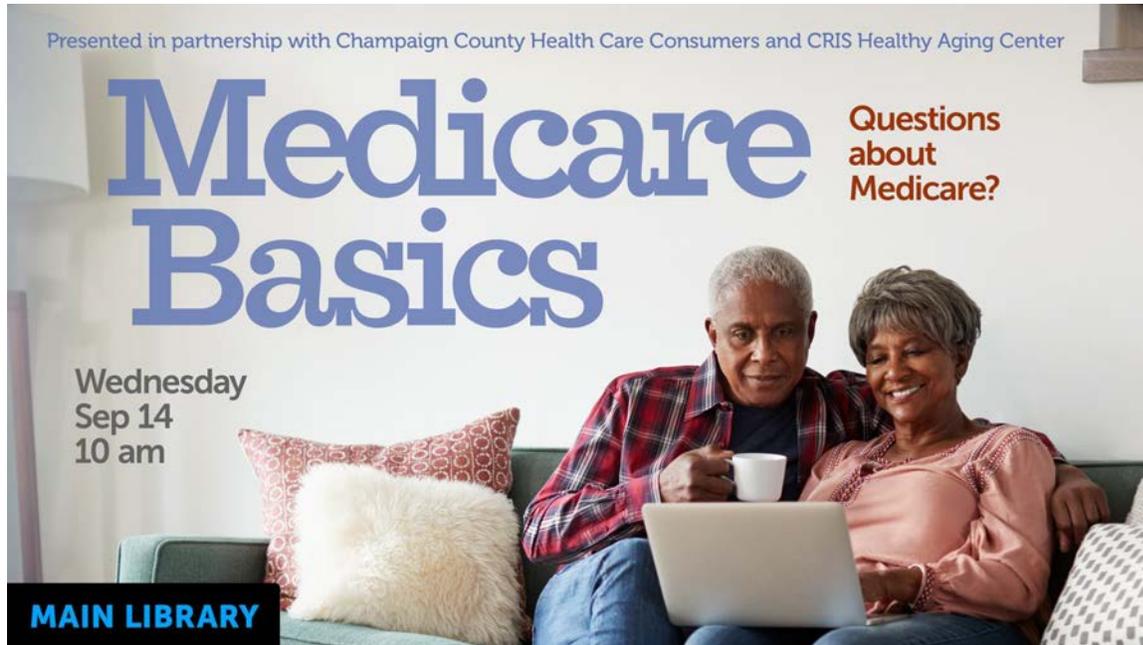


New & Noteworthy

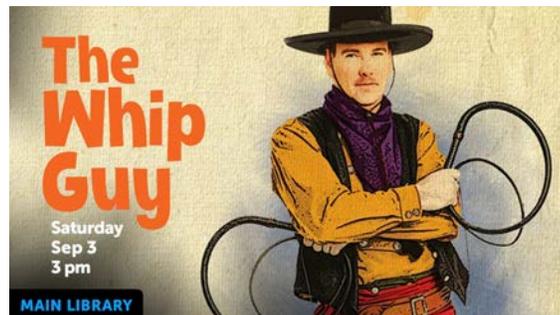


Medicare Basics & Providing Help for Community Members Signing Up

We are partnering with Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) and CRIS Healthy Aging Center to offer much-needed assistance to community members who are signing up for Medicare during open enrollment this fall. We're offering appointments on Wednesdays (Oct. 19–Dec. 7) so people can get help individually from CCHCC experts.

Fall Lineup!

We are looking at a fantastic lineup for fall with 100+ events each month, including yoga, The Whip Guy, and a multilingual introduction to business services at the library (in Chinese, Spanish, and French) during Welcoming Week. We're restarting our monthly Lego Club and weekly Family Fun Nights. Teen Lounge will meet every day after school starting August 18.



Program Highlights



Sharon Mullins and her granddaughter enjoyed storytime with Mother Goose on the Loose at Hedge POP! Park recently. At Mother Goose events, every child gets to take home a free book!

Wow! 3,700+ Participants for Read-a-palooza! Summer Reading Challenge

For this summer's Read-a-palooza reading challenge, we've seen 3,700+ participants of all ages. In addition to mood pencils, rainbow walking springs, recreation passes, and tumblers, we've given out more than 3,000 prize books to kids and teens for building their home libraries!

Events for Families Entertain and Engage 2,600+ Community Members

During July we hosted more than 2,600 kids and families at storytimes, craft workshops, and 458 people in a single afternoon when we offered a special butterfly tent experience. Another highlight was back-to-back magic shows by Rick Eugene with 425 enthusiastic participants!

Grant-Writing Workshop Proves Popular with Area Nonprofit Advocates

Our recent “Go-To Tips for Getting Grants” workshop drew a full house—with 43 participants—and many more interested in this topic. Four local experts were featured: Beverley Baker, Chief Impact Officer, United Way of Champaign County; Stephanie Davenport, Grants and Marketing Coordinator, Developmental Services Center of Illinois (DSC); Angie Hatfield Marker, President and CEO, Community Foundation of East Central Illinois; and Business Librarian Madeleine Wolske. In addition to sharing tips with the whole group, each panelist met in small breakout groups to answer questions and build connections. The recording is available on the library’s YouTube channel and on the Business Services webpage (champaign.org/business).



Madeleine also appeared on WCIA recently alongside Champaign Center Partnership Director Xander Hazel to promote our business events and services.



Douglass Branch



Shaylyssa Alexander stepped up to the mic during a recent Friday Night Jam Session at the Douglass Branch. Community members shared their music, poems, and visual art.

Friday Night Jam Session Drew 50 Participants! Our new Friday Night Jam Sessions premiered in July with 50 participants, including 13 performers, a live DJ, saxophonist, trumpeter, several vocalists, a poet, a producer using his synthesizer and making beats on the spot, rappers, and a visual artist creating artwork. There was a great collaboration among the artists. The summer sessions are made possible with support from the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, Champaign County Mental Health Board, and Champaign County Community Coalition Summer Initiative. Meets fourth Fridays, 6–8 pm.

Computer & iPad Sessions

During July, 787 community members enjoyed 671 hours using library computers and iPads.

DIY Kids, Storytimes, and Scavenger Hunts...Oh My! In July, we hosted DIY crafts, storytimes, and activities for 202 young visitors to the library and gave out 43 books to children.

Customer Comments

First Things First!

A preschooler exclaimed, "Wow!" as she entered the Douglass Branch with her mother. When we told her that was the reaction we're always hoping for, her mom said she thought her daughter was going to want to get her feet wet in the splashpad first, but instead she wanted to come into the library!

Library Love from a Douglass Branch Fan After Moving Away

"I must say, everyone I've ever come across at the Douglass Branch Library has always been professional and gone above and beyond. Champaign-Urbana is lucky to have you all making up such a wonderful library system."

Magical Mother Goose Moments

When Mother Goose was stopped at a traffic light in the Goosemobile, someone in the next lane called out. He said the car was very eye-catching—and asked if we were out delivering books. Dana quickly explained about the Mother Goose on the Loose storytimes at locations in the community. He replied, "That's dope!"

One little boy at storytime told us, "I want to be a Mother Goose when I grow up!"

What a Great Show!

Library Love via Facebook: "I came to see Troy Roark, the juggler, today. What a great show! He was very funny and very good at handling the crowd."

Aw...We Love Making Friends with You, Too!

While helping a girl find various books in the Children's section, she said, "I love making friends with the librarians."

Teen Finds Summer Reading Challenge Helps Them Start Reading More

From a teen picking up her Read-a-palooza Summer Reading prizes: "Thank you. This definitely helped me start reading more again."

Weekly Visitors Say This Place is Awesome

After a Mom chose a board book reading prize for her little one: "We are here every week. This place is awesome. We love it!"