

Executive Director's Report September 2022

What's New @ AHML

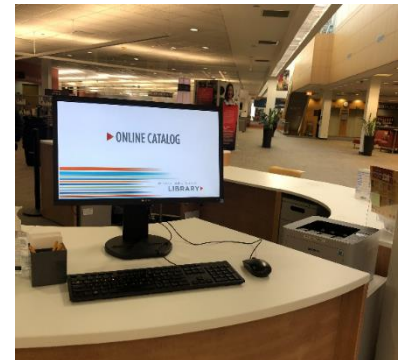
Museum Adventure Passes Return



In response to customer feedback, the Museum Adventure Pass program was reinstated after an 8-year hiatus. The program allows Arlington Heights cardholders to ‘check out’ passes to several area museums and attractions. The program launched on August 22 and in 10 days the library issued 18 passes. After the program was promoted on social media, the website and via email we received over 200 requests.

Customer Catalog Station Added to Info Desk

To increase interactions with customers and provide assistance at the point of need, a customer catalog station was added at the Info Desk. This has been highly used by customers and staff are able to easily assist when needed.



New Sublimation Printer at The Makerplace



Thanks to a generous donation from an Arlington Heights resident, the Makerplace has added a sublimation printer to its ever-growing list of equipment available for community usage. Sublimation printers work very much like a standard ink-jet printer, but they use special inks and paper to create iron-on transfers. These transfers can be applied to key chains, hats, clothing, cutting boards, and more if the items are “sublimation-ready”. The

Makerplace now sells sublimation transfer sheets in two sizes for \$1 and sublimation-ready coffee mugs for \$2. Additional sublimation-ready products can be found at craft stores, hobby shops and many online retailers.

Makerplace Niche Academy

The Makerplace's Niche Academy page went live this month as an alternative to in-person classes. Since classes have limited registration and are only available to cardholders, Makerspace Specialist Kate Henry created online versions of each of the Makerplace Essentials courses. After making the courses live, the Makerplace Niche Academy page saw views surge to 309 in the month of August. Average views in 2022 had been 45 per month.

Art Room Sink and Storage Installation



Thanks to a generous donation from the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation, the Makerplace has a new six-foot trough sink outfitted with two sprayer heads, great for cleaning stubborn brushes and messy hands after working in the art space. Additional counter space and under counter storage was also added for class supplies.

Outreach and Engagement

Village of Arlington Heights National Night Out 2022

The library joined the Arlington Heights community for National Night Out on August 2. We had fun giveaways and a crafts table offering activities and resources about monarch butterflies. Families came inside the bookmobile to cool themselves and chat with staff. Library staff interacted with 172 people on a hot, fun, summer night!



Heritage Fest 2022

Heritage Fest, the first multicultural festival in Arlington Heights, took place Saturday, August 27 on the grounds of the Arlington Heights Historical Museum. This new, free and family-friendly event was organized in collaboration and partnership with the Village of Arlington Heights, the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and the Arlington Heights Park District.

Attendees had the opportunity to discover and experience diverse cultures and activities. Four hundred and eighteen people visited various countries' tables, enjoying a diverse variety of performances, food, and meeting with staff and local members of cultural organizations. The library offered three stations to highlight Hispanic, Italian and Japanese American Heritage. The stations offered a make-your-own-flag/own-button activity, coloring Encanto characters and animals from Colombia's exotic fauna, greetings in Italian and inviting customers to attend Italian Heritage programs, as well as how to connect with other Italian speakers in the area.

This event marked the opening season for One Book One Village (OBOV) 2022 with a pop-up table that highlighted the upcoming Japanese American programming of various historical, cultural and culinary varieties, book discussions at the library and around town, and this year's in-person author's visit. An origami bookmark craft giveaway was shared and participants could register for a raffle to win the *Clark and Division* book.



Curriculum Night at Ivy Hill

It was a fun and busy evening at Ivy Hill Elementary School for curriculum night! Youth Services Specialist Ellie Richardson and Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin shared an outreach table to connect with families and bilingual speakers as they were introduced to library services. The table had back-to-school freebies, ESL resources, giveaway books and seed-paper bookmarks in Spanish. Staff interacted with 72 attendees and socialized with Ivy Hill Elementary School staff.



Summer is Block Party Time, Hello Sherwood!

The rain did not stop families from visiting the bookmobile at the Sherwood block party. In less than two hours staff interacted with 48 attendees at this fun summer event.



1,000 Books, It's a Wrap! - Children Books Drive for Ukrainian Refugees



This August, the library partnered with [Mission Math Minds](#), a local nonprofit organization to host a book drive for Ukraine children in refugee sites and underserved communities throughout Chicago. We are incredibly thankful and overwhelmed by the positive response and generosity of the Arlington Heights community. In two weeks, approximately 1,000 books were collected and will be shipped to various partners in Ukraine and other communities from Chicago Public Schools.

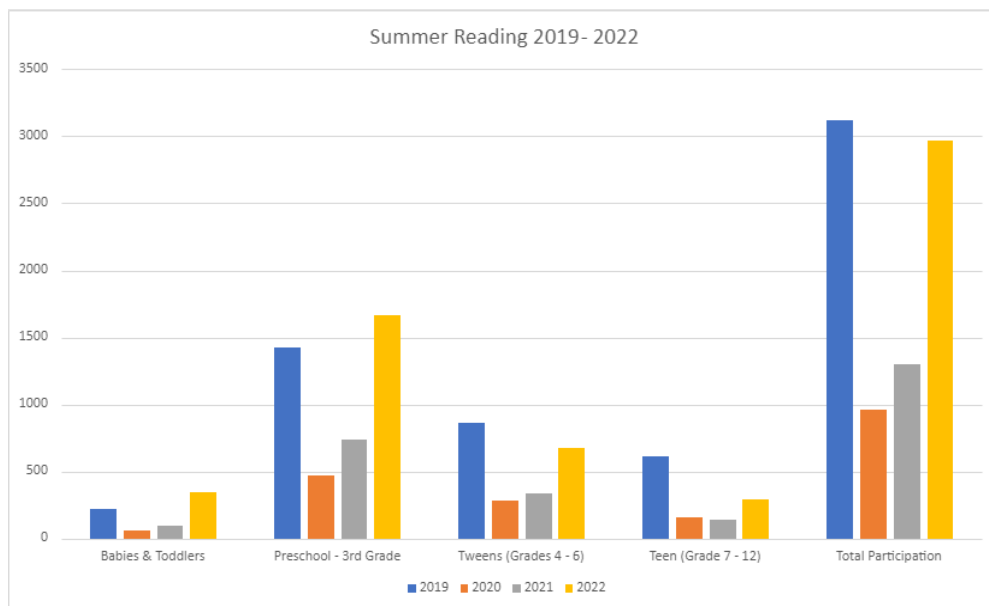
Serving Our Community

Summer Reading



Summer Reading was back in full swing this year! Thanks to school outreach visits, eye-catching graphics and a streamlined program, customers lined up outside the library on the morning of June 6 to be first in line to register. Youth Services staff registered over 500 customers on the first day alone. The momentum and excitement continued throughout the summer with help from Summer Reading interns and teen volunteers who staffed the Summer Reading Desk in Kids' World.

Throughout the summer, 2,968 youth, from birth to high school, participated in the 2022 Summer Reading Challenge, doubling last year's participation and approaching pre-pandemic levels (3,122 in 2019). For every 25 days of reading, participants completed a level and earned a free book. One thousand and forty-four participants reached Level 1 by reading for 25 days and 349 participants reached Level 2 by reading for 50 days. Along the way, every five days of reading earned participants a virtual prize drawing ticket for a chance to win gift certificates featuring local businesses like Berry-Yo and Around Café. Throughout the summer, participants played Plinko or spun the prize wheel to win take-home activities which ranged from digging for treasures in JELL-O for babies, to making a sundial for kids, to building a solar oven for tweens, to customizing an item at the Makerplace for teens. Altogether, the youth of Arlington Heights collectively logged over 35,000 days of reading this summer!



Teen Film Fest

The 16th Annual Teen Film Fest, held on Friday, August 26 was a dazzling success. It was the first festival in-person at the library since 2019. We had 17 unique films submitted by teen filmmakers from 7th grade through recent high school graduates. Ten submissions were screened at the Fest. After screening each film, the teen filmmakers had a short conversation with the amazing judges, receiving feedback, encouragement and insights. Judges this year were Shelli Nicole, a cultural critic and recent Emerging Critic Grant recipient from the Chicago Film Critics Association, Annette Bochenek, a film historian and professor and Bryan Bednarek, a digital media specialist and video editor.

One hundred and nineteen members of the community attended the fest to celebrate the filmmakers. The judges handed out awards for Best Acting, Best Story/Screenplay, Best Camerawork/Editing, Best Special Effects and Best Overall Film. This was the first year for the Golden Clapper Award, a custom-made trophy (and working movie clapper) for a category that changes every year. This year was for “Most Creative Location.” The audience voted for their own Audience Favorite award and selected next year’s Golden Clapper Award category – Funniest Sound Effect.

Afterwards, attendees gathered in the Hub for the after party, held after library hours. There were games, a photo booth, screenings of all other submitted films, as well as a mocktail bar and movie theater snacks. A broadcast journalism student from Prospect High School doing a story on the Teen Film Fest was also present, filming the event and interviewing participants.



One Book One Village Launch



The library's ninth annual One Book, One Village initiative launched at the end of August, highlighting Naomi Hirahara's *Clark and Division*. Running through November 2, this year's outreach will include tables at various community events, book discussions with other organizations and specific efforts to connect with the Japanese and Japanese American community in Arlington Heights and the surrounding area. As a giveaway staff have created origami bookmark craft kits complete with a set of instructions and two beautiful sheets of origami paper.

Tween Culinary: Fresh Fruit Tarts

On Wednesday, August 3, the library offered its first youth culinary program at the Makerplace kitchen. Over the course of two sessions, 23 tween attendees collaborated with their tablemates to bake a crust, make a filling using the stand mixers and slice fruit. They combined the elements to create fruit tarts that tasted as good as they looked. Participants shared one small fruit tart with their table so they could taste test their creations immediately and took home one mini fruit tart to share with their families. The smiles, clean plates and gleaming pastries were all evidence of a successful class. One participant visited the library the following weekend and reported that she had already purchased the ingredients and would be making the recipe with her family that day.



Bilingual Storytime

On Wednesday, August 24, the library welcomed families of all ages to celebrate the joys of summer with a bilingual storytime. Two books were read aloud in English and Spanish, as well as songs and rhymes that incorporated both languages. Through the book *Senorita Mariposa*, attendees learned about the migration monarch butterflies make from Canada to Mexico each year. Following the storytime, families were invited to make a monarch butterfly mosaic and take-home milkweed seeds they could plant to help rehabilitate the dwindling monarch population.

Flower Arranging Workshop

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski worked with Heather Coughlin of Pure Bloom Flowers to design two programs this summer. In June, Heather shared tips for creating a cutting garden. In August, thirty lucky participants celebrated the end of summer with an in-demand, hands-on Flower Arranging Workshop. Attendees learned flower care and design techniques and created their own garden-inspired bouquets to take home.



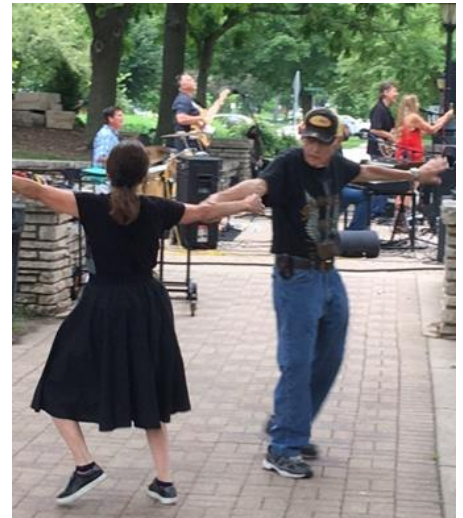
Garden and Produce Swap

Programs and Exhibits Assistant Jay Semla, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski and volunteer Nancy Hoban hosted the fourth Garden & Produce Swap of the season. Thirty-six community members stopped by with produce and houseplants to swap and gardening tips and recipes to share. Tomatoes, peppers and herbs from the library plot at the Viatorian Giving Garden were also available for people to take home and enjoy! The swaps have attracted passersby and built a small community of gardeners this summer season. The final swap of the growing season is September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



Sunday Musicale Double Bill

The August 14 Sunday Musicale concert was the last to be held at North School Park for Summer 2022. Sunday Musicale is generously sponsored by Friends of the Library and this summer's concerts were presented in partnership with the Arlington Heights Park District (AHPD). New series lead, Programs and Exhibits Assistant Jay Semla, has strengthened the library's relationship with the AHPD through his excellent application of event logistics, with help from Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker. New this month: impromptu line dancing in the park!



Great Photos Make Great Social Media Posts

The Makerplace has added a photo light booth to give customers the chance to get a clean, well-lit photo of their projects suitable for sharing on social media or listing on Etsy. Additional lights, backdrops and more are also available in The Studio at the main library.



Farmer's Market

Makerspace Specialist Kate Henry attended the Arlington Heights Farmer's Market where community members could make buttons and learn more about the Makerplace. Ninety-one people stopped by to chat and learn more about the crafts available at the Makerplace.



Beer Tasting with Beer on the Wall



Programs and Exhibits Manager Jennifer Czajka welcomed partner Beer on the Wall to host two, back-to-back, educational yet wonderfully social beer tastings. A total of 28 community members participated, representing a broad mix of ages. These events attracted a larger number of participants in the "30 and under category" than most library programs – just one of the ways in which they were a success. Matt Geary of Beer on the Wall was VERY knowledgeable and deeply trained -

he's a Level 3 Cicerone which is a rare distinction. He prepared a great handout about senses and brought taste accompaniments for all six beers tasted. He gave just the right amount of history and context for each beer style, brewer, even noting details of limited-edition brews, labels, etc.

Makers of the Month

Below are a few highlights of things created at the Makerplace in August:



@boxed.parties came to the Makerplace in August and shared their story and impressive making with their social media following.

This customer made signage for a non-profit opening in Palatine. She used recycled paperbacks on the die cutter and made this sign on the Silhouette.



This customer took the Makerplace Essentials: Vinyl Cutting class and returned the next weekend to create a serving platter for her parents' wedding anniversary.

The lower level was a buzz of activity with a sewing group, customers on the embroidery machine and a family on a sewing machine in the sewing space and a customer using the leather tools in the art space all at the same time.



A customer used the Cricut Maker and heat press to make a booth banner for the Mount Prospect craft show.

Women from the Dress Girls Around the World organization came to make dolls out of baby socks to donate to children in need.



Max came in with a design he wanted to put on a tree slice. Turned out awesome!



Staff Highlights

Daily Herald – Lost Library Items

Circulation Supervisor Megan Maier and Material Handling Supervisor Carmel Evangelista were featured in a [Daily Herald article](#) about lost library items. Megan and Carmel shared personal stories about reconnecting these items with their owners.



Arlington Heights Memorial Library materials handling supervisor Carmel Evangelista inspects recently returned books for possible damage as well as anything extra that a reader might have left behind inside the book, which happens pretty regularly, librarians say. - Brian Hill | Staff Photographer

[Buy Photo](#)

iREAD

Genealogy and Local History Librarian Nikki Camp was appointed iREAD Adult Liaison with the Illinois Library Association. The iREAD Committee produces a summer reading guide which is made available state-wide for libraries seeking guidance, programs and strategies for summer reading programs.

Customer Grateful to Security

Arlington Heights resident Daniel W. realized he lost his wallet after arriving home from a library visit. He shared in an email to the library that "within roughly two minutes of this realization I received a phone call from AHML Security Guard Dino Patras stating that he had found it. I was elated, but the best part was absolutely nothing was missing from it, which included my identification cards, credit cards and a good amount of cash. I'm a disabled retired Marine Corps veteran and have personally witnessed a lot of horrible things in life. It makes me feel very good inside that there's still people like Dino who have integrity and honor. I truly did not expect any cash to be in my wallet when I got it back and I would have been o.k. with that given the circumstances. You folks are very lucky to have a good man who has values and morals working there. I cannot thank you enough for having an individual like Dino working at your library. He is a great person to represent you as well as ensuring the safety of people who frequent the library."