# New & Noteworthy




**Business Insights**

On November 16, Scott Clanin from Clanin Creative will discuss email marketing best practices for businesses and organizations.




**A Magical Afternoon**

On November 28, community members of all ages can enjoy an afternoon of magic at the library featuring returning magician Rick Eugene.












**Staff Development Day**

On November 6, our annual staff training day included presentations from Dr. Regina Parnell from the City of Champaign Co-Responder Program, local author and life coach Heidi Esther, and AJ Zwettler, Director of Employment Services at the Developmental Services Center, as well as a crafty breakout session led by Megan Farkas from CU-Create. The day also included drills and training focused on safety and security.

**2026 City Employee Awards & Employee Recognition**

**Library Award Winners:**

- Responsibilities: Tricia Duzan
- Results: Rachel Ferrier

**2026 Central Illinois Business Magazine's Forty Under 40:**

- Salem Gebil

**Years of Service Recognition:**

- Joy Specht, 40 years
- Larry Damski, 35 years
- Kristina Hoerner, 25 years
- Kristi Moss, 20 years
- Kathleen Kading, 20 years
- Nicole Eveland, 20 years
- Peggy Borror, 15 years
- Joe Rosnett, 15 years
- Joel Hurneman, 15 years
- Bob Vorhees, 15 years
- Fredesminda Ebes, 10 years
- Sandra Anderson, 5 years

# Program Highlights













**Halloween Fun for Everyone**

On October 31, 755 community members attended our Howl-o-Ween event. Fun activities included making bracelets, games, and a fall backdrop for pictures. Leading up to Halloween, kids could choose a Halloween or autumn themed book during the week at both branches. A total of 936 books were given away to build home libraries. Library staff also joined the fun and posed for group photos in their costumes.








**Art Connection: Schools to Library**

On November 8, more than 150 community members attended the opening reception to view the latest exhibition featuring artwork by 50 students from Barkstall Elementary School, Edison Middle School, and Central High School.

# Douglass Branch




**Makerspace Usage**

During October, 25 community members utilized the Makerspace during the two drop-in session scheduled that month.

**Book Giveaways**

Staff gave out children's 133 books in the month of October to add to their growing home libraries.

**Friday Night Jam Sessions**

At October's Jam session, 26 community members attended and shared their talent through music and spoken word.

**DIY Kids**

During the month of October, 57 kids attended DIY Kids. Creative projects this month included making monster claws and mini pumpkin paintings.

**Weekly Storytimes**

In October, 174 community members attended the various storytimes offered weekly including Baby, Toddler, Pajama Storytime, and Mother Goose on the Loose.

**Club Fred**

Last month, 29 kids attended Club Fred across 13 sessions, particpating in a variety of games and activities.

# Customer Comments

### The Library Ranks #1

After staff helped a customer place a request, the customer thanked them and said, "The library is the best place in town. Everybody is helpful, no matter what. You all got it together."

### A Welcoming Space

Staff provided a tour of Teen Lounge to a teen visiting for the first time. Afterward, they shared, "I don't think I'll ever want to leave!"

### The Power of Books

A customer who attended An Evening with James McBride shared her personal story with staff and how reading one of his books helped carry her through an especially difficult period in her life.

### A Better Outlook

After staff assisted a customer with their reference question, they expressed gratitude for the help and for the library as a whole. The customer shared that they weren't having the best day, but after staff helped them find their requested resources, their day became better.