

ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2017



Top (l to r): Author Sherri Duskey Rinker, Whiskey and Words with Author Fred Minnick | Bottom (l to r): High School Late Night Study, Eclipse Exhibition, Close Encounters of the Chemical Kind!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“So much more than books” is more than just a catchy tag line—it’s a statement about our library and the value we provide to our community.

Our value cannot be calculated by the number of books checked out each month. Instead, our value is in the impact we have on residents. How many residents use the library to learn something new? To find a job? To study for finals? To socialize with peers? To play? How many residents see the library as a community pillar? A safe space? An inclusive space? It’s the intangible aspects that truly show the value of our library in our community.

It should be no surprise that in a recent survey conducted by the Village of Glen Ellyn, the library was one of the top-rated government entities, with 95 percent of residents rating the library and its services positively. Seventy-eight percent of residents reported using the library within the past 12 months. The Glen Ellyn Public Library’s ratings are higher than the national benchmark. You can access the full survey from the village website.

So, what does this all mean? It means libraries adapt to the needs of the community and are far from being extinct. Libraries today do more than provide access to typical library services and resources such as a wide-ranging collection of books, music, and movies. The Glen Ellyn Public Library acts as a community center: a place to stay up-to-date on the latest trends in business and technology, learn a new hobby, and interact socially with others who share similar interests.

We listen to the community and strive to incorporate the community’s needs into future programs and services (and

occasionally a remodel). It’s about providing that extra bit of service and doing our best to provide you with the answers and resources you seek.

So, what’s in store for 2018?

- The Phase III Renovation will create a new entrance and welcoming lobby area, consolidate Circulation’s workspace, reconfigure the large public meeting rooms, update the public restrooms, and add two new features: a drive-up window and a café.
- In May, the library makes the transition to the SWAN consortium. What does that mean for members? It means the library will grow from being part of a group of just 8 libraries to a member of 97 libraries in the Chicagoland area. The library’s catalog will grow 7x larger with the transition. And that means access to more books, audiobooks, movies, TV shows, and music.
- The community is invited to the library’s Volunteer Fair on April 14, where they can talk with representatives from a variety of nonprofit organizations to learn about volunteering opportunities.
- The library’s summer reading program begins May 29 and continues through September 2. This year we partner with SCARCE, a local organization that is an award-winning environmental education nonprofit dedicated to creating sustainable communities.

All these reasons and more are why the Glen Ellyn Public Library is “so much more than books.”

- Dawn Bussey, Library Director

A COMMUNITY PILLAR

For over 100 years, the Glen Ellyn Public Library has strived to offer the highest level of programming, services, and materials to the Glen Ellyn community. With a knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and friendly staff, the library continually works to build relationships within the community.

SERVICE FOR ALL

Youth

It was a busy and successful 2017 for the Youth Department. A new type of item was introduced for checkout: Starlings by VersaMe, a wearable device that, without recording conversation, counts the number of words babies hear in any language and sends the data to your smartphone via a free app. Science indicates the more parents talk to their child before age 3, the better prepared that child will be when entering school.

Beginning in May, the Youth Department started offering passport services to families, providing a comfortable and welcoming environment on the first floor while offering support to the Adult Department as passport applications increase in popularity.

Outreach efforts were also expanded. In January, two staff members began serving on the Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative. This new collaborative aims to bring representatives from the early childhood system together to serve the needs of families living in Glenbard School District 87 communities. In addition to this new venture, Youth staff increased their footprint at local schools, visiting more than double the number of students this year than in years' past.

The Youth Department is proud to continue providing enriching, educational, and entertaining programming for children of all ages.

Middle School

2017 was quite a year for middle schoolers, starting with the introduction of video games to The Middle. What began as scheduled afternoons transformed into an on-demand service.

GEPL middle schoolers gave back to the community at the Happiness is a Warm Blanket program by making and donating blankets to Project Linus, a nonprofit organization that collects blankets to distribute to children in hospitals and shelters. The library collected over twenty blanket donations for the charity.

Middle schoolers also celebrated the first total solar eclipse to travel across the U.S. in 100 years at the library's Eclipse Exhibition. They experimented with the Microsoft Surface Table, floated in virtual space with the Oculus Rift, and learned about the sun and moon from a NASA ambassador.

Summer brought more changes as guided activities were introduced to GEPL's summer reading program as a way to gain reading credit. And middle schoolers embraced the transition. One of the activities was to sign up for *The Middle Files*, a new e-newsletter featuring student spotlights, new book recommendations, and reviews written by middle school students. Currently, over 130 middle schoolers have subscribed.

Overall, it was a great year for middle schoolers to make a difference and experience once-in-a-lifetime opportunities at GEPL.

High School

Fostering current relationships and building new ones with local students and teachers continued to be a focus of teen services in 2017.

In partnership with the Glenbard South Life Skills class, a new Hi-Lo book collection was added to the library's catalog. Hi-Lo books are high interest, low reading level books for high schoolers with non-neurotypical abilities.

GEPL's Young Adult and Early Literacy librarians worked together to design an Independent Summer Reading Program (ISRP) and applied for the Autism Welcome Here Grant. ISRP invites readers of all abilities to choose summer reading goals that best suit their individual learning styles, combining traditional reading goals with life skills objectives.

Volunteering was also popular among GEPL's teens. Last summer, six volunteers helped two days a week with tasks and projects; three joined the ranks of the library's Teen Leadership Council to continue working during the school year. A teen volunteer, Justin A., committed an incredible amount of time and effort to creating a testimonial video for the Glen Ellyn Library Foundation's Jungle Book Ball.

The library continued to offer diverse programming to teens. A record number of students participated in last winter's Late Night Study, which averaged 80 teens each night. And The Gender Revolution program saw over 60 people attend, some from as far away as Carthage College in Wisconsin.

Adult

The Adult Department enjoyed a great 2017. In February, they hosted Whiskey and Words, an after-hours program drawing whiskey and book lovers from around the area. Shortly after, they began to educate our community on fake news with a series of programs designed to help members understand news sources and how to evaluate them. The programs have been so popular that they have been repeated throughout the Glen Ellyn and greater metro area almost two dozen times! The Adult Department has also started hosting Small Business Seminars each quarter, bringing in speakers who talk to local business owners about timely topics.

The Passport Acceptance Agency operations are going strong and offer a more comfortable setting than the post office. Together with trained Youth Department agents, Adult staff assisted over 900 individuals in the application process last year. Families with small children are welcomed in our Youth Department, and adults and older minors are served on the second floor. As always, the Adult staff love answering questions and helping members find the next great book, movie, ebook, or audiobook. Whether it is a tax form, train schedule, or passport you need, ask at the 2nd Floor Information Desk!

Circulation

The Circulation Department continues to be a busy place. In 2017, members checked out 627,115 items, including over 50,000 books, movies, and music downloaded through our website. Circulation staff registered 1,462 residents for library cards and prepared 65,124 hold requests. More than half of those hold requests were filled with copies the library owned, 24,526 came from libraries in our consortium, and over 5,000 came from other libraries in Illinois and across the country. In addition, almost 30,000 items were sent to other libraries to fill requests for their members.

Members continue to generously donate their small change to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. In 2017, \$1,800 was collected from the jars at the Circulation Desk. Over the past five years, contributions have totaled over \$8,000. The library appreciates your generosity and is grateful for this community partnership.

Materials Processing

The Materials Processing Department processed and added 17,168 new items to the Glen Ellyn Public Library's collection. The department also removed 28,532 damaged, outdated, and non-circulating items. Overall, the collection includes:

- Books = 123,394 items
- Magazines = 6,396 volumes
- E-Books = 231,246 titles
- E-Magazines = 111 titles

- Audio Recordings = 13,708 items
- E-Audiobooks = 53,771 titles
- DVDs = 10,100 volumes
- E-Videos = 27,981 titles
- E-Music = 280,153 titles

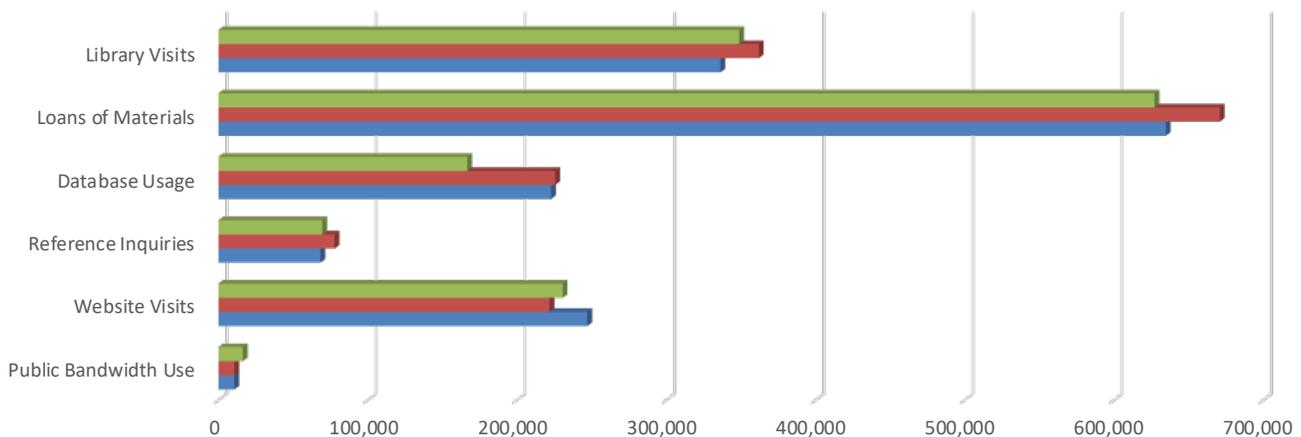
Information Technology

IT staff worked diligently to resolve problems and issues, while also performing necessary upgrades and keeping the library free of ransomware. In 2017, IT resolved over 1,000 issues relating to member and staff use of technology throughout the library. In addition to handling user issues, here are a few of the top projects the IT Department worked on this past year:

- Deployed a new Wowway fiber connection for increased upstream bandwidth and upgraded the wireless network.
- Started the SWAN consortium network transition and provided database testing support.
- Began preparing for the first-floor remodeling project, specifying the new network configuration and deploying new Circulation computers.
- Completed the staff Windows 10 computer upgrade and held security awareness Lunch n' Learns for staff.
- Installed new flat screens in all the study rooms.
- Deployed innovative assistive technology iPods with text-to-speech capability for vision-impaired members.

GLEN ELLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY USAGE NUMBERS FOR FY 2017

Usage Statistic Comparison



| | Public Bandwidth Use | Website Visits | Reference Inquiries | Database Usage | Loans of Materials | Library Visits |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| ■ 2017 | 16,308 | 230,642 | 69,579 | 166,669 | 627,115 | 348,872 |
| ■ 2016 | 10,679 | 221,893 | 77,852 | 225,663 | 670,879 | 362,040 |
| ■ 2015 | 10,627 | 247,168 | 68,371 | 222,866 | 634,672 | 336,325 |

■ 2017 ■ 2016 ■ 2015

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Glen Ellyn Public Library received \$.00 in grant funding and \$37,370.38 in monetary gifts for the fiscal year 2017.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

As always, the library will strive to continue its track record of providing exceptional service and materials, as well as exciting programs, to all members of the Glen Ellyn community.

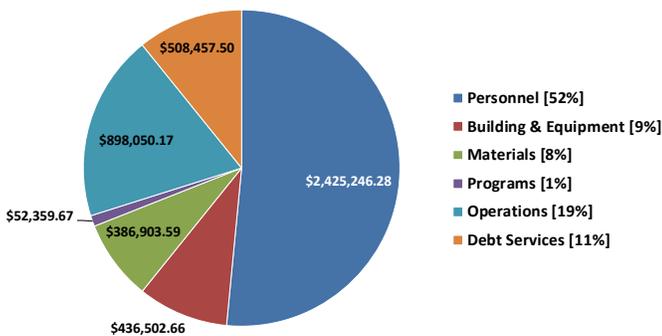
We kick off 2018 with Hygge Cocktails at Maize + Mash in downtown Glen Ellyn. In February, the library offers a culture-based program about the Korean peninsula in honor of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. We celebrate the 200th anniversary of the creation of Dr. Victor Frankenstein's monster in March. In April, Kelly Richmond Pope, associate professor at DePaul University and director and producer of the documentary *All the Queen's Horses*, discusses the riveting story of how Rita Crundwell fleeced the Dixon, Illinois community. And beginning May 29, the library's annual philanthropic summer reading program returns. This year, the library partners with the environmental education nonprofit SCARCE. Keep up-to-date with all the programs and services available at the library by visiting gepl.org.

HAVE A SUGGESTION?

We would love to hear from you! Please email Library Director Dawn Bussey at dawnbussey@gepl.org or place your suggestion in one of the comment boxes located throughout the library.

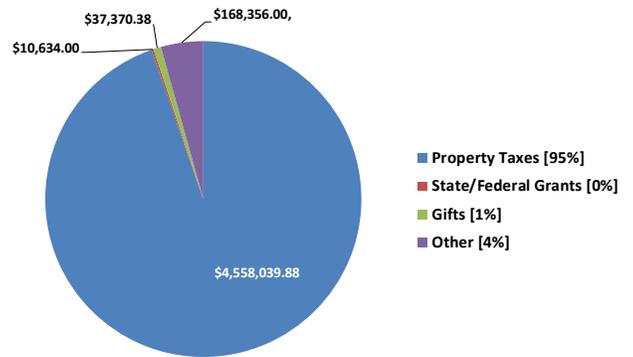
EXPENDITURES

January 2017 - December 2017



REVENUES

January 2017 - December 2017



Glen Ellyn Public Library
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Circulation Dept. Director
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