

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Don't forget to cast your vote for EPL's new Bestie (our fabulous fox). Vote at [Name the Fox! | Elmhurst Public Library](#) by July 11<sup>th</sup>. Each Library department submitted a name and now patrons will vote on what they like best. This adorable mascot is going to be such a fun addition to our Library repertoire.
- Summer Reading begins on May 17<sup>th</sup> and ends on July 31<sup>st</sup>. All ages are invited to read and earn prizes. Kids also have the added benefit of improving their reading skills and escaping the summer slide. This year's theme is Level Up!
- I hope you all read the latest copy of *Fine Print*. Our fabulous Marketing team included an interactive section titled "Be a Local Tourist." Patrons are encouraged to play along and visit various cultural and tourist destinations in DuPage County.
- Concrete work will begin soon on the center island in the parking lot. The aggregate concrete is being replaced with regular concrete to repair areas that are worn. The receiving room/garage floor will also be refinished with a durable, washable polyurethane coating for easier maintenance.

# ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Apr 2025



## Clues & Brews (left)

We partnered with Bottle Theory on Spring Road for our first session of the new program, Clues & Brews. Eight patrons joined Anne Swanson for a book share about mystery books they read and why they enjoy reading mysteries. Participants ordered Bottle Theory's delicious food and beverages, adding to the fun.



## Discover the Creative Studio (right)

Christina Racibozynski collaborated with Marcy Rodriguez for this long term display that highlights the Creative Studio and Extraordinary Things that relate to it. Keep your eye on this face near the Playaways for future developments.



## Board Game Night (above)



## No Shush Movies

Lauren Watson and Violet Pope hosted the insider movie and craft this month. Patrons watched Wreck-it-Ralph while they made painted wooden bead keychains (see left and right)



## Reaching Forward Conference

Hayley Rightnowar presented awards (left) at the Reaching Forward Conference as part of her responsibilities for the Conference Committee. She also collaborated with Jez Layman for their conference presentation about inclusive craft programming. (right)



The many colors of April included being green for Earth Day, throwing colors for Holi, making Sensory bottles during Family Sensory Hour, balancing on colorful stepping stones as part of Dig Into Play, and partaking of engaging book displays.

Nearly 350 children voted for their favorite way to help the environment. Turning off the lights won with 113 votes, followed by walking or biking with 89 votes, recycling with 84 votes, and planting with 58 votes.



Nearly 100 people attended the Holi Celebration. The presenter provided some background on the holiday, taught the audience two dances, read *Festival of Colors*, and led them through a movement/storytelling activity. Everyone had a great time during the color throwing outside as well.



Three families (8 people total) attended the before-hours Family Sensory Hour. The therapy group from Northshore Pediatrics helped the kids make sensory bottles. Everyone seemed to enjoy using the library and they were pretty self-sufficient!

Twenty-four people participated Dig Into Play sensory activities. The toddlers had fun playing with kinetic sand, splashing in the water bins, playing musical instruments, and walking on the colorful balancing stones.



## Displays

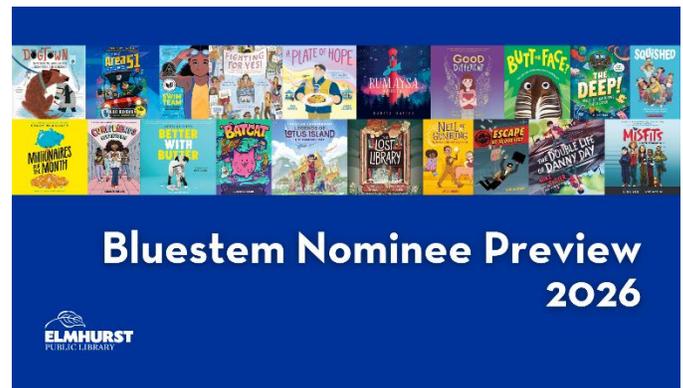
April displays included a variety of fun topics and interactive elements: Zoo Animals, April Shower, Artsy April, and Arab American Heritage Month. A patron let us know how excited she was to see the Arab American Heritage Month display. She said this kind of display was something she hadn't seen often in other libraries. She was happy to see the diversity and picked a book to read to the child while she was here.



## Outreach

In lieu of “Spring Into Reading” booklists and videos for grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, this year the Elementary School Coordinator created [Monarch](#) and [Bluestem](#) Nominee Preview videos for the newly announced 2026 titles, which she shared before spring break. There was positive feedback almost immediately from two D205 librarians:

- Erin Howe, Jefferson: *“Thank you so much for creating these! They are great!”*
- Peg DeYoung, Fischer: *“This is a fabulous gift. Thank you so much! [...] If you are making a cool Caudill video to go along with the Monarch and Bluestem ones, I'd love to see it!”*



In preparation for summer, Kids’ staff visited Hawthorne, Jackson, Visitation, Salt Creek, and Emerson schools to talk about the reading program. The elementary school visits began with a rousing game of “Who Would Win?” with popular game characters. Not surprisingly Steve from Minecraft was the hands-down winner, but students also enjoyed getting to see “old school” characters such as the Hungry, Hungry Hippo and the Candyland game piece.

## Middle School Happenings

Since Angela Caringella began as the Middle School Coordinator in December, attendance at the Middle School Influencers group has slowly increased each month from 2 to 5 to 7 attendees this month. Interest in the summer volunteer opportunities has also been strong with the Library having to cap applications at 100.

Poem or Lyrics?: The passive activity in the Hangout asked students to guess whether the verse was from a song or a poetry.



# MARKETING DEPARTMENT

eNews from 4/17

## April Marketing Topics included:

### **Programming: Spring Writing Contest Grades K +**

Delight us with an original story or poem, 15 sentences or less. Choose one of our prompts or create your own spring-themed idea. Winners of the Spring Writing Contest shared their original stories and poems and received a Barnes & Noble gift card, and a spot in our Kids' Ink magazine.

### **Collections: Caregiver's Corner Pets**

Meet Page, EPL's animatronic companion cat for seniors. Her movements and purrs are designed to bring comfort, calm, and a bit of playfulness to older adults experiencing loneliness, social isolation, or cognitive decline.

### **Services: Tax Resources** (video)

Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time filer, take a deep breath and know that you've got this - and EPL can help! The Library has reproducible tax forms available to copy or print. Visit our tax display on the 2nd Floor where we have forms, J.K. Lasser books, and other resources.

[elmlib.org/youtube](http://elmlib.org/youtube)

### **Inside Scoop: EPL in the Community** (video)

From to time to time, you'll see our staff out and about in Elmhurst: visiting schools, retirement communities, or attending community events. We might be sharing a story, letting you know about some of our collections and services, or inviting you to one of our many programs. If you see us, asks us a question, or just stop by and say hello!

[elmlib.org/youtube](http://elmlib.org/youtube)



EPL is closed Sunday, April 20 for Easter

## EPL in the Community



Get to know the ways EPL serves Elmhurst beyond the Library walls. This YouTube short provides an introduction to our upcoming series about ways EPL reaches out to our vibrant community.

Watch

## April 26: I-Pass on Demand



Stop by EPL's Lobby on Saturday, April 26 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to pick up a FREE I-Pass Sticker Tag for your passenger vehicle.

The **Sticker Tag** is ready to use on the Illinois Tollway and E-ZPass roadways 24 hours after activation. Existing I-Pass transponders will continue to work as designed.

A representative from the Illinois Tollway will be available to answer any questions.

## Read *The Economist*



We are happy to announce that EPL now provides access to *The Economist*. Enjoy award-winning news and analysis of politics, business, science, finance, technology, and culture.

*The Economist* is available through PressReader and can be accessed at the Library or from home. Please [visit our website](#) for more instructions or ask staff to help you.

[Download the PressReader app.](#)

***Here are a few sample screenshots of our online presence from April:***

# In April, people watched your videos 13,845 times

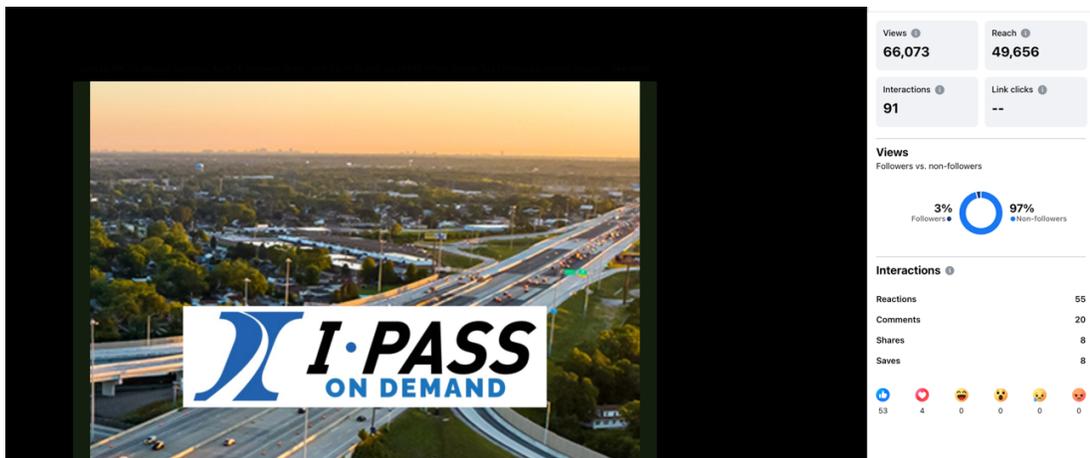
Youtube



Instagram



Facebook



# MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

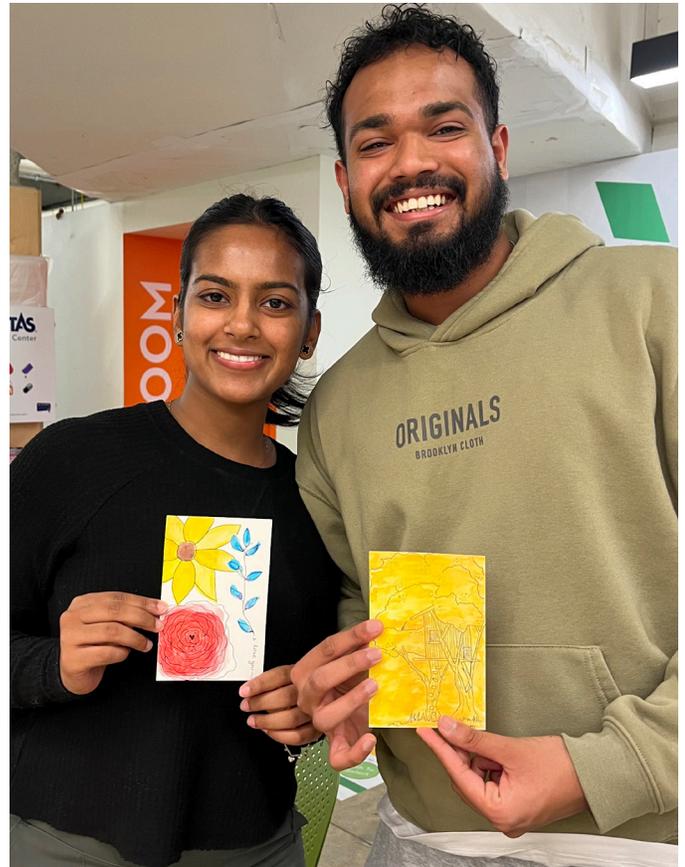
APRIL 2025

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,766	1,785	1,798
Equipment Reservations	194	166	250
3D Prints	68	76	91



## Makery Craft

Butterfiles in a Bottle was attended by 12 patrons. This craft used a less common Cricut technique called “foiling” where you apply holographic foil to paper.



## Lots of Pop-Ups!

Makery staff hosted several pop-up programs in April including Charcoal Still Life Sketching, Watercolors, and Laser Etched Dog Tags. These spontaneous programs are helping us welcome more and more new faces to the Makery.



## Makery Drop-In

April's Makery Drop-In had 17 participants. Patrons recycled wine works into coasters - or - a bath toy! If you add a small “sail” with a popsicle stick and felt, you've got yourself a fun toy boat.



## Maker Spotlight

When this patron visited the library, she didn't expect to stop by the Makery at all, let alone make a sheet of stickers! Thanks to one of the pop-up programs, she discovered the Makery, practiced still life sketching, and completed a project all in an afternoon.

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

April 2025

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Addressing School Anxiety	Family	4	1
Adult Book Discussion: Death in the Details by Katie Tietjen	Book Discussion	20	2
AI popup		17	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	63	5
Art Therapy Night	Create	24	1
Be Green When You Garden	Enrich	14	1
Bingo	Games	12	1
Board Game Night	Enrich	22	1
Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History	Enrich	30	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	106	5
Canasta: Open Play	Games	53	4
Chair Yoga	Gather	49	2
Chamber Concert	Enrich	55	1
Ciao Italia	Enrich	9	1
Clues & Brews	Book Discussion	8	1
Coloring for Mindfulness		8	1
Coptic Bookbinding	Create	18	2
Creative Cardmaking		25	2
Culture Club: Bermuda: Beyond the Beach	Enrich	19	1
Drop-in Craft: Watercolor Bookmarks	Create	18	1
Email Marketing: How to be Relevant Now	Business	3	1
Escape Room: Critical Thinking Challenge!	Civic Engagement	5	1
Foundations of Watercolor with Karen Exiner	Create	17	1
Friday Features: Babe	Movies	78	4
Getting Started with Streaming Services	Technology	6	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	22	1
Illinois Libraries Present: The Art of Foraging with Alexis			
Nikole Nelson	Books and Authors	2	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	4	1
Intro to Microsoft Office	Technology	4	1
Intro to the Creative Studio	Technology	6	1
Knife Skills	Enrich	65	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	15	1
Library Insiders: Talent Show	Library Insiders	9	1
Memory Cafe: Poetry	Health and Wellness	4	1
Mushroom Jars	Create	16	1
Navigating Student Loan Repayment	Consumer	6	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Library Insiders	51	3
Outreach program: ELSA Spring Alumni Party		8	1
Planning for Retirement	Career & Job Hunting	11	1
Rainy Day Enrichment for Pets	Common Connection	13	1
Scrabble	Games	17	2
Severe Weather & Storm Chasing	Enrich	27	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Gather	5	1
Terry Savage Talks Money	Consumer	34	1
The Birds and the Bees	Enrich	27	1
The Dogs of Chernobyl: A Story of Hope and Resilience	Common Connection	29	1
Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning	Consumer	58	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,116</b>	<b>68</b>

<b>Makery Program</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Makery 101: Laser Cut a Coaster	Create	5	1
Makery 101: Sewing Basics	Create	3	1
Makery Craft: Butterflies in a Bottle	Create	12	1
Makery Drop In Craft		34	1
Makery Drop In Dog Tags		17	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Marketing Programs</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Teen Programs</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
College Admission Process: Start to Finish	Consumer	8	1
Painted Glass Tumblers	Create	4	1
TAG Meeting	Teen Program	6	1
Teen Crafternoon: Recycled CD Room Décor	Create	5	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Middle School Programs</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	7	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kids' Library Programs</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Art Museum Camp Storytime	Outreach	23	1
Baby Play Date	Family	15	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	25	1
Celebrate Holi	Arts and Culture	95	1
Dia de los Ninos/Dia de los libros	Arts and Culture	9	1
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time	STEAM	24	1
EEH Mom and Baby Hour	Outreach	18	1
Elmhurst Children's Theatre Performance	Outreach	40	1
Explore the Spring Night Sky	STEAM	14	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	8	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	76	4
Glow in the Dark Fun	Storytime	25	1
Graphic Novel Club	Books and Authors	4	1
Grow, Sprout, Grow	STEAM	8	1
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	9	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	6	1
LEGO Stop Motion Filmmaking	Technology	17	2
Little Wigglers	Storytime	703	9
Make with Me: T Shirt Design (K-2nd)	Makery	43	2
Maker Kids: T Shirt Design (3th-5th)	Create	5	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	56	4
Outreach (EU K-12 Education Students)	Outreach	25	1
OUTREACH Brewpoint Spring Awakening	Outreach	9	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (1st Grade)	Outreach	73	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (2nd Grade)	Outreach	74	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (3rd Grade)	Outreach	76	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (4th Grade)	Outreach	76	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (5th Grade)	Outreach	70	1
Outreach Elementary AT Emerson (Kindergarten)	Outreach	68	1

Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (1st Grade)	Outreach	77	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (2nd Grade)	Outreach	91	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (3rd Grade)	Outreach	101	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (4th Grade)	Outreach	100	1
Outreach Elementary AT Hawthorne (Kindergarten)	Outreach	103	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (1st Grade)	Outreach	60	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (2nd Grade)	Outreach	85	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (3rd Grade)	Outreach	80	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (4th Grade)	Outreach	90	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (5th Grade)	Outreach	70	1
Outreach Elementary AT Jackson (Kindergarten)	Outreach	55	1
Outreach Elementary AT Salt Creek (1st Grade)	Outreach	62	1
Outreach Elementary AT Salt Creek (Kindergarten)	Outreach	60	1
Outreach Elementary AT Visitation (3rd Grade)	Outreach	21	1
Outreach Elementary AT Visitation (3's Preschool, 1st Gr)	Outreach	79	2
Outreach Elementary AT Visitation (4th Grade)	Outreach	22	1
Outreach Elementary AT Visitation (5th Grade)	Outreach	21	1
Outreach Elementary AT Visitation (Kindergarten)	Outreach	46	2
OUTREACH Madison Field Trip	Outreach	14	1
OUTREACH Preschool Bethel 3's PreK trip	Outreach	26	2
OUTREACH Preschool Buttons & Bows Trip	Outreach	25	1
OUTREACH Preschool IC Field Trip 3's	Outreach	44	1
Pop-up Storytime	Storytime	272	7
Read to the Dogs	STEAM	21	1
Reading Clubhouse: The Wild Robot	Books and Authors	1	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	302	9
Scout visit button	Outreach	27	2
Scout visit Makery mug	Outreach	12	1
Scout Visit Marble Madness	Outreach	8	1
Scout Visit Tour	Outreach	5	1
Spring Break Movies	Movies	135	4
Spring Writing Contest Winners Read Their Stories	Create	64	1
STEM Club	STEAM	11	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>3,884</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Passive Programs</b>	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>Adult Passive Programs:</b>			
Entertainment Station		12	5
Go Beyond the Walls of the Library (Online)		143	
Magnetic Poetry (Online)		113	
Puzzles		72	1
Recording of Addressing School Anxiety (Online)		13	
Recording of Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History (Online)		37	
Recording of Knife Skills (Online)		12	
Recording of Severe Weather & Storm Chasing (Online)		23	
Recording of Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning (Online)		14	
<b>Kids' Passive Programs:</b>			
Bunny Scavenger Hunt--Passive		62	1
Drop-in Craft--Passive		32	1
Make & Take--Passive		545	2
Middle School Hangout Passive		13	2
Stay & Play--Passive		398	3
		<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>

<b>Adult Program Grand Total</b>		<b>1626</b>	<b>79</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		439	6
Total Program Statistics		1,187	73
<b>Teen Program Grand Total</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		23	4
<b>Middle School Program Grand Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		7	1
<b>Kids' Program Grand Total</b>		<b>4,934</b>	<b>108</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,050	9
Total Program Statistics		3,884	99
<b>Passive Program Total</b>		<b>1,489</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>6,590</b>	
<b>Total Programs</b>			<b>192</b>

# STATISTICAL REPORT

## April 2025

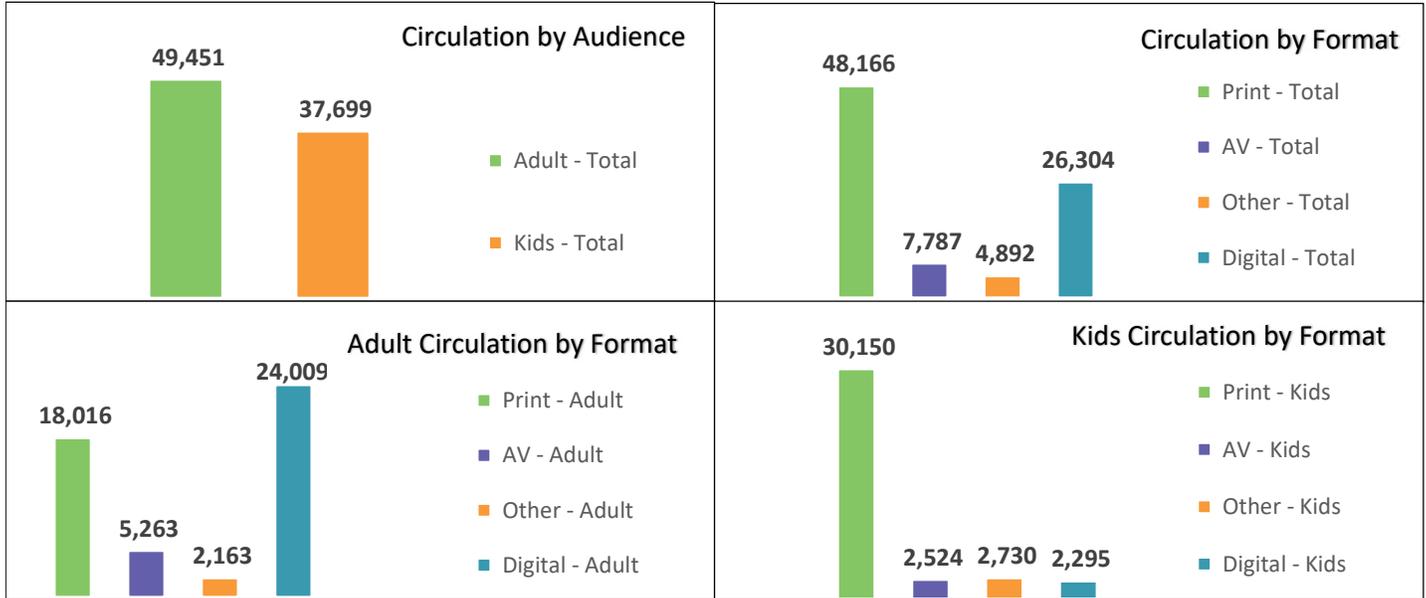
### Circulation

**Total Circulation**  
**88,369** ↓ -2%  
 90,181 last year  
**Card Holders**  
 25,514

**Library Card Usage**  
**9,361** ↑ 2%  
 9,202 last year

**Library Cards Issued**  
**Elmhurst** **168** ↓ -7%  
 (Issued) 180 last year  
**Reciprocal Borrower** **37** ↓ -30%  
 (Registered) 53 last year

**Interlibrary Loan**  
**Borrowed** **1,220** ↓ -13%  
 1,395 last year  
**Lent** **551** ↓ -5%  
 581 last year



### Technology Usage

#### Public Computer Use

**21,283** ↑ 41%  
 15,052 last year

#### Website Visits

**34,424** ↓ -16%  
 41,011 last year

#### Self Checkout

(% of checkouts)

**54%** ↑ 4%  
 52% last year

#### WiFi Sessions

**22,200** ↓ -3%  
 22,950 last year

### Reference Queries

#### Reference Questions Total

**4,014** ↓ -6%  
 4,267 last year

#### Reference Questions

**Adult**  
**2,768** ↓ -10%  
 3,066 last year

**Kids**  
**1,246** ↑ 4%  
 1,201 last year

### Meeting Room Use

#### Library Programs

**192** ↓ -2%  
 195 last year

#### Public Meetings

**95** ↓ -1%  
 96 last year

#### Group Study Rooms

**1,878** ↓ -3%  
 1,943 last year

### Programs

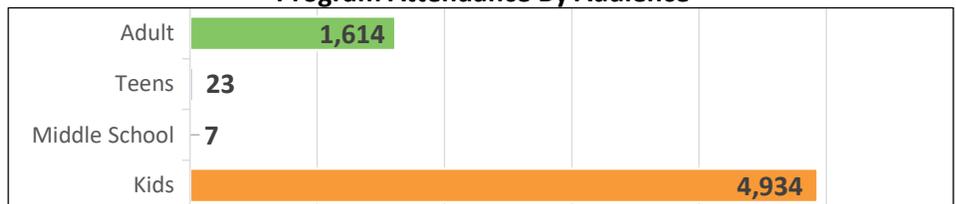
#### Program Attendance

**6,578** ↓ -11%  
 7,385 last year

#### Library Programs

**192** ↓ -2%  
 195 last year

#### Program Attendance By Audience



### Library Visits

#### Total Visits

**40,622** ↓ -1%  
 41,007 last year

#### In House Visits

**Makery** **1,766** ↑ 124%  
 788 last year

#### Walk-In

**38,818** ↓ -1%  
 39,074 last year

#### Drive-Up Visits

**1,804** ↓ -7%  
 1,933 last year

#### Creative Studio

**120** ↑ 33%  
 90 last year

### Monthly Comparison

#### Total Circulation

88,369 -2%  
90,181 last year

#### Adult Circulation

49,451 1%  
48,872 last year

#### Kids Circulation

37,699 -6%  
39,914 last year

#### ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,220 -13%  
1,395 last year

#### Digital Material Circulation

26,304 19%  
22,091 last year

#### Databases

23,669 168%  
8,845 last year

#### Reference Questions Total

4,014 -6%  
4,267 last year

#### One on One Tutorials

23 -18%  
28 last year

#### Number of Programs

192 -2%  
195 last year

#### Program Attendance

6,578 -11%  
7,385 last year

#### In-Person Visitors

38,818 -1%  
39,074 last year

#### Drive-Up Visitors

1,804 -7%  
1,933 last year

### Year To Date Comparison

#### Total Circulation

369,613 -1%  
373,178 last year

#### Adult Circulation

201,597 -4%  
210,859 last year

#### Kids Circulation

162,235 3%  
156,951 last year

#### ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

5,782 8%  
5,369 last year

#### Digital Material Circulation

91,720 -19%  
112,957 last year

#### Databases

59,278 -59%  
145,528 last year

#### Reference Questions Total

17,808 -1%  
17,990 last year

#### One on One Tutorials

133 5%  
127 last year

#### Number of Programs

709 7%  
662 last year

#### Program Attendance

27,312 27%  
21,516 last year

#### In-Person Visitors

148,203 -3%  
152,718 last year

#### Drive-Up Visitors

7,446 -2%  
7,575 last year

## Collection Totals

### Books and Magazines

158,212

### Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,100

### Audio Visual

26,820

### Digital

174,173

## Notable Happenings in Circulation

- No *Cards for Kids* library cards were issued in April.
- There are 40 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- One Non resident cards was purchased this month for a total of \$281.94.
- There are 125 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 4,806 holds this month.