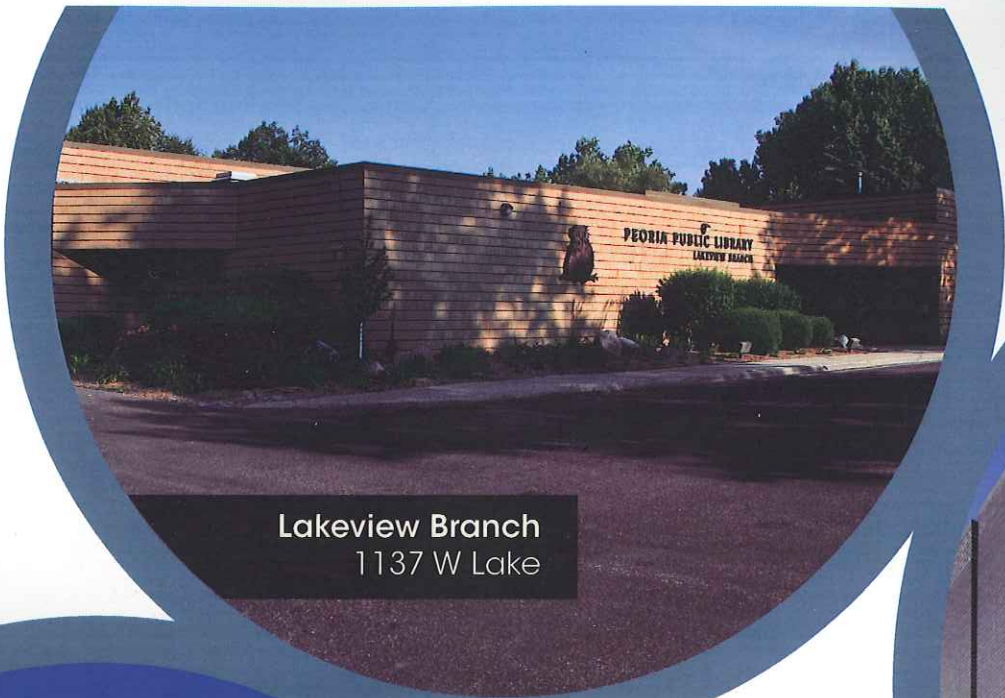


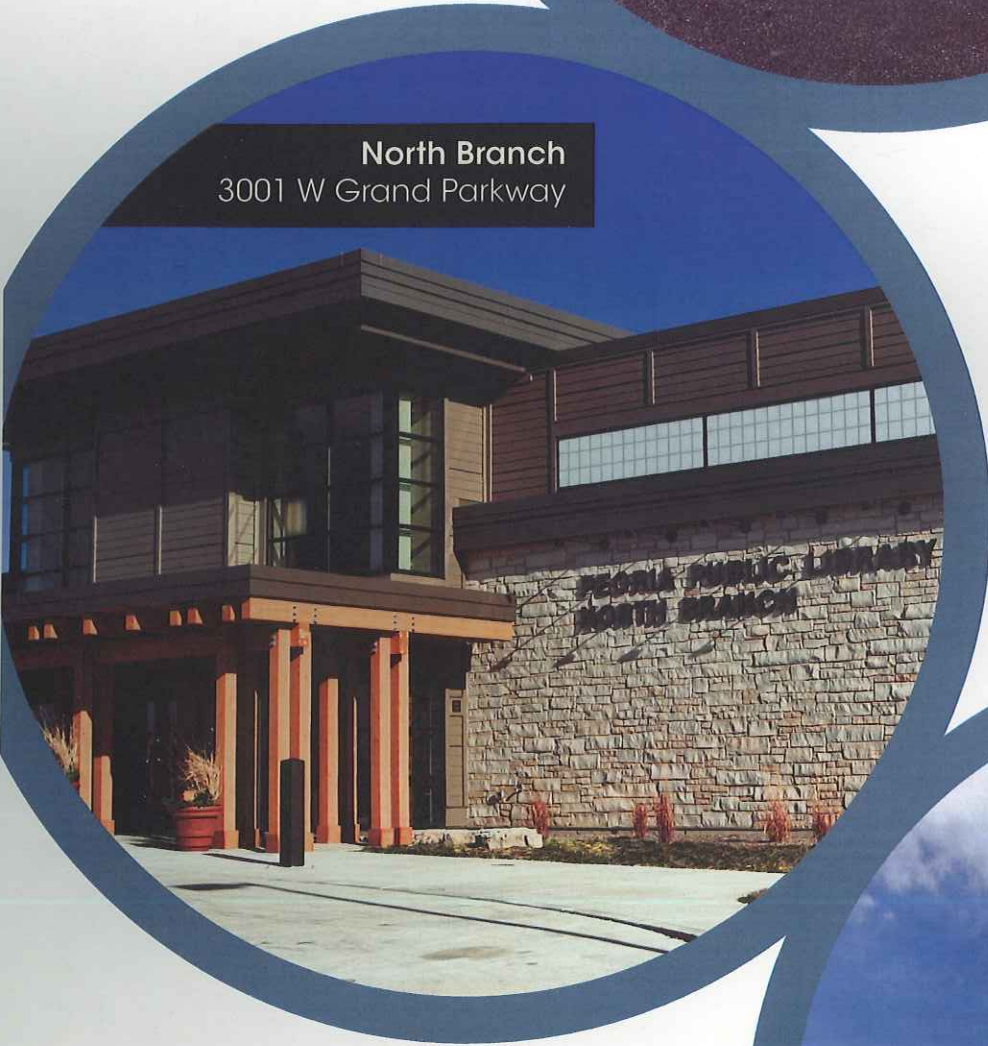
Annual Report of the Peoria Public Library 2015



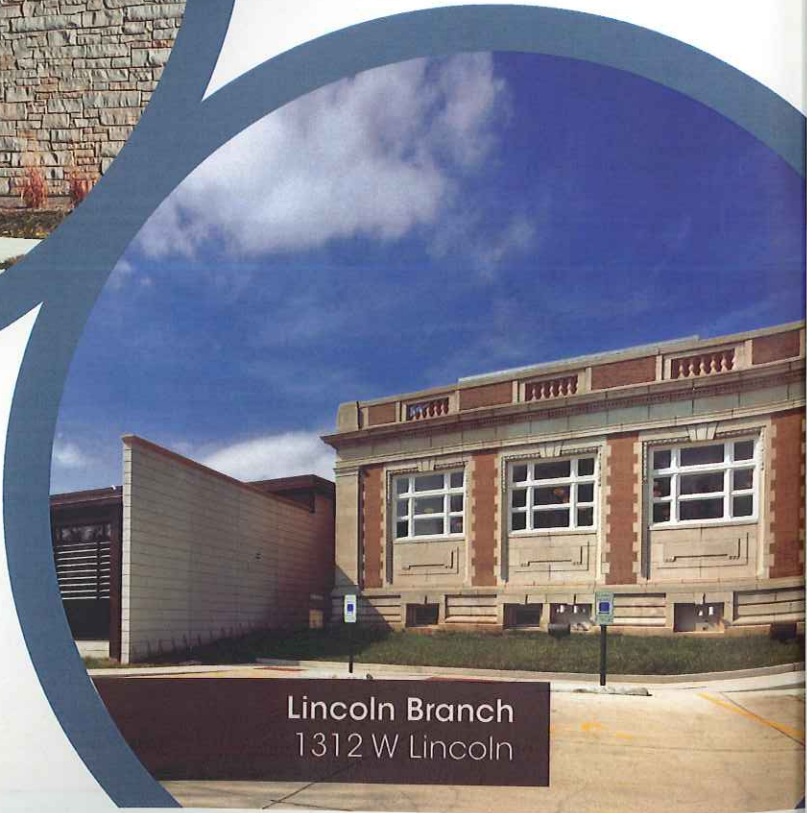
PEORIA
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



Lakeview Branch
1137 W Lake



North Branch
3001 W Grand Parkway



Lincoln Branch
1312 W Lincoln

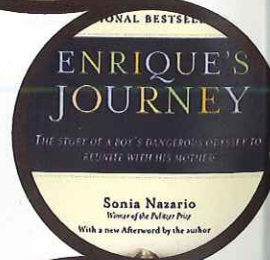
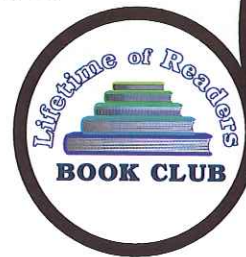
HIGHLIGHTS

Peoria Public Library continued to thrive as a community center, providing meeting space, programs and a place to explore new ideas as well as new services

- Increased the availability and speed of free Wi-Fi approximately ten times by converting from T-1 lines to fiber optics throughout the five library locations
- Expanded the digital library by adding Freegal streaming music and movies
- Booked meeting room space for 7,000+ meetings with a total of 30,000 attendees including not-for-profit groups, tutors and study groups
- Offered programs ranging from book discussions to history, art and science for adults with over 4,400 people attending 283 programs
- Presented programs for children of all ages from STEAM events to storytimes attracting a total of almost 8,000 children to 468 children's programs and 329 storytimes
- Added a collection of over 100 television series on DVD to celebrate National Library Week

Peoria Public Library is a center for encouraging literacy

- 2015 Summer Reading "Read to the Rhythm" attracted readers of all ages, each of whom read three hours a week between June and the end of July. Peoria Public Schools were partners along with Friends of Peoria Public Library, and many community businesses provided prizes for over 3,000 participants - adults and children! The Summer Reading Party at Peoria Riverfront Museum was attended by 887 readers.
- Lifetime of Readers was added as a means to encourage adult readers. Prizes are awarded with every 25 books read, and more than 60 people joined in 2015.
- Family Reading Night, a statewide initiative, was celebrated with family reading activities.
- GED Practice Test Labs at both Main Library and Lincoln Branch offered a peaceful, quiet place for GED students to take advantage of the library's online GED practice/study resources.
- Peoria Reads book discussions and moderated film showings were held in April to encourage people to read *Enrique's Journey* and talk about it with others. Partners included Common Place Family Learning Center, Bradley University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Illinois Central College. Peoria Public Library copies of the book circulated 207 times.
- Blind Date with a Book is a passive program that introduces books to a patron that they may not otherwise read. More than 100 people participated in this, the third year, reading books they would typically not choose.
- In 2015, a Winter Reading program targeting seniors provided an opportunity to discover new programs and services.



Peoria Public Library provides access to music and arts that library patrons might not be able to access otherwise

- Each month, a free concert is offered on a Sunday afternoon in the McKenzie Room at North Branch. All ages enjoy a mix of local groups as well as favorite bands from across the country. In addition, concert CD sales benefit Friends of Peoria Public Library.
- Peter Fletcher – world renowned classical guitarist – performed a free concert to a packed room in September. He performed a mix of pieces from his various music CDs.
- Monthly exhibits at the Main Library Gallery included exhibits by local grade school students, the Prairie Fiber Arts Guild, Illinois Art League, Dr. Joe Couri photographs, the Peoria Historical Society, U.S. Veterans, Living Proof cancer patients, Caterpillar Inc. advertising art, the Congressional High School Art Show, and more.
- A series of portrait drawing and painting classes was offered for tweens at North Branch.
- Works of art owned by Peoria Public Library were placed in a digital gallery at <http://gallery.peoriapubliclibrary.org> for the public to enjoy.



Partnerships: An ongoing collaborative partnership with Peoria Public Schools has resulted in more students and teachers with library cards, improved communication between library staff and school

staff, regular informational sessions presented by the library for school library managers, classroom story/craft times presented by children's librarians from Peoria Public Library, and bi-weekly Bookmobile stops at nine Peoria Public Schools.

- Staff members created and presented genealogy programs at Bickford House and to Peoria Public Schools library managers and administrators.

- Collaborations on various programs and projects include: Steve Tarter of the Journal Star on the Film Noir Film Festival; Peoria Humane Society (PAWS) for Paws to Read for reluctant readers; Red Cross with free classes; Friends of Clonmel for the sister city international book club; Peoria Astronomical Society and Peoria Riverfront Museum for the International Moon Night and Eclipse party; Peoria Players for the From the Screen to the Stage program; Peoria Ballet for a free performance; Peoria Public Schools; and Common Place.

- Items borrowed: **1,099,275**
- Visitors: **714,726**
- Cardholders: **52,658**
- Items in Collection: **547,312**
- Computer uses: **105,342**
- Questions answered: **53,343**
- Volunteer hours: **2,892**
- Program attendance: **12,408**
- Summer Reading Program: **3,370**

This Year in Numbers

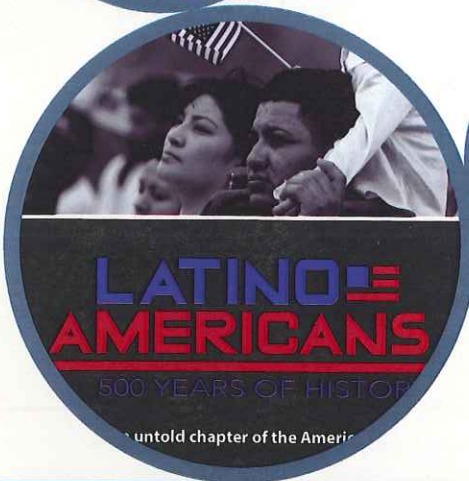
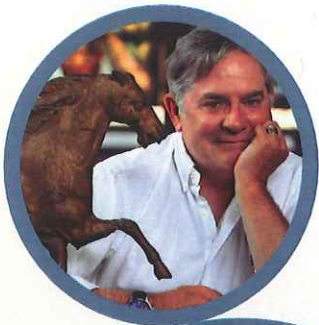
Exciting programs for all ages provide information and entertainment

- The Baker Street Bash provided a meeting place for fans of the Sherlock Holmes books and show to discuss Sherlock past and present, bridging the current popular shows and films.
- The Book Club Fair provided an opportunity for the public to explore the many book clubs offered at Peoria Public Library, as well as an opportunity for regular book club members to meet those who attend and discuss other genres.
- A Sofia the First Party, based on the popular children's book, was an exciting, well-attended event in July. Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* was there for pictures. Everyone decorated their own teacup and took home a Sofia the First cup.
- Junior FIRST LEGO League was held at all five library locations. This was the beginning of the LEGO Robotics programs for children 6-9 years old. Each team had 3-6 team members and 1-2 coaches per team. The teams met for 12 weeks (from February - May) and tackled their challenge "Think Tank" to find out where and how people learn new things. The program culminated in an Expo that all five teams attended where their final projects were evaluated by a team of two reviewers. This program was made possible due to a grant funded by StarNet and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).
- Minecraft Saturdays are held once a month in the computer labs at Main Library and Lincoln Branch. A lab full of kids attend each month at each location where they work together and make new friends. In addition, Minecraft Mania, a program for kids with Minecraft-inspired games, had 32 participants, where even parents got involved with the games and crafts.
- In November 2015, North Branch held a viewing of selected episodes of the documentary series *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. This was made possible by a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Participants enjoyed a discussion of each film led by professors from Bradley University and the University of Arizona.

- North Branch hosted sports memorabilia appraiser Michael Osacky on November 22, 2015. Over 70 attendees had the opportunity to learn about sports collecting and have items appraised. Participants were able to gain knowledge of how to preserve and protect their own collections.

- North Branch hosted antique appraiser Mark Moran on August 23, 2015. Fifty people signed up for this free event with more showing up and waiting to see if they were able to have their item appraised.

- The Fancy Nancy Tea Party celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Fancy Nancy children's book series with a three-tiered cake, feather boas and tiaras, along with games and prizes for 80 children and their parents.



Peoria Public Library

Approved Operating Budget: \$7,149,347

Income

Local Government, City of Peoria property taxes: **\$6,321,197**

State Government: **\$609,707**

Federal Government: **\$11,000**

Other: endowment, interest income, gifts, fees, etc.: **\$130,966**

Total: \$7,072,870

Expenses

Salaries, Wages, Benefits: **\$4,840,266**

Operating Expenses: **\$1,324,201**

Materials: Books, etc.: **\$816,548**

Total: \$6,981,015

Capital Development Fund

Expenditures: **\$145,489**

Balance: \$1,346,340

Grants

Illinois State Library Per Capita Grant Program, for books and other library materials: **\$143,759**

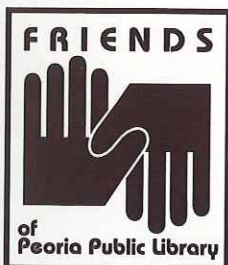
National Endowment for the Arts: The Big Read: **\$8,000**

National Endowment for the Humanities: Latino Americans: **\$3,000**

Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to be Human?: **\$500**

organized by Smithsonian Institution and American Library Association, supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation and Peter Buck Human Origins Fund

Total: \$155,259



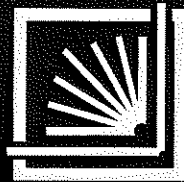
The Friends provide support for programming and other extras not covered by the operating budget. They fund the Summer Reading Party each year, support author visits, provide materials and prizes for children's programs and more.

In 2015, they provided \$4,295 for the Summer Reading Program and \$4,320 for other children's programs. These dedicated volunteers also sponsored 16 book signings and programs, as well as the Local Author Fair, providing a showcase for local writers.

In 2015, Friends of Peoria Public Library celebrated the 135th anniversary of Peoria Public Library with the highly successful event, "What's Your Story?" featuring Melanie Benjamin, award-winning author of *The Aviator's Wife*. The event raised approximately \$28,000 through donations, a silent auction and ticket sales to support the library. In addition, the Friends supported 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>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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Public
Library**

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