

# Columbia Heights Public Library

## Library Board Report – March 2025

### BUILDING

- Northland Refrigeration continued to service malfunctioning heating and snowmelt boilers.
- An electrician repaired ceiling lights.
- There were multiple instances of the exterior doors not latching or locking with people in the lobby or restrooms after closing.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Service calls were made for two of the self-checks; one cooling fan was replaced.
- The computer at the north service desk was replaced.

### COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the November and December issues of *Booklist* and *Kirkus Reviews*. April and May publications by bestselling authors were pre-ordered. Adult and youth DVDs were ordered. Juvenile requests and replacements included *Wicked Darlings* by Jordyn Taylor, the *Blight Harbor* trilogy by Lora Senf, more *Elephant and Piggie* books by Mo Willems, and *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls.
- Weeding was completed in large print and adult nonfiction 000-350.
- Adult displays featured women’s history month, birding, brain health, and MN authors.
- Juvenile displays featured Ramadan, architecture and architects, basketball, Minecraft, Roblox, and other video-game books.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	INTENDED AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Storytime	3/3	Children (0-5)	44
English Language Conversation Circle	3/3	Adult	4
Winter Greenhouses and Seed Sowing	3/3	Adult	13
Highland Elementary Kindergarten Class Field Trips	3/4	Children (6-11)	86
EL Conversation Circle	3/5	Adult	5
Puzzle Contest/Exchange	3/8	Adult	35
Storytime	3/10	Children (0-5)	37
EL Conversation Circle	3/10	Adults	5
Tinker Time: Paper Squishes	3/11	Children (6-11)	32
EL Conversation Circle	3/12	Adult	4
Immaculate Conception 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade visit	3/13	Children (6-11)	13
Daycare Storytime	3/14	Children (0-5)	12
Storytime	3/17	(Children (0-5)	46
EL Conversation Circle	3/17	Adult	16
Evening Storytime	3/18	Children (0-5)	28
Book Club: <i>The Authenticity Project</i>	3/19	Adult	11
Conversation Circle	3/19	Adult	6
AARP: Downsizing and Decluttering	3/20	Adult	21
Active Agers Book Club: <i>White Chrysanthemum</i>	3/21	Adult	8
Storytime	3/24	Children (0-5)	46
EL Conversation Circle	3/24	Adult	3
Immaculate Conception 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade visit	3/25	Children (6-11)	23
EL Conversation Circle	3/26	Adult	4
Spring Migration with Urban Bird Collective	3/26	Adult	11
Storytime	3/31	Children (0-5)	38
EL Conversation Circle	3/31	Adult	4

## STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Interviewed two potential adult volunteers.
- Met with the Friends of the Library.
- Communicated with staff at MetroNorth Adult Basic Education about spring field trips.
- Coordinated with new staff at Personal Care Senior Living for institutional bulk loans.
- Weeded and shifted the large print collection.



Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Assisted children and caregivers in creating paper squishies at a Tinker Time program.
- Transformed the play space into a veterinarian clinic encouraging kids to role play as vets, examine x-rays, and learn about animal care.
- Prepared multiple bulk loans for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades classes at Immaculate Conception School, the Adventure Club after-school programs at Highland and Valley View Elementaries, and the Mini-Adventures program at the Family Center.
- Continued to plan for the summer reading program including purchasing of prize books for those who log more than five hours of reading.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Participated in meetings of city division heads, the Library Foundation, and the Anoka County Libraries' Public Service team.
- Attended the funeral of Nancy Rathbun, Friend of the Library, and the reviewal for former Mayor Gary Peterson.
- Met with Gail Olson who is writing a history of Columbia Heights; and Kyle Kigan, regional contact from Bibliotheca, about updated self-check and security equipment.
- Met with Page Yuliana Morocho Calderon for her annual review.
- Attended a webinar with Metro HRA in preparation for opening the waitlist for Section 8 housing. Metro HRA will send navigators to the library to assist those applying for vouchers using library computers on April 9, 14, and 15.
- Conversed with an outreach worker from Hope4Youth, who will visit monthly to serve youth (ages 16-24) experiencing homelessness.
- Compiled and input data for the 2024 Minnesota Public Library Annual Report by deadline.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on March 27.
- Seven adult volunteers donated 24.75 hours this month.