their stories at the Short Story Awards Ceremony & Reading on Wednesday, November 19th.

Celebration Planning Underway for 150th Anniversary

Brian Barnhart, host of the WDWS radio show, "A Penny for Your Thoughts," will broadcast live from the library on Wednesday, December 3rd and will interview Library Director Brittany Millington and various library staff to kick off the library's 150th Anniversary Campaign. Community members that tune in will learn what the library has in store to celebrate this upcoming and important milestone in the library's history.



2025 Employee Awards and Service Recognition

The following library staff will be recognized at the 2025 City of Champaign Employee Awards:

Library Award Winners:

- Respect: Salem Gebil
- Results: Lauren Gramly

Years of Service Recognition:

- Danotra Brown, 35 years
- Jill Bouvet, 25 years
- Kristin Astorina, 20 years
- Amy Al-Shabibi, 20 years
- Robert Leung, 15 years
- Rachel Ferrier, 10 years
- Logan Green, 10 years
- Linda Kupferschmid, 10 years
- Samantha Penrose, 10 years
- Gloria Roubal, 10 years
- Autumn Russell, 10 years
- Rebecca Van Dusen, 10 years
- Linda Wessels, 10 years
- Sarah Snodgrass, 5 years

Program Highlights

Record-Breaking Author Visit

On October 9th, 496 community members joined us for An Evening with Shelby Van Pelt. Shelby captivated attendees by sharing the inspiration behind her best-selling debut novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, and spent time after the talk signing books and connecting with readers.

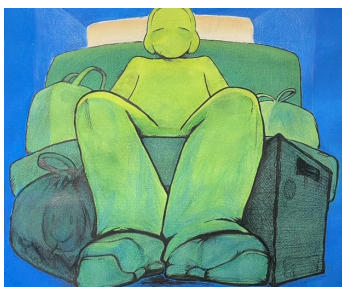


Howl-o-ween Fun

Last month, 556 attendees joined us for our popular Howl-o-ween event which included crafts, games, and activities. Attendees also received a free book as a special treat!

Art Appreciation

The latest Art Connection: Schools to Libraries exhibition was enjoyed by 101 community members at the opening reception on November 2nd. The latest exhibition featured artwork by students from Barkstall Elementary School, Centennial High School, and Franklin STEAM Academy.



High Turnout for Medicare Q & A

The Champaign County Health Care Consumers partnered with the library to provide a presentation to 71 attendees on the basics of Medicare on October 15th.

Douglass Branch

Table Talk Book Club

At last month's Table Talk Book Club, 15 adults gathered to discuss the book *Ella* by Diane Richards.

Children's Book Giveaways

During the month of October, 182 books were given to children with 132 of that total given for the Halloween giveaway.

Jam Sessions

Last month's Friday Night Jam Session on October 24 brought in 53 participants who enjoyed a variety of performances including spoken word and instrumental pieces.

Pajama Storytimes

Douglass staff hosted two sessions of Pajama Storytimes in October which included stories, songs, and interactive fun for the 19 customers in attendance.

Growing Use of Makerspace

Community members continue to attend programs in the Makerspace at Douglass in addition to utilizing the space for their own projects. The Makerspace welcomed 32 total participants during the month of October.



Customer Comments

Customer Wowed by 3D Print Quality

A customer came to the library to pick up their 3D print and was blown away by how great it looked. He kept repeating, "This is amazing that I can do this here!" as he walked away.

The Benefit of Having Two Community Libraries

Library staff assisted a customer by placing an interlibrary loan request via the library's chat service and received the following response from a long-time user of both our library and the The Urbana Free Library, "I really do appreciate what you and the Urbana Library does for me. Thank you to you and the librarians at both locations."

Getting a Library Card Rivals Getting Free Merch

Library staff attended the University of Illinois Employee Expo where a customer shared that signing up for a library card was her favorite thing she did that day. Another customer told staff that it was their second favorite thing behind getting a free t-shirt.

Small Moments with Big Impact

Library staff shared how much they enjoy it when a customer asks them how much it costs to fax at the library and they get to answer that it is a free service.

Kicking Back at Unbooked

A library volunteer mentioned how great it was to see so many different people having fun at our Unbooked programs and shared, "You can tell this means a lot to people, having a place to hang out. They are just happy to be here the whole time!"