

## New & Noteworthy



### **Partnering with Edison Middle School to Share “Tips 4 Teens”**

We are starting the school year sharing expectations for students on how to behave in the library after school. Our new Tips 4 Teens cards outline choices that lead to either staying in the building or leaving for the day. We partnered with Edison staff to send a note via email to all Edison parents about student behavior in the library. Teens have the option to enjoy guided activities during Teen Lounge (every day after school in the Robeson Pavilion); use the computers or play games in Teenspace; or study quietly.

### **Workforce Development Partnership with Regional Planning Commission**

Based on the success of the summer Job Club, we will be partnering again with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to provide a three-week intensive of hands-on workshops led by the RPC's Youth Workforce Development Coordinator Jeremy Bell. The fall Job Club will meet November 5–21 (Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 9–11 a.m.).

### **New! Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime in Spanish**

Starting in September we're adding a third Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime each month at library. “Mother Goose Storytime: Cuentos en español” will meet the last Tuesday of the month at the Douglass Branch. [champaign.org/MotherGoose](http://champaign.org/MotherGoose)

### **Launch Customer Profiled in Chamber of Commerce Magazine**

Launch business services client Alejandra Rangel was featured in the Chamber of Commerce magazine. When we first met with her, she was just in the process of getting started. Her company, Hola Destination Management, has been in business almost six months now.

### **Early Learning Area Gets Bigger and Better**

In response to more and more families spending time in the new early learning play space, we expanded the footprint by 33% and added more educational toys.

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## Program Highlights



### **Food Truck Rally Draws Record Crowd Despite Initial Downpour**

The 4th Annual Food Truck Rally started with a surprise deluge. However, the skies cleared and vendors and musicians towed off in time to feed and entertain 2,000 community members. In addition to delicious dishes and talented bands, highlights included bubbles, a roving juggler, and children's chalk art on the plaza in Clara Lane. Music lovers lingered on the west lawn to enjoy live music, eat tacos and pizza, and toss a frisbee. One of the new food truck owners told us the Food Truck Rally was their best sales event during the past year.

### **How Many Community Members Read This Summer? Thousands!**

We wrapped up the Summer Reading Challenge with 4,800 happy readers. In total, we distributed more than 12,000 free books and other prizes to kids, teens, and adults.

#### **2019 Summer Reading Challenge –Get Curious!**

- Kids: 2,700 kids read 6.6 million minutes and earned 5,000 prizes
- Teens: 1,100 teens read 540,000 minutes and earned 4,000 prizes
- Adults: 1,000 adults read 240,000 minutes and earned 3,000 prizes

This summer our Children's staff scaled up the reach of this initiative by partnering with area preschools and daycares, so our totals include 900 preschoolers earning 500+ books for their 100+ classrooms. In addition, Children's staff were successful at getting parents to sign up at the same time they signed up their children, resulting in hundreds more readers.

### **253 Kids and Families Meet Magnificent Birds from Wings of Wonder**

We hosted our annual visit by Mahomet-based rescue group for exotic birds, Wings of Wonder that draws hundreds of community members. This year, we doubled the length of the event to provide more time for meaningful interactions. In addition, we partnered with the Audobon Society to share information about local birds.

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# Douglass Branch Highlights



## **Community Business Expo Provides Powerful Networking Opportunity**

Summer participants in the first Entrepreneur Coaching Academy presented their business ideas to community members during CU Days. The Community Business Expo was held inside the Douglass Branch and drew 45 area business owners, potential customers, and high-profile community members including William Kyles, Maryka Baraka, and Herbert Burnett. The fall Academy starts in October and 9 aspiring entrepreneurs have already signed up (October 15–November 21, Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 5:30–7 p.m.).

The Academy and Expo are presented in partnership with the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Champaign County EDC and the Business Elevator of CU.

## **Partnership with Project READ and Unit 4 Extended with New Grant**

With a new grant from the Illinois State Library’s Penny Severns Family Literacy Program, we are able to extend our partnership with Project READ (based at Parkland College) and Champaign Unit 4 School District and build on the success of last year’s pilot Parent Lab. The focus will be on providing support and learning opportunities for a small group of families—both the parents and children—throughout the school year. The new “Parent & Family Learning Lab” meetings include monthly visits to the Douglass Branch, starting September 12.

## **New Partnership with Jack and Jill of America Means More Books for Kids**

We are partnering with Jack and Jill of America to put more books into the hands of young readers. The local chapter sponsored us to receive \$5,000 in grant funding to expand our offerings at the Douglass Branch.

## **Kindergarten Readiness Camp Partnership Results in New Cardholders**

We partnered with Champaign Unit 4 School District to introduce library services and sign up new cardholders during Kindergarten Readiness Camps at area elementary schools, including Stratton, Garden Hills, and Booker T. Washington STEM Academy.

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# Library Love from Our Customers

■ We welcomed the first family to arrive at our new-and-improved play space in the Children's area of the Main Library. The mom's response was "**We thought it couldn't get any better here!** And it just did."

■ Sistering CU is a new local nonprofit set up to support new mothers. Their co-founder Erin Murphy told us recently, "**We would not be here without Champaign Public Library.**" They hold all their Board meetings at the library. In the spring we were able to partner with them to present a successful film screening and panel discussion.

■ Library Love via TripAdvisor: **Top Rate Library!** "We are always impressed with the busy parking lot during any day at the library. They go out of their way to serve all age groups in the community. I love to see the children with their young parents making use of the interactive equipment and huge amount of books for them. Everything from their computers to movie selection and CDs is enjoyed and appreciated by our diverse community. I have used the sound-proof study rooms to tutor, I have enjoyed their music programs on Sunday afternoons and **the staff is extremely helpful and positive.** What a great asset to our town!"

■ "Thank you for all the information you provided in the Get That Job! class and the mock interview. **I have learned a lot from you.** I love your professional and confident expression and suggestions."

■ At the Douglass Branch, we helped a customer with faxing documents and signing her kids up for the Summer Reading Challenge. On her way out, she shared a compliment, "**You guys are awesome, period!**"

■ Library Love via Instagram: "My son got to check out some exotic birds that had been rescued by the Wings of Wonder program based in Mahomet (who knew?!)—**love the kids programming** at the Champaign Public Library!"

■ We help a certain customer with watching DVDs in the Douglass Branch on a regular basis. When leaving today he said, with a big smile, "**You guys are so good to me,** I really appreciate it."

■ A boy age 7 or 8 came straight to the Children's desk and said, "**I really loved the Dogman book you recommended last week! Can you show me more?**" After we got him the next one in the series he said, "I'm going to start reading this on the way home!"

