



Back to School Days

AUGUST 2025

Library engages with area schools and prepares for fall fun



Teens learn about DNA from our partners at the Kentucky Science Center

August Highlights

The Library took its usual August programming break but remained busy with Back-To-School information fairs and with planning a number of new fall programs for our patrons. Youth Services is adding a Friday Storytime to its programming lineup, while Adult Services is premiering its *Just Try It!* series this coming month with an introductory kickboxing program. Our Outreach team continued its service to the citizens of Junction City with an evening Do-It-Yourself Lava Lamps program. The Story Center continued its downtown history tours and its Old Time Music Jam at Grayson's Tavern.



Elizabeth and Evie visit Danville High School

Staff Spotlight: Back to School

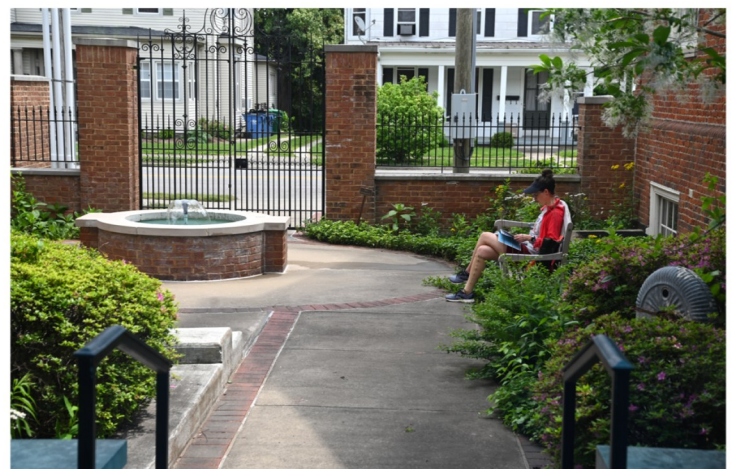


Over a dozen staff members were involved in the Library's efforts to visit all of our area school back-to-school fairs. These visits resulted in dozens of library card signups and many meaningful community interactions. Patrons were treated to library swag such as cups, bookmarks, and stickers, and many boarded our bookmobile to check out Sweet Reads materials.

Facilities Management

LOREN ARTH, MANAGER

The Facilities crew kept busy in August updating and moving staff workstations. Major projects included the completion of lighting upgrades in the Second Level workroom, and moving all of Mara's furniture to her new office on the Fifth Level. This latter project also involved establishing a new vent for the Map Room to make it more comfortable for daily working conditions. Loren and Lynn have continued the ongoing tasks of replacing bulbs and ballasts throughout the building while also preparing for the renovations of staff work areas later in the fall.



A patron enjoys the calm of the Reading Garden

Public Services

KATHY PHILLIPS, MANAGER

The Public Services team has been working hard on weeding the adult fiction collection. It's a big, ongoing project that helps us keep our shelves fresh and relevant for our patrons. While we're making space for new books, the Friends of the Library Dollar Bag sales are still very popular. They're a great way for our community to find some incredible deals and for us to ensure these books find new homes.

Our recent partnership with Centre College on their *Delve Into Danville* event was a big success. We issued 230 new library cards in August. Last Saturday alone, 90 of those went directly to Centre students. It was wonderful to see so many incoming students engaging with the library for the first time. We've already seen some of the new students back in the building, and getting comfortable using the library.

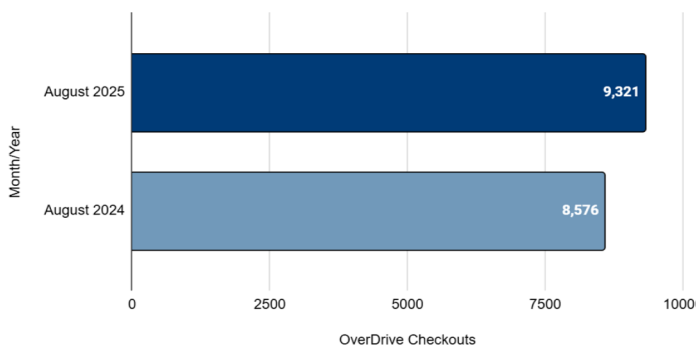
A big round of applause to the winner of our "Guess the Swag" contest, Rebekah Biggs! She was very close with her guess of 150 school supply items—only five off the actual total of 155. Rebekah will be coming in this Thursday to pick up her prize and get her picture taken.

Finally, we're all looking forward to welcoming back Tori Summers, who is recovering well from her recent surgery. Tori is a valued member of our team, and we're happy to hear that she's feeling better and returning to work soon!

Technical Services

EMILY DONLON, MANAGER

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



In August, the Tech Services team cataloged and processed 445 items into our physical collections! BCPL patrons checked out 9,321 items from our digital collection (most often accessed through the Libby app). August's Libby List of BCPL Recommended Reads featured Back to School ebooks and audiobooks mirroring our physical book displays in the library.

Outreach and Tech Services received the quarterly installment of the Roving Collection offered by the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) in August. The KDLA Roving Collection is a set of about 50 large-print books on loan from KDLA, and they include popular fiction and nonfiction titles. They are cataloged and added to our online catalog like other items, but they are removed at the end of the loan period and sent back to KDLA. The Roving Collection and other materials from KDLA help bolster our collection with additional popular titles, especially in large type print, which can vary in availability and price.

Youth Services

KINSEY HISLE, MANAGER

We took a break from in-house programs in August so we could reset after Summer Reading, and be able to attend all of the Danville and Boyle schools event nights. We really enjoy seeing familiar and new faces at those events, and getting students their most important school supply - a library card! We also held a "Back to school" workshop for the School Librarians of Boyle County.

Youth Services staff also took days off to rest, which was much appreciated.

We cleaned up our workroom, and Evie began the process of starting a new inventory procedure for our supplies. Rachael and Elizabeth finalized their plans for the fall semester of programming. Kinsey introduced new procedures and documents for tracking public desk tasks, monthly planning, and statistics. We are now refreshed and ready to go!



Summer Reading Program Feedback

More feedback that we received from our annual Summer Reading Program survey:

"The [bookmobile] worker even went back to the main library to find something for us during an off campus event, WHAT A SPECIAL SURPRISE! It allowed us to finish a book we started on vacation in another state. Amazing faculty!" "This program has been great for a thirty year old to pick up reading again."

"Great children's library; welcoming & friendly staff; fun programming for kids and adults"

Adult Services

CHRISTINA FARRELL, MANAGER

Adult Services started their August with our very last Starlight Movie Night, wrapping up a very successful Summer Reading Program!

Leah created resources for Boyle County Public School Librarians' professional development and aided Youth Services in their presentation. She also, with Morgan, Mara, and Daniel, worked at *Delve into Danville*, a program for Centre College freshman students to learn more about the places around town. Staff visited with 185 students that day, while Kathy came in to process 90 Library Cards. Leah also procured new shelves for our Adult Graphic Novels and Manga collections. These shelves will help the collection grow and to meet the needs of our patrons.



Christina and Leah continued our BCPL: *On the Road* programming in Junction City. Staff saw the largest attendance we have had there with 27 people ranging in ages from four to 93! This community is extremely grateful for the library's programming there and staff enjoy doing it. Morgan is continuing the All Abilities Club and ASD Friends and Allies. Our All Abilities group decorated friendship rocks and continued our 5-Minute Life lessons focused on friendship. They discussed how to make and maintain friendships. ASD Friends and Allies had a gaming night where staff broke out our boardgame collection as well as two Nintendo switches borrowed from Youth Services. Our Third Thursday book club, now in its 15th year, is still going strong. Staff report seeing new members every month as well as a rotation of long standing group members. The group will meet again in September to begin selecting books for 2026.



A Junction City crafter shows off their custom lava lamp!

Outreach Services

DANIEL AKEN, MANAGER

For the Outreach department, August was the month to make the same transition that our community's students make, from summer events to the beginning of a new school year. Staff attended back-to-school nights for all five public elementary-level schools in the span of a week, interacting with 377 people in the process. Staff saw both familiar and new faces, including many that they will be working with this school year.

Jeannie, Libby, and Daniel made an appearance at the Soul of Second Street Festival Family Tent (along with some much-appreciated help from Youth Services). Our staff joined forces with other community organizations to provide fun kids' activities during the festival. Christina and Daniel set up a table for Boyle County's School Support Squad event, which coincided with the school's professional development days that began their school year. The library shared many educational resources that we provide and also raffled off a back-to-school gift basket that was assembled by Katie.

Katie was also part of a group that attended two out-of-county events that will help inform future library activities. The "Support Over Silence" training provided strategies for navigating challenging situations involving young patrons and their caregivers, while the Performer's Showcase displayed the talents of many area performers that might provide future library programming.

Libby, Katie, and Daniel brought the bookmobile to the library's first appearance at the Balloons Over the Bluegrass Festival. It was once again a well-attended event and nearly 200 attendees stopped by to visit our staff.



At right: library staffers represent BCPL at the Soul of Second Street Festival in Constitution Square



Story Center

MAGGIE MCADAMS, MANAGER

In August, the Story Center team participated in the Soul of Second Street Festival. Staff attended the Community Dinner to hear from the Festival Honorees, and set up an oral history recording station at the Festival itself. Staff interacted with a number of community members and were able to interview Charles Grey, a graduate of Bate High School. Charles has become the Bate School/Bate High School archivist and historian, collecting a number of items through the years to be able to tell the story of this historic school.

Katie Woolcott wrapped up her summer internship with the Story Center in August. She was able to research, write, and deliver a program on historic Danville Photographers and photography studios! She was a wonderful addition to the team bringing archival and museum experience, and expressed interest in seeing a programming project through from beginning to end. She delivered the program twice in one night bringing in 11 attendees. The program was titled "Danville Photographers: Then and Now", with staff inviting two active Danville photographers to display their work and promote their businesses.

To continue the Story Center's exploration of and collaboration with other maker spaces, members of the Lexington Public Library visited the Story Center and toured the Library. Visitors included Amanda Wheeler, Experiential Learning Manager, Bryan Klausing, Digital Studio Supervisor, and Brian Hovevar, the Northside Branch Manager.

Information Technology

JOSEPH HURT, COORDINATOR

The biggest new development in Information Technology is a budding partnership between the library (via Maggie and the Story Center) with Michael Bradshaw, a Centre Computer Science professor. He is teaching an introductory mobile app development class this semester. As part of this class, students will be working on apps for community partners. At least two groups will be working on apps for the Story Center. These are likely to be more proof-of-concept exercises than "full fledged" apps, but the project has the potential to be fun and engaging across the board. As part of facilitating this partnership, the library will be providing server storage space, and potentially development work for the back end of the app. We look forward to seeing how this project develops.

The staff machine rollout continues as schedules permit. Joseph has several machines ready to go out as staff can find time to coordinate the installs.

Various website changes were undertaken in August, with a notable addition in the "BCPL Highlights" page which currently contains curated Libby collections, but may eventually expand into a more general list of curated highlights. A New Users page is fully live now as well.

Joseph performed a number of small cleanup tasks. Including shutting down Beanstack prize book forms and pulling statistics from that system. Joseph continues to complete E-Rate paperwork as he processes the official contracts with T-Mobile for getting our Story Center Internet over to account converted over to E-Rate subsidized).

Marketing & Public Relations

MIKE MARSEE, MANAGER

August was a month to both look back and look ahead. At the beginning of the month, PR wrapped up the Summer Reading Program with promotions that showcased some of the best of Summer Reading, announced prize winners and gave thanks to our interns and community partners.

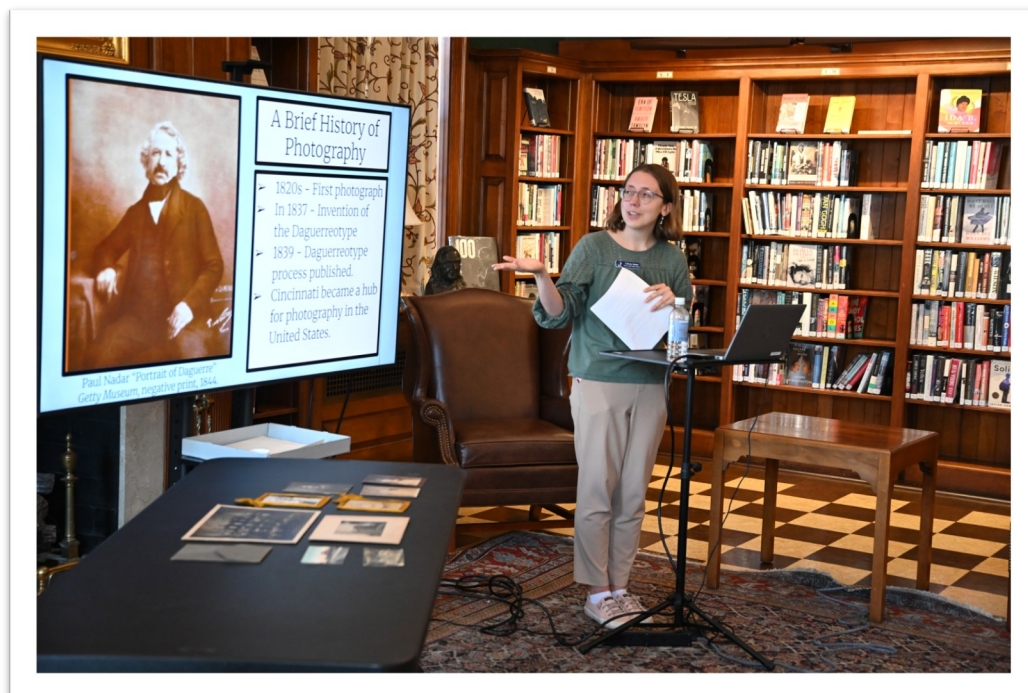
By the end of the month, Mike and Jen were immersed in preparations for the fall programming that began in September.

In between, the department showcased the library's presence at school open house nights, the Soul of Second Street Festival and library's own program in Junction City, turning the spotlight on the programs taking place in August.

In one of her last acts, our Video and Photo Intern Sophia produced an SRP scrapbook video that encapsulated all the fun of SRP into about 3 minutes. Sophia proved to be a valuable asset to our efforts this summer, and there is no doubt the internship benefitted both the library and her.

PR introduced the idea of BCPL Premiere Weeks, another way to draw attention to both returning and new programs in a similar style to promotion of fall TV premiers.

The library's most viewed Facebook post saluted our summer interns for their hard work, and it was followed in views by posts proclaiming the final day of SRP, announcing the SRP grand prize winners, promoting the lava lamp program at BCPL on the Road in Junction city and rescheduling the dinosaur performers who couldn't make it to our final Thursday FunDay.



At left: Story Center Intern Katie Wolcott delivers her presentation on Danville photographers.