

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR  
2019 - 2020



**Plainfield**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT



The Library District began the fiscal year in July 2019 by embarking on the creation of a new strategic plan, intended to take the Library to 2024. The new plan was designed and created by the entire staff and the Board of Trustees and then approved in January 2020. Not long after we began implementing activities to support that plan, the pandemic hit and all of our plans were seemingly halted. In reality, many of the activities that we had planned for the next four years were easily adaptable and easily fast-tracked, such as going permanently fine-free, beginning remote services like off-site self-service lockers (coming this fall!) and curbside pick-up. Our intention to make your

public library more accessible and more integral to your lives didn't need to stop; we simply needed to be flexible and adapt our services to your lives. All things considered, we are incredibly proud of the achievements made this year and we hope you, the Plainfield community, find your library to be a vital part of your lives. Here's to the next year and more exciting changes to come!

Lisa Pappas, Library Director

To learn more about the Library's new strategic plan, visit [plainfieldpubliclibrary.org/about/future](https://plainfieldpubliclibrary.org/about/future).

## Vision

Educate ~ Captivate ~ Connect

The Library strives to educate the community through raising awareness of all that it offers. Captivating the attention of individuals happens by connecting with materials, technology, and programs - there is truly something for everyone at the Library. The Library connects by making access easy and growing in a sustainable way.

## Mission

We strive to educate, inform, entertain and culturally enrich our community.

The Library's mission states what the Library will do to achieve its vision. Carrying out the mission is an ongoing process that promotes lifelong learning, civic participation, the joy of reading, and cultural understanding. All library services and programs connect to the mission and the work of staff helps the Library advance this mission every day.



# Year in Review

## 506,179

### Items Checked Out From Library

## 1,805

New Cards Issued  
37,524 total card holders

## 118,792

Visits to the Library

## 13,171

Computer Sessions

## 27,063

Questions Answered

## 1,119

Adult Programs  
7,079 people attended

## 1,109

Youth Programs  
41,551 people attended

Library Users Saved

## \$5,312,403.25

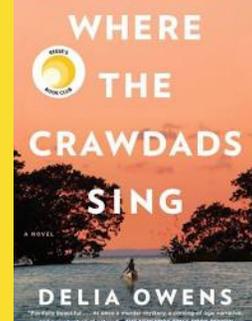
Top User Saved

## \$57,819.34

## 2,980

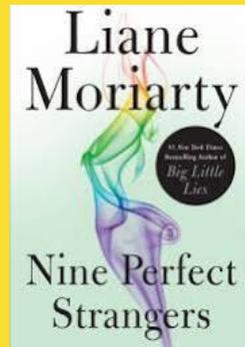
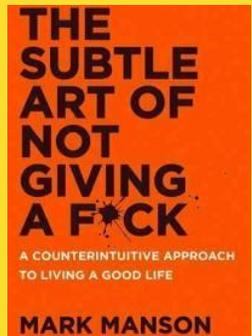
curbside patrons served in June  
Highest day: 182

Top Checked Out Titles



Fiction Book

Non-Fiction Book

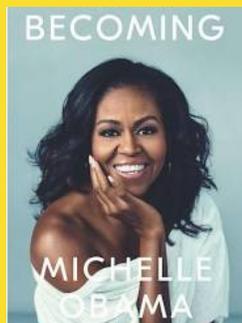


eBook



DVD/Blu-ray

eAudiobook



# THE LIBRARY STRIVES TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

## Programs in the Community

In Summer 2019 Youth Services staff presented a series of offsite summer programs that were the result of partnerships throughout Plainfield. We presented weekly outdoor storytimes at Settlers Park, a storytime with horses at the Plainfield Park District's Normantown Trails Equestrian Center, heard stories and went birdwatching at the Forest Preserve of Will County's Lake Renwick Heron Rookery and learned how things work at the Village of Plainfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, Public Works Department and Water Pumping Station.



## Plainfield StoryWalk®

Thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Plainfield Library and a partnership with the Village of Plainfield, StoryWalk® was installed in October of 2019. This permanent attraction is located in Settlers' Park behind Village Hall. StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that places the pages of a book along a popular walking route, combining the joy of reading with all the benefits of being active outside. The pages of a children's book are placed in holders along a path. As you walk the path you discover page after page, and pretty soon after a short stroll you have read a story.

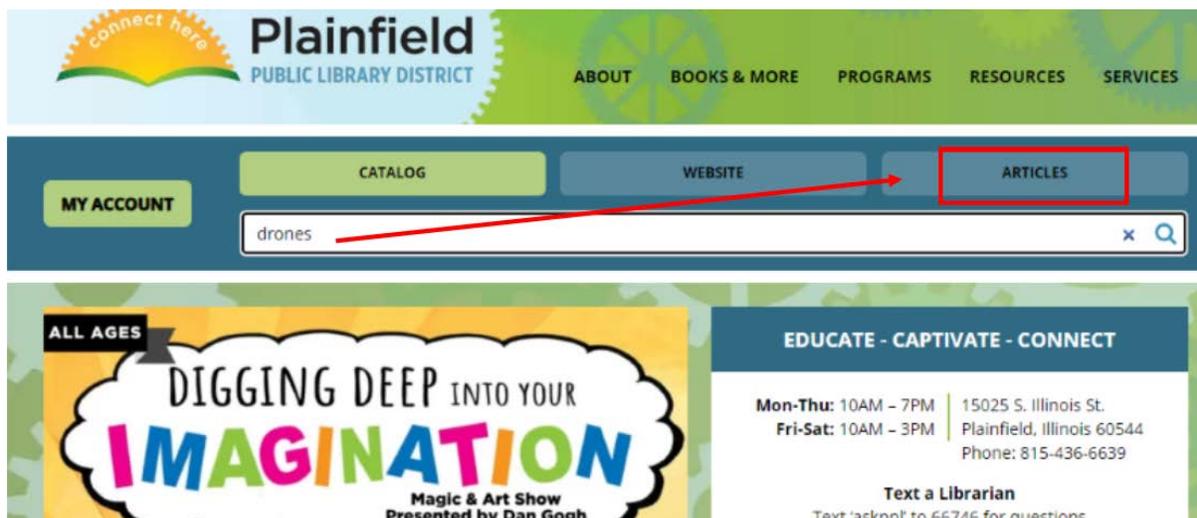


Over the Summer of 2020 due to the pandemic and the need to encourage the community to get outside and social distance, we installed two temporary pop-up StoryWalk® locations at PSD 202 elementary schools.

# THROUGH RAISING AWARENESS OF ALL THAT IT OFFERS.

## Readers' Advisory Expansion

For a period of time patrons were not able to physically browse our collection due to the COVID closure. During this time the Reference Department really stepped up their readers' advisory services by adding a Personalized Picks form. Patrons were able to fill out a form and receive personalized reading suggestions, genre and topic-based reading lists and virtual book discussion kits to support local book groups based on their likes and dislikes. We were able to bring the browsing experience to the patrons at home.



## EBSCO Discovery Service

This new service added to the Library's website allows patrons to search across multiple library resources in a single search making it easy and fast for homework and more.

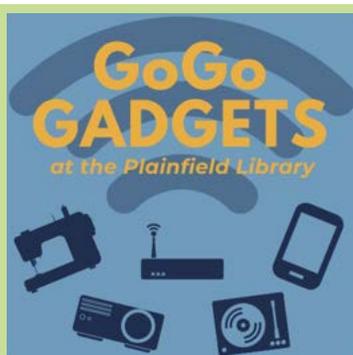
“WONDERFUL news! I used EBSCO Host extensively in my Master’s program, and it will be great to have this resource continue to be readily available outside of university, as needed for professional references.”

# CAPTIVATING THE ATTENTION OF INDIVIDUALS HAPPENS BY

## STEM : Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

The Youth Services Department continued to support STEM education through programs that let children:

- Get up close with animals during a visit from Crosstown Exotics
- Explore the wonders of chemistry while attending a Harry Potter-themed wizarding class
- Learn how to make stop-motion videos in Questioners Club
- See how things work during our Tech Take Apart programs



## GoGo Gadgets Collection

Through funding by a ExxonMobil Volunteer Grant and the MiniGolf FUNraiser, GoGo Gadgets was added to our collection.

Check out GoGo Gadgets and explore all that you can do with equipment and technology from your Library. Some available items include:

- Oculus VR Headset
- Streaming Roku
- Telescope
- VHS/DVD to digital converter
- Ukulele

We are continuing to add new items to the collection. Some things coming soon include:

- Nintendo Switch Lite
- karaoke microphone
- drone
- Dremel engraver
- metal detector
- radon detector and more!
- wood burning kit

## Relabeling Project

The Technical Services Department started a relabeling project to make things more find-able for patrons. We have switched to spine labels with a more readable font that spell out more information.



These labels will also match our shelf locations and collections in the catalog making it so much easier to find things! We started with Young Adult Fiction and will work our way through Youth Services.

# CONNECTING WITH MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRAMS.

We strive to stay up to date on the current and ever changing trends in technology. The Library hosts a number of programs and classes to bring the newest technology to the Plainfield community.

## Teen Robotics

The Plainfield Public Library District received a \$4,500 community grant from the Best Buy Foundation. The funds were used to support a teen robotics workshop program through the purchase of Hummingbird Robotics kits and Apple iPads. During the workshops, the teens explored a variety of uses for creative robotics.



## Virtual Reality Experience

Participants stepped into a new (virtual) reality and explored a 3D world with Oculus Quest headsets and tested out augmented reality using Merge Cubes.

Pictured: patron playing with one of several VR experiences, such as Fruit Ninja, National Geographic VR and Job Simulator.



## 3D Holiday Ornaments

Attendees created ornaments using 3Doodler® Pens. A 3D pen works by heating a plastic filament to its melting point, once the melted plastic leaves the tip it is very malleable and can be molded into any shape.

There is truly something for everyone at the Library.



# THE LIBRARY CONNECTS BY MAKING ACCESS EASY



Curbside Pickup started on June 1. We had always planned on adding Curbside Service in 2020, it just happened a bit quicker than anticipated due to the pandemic. People were really excited and grateful to be able to get new physical books again. We started off averaging 100 cars per day, with our highest day in June serving 182 cars!

"Thank you Plainfield Public Library District for doing curbside pickup. We could not be more excited for NEW books again!"

"I picked up a travel kit yesterday! Fantastic assortment of books and such a smooth process! Thank you!"

"Picked up my books today it was quick and seamless!"



# AND GROWING IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY.



We tried to help out and give back a little to the community during these hard times by going fine free for the whole summer. From June 1 through August 31, books, CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks did not incur fines. This did not apply to existing fines, lost or damaged items, or the GoGo Gadgets collection.

We made the Library more accessible to those who did not have cards during the pandemic closure. We started issuing temporary online cards that could be used to access our online resources and digital collection. A total of 327 digital cards were made during the approximate 3 month closure.



During the COVID closure, staff got creative with ways to bring the Library into the comfort of patron homes:

- Online Programs
- Virtual Storytime
- Online Book Clubs
- Social Media posts featuring fun staff photos
- Library Hotline
- Storytime Kits
- At-Home Resources and Activities website
- Fandom Fest Online

# Plainfield Public Library *Virtual* Library



*We're here for you...*

Even though the Library building was closed staff worked hard behind the scenes to boost our digital collection, develop our remote services and create virtual programming to continue to serve and engage with our residents.

## Questions

# 143

questions answered  
on the Library  
hotline



# 327

digital library cards made

## Cardholders

## Adult

# 1,362

people attended

# 69

virtual programs

## Youth

# 3,857

people attended

# 55

live & recorded  
programs

## Circulation

# 26,306

digital materials  
checked-out

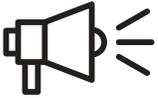
# Social Media Stats



**@PlainfieldLibrary**



Average Followers: 5,811



Engagement: 75,069



Post Reach: 1,329,033



Comments: 1106



Shares: 3,517



Clicks: 55,677



**@PPLD1**



Average Followers: 892



Engagement: 9,566



Impressions: 255,870



Replies: 83



Retweets: 557



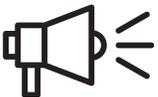
Clicks: 369



**@plainfieldlibrary**



Average Followers: 2,037



Engagement: 11,750



Likes: 11,488



Comments: 217



Impressions: 200,094



**@plainfieldteens**



Average Followers: 611



Engagement: 970



Likes: 952



Comments: 17

# We're Better Together...

**This year the Plainfield Public Library partnered with over 60 business, non-profits and community organizations. These creative collaborations resulted in co-hosted events, outreach visits, off-site programming, Summer Reading incentives and unique opportunities like the Preschool and Volunteer Fairs, CaddyStacks, StoryWalk and more. We offer our sincere thanks to all of our local partners – let's keep making great things happen together!**

- @ Properties
- All Our Kids Early Childhood Network
- American Butterflies
- American Red Cross
- Axe Factor Throwing
- Aurelio's Pizza
- Backroads Pub & Grill
- Barre3
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Business Knowledge Systems
- Busey Bank
- C.A.P.E
- Catholic Charities
- Civil Air Patrol
- Cornerstone Services
- C.W. Avery Family YMCA
- Doc Motor Works
- Evan Michaels Spa
- First Midwest Bank
- Fit4Mom
- Freedom Brothers Pizza
- Friends of the Plainfield Library
- Hazel Marie's Ice Cream
- Heartland Bank & Trust
- Help Save Pets
- Joliet Area Community Hospice
- Joliet Junior College
- Joliet Slammers
- Kiwanis Club of Plainfield
- KLA Schools
- La Petite Academy
- Lighthouse Academy
- Little Learner's Children's Academy
- Lotus Montessori
- Miracle League of Joliet
- Montessori of Plainfield
- Naper Settlement
- New Life for Old Bags
- NuMark Credit Union
- Oakleaf Community Mortgage
- Panera Bread (127th and 59)
- Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
- Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce
- Plainfield Consolidated School District 202
- Plainfield Emergency Management
- Plainfield Park District
- Plainfield Public Works
- Primrose School of Plainfield
- Rialto Square Theater
- Rod Baker Ford
- Ronald McDonald House
- Ross Mechanical Group
- Rotary Club of Plainfield
- Signs by Tomorrow
- St. Mary Immaculate
- State Representative Mark Batinick
- TM Martial Arts
- TR Miller Heating and Cooling
- The Tea Tree
- Two Men and a Truck
- Village of Plainfield
- Werk Force Brewing
- Will County Clerk
- Will County Forest Preserve