

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – March 2026

BUILDING

TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the October or November issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*. Youth requests and replacements included new decodable readers, manga in the series “The Promised Neverland,” and new volumes of popular graphic novels. Adult and youth DVDs were ordered.
- Weeding was finished in adult nonfiction 200s -400s and DVDs.
- Adult displays featured tea and coffee month, women’s history month and various themes; many endcap displays promoted programs. Youth displays featured Ramadan and women’s history month.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Family Storytime	3/2	Children (0-5)	45
English Language Conversation Circle	3/2	Adult	3
EL Conversation Circle	3/4	Adult	3
Daycare Storytime	3/6	Children (0-5)	15
Scout Reading Merit Badge	3/7	Teen (12-18)	24
EL Conversation Circle	3/7	Adult	5
Family Storytime	3/9	Children (0-5)	41
EL Conversation Circle	3/9	Adult	4
Tinker Time: Fingerprint Glass Magnets	3/10	Children (6-11)	52
EL Conversation Circle	3/11	Adult	3
Intro to Vegetable Gardening	3/12	Adult	6
Free to All: <i>Libraries of MN</i> with Doug Ohman	3/14	Adult	38
EL Conversation Circle	3/14	Adult	6
Family Storytime	3/16	Children (0-5)	27
Author Talk: Alex Messenger debuts <i>Ice on the Lake</i>	3/16	Adult	26
EL Conversation Circle	3/16	Adult	1
Library Book Club: <i>Eight Billion Genies</i>	3/18	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	3/18	Adult	4
Garden Seed and Info Swap	3/19	Adult	9
Active Agers Book Club: <i>Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine</i>	3/20	Adult	8
EL Conversation Circle	3/21	Adult	3
Family Storytime	3/23	Children (0-5)	46
EL Conversation Circle	3/23	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	3/25	Adult	5
EL Conversation Circle	3/28	Adult	5
Family Storytime	3/30	Children (0-5)	32
EL Conversation Circle	3/30	Adult	7
Clay City with Now.Make.Art.	3/31	Children (6-11)	34

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Met with the Friends of the Library.
- Met with Michelle Spangler of Mississippi Watershed Management Organization about possible partnership programs

- Met with Mitch Forney, Community Development Director, and Zekima Rashid, Green Corp Consultant, and Renee to discuss sustainability initiatives and partnership programs.
- Provided Tech Assistance to two patrons.
- Made two deliveries to At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Attended regular meetings of city division heads and the Minnesota Library Association Board of Directors.
- Spoke with SACA about a food drive; checked in with the Anoka County library director; met with the city storm water specialist about drainage issues with the parking lot extension; met with CHPS staff and the youth services librarian about a collaboration with Early Childhood and Family Education.
- Attended Sue Sartwell’s retirement reception.
- Attended a quarterly meeting for library directors and State Library Services staff.
- Met with Winnie Coyne for her annual performance evaluation.
- Met with the adult book club.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Collaborated with a local Scout Troop leader to facilitate the Reading Merit Badge for two troops from Columbia Heights and Fridley. Eliza led a session that included a library tour, an explanation of how and why to get a library card, and a tutorial on using the library catalog. To meet the badge requirements, scouts needed to locate six different types of books. Eliza prepared a curated book list to help them find their required book types.
- Welcomed Tinker Time: Fingerprint Magnets participants who turned their fingerprints into animals, food, vehicles, or whatever their imaginations could come up with.
- Now.Make.Art artists Broderick and Frannie facilitated the building of a community clay city. Kids and their adults sketched ideas of what they wanted in the city and then hand built elements out of clay. The clay city included a robot battle, replica of the library, bridges, playgrounds, ponds, houses, and much more. This program was held during CHPS’s spring break.



Ally Addison Schauer, Library Supervisor, began training and regular reference desk shifts this month.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy assisted two people on March 26.
- Nine adult volunteers donated 34.5 hours.