LOCATIONS & HOURS

- Main Library
  107 NE Monroe

- North Branch
  3001 W Grand Parkway

- Lakeview Branch
  1137 W Lake

- Lincoln Branch
  1312 W Lincoln

- McClure Branch
  315 W McClure

Libraries are “every good thing that makes the spirit transform…” - Margaret Cousin, Trustee

This Year in Numbers

- Approved Operating Budget: $7,400,234
- Items Borrowed: 1,022,653
- Visitors: 686,233
- Cardholders: 47,413
- Items in Collection: 546,373
- Computer uses: 79,576
- Questions answered: 51,033
- Volunteer hours: 3,388.75
- Program attendance: 26,989
- Summer Reading Program participants: 3,488

The Friends provide support for programming and other extras not covered by the operating budget. They fund the Summer Reading Party each year, support author visits, provide materials and prizes for children’s programs and more.

In 2017 the Friends of Peoria Public Library granted a total of $33,091 to Peoria Public Library including $8,074 for the Summer Reading Program and $5,000 for Children’s Programs. They sponsored 12 programs as well as the Local Author Fair providing a showcase for local writers. They also sponsored the Reading to the Rhythm Gala at Lincoln Branch featuring best-selling author Kimberla Lawson Roby. At the Main Library they sponsored the 75th Anniversary of Little Golden Books featuring authors Leonard Marcus and Diane Muldrow. They also provided two Little Free Libraries for the community and supply books for the Little Free Libraries.

Friends supported the Peoria Public Library with funds raised by volunteers through the Friendly Finds Bookstore and book sale shelves at branches.

To learn more about the Friends, visit http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org.

LIBRARY HOURS

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**Public Library** is not bound by brick and mortar walls, however. Staff regularly take services out to a wide variety of locations and people, expanding the impact of the library’s leadership. From Sensory Story Times for children with special needs to puppet shows and Memory Care center programs to talks on local history and genealogy, Peoria Public Library staff made 91 youth off-site visits, reaching 5,947 people and 142 adult off-site visits reaching 2,273 people.

- **Peoria Public Library** offered programs ranging from science lectures to historic film showings to community discussions with 10,785 people attending 299 programs. Children also attended over 526 programs and 476 storytimes in 2017. With more than 1,000 total free programs offered, 16,143 children benefitted from educational experiences offered through library programming in 2017.

- Library meeting rooms were used 7,932 times for a variety of activities including community groups, tutors, study groups and trainings for local organizations. A total of 35,280 people came to Peoria Public Library to attend one of these activities held by outside organizations in 2017.

- A total of 9,519 new library cards were issued in 2017.

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- A newly redesigned website that serves as a gateway to all of Peoria Public Library’s online services was launched in September of 2017. From research databases to an online catalog to information about events, original podcasts, historical information and help forms, the website helps patrons use their tax-supported library 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- When the Peoria community faces a problem, Peoria Public Library is ready to provide access to information and provide the spaces that encourage conversation. As a participant in the Mayor’s Community Coalition Against Heroin, Peoria Public Library increased efforts to educate the public, staff and the library community on how to combat the epidemic as overdoses and deaths rose in the community. Staff planned and facilitated a study group for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute as well as creating a website which includes frequently asked questions, sources of assistance and reading lists. Training was provided to 28 staff members to learn the symptoms of overdose and how to administer Narcan. Staff members took their experiences to the wider library community by presenting a session on “Building Community Awareness of the Heroin/Opiates Epidemic” both at the Illinois Library Association Conference and at the Chillicothe Public Library. Peoria Public Library staff also attended and spoke at the Illinois Lieutenant Governor’s Opioid Prevention and Intervention Task Force Listening Tour.

- Thanks to a generous donation by Advanced Medical Transport (AMT), each Peoria Public Library location received a generous and life-saving donation of six Automated External Defibrillator Devices (AED), as well as training for 86 staff members in use of the devices and in Hands-Only CPR. Each branch now has an AED with two located at Main Library.

**Peoria Public Library is a literacy leader.**

- With a constantly updated collection of more than a half million items, Peoria Public Library levels the playing field for our community. Everyone has the opportunity to read the latest or classic fiction, study history, science, art, technology, health topics, foreign languages and much more. Our staff helps find new books for people to read, encourages children to keep reading and challenges adults to read and discuss important books. Taking books and other resources to schools also directly expands the impact of literacy efforts.

- Peoria Public Schools presented Peoria Public Library with a Community Contribution Award in 2017 for their collaboration with the school district. Peoria Public School library managers met with Master Degree Librarians and other staff both at the library and at various school facilities during school improvement days, receiving valuable guidance and information on how to improve their own services while discovering what other services the library could provide. In addition, twenty-four staff members attended school registration hubs, making sure every registering child had the opportunity to obtain a library card, which they could then use to access online services from research to homework help as well as access services available at each library branch. Peoria Public Schools Parent University was held at Main Library on March 16, 2017 and attended by 580 people. The focus of the evening was on the arts with performances by musicians, dancers and theater students. The Blooming Artists exhibit of student artwork was on display in the Gallery all month.

- In addition to work with school children, Peoria Public Library expanded the unique Barbers Love Books program to an additional five barbershops, for placement in 11 locations by
A News Literacy Discussion Series was held in June and July as the topic of “Fake News” exploded. A program of storytimes, movies and educational discussions for families with members who have Autism Spectrum Disorder provided a much needed resource for people who find difficulty seeking books through in person consultation, email requests, phone calls, the library website, and in-house lists and bookmarks that guide readers of all ages to the books they will enjoy or are seeking.

- Summer Reading: Reading By Design, was held in June and July for all ages. The participants agreed to read three hours a week for up to seven weeks. With 3,488 readers signed up, almost 2,000 read for six weeks and earned a pass to the party at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Those participants read for a total of 36,000 hours. While reading over the summer when school is out is essential for students to keep reading levels up, reading to young children encourages many types of learning including school readiness. Older adults stay mentally sharp and stay in touch with the world around them during Summer Reading. All readers earned small weekly prizes and those who read for six of seven weeks were invited to experience an exciting evening at Peoria Riverfront Museum, complete with entertainment and grand prizes.

- In 2017, Peoria Public Library added a collection of Sign Language Storytelling DVDs. Each DVD includes original music, voice and sign language and includes read-along text, ASL vocabulary and guides. They can be enjoyed by both deaf and hearing children.

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- In conjunction with the Association of Illinois Senior Centers, the Illinois Department on Aging and local senior organizations, a Peoria Senior Spelling Bee was held at Lakeview Branch in May. The winner advanced to the regional semi-finals and a State Final was held at the Illinois State Fair. Activities such as this, and the outreach to memory care centers, keep Seniors alert and active.

- A News Literacy Discussion Series was held in June and July as the topic of “Fake News” exploded across the country. In addition to learning how to discern whether a news item is legitimate, participants discussed how fake news influences civility and democracy in society. A grant from Illinois Humanities supported the discussions led by Dennis Anderson, Executive Editor of the Peoria Journal Star.

Author visits bring new insights
- Peoria Reads! comprised of Peoria Public Library and Common Place, along with other partners, received a Big Read grant from The National Endowment for the Arts and brought the New York Times bestselling author Tayari Jones to Peoria. Her book, Silver Sparrow, was the one-city one-book choice that had people talking about what happens when a man has two families.
- Other nationally-known authors also visited Peoria Public Library, enriching the experience of reading and creating discussions. Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña met with families and talked about his award-winning book, Last Stop on Market Street. Lisa Napoli, author of Ray & Joan, which chronicles the lives of the founders of McDonald’s, came to Peoria in partnership with Chillicothe and Dunlap Public Libraries. Author Reyna Grande used her book The Distance Between Us to discuss the important topic of immigration. New York Times best-selling urban fiction author Kimberra Lawton Reddy was the featured speaker at a Gala held in June which raised funds for Friends of Peoria Public Library. In September, Peoria Public Library joined the national celebration of 75 years of Little Golden Books with Leonard S. Marcus, author of Golden Legacy: The Story of Golden Books and Diane Muldrow, Golden Books editorial director and author of Everything I Need to Know I Learned from A Little Golden Book.

Leading the way exploring our history
- In 2017, Peoria Public Library helped people understand our world by looking back. After receiving a grant from the American Library Association and WETA, Washington, DC, the library was able to offer programs to accompany the PBS documentary “The Vietnam War” that aired in the fall of 2017. Speakers offered additional insight, while a musical program, discussion and display of Veteran Art Work all helped participants understand this complicated period of our history and the lasting impact it has had on us as Americans. The programs led to an increased reading of non-fiction books on the Vietnam War.

- Genealogy Day was offered in April by library staff and members of the Peoria Genealogical Society. Attendees had the opportunity to explore library resources and receive individual help to work on their family history as well as make decisions about DNA testing and learn to use their results.

- The library also began preparing to digitize rare materials pertinent to Peoria History with the acquisition of equipment and training for staff. In the future, these materials will be cataloged and easily accessible to the public through an online site.

Leading the way in accessible art and music
- Peoria has a vibrant community of artists and musicians, but too often their work is not accessible to many. With a large Gallery at Main Library and auditoriums at both Main Library and North Branch, people can see displays of art and attend music programs in accessible facilities at no cost, opening the door to experiences they might otherwise not have. The Gallery also provides a space where new artists and amateur artists can participate in showing their work. The Congressional Art Show and Blooming Artist shows encouraged student artists by allowing them a professional experience. The Peoria Historical Society, Rennick Juried Art Show, The Illinois Art League, 22 VA and The Peoria Camera Club all offered opportunities for participation and learning to thousands.

- The monthly Music in the McKenzie program at North Branch offered a variety of free acoustical concerts featuring artists from around the country as well as talented local musicians.
PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, Peoria Public Library had ongoing, collaborative partnerships with many other organizations in the community. These partnerships provided opportunities to bring new experiences and learning opportunities to Peorians in and outside of the library.

While Peoria Public Library partnered in many activities with educational institutions, the Peoria Public Library Bookmobile made regular stops at 15 schools. The Bookmobile, a traveling library, provides easy library access to students who may not be able to visit a public library and supplements the collections of school libraries.

WTVP and Peoria Public Library collaborated to bring not only “The Vietnam War” program to the public, but also a Daniel Tiger Party for children.

Continuing work with The Mayor’s Community Coalition Against Heroin offered more sharing of information and opportunities for discussion as well training in recognizing and responding to overdoses.

Illinois Humanities and the Peoria Journal Star partnered with Peoria Public Library to hold discussions on identifying “fake news” and a return to civility in discussions.

Peoria Public Library again worked with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to provide information and speakers on a variety of topics during study groups, learning sessions and tours, enriching learning opportunities for seniors.

Collaboration with the City of Peoria Police continued with the “Don’t Shoot” program.

Peoria Public Library hosted Naturalization Ceremonies as well as the Peoria Public School Parent University, providing gathering spaces for these important activities.

Both the Peoria Genealogical Society and the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation have repositories at Peoria Public Library and work with library staff and the public to make use of the materials.

The Peoria Humane Society, Peoria Garden Club and Peoria Players all help Peoria Public Library enhance the buildings and programming.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income

Local Government, City of Peoria property taxes: $6,676,459
State Government: $482,884
Federal Government: $4,300
Other: Endowment, interest income, gifts, fees, etc.: $220,863
Total: $7,384,506

Expenses

Salaries, Wages, Benefits: $5,067,716
Operating Expenses: $1,167,267
Materials: Books, etc.: $730,190
Capital Outlay: $129,424
Total: $7,094,597

Grants Awarded

Reaching Across Illinois Library System: Barbers Love Books: $2,070
E-Rate Grant: $29,838.12
National Endowment for the Arts: The Big Read: $4,300
Illinois Humanities Council: Illinois Speaks: $1,000
Illinois Secretary of State: Project Next Generation: $12,500
Total: $49,708.12
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Margaret E. Cousin, Vice President
Lucy D. Gulley, Secretary
Patricia A. Barton
Stephen M. Buck
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Barbara Van Auken

Library Administration
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