

Director's Report

July 2025

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Spotlight

Summer Reading Exceeds Expectations Within First Month



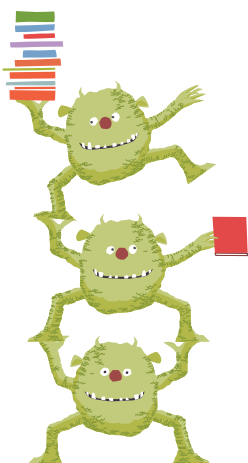
For Youth

Youth Services kicked off this year's monster-themed Summer Reading program at the Farmers Market with over 400 people enjoying a bubble-filled morning with Mr. Scott's Bubble Show. Youth Services staff were on hand to register 144 kids for the program, offering attendees special "early access" to registration prizes. To date, more than 3,400 kids and teens have signed up for the program - already surpassing last year's number of registrants with the rest of July to go.



For Adults

Info Services launched a revamped Summer Reading program called The Minutes of Summer where readers track the minutes they spend reading. A community reading goal of 250,000 minutes has already been exceeded! According to statistics, there were 497 new registrants for the program in the month of June, which exceeds participation from past years. Participants will be invited to the Adult Summer Reading Party in September.



Book Displays

Summer Reading-themed book displays debuted including a recommended titles display in Kids' World separated by grade level and a school-required reading display outside the Hub. Special thanks to Collection Librarian Candy and the Graphics team for their hard work on the displays.

Graphics

Special thanks to the Graphics team for designing, printing and displaying every monster in Kids' World which has evoked many positive comments including from a District 25 teacher who is interested in using the monsters in her classroom next school year.

Annual Lit Stroll Registration Fills in 18 Minutes

Registration for the library's fourth annual Lit Stroll filled in 18 minutes weeks ahead of the event. The event was attended by 160 book lovers who strolled from Mago Grill & Cantina, Hey Nonny and Arlington Ale House in downtown Arlington Heights to hear authors Nancy Johnson, Sonali Dev and Charlie Donlea speak about their latest novels, their writing and more. Info Services Coordinator Sherri and Programs & Exhibits Specialist Neal led the event while Advisors Lucy, Joan and Danielle led the author talks on stage and many other staff supported this successful event.





Strengthen the library's service outside its walls

Library Continues to Build Upon Partnerships



District 214

The library is hosting six District 214 student interns this summer, who will be gaining valuable job experience in departments across the library. Rising Buffalo Grove High School senior Tazo has already learned how to purchase and receive items for the library, pay vendors, book journal entries, complete reconciliations, prepare statistical reports for the June Board meeting and more from the library's Finance department.



Last month the library welcomed its first High School District 214 apprentice, who will be working at the library over the next year. The apprenticeship program provides paid on-the-job training and course credit for senior students. The Friends of the Library have generously funded this opportunity.

Arlington Heights Senior Center

Senior & Accessible Services staff hosted a resource table and assistive devices demo at the Live Well, Age Well Expo event at the Senior Center that welcomed 250 attendees to learn about wellness resources in the community. In addition, the Senior Center hosted a celebratory event to honor all volunteers who contributed over 25 hours in 2024. Volunteers from the library's Reading Room and tech classes were among those who were recognized for their service.



Luther Village

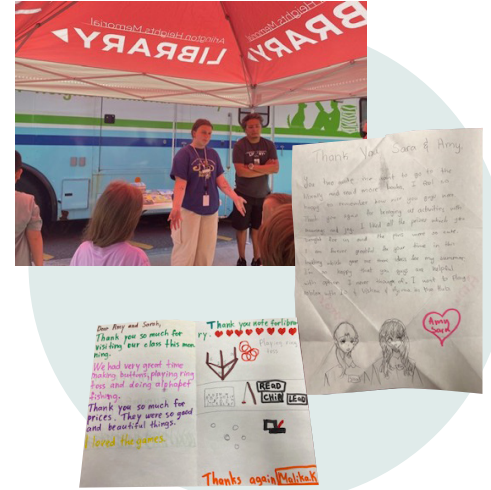
Luther Village launched a new bus tour for incoming residents, featuring the library as a key stop. The tour visits locations throughout the community, with staff from each site boarding the bus to share details about their services and programs, helping new residents feel welcomed, informed and connected. Last month six participants visited the library during the inaugural tour, with one remarking, ***"Wow! The library is incredible. I never knew it had so much to offer!"***



Library Engages Community in Places Where Customers Are

District 25's Summer U

Youth Services and bookmobile staff interacted with 447 students participating in District 25's Summer U program over the course of two visits with the Lit Camp and Multilanguage Learner classes. Many of these students have newly arrived in Arlington Heights and need an extra boost to help their literacy skills or with learning English. These bookmobile visits are a great way to help connect these students to the resources we offer at the library. Additionally, Youth Services staff visited middle school English Language Learner students to promote the Hub, introducing students to some of the fun activities they will find when visiting the library's teen space.



Harper College's Juneteenth Celebration

Circulation Assistant Mary, ESL Advisor Gary and Community Engagement Liaison Catalina engaged with over 300 attendees at Harper College's Juneteenth Celebration. Many attendees shared that the Arlington Heights Memorial Library is their local library and were excited to see the library represented at Harper College.

Staff Highlights from Outside the Library Walls

- Info Services Manager Jolie was asked to serve as chair for the 2025-2026 Illinois Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, which continues her work on the committee in a leadership role.
- Youth Services Manager Trixie was appointed to the 2026 Illinois Library Association Conference Planning Committee.
- Lisa, Makerplace Specialist and in-house costume designer extraordinaire, has been accepted to compete in San Diego Comic-Con's prestigious Masquerade Competition in late July with her entry: *A Tale of Two Stepsister: Cinderella, The Prince, and Petticoat Pandemonium*. Additionally, she's organized a panel called *Crafting Your Cosplay: Unlocking Creativity in Library Makerspaces* featuring five different local library makerspaces for Fan Expo in August. Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris will moderate the panel.



Grow the use of our services and resources

Library Engages the Community Through Programs & Experiences



In response to customer requests for caregiving support and resources, Senior & Accessible Services hosted a two-part series on navigating tough family conversations around illness and end-of-life topics. Participants found the Roz Chast book, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, a helpful discussion starter and valued the discussions for their supportive, open atmosphere that offered a sense of connection and reassurance as they realized that many others face similar challenges.

Last month's Vinyl Listening Party was a hit, with 20 attendees enjoying an evening of perfect summer jams, BYOB style, at partnering Empty Corner. The theme of the night, "The Cookout," brought out a fantastic selection of tracks for a lively event. Regulars and newcomers alike shared their favorite summer tunes. Programs & Exhibit's Neal and Jay have fostered strong community engagement and a growing group of regulars through this popular meetup style event.

Last month marked the first of three Sunday Musicales concerts at North School Park. Programs & Exhibits Assistant Jay welcomed 106 listeners on a toasted Sunday to enjoy Brother Tim, playing hits from the 1970s-2010s, Fleetwood Mac to Foo Fighters.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

SHOWS AT NORTH SCHOOL PARK



New Color Printer in the Tech Learning Center

A new color personal paper printer has been installed in the Tech Learning Center, replacing one of the black and white printers. This change is designed to reduce barriers for those who need color prints, making creative and professional projects more accessible. To ensure fair access for all, the library is asking customers to limit color printing to 20 pages per day. Additionally, the library's wireless printing webpage has been updated to provide customers with more options for customizing submitted print jobs.



Enhance the library's role in the everyday lives of the Arlington Heights community



Library Receives Certificate of Recognition for Butterfly Garden

Monarch Watch, an education, conservation, and research program based at the University of Kansas, awarded the library a certificate of recognition for the creation and registration of the Butterfly Garden recorded as Monarch Waystation #50385. Monarch Watchstations provide critical resources for monarchs throughout their annual cycle of reproduction and migration and support other pollinators and wildlife. The Butterfly Garden is one of over 51,600 Monarch Waystation habitats registered with Monarch Watch in the world.

Special thanks to the staff volunteers from Community & Circulation Services and Info Services who take care of the planting and maintenance as well as the Friends of the Library for their support.

Library Continues to Celebrate Cultural Diversity



Native American Hoop Dancer

Starr Chief Eagle, an enrolled member of the Sicangu (Rosebud) Lakota Sioux Tribe, performed the art of Hoop Dancing for 113 attendees at North School Park. Attendees learned about Native American culture and were moved by the ceremonious dance depicting the stages of Starr's life.

Globetrotters: Japan

For June's Globetrotters program highlighting Japan, Kids Librarian Ellie collaborated with the ESL & Literacy team to provide K-3rd grade attendees an authentic representation of the country. ESL volunteer Akira created an engaging presentation about the differences between childhood in Japan and America, made her own step-by-step photo instructions on a paper airplane origami and pre-made origami animals for each of the kids to take home with them.





Changes to the Library's Collection

Collection Services is in the process of changing the genre name Foreign Language to World Language for DVDs and Blu-rays, using more inclusive language for the collection. Because there are many items in the genre, Collection Services will complete a few languages at a time. Customers will start to see the call number "World" on some items, but they will still be shelved alphabetically by title.

Makerplace Fosters Community Connection & Inspires Creativity Through Experiences


- Chef Brian introduced a new class, The Other Salads, focusing on BBQ and picnic-style salads including potato salad, pasta salad and coleslaw. After the lemonade pop-up and knife skills class, Chef Brian had an abundance of leftover citrus peels. In a fun and tasty cost savings, he then featured making marmalade for his monthly Talk & Taste program. Add some sugar and spices, and it's a very frugal and tasty demonstration!
- Makerspace Advisor Esther led a new creative workshop in the Art Room on making faux stained glass using acrylic sheets and paint markers with 20 people in attendance. Due to community interest, Makerspace Advisor Kathie hosted a new hands-on class on quilting with old T-shirts. Participants learned how to transform cherished shirts into quilt squares—preserving memories in a creative and functional way.
- Chef Brian and Early Learning Librarian Allison welcomed 86 attendees to the Makerplace Kitchen to make lemonade.

Families enjoyed measuring, squeezing and mixing an ice-cold treat on a hot day. Caregivers expressed their appreciation for having a fun, accessible experience in a novel environment that they could all enjoy together.

- Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris, Makerplace Advisor Esther and Communications & Marketing Specialist Mareliz collaborated on a video for social media showcasing the Makerplace's new Primera LX610 sticker printing machine, generously funded by the Friends of the Library. The engaging video with over 7,700 views in total on Facebook and Instagram walks viewers through the design and fabrication process. Following the video's success, Makerplace staff reported a noticeable increase in usage of the sticker printer.




What Customers Are Saying




"I enjoyed everything about the event - it was well organized, it was well attended, the authors were great, and the appetizers were really good, too."

-Lit Stroll Attendee




Youth Services staff shared a response from a Kindergarten teacher requesting a leveled book list to share with caregivers ahead of summer break:

"Thank you so much for this amazing list of level books as well as the ideas for the customized book lists! I've already gotten so many replies from parents that they are going to be going to the library this summer!"




"I really enjoyed learning more about using Excel, which will prepare me for studying business next semester."

-Excel: Intermediate Class Attendee



"Very informative and very thorough. I feel very confident after the class that I can perform what was taught."

-Digitize It Class Attendee



Youth Services staff shared: ***"A caregiver commented that the Countdown to Kindergarten program had been really nice for his son, who had never been to preschool and didn't have much socialization in general. He said he was grateful for the program and surprised at how well his son handled it, and it gave them the confidence to try some other library programs."***

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

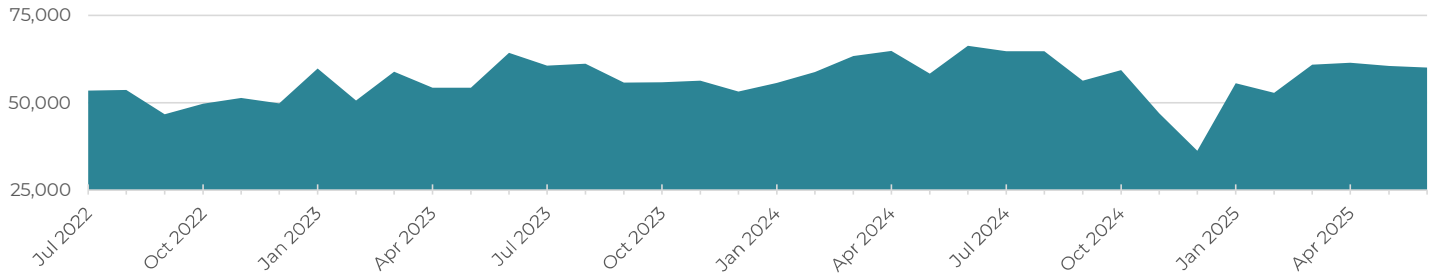
June 2025 Dashboard

Library Visits

72.6% of library customers in June visited the Main Library. Year to date, library visits are down -4.3%.

	June			2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Main Library	43,638	72.6%		275,149	295,279	-6.8%
Drive-Up	4,989	8.3%		29,471	30,946	-4.8%
Outreach	4,458	7.4%		15,854	12,349	28.4%
Bookmobile	3,479	5.8%		12,381	11,469	8.0%
Makerplace	1,842	3.1%		8,598	9,583	-10.3%
Senior Center	1,732	2.9%		9,992	7,626	31.0%
Total	60,138	100%		351,445	367,252	-4.3%

Total Visits



Room Use	June	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change	Trend
Hendrickson Room	11	67	68	-1.5%	
Conference Rooms	1,173	7,907	7,712	2.5%	
Total	1,184	7,974	7,780	2.5%	July 2024-June 2025

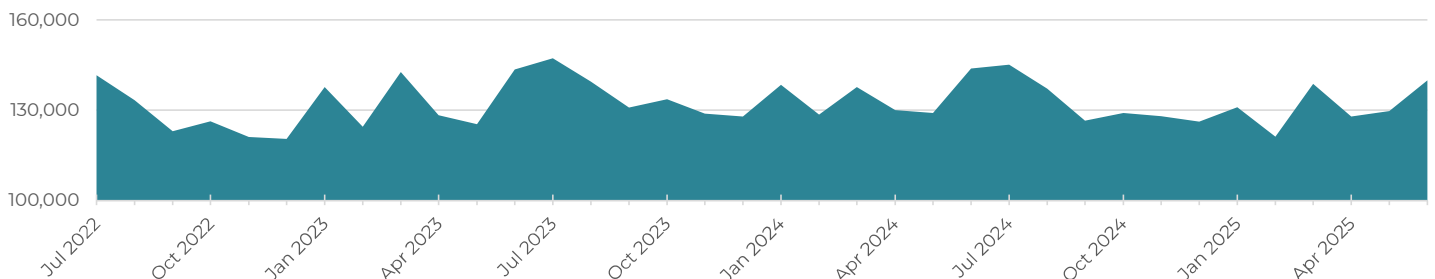
Library Cards ¹	June	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change	Trend
Resident	396	1,995	2,158	-7.6%	
Reciprocal	126	688	662	3.9%	
Purchased	0	5	5	0.0%	
Total	522	2,688	2,825	-4.8%	July 2024-June 2025

Circulation

139,941 items were checked out in June. Year to date, total checkouts are down -2.4% compared to 2024.

	June			2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Print	82,091	58.7%		441,728	459,316	-3.8%
Downloadable	24,940	17.8%		149,439	138,367	8.0%
Audiovisual	22,736	16.2%		138,100	146,188	-5.5%
Other	10,174	7.3%		59,096	63,787	-7.4%
Total	139,941	100%		788,363	807,658	-2.4%

Total Checkouts



¹ New cards only. Does not include renewals.

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

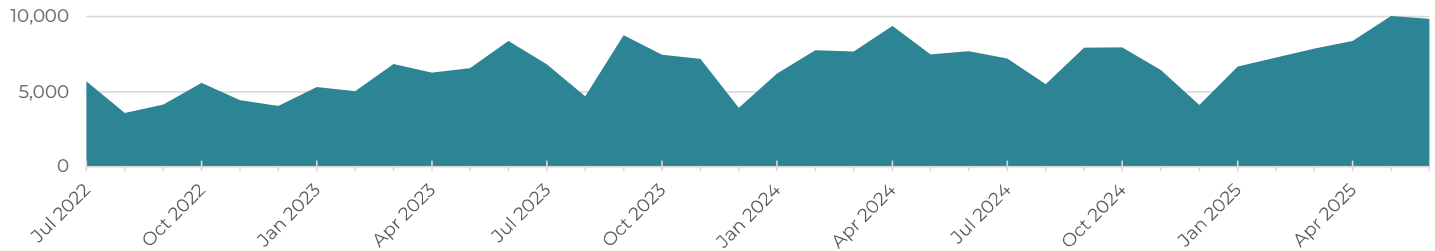
June 2025 Dashboard

Programs

6,239 customers attended Children programs in June, which represents 63.4% of all program attendees. Year to date, program attendance is up 8.4% across all audiences and program sessions are up 4.1%.

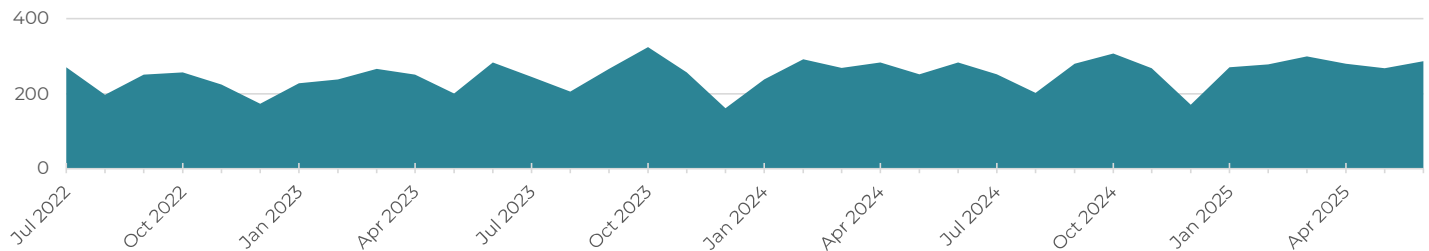
Attendance	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Children	6,239	63.4%	27,825	23,285	19.5%
Adult	3,345	34.0%	18,901	20,479	-7.7%
Teen	256	2.6%	3,341	2,443	36.8%
	9,840	100%	50,067	46,207	8.4%

Attendance



Sessions	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Adult	173	60.3%	1,071	1,069	0.2%
Children	89	31.0%	511	445	14.8%
Teen	25	8.7%	101	103	-1.9%
	287	100%	1,683	1,617	4.1%

Sessions



Supplementary Programs and Activities²

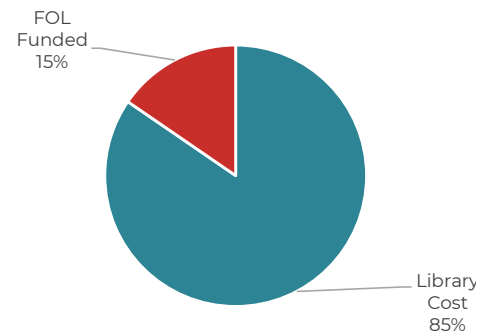
	June	Trend	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Attendance	11,671		28,468	21,978	29.5%
Sessions	26		128	125	2.4%

July 2024-June 2025

² Supplementary programs and activities are planned events where customers participate on their own, instead of at a designated time with a group. Registration is not required.

Program Spending

	June	2025 YTD	Budget	% Spent
Presenters	\$14,630	\$74,295	\$186,018	39.9%
Supplies ³	\$9,953	\$47,191	\$104,183	45.3%
	\$24,583	\$121,486	\$290,201	41.9%
Library Cost	\$18,255	\$102,744	\$242,701	42.3%
FOL Funded	\$6,328	\$18,742	\$47,500	39.5%
	\$24,583	\$121,486	\$290,201	41.9%



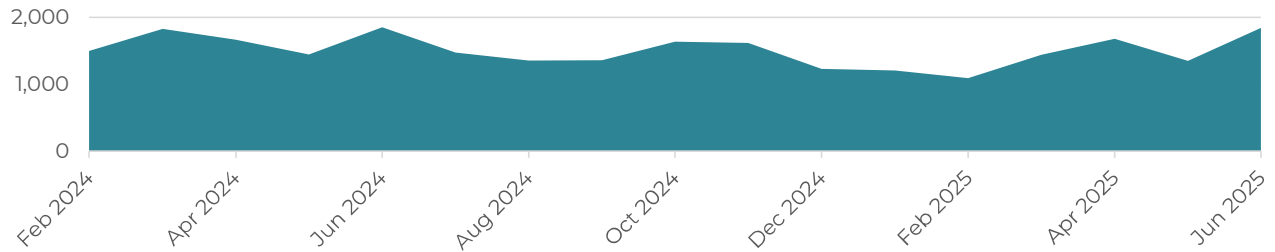
³ Includes supplies for supplementary programs and activities

Arlington Heights Memorial Library Makerplace

June 2025 Dashboard

	June	% New Users	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Makerplace Visits	1,842	4.3%	8,598	9,583	-10.3%
New Users⁴	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Makerplace	51	64.6%	277	376	-26.3%
Kitchen	24	30.4%	52	147	-64.6%
Makerplace & Kitchen	4	5.1%	15	89	-83.1%
Total	79	100%	344	612	-43.8%

Total Visits



	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Equipment Usage⁵					
Fabrication	206	52.3%	989	1,168	-15.3%
Small Tools	88	22.3%	409	410	-0.2%
Sewing	62	15.7%	365	392	-6.9%
Technology	27	6.9%	108	222	-51.4%
Art	11	2.8%	60	23	160.9%
Total	394	100%	1,931	2,215	-12.8%

	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
Program Attendance⁶					
Culinary	81	28.0%	520	798	-34.8%
Maker	184	63.7%	773	811	-4.7%
Tour	4	1.4%	36	81	-55.6%
Other	20	6.9%	226	310	-27.1%
Total	289	100%	1,555	2,000	-22.3%

	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
3D Print Jobs	157		939	976	-4%

	June		2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
eLearning⁷	884		2,850	1,241	130%

⁴ Measured by number of waivers signed for maker/fabrication, kitchen, or both

⁵ **Fabrication**: all fabrication room equipment except 3D printers; **Small Tools**: soldering irons, hand tools; **Technology**: design computers

⁶ **Culinary**: kitchen programming; **Maker**: hands on making programs (3D printing, laser cutting, sewing); **Tour**: attendance of facility tours prescheduled or drop-in

⁷ Niche Academy views of Makerplace resources