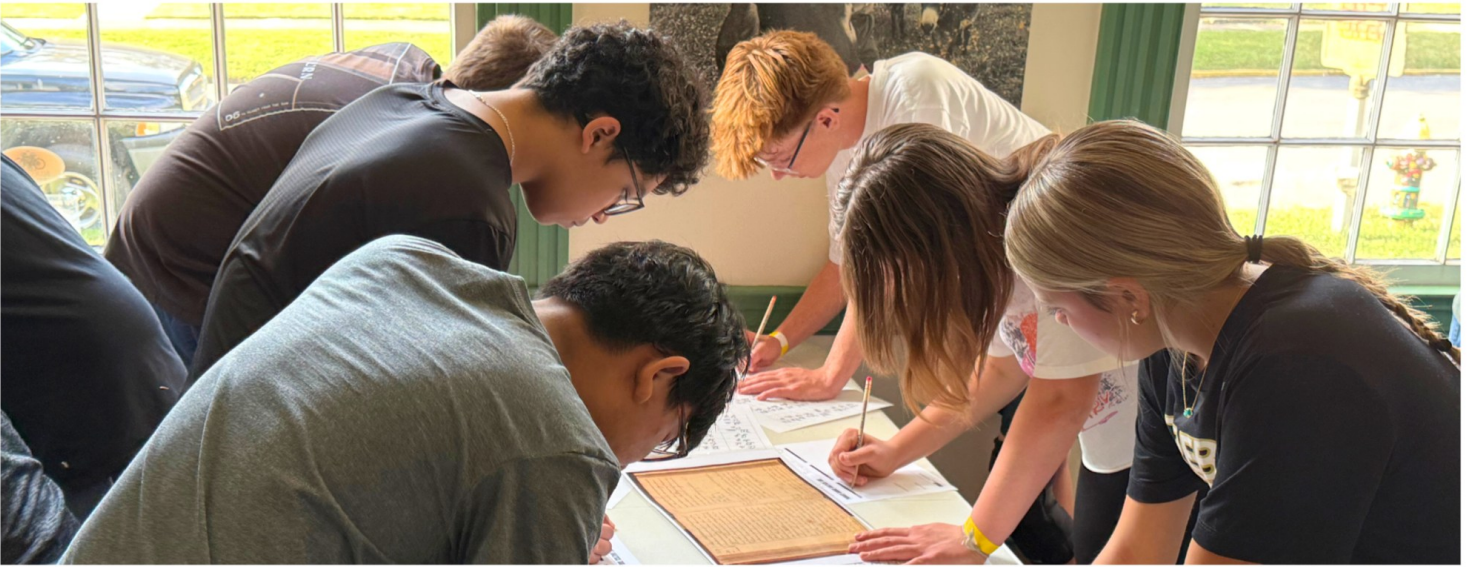




An 'Historically Bold' Move

SEPTEMBER 2025

Story Center marks its first anniversary with high honors



The Story Center worked with hundreds of students from Boyle County Middle School

September Highlights

September marked the one year anniversary of the library's newest department, the Story Center. Maggie and her team welcomed hundreds of visitors to Grayson's Tavern during Constitution Square Festival, where guests got their first glimpses of the Story Center's new logo and branding.

During the Story Center's first year Maggie, Jon, and Sam have led dozens of programs from historical walking tours, preservation workshops, and family history harvests. The Center has coordinated closely with the many groups engaged with local history in our county. The month ended with the setup of a digitization station at Forkland Community Center.

If the breadth and variety of the Story Center's programming and preservation work were not ample evidence of the impact that this initiative has had on the community, the Center was the recipient of the inaugural Historically Bold Award for preservation at the 104th Annual Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala. We are proud of the Story Center team for their many accomplishments in their first year of operation, and we look forward to seeing the department grow in the months and years ahead.

STORY
CENTER

Story Center

MAGGIE MCADAMS, MANAGER

The month started with the second part of the department's Disaster Preparedness workshop with the Northeast Document Conservation Center. Participants practiced wet salvage techniques to better prepare them for a potential water disaster.

The team participated in the annual American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) conference in Cincinnati. Staff took advantage of the opportunity to network and learn from fellow museum professionals. The Story Center celebrated its one year anniversary at Constitution Square Festival and unveiled the new logo. Staff engaged visitors with wool-related activities and interacted with over 500 people!

Fall school programs started in September with great county-wide participation. Maggie's team continued their partnership with the McDowell House for "I Love Boyle County" field trips again this school year. Their program, "Finding the Story: Understanding Primary Sources" focuses on deciphering primary sources to see what they can tell us about Grayson's Tavern and Constitution Square through time. Staff saw 200 eighth graders from Boyle County Middle School on one day alone!



A large crowd visits Grayson's Tavern at Constitution Square Fest



The Story Center was honored at the end of September to receive an inaugural Historically Bold award from the Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce. This is a new award that recognizes the individuals, businesses, or organizations that work to make our community truly "historically bold." The Story Center is proud to serve with those that work to preserve and celebrate our history as a community of civic leaders and true pioneers as well as the people that move us forward with their imagination and creativity to ensure our community continues to lead, innovate, and inspire.

Public Services

KATHY PHILLIPS, MANAGER

September brought challenges to the Public Services Department with a few staff out sick or on scheduled vacation over the past month. However, library staff and volunteers kindly stepped up and helped cover shifts. Our workers' flexibility and dedication helped to keep the department running smoothly as ever. In fact, the library issued an impressive 147 library cards in September!

Work continues with the upgrade of Adult Fiction, focusing on weeding to keep the collection current and engaging. Additionally, the Friends of the Library book sale cart has seen brisk sales.

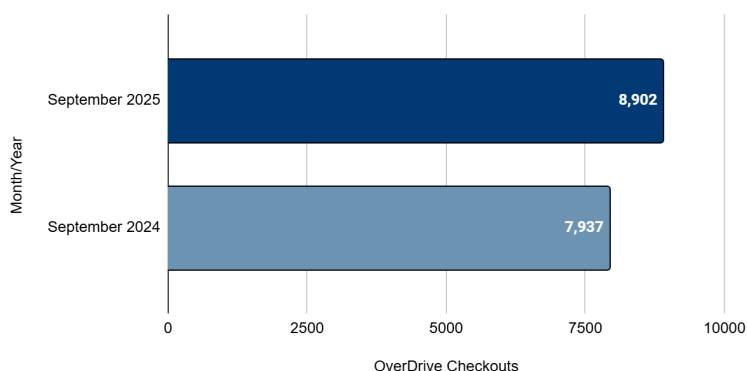
Our Level Five book displays were dedicated to the following observances:

- National Sewing Month: A variety of sewing how-to books for beginners and experienced crafters, along with fiction books where sewing or textile arts are themes.
- Suicide Awareness Month: Self-help resources and fiction books addressing suicide and mental health.
- National Hispanic Heritage Month: Celebrating Hispanic and Latino Americans with a display of fiction and non-fiction books by Hispanic authors.
- Classical Music Month: Highlighting classical music with non-fiction and fiction books related to classical music and performance.

Technical Services

EMILY DONLON, MANAGER

OverDrive Checkouts: September 2024 vs. September 2025
All Checkouts of Titles Purchased by KLU Consortium and/or BCPL (Advantage)



In September, the Tech Services team cataloged and processed 494 items into our physical collections. BCPL patrons checked out 8,902 items from our digital collection (most often accessed through the Libby app). September's Libby List of BCPL Recommended Reads featured popular Young Adult and Youth titles that shared themes with the hit animated movie: KPop Demon Hunters. This reading list was compiled by the Youth Department originally.

Each month, Tech Services works with the Adult Services Department to add temporary bibliographic records to our collection for the Third Thursday Book Club. We work with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), and they send us a kit of Large Type books each month and we enter them into our system for circulation. The titles are usually pre-selected by the book club members a year in advance. At the request of book club members, we've added copies of book club ebooks and audiobooks via Libby.

Youth Services

KINSEY HISLE, MANAGER

The department is seeing renewed interest in library programs with huge turnouts that far surpass where we were last spring. Baby Storytime welcomes tons of new faces in addition to returning friends. The size more than doubled from spring Storytimes when Rachael was away on leave.

YA *Creative Club* is also recording more than double the attendance seen in spring. Elizabeth is offering specialized creative art activities with a once a month workshop led by a community artist. In September, Joseph from ARJO Pottery taught ceramic pumpkins! The teens were thrilled, like one who came by the library table at the Pet Expo and exclaimed, "Free?! Even this ceramic pumpkin thing?" To which Evie replied, "Yep! Everything we do is free." He then bounded off with the calendar, telling his mom "look at all this stuff they do for free!"

Also new in September is *Homeschool Club*. Youth services is doing more to connect with this audience whether they come in for the new monthly program, or we see them during the day. One interaction with a family started with giving a tour of juvenile nonfiction to a new homeschooling mom who came in to look for educational programs. This parent was amazed by all of our resources. The family, which did not have library cards when they first arrived, resolved to make library visits once a week a part of their curriculum.

Here are a couple more special patron moments from this past month:

- A family read the first two chapters of the "princess swap" book in the car as a preview online. Mom came in the next day to come get the books to see what happened next. She said it was the first time her daughter, aged nine, wanted to read a book without pictures.
- A group of young friends created their own scavenger hunt together in the library with scratch paper. A father and son did too on another day, entirely separate from the other group.



A frenzy of activity at Junior Gaming Guild!



Youth "catch 'em all" at Kids & YA Pokémon Quest

Adult Services

CHRISTINA FARRELL, MANAGER

The Adult Services team performed considerable outreach in September including appearances at the Centre College Expo and the Extension Office Plant Swap. They again hosted a table at Third Thursday Downtown. Leah made a Fall-Themes book recommendation quiz. A hot chocolate station was offered and staffed by Mara and Christina.

Leah and Christina went to the bi-annual job fair where they shared library resources with job seekers. Leah worked with the Story Center to present genealogy resources available at the library. Staff traveled to Junction City Hall to create book wreaths with pages from discarded books. The Junction crafting series continues to be a success with residents excited to have the library brought directly to their community.



The Friends of the Library host author/professor Mike Holdren



Morgan hosted two *All Abilities Club* programs this month. Participants crafted pinch pots out of air dry clay then returned to paint them. The *ASD Friends & Allies* group met to do tie dye this month. Christina's team hosted former University of Kentucky standout Kyle Macy for an author talk and book signing program. Almost every person in attendance was excited to buy his book.

The team debuted two new program series: *Just Try It* featured a partnership with Danville Martial Arts Academy, a downtown neighbor, for an introductory kickboxing class. The participants were very happy with the instruction and received a coupon for a month of free classes from Coach Ralphie. The second new program, *Family Craft Night*, was well attended with 36 patrons visiting on a Thursday evening.

The team revamped its *BCPL: After Dark* series, moving it to Morley's Backyard. Staff plan to set up there once a month. For this first month at the new location they did a bedazzling workshop.

Finally, Christina has continued her work with Joseph to investigate new scheduling software for the library. The two are planning to present their findings to the managing team in the coming weeks.

Outreach Services

DANIEL AKEN, MANAGER

September is the beginning of two seasonal changes for the Outreach department: school activities and festival season. On the school front, Outreach has returned to some familiar programs (Boyle County FRYSC Food Pantry, Danville Montessori bookmobile stop, Admiral Adventure Academy, Danville Christian Academy storytime, Junction City Elementary Preschool storytime, Admirals University) while incorporating some new initiatives (Junction City Elementary after-school program, Danville Montessori storytime, Junction City Elementary Literacy Day, Boyle County Day Treatment bookmobile stop). Staff have enjoyed great interactions with area students and staff and are thankful to have so many opportunities to work with them.

The team kicked off festival season with appearances at Constitution Square Festival and the Kiwanis Charity Chili Cook-Off. Libby, Katie, and Daniel attended Constitution Square Festival, where they made yarn dolls, wrote with quill pens using Libby's homemade ink, and greeted bookmobile visitors from as far away as Tennessee and Louisiana. Jeannie and Daniel brought a selection of kids' activities to the cook-off, including the bookmobile and a gigantic coloring sheet hand-drawn by Katie just for the event.

The team has welcomed two new patrons to their assisted living delivery schedule and have been excited to bring books they love to them.

As much as Daniel's team has had going on in September, they have also been busy planning programs for October, which promises to be an even bigger month for the department. They are assembling new crafts, games, and coloring sheets for our guests to enjoy.



Practicing with quill pens at Con Square Fest



*At left: youth crafters
diligently work at a
Junction City
Elementary after
school program*

Information Technology

JOSEPH HURT, MANAGER

A lot of this month has been devoted to evaluating scheduling and time clock software. After evaluating numerous products, Joseph and Christina have narrowed in on a final candidate. The management team will need some time to work with the software, but Joseph does not anticipate any issues currently.

The other large project has been work on the Story Center app project with Michael Bradshaw mentioned here last month. Joseph performed the initial stages to facilitate the apps the students will be working on: setting up and configuring server software, and making an example/test app they can use for reference. There will be additional changes needed on the library's end as the students work through their projects, but the initial hurdles are out of the way.

Joseph has taken the lead this month bringing additional changes to the website. The teen and tween patron pages are now merged into a "young adult" category. Joseph and the PR team have also added a new online resource from ProQuest featuring historic newspapers, which is referenced and explained across multiple locations on the website. The newspapers page is now accessible under "Books & More" and has a listing of the various Newspaper resources we have access to.

Marketing & Public Relations

MIKE MARSEE, MANAGER

As the library returned to a more normal programming schedule, Public Relations work normalized once again as well. But while the team got back into a more regular routine of promoting programs, they also began work on several upcoming projects.

Mike's team has been planning promotion of our Día de Muertos event and our partnership in The Remember Balloons initiative, and also laid the groundwork for promotion of our new 30x30 adult reading challenge coming in November.

Meanwhile, the team promoted and documented two author talks, one organized by library programmers and one by the Friends of the Library.

Mike and Jen organized our "Spooky Season" promotion with a flyer listing all of our Halloween-themed programs and featuring a "Spook-O-Meter" that indicates how scary the programs are or are not.

Our most-viewed Facebook post in September was our events calendar announcement, followed by the announcements of a winner of a contest held by circulation and of the Story Center receiving an award from the Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce.



Facilities Management

LOREN ARTH, MANAGER

Weather often presents unique challenges for our Facilities crew and September was no exception to the rule. After a particularly strong storm, Loren and Lynn found one of the walls leaking in a ground level utility room. After some investigation they found that a drain in the Reading Garden was severely clogged.

The problem area was in the northwest corner of the garden, where the foundations of the Mahan House and the 1980s expansion buildings meet. The photos below show the bottom of a drainage pit that goes about 10 feet deep. There was exposed dirt under both of these foundations' structures, causing erosion of the soil after heavy downpours. Additionally, the crew found a drainage pipe that was not properly sized, causing even more water to pool in this area.

Thankfully, the weather cooperated and Loren and Lynn worked over a dry week to fix the issue. This was a major job as about a foot of mud had to be mucked out of the pit. Once our crew snaked the drain, they had to haul nearly a ton of concrete to the library campus, which they then mixed and poured at the site. They sealed the drainage pipe to prevent further backflow and graded the masonry mix in to direct the water to the drain.

Projects like this illustrate how fortunate we are to have Loren and Lynn managing our sprawling facility. Not only were they able to perform this work without the expense of an outside contractor, but the work they have done in this area will ensure that we will not have to deal with storm drainage in this area in the future.

