

New & Noteworthy



**Wednesday
Apr 22
9–11 am**

Live Broadcast

Penny for Your Thoughts · WDWS · Brian Barnhart

Celebrating National Library Week

On April 22, Brian Barnhart, host of WDWS radio show, “A Penny for Your Thoughts,” will return to interview library staff in honor of National Library Week occurring April 19-25. Staff will highlight upcoming noteworthy events and share how the library plans to commemorate its 150th anniversary.



LAUNCH
business center

Thursday
Apr 9
10 am

Understanding SEO: Boosting Your Business Visibility

Scott Clanin
Owner and Director, Clanin Creative
Presented in partnership with the Illinois
Small Business Development Center (SBDC)



Tuesday
Apr 7
5–7 pm

Business & Career Help Drop-in Hours

DOUGLASS BRANCH

Business Insights from Local Expert

In April, Scott Clanin, director of Clanin Creative, will help business owners elevate their online presence with an in-depth workshop on search engine optimization.

Career and Business Help

On April 7, customers can swing by the Douglass Branch to get their business and career-related questions answered. Topics covered typically include writing a business plan, resume review, and business feasibility.

Program Highlights

21st Annual Battle of the Books

On February 28, 747 community members showed up to support students in grades 3 to 5 as they challenged their book knowledge in the annual Battle of the Books competition. The competition consisted of three playoffs throughout the day with leading teams advancing to the finals. Students from Next Generation School took home the trophy as this year's 1st place winners.

Full House at Community Job Fair

On February 17, 207 community members connected with over twenty employers and career coaches. Participating employers included Busey Bank, Christie Clinic, and the University of Illinois.





Douglass Branch



Mother Goose Visits the Douglass Branch

In February, 24 attendees enjoyed stories and songs at the Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime. Mother Goose visits the Douglass Branch on the last Monday of each month and gives out free books to get young community members excited about reading.

DIY Kids

75 total participants attended DIY Kids across four sessions. Programs offered included making mancala boards and making art related to Black History Month.

Table Talk Book Club

At February's Table Talk session, 15 attendees gathered to discuss the book *The Girl at the Back of the Bus* by Suzette Harrison

Book Giveaways

Staff gave out 18 children's books in the month of February to add to their growing home libraries.

Seasonal Crafts and Growing Crochet Community

In February, 5 attendees enjoyed making heart garlands to celebrate the season. Later that month, 18 attendees gathered at Yarn & Shenanigans to work on their own projects while networking with fellow fiber art enthusiasts.

Customer Comments

Job Fair Yields Promising Connections

An organization who attended the job fair told staff that they were booked out "all next week with interviews with such quality candidates!"

Teachable Moments

A 3D print was requested by a young customer and staff showed him how to edit, resize, and submit the files. The customer was very involved in the process from start to finish.

A Job Well Done

After receiving help with a reference question over the phone, a customer told staff, "Thank you for your help. You provide a wonderful service here for the community and you do a great job!"

A Librarian's Impact

A customer expressed their appreciation by telling staff, "Thank you guys for helping, librarians make the world go round."

Not a Goodbye, But a See You Later

Staff relayed a touching story about comforting a young customer who became emotional when leaving the library. While it was difficult to see them cry, they said it was awesome to see how much they loved being here.