

Executive Director's Report April 2026

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Rolling Meadows Library hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 18, celebrating the generous volunteers who support the library throughout the year. This year's theme, "It All Starts with a Spark," carried a campfire spirit throughout the event. Performer Denny Svehla entertained guests with cover songs and humorous anecdotes. The luncheon recognized Volunteer of the Year Steve Rossi for his dedicated contributions to the library, and also honored retired Trustee Sylvia Vange for her years of service to the board. It was a warm and well-attended celebration.



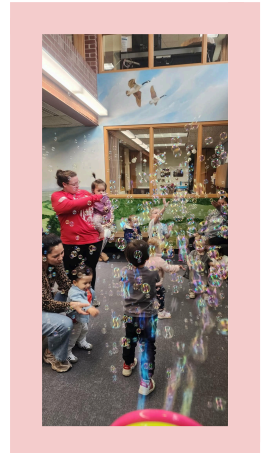
Poet-Tree Display

To celebrate National Poetry Month, Reference Librarian Olya T. created an interactive "Poet-Tree" display, inviting patrons to write poems about reading, books, or the library on paper leaves and hang them on the tree. The response from the community was wonderful. The leaves from the tree are now on display on the end panels in the West Wing, stop by and read them!



Youth Services Highlights

YS offered a rich variety of programming this month including but not limited to our annual Children's Day Book Day/Día de los Niños - Día de los Libros, Kids Camera Club, Arrorro Bebe Spanish Baby Storytime, and Coding Club.





An After-Downton Evening Tea Time

On a rainy April 27th evening, sixteen patrons brought their fancy teacups and joined Reference Librarians Pat and Lauren for an evening tea program. Tables were set with antique linens, china, and books, and patrons sampled a variety of teas and treats. The presentation included information about the history of tea time in British society, Downton Abbey fashion, additional programming by author Julian Fellowes, and books, movies and music to explore on the various platforms the library offers.



Book Bouquets

Due to high interest in the April 20 program, a second Book Bouquet session was added on April 29. The first evening included a patron who brought their own book to share its colorful pages with the group. The second session drew patrons despite a rainy night, including two teens who dropped in hoping to join. Four patrons — two sisters and a mother-daughter pair — were so taken with the project that they decided midway through to make bouquets for upcoming bridal showers. Nineteen patrons participated across both sessions.



Four Hands Piano Concert

On April 19, pianists Jimin Yun and Jo Ahn Kwon performed their Four Hands Concert, "Life's Journey," to a standing ovation. The program featured selections from Beethoven, Mozart, Fauré, and Schubert. The performance was visibly all-consuming for both artists, and the audience felt it, the room was spellbound from start to finish.



By the Time I Get to Memphis: MLK's Last Year

On April 7, entertainer and historian Clarence Goodman presented the third and final installment of his Martin Luther King Jr. trilogy. The program featured rarely seen photographs and insight into the political and racial climate of 1967 and 1968. Goodman is a dynamic speaker, and the audience responded in kind, engagement was high and the question-and-answer portion drew thoughtful, substantive questions.

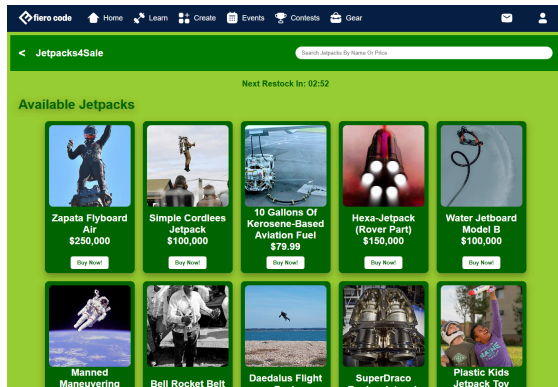
Mississippi River Adventures

On April 28, John Kokoris led an engaging tour of the upper Mississippi between Galena and St. Louis, covering the region's geography, history, and culture alongside practical tips on where to stay, eat, hike, and sightsee. Kokoris brings a genuine enthusiasm for travel that proved contagious by the end of the evening, the audience was ready to hit the road.



Coding Club

Coding Club met on April 25, welcoming coders of all skill levels — from first-timers to longtime regulars. The club uses Fiero Code, a self-guided learning platform that allows participants to develop skills at their own pace and in areas of their own choosing. The progress among returning members has been impressive. One young coder has advanced through HTML, CSS, and JavaScript and put those skills to work building a webpage cataloging jet-packs available "for sale." It is a great example of what sustained participation in the program can produce.



New Camera Installation

Per library policy, library administration is notifying the board of its intent to install an additional security camera between the front entrance and the east parking lot. The camera will improve the library's ability to monitor building conditions and document exterior incidents and vandalism.

Self-Service Faxing Now Available

Reference Services, in collaboration with the IT Director, has launched patron self-service faxing at the Walkup Scanning Station. The service adds a layer of privacy for patrons sending sensitive documents and reduces the need for staff assistance. Patrons now receive their first ten pages free. This initiative supports Strategic Plan goal 3.3: exploring the incorporation of self-service touch points into the library's existing service models.

ISL Security Grant Application

Executive Director Jack Bower submitted a grant application to the Illinois State Library to fund the replacement and addition of exterior security cameras (Axis Q6020-E units with 360-degree panoramic coverage and AI-powered object detection) and the expansion of the library's KnowBe4 cyber-security awareness training subscription. The total grant request is \$14,145. The library expects to hear back on the award decision this summer.



Public Library Association Conference

Executive Director Jack Bower and Assistant Director Lucia Khipple attended the semi-annual Public Library Association conference in Minneapolis April 1-3. They participated in sessions covering topics directly relevant to our work, including current legal issues, building projects, accessibility, and youth services. The exhibit hall offered a strong showing of library vendors from across the country and was a valuable opportunity to explore new products and services.



Tech Services Director Attends IUG Conference

Tech Services Director Wendy F. attended the Innovative Users Group (IUG) pre-conference and conference to deepen her knowledge of Polaris, the integrated library system the library will adopt as part of its transition to the Cooperative Computer Services (CCS) consortium this fall. The sessions provided valuable preparation as Rolling Meadows Library approaches the October launch.

Directors University Advanced Training

Executive Director Jack Bower attended the Directors University Advanced three-day training in Grafton, Illinois on April 28-30, a program offered in partnership with the Illinois Library Association, Illinois Heartland Library System, and RAILS and funded by an Illinois State Library grant. Sessions covered leadership, board relations, budgeting, grants, capital needs assessment, and human resources. The training offered a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences and compare notes with fellow directors from across the state.



In the Community

Community Cleanup Day — Book Bike Outreach

On April 25, Executive Director Jack Bower represented the library at the Rolling Meadows Park District's Community Cleanup Day at the Community Center, bringing the Library Book Bike to check out materials and promote the library's upcoming gardening programs. This event reflects the library's ongoing partnership with the Park District and supports outreach efforts to connect with patrons in the community.



Digital Inclusion Coalition Meeting

Reference Librarian Anne J. and Community Relations Manager Laura G. attended the Cook County Digital Inclusion (North Region) meeting hosted by Harper College and the United Palatine Coalition on April 30. The coalition brings together schools, libraries, nonprofits, workforce partners, and community organizations to strengthen collaboration and advance digital equity across the region. This initiative supports Strategic Plan Goal 4 Marketing & Outreach: Increase community awareness around the value and versatility of the library.

Social Services Coordination

Community Relations Manager Laura G. met with the City's Human Services Department to coordinate plans for serving children at the Neighborhood Resource Center(NRC) and NRC camps this summer, and assisted the department in selecting a title for their book discussion group for women community leaders. This work supports Strategic Plan Goal 1.2: Fostering and expanding strategic community partnerships across the public and private sectors.

Department Highlights

Youth Services

Education Services Coordinator Alex E. welcomed multiple class visits from Rolling Meadows Park District Pre-K groups and Conyers Learning Academy preschoolers as spring programming resumed. Book Match subscriptions continue to grow, now serving patrons from infancy through 8th grade, with 15 requests filled in April.

Readers Services

The Book Match Subscription Box program continues to resonate with patrons. One adult patron picking up her box this month could barely contain her excitement, holding it like a gift and sharing that it was going to make her weekend extra special. Moments like these speak to the value of the program. On the professional development front, Readers Services Associate Carrie D. attended the NoveList webinar "How to Excel at Relational and Promotional Readers' Advisory" on April 30, focused on best practices in readers' advisory and the benefits of ongoing staff training.

Technology

Adobe Acrobat Pro is now available on the Reference Walkup PCs for patron use.

Reference Services

Decoupage with Reference Librarian Elizabeth K. returned this month, with patrons decorating terracotta planters following last session's popular seashell projects. The program gives patrons a hands-on opportunity to learn a new craft, explore library resources, and connect with one another. April also featured a full slate of recurring programs including Coloring Club, the Four Seasons Book Club, Conversation Circle, and the Investing Club, all designed to engage patrons with the library's nonfiction collection and resources.



Technical Services

Profiling for the CCS consortium was completed ahead of schedule in April, a strong early milestone as the library works toward its October launch. Circulation and Tech Services staff have since begun mapping data from the library's current Sierra system to Polaris, ensuring that patron and material records transfer accurately into the new platform.

Circulation

Please refer to the Circulation Monthly Statistical Report for the latest data.