

# Columbia Heights Public Library

## Library Board Report – December 2025

### BUILDING

- The workroom fire panel was alarming at random. It was inspected by fire suppression and low-voltage electrical techs; one tightened a loose wire. If the minor repair doesn't correct the false alarms, the panel will need replacement.

### TECHNOLOGY

- IT staff programmed the history room computer to clear cached downloads daily and to disallow video gaming. Public patron computers are available for gaming.
- Staff also Initiated changes to increase fees on the print kiosk which will start in 2026.

### COLLECTION

- New adult books were selected from reviews in the August issues of *Kirkus Reviews* and *Library Journal*. Updated adult reference books were ordered. Juvenile purchases included young adult manga series *Black Clover* and *Apothecary Diaries*.
- Weeding was completed in adult audiobooks, adult DVDs and Reference.
- Adult displays featured books on Native American heritage, aging, mysteries, family relationships/dealing with conflict/boundaries, football and card making. Juvenile displays highlighted books about snow, winter sports, Christmas and Hannukah.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Family Storytime	12/1	Children (0-5)	28
EL Conversation Circle	12/1	Adult	6
Community Craft Night: macrame key chains	12/1	Adult	5
Tinker Time: Snowflakes	12/2	Children (6-11)	25
EL Conversation Circle	12/3	Adult	8
Daycare Storytime	12/5	Children (0-5)	12
EL Conversation Circle	12/6	Adult	3
Family Storytime	12/8	Children (0-5)	32
EL Conversation Circle	12/8	Adult	8
Cardmaking Open House with ACCAP	12/8	Adult	12
EL Conversation Circle	12/10	Adult	6
Evening Storytime	12/11	Children (0-5)	6
EL Conversation Circle	12/13	Adult	5
Needle-Felted Ornaments	12/13	Children (6-11)	23
EL Conversation Circle	12/15	Adult	6
Mystery Book Club: <i>Lightning</i>	12/16	Adult	3
Book Club: <i>The Women</i>	12/17	Adult	9
EL Conversation Circle	12/17	Adult	6
EL Conversation Circle	12/20	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	12/22	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	12/27	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	12/29	Adult	3
EL Conversation Circle	12/30	Adult	1

### STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Met with the Friends of the Library.
- Met with community members about hosting programs related to gardening and food security.

- Facilitated discussion of *Lightning* by Dean Koontz at the Mystery Book Club.
- Partnered with the Anoka County Community Action Program to host a card making session. While making cards, ACCAP staff talked about ACCAP services, ways to volunteer to help in the community (Chores and More,) and how to sign up to be a recipient of volunteer help. Participants also learned about the ACCAP Senior Kinship program, which is where the cards were sent.
- Made three deliveries to At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Attended regular meetings with city division heads, library staff, and the city communications coordinator.
- Joined Elizabeth and Eliza and Anoka County Library staff to determine how to handle Columbia Heights patron suggestions within the Aspen Discovery public catalog which launched in September.
- Attended the adult book club discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.
- Attended online meetings of the CHPS Communications Advisory Council meeting and the MN DNR/Library State Park Pass program.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Reports that although the Tinker Time group was slightly smaller this month, participants still had a great time creating beaded snowflakes to hang in windows or on trees, as well as cutting paper snowflakes. One family shared that they attended last year's snow globe program, which became part of their winter decorations, and returned this year to make additional seasonal decorations to add to their growing family collection.
- Contracted with eHolt Art to teach a full house of kids and their grown-ups how to create needle felted ornaments and baubles.
- Notes that K, a teen volunteer, learned to complete the hold list quickly, asked thoughtful questions when needed, and consistently demonstrated kindness and professionalism. Her help was invaluable to the Columbia Heights Library.



Staff attended the city's holiday lunch for employees.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on December 18.
- Nine adult volunteers donated 31 hours. One teen volunteered for 2.5 hours.
- There were loads of weather-related newspaper delivery issues.
- A couple of cars were abandoned in the parking lot for extended periods.
- The sports section of the local newspaper was repeatedly stolen.