LOCATIONS & HOURS

MAIN LIBRARY
107 NE Monroe
Monday-Saturday 9AM - 6PM
CLOSED SUNDAY

MCCLURE BRANCH
315 W. McClure
Monday-Saturday 9AM - 6PM
CLOSED SUNDAY

LAKEVIEW BRANCH
1137 W. Lake
Monday-Wednesday 10AM - 8PM
Closed Thursday
Friday & Saturday 10AM - 6PM
Sunday Noon - 5PM

LINCOLN BRANCH
1312 W. Lincoln
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10AM - 8PM
Closed Wednesday
Friday & Saturday 10AM - 6PM
Sunday Noon - 5PM

NORTH BRANCH
3001 W. Grand Parkway
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10AM - 8PM
Closed Tuesday
Friday & Saturday 10AM - 6PM
Sunday Noon - 5PM

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Libraries are a tremendous community resource offering information, enrichment, access to technology, entertainment, and free public gathering space where people can learn and work together. We are proud at Peoria Public Library of the invaluable resources we offer and the sterling service of our staff at our five locations (and bookmobile). In my first year at the helm of Peoria Public Library, I have been impressed with the commitment of our staff to provide excellent service and of our institution’s continued good stewardship of public funding.

It has been another very busy year at our bustling institution. We averaged 1,800 visitors a day at our multiple locations, issued over 8,000 new library cards and had over 1,300 programs for people of all ages. We also hosted over 30,000 in our free public meeting spaces. We received grants from multiple sources that allowed us to host STEAM programming for kids at our Lincoln Branch and library-wide programming in collaboration with PBS for their Great American Read series. We also were able to offer greater comfort to our Main Library visitors when we undertook a large scale updating of that building’s HVAC system. We pledge to continue to be a premier central Illinois institution offering you the best information and resources. I am proud to serve as the library’s Executive Director and excited for our bright future.

Randall Yelverton
Executive Director
Peoria Public Library
Libraries Lead! Peoria Public Library is leading the way in the community and the library community with information, community conversations, problem-solving and the arts.

Each day during 2018, an average of 1,800 people visited a Peoria Public Library location to find answers, make discoveries, explore the fine arts and reach out to the wider world. Businesses found the information they needed to make informed decisions, as well as help finding it, from information professionals. All benefited from free wifi, public-use computers, meeting spaces and experiences that make learning fun for children.

Peoria Public Library offered adult programs ranging from community conversations to science programs to genealogy lectures with 15,812 people attending 537 programs. Children also attended 621 programs and 462 storytimes in 2018. With 1,083 total free programs offered, 28,922 children benefitted from educational experiences offered through library programming in 2018.

Library meeting rooms were used 7,138 times for a variety of activities including community groups, tutors, study groups and trainings for local organizations. A total of 30,235 people came to Peoria Public Library to attend one of these activities held by outside organizations in 2018.

A total of 8,237 new library cards were issued in 2018.

Peoria Public Library is not bound by brick and mortar walls, however. Staff regularly takes services out to a wide variety of locations and people, expanding the impact of the library’s leadership. From Sensory Storytimes for children with special needs to puppet shows and Memory Care center programs, talks on local history and genealogy, Peoria Public Staff made 67 youth off-site visits, reaching 3,473 children and 161 adult off-site visits reaching 2,665 people. Part of those programs were monthly staff visits to 9 nursing homes and senior living centers with special programs for senior citizens.

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 an original member of the Mayor’s Community Coalition Against Heroin, Peoria Public Library continued efforts to provide information and be prepared inside the library, should the need arise. Other areas of concern to the community were discussed in eight Peoria Speaks community discussions held during 2018. Funding for Peoria Speaks is being provided by Illinois Humanities through their Illinois Speaks program.
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 titles 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.

Reading Takes You Everywhere Summer Reading was held in June and July for all ages. The participants agreed to read three hours a week for up to seven weeks. With 3,235 signed up, party passes for the party at the Riverfront Museum were offered to the 1,439 who read for at least six weeks. Almost 900 attended the party, enjoying all the museum has to offer plus special entertainment and prize drawings. The Lincoln Branch Summer Reading bike drawing, through donations from Bike Peoria, Afro-American Fire Fighters, Archer Daniels Midland, and Illinois Valley Wheelm’n Bicycle Club gave away bikes to 77 lucky summer readers.

Providing an opportunity to hear authors talk about their work is another exciting component of Peoria Public Library’s literacy efforts. Authors who presented programs in 2018 included David Billings, Caroline Fraser, Tim Pletkovich, Thor Hanson, Donna Roberts and Barbara Keaton Stubblefield. The library also hosted a Local Authors’ Fair, providing an opportunity for new authors to speak with the public about their books and offer them for sale.

In June, Lincoln Branch held the fourth annual Read to the Rhythm Gala, attended by 139 with music by Three and 1/2 Men and author Barbara Keaton Stubblefield.

The Great American Read, presented by PBS, offered a list of America’s Top 100 books and Peoria Public Library was one of 50 libraries nationwide to receive a grant from the American Library Association and PBS. There were opportunities for reading and discussion, as well as voting for favorite books. A series of discussions, contests and displays as well as web links, encouraged Peorians to participate in discovering America’s favorite book.

Peoria Reads! chose the book Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel for the one-city one-book program in 2018. There were 12 events and book discussions held where Peorians could discuss and learn about the themes in the book.

The library promoted early literacy through special programming. Over 100 children signed up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and a graduation ceremony was held in August for the first four kids to reach the 1,000 book milestone.
Leading the way in the national library community

Peoria Public Library received national attention by receiving two major awards and national as well as state-wide media attention.

Deputy Director Roberta Koscielski was named a 2018 Mover and Shaker by Library Journal in March for her leadership in finding ways for libraries to cope with the opiate epidemic. She was also profiled by U.S. News and World Report for the same work.

The entire Board, Administration and Staff was recognized for work in dealing with the opiate crisis when Peoria Public Library was presented with the inaugural “Helping Communities Come Together Award” from the Public Library Association at the American Library Association conference in New Orleans.

Peoria Public Library was profiled as leader in library service in Illinois as well. The August issue of ILA (Illinois Library Association) Reporter featured the following two articles by Trisha Noack and Roberta Koscielski: “How the Opiate Epidemic Came to the Library” and “Fight the Epidemic with Partners and Programs.” Another article, in the October issue of ILA Reporter featured the following article highlighting PPL’s The Great American Read programming this year: “The Great American Read: Broadcasters and Libraries Generate a Public Celebration of Books.”

North Branch Reference Assistant Barb Brown and Outreach Assistant Cari Pierce created the “Chit Chat” program for nursing home residents. They began presenting them this year and a description of these programs is scheduled to appear in an upcoming book titled On the Go with Senior Services: Library Programs for Any Time and Any Place by Phyllis Goodman.

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 hosted by Representative Darin LaHood encouraged student artists by allowing them a professional experience. The Peoria Historical Society Rennick Juried Art Show, 22VA, and other shows 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.

Peoria Public Library, through the generosity of Peoria Riverfront Museum, offered passes that could be checked out with a library card for visits to the museum, allowing many to visit free of charge.
In 2018, 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 17 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 expanded programming for The Great American Read to the community.

Peoria Riverfront Museum and Peoria Public Library collaborated on a variety of programming and the opportunity for library card holders to obtain museum passes with their library cards.

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

Peoria Public Library again worked with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to provide information and speakers on a variety of topics during study groups, classes 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 providing gathering space for this important activity.

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

**Meeting organizational challenges**

Peoria Public Library is a network of buildings and people that together provide the services are the heartbeat of the community. As Executive Director Leann Johnson retired, the leadership of the library was assumed by Randall Yelverton as Executive Director after a nationwide search by the Board of Trustees.

The Main Library HVAC system received a complete renovation and the original 1960s boilers were replaced with new high efficiency systems that will provide more comfortable conditions for patrons as well as greatly increased savings in energy costs. Although the three month project required most of Main Library to be closed to the public, staff continued to provide research assistance in Local History and Genealogy, allowing this building to remain open and serve patrons in that unique area.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

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INCOME

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<tr>
<td>6,675,360</td>
<td>Local Government, City of Peoria property taxes</td>
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<td>721,081</td>
<td>State Government</td>
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<td>56,329</td>
<td>Federal Government</td>
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<td>Other Endowment, interest income, gifts, fees, etc.</td>
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EXPENSES

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<td>Materials, Books, etc.</td>
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GRANTS AWARDED

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<tr>
<td>233,055</td>
<td>Illinois State Library Per Capita Grant program, for books and other library materials</td>
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<td>4,275</td>
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<td>25,000</td>
<td>Illinois Secretary of State: Project Next Generation</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
<td>American Library Association: The Great American Read</td>
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<td>291,384</td>
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Approved operating budget: 7,215,228

Items borrowed: 940,997

Visitors: 629,875

Cardholders: 45,799

Items in collection: 540,232

Computer uses: 62,849

Questions answered: 46,971

Volunteer hours: 3,257

Program attendance: 28,946

Summer Reading Program participants: 3,235
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 2018 the Friends of Peoria Public Library granted a total of $27,094 to Peoria Public Library including $9,022 for the Summer Reading Program and over $5,000 for Children’s Programs and $1,325 for honoraria for authors including Thor Hanson and Caroline Fraser. They sponsored multiple 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 author Barbara Keaton Stubblefield. The Friends brought Ken Zurski’s stage play Broken Beauty: The Wreck of the Steamer Columbia, and provided books for the Little Free Libraries located at the CityLink Transit Station, Civic Center, Peoria Riverfront Museum, and Sweet CeCe’s. Friends supported Peoria Public Library with funds raised by volunteers through the Friendly Finds Bookstore and book sale shelves at branches. On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, from 4 to 8 p.m., Portillo’s donated 20% of its carry-out and dine-in revenue to Friends of Peoria Public Library. The Friends and PPL worked together to promote and support this event. To learn more about the Friends, visit http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org.