



# Making Colorful Connections

JULY 2025

Library finishes Summer Reading off with fun for all ages!



*Guests are entertained by River City Puppets at the Boyle County Performing Arts Center*

## July Highlights

The Library's Summer Reading Program featured programs and activities with a unique flair. Thanks to our partners at Boyle County Schools, our Thursday FunDays at the Boyle County Performing Arts Center were engaging and well received by audiences. Youth guests to the library were treated to a variety of programs related to painting, clay modeling, fiber arts, and more. Benjamin Bunny's second birthday party was a bash, with hundreds visiting the county's favorite bunny on his big day.

A large contingent of staff traveled to Junction City for our Books & Bodyslams event. Visitors were treated to an experience combining the excitement of professional wrestling with the joy of reading. The colorful narrative spun by our partners at Elite Wrestling Alliance was that the battles in the ring were over the future of reading and literacy in Boyle County! For our young guests, Books & Bodyslams was an unforgettable experience where they could meet their heroes from the ring and hear them read their favorite children's books. After the battles were over, there was a long line of kids waiting to have their photo taken with the brawlers. Our event was the perfect blend of high-octane fun and literacy, proving that a love for reading can be found in the most unexpected places.



# Staff Spotlight: Emerging Leaders



Mara Merchant and Morgan Underwood were chosen for participation in the Foundational Leadership Program offered by the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives.

The program is called *Lead From Where You Are*, and is funded by the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The program is designed to empower individuals to lead effectively within their libraries, regardless of their current position. It includes online courses, workshops, and development resources.

We are very proud of Morgan and Mara and look forward to seeing the fruit yielded by their participation in the program!

## Facilities Management

LOREN ARTH, MANAGER

Our Building & Grounds team has been working on a variety of projects in July. In anticipation of the Level Two staff workroom refresh, the crew has been working to rewire lighting in that area to support LED bulbs. They also replaced bulbs in the Reading Room and in the Kentucky Room bookcases.

Loren and Lynn worked with Code Red to check all 18 of our HVAC units, ensuring that they had enough refrigerant to get us through the hot summer weather. They also collaborated with a vendor to check pH levels and overall water usage to ensure smooth functioning of our geothermal systems.





# Public Services

KATHY PHILLIPS, MANAGER

Summer is wrapping up, and here are some highlights from the Public Services team in the final stretch of summer reading:

- Staff registered 110 library cards
- Our graffiti wall is full, showcasing some impressive artistic talent from our patrons.
- The team has completed weeding and reorganization of all large print books and has resumed weeding in the adult fiction section.
- Circulation staff have been a huge help by reading shelves in Youth Services during downtime, which also makes fulfilling curbside orders much easier.
- The team distributed 64 dog painting art kits

Staff are grateful to everyone who participated in the "Guess the Jellybeans" passive program! Staff received 265 submissions in total. The correct number of jellybeans in the water bottle was 115.

A big congratulations to our winner, Avi Cunningham! Katie K. drew the winning name from the five correct guesses.

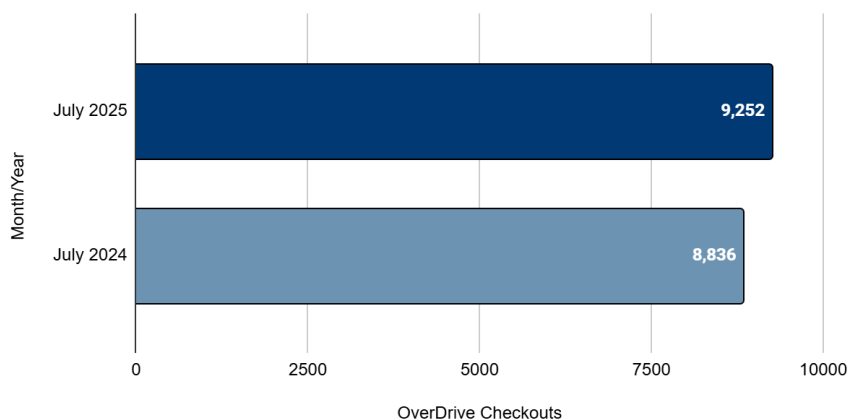


# Technical Services

EMILY DONLON, MANAGER

OverDrive Checkouts: July 2024 vs. July 2025

All Checkouts of Titles Purchased by KLU Consortium and/or BCPL (Advantage)



In July, the Tech Services team cataloged and processed 622 items into our physical collections! BCPL patrons checked out 9,252 items from our digital collection (most often accessed through the Libby app). Staff recorded 129 circulations in ComicsPlus, which is one of the highest months of use recorded since adding the database in May 2024.

Emily has been working with Colleen on BCPL's Annual Report for KDLA due at the end of August. This involves merging

the FY25 monthly collected statistics from various departments, comparing against previous years, noting any additions or differences in the data, and summarizing findings. With this project, she is working on developing more efficient methods of record keeping and data compilation, which will hopefully lead to a more user-friendly product for all involved.

# Youth Services

KINSEY HISLE, MANAGER

Youth Services stayed busy in July. Despite several Thursday Funday scheduling issues, staff hosted hundreds of people for fun shows at BCPAC. The weather cooperated enough to have most of our Starlight Movies outside. Our movie sponsor, Community Trust Bank, was able to join us one week, bringing games for the families.

Every week saw two kids programs and two YA programs. The team collaborated with more community groups and individual artists this year to bring activities to our youth. The Arts Center of the Bluegrass led a painting workshop for tweens and teens on Thursdays in July. Benjamin's second birthday party was huge fun for everyone to come together to celebrate our little guy. One child attending the party exclaimed, "Benjamin Bunny has so much birthday love, it's insane!"

Kinsey and her staff heard a lot from patrons about how much they appreciate having free activities for youth of all ages, and especially how they enjoy the reading challenge! One grateful mother wrote, "Thanks for your help and an awesome summer reading program experience. My daughter (8), is reading on an 8th grade level, and was getting frustrated feeling motivated to read because there really aren't age appropriate (fiction) books she picks up. We've been able to find so many nonfiction books (her preference), but have also been able to find lots of graphic novel options. She has read every day this summer with no frustration."

The prize books also make a big impact as one patron shared, "Thank you for the prize books. I'm so glad you do this. This is the only way I can afford to get books right now."



*Collaboration at Kids Studio: Fiber Arts Weaving*



*Teens experiment with paint pours*

## Summer Reading Program Feedback

Here is some sample feedback that we received from our annual Summer Reading Program survey:

"Thank you for including babies in the reading challenge. It helped mommy and daddy read more too!"

"This program has been great for a thirty year old to pick up reading again."

"I think you have an amazing library, and I've lived near some of the best. San Francisco Public Library, and Anne Arundel County Maryland. Yours is really up there when it comes to its visuals in the library and your staff."



# Adult Services

CHRISTINA FARRELL, MANAGER

In July Adult Services wrapped up another amazing Summer Reading Program! Christina's team continued many of their recurring offerings, such as Library Game Night, All Abilities Crafting, ASD Friends and Allies, Third Thursday Book Club, and community Blood Drive. They also hosted BCPL After Dark featuring No Man's Land Tattoo demonstrating the art of tattooing. Staff enjoy having the women from No Man's Land as they bring in a crowd that don't often experience our library in other ways.



*A nice turnout for BCPL After Dark: The Art of Tattoo*

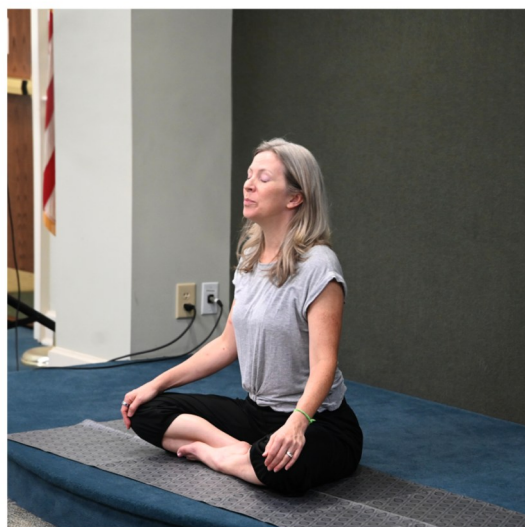
Staff hosted their Curiosity 101 series of programs aimed at seniors. The series featured a trip to West T. Hill Theatre for a behind the curtain tour. Another session offered a ballroom dancing demonstration in our Community Room. The series included a session on art history featuring our very own Jenn Schroeder as guest lecturer. Finally, the team brought in Brandon Long, who focused on drawing what you see.

In addition to working many programs in July, Leah kept up with her usual tasks. She proctored several exams, and created a nonfiction book display on memoirs and biographies on deceased people. She has been working to plan nonfiction displays for the rest of the year.

Morgan helped with the Adult Anime & Manga Party, and the joint YA & Adult Live-Action Art Heist, in addition to many other programs. She was part of a large BCPL contingent attending the Books & Bodyslams program in Junction City.



*Starlight Movie Night crew from left: Daniel, Christina, Jon, Eleanor, and Katie W.*



*Mindful Yoga in the Community Room*

# Outreach Services

DANIEL AKEN, MANAGER

The Outreach Team joined program partners at West T. Hill to mark the opening of Shrek the Musical with Katie reading the original Shrek book, Libby and Jeannie leading a craft, and director Beth Marlowe teaching a dance from the musical. Attendees also got to meet several cast members.

Daniel and his staff have been seeing steady bookmobile participation at Summer Feeding, Thursday FunDay, and Starlight Movie Night events. The Outreach team enjoys these opportunities to bring library materials to more people.

In addition to giving away prize books at bookmobile stops, Outreach incorporated grand prizes this year as well. Curated by Katie, these were bundles that consisted of a book and a couple of items related to it. Bundle themes included Spider-Man, Minecraft, Disney Princesses, Pinkalicious, Cars, Drawing, Harry Potter, Finding Nemo, The Pout-Pout Fish, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid.



Building on their successful school year visits to Woodlawn Elementary, the team attended two days of Woodlawn's summer camp. Staff enjoyed the chance to reconnect with these students after allowing them the opportunity to borrow books all year.

Outreach spent two days at the Salvation Army's summer camp. Campers were able to borrow books and participate in art activities that showcased their creativity. The team closed out their season of special events with Books & Bodyslams, a wrestling event that saw the Elite Wrestling Alliance lead a storytime, participate in mask making, and provide four wrestling matches to a crowd of 160, followed by a photo op.



**Special thanks to Danville Independent Schools and Boyle County Schools for their ongoing support of our Summer Reading Program!**





# Story Center

MAGGIE MCADAMS, MANAGER



*Jane Hutchens demonstrates needle felting*

The Story Center team continued to provide Summer Reading themed programming throughout the month of July. They continued to offer the Stories of Downtown Walking Tours, along with the Old Time Folk Music Jam, and the Local Artist Spotlight Series. The Center brought in a staff member from the Frazier History Museum to discuss artifact cleaning through the *Caring for Personal Collections* program and they collaborated with Youth Services to pilot a program for the Kids Feature Friday series. The kid-friendly genealogy program was titled Family History Detectives, and staff hope to work with local Girl and Boy Scout groups to help them earn the “My Family Story” and “Genealogy” badge through this program.

Story Center staff members collaborated with other libraries to explore maker spaces this month. Centre College’s Archivist and Audio-Visual Manager visited the Story Center to explore our space and technology and to discuss future collaborations. Centre recently opened the CreateSpace, a digital maker space for students to explore their own creativity with technologies available. Maggie and her team will schedule a reciprocal field trip in September to see this new space. They were also able to visit the Digital Studio at the Northside Branch of the Lexington Public Library system to learn more about their technology and space usage.

## Information Technology

JOSEPH HURT, COORDINATOR

July saw a number of website updates: The Friends of the Library page now includes updated language and a link to their online membership payment page. The website now sports a new permanent page for our Literacy Bell initiative.

Summer reading was in full swing, and July actually had good enough weather to allow staff to host multiple movie nights outdoors! This meant greater than average numbers of tech setups and tech issues. Thankfully, staff made it through the summer without encountering any major tech issues.

The new computer prep continues with some rolling out to users and some staying in reserve for when schedules align. Joseph will ramp things up in the following months as schedules slow down post summer reading.

Joseph continues to work with Christina evaluating options for software that can handle scheduling needs and potentially a timeclock software replacement. Joseph reports that most of the products they’ve experimented with have had missing features that would be deal breakers for us. They have identified a leading candidate currently, but it needs further evaluation and there are still a few additional options to try out before settling on anything.

# Marketing & Public Relations

MIKE MARSEE, MANAGER

PR hit the second half of the Summer Reading Program just as hard as the first with advance promotion and coverage of programs and events.

Staff members have noted that PR covered a greater percentage of SRP events than in prior years, and the addition of a photo/video intern made that possible. Sophia Wilson did a fantastic job in that position, and her content was well received on our social media channels. She left the PR team with a tremendously expanded library of photos and videos and with some video content unrelated to SRP that they can use long after she is gone.

WKYT provided advance coverage of our Books & Bodyslams event as part of our campaign with the Bluegrass Libraries cooperative, and the library also got an advance interview on WDKY as a result of a press release. The library has had coverage on the newscasts of all four Lexington TV stations this summer. Mike is working with the Bluegrass Libraries group on an adult reading challenge campaign that will run simultaneously at all the participating libraries.

Our numbers of Facebook and Instagram followers both increased by almost 2 percent in July. Staff count about 10 percent more Facebook followers and 18 percent more Instagram followers than at the start of this calendar year.

Our most viewed posts came before and after Books & Bodyslams and before and after the foam party and drew attention to items in the children's library lost and found, including at least one stuffed animal that was reunited with its owner.

## July Color Our World Programs

