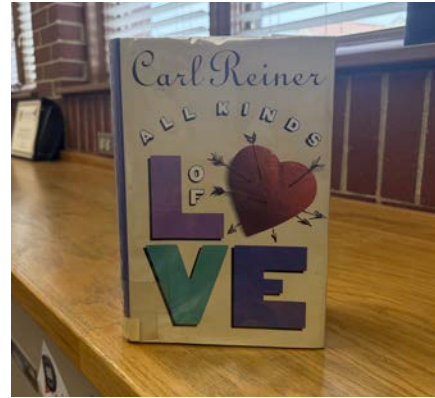
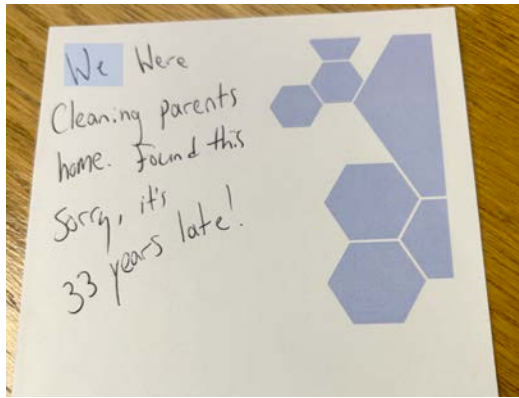


Executive Director's Report May 2026

A Long-Overdue Return

A copy of *All Kinds of Love* by the late Carl Reiner recently made its way back to the Library after 33 years, returned by patrons who discovered it while cleaning out their parents' home. Good thing RML is fine free! Seinfeld fans may recall Bookman, the library detective dispatched to recover long-overdue books. We're glad this one came back without his help!



Gardening in Our Community

The Reference Department hosted its inaugural Gardening in Our Community program in May. The event brought together two Master Gardeners from the Illinois Extension, two members of the City's Environmental Committee, two representatives from the Rolling Meadows Garden Club, and a volunteer from the Midwest Fruit Explorers. Reference Librarian Lauren represented the Library with a display of books and the Library's seed library, which one of the Master Gardeners called a "hidden gem."

The program was well-received, with participating organizations expressing strong interest in returning next year. Held on a Saturday to maximize accessibility, the program supports Strategic Plan Goals 1.2 and 1.6, which call for fostering strategic community partnerships and ensuring programming days and times meet the needs of targeted audiences.



Puppy Dog Tales, Messy Time, and More!

Programs this month included Book Fiesta, a bilingual storytime, a Magic Workshop and Coding Club in addition to storytimes, numerous class visits including Conyers Learning Academy ECDEC classes.





Rolling Meadows Hometown Heroes Banner Program

In recognition of America's 250th anniversary of independence, the City of Rolling Meadows is displaying 99 Hometown Heroes banners along Kirchoff, Central, Barker, Frontage, and Rohlwing Roads this year. Rolling Meadows was founded for returning war veterans, making the program a fitting tribute to the community's roots.

Rolling Meadows Library sponsored the banner for Greg Smith, Army/SGT E5, The Friends of the Library sponsored James J. Harris, Navy/DT2, and Board Treasurer Steve Rossi personally sponsored Harold Goebbert, Navy/SN.



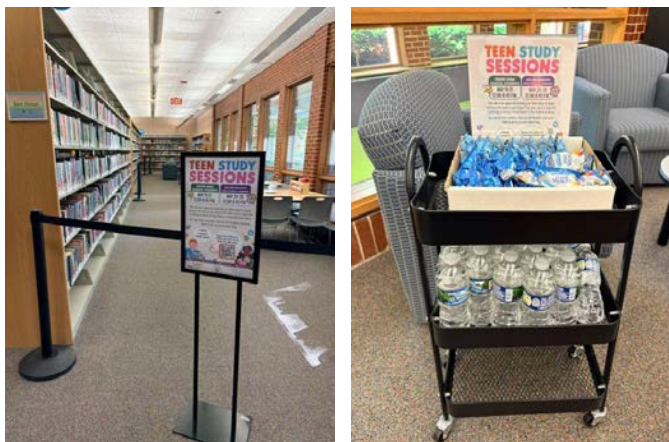
Free Comic Book Day

On May 2nd, Youth Services and Readers Services partnered with Beyond Tomorrow Comics in Palatine to distribute free comics to youth and teen patrons in recognition of Free Comic Book Day. 175 comic books were ordered for the event, with extras added to a lobby graphic novel display put together by Special Services for the month of May. Patrons are welcome to take any remaining comics home. This has been a reliable and popular annual event for the Library for years.



Teen Scene Study Sessions

Readers Services hosted two Teen Scene Study Sessions in May: May 19-21 for Fremd High School students and May 26-28 for Rolling Meadows High School students. Bottled water and nut-free snacks were provided. Given the success of both sessions, we plan to host them again in December to support students during first-semester finals. The program gives teens access to a quiet, supportive study environment that not all students have at home, supporting Strategic Plan Goal 1.3 to position the Library as a versatile education hub for young patrons.



On a related note, all high school summer reading books have arrived and are available to students before the school year ends.

Community-Led Knitting Group

Director of Reference Services Jennifer Collette helped establish a new community-led knitting group that will meet at the Library monthly. The Library supports resident-led groups like this by providing meeting space and promotional assistance, and we look forward to seeing it grow.



Board Reappointments: Trustees Rossi and Kremer

At the May 26th Rolling Meadows City Council meeting, Mayor Lara Sanoica and the City Council reappointed Steve Rossi and Marsha Kremer to the Library Board. Their new three-year terms begin in July and run through June 2029. One vacancy remains for that same term. The Library is grateful for their continued service.

Balance Sheet Streamlined

Working with our auditors at ATA Group, Financial Services Coordinator Julie T. reorganized the Library's balance sheet to make it clearer and more transparent. Previously, the report mixed accounts where funds are held (such as checking, savings, and IMET) with allocations of what those funds are designated for, which created confusion. With the Board's closure of the working cash accounts at the May meeting, the timing was right to simplify the layout.

The updated balance sheet separates those two types of information, making it easier to see the general operating account balance at a glance while keeping most of the underlying accounting consistent with prior reporting. Trustees with questions about the financial reports or suggestions for further improvements are always welcome to bring them to administration.

Youth Services Flooring Moisture Investigation

Following the 2024 carpet installation in Youth Services, a section of carpet tiles near the computers has experienced recurring adhesive failures. Johnson Flooring reglued the affected tiles, but the problem returned in May and a second repair was made. They have advised that the underlying issue is moisture coming through the concrete floor slab, a problem area that predates the current carpet installation.

Our building consultant has been on site to assess the situation. The existing sump pump system in that area is shallow and lacks backup, and the slab itself has been patched and compromised over the years. Next steps under consideration include scoping the existing drain tile and potentially installing a deeper sump system. The carpet is stable for the summer, and we will keep the Board informed as the investigation progresses.

Jack Bower Elected as CCS Consortium Treasurer

Executive Director Jack Bower was elected Treasurer of the CCS Consortium at its May 13th Executive Board meeting. His two-year term runs July 2026 through June 2028. The role involves assisting with budgeting, check-signing, and auditing. CCS is a well-organized consortium and the demands on his time are expected to be modest. He looks forward to contributing in this capacity.

Organization & Personnel Management Course

Executive Director Jack Bower completed the Organization & Personnel Management course through the ALA Certified Public Library Administrator program in May. The six-week course covered personnel policies, hiring and legal considerations, staff management and compensation, conflict resolution, and staff development planning.

Staff Complete Mental Health First Aid Certification

On May 19th, Readers Services Director Mary Constance Back, Readers Services Associate Gail S., and Youth Services Associates Preeti S. and Saima K. completed Mental Health First Aid certifications through a day-long workshop offered by the City of Rolling Meadows. All four staff members are now certified, with credentials valid for three years. This training supports Strategic Plan Goal 5.4, which calls for periodic customer service training to build staff confidence across a wide range of patron interactions.



In the Community

State of the City Luncheon

Executive Director Jack Bower, Board President Jean Threadgill, Vice-President Phil Priest, and Secretary Marsha Kremer attended the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce State of the City luncheon at Meridian Banquet Hall on May 27th. The Mayor and City Manager offered informative presentations on current initiatives and the outlook for Rolling Meadows going forward.



Family Services Day at the NRC

Community Relations Manager Laura G. and Assistant Director Lucia Khipple represented the Library at Family Services Day on May 9th at the NRC. The event drew a large turnout, with community organizations staffing information tables and dancers performing in the plaza. The Library's table was well attended, welcoming both familiar faces and residents new to the community. Both activities support Strategic Plan Goal 5.8, which calls for collaborating with the City's Human Services Department to connect resources and services to all residents.



Email Classes at the NRC

Community Relations Manager Laura G. offered email classes at the NRC over three evenings in May, bringing Library programming directly into the community. This also supports Goal 5.8.

Summer Reading Challenge Outreach at Carl Sandburg School

Youth Services Librarian Darlene E. represented the Library at the B-PAC Bilingual Parent Summer Kickoff event at Carl Sandburg School, promoting the Summer Reading Challenge to families in the community.

In Memoriam: Roxane Summer

Roxane Summer, a Friend of Rolling Meadows Library, passed away on May 20th. She is remembered as a passionate artist and a genuine connector in our community.

Most recently, Roxane exhibited her photography in our gallery through early spring. On March 29th, she hosted a Meet the Artist table as the exhibit concluded. She was genuinely grateful to the Library for hosting her work, and the feeling was mutual. It was a privilege to serve her as a patron and to share her art with our community. May she rest in peace.



Department Highlights

Youth Services

Outreach in May centered on promoting the Summer Reading Challenge and the upcoming Kickoff event. School Outreach Coordinator Alex E. welcomed visits from Central Road School students and filmed a promotional video at Carl Sandburg School for distribution across District 15. The Library's flyer has also been shared through the e-flyer center on the district website.

Technical Services

Work on the CCS consortium migration continued in May. Data mapping for the Sierra-to-Polaris transfer was completed, and CCS staff members Rachel and Molly visited RML to observe acquisitions and record downloading workflows. Rachel also provided a preview of tasks to be completed as the go-live date approaches.

Circulation

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