



GALESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023



Mission

To serve the community as a general center of information, and to provide opportunity and encouragement for people to use its resources and services to meet their educational, personal, professional, recreational, and cultural needs.

From the Director

2023 was the year to be bold. We tried new programs, revamped old ones, and threw a record-breaking Bluey Bash. We hosted a Cat Cafe and welcomed goats to our garden. We added new items to our collections, and we invested in new community partnerships. We read banned books, and we performed at open mic nights. We wore hard hats and roller skates. We celebrated our last year at 40 East Simmons Street by taking chances and creating new traditions. Thank you for making memories with us. Let's dare to dream big in 2024.

-Noelle Thompson, Director



By the Numbers

GPL librarians track all sorts of statistics, from the number of pages faxed in a year (5,434) to the number of books loaned to other libraries (9,756), and these figures provide a snapshot of how staff use their time and how the community benefits from library services.

These numbers only tell part of the story, though. They don't track the confidence gained by patrons after one-on-one sessions with the Technology and Employment Specialist; they don't capture the pride felt by families meeting the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten goal; they don't reveal the relationships built among high school students in Teen Advisory Board or the caregivers attending Baby Bounce.

The numbers do show that every day the library is open, an average of 375 people visit, 100 people request information, and 491 items are shared with community members.

12,836

public computer logins



37,865

WiFi logins

1,171



new
library
cards

21,717

program
attendees



147,407

items

checked out



30,061

questions
answered



111,936

Visitors



What was popular in 2023?

MOST CHECKED OUT

Book:



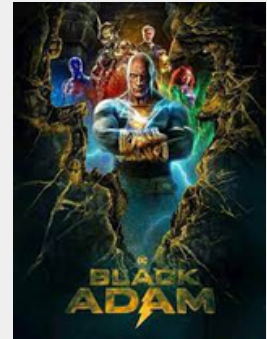
*Going Rogue: Rise and Shine
Twenty-Nine by Janet Evanovich*

Item:



Hot Spot

Movie:



Black Adam

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

Children: Bluey Bash



Adult: Ghosts of Galesburg



Teen: Paint & Snack



Intergenerational:
Summer Reading Finale



What was new in 2023?

Thanks to a grant from the American Heart Association, we added heart-related items to our Library of Things including a CPR & First Aid Kit and a blood pressure monitor, and we started yoga classes for all age groups. We also introduced Tonieboxes and civics flashcards to our circulating collection.

New programs this year included Bilingual Storytime, Baby Bounce, Junior Book Club, Home Ownership Programs, Mindful Meditation, and Dungeons & Dragons meetings for kids and adults, in addition to our standing teen D&D Club. We held our first puzzle swap in May, hosted the Wallace W. Abbey Exhibition in July, and added a self-check station in September.

A partnership with Bridgeway brought the Adult System of Care Coordinator to the library twice a week, making GPL a one-stop-shop for social services, and a partnership with Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank made period supplies available to library patrons.

To finish the year strong, we added the movie database, Kanopy, a collection of films and tv shows that can be accessed with just a library card.



Highlights

Valentine Dance Party



The Big Write winners



The Big Read:
Interior Chinatown
by Charles Yu



Banned Books Week



Summer Reading:
Find Your Voice



Highlights



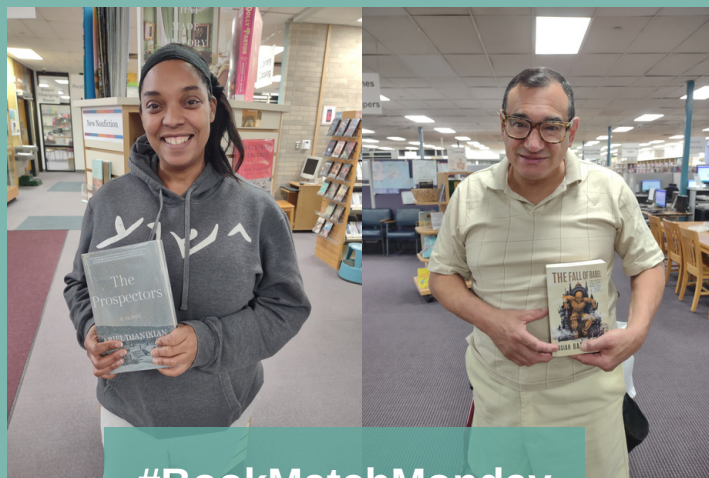
Passport Club
visits Sweden



StoryWalk
features works
by students



Dinovember
Dollhouse



#BookMatchMonday

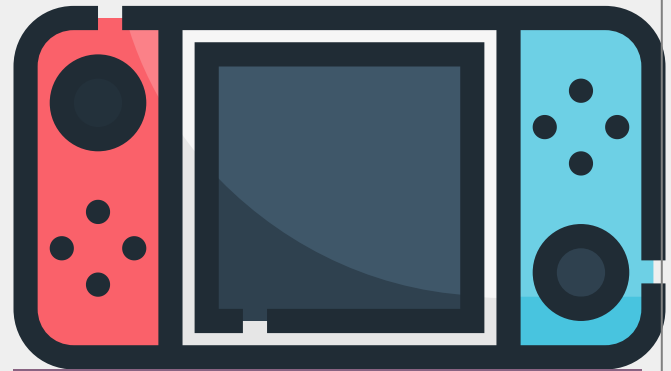


Visits from Costa
Catholic Academy

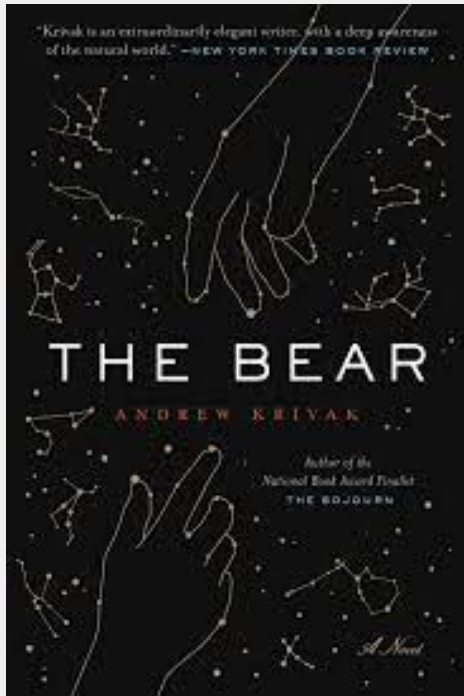


What to expect in 2024

Smart lockers for
holds pickup

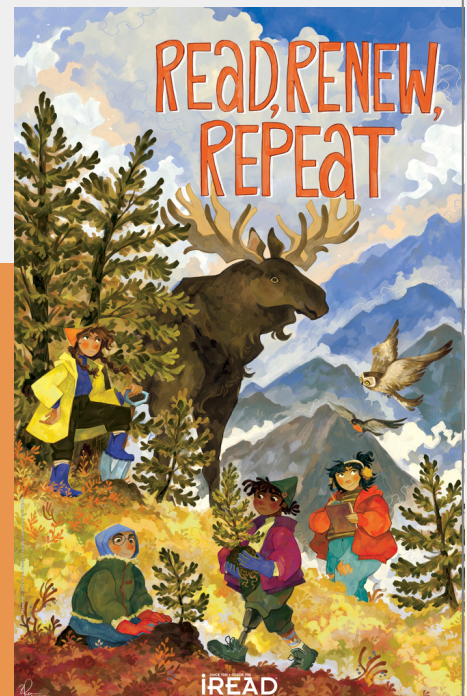


Video game collection



Galesburg
Reads!
The Bear by
Andrew Krivak

Summer
Reading
Program:
**Read,
Renew,
Repeat**



New Building

Galesburg Public Library will close our current location on March 1 and will reopen in the spring at our new location, 264 West Main Street. Much of 2023 was devoted to meeting with architects and contractors, selecting furniture and finishes, planning our closure and move, and giving building tours. The new building will include five study rooms, a large community room, a skills lab, a tech lab, a large collection, a reading balcony, outdoor reading spaces, and more.

Plans for the new building began nearly two decades ago, and the location on the corner of West Main and South Academy Streets was selected in 2009 under then-Director Pam Van Kirk's leadership. Board members, community members, and the newly founded GPL Foundation advocated for the project for years, and when Harriett Zipfel became director, she completed and submitted the application for the Public Library Construction Act Grant.

In 2021, the library was finally awarded the grant funds for \$15.3 million, and the GPL Foundation officially kicked off the capital campaign, raising \$4 million by the end of 2022. Countless people worked tirelessly into making this dream a reality including current and past staff and board members, Foundation board members, City officials and administrators, volunteers, donors, advocates, Friends of the Library, local and state legislatures, business leaders, committee members, and patrons.



Architect Christy Monk from FEH Design answers questions from the landscape committee.



The train cubbies in the children's library allow for cozy reading.



Public tours kicked off in August. By November, 547 community members had toured the site.

Thank you for a great year!

