

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – July 2025

BUILDING

- An upper window on the west side of the building was broken. A repair quote was requested.
- Northland Refrigeration repaired the air conditioning unit which cools the server room.
- Viking conducted inspection and testing of the fire alarm and sprinkler suppression system.
- Adams Pest Control performed a monthly inspection.

TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the March and April issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*. Juvenile requests and replacements focused on popular characters such as Bluey, Spider-Man and Disney Princesses.
- Weeding was completed in adult fiction G and nonfiction 750-950.
- Adult endcap displays highlighted baseball, Pride, audiobooks for road trips, and art/art techniques. The main display featured global reading options in support of the Summer Adventures reading program which includes adults and children. Youth displays highlighted global food and cooking books and a “start a series...” display featured first books in support of summer reading.

| PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES | DATE | INTENDED AUDIENCE | ATTENDANCE |
|---|---------|-------------------|------------|
| Evening Storytime | 7/1 | Children (0-5) | 11 |
| English Language Conversation Circle | 7/2 | Adult | 7 |
| Family Storytime | 7/7 | Children (0-5) | 53 |
| ELL Conversation Circle | 7/7 | Adult | 8 |
| YSL visits summer ENCORE program (4 classrooms) | 7/8 | Children (6-11) | 260 |
| Bakken Museum Science in the Summer | 7/8 | Children (6-11) | 11 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/9 | Adult | 14 |
| YSL visits summer ENCORE program (4 classrooms) | 7/10 | Children (6-11) | 145 |
| Master Gardeners Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic | 7/12 | Adult | 5 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/12 | Adult | 5 |
| Family Storytime | 7/14 | Children (0-5) | 44 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/14 | Adult | 13 |
| Tinker Time: Cardboard Intervention Convention | 7/15 | Children (6-11) | 43 |
| Book Club | 7/16 | Adult | 9 |
| EL Conversation Circles | 7/16 | Adult | 7 |
| Active Agers Book Club (offsite) | 7/18 | Adult | 6 |
| Story Stroll at Prestemon Park | 7/18-21 | All Ages | |
| Somali Museum Traveling Exhibit | 7/19 | Adult | 29 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/19 | Adult | 4 |
| Family Storytime | 7/21 | Children (0-5) | 37 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/21 | Adult | 6 |
| DIY Teen: Henna | 7/22 | Young Adult/Teen | 14 |
| Sand Painting and Rangoli | 7/23 | Adult | 12 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/23 | Adult | 6 |
| Siama’s Congo Roots | 7/24 | Children (6-11) | 27 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/26 | Adult | 6 |
| Family Storytime | 7/28 | Children (0-5) | 42 |
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/28 | Adult | 10 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|------|-----------------|----|
| EL Conversation Circle | 7/30 | Adult | 8 |
| 4-H LEGO Challenge | 7/31 | Children (6-11) | 23 |

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Coordinated a plant diagnostic clinic with Master Gardeners from Anoka County Extension.
- Lead a discussion of *My Antonia* by Willa Cather for the Active Agers Book Club.
- Hosted a Somali Museum of Minnesota traveling exhibit of cultural artifacts.
- Welcomed Shakun Maheshwari to teach a history, cultural and techniques of sand rangoli and impermanent art from India.
- Researched numbering sequence and coordinated orders for patron and material barcodes.
- Initiated a project to redesign and reorder physical library cards.
- Met with the Columbia Heights Senior Consortium.
- Made deliveries to four At-Home patrons.
- Supervised the work of adult volunteers.



Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Concluded a successful summer storytime series in which the evening session saw increased attendance.
- Prepared a bilingual (English/Spanish) story stroll for display at Prestemon Park July 18-21.
- Hosted Heather from the Bakken Museum for an immersive exploration of health science careers. Kids tackled challenges such as restoring blood flow in simulated blocked veins, mending broken foam bones, and testing the repaired bone's ability to bear weight.
- Welcomed Now.Make.Art who challenged kids to tackle everyday problems with cardboard inventions.
- Hosted henna artist Shakuntala who taught teens the history and design basics. Enthusiastic



students then created their own designs. This program was a huge hit.

- Invited Siama and Dallas to share stories from Siama's childhood in Congo. Participants learned Kikongo phrases and made music with guitars, thumb harps, hand shakers and a balafon.
- Partnered with 4-H/Anoka County Extension for an engaging LEGO challenge to create wind-powered cars. Students tested their designs, recorded travel distances, and brainstormed improvements.
- Visited students from K-8th grade enrolled in CHPS Summer ENCORE to promote summer reading, visiting the library, and engaging brains with learning games.
- Staffed a table at the Police Department's Eat and Greet Picnic in LaBelle Park on July 29.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Participated in the Book Club's discussion of *Winter Wheat* by Mildred Walker.
- Attended the Anoka County Library's Public Service Team meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Library Page Karen Yaeger resigned effective July 24.
- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on July 23.
- Six adult volunteers donated 29 hours, and six teen volunteers donated 50.75 hours this month! They pulled holds, did shelf-reading, conducted conversation circles, assisted with technology questions, installed scavenger hunts, shelved picture books, and organized the collection.