



# In Honor of Those Who Serve

DECEMBER 2025

Library marks Veteran's Day with book lists and special events



*A large crowd for "D-Day in Normandy" with Marshall and Betsy Wilt*

## November Highlights

The library's second Literacy Bell event was a great success, promoting the efforts of dozens of youngsters who had reached the important milestone of reading a book on their own. Once again, library staff were joined by County Judge Executive Trille Bottom, Danville Mayor Atkins, and other elected officials to celebrate our new reader's accomplishments.

A major theme during this month of Veteran's Day was military history. The library curated print and electronic book lists to match, and hosted several well-attended programs on the theme. The Friends of the Library produced "D-Day in Normandy" with Marshall and Betsy Wilt. The Story Center hosted Dr. James Johnson who spoke about Kentucky's role in the American Revolution. The Center also continued their genealogical work with local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



*Signing the Book of Readers*

The library's annual Drop Your Drawers drive was again a huge success, with 405 pairs of underwear and socks collected by library staff. The undergarments will be delivered to the school resource offices at Boyle County and Danville Independent Schools.

# Public Services

KATHY PHILLIPS, MANAGER

November was a fun and productive month for the Public Services team! The department issued 99 new physical library cards, and 75 digital library cards, expanding access to our in-house and online resources.

Behind the scenes, the Collection Development team has been focused on carefully editing and revising our policies and procedures for the Circulation Desk. These revisions should further improve our operations, and enhance the patron experience in the new year.

We are happy to announce that just in time for the holidays we are now offering Friends of the Library Gift Certificates! These certificates are available for purchase and can be redeemed at the on-going book sale.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to Arlo, who is doing a wonderful job as the interim Public Services Manager while Kathy has been out on medical leave. The department has remained efficient, cheerful, and focused under his leadership.

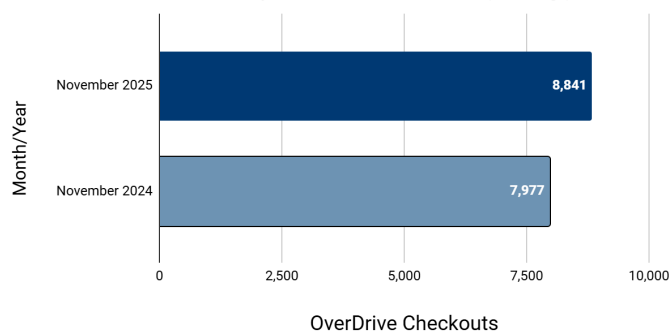
Finally, a big thank you to every staff member and volunteer who has stepped in and gone the extra mile to cover shifts and assist at the public desks while we've had colleagues out on leave. Their teamwork and willingness to help are part of what makes the library so successful.

# Technical Services

EMILY DONLON, MANAGER

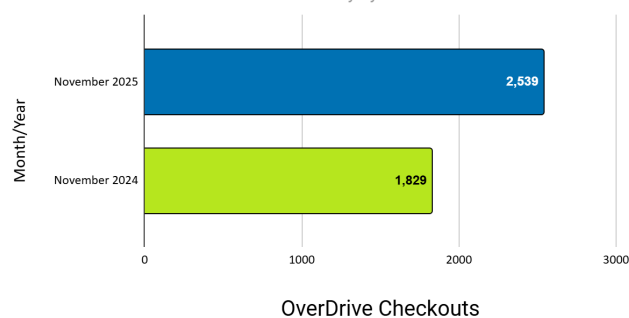
**OverDrive Checkouts: November 2024 vs. November 2025**

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



**Advantage Only (BCPL) OverDrive Checkouts: November '25 vs. November '24**

All Checkouts of Titles Purchased Exclusively by BCPL for BCPL Patrons



In November, the Tech Services team cataloged and processed 375 items into our physical collections! BCPL patrons checked out over 8,800 items from our digital collection (most often accessed through the Libby app). With more funding dedicated to growing our digital collection, we are able to see the significant growth in BCPL-owned (also known as Advantage) titles. This November, patrons checked out more than 2,500 eBooks and audiobooks purchased exclusively for Boyle County. Compared to 1,800 BCPL only/Advantage checkouts in 2024, which is a 38% increase in BCPL purchased borrowing.



# Community Partnerships

MARA MERCHANT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY LIAISON



This November, BCPL held the second of its bi-annual Literacy Bell Celebration of Reading! Over 25 students wrote their name in the Book of Readers, rang the bell in Constitution Square, and celebrated the beginnings of a life full of reading! This program relies heavily on the involvement of school librarians and administrators to invite students who have recently learned to read independently. Thanks to their help, we are able to invite more students every season! Our next Literacy Bell event will take place in the Spring of 2026.

We had the help of 14 unique volunteers last month with a total of 103 volunteer hours! While volunteering was lighter this month, one of our volunteers was able to fulfill a requirement from the Boyle County Attorney's Office which led to BCPL being listed officially as a volunteer site for people who are unable to pay off fines for minor infractions. Now, those individuals without the means to pay for fines will be able to pay with service to their community. As always, thank you to everyone who volunteered this October!



*Mayor Atkins and new reader ring the bell*



## DANIEL AKEN, MANAGER

While much of November was devoted to planning the first few months of 2026, we had plenty of activities going on. Our Junction City Elementary book club collaboration with Youth Services has continued to be a major success. This effort will have wrapped up by the time this goes to print, but we are hopeful that we can duplicate it in the spring.

Daniel brought the bookmobile to a workshop hosted by the Danville Independent School District to familiarize Spanish-speaking families with their Infinite Campus software. This allowed us to show off our Spanish-language collection while giving families the opportunity to sign up for library cards using registration cards that are printed in Spanish.



*Colleen and Daniel deliver Christmas cheer in Perryville*



Katie continued her tradition of asking visitors to the bookmobile to write what makes them thankful on paper hearts that were then displayed all around the inside of the vehicle. She collected 110 hearts (see left) and they really added some warmth to the holiday.

The team was delighted to have Jeannie featured in the first installment of the Employee Spotlight series. We appreciate Jeannie's effort, knowledge, and dedication to our work and were glad to see it get some extra recognition.

Finally, the end of the month meant the beginning of one of our favorite

times of year, Christmas parades! Staff kicked the season off November 29th at Perryville's parade, where our Holly Dolly Christmas-themed bookmobile was on display all through town. We look forward to continuing the festivities in Danville and Junction City in the coming weeks.



*At right: Thanksgiving crafting at Henson Park!*

# Story Center

MAGGIE MCADAMS, MANAGER

Maggie presented at the KDLA Programming Conference in Louisville along with staff from the Kentucky Historical Society. Maggie and colleagues delivered their talk, “It Happened Right Here: Engaging Your Community through Local History Services, Historical Markers, and America250 Commemorations.”

The Story Center also kicked off America250 programming with a lecture by Colonel James Johnson. Dr. Johnson is a Professor Emeritus in History and has authored and edited several books on the Revolutionary War. The retired Army colonel will return to BCPL next spring following the publication of his latest book.

In partnership with the Pioneer Playhouse, the Story Center held a community discussion on the book, *Iron Baby Angel*.

This is only the start of *Iron Baby Angel* programming and staff will continue to offer programs and an exhibit in the lead up to the Pioneer Playhouse adaptation of the book in the summer of 2026.



*Col. Johnson at Grayson's Tavern*



*Iron Baby Angel talk in the Reading Room*

Story Center staff collaborated with both Adult and Youth Services on existing program series, with an “All About Danville” trivia program for BCPL *After Dark* and a Story Center showcase for the Home School Club in November.

Story Center staff continued to work with students, hosting a group of fifth graders from Junction City Elementary. Maggie also worked with sixth grade students at Boyle County Middle School on a program series focused on genealogy and sharing and preserving family stories. In conjunction with the *Remember Balloons* play, Maggie created and shared a teacher resource packet with activities to help students understand how to conduct oral history interviews, as well as the value of interviewing family members.





# Information Technology

JOSEPH HURT, MANAGER

A major task this month was a software update to our cataloging system. While our cataloging vendor handled the server upgrades, we had to manually update client software on all of the machines in the building. Additionally, the updates brought with them a series of new quirks that we had to work through. A change to the catalog page added a level of annoyance with constantly triggering a timeout warning, which was problematic and obnoxious on our OPAC machines. Joseph modified the software that runs on those machines to regularly trigger page refreshes to stop that. Additionally, the upgrade required changing settings on all machines that use our RFID pads.

An ongoing project has been continued work on scheduling software for the library. We once again had to go back to the drawing board and evaluate additional options as late in the process we discovered elements that would make the previously considered product (Sling) unsuitable for our use case. As has been the case in the past, it was not anything obvious, but was a combination of small details only really discoverable after extensive testing. The project team once again has a leading contender, but more testing is needed to ensure that there are no hidden issues before we move forward.

# Marketing & Public Relations

MIKE MARSEE, MANAGER



One of the first big events of the month was the second Literacy Bell Celebration of Reading. The PR team was happy to showcase the latest class of kids who came to Constitution Square to ring the bell.

The team spotlighted the Drop Your Drawers program (see left) and, as they did for Spooky Season, they produced a holiday season flyer listing all of our holiday-themed programs and events on a single sheet.

Mike and Jen worked to streamline the process for the monthly production of the program calendar and Facebook event

graphics to have those ready a little earlier in late November and in successive months.

By the end of the month, PR staffed the first of the three local Christmas parades, providing photos and video of the bookmobile and our staff in the Perryville parade.

Meanwhile, Mike attended the Library Marketing and Communications Conference in St. Louis, where he learned things which will help our existing processes and improve his skills and picked up some ideas that could work for us in the future.

As the conference was specific to marketing, it was a tremendous opportunity to pick up information specific to promoting libraries and to meet and hear from other professionals who do what we do.

# Youth Services

KINSEY HISLE, MANAGER



*Kinsey delivers Storytime*

In November, Youth Services was in full swing with programs. Their biggest event was the second Literacy Bell Celebration, which drew 120 people, including local government officials and teachers recognizing the newest independent readers in our county. Hogsett Elementary is our biggest supporter and had multiple teachers and their librarian attending. Mara put together gift bags with items from the Tourism shop and Plaid Elephant Bookstore.

Rachael, Evie, and Daniel visited Junction City Elementary weekly to host book clubs for fourth and fifth graders during the lunch hour. Elizabeth joined Katie at Admiral University after school programs every Friday afternoon at DHS or JRCC, plus a monthly program for Boyle County Day Treatment students. KSD students visited the library for several YA programs and the Family Movie Night.

For the first time, YS tried some field trip style programs for kids. Our Homeschool Club walked to the Story Center for hands-on learning activities. Rachael walked kids and their adults to the Arts Center for a free STEAM event.

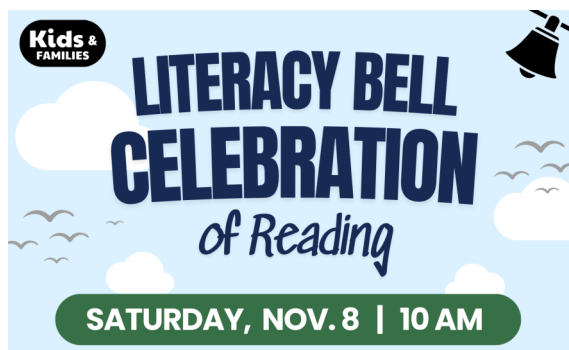


*Above: Rachael and Centre students at one of last month's bilingual Storytimes*

One of the final events of the month was a Friendsgiving for tweens and teens, where among other festivities they wrote notes on what they enjoyed about the library. Messages included overwhelming gratitude. Youth described the library as "a place to make friends when I have none;" "a reason to get out of bed." Teens described our staff as "very nice, especially Elizabeth," with one teen saying our programming "gives me something to look forward to every week."



*Homeschool Club walking tour*





# Adult Services

CHRISTINA FARRELL, MANAGER

In November, Morgan continued her important work with our Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and All-Abilities groups. Attendees at our All-Abilities group created gratitude jars at our monthly crafting program. The team hosted a Friendsgiving celebration with the ASD Friends & Allies group.

For Family Craft Night Adult Services partnered with Willaray Art (Kate Snyder of Plaid Elephant) for a mosaic workshop. Just Try It! for November was a partnership with Abbey Lee. She taught the group Soundbathing, which is a meditative practice designed to promote deep relaxation and relieve stress.

Our Friends of the Library hosted a well attended program delivered by Marshall and Betsy Wilt. The pair have spent a good deal of time in France and have become immersed in French culture and history. The program, titled "D-Day in Normandy," explored the impact of the landings on Omaha Beach and the surrounding areas and their role in the European theater in World War II.

Morgan teamed up with the Story Center to offer an All About Danville Trivia evening at Morley's Backyard as part of our BCPL After Dark series. Lastly, the team offered resin holiday crafts to visitors in Junction City as part of the department's BCPL on the Road series of programs.



*A full room for French history and culture*



*Winners at All About Danville Trivia Night!*

## Who's that lady in the library?

In November, Mike created a Facebook post to highlight this portrait of Corinna Cook Balden, who served as head librarian of the Young-Rodes library starting in 1968. Balden led the effort to move the Danville library from a private to a public institution through the establishment of a library tax district in 1971.





# Facilities Management

LOREN ARTH, MANAGER

Loren and Lynn have been busy working with our HVAC vendor to replace two non-functioning units. Old air handling equipment had to be disassembled before it could be moved out to make room for replacements. The crew worked for several days in their ground floor shop clearing out the space needed to temporarily house the new equipment. The old equipment was taken away and salvaged, and the crew awaits word from our vendor to see when the new units can be installed and placed online.

The crew has been taking care of routine maintenance on the library campus as always and they have been making sure that the library is observing half-mast flag days throughout the month.

Lastly, we normally don't highlight work projects until the month after they happen, but Loren and Lynn did a wonderful job stringing lights in front of the Young-Rodes Library and in the Reading Garden! This is in addition to all of the decoration throughout the building. Thanks to the guys for bringing some holiday cheer to the library campus and our lovely downtown.

