

CCPL Monthly Review

July 2026

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Mr. Stinky Feet

Archie

Special guest, Mr. Stinky Feet, stopped by each of the branches to perform dinosaur themed songs and share stories from his own children's books.



Science City

Harrisonville

Science City hosted a Flames, Smoke, and Sizzle demonstration, explaining the effects of heat on different substances.



Exotics R Us

Northern Resource Center

Exotics R Us brought several unique animals to the NRC for patrons to learn about and witness up close.



Summer Ending Party

Archie

Archie celebrated the end of the Summer Library Program with balloons, tattoos, ring toss, dinosaurs, and shaved ice.



Solar Lanterns

Garden City

Patrons and staff had a blast painting mason jars and turning them into homemade solar lanterns.



Paint by Stickers

Drexel

Several teens stopped by to create their own dinosaur themed paint by sticker artwork.



Jurassic Escape Room

Northern Resource Center

The NRC put together a Jurassic Park Genome Recovery escape room, hosting 7 different groups of teens and adults.



Water Day

Garden City

Staff hosted a fun Water Day featuring water gun wars, toe fishing, water balloon relay races, fill the bucket relay races, bubbles, popsicles, and more.



Preschool Visit

Outreach Services

The Bookmobile stopped by several preschools to celebrate the Summer Library Program and hand out books.



UNO Tournament

Harrisonville

Teens at Harrisonville gathered for a competitive Jurassic UNO tournament.



Colonial Days

Pleasant Hill

At Pleasant Hill's Colonial Days, children moved between 7-8 different stations that sampled snacks, chores, and games children in 1776 would have experienced.



Wellness and Chair Yoga

Northern Resource Center

NRC staff held a Wellness and Chair Yoga program, leading the group in gentle stretching, relaxation exercises, and lots of laughter.

12,325

Active Customers

56,003

Circulation

84.6

Net Promoter
Score

02 COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

240

Adult Print
Titles Ordered

118

Adult eMedia
Items Ordered

835

Items Cataloged

Program Highlights

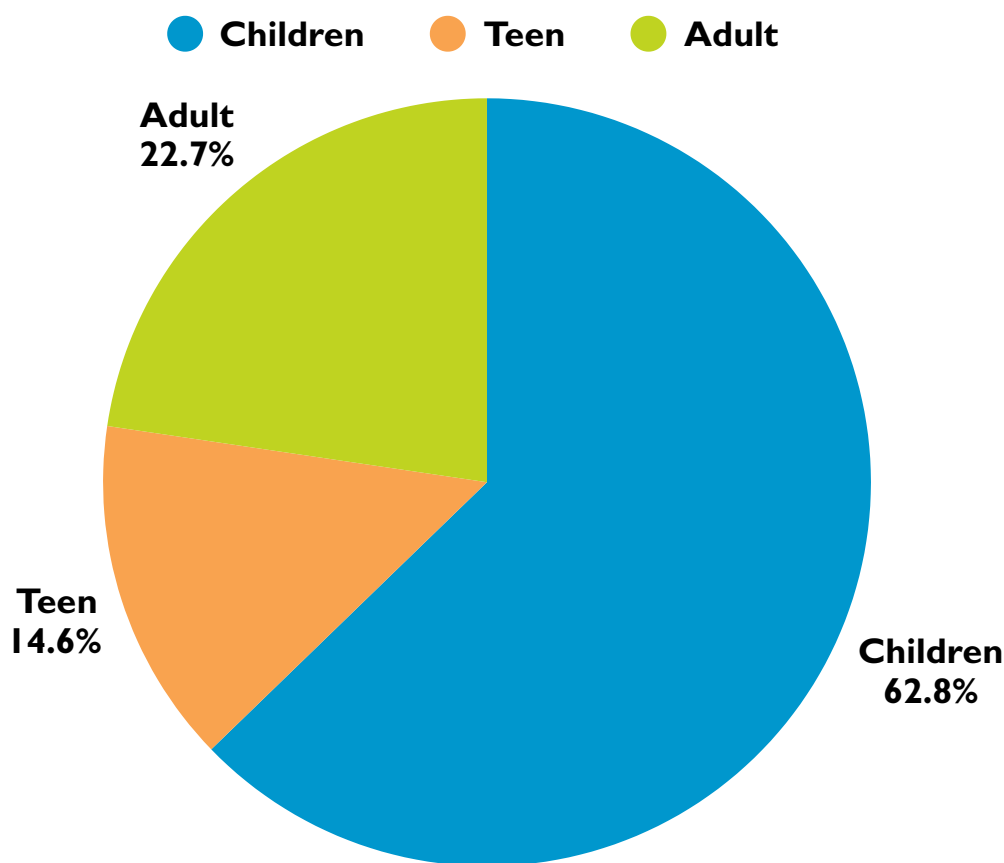
July programming continued to revolve around dinosaur themes as branches prepared for the last few weeks of Summer Reading. Children and teens had a blast participating in all the jurassic style games, crafts, and events--especially Mr. Stinky Feet's Dinosaur Stomp and several of the branches' SLP closing parties. Adults had a relaxing month filled with yoga, painting, puzzles, book clubs, and even mocktails at Pleasant Hill's adults-only Summer Library Fest.

262

Programs

4,113In-Person
Attendees

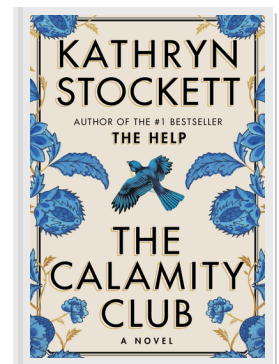
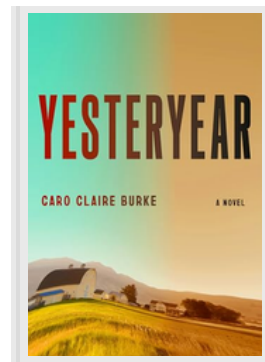
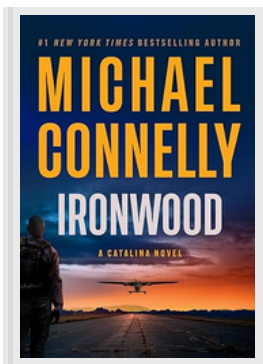
Attendance by Age Group



CUSTOMER FAVORITES

Top Checkouts

	Adult Fiction	Adult Non Fiction	YA Fiction	Juvenile Fiction	eBooks	eAudio Books
1	<i>Ironwood</i>	<i>Birth Vibes</i>	<i>The Faraway Inn</i>	<i>The Night Librarian</i>	<i>Yesteryear</i>	<i>The Calamity Club</i>
2	<i>Yesteryear</i>	<i>Plant Powered Plus</i>	<i>Darkly</i>	<i>Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild</i>	<i>The Calamity Club</i>	<i>Theo of Golden</i>
3	<i>Our Perfect Storm</i>	<i>Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage</i>	<i>Split the Sky</i>	<i>Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas</i>	<i>I See You've Called in Dead</i>	<i>Yesteryear</i>



04 YOUTH SERVICES



49

Storytimes

1,167

Storytime Attendees

Youth Services focused on closing out the Summer Library Program with final guest performances, dinosaur themed storytimes, and season-ending parties. In addition, Youth staff attended the annual American Library Association conference and learned about ideas for future programming. New and replacement materials were also ordered, including new picture books for Pleasant Hill's Storywalk.

05 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

IT completed 40 tickets this month. Key projects included fixing website errors, handling printer issues, updating policies on firewalls, installing a desktop for a facilities team new hire, and resolving an email intrusion incident. In addition, IT's budget request list for 2027 was updated, and possible future holds lockers were looked into.

2,444

WiFi Sessions

1,294

Computer Sessions



This month, several of the branches continued to stop by local preschools and community events to promote the Summer Library Program. The Bookmobile even had their very own dinosaur scavenger hunt, allowing one lucky winner to earn a special prize bag full of goodies. Additionally, staff visited Kiwanis and the Bright Futures Building Partners lunch to meet community partners and learn about how they can benefit the library.



The facilities team completed 27 work orders this month. Key projects included courier van maintenance, shelving repairs at Garden City, plumbing preventative maintenance at each of the branches, and SLP decoration collection. Facilities also welcomed a new member to the team, with the position focusing heavily on exterior aesthetics such as landscape beds, lawns, and more.

29

Community Room
Reservations

325

Study Room
Reservations

09 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CCPL engaged with the community through events such as Drexel's wild turkey program with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Pleasant Hill's Library Festival for Adults featuring local musicians, and Outreach Service's geocaching collaboration with the Cass County Historical Society. The NRC also hosted the Cass County Coalition meeting on the 27th.



3

Marketing Emails
Sent

9,368

Social Media
Reach

7,697

Total Website
Users

14,079

Marketing Emails
Opened

460

Social Media
Engagements

23,572

Total Website
Pageviews

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“

Most friendly and courteous staff to work with.

– **Survey Response**

”



“

Upon entering library is very appealing. Employees are very kind and helpful.

– **Google Review (Karla B.)**

”

“

This library is nice; we love coming here. They have lots of fun events and the staff is so friendly at this branch. There are lots of places to sit and read or work on projects. Cass County is lucky to have it!

– **Google Review (Geeanna T.)**

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“

I am always able to find the titles I am looking for and there is always a quick turn around time when I put the titles on hold and when they are available to pick up.

– **Survey Response**

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What the Hill? – The Library's Best Story Wasn't on the Shelves; Your New Third Place

30 July 2026

By Connie Whitlock
Publishing Editor



If you happened into our local Library Saturday night expecting whispers and shelves of books, you were in for a surprise. There were bartenders with tuxedo shirts and black ties serving mocktails, piano music filling the room, and residents laughing together over Legos, crafts, movies, and conversation. It was almost like it had become a third place.

Have you ever heard of third place? It's the idea that home is the first place, work is the second, and a third place is where people gather to connect—a coffee shop, a pub, or another welcoming space where connection happens naturally, and people become friends. At least that's how I have always imagined it.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tim Long bartender and Laura Long, librarian and bartender

As I sat at the piano, playing cocktail or mocktail music, I found myself looking around the room. People weren't in a hurry, and they lingered as they visited and seemed to have a really good time. Everyone was catching up with friends they hadn't seen in weeks. A few people even stopped to chat with me between songs. I met a gentleman from the VFW, reconnected with a resident I hadn't seen in a while, and even watched a few people bust a move as they passed the piano.



Connie Whitlock keyboards (photo/selfie)

It struck me that no one seemed to be there because they had to be. Don't you hate it when you have to be somewhere? But when you just want to be somewhere, and there is no pressure, you walk casually in knowing you can stay for as long or as short as you want. That's third place. Plus there was no admission ticket, no agenda, and no pressure to buy anything. It was just, hey, let's check out cocktail night at the library.

Admit it, you probably spend most of your days moving from home to work and back home again. We spend our money online, watch movies at home, and text instead of talking. It's easier to stay digitally connected and miss out on opportunities for personal connections. That's why places like the library matter.

The Cass County library invited the public to slow down, browse a bookshelf, watch a classic movie, build something with Legos, sip a mocktail, listen to a little music, and maybe just strike up a conversation with someone you might never have met otherwise.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community doesn't just happen. Someone has to dream up the idea, decorate the room, mix the drinks, arrange the activities, invite the musicians, and open the doors. Events like this are the result of people who believe that bringing neighbors together is worth the effort. I am thankful for the staff at our library for their ideas and hard work.



Librarians Rhonda Kasper, Jeanette Baker, and Lisa Thomas, and Branch Manager, Scott Pagel (photo/Connie Whitlock)

As the event came to a close, I gathered my music and felt the night was extraordinarily impactful. I learned that libraries are about more than just books. They are also about bringing the community together. I encourage you to stop by the Pleasant Hill library, check out a good book, their calendar of events, stay a while, and even have a good conversation. You might discover that our library can become a third place for you, too.

View the full article at phmomag.com!

Archie

Staff helped fill in spots as the Summer Library Program was in full swing without a Youth Specialist.

Drexel

Staff participated in multiple meetings to discuss the development of the new Strategic Plan coming in 2027.

Garden City

GC staff, along with Facilities, restructured the adult shelving so that there was no longer a top layer hindering the view of patrons.

Harrisonville

In the process of clearing out for the move to the new Harrisonville building, staff organized and donated loads of school supplies and decorations to the community to avoid contributing more to the landfill.

Northern Resource Center

Staff completed 252 fingerprinting appointments in July, and the volunteer crew contributed 78 hours of work at the branch.

Outreach Services

Staff visited the Archie branch with the Bookmobile for their Summer Library Program closing party to hand out goodies and CCPL information.

**Pleasant Hill**

Staff had a blast manning the Summer Library Festival for Adults, wearing fun outfits and acting as mocktail bartenders for the night.

Check out the



events page!



LOOKING AHEAD

Archie

Archie is looking forward to gearing up for the fall and all the fun programs they have planned for the season.

Drexel

Drexel is looking forward to hosting "Read to a Community Leader" before the kids return to school.

Garden City

Garden City is looking forward to their new teen centric programs: RG Federal Credit Union's teen financial literacy series and weekly Teen Time Tuesdays.

Harrisonville

Harrisonville is looking forward to hosting the town's police chief for a very special storytime in August.

Northern Resource Center

NRC is looking forward to hosting Jeff Knoblauch and the Kansas City Astronomical Society for their presentation on backyard astronomy.

Outreach Services

Outreach is looking forward to attending the Belton Missouri Historical Railroad and the Log Cabin Festival Parade this fall.



Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill is looking forward to hosting storyteller Larry Brown in the Mary Margaret Ledwidge Community Room for Missouri Tall Tales and other favorite stories.

Check out the



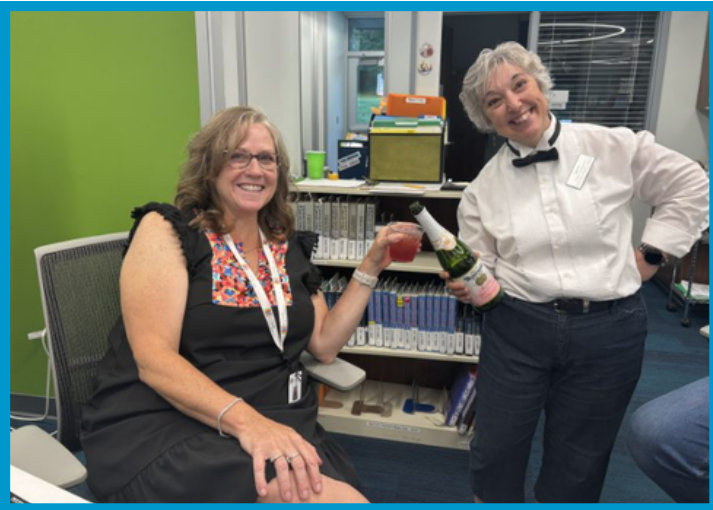
events page!



Archie staff celebrate the end of SLP with snowcones and dino costumes.



Marketing cuddling with Gizmo the Fennec Fox from KC Exotics R Us.



Pleasant Hill staff showing off their bartending skills at the Summer Library Festival for Adults program.



1

New Hires

2

Position Changes