

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – June 2026

BUILDING

Installation of two new heating boilers was completed.

TECHNOLOGY

- The self-check kiosk in the youth area was repaired.
- Multiple issues with the Comprise printing kiosk occurred, including freezing, eating coins, and jamming coins.
- The multi-function copier/printer was serviced, including deep cleaning, replacement of a roller and an update of firmware.

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the January, February or March issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Library Journal*, and *School Library Journal*. Requests and replacement copies of popular adult and youth materials were purchased.
- Weeding was finished in adult nonfiction 921 and fiction N-S.
- Adult display highlighted Pride month and shelving endcaps featured fishing, audio books, books to movies, and summer titles Youth displays celebrated Pride month and highlighted books about the outdoors and outdoor activities.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Family Storytime	6/1	Children (0-5)	51
English Language Conversation Circle	6/1	Adult	3
EL Conversation Circle	6/3	Adult	5
Valley View Kindergarten (four classes)	6/4	Children (6-11)	90
Valley View 1 st Grade (four classes)	6/5	Children (6-11)	105
Family Storytime	6/8	Children (0-5)	56
EL Conversation Circle	6/8	Adult	7
Daycare Storytime	6/9	Children (0-5)	23
Mystery Book Club: <i>Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone</i>	6/9	Adult	2
EL Conversation Circle	6/10	Adult	6
EL Conversation Circle	6/13	Adult	4
Family Storytime	6/15	Children (0-5)	32
EL Conversation Circle	6/15	Adult	5
Design a Game with Now.Make.Art	6/16	Children (6-11)	35
Library Book Club: <i>A Different Kind of Power</i>	6/17	Adult	7
EL Conversation Circle	6/17	Adult	2
Family Storytime	6/22	Children (0-5)	57
EL Conversation Circle	6/22	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	6/24	Adult	7
Family Storytime	6/29	Children (0-5)	56
EL Conversation Circle	6/29	Adult	6
4-H Robotics	6/30	Children (6-11)	28

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Met with a potential vender of a mindfulness program to be offered in the fall.
- Met with staff from Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater about potential adult programs.

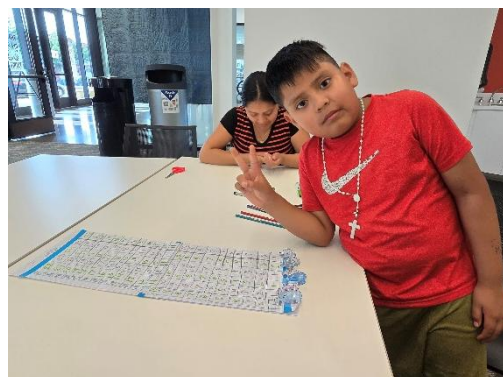
- Met with Eliza and Anoka County Library outreach and engagement staff about the summer reading program.
- Interviewed a new adult volunteer.
- Welcomed Steven Yang from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on June 24 to educate the public on lead-free fishing. In addition to answering questions, Yang accepted lead-based fishing equipment (which will be disposed of properly), gave away lead-free options, provided information in English, Spanish, and Hmong, and provided resources for businesses to transition to lead-free lures. He provided information and a supply of lead-free fishing equipment, which staff can hand out throughout the summer. Staff will also collect lead fishing equipment and return it to the MNPCA for disposal in the fall. Approximately two pints of lead-based equipment were collected at the event.
- Facilitated the Mystery Book Club's discussion of *Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson.
- Welcomed an Adult Basic Education class for a library tour and visited a class at MetroNorth to share information about Libby and eBooks.
- Made deliveries to two At-Home patrons and learned of the passing of a homebound patron.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

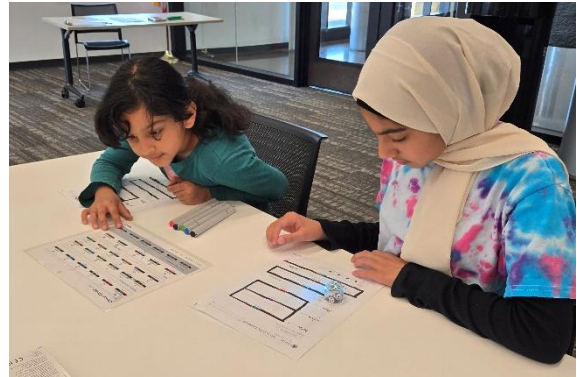
- Attended a retirement party for Human Resources Director Kelli Wick.
- Attended meetings with city division heads, the Minnesota Library Association board, the Anoka County Library Director, and the ACL Public Service Team.
- Met with IT staff about the new phone system which will be installed in July.
- Met with the State Library Data Coordinator about discrepancies in the data submitted for the 2025 annual report.
- Prepared a recommended library budget for 2027.
- Facilitated the adult book club discussion of *A Different Kind of Power*.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Contracted Broderick and Elena from Now.Make.Art for a **Design a Game** program which invited kids and families to use an assortment of craft supplies to create their own games. The program inspired much creativity in kids as they developed rules, created artwork, and tested out their games. Some examples of games kids made included a racing game, a dating game, and lots of card games.



- Partnered with Sarah from Anoka County Extension for a **4-H Robotics** program on coding and robotics using Ozobots. Participants learned how to tell the Ozobot to perform different actions by using colored markers and then coded, problem solved, and debugged a variety of mazes, activities, and puzzles.



- Welcomed four kindergarten classes and four 1st grade classes from Valley View Elementary to the library. Kindergarteners visited as part of their Fire Station and Library field trip and 1st graders came on a walking field trip. Students listened to stories and learned about the library with Eliza and took a tour of the library and completed a library scavenger hunt with Farrah.

MISCELLANEOUS

- On June 3, staffed called 911 for an unconscious male. He was revived and transported by the paramedics.
- Evidence of drug use was found in the women's restroom on June 2 and 27.
- On June 10, staff called police about a woman dealing drugs out of the women's restroom. She was arrested and trespassed from the library.
- On June 15, a patron's bag and flash drive were stolen while they were printing. The bag was dumped into the men's restroom trash, but the flash drive was not recovered.
- A woman using racist and anti-Semitic language in the lobby on June 18 was asked to leave; police were called when she refused.
- Library staff participated in the city "Take Your Kids to Work Day" on June 12.
- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on June 25.
- Nine adult volunteers donated 20.5 hours; seven teens volunteered for 20 hours. Adults pulled holds, shelf-read, conducted Conversation Circles, and cleaned shelves. Teens assisted with discharging returned materials, finding items on the hold list, preparing Summer Reading materials, and looking for damaged books.