



# Merry and Bright

JANUARY 2026

Library spreads cheer to all corners of the county



*A colorful light show on the corner of Third and Broadway*

## December Highlights

Our staff transformed the library into a winter wonderland for the holiday season! In addition to our annual indoor décor, our Facilities Management crew strung lights all around the Young-Rodes Library building and the Reading Garden. A couple of mild snowfalls made for a beautiful scene at Third and Broadway throughout the month.

For the second year running, the library participated in all three Boyle County Christmas parades. Led by Daniel, who drove the bookmobile for all of these, library staff brought holiday cheer to our neighbors in Perryville, Danville, and Junction City. The library was well received at the parades, with many complements from parade goers about our many services and programs.

All of our departments embraced the season. The Story Center offered an Historic Holiday Décor program at Grayson's Tavern and a Downtown Lights Walking Tour. Adult Services brought their BCPL *After Dark* series to Morley's Backyard for holiday cookie decorating. Youth Services offered Storytimes with Santa and a holiday treat program as part of their YA SUPER *Creative Club* series. Our Outreach team delivered holiday programming to students at the Boyle County Day Treatment Center and Admirals University. The library curated holiday themed book displays and a Winter Celebrations list containing over 125 audiobooks and ebooks downloadable on the Libby app.

Our annual Pictures with Santa event did not disappoint, with 525 good children of all ages on hand to meet Old Saint Nick. In addition to regular staffing, nearly 20 staff members and volunteers worked the Saturday event to help manage the crowds and to offer holiday crafting stations on our Fifth Level. Staff members heard from many happy parents on Santa's big day including one mother who cheered, "You all just have the best activities for children and families!"



# Pictures with Santa





# Public Services

JENNIFER SCHROEDER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

As always, December was a fun and festive month at the Public Services desks. Staff issued 131 physical cards and 102 electronic library cards to patrons, ensuring that each new cardholder has access to the vast array of materials and resources that BCPL has to offer.

Our “Write a Letter to Santa” station and mailbox were once again set up to receive handwritten letters from children to our jolly friend from the North Pole. We were happy to facilitate the holiday wishes of more than 50 children, each of whom received a personal response from Mr. Claus himself. This tradition is one of our favorites because it offers a heartwarming front-row-seat view of kids and their caregivers sweetly interacting to put their holiday sentiments and wishes on paper.

Our Level Five book displays in December featured fun and festive Christmas crafting titles; fiction titles with a Christmas setting/theme; books to help beat the winter blues; and books about learning a foreign language.

The Public Services team notarized 44 documents this month. Patrons truly value this complimentary service, which eliminates financial and logistical stresses, especially during the busy holiday rush. It’s a privilege to be able to offer this support to our community, and we often receive positive feedback from patrons, who are relieved to find a cost-free option for this vital service.

Kathy Phillips remains on leave due to health challenges. However, the Public Services team, currently being led by Arlo Rosdatter, has done a tremendous job keeping up with all of the essential daily and weekly duties necessary to keep the desks functioning efficiently for our patrons. We are so proud of the helpful, friendly service the team continues to offer to our community, and we wish Kathy all the best for a speedy recovery!

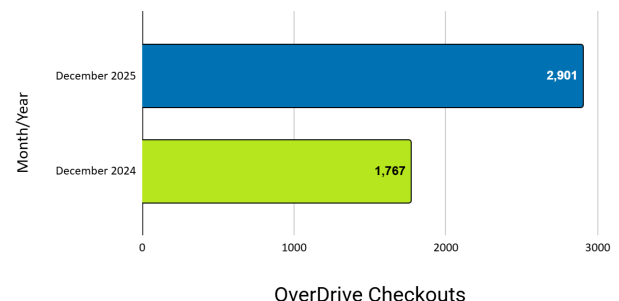
# Technical Services

EMILY DONLON, MANAGER

In December, the Tech Services team cataloged and processed 352 items into our physical collections! BCPL patrons checked out over 9,400 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 December, patrons checked out more than 2,900 eBooks and audiobooks purchased exclusively for Boyle County. Compared to 1,767 BCPL only/Advantage checkouts in 2024, which is a 64% increase in BCPL purchased borrowing.

The “BCPL Recommends” Libby List for December (see page 7) featured eBooks, audiobooks, and eMagazines around the theme of Winter Celebrations.

**Advantage Only (BCPL) OverDrive Checkouts: December '25 vs. December '24**  
All Checkouts of Titles Purchased Exclusively by BCPL for BCPL Patrons



# Outreach Services

DANIEL AKEN, MANAGER

The Outreach department has been in the holiday spirit in many different ways this month. Libby has conducted holiday-themed storytimes and crafts, Jeannie assisted with the crafts that accompanied Santa's library visit, Katie has decorated the bookmobile with lights and a custom-made Outreach advent calendar, and we have all been on the road, spreading cheer (and books) to the community.

We saw many of the students at the schools we visit for the last time before their holiday break, and Katie handed out snow globes that featured gingerbread men, Christmas trees, and even an image of Katie herself from the summer's bookmobile race. As with the bookmarks she designs, kids were thankful to receive this personal touch.

Our assisted living residents created tea light snowmen, Boyle County Day Treatment students designed wooden winter ornaments, Admirals University students completed gingerbread men ornaments and winter bead bracelets, and students at Junction City Elementary's after-school program made Grinch ornaments. In addition to the ornaments, we rounded out their Grinch Day celebration with a reading of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by former Jennie Rogers guidance counselor Gail Wright and cookies and "Grinch Punch" courtesy of Libby. For our Admiral Adventure Academy kids, we finished off their semester with a lively dance party.

Lastly, December wouldn't be complete without a couple of Christmas parades. We greeted attendees in both Danville and (after a weather postponement) Junction City. We love to see the positive reaction the library receives as the bookmobile passes by.



*At Junction City Elementary School*



*Snowman craft at Henson Park*





# Story Center

MAGGIE MCADAMS, MANAGER



*Family Stories at Boyle County Middle School*



*Historic Holiday Décor at Grayson's Tavern*

Memory Lab appointments for 2025 far exceeded previous years. We had 145 total appointments which is about a 150% increase from last year. Since we started recording Memory Lab appointment data in 2021 there have been 315 appointments (18 in 2021, 58 in 2022, 37 in 2023, 57 in 2024, and 145 in 2025). Sam continues to be flexible to ensure that patrons have access to Memory Lab equipment, and will continue to build relationships with existing and new Memory Lab users.

Story Center staff held nine programs this month. Jon led the Downtown Lights Walking Tour, which allowed patrons to take in the festive downtown décor and learn about Danville along the way, as well as the program on Arts and Crafts Architecture in Danville. We continue to see interest in Boyle County's architectural history and will build

upon this type of programming in 2026.

We continued to host our Friday drop in program, Family Story Fridays, and the Revolutionary Ancestors Genealogy program with the Daughters of the American Revolution. We will continue this partnership in the Spring of 2026 as patrons have taken advantage of this service.

Maggie continued to work with middle schoolers on the Family Stories outreach initiative. She delivered five programs for 200 sixth graders at Boyle County Middle School to set them up for conducting oral history interviews with family members over the holidays.

# Marketing & Public Relations

MIKE MARSEE, MANAGER

The PR and marketing team said goodbye in December to Sabrina Perry, the long-term intern provided by Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Sabrina's tenure ended with her graduation, and we celebrated her personal and professional growth during her time with the library. Sabrina's graphic design skills made her a valuable member of the team, and she and her work will be missed.

We got to spend plenty of time with Santa Claus during December, first by documenting the success of our Pictures with Santa event and again by photographing him with the kids who came to two Storytime with Santa programs. We also captured the fun of the last two of the local Christmas parades, snapping photos of our staff spreading holiday cheer in Danville and Junction City. The library was a sponsor of the radio postgame show that followed Boyle County High School's state football championship victory, getting a commercial that aired during the show and drop-in reads as well. As Christmas approached, we were already looking ahead to the start of the new year with the monthly program calendar and many program posters already finished.

Our most viewed social media posts by far came from Pictures with Santa, and a post displaying the library's Christmas décor was right behind those.



*Santa delivers smiles to Storytime*

## Facilities Management

LOREN ARTH, MANAGER

Loren and Lynn had a very busy month keeping the physical plant up and running. Their major project has been prep work on the Second Level staff workroom. Staff have temporarily been relocated to other areas of the building and electrical work, as well as painting and patching of the walls, has largely been completed. The crew have been cutting and laying carpet in parts of the room and working to update the base trim. They have broken down all of the old work stations and have reassembled parts of them for use in the Youth Services workroom. Lastly, they have taken down all of the workroom cabinetry and have reinstalled it in the staff breakroom. This effort will greatly increase the storage space that staff will have for receptions and other functions.

Winter weather led to two delayed openings in December, and the crew was on hand to clear snow and treat the walkways to make the library campus safe for our patrons and staff. Speaking of the white stuff, Loren is contracting with a new company for snow removal as our new groundskeeping vendor does not offer this service. Starting in January, the library will be working with Danville-based Denali Gardens for grounds maintenance.

The crew created a wonderful outdoor light display on the corner of Third and Broadway. As part of this effort, the crew replaced all six of the electrical outlets in the reading garden. They also disassembled the lanterns on the original 1937 building and rewired the sockets. These fixtures had not been working for some time, but they now have LED flame effect bulbs that look beautiful at night!



# Community Partnerships

MARA MERCHANT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY LIAISON



With the holidays approaching and everyone celebrating the season, we were quite busy attending parties and making memories this December! HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) and the Danville Cradle School both invited us to their holiday celebrations to read stories to their littlest patrons (which was a blast!) and we said goodbye to students before their holiday break with cookie decorating at the Boyle County High School book club and wooden ornament decorating with second graders at Toliver Intermediate School. At Danville High School, librarians served as community judges during twelfth grade Capstone presentations where students gave reports on their post-graduation plans and how they saw themselves grow during their school years.

We had the help of 12 unique volunteers this month with a total of 71 volunteer hours! This has been an incredible year thanks to everyone who lent a hand in 2025 through volunteering. Our large events like Summer Reading Kickoff, Trick-or-Treat, and Pictures with Santa would not have been possible without volunteers, and the same goes for our daily operations. From helping at the Circulation Desk, to shelving in the stacks, to program assistance and everything in between - BCPL would not be the same without help from each and every person who dedicates their time to making our library so special! So, to everyone who volunteered in 2025 - Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!



## BCPL Recommends: Winte... ×

This winter, curl up with your favorite eReader and enjoy some tales and truths surrounding various winter festivities. Titles are curated by Boyl...

[See over 140 titles >](#)

*Our Libby curated list for December: Winter Celebrations*

# Adult Services

CHRISTINA FARRELL, MANAGER



*ASD Holiday Party in the Community Room*

Morgan and Christina had a great time this year working the Pictures with Santa event along with the rest of the library staff. We had over 500 people come through the library to meet Santa and to do crafts. This is one of our favorite events and it invigorates the whole team to get to do this program for our community every year.

The All-Abilities Club is still going strong. December's project was Cotton Swab Snowflake Ornaments. The ASD Friends and Allies group celebrated the holidays together with a party. It's clear that Morgan's work with these two groups is impactful with continuous growth of these programs and by the praise that she receives from the participants at every session.

Our two monthly "On the Road" programs are also doing very well. We brought Diamond Paintings to Junction per request. Junction never fails to show their appreciation for having the library bring programs to their community. They are very active with us discussing and planning programs that they would like to have. We have regulars that come out every month and we usually get a few newcomers. Also, there are people that live in Danville that will drive out to Junction to attend our programs there. Starting programming in Junction has definitely helped the relationship between the library and the Junction City Community to grow and flourish. Our second program was our BCPL: *After Dark* program at Morley's. In December we did Cookie decorating with a "full house." Attendees had a great time and loved learning how to decorate Christmas Cookies.

While programming kept the team fairly busy Leah was also working very hard on the other part of Adult Services. Since she was out for half of November and December, she spent most of her time back catching up and inputting all of her collections invoices from the time she was gone. She also started the 2025 Book Awards lists and completed the 2024 list.

Lastly, Christina and Morgan worked with the other workroom staff to pack up and move out of the workroom. They got all of their items packed up and helped other members with their things. They also worked on moving the general staff supplies and organizing the kitchen with the new cabinetry that was added.