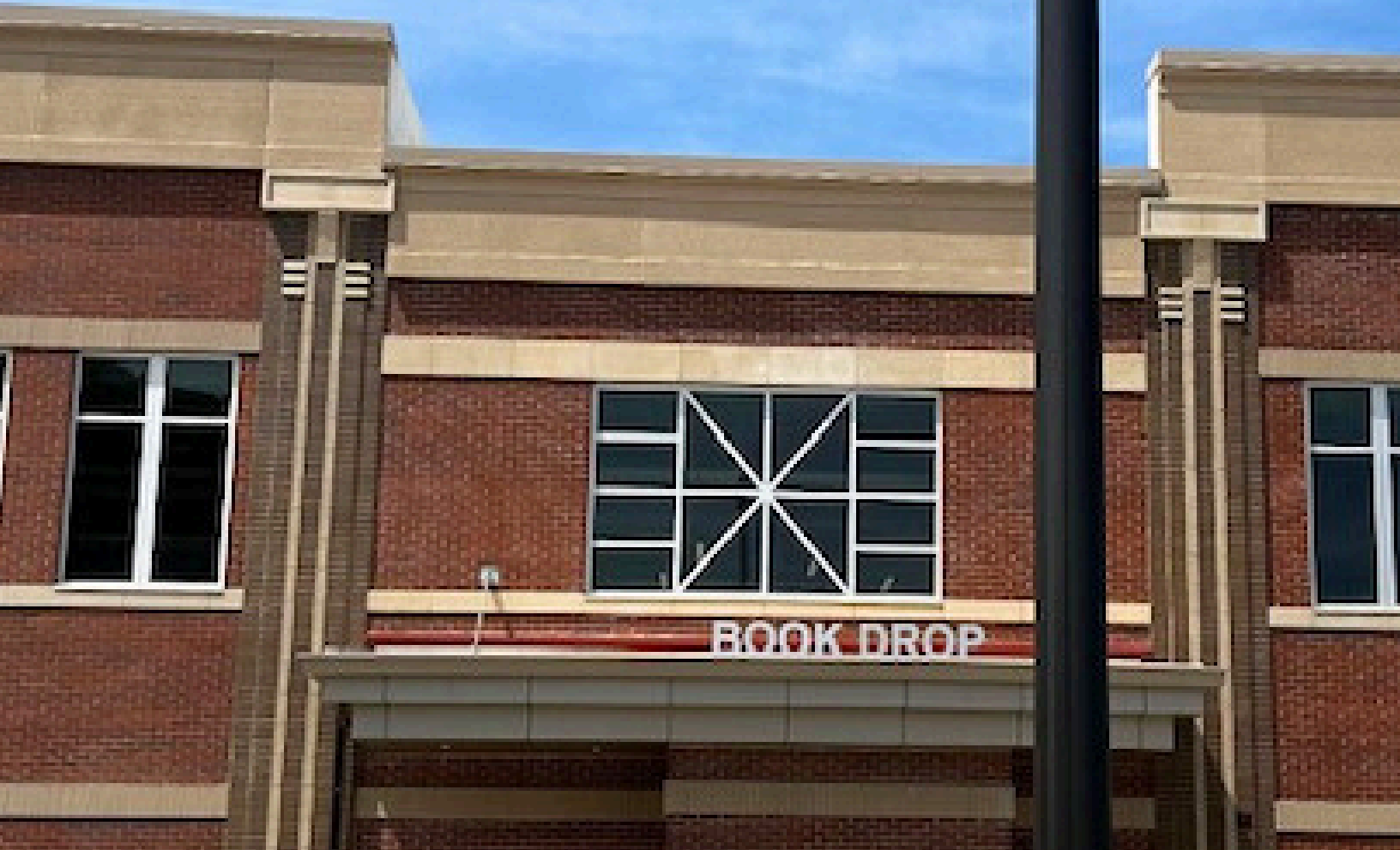
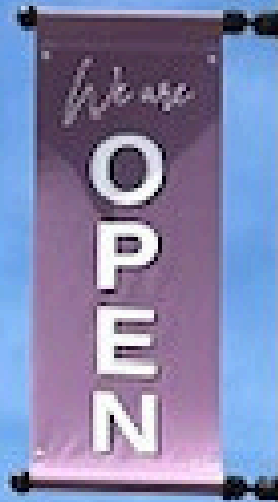


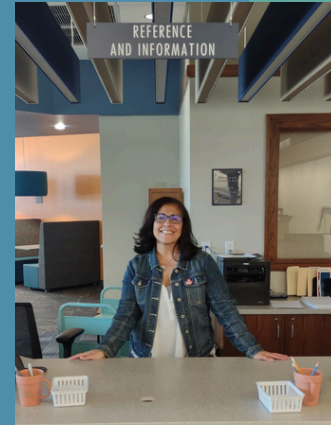
Galesburg Public Library

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024



Our mission

The mission of the Galesburg Public Library is to serve the community as a general center of information, and to provide opportunity and encouragement for people to use its services and materials to meet their educational, personal, professional, recreational, and cultural needs.



From the Director



In 1874 the City of Galesburg passed an ordinance establishing a Free Public Library and Reading Room, signed by then-mayor O.T. Johnson. Since then, library staff and trustees have been committed to providing books and informational resources to all Galesburg residents, and to creating a space that welcomes, nurtures, and inspires library visitors. Opening a brand new 68,000 square foot facility, complete with a tech lab, meeting rooms, children's and teen spaces, archives and special collections, and accessible spaces for both learning and respite, was the most befitting way to celebrate one hundred and fifty years of the Galesburg Public Library.



Saying goodbye

On February 29, 2024, we said goodbye to 40 East Simmons Street. The building served the community for over 62 years.

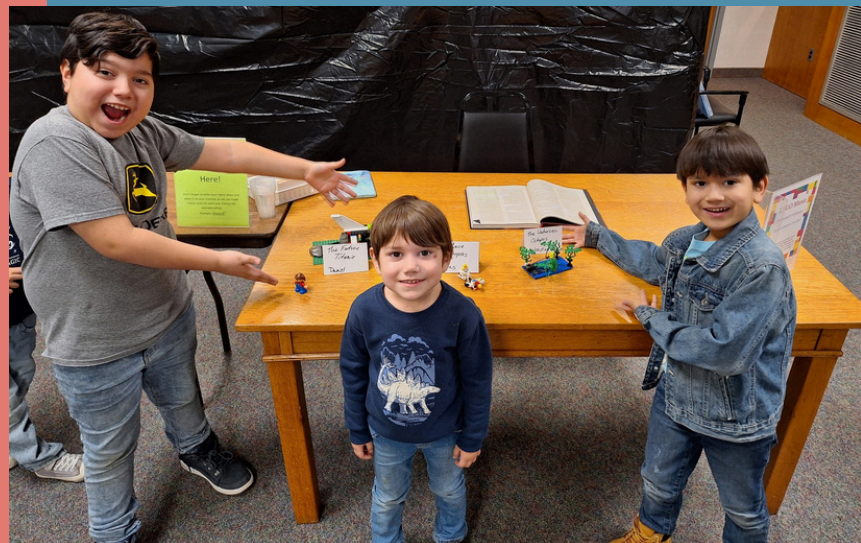


From our patrons:

“So grateful for memories in this building.”

“My whole life was this library and I’m going to miss the places I would go with my mom and dad.”

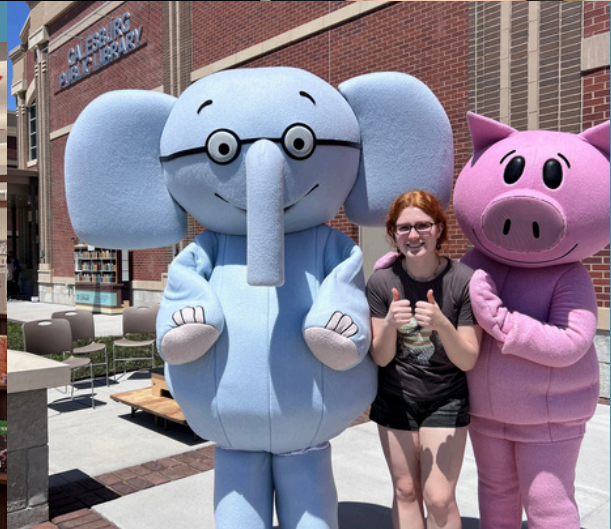
“This has been mine AND my children’s beloved library!”



Planning, packing, moving..



...opening!



"To this building we invite you all, without distinction of any kind. It is yours and all the books that it contains, and we trust and believe that it contains something beneficial to every citizen of this city."
-Albert Perry, library board president, at the 1902 dedication of the Carnegie Library.

By the Numbers



The statistics from 2024 cannot be compared to other years. The library closed for **54** days to move **135,000** books, thanks in part to over **500** Lombard Middle School students, before opening our doors to over **1,300** visitors on our first day at the new building. Our staff grew from **29** employees at the start of the year to **35** employees by the end. We held the ribbon cutting for our new building after **3** years of fundraising, **18** years of dreaming, and **150** years of serving our community.

LIBRARY USERS

Total Visitors
118,645

Children's Library Visitors
36,863

ITEMS BORROWED

All materials
171,434

Physical items
144,580

Digital Items
26,854

SERVICES

Questions Answered
33,953

Program Attendance
15,794

INTERNET USE

Public Computer Sessions
13,173

WiFi Sessions
32,549

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Meeting Rooms Reservations
278

Study Room Reservations
904

By the Numbers

2,296

new library card holders

69

students under 18 living outside of Galesburg received a GPL card for FREE in 2024 thanks to the Cards for Kids Act.

40

adults experiencing homelessness in Galesburg registered for a library card in 2024.

144

Knox and Sandburg students received GPL cards in 2024.

11,945

total card holders by the end of the year.



Most Checked Out



Adult Fiction

Crosshairs by James Patterson

Adult Nonfiction

I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy



Young Adult Book

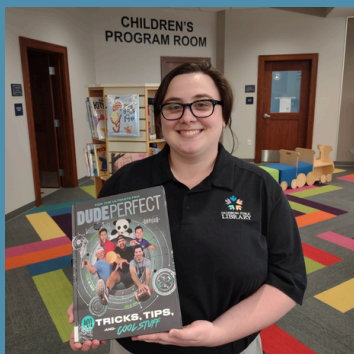
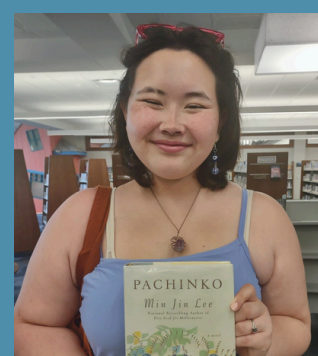
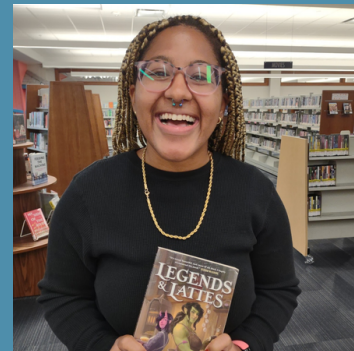
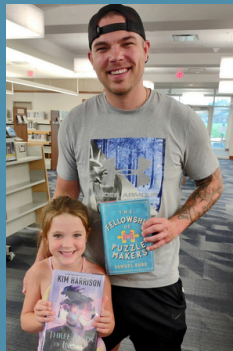
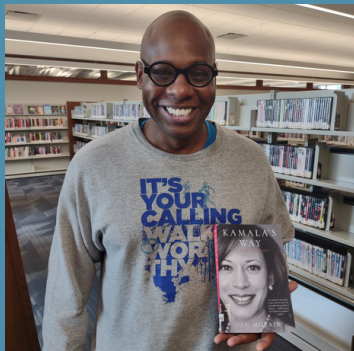
One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus

Children's Book

Guts by Raina Telgemeier



What we're reading



What our patrons are saying

“Everything is AWESOME! So much thought went into planning this awesome library. Thank you for all you did.”



“I love the library so much!”

“This new library is AMAZING! Thank you for your hard work setting this up for all of us!”



“I am a former resident of the ‘BURG - This new library is fantastic. I will visit every time I come to visit my boyhood home.”



“Everything looks great! So happy we have this big nice library for our community. Thank you!”



“I’m happy that we have a bigger location for our books. It only goes stronger and better with love.”

What was new in 2024?



CRAFT AND CHAT

Adults of all skill levels bring their craft project to work on while making new friends.



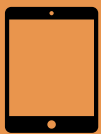
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

Electric vehicles can now charge in the parking lot while their drivers browse for a new book! The charging station is available 24/7 to all library visitors.



SMART LOCKERS

Reserve an item from GPL or another area library and we will place it in the 24/7 outdoor smart holds lockers, making it easier for our community to pick up the books and resources they've been waiting for.



TABLET AND LAPTOP KIOSKS

Borrow a laptop to use while at the library or check one out to take home for one week. Tablets are also available for both kids and adults to use while at the library.



TECH LAB

Try out new technologies by dropping by the Tech Lab. Equipment includes a 3D printer, virtual reality headsets, memory lab for digitization, and more!



TWEEN TIME

Tweens in grades 4-6 meet monthly for an activity and delicious snacks.



VIDEO GAMES

Two hundred Nintendo Switch and Playstation 5 games are now available to be checked out. Switch controllers may also be borrowed for in-house use.

Highlights



Galesburg Reads:
The Bear



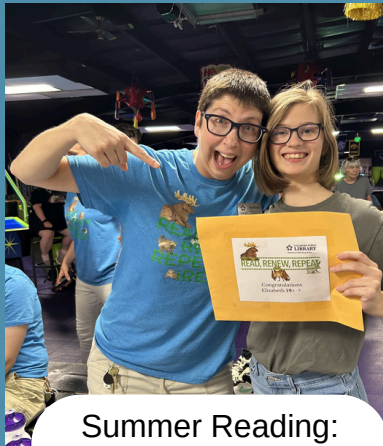
Recording in the
sound booth



Viewing the
eclipse in style



Tech Lab
now open



Summer Reading:
Read, Renew, Repeat



150th anniversary
proclamation



Halloween Party



Blessing box built and installed by
Girl Scout Troops 2755 and 4441

New in 2025



Meet Safety Coordinator, Aaron Duke.



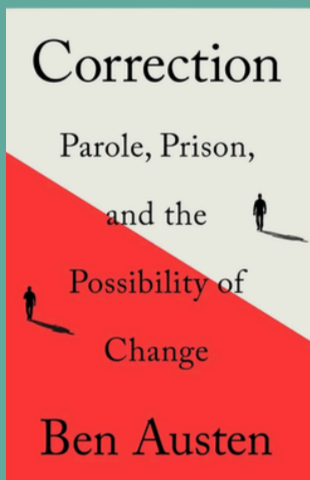
Check out a textured puzzle for those with low vision or a memory kit for adults living with dementia.



Celebrate local talent by selecting a book from our new Local Indie collection.



Enhance your sewing, repair, or first aid skills by exploring the Skills Lab.



Galesburg Reads: Pick up a copy of *Correction* by Ben Austen.



Level Up at Your Library by signing up for summer reading!

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

