PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Highland Park Public Library Board of Trustees
Brenner Room
September15, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

For members of the public interested in attending the meeting virtually, use the access information below. Directions pertaining to questions and comments from the public are noted below.

On a computer: https://bit.ly/HPLibBoardMtg **Password:** HPLibrary
On a phone: (312) 626-6799 **Webinar ID:** 843 1227 6146 **Password:** 766561727

Individuals with questions or feedback about an agenda item can address the Board in the following ways:

1. WRITTEN COMMENTS. Individuals may send the Board an unlimited number of words. Correspondence will be forwarded to the Board via email. All correspondence received will be acknowledged. Comments received at least an hour before the meeting will be summarized at the meeting.
2. TELEPHONE. Individuals may leave a message with the Library Director at 847.432.0720.
3. LIVE COMMENTS. Individuals are able to address the Board during the meeting. Comments should be limited to five minutes or less.

AGENDA

- Call to order and roll call
- Consent agenda
  - Approval of August 18, 2026 regular meeting minutes
  - Approval of August 2026 Bill List – motion from Rob Biederman, Treasurer
  - Approval of August 2026 Financial Reports – motion from Rob Biederman, Treasurer
- Comments from the public
- Report of the President – Irene Hoffman
- Report of the Executive Director – Heidi Smith
- Other committee and liaison reports
  - Development Liaisons – Ashley Lapin Olian, Irene Hoffman
    - Consideration and approval of any and all donation naming agreements
  - Expansion Liaisons – Rob Olian, Carol Wolfe
    - Consideration and approval of any and all expansion change orders
  - Friends Liaison – Carol Wolfe
  - Operations and Policies – Peter Zotos, Chair
    - Approval of the Internet Policy as revised
    - Approval of the Makerspace Policy as revised (was 3D Printer Policy)
    - Approval of the Photography and Video Policy as revised
    - Approval of the Public Comments Policy
    - Approval of the Social Media Policy as revised (was Social Software Policy)
- Old and new business
- Closed session
- New business
- Adjournment

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
President Hoffman, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
Members Present: Rich Basofin, Rob Biederman, Irene Hoffman, Ashley Lapin Olian, Rebecca Nathanson, Rob Olian, Carol Wolfe, Peter Zotos
Members Absent: Steve Schutt
Others Present: Graham Harwood, Catherine Lambrecht, Cary Rositas-Sheftel, Pamela Siegel, Heidi Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Trustee Olian moved and Trustee Biederman seconded a motion to approve the July 21, 2026 regular meeting minutes, July 2026 Bill List, and the July 2026 Financial Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, Hoffman, Lapin Olian, Nathanson, Olian, Wolfe, Zotos
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
President Hoffman's report included the following:

- She and Trustee Lapin Olian met with Director Smith to review fundraising efforts. During the conversation, they discussed the significant demands the expansion has placed on Library staff, including ongoing noise and disruptions, assisting patrons, and responding to questions and concerns. President Hoffman noted that, despite these challenges, staff have continued to perform well and have successfully met their goals. She asked Director Smith what the Board could do to show its appreciation for the staff's efforts. Director Smith suggested that the Board sign a card to all staff acknowledging their hard work and expressing the Board's gratitude. President Hoffman will circulate a card for Trustees to sign and add personal notes of appreciation.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Director Smith's report included the following:

- Director Smith reported that she had the first introductory meeting with the consultant who is reviewing the impact fees. She reiterated that the impact fees collected by the Library should be appropriate to support the Library's facility and needs impacted by additional development.
- Director Smith shared that one of the Library's staff members, Dara Bass, Membership Services Assistant, was quoted in the *Chicago Sun Times* in connection with the article, "Remember Obama's tan suit. Help us find it."
- Assistant Director Rositas-Sheftel shared highlights from the Library's collaboration with Highwood on the Summer Send-Off: Reading & Resource Fair, describing it as an exciting

outreach opportunity, especially to our shared Spanish-speaking community. Library staff interacted with 248 people and distributed 320 school supplies.

- Assistant Director Rositas-Sheftel reported that a total of 229,980 minutes were read during the Youth Services Summer Reading program.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Chair Biederman reported that he and Director Smith presented the Library's levy request and budget to the City Council the previous evening. Council members raised several questions, including when the building expansion is expected to be completed and opened to the public.

Director Smith noted that there was considerable interest and curiosity about the Library and the expansion. She will follow up with the City Manager to determine if any additional information would be helpful.

DEVELOPMENT LIAISONS

Trustee Lapin Olian reported that, as of August 13, the Library has raised $1,149,959. A total of $830,959 has been received through 471 gifts. Seven pledges totaling $319,000 remain through 2030, with $161,000 still expected to be received in 2026.

Trustee Lapin Olian requested approval of the two naming agreements included in the Board packet for the Lawrence and Rongey families.

Trustee Wolfe moved and Trustee Olian seconded a motion to approve the naming agreements for Lawrence and Rongey as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, Hoffman, Lapin Olian, Nathanson, Olian, Wolfe, Zotos
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

EXPANSION LIAISONS

Graham Harwood of CCS provided a construction update. Exterior masonry work continues, with work progressing on the north, south, and west elevations. The north elevation is being washed, work continues on the south elevation, and the west is next. Masonry walls for the elevator shaft have been completed through the third floor. First floor framing has been installed. Work will continue to make the building watertight, including completion of masonry and installation of windows. Roof flashing is partially complete, with sufficient work completed to allow other construction activities to proceed. Drywall installation is underway in the renovation area and the ceiling grid is in place. The water main connection is expected to take place at the end of August. Water leaks in the lower level continue but appear to have decreased. The underground drainage system that was installed is working. Studio GC continues to investigate a solution, including the possibility of connecting the north-side drainpipes to the new stormwater system to direct water away from the building. Cameras have been used to inspect the downspouts, and the team is getting closer to a final solution. The Makerspace continues to have outstanding punch-list items, and it has been difficult for Lo Destro to get subcontractors back to complete the remaining work.

Looking ahead, crews will continue exterior masonry, complete roof flashing and clay tile installation to make the building watertight, and continue mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work. Elevator wall construction and shoring will also proceed.

Pay Application No. 13 for June has been approved and is awaiting receipt of lien waivers. Project expenditures still total approximately 50% of the overall project budget.

Director Smith reported on the updated completion dates:

- Stair and elevator: September
- Lower-level offices: October
- Addition and renovated Youth Service spaces: November
- Archives and Gallery: January 2027

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS
None

OTHER COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS
None

ADJOURNMENT
Trustee Zotos moved and Trustee Basofin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. President Hoffman, presiding, adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, Hoffman, Lapin Olian, Nathanson, Olian, Wolfe, Zotos
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by: Pamela Siegel
Reviewed by: Heidi Smith, Ashley Lapin Olian
Approved:

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
BALANCE SHEET
August 31, 2026

ASSETS	General Fund			Restricted Gift Fund	Local Library Working Cash Fund	Special Reserve	Capital Assets	TOTAL
	General Fund	Unrestricted Gift Fund	Total					
CASH								
Checking Account	$ 130,389		$ 130,389					$ 130,389
U.S. Government Select MM	1,371,812	50,906	1,422,719	55,820	8,129	3,067,402		4,554,070
Petty Cash	434		434					434
	1,502,635	50,906	1,553,541	55,820	8,129	3,067,402		4,684,893
INVESTMENTS								
US Treasury Bills	2,000,000	-	2,000,000			1,966,436		3,966,437
Certificates of Deposit	-	334,000	334,000	-	375,000	-		709,000
Equity Securities--Vanguard				-				-
INTERFUND LIABILITY -- DUE FROM (TO)	148,293	900	149,192	(10)	-	(149,182)		-
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS								
Receivables	2,948,042		2,948,042					2,948,042
Prepaid Expense/Accrued Revenue	2,210	-	2,210	-	-	-		2,210
	2,950,252	-	2,950,252	-	-	-		2,950,252
CAPITAL ASSETS							9,057,505	9,057,505
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 6,601,180	$ 385,806	$ 6,986,986	$ 55,810	$ 383,129	$ 4,884,656	$ 9,057,505	$ 21,368,086
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LIABILITIES								
ACCRUED EXPENSES								
Accrued Salaries & Benefits	$ 147,114		$ 147,114	$ -				$ 147,114
Accrued Bill List	129,678	1,372	131,051	231				131,281
	276,793	1,372	278,165	231				278,396
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Deferred Revenue, Property Taxes	2,948,042		2,948,042					2,948,042
Deferred Revenue, Other	125,000		125,000					125,000
Retainage Payable	203,128	-	203,128	-				203,128
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,552,963	1,372	3,554,335	231				3,554,566
FUND EQUITY								
INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS							9,057,505	9,057,505
FUND BALANCES								
Beginning Balance	$ 3,165,560	$ 379,498	$ 3,545,057	$ 55,930	$ 375,000	$ 7,331,301	$ -	$ 11,307,289
Current Year Earnings	(117,342)	4,936	(112,406)	(351)	8,129	(2,446,645)		(2,551,273)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	3,048,217	384,434	3,432,651	55,579	383,129	4,884,656	-	8,756,016
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	$ 6,601,180.000	$ 385,806	$ 6,986,986	$ 55,810	$ 383,129	$ 4,884,656	$ 9,057,505	$ 21,368,086

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Eight Months Ended August 31, 2026

	GENERAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED GIFT FUND	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED GIFT FUNDS	LLWCF	SPECIAL RESERVE	TOTAL
REVENUE							
Property Taxes	$ 3,453,858		$ 3,453,858				$ 3,453,858
Bond Revenue	0		0				0
OTHER REVENUE							
Fees - Impact	15,638		15,638				15,638
Library U	0		0				0
Fines and Misc Revenue	10,207		10,207				10,207
Gifts and grants	0	26,810	26,810	556,158			582,968
Investment Income	51,887	5,363	57,249	1,301	15,659	133,730	207,940
Per Capita	51,299		51,299				51,299
State Corporate Replacement Tax	45,326		45,326				45,326
Transfers	3,144,063	0	3,144,063	(556,158)	(7,530)	(2,580,376)	0
TOTAL REVENUE	6,772,280	32,173	6,804,452	1,301	8,129	(2,446,645)	4,367,237
EXPENSE							
OPERATING EXPENSE							
Salaries	2,131,763		2,131,763				2,131,763
Payroll Taxes	169,646		169,646				169,646
IMRF	74,812		74,812				74,812
Insurance - Health	347,305		347,305				347,305
Subtotal - Salaries & Benefits	2,723,526	0	2,723,526	0	0	0	2,723,526
Books, Audiovisual & Electronic Resources	432,703		432,703	1,652			434,356
Cataloging & Processing	14,495		14,495				14,495
Insurance - General	98,823		98,823				98,823
Legal	788		788				788
Library U	0		0				0
Maintenance of Building	92,511		92,511	0			92,511
Maintenance of Equipment & Software	76,413		76,413				76,413
Maintenance of Grounds	9,906		9,906				9,906
Marketing	7,841		7,841	0			7,841
Postage	5,347		5,347				5,347
Programs	20,024		20,024	0			20,024
Purchases Funded by Gifts and Grants	4,479	27,237	31,715				31,715
Supplies & Services	94,070		94,070	0			94,070
Telephone	17,017		17,017				17,017
Training	15,855		15,855	0			15,855
Subtotal Other Operating Expenses	890,271	27,237	917,507	1,652	0	0	919,159
Total Operating Expense	3,613,796	27,237	3,641,033	1,652	0	0	3,642,685
CAPITAL EXPENSE							
Building & Grounds Improvement	3,161,347		3,161,347				3,161,347
Computerization	17,093		17,093				17,093
Furniture & Equipment	1,673		1,673	0			1,673
Total Capital Expense	3,180,113	0	3,180,113	0		0	3,180,113
Building Expansion Fund	0		0			0	0
Debt Service Expense	95,713		95,713				95,713
TOTAL EXPENSE	6,889,622	27,237	6,916,858	1,652	0	0	6,918,510
2026 Year to Date Net Revenue or (Expense)	(117,342)	4,936	(112,406)	(351)	8,129	(2,446,645)	(2,551,273)
12-31-25 FUND BALANCE Unaudited	3,165,560	379,498	3,545,057	55,930	375,000	7,331,301	11,307,289
FUND BALANCE AT MONTH END	$ 3,048,217	$ 384,434	$ 3,432,651	$ 55,579	$383,129	$ 4,884,656	$ 8,756,016

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
BUDGET COMPARISON
For the Period Ended August 31, 2026

	Actual				General Fund Budget	YTD 2026 as % of	Budget
	Month of August		Eight Months Ended August 31,		12 months	12 month	Remaining
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Budget	thru Year-end
GENERAL FUND					Amended 3/19/26		
REVENUE							
Property Taxes	$ 219,126	$ 165,803	$ 3,453,858	$ 3,222,959	$ 6,401,925	53.95%	$ 2,948,067
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	4,062,737	-	-	$ -
Other Income							
Fees - Impact	-	2,641	15,638	6,289	19,000	82.31%	3,362
Library U	-	-	-	960	-	-	-
Fines and Miscellaneous Revenue	1,068	2,007	10,207	43,067	22,000	46.40%	11,793
Gifts and Grants	1,868	11,181	26,810	13,927	155,000	17.30%	128,190
Investment Income	9,380	11,576	57,249	112,864	138,000	41.49%	80,751
Per Capita	-	44,510	51,299	44,510	44,500	115.28%	(6,799)
State Corporate Replacement Tax	3,277	1,767	45,326	43,519	79,000	57.38%	33,674
Transfer from LLWCF	-	-	7,530	7,285	-	-	(7,530)
Transfer from Unrestricted Gift Fund	-		-		308,000	0.00%	308,000
Transfer from Restricted Gift Fund	154,500	-	556,158	-	263,000	211.47%	(293,158)
Transfer (to) from Special Reserve	(116,564)	-	2,580,376	-	7,327,000	35.22%	4,746,624
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	53,529	73,681	3,350,594	272,421	8,355,500	40.10%	5,004,906
TOTAL REVENUE	272,655	239,485	6,804,452	7,558,117	14,757,425	46.11%	7,952,973
EXPENSE							
OPERATING EXPENSE							
Salaries	274,358	261,968	2,131,763	1,987,103	3,349,000	63.65%	1,217,237
Payroll Taxes	20,503	19,553	169,646	148,368	256,500	66.14%	86,854
IMRF	9,079	7,161	74,812	57,901	116,000	64.49%	41,188
Group Insurance	42,742	37,294	347,305	317,092	648,000	53.60%	300,695
Subtotal - Salaries & Benefits	346,682	325,976	2,723,526	2,510,463	4,369,500	62.33%	1,645,974
Books, AV & Electronic Res.	37,101	33,107	432,703	417,797	661,000	65.46%	228,297
Cataloging & Processing	565	2,927	14,495	10,829	26,000	55.75%	11,505
Insurance - General	-	-	98,823	103,470	122,000	81.00%	23,177
Legal	-	-	788	1,053	5,000	15.75%	4,213
Library U	-	-	-	2,475	-	-	-
Maintenance - Building	23,627	4,834	92,511	89,360	185,000	50.01%	92,489
Maintenance - Equip. & Software	11,822	20,618	76,413	72,811	141,000	54.19%	64,587
Maintenance - Grounds	1,403	-	9,906	9,132	23,000	43.07%	13,094
Marketing	385	48	7,841	11,042	23,000	34.09%	15,159
Postage	-	1,000	5,347	7,410	9,000	59.41%	3,653
Programs	2,099	806	20,024	13,222	26,000	77.02%	5,976
Purchases Funded by Gifts and Grants	1,772	7,470	31,715	29,726	30,000	105.72%	(1,715)
Supplies & Services	10,823	22,775	94,070	126,052	193,500	48.62%	99,430
Telecommunications	2,231	2,223	17,017	17,186	27,000	63.02%	9,983
Training	1,202	634	15,855	31,540	27,000	58.72%	11,145
Subtotal - Other Operating Expenses	93,030	96,442	917,507	943,106	1,498,500	61.23%	580,993
Total Operating Expense	439,712	422,419	3,641,033	3,453,568	5,868,000	62.05%	2,226,967
CAPITAL EXPENSE							
Building & Grounds Improvement	37,936	93,987	3,161,347	427,885	8,118,000	38.94%	4,956,653
Computerization	13,077	88	17,093	14,654	40,000	42.73%	22,907
Furniture & Equipment	-	3,388	1,673	3,388	10,000	16.73%	8,327
Total Capital Expense	51,013	97,462	3,180,113	445,926	8,168,000	38.93%	4,987,887
Expansion Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	280,000	0.00%	280,000
Debt Service Expense	-	-	95,713	70,350	441,425	21.68%	345,713
TOTAL EXPENSE	490,725	519,881	6,916,858	3,969,845	14,757,425	46.87%	7,840,567
Net Revenue (Expense)	$ (218,070)	$ (280,396)	$ (112,406)	$ 3,588,272	$ -		$ 112,406

Benchmark: 8 months of 12 = 66.67% year complete.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
BUDGET COMPARISON
For the Period Ended August 31, 2026

	Actual			
	Month of August		Eight Months Ended August 31,	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
RESTRICTED GIFT FUNDS				
Revenue				
Donations - Building Fund	$ 154,500	$ 31,355	$ 556,158	$ 65,711
Friends Receipts	-	-	-	-
Total Donations	154,500	31,355	556,158	65,711
Interest Income	179	211	1,301	1,530
Transfer from (to) General Fund	(154,500)		(556,158)	
Total Revenue, Gift Funds	179	31,566	1,301	67,241
Books	241	-	1,652	338
Programs	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	241	-	1,652	338
Total Gift Fund Expenses	241	-	1,652	338
GIFT FUNDS Net Revenue (Expense)	(62)	31,566	(351)	66,904
LLWCF				
Interest Income	7,575	37	15,659	12,744
Transfer from (to) General Fund	-	-	(7,530)	(7,285)
LLWCF Net Revenue(Expense)	7,575	37	8,129	5,459
SPECIAL RESERVE				
Interest Income	8,700	7	133,730	142,627
Building Expansion Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-
Transfer from (to) General Fund	116,564	-	(2,580,376)	-
SPECIAL RESERVE Net Revenue(Expense)	125,264	7	(2,446,645)	142,627
TOTAL LIBRARY Net Revenue (Expense)	$ (85,293)	$ (248,787)	$ (2,551,273)	$ 3,803,261

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
BUDGET COMPARISON
For the Period Ended August 31, 2026

	General Fund				
	Actual Eight Months Ended August 31, 2026	Budget 2026	Variance (under) over YTD budget	Budget 12 months 2026	Comment
GENERAL FUND					
REVENUE					
Property Taxes	$ 3,453,858	$ 4,267,950	$ (814,092)	$ 6,401,925	Under: timing of payments
Bond Proceeds	-			-	
Other Income					
Fees - Impact	15,638	12,667	2,972	19,000	Over: fluctuation of payments
Library U	-	-	-	-	
Fines and Miscellaneous Revenue	10,207	14,667	(4,459)	22,000	Under: fluctuation of payments
Gifts and Grants	26,810	103,333	(76,523)	155,000	Under: SOS/ISL $125K construction grant at year end
Investment Income	57,249	92,000	(34,751)	138,000	Under: lower interest rates than expected
Per Capita	51,299	29,667	21,633	44,500	Over: timing of payment; State increased funding
State Corporate Replacement Tax	45,326	52,667	(7,340)	79,000	Under: fluctuation of payments
Transfer from LLWCF	7,530	-	7,530	-	Over: timing of transfer
Transfer from Unrestricted Gift Fund		205,333	(205,333)	308,000	Under: timing of transfers
Transfer from Restricted Gift Fund	556,158	175,333	380,825	263,000	Over: successful campaign exceeded budget
Transfer (to) from Special Reserve	2,580,376	4,884,667	(2,304,291)	7,327,000	Under: timing of transfers
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	3,350,594	5,570,333	(2,219,739)	8,355,500	
TOTAL REVENUE	6,804,452	9,838,283	(3,033,831)	14,757,425	
EXPENSE					
OPERATING EXPENSE					
Salaries	2,131,763	2,232,667	(100,903)	$ 3,349,000	Under: 2.9 FTE open positions (see salary report)
Payroll Taxes	169,646	171,000	(1,354)	256,500	
IMRF	74,812	77,333	(2,522)	116,000	Under: directly related to salaries
Group Insurance	347,305	432,000	(84,695)	648,000	Under: life changing events contingency & 2 new FT positions
Subtotal - Salaries & Benefits	2,723,526	2,913,000	(189,474)	4,369,500	
Books, AV & Electronic Res.	432,703	440,667	(7,963)	661,000	Under: timing of contract renewals
Cataloging & Processing	14,495	17,333	(2,839)	26,000	Under: possible year-end savings
Insurance - General	98,823	81,333	17,490	122,000	Over: timing of payment
Legal	788	3,333	(2,546)	5,000	Under: engaging services as needed
Library U	-	-	-	-	
Maintenance - Building	92,511	123,333	(30,822)	185,000	Under: timing of service contracts & engaging services as needed
Maintenance - Equip. & Software	76,413	94,000	(17,587)	141,000	Under: timing of contract renewals
Maintenance - Grounds	9,906	15,333	(5,427)	23,000	Under: timing of service contracts
Marketing	7,841	15,333	(7,493)	23,000	Under: timing of projects and contract payment
Postage	5,347	6,000	(653)	9,000	
Programs	20,024	17,333	2,691	26,000	Over: timing of programs this year
Purchases Funded by Gifts and Grants	31,715	20,000	11,715	30,000	Over: timing of gift-funded purchases
Supplies & Services	94,070	129,000	(34,930)	193,500	Under: timing of contracts & supplies purchases
Telecommunications	17,017	18,000	(983)	27,000	
Training	15,855	18,000	(2,145)	27,000	
Subtotal - Other Operating Expenses	917,507	999,000	(81,493)	1,498,500	
Total Operating Expense	3,641,033	3,912,000	(270,967)	5,868,000	
CAPITAL EXPENSE					
Building & Grounds Improvement	3,161,347	5,412,000	(2,250,653)	8,118,000	Under: timing of payments to Lo Destro
Computerization	17,093	26,667	(9,574)	40,000	Under: timing of projects
Furniture & Equipment	1,673	6,667	(4,994)	10,000	Under: timing of projects
Total Capital Expense	3,180,113	5,445,333	(2,265,220)	8,168,000	
Expansion Reserve Fund	-	186,667	(186,667)	280,000	Under: transfer at year-end
Debt Service Expense	95,713	294,283	(198,571)	441,425	Under: timing of payments
TOTAL EXPENSE	6,916,858	9,838,283	(2,921,425)	14,757,425	
Net Revenue (Expense)	$ (112,406)	$ -	$ (112,406)	$ -	

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Investment Report
August 31, 2026

Fund	Account #	Type	Settlement Date	Trade Date	BANK	Principal	T-Bill Face Value	8/31/2026 Market Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Rate	Interest is Paid:	Term in Week	Benchmark* Treasury Rate on trade date	Maturity Date
General														
	NT2-xxxx311													
		CD			None									
					Total CD's									
		T-Bill												
			7/27/2026	7/24/2026	US Treasury Bill	2,000,000.32	$ 2,019,000	2,007,249.42	7,249.10	3.77%	@ Maturity	13.14	3.90%	10/27/2026
					Total Treasury Bills									
					Total General Fund	2,000,000.32	$ 2,019,000	2,007,249.42	7,249.10					
Restricted Gifts														
	NT2-xxxx03				None									
Unrestricted Gifts														
	NT2-xxxx043													
		CD	**3/3/2026**	2/25/2026	Goldman Sachs Bank	159,000.00		158,996.82	(3.18)	3.75%	@ Maturity	26.29	3.53%	9/3/2026
		CD	6/3/2026	5/28/2026	Bank Hope	175,000.00		174,982.50	(17.50)	3.90%	@ Maturity	26.14	3.90%	12/3/2026
					Total Unrestricted Gifts	334,000.00	$ -	333,979.32	(20.68)					
	Settle after Month End													
LLWCF														
	NT2-xxxx20													
		CD	8/28/2026	8/17/2026	Pinnacle Bank Nashville	187,000.00		186,977.56	(22.44)	3.85%	@ Maturity	13.00	3.80%	11/27/2026
		CD	5/29/2026	5/28/2026	Mountain One Bank	188,000.00		187,875.92	(124.08)	3.95%	@ Maturity	52.00	3.95%	5/28/2027
					Total Working Cash Fund	375,000.00		374,853.48	(146.52)					
	Purchase Settles after Month End:													
				none										
Special Reserve														
	NT2-xxxx67				**None**									
					Total CD's	-		-	-					
		T-Bill	**7/20/2026**	7/21/2026	U.S. Treasury Bill	1,966,436.46	2,000,000	1,974,320.00	7,883.54	3.82%	@ Maturity	23.43	3.99%	12/31/2026
					Total T-Bills	1,966,436.46	2,000,000	1,974,320.00	7,883.54					
					Total Special Reserve	1,966,436.46	2,000,000	1,974,320.00	7,883.54					
Total Library						4,675,436.78	$ 4,019,000	4,690,402.22	14,965.44					

*Benchmarks:

NTC Brokerage fee for Treasury Bills is 10 basis points = .10%. There are no fees for CD's

Link: https://home.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/TextView?type=daily_treasury_bill_rates&field_tdr_date_value=2025

Brokerage Statements available in Sharepoint

Highland Park Public Library
August 2026 Bill List
September 15, 2026 through September 21, 2026

Date	Name	Account Charged	Split	Amount
09/15/2026	AlphaGraphics	5183 · Marketing		-92.02
09/15/2026	ATA Group	52126 · Services		-2,630.00
09/15/2026	Better Impact Inc.	5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software		-764.50
09/15/2026	Brodart Co.	5160 · Cataloging, Processing		-204.95
09/15/2026	Complete Cleaning Company, Inc.	5175 · Maintenance - Building		-3,533.00
09/15/2026	Demco, Inc	5160 · Cataloging, Processing		-360.30
09/15/2026	Eilers, Catherine	516690 · Mileage		-27.84
09/15/2026	Element Four	5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software		-69.00
09/15/2026	Fox Valley Fire and Safety	5175 · Maintenance - Building		-2,053.00
09/15/2026	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software		-294.34
09/15/2026	Hill Mechanical Services	5175 · Maintenance - Building		-16,346.00
09/15/2026	Illinois Library Association	51663 · Dues		-100.00
09/15/2026	Lerette, Bridget	520614 · Oral History Project		-386.28
09/15/2026	Levin, Judy	520655 · Adult Marketing Programs		-350.00
09/15/2026	Mariani Landscape	5181 · Maintenance - Grounds		-1,403.30
09/15/2026	McDaniel, Shelly	516690 · Mileage		-66.06
09/15/2026	Medrano, Cynthia	-SPLIT-		-161.68
		52123 · Supplies	11.65	
		520610 · Adult Services Programs	50.04	
		520614 · Oral History Project	99.99	
09/15/2026	Midwest Archives Conference	520614 · Oral History Project		-150.00
09/15/2026	Multilingual Connections	520614 · Oral History Project		-142.00
09/15/2026	North Shore School District 112	520655 · Adult Marketing Programs		-198.09
09/15/2026	Ortega, Jesus	520610 · Adult Services Programs		-300.00
09/15/2026	Paper Rolls Plus	52123 · Supplies		-229.80
09/15/2026	Paragon Micro Inc.	5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software		-3,774.07
09/15/2026	Robb, Aaron	52123 · Supplies		-20.94
09/15/2026	Rositas-Sheftel, Cary	520650 · Admin Programs		-58.03
09/15/2026	Sajuan, Emmanuel	518535 · HPCF		-100.00
09/15/2026	Schindler Elevator Corporation	5175 · Maintenance - Building		-681.71
09/15/2026	Smith, Heidi	52123 · Supplies		-34.99
09/15/2026	Springshare, LLC	5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software		-6,159.00
09/15/2026	Sterling Talent Solutions	52126 · Services		-120.06
09/15/2026	Sunset Foods	52123 · Supplies		-155.56
09/15/2026	Technology Management Rev Fund	5215 · Telecommunications		-500.00
09/15/2026	Terminix Anderson	5175 · Maintenance - Building		-33.68
09/15/2026	University of Illinois Foundation	520610 · Adult Services Programs		-150.00
09/15/2026	Warehouse Direct	-SPLIT-		-1,057.10
		52123 · Supplies	391.57	
		5175 · Maintenance - Building	665.53	

Highland Park Public Library
August 2026 Bill List
September 15, 2026 through September 21, 2026

09/15/2026	Xerox Corporation	-SPLIT-		-2,450.47
		52123 · Supplies	1207.99	
		5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software	1242.48	
09/17/2026	Blackstone Publishing	5130 · Books & Audio		-1,122.98
09/17/2026	Brodart Co.	5130 · Books & Audio		-353.31
09/17/2026	Cavendish Square	5130 · Books & Audio		-186.03
09/17/2026	H. W. Wilson	5130 · Books & Audio		-295.70
09/17/2026	Information Today, Inc.	5130 · Books & Audio		-455.03
09/17/2026	Ingram Book Company	-SPLIT-		-12,312.40
		5130 · Books & Audio	12081.46	
		513001 · Books & Audio	215.68	
		513101 · Books & Audio	15.26	
09/17/2026	Kanopy	5130 · Books & Audio		-5,000.00
09/17/2026	Libraria	5130 · Books & Audio		-317.65
09/17/2026	Midwest Tape	5130 · Books & Audio		-2,672.91
09/17/2026	OverDrive	5130 · Books & Audio		-11,632.66
09/17/2026	Playaway Products LLC	5130 · Books & Audio		-554.92
09/17/2026	Sentrum Marketing, LLC	5130 · Books & Audio		-88.40
09/17/2026	W.T. Cox Subscriptions, Inc.	5130 · Books & Audio		-105.18
09/19/2026	CCS	550325 · 2025 Construction project		-8,000.00
09/19/2026	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	5506 · Computerization		-12,787.00
09/19/2026	Hallett Movers	550325 · 2025 Construction project		-8,500.00
09/19/2026	Midwest Environmental Consulting Servi	550325 · 2025 Construction project		-19,628.00
09/19/2026	Xerox IT Solutions	-SPLIT-		-1,517.73
		550325 · 2025 Construction project	1228.03	
		5506 · Computerization	289.70	
09/21/2026	Levin, Judy	521004 · Friends Programs		-350.00
09/21/2026	Sandoval, Yolibeth	521004 · Friends Programs		-243.79
				-131,281.46

Highland Park Public Library
August 2026 Bill List Summary
Distributed September 2026

Expense	
5010 · General Expenses	
5100 · Operating Expenses	
5130 · Books & Audio	34,866.23
5160 · Cataloging, Processing	565.25
5166 · Training	
51663 · Dues	100.00
51666 · Training	
516690 · Mileage	93.90
Total 51666 · Training	93.90
Total 5166 · Training	193.90
5175 · Maintenance - Building	23,312.92
5178 · Maintenance -Equipment,Software	12,303.39
5181 · Maintenance - Grounds	1,403.30
5183 · Marketing	92.02
5203 · Programs	
5185 · Miscellaneous Grant Expense	
518535 · HPCF	100.00
Total 5185 · Miscellaneous Grant Expense	100.00
5206 · Programs - General	
520610 · Adult Services Programs	500.04
520650 · Admin Programs	58.03
520655 · Adult Marketing Programs	548.09
Total 5206 · Programs - General	1,106.16
Total 5203 · Programs	1,206.16
5212 · Supplies & Services	
52123 · Supplies	2,052.50
52126 · Services	2,750.06
Total 5212 · Supplies & Services	4,802.56
5215 · Telecommunications	500.00
Total 5100 · Operating Expenses	79,245.73
5500 · Capital Outlay	
5501 · Capital Outlay	
550325 · 2025 Construction project	37,356.03
5506 · Computerization	13,076.70
Total 5501 · Capital Outlay	50,432.73
Total 5500 · Capital Outlay	50,432.73
Total 5010 · General Expenses	129,678.46
501000 · Gift Funds Total	
501004 · Unrestricted Gift Funds	
520000 · Unrestricted Gifts-Other	
520614 · Oral History Project	778.27
Total 520000 · Unrestricted Gifts-Other	778.27

Highland Park Public Library
August 2026 Bill List Summary
Distributed September 2026

520100 · Unrestricted Gifts--Friends	
521004 · Friends Programs	593.79
Total 520100 · Unrestricted Gifts--Friends	593.79
Total 501004 · Unrestricted Gift Funds	1,372.06
501001 · Restricted Gift Funds	
501100 · Books and Materials	
513001 · Books & Audio - Bornstein	215.68
513101 · Books & Audio - Freeman	15.26
Total 501100 · Books and Materials	230.94
Total 501001 · Restricted Gift Funds	230.94
Total 501000 · Gift Funds Total	1,603.00
Total Expense	**131,281.46**

Highland Park Public Library
August 2026 General II (Bills Already Paid)
August 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026

Date	Num	Name	Account Charged	Split	Paid Amount
08/06/2026	14341	City Of Highland Park.	5115 · Group Insurance		-48,932.55
08/11/2026	14342	Access One	5215 · Telecommunications		-1,014.45
08/11/2026	14343	AT&T	5215 · Telecommunications		-365.15
08/27/2026	14344	Comcast	5215 · Telecommunications		-303.16
08/28/2026	14345	Recycle Away, LLC	5509 · Furniture & Equipment		-1,672.98
08/31/2026	14346	City Of Highland Park.	5116 · IMRF		-9,078.76
08/27/2026	14347	Elan Financial Services	-SPLIT-		-6,723.98
			5130 · Books & Audio	862.58	
			5175 · Maintenance - Building	313.66	
			5178 · Maint. - Equipment, Soft	761.57	
			5183 · Marketing	10.00	
			5215 · Telecommunications	48.24	
			52123 · Supplies	21.78	
			52123 · Supplies	27.49	
			52123 · Supplies	431.62	
			52123 · Supplies	282.81	
			52123 · Supplies	274.87	
			52123 · Supplies	36.82	
			52123 · Supplies	41.98	
			52123 · Supplies	446.07	
			516660 · Training, Foood/Suppli	70.20	
			51663 · Dues	215.00	
			516670 · Training - General	574.00	
			516670 · Training - General	59.00	
			516670 · Training - General	90.00	
			520610 · Adult Services Program	311.46	
			520615 · Programs - New Media	511.07	
			520655 · Adult Marketing Prograı	5.99	
			520660 · Social Services Prograı	93.38	
			518320 · Outreach	282.83	
			521004 · Friends Programs	300.39	
			550325 · Construction	579.98	
08/31/2026	14348	Amazon Capital Services	-SPLIT-		-1,381.95
			5130 · Books & Audio	1,371.72	
			513001· Books & Audio - Bornste	10.23	
					-69,472.98
8/1/2026	**ACH**	Belay Solutions	52126 · Services		1,909.62
		(monthly ACH payment)			

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
SALARY REPORT
August 2026

	Pay period ending:			Monthly Totals
	8/2/2026	8/16/2026	8/30/2026	
Salary Expense by Department:				
Administration	24,764.50	24,897.36	25,030.15	74,692.00
Communications	9,452.87	9,435.87	9,435.87	28,324.61
Information and Reader Services	26,621.45	26,666.57	26,861.74	80,149.76
Membership Services	19,719.88	20,087.34	19,563.08	59,370.30
Media Services	9,524.49	9,471.19	9,653.78	28,649.46
Maintenance	5,722.69	5,647.24	5,565.76	16,935.68
Technical Services	14,317.55	14,328.26	14,322.91	42,968.72
Youth Services	16,604.92	16,411.36	16,251.39	49,267.67
Total Salaries Paid	126,728.34	126,945.19	126,684.67	380,358.20
Reverse Accrued for July 20 to 31				(118,000.00)
Accrue for August 31				12,000.00
Subtotal Salaries per Page 3				274,358.20
Payroll Taxes				20,502.70
IMRF				9,078.76
Health Insurance-Library Share				42,742.26
Total Payments				346,681.92

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Date: September 11, 2026
To: Board of Trustees
From: Heidi Smith, Executive Director
Subject: Strategic Bridge Plan update

Background

The 2025-2027 Strategic Bridge Plan created a roadmap for the Library, guiding the organization from the previous strategic plan (2022-24) through the 2025-26 expansion project to the creation of a new comprehensive strategic plan in 2027. As proposed, Library administration and staff are drafting an updated and expanded Strategic Bridge Plan extending the plan for one year through 2028. This update includes staff intentions and assumptions discussed to date for Board discussion prior to staff creating a draft for review.

Upon the exciting completion of the expansion, the Library will be poised for a new chapter, opening the door to greater use of its collections, resources, programs, and services and welcoming an even larger share of the community to discover all the new and enhanced services that the Library has to offer. In addition, the creation of a new website will meet digital accessibility standards and improve online service for all. The extended plan also provides time to thoughtfully coordinate and create a compelling new strategic direction, while providing improved alignment with the Library's budget timeline as well as more time for the community to engage with and respond to the updated facility and expanded and improved services.

Intentions for Discussion

1. **Increase value to the community as a result of the expansion:** provide and promote expanded and improved services that inspire curiosity and creativity
    a. **Increase community use**
        i. Increase circulation and active cards with increased collection spending; collection organization and display strategies; and promotional content
        ii. Increase program attendance and active cards with increased programs, program capacity, and program variety; and promotional content
        iii. Increase services use (study and meeting room use, questions, Makerspace use, Archive use, Teen Services use, etc.) and active cards with promotional content
    b. **Establish annual appeal baseline** that enhances Library services in partnership with the Friends with continued engagement with Library donor pool and community at large
2. **Improve digital accessibility:** launch new, accessible website improving access to and use of Library resources and services
    a. **Improve access to Library information**
        i. Increase webpage hits and resource use by meeting WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards
3. **Lead with clear strategy:** develop Strategic Direction 2029-2031
    a. **Complete planning coordination** 2027 Q1-2
        i. Develop timeline with key milestones
        ii. Select required resources
        iii. Continue staff and Board discussions

b. **Develop the plan** 2027 Q3-4 and 2028 Q1-2
c. **Prep the plan** 2028 Q3-4

All while maintaining staff support and wellness: though no specific strategic goal moves the needle on this priority, this is a commitment to balance strategic and operational work and prevent burnout

Assumptions for Discussion

1. Budget impacts
    a. Will increase collection budget 5-8% annually 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031
    b. Will maintain proposed staffing levels in 2027 and potentially 2028
        i. Evaluate draws on staff time as work in new/expanded areas and updated goals progress; assess and realign as needed
        ii. May impact 2028 and/or 2029 staff budget
    c. Will launch new website with external support 2027, 2028
    d. Will increase both program diversity, capacity, and overall number as well as participation
        i. Fund with operating budget 2027 and future years; also fund with grants, and Friends/fundraising support; unrestricted gift fund as needed
        ii. Increases in programs and/or capacity and participation may not directly equate; increased program diversity will better serve patrons, but will not equally influence participation
    e. Will develop the new strategic plan with the support of a consultant 2027, 2028
2. Strategic Plan
    a. Will include Strategic Direction 2029-2031 "Planning coordination" in 2027-2028 update
    b. Will update "Develop the plan" and "Prep the plan" in 2027-2028 update by 2027 Q2
3. Fundraising
    a. Will partner with Friends for future fundraising efforts (discussions ongoing)
    b. Will enhance facility and services with annual appeal, not fund typical operations
    c. Will conduct donor stewardship with existing staff and volunteers within defined priorities in partnership with the Friends (discussions ongoing)
4. Communications
    a. Will focus communication on service awareness and impact of enhanced services (including donor appreciation); annual appeal becomes shared/secondary message in partnership with Friends
5. Services
    a. Will make community room(s) available for public use 2027 Q3

Next steps

September 15: Board discusses intentions and assumptions
October 7: further discussion at staff department meetings
October 14: further discussion at staff leadership meeting
October 20: further discussion at Board meeting

Date: September 10, 2026
To: Board of Trustees
From: Heidi Smith, Executive Director
Subject: Reimagine Your Library Campaign Report

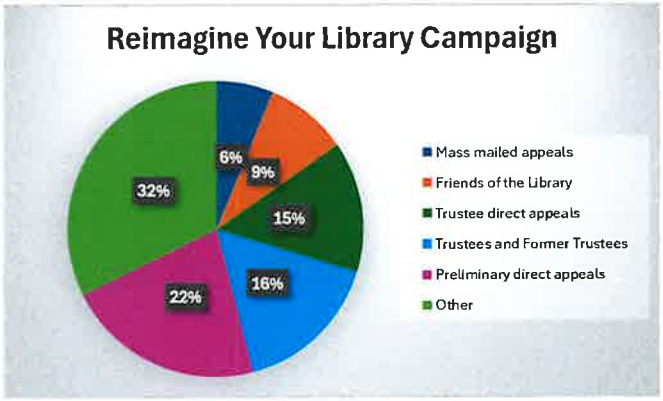
Background
In 2023, the Board established an ad hoc Development Committee to support the creation of a capital campaign to raise $1M for the expansion. The Committee served in the place of a fundraising consultant, supporting the Executive Director in establishing campaign goals, naming opportunities, and supportive Board policy. Upon completion of this work by the Committee in 2025, the Board President appointed two Trustees as Development Liaisons to support the Executive Director with timely decision-making.

Campaign
In June 2025, the Library launched the Reimagine Your Library capital campaign with a mass mailing to all Highland Park addresses, yielding an estimated 109 gifts totaling $38,706 in the following six weeks. Direct appeals to previous donors and personal appeals (with community leadership recommendations) made by Trustees yielded $250,000 and $165,000, respectively. In addition, The Friends of the Library committed $105,000. The Library sent a final mass mailing in April 2026, yielding an estimated 100 gifts totaling $32,990 in the following six weeks. Overall, the campaign received very positive support.

The campaign, including donations of $10,000 and higher, was featured in seven issues of The Highlander newsletter circulated during the campaign. The Library sent 11 monthly targeted emails to Library subscribers with an average open rate of 48.1% and 276 clicks on "donate now".

The campaign ended June 30, 2026, with gifts and pledges exceeding the $1M goal with a total of $1,149,474 from 471 gifts. In addition, the Strategic Bridge Plan target to increase the pool of donors who have given the Library $5,000 or more was exceeded with an increase from 12 donors to 40, a 233% increase. Donors named 53 spaces and 34 donors will be recognized for gifts of $1,000 for trees and shrubs on the west lawn. Two spaces remain unnamed: Youth Discovery Room and The Gateway (elevator). Also remaining are 21 Adult Services bookstacks and 11 Gallery displays, which were added late in the campaign due to demand from donors for additional options for gifts of $2,500 to $5,000. The donor wall in the new Gallery will feature 242 donors who gave $500 or more.

Notably, the campaign received 100% Trustee participation as well as significant support from past Trustees totaling $186,818. Read more at https://reimaginehppl.info/current-and-former-board-members-help-reimagine-library/. The following chart reports the percentage of gifts received from various appeals.



In summary, 1/3 of the funds raised was given by or facilitated by current and former Trustees; 1/3 was given by established Library donors; and 1/3 was contributed by new Library donors.

Impacts

Of note, unless otherwise noted, the following impacts are anticipated for future capital campaigns. The Library must establish a new baseline for annual appeals and ongoing fundraising activities.

Library administration and staff completed a comprehensive review of the work completed on the campaign, identifying opportunities for operational improvements. This includes a more robust, easy-to-use online payment portal; a more comprehensive, malleable donor database; and increased printing and mailing budgets. The budgetary impact of adding these resources for all future fundraising efforts is estimated to start at $20,000, dependent on the fundraising goal amount.

In observing the way potential donors considered naming opportunities, it is my conclusion that the campaign would have benefited from a third-party assessment of naming opportunities that would likely have increased some of the naming amounts. In addition, because we were establishing a baseline for Library fundraising at the same time, it was challenging to forecast space and budget needs for signage and donor recognition. We will apply this baseline to future capital campaigns to develop a clearer preliminary plan. This will impact future campaign timelines and goals as well as budget for signage and consultation.

The case statement document shared with donors for consideration and with Trustees for advocacy purposes was well-received but functioned as a brochure with exciting images; it was not needed to "make our case." Significant staff time was invested. In future capital campaigns, staff will assess the need for a case statement, potentially forgoing it for a more concise preview piece(s) to generate excitement about the amenities of the project and the resulting value it will provide for the community. This will likely be budget neutral and reduce staff writing and revising time.

The campaign required significant investment of staff and administration time for work and campaign management including donor communications, correspondence, documentation, and reporting and signage design. Budgetary impacts for future capital campaigns led by the Library will likely include staff and leadership support at an estimated $50,000-$75,000 for the duration of a year-long capital campaign.

For all future budget impacts, the Library will need to determine which revenue stream, gift funds raised or general funds levied through property taxes, will fund future annual appeals and/or capital campaigns.

As I was inexperienced in fundraising, the Library Board of Trustees Development Committee and Development Liaisons served in the place of a consultant to guide the campaign. While necessary to the success of the campaign, at times this blurred the lines between governance and operations, though outcomes were unaffected due to solid relationships and communication. As staff gained experience, the need for direct Board guidance diminished. This will impact future campaign coordination anticipating that Administration will lead all elements of appeals and campaigns. At the same time, this increases the need for clear Board-approved goals with supportive metrics around financial success and participation, donor growth and loyalty, gift quality, and community reach.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Operations & Policy Meeting
August 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Peter Zotos, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
Members Present: Peter Zotos (Chair), Rebecca Nathanson, and Rob Biederman,
Members Absent: Irene Hoffman (ex officio)
Others Present: Heidi Smith (Executive Director), Juan Reyes (Media Services Manager)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Trustee Nathanson moved and Trustee Biederman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026 Operations & Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
Ayes: Zotos, Nathanson, Biederman
Nays:
MOTION CARRIED.

REVIEW 3D PRINTER/NEW MAKERSPACE POLICY
The Committee reviewed the current 3D Printer policy and discussed the proposed new Makerspace policy that will replace it. The Committee revised the draft policy as needed and will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

REVIEW INTERNET POLICY
The Committee reviewed and revised the policy as needed and will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

REVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO POLICY
The Committee reviewed and revised the policy as needed and will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Trustee Biederman moved and Trustee Nathanson seconded a motion to adjourn. Chair Zotos adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Smith
Reviewed by: Peter Zotos
Approved: 9/1/2026

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Operations & Policy Meeting
September 01, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Peter Zotos, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
Members Present: Peter Zotos (Chair), Rebecca Nathanson, and Rob Biederman
Members Absent: Irene Hoffman (ex officio)
Others Present: Heidi Smith (Executive Director), Jill Alfrejd (Communications Manager)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Trustee Biederman moved and Trustee Nathanson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 Operations & Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
Ayes: Zotos, Nathanson, Biederman
Nays:
MOTION CARRIED.

REVIEW SOCIAL SOFTWARE/MEDIA POLICY
The Committee reviewed and revised the policy as needed, including renaming the policy "Social Media." Director Smith will consult the Library's attorney about additional revisions. The Committee will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENTS POLICY
The Committee reviewed and revised the policy as needed and will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

REVIEW MAKERSPACE POLICY
The Committee reviewed and revised the policy as needed and will recommend the updated version to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Trustee Nathanson moved and Trustee Biederman seconded a motion to adjourn. Chair Zotos adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Smith
Reviewed by: Peter Zotos
Approved:

Policy 207 **Internet**

Purpose: To state the Highland Park Public Library's ("the Library") policy regarding the use of the internet.

General Policy

The Library offers access to the internet, a worldwide electronic information network, in support of the Library's mission to provide materials, resources, and services to help Patrons obtain information to meet their educational, professional, cultural, and social needs. The internet presents the Library with an opportunity to expand the scope of information available to Patrons.

The Internet and Emerging Technologies

The Library does not, and cannot, control the information available on the internet. While many sources are dependable and useful, others may be unreliable, inaccurate, out-of-date, offensive, or controversial. The Library does not endorse the content of internet sites. The Library does not use filtering software for internet content and does not deny access to internet sites based solely on age. Internet content is protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech.

An increasing part of internet content involves Artificial Intelligence ("AI"), including Machine Learning and Generative AI. While AI can provide valuable information, it may also produce incomplete or inaccurate results. Patrons are encouraged to evaluate information obtained through AI with the same care as with any other source.

Patron Responsibilities

1) The Library encourages Patrons to evaluate carefully the information obtained on the internet. Patrons are responsible for selecting the sites that they deem appropriate to their needs.
2) Individual users are responsible for defining what material or information is consistent with their personal beliefs.
3) Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring and supervising their children's use of the internet and to discuss with their children issues of appropriate use and network safety. The Library does not deny access to electronic information networks based solely on age.
4) Patrons are solely responsible for any liability, injury, or damage arising out of or related to their use of the internet.

Patron Prohibitions

Patrons may not:

1) Damage, alter, or tamper with Library computer equipment or software.
2) Connect their own devices to the Library's private data network.
3) Violate system security.
4) Violate licensing agreements.
5) Use the network to harass others.
6) Violate a Federal or State law including, but not limited to, accessing material that is obscene or child pornography as defined by the Illinois Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/11-20 & 720 ILCS 5/11-20.1, infringing copyright(s) of intellectual property laws, and/or cyberstalking.
7) Engage in any activity that violates the Patron Conduct Policy.
8) Use Library devices designated for youth (up to age 12) if Patron is over the age 12.

Library Assistance

1) Library staff are available to assist users in making judgments about the reliability or currency of certain types of information and sources but cannot and will not provide definitive analyses of particular sources. Patrons are ultimately responsible for making judgments and selecting the sites, sources, and information that they deem appropriate to their needs.
2) As with all materials, Library staff are also available to help Patrons locate sources of useful information, as well as to recommend age-appropriate materials for children.
3) In using the internet, Patrons agree that the Library is not responsible for any liability, injury, or damages which they may incur with or without the assistance of Library staff.

Library Procedures

The Library may set procedures to assist staff and Patrons in the use of electronic resources, including, but not limited to:

1) Time limits for access to Library computer equipment,
2) Cost recovery for copies and printouts,
3) Specific instructions for using electronic resources,
4) Restrictions on the use of personal software on Library computer equipment, and
5) Restrictions on the use of the workstations for other purposes.

Breach of Policy

Violation of any aspect of this policy or established Library procedures may result in suspension or loss of Library privileges.

Reviewed and revised July 15, 2025
Reviewed and revised September 15, 2026

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HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy 402 **Makerspace**

Purpose: To state guidelines for the use of the Highland Park Public Library's ("the Library") Makerspace, a public space for members of the community to learn, create, innovate, and collaborate using technology-based tools.

General Policy

All Patrons using the Makerspace equipment and materials are subject to the Library's requirements and policies, assume all risk and release the Library from any damages arising out of or related to such use. Such use is also subject to all local, state, and federal laws.

Access

1. The Makerspace is open to Patrons subject to equipment availability, staffing, safety requirements, posted hours, scheduled programs, and the Library event calendar.
2. Patrons who require accommodations must contact the Library with their request. The Library will make reasonable accommodations consistent with applicable laws, Library policy, and available resources. Library staff-led Makerspace programs have priority use.
3. Full independent use of the Makerspace begins at age 14. Patrons ages 11-13 may use designated age-appropriate equipment or participate in Library staff-led Makerspace activities. Patrons ages 10 and under must be accompanied and actively supervised by an adult age 18 or older unless participating in a Library staff-led Makerspace program.

Use of Equipment and Materials

1. Use of the Makerspace is at the Patron's own risk. Patrons are responsible for following all safety instructions, and practices, equipment guidelines, posted procedures, and Library staff directions.
2. Some Makerspace equipment may require initial orientation, project consultation, competency assessment, reservation, or direct Library staff supervision.
3. Library staff may provide basic guidance, safe-use demonstrations, troubleshooting support, and referrals to learning resources.

4. The Library may provide basic Makerspace materials free of charge, subject to availability, project type, and usage limits.
5. Patrons may utilize outside materials in the Makerspace only with Library staff approval. Materials must be safe, compatible with Library equipment, and appropriate for use in a public library setting. The Library reserves the right to deny the use of any material and may require documentation, such as a Safety Data Sheet or manufacturer material information, before approving outside materials.

Restrictions On Use

1. The Library reserves the right to refuse any project, material, or equipment use request that is unsafe, unlawful, inappropriate for a public library setting, likely to damage equipment or property, incompatible with available materials or tools, excessive in its use of resources, or inconsistent with Library policy and mission.
2. Library staff may stop any activity that is unsafe, inappropriate, disruptive, likely to damage equipment, or inconsistent with Library policy.
3. Makerspace equipment, materials, software, and services may not be used to create, produce, reproduce, display, or distribute:
    a. Items, objects, or content prohibited by federal, state, or local law.
    b. Unsafe, harmful, dangerous items or objects that pose a threat to the health or safety of others or intended to threaten, injure or harass others, including, but not limited to, weapons, weapon components, or items that could reasonably be mistaken for weapons and that may cause public alarm or safety concerns.
    c. Obscene, sexually explicit, or otherwise inappropriate objects or items for the Library environment.
    d. Objects or materials that may damage Library equipment, property, or facilities.
    e. Content or objects that violate copyright, trademark, patent, licensing, or other intellectual property laws.
    f. Content or activity that disrupts Library operations or interferes with other Patrons' use of the Library.
    g. Items, objects or content that is intended for industrial or commercial purposes.
4. Patrons may not store personal materials, tools, equipment, projects, or personal property in the Makerspace.
5. Food and drink are not permitted near Makerspace equipment.

6. Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times while operating designated equipment.
7. Patrons must remove any clothing or jewelry that poses a safety risk when directed by Library staff or otherwise.
8. Patrons must wear required safety equipment, including eye protection or other protective gear, when directed by Library staff or when required for the safe operation of equipment.
9. Equipment and tools must remain in the Makerspace.
10. Failure to follow this policy, posted procedures, or staff instructions may result in suspension or loss of Makerspace privileges, consistent with applicable Library policies.

Patron's Responsibility and Release and Indemnification of the Library

1. Patrons voluntarily assume all risks incurred with Makerspace use, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable and known or unknown, including risks arising from the ordinary negligence of the Library, the Library's Board of Trustees, ("the Board"), officers, employees, volunteers, and agents, to the fullest extent permitted by law.
2. Patrons are responsible for damage to equipment, tools, materials, or Library property. Patrons may be held financially responsible for damage caused by willful misuse, negligence, unsafe behavior, or failure to follow staff instructions. Patrons agree to reimburse the Library for the reasonable cost of repair or replacement and to indemnify and hold the Library harmless from any related claims, losses, or expenses.
3. Patrons are responsible for determining whether their projects comply with copyright, trademark, patent, licensing, or other intellectual property laws. Patrons assume responsibility for any claims or issues related to copyrighted, patented, trademarked, or licensed materials used in connection with Makerspace equipment or services.
4. Patrons must report equipment problems, accidents, injuries, broken tools, damaged materials, or unsafe conditions to staff immediately.
5. Patrons must immediately stop using, and must not use, any equipment that appears damaged or malfunctioning or that is posted as out of service.
6. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Patrons release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Library, the Board, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to a Patron's use of the Makerspace, its equipment, materials, software, or services.

Limitations of Library's Responsibility

1. The Library does not guarantee material availability, project quality, satisfaction, or successful project completion.
2. The Library is not responsible for failed projects, damaged materials, data loss, publicly visible files, damage to personal property, or injury resulting from misuse of equipment, failure to follow instructions, or Patron error. The Library does not guarantee the privacy or confidentiality of designs, files, or work displayed or created in a public setting.
3. The Library is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged, or abandoned personal property.
4. The Library is not responsible for determining whether a Patron's project infringes on intellectual property rights.
5. The Library makes no warranty, express or implied, regarding the condition, safety, or fitness for a particular purpose of any Makerspace equipment, tool(s), or material(s).
6. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Library's liability, if any, arising out of or relating to Makerspace use shall not exceed the cost of the materials or services provided, and the Library shall not be liable for incidental, consequential, or special damages.
7. Library staff are not responsible for designing, producing, completing, or repairing Patron projects.

Approved September 15, 2026

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy 410 **Photography and Video**

Purpose: To state the taking of photographs or videos inside the Highland Park Public Library ("the Library") building.

I. General Policy

The Library has a significant interest in maintaining an environment that allows Patrons to freely access library information and resources. This significant interest requires the Library to maintain policies that protect the privacy of its Patrons and staff members and ensure their freedom from harassment, intimidation, and threats to their safety and well-being. The Library provides appropriate safeguards against such behavior and enforces policies and procedures addressing that behavior when it occurs.

Permission is generally required for taking photographs or videos in public areas of the Library building and grounds for personal, noncommercial use, provided that no tripods, lights, or other specialized equipment are used. However, such activity may not impede the ingress or egress of Patrons or staff to or from the Library building or grounds. Taking photographs or videos of, or in, public restrooms or areas reserved for staff use only is restricted.

If tripods, lights, or other specialized equipment are to be used, requests to the Executive Director or their designee must be made at least 2 business days in advance. Persons taking photographs and videos shall not (i) compromise a Patron or staff member's right to privacy (see Library Policies 201 Confidentiality of Patron Information and 213 Website Privacy), (ii) harass, intimidate, or threaten a Patron or staff member, (iii) block aisles, walkways, stairwells, doors, or exits, or (iv) otherwise interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Library.

II. Commercial Photography and Videos

The Library may permit use of its building and grounds for commercial photography or video projects if the project does not interfere with the Library's mission and complies with this policy. The Library will charge a fee to offset any related costs incurred by the Library, and prior permission must be sought at least

one week in advance.

III. Photography and Videos of Materials and Resources

The Library permits the taking of photographs and videos of its publicly-available collections. However, Patrons are solely responsible for obtaining consent or other permission when taking photographs or videos of copyrighted materials.

IV. Library Photography, Videos, and Recording

The Library may take photos, videos, and audio recordings within the Library building and grounds and during Library events to use in its publicity materials and on its website and social media sites. The Library reserves the right to document its services and the public's use of the Library building and grounds. The Library may copy and display these photographs, videos, and audio recordings, including on any Library website or social media sites. Any individual who does not wish the Library to use a photograph or video of them or their child should inform a Library staff member prior to or while such photographs or videos are being taken.

V. Library Board of Trustees ("the Board") Meetings

Pursuant to Section 120/2.05 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.), any person may record the proceedings of the Board and other meetings required by the Act to be open to the public. The recordings may be made by tape, film or other means and shall not disrupt the meeting or create a safety hazard.

VI. Liability

Persons involved in taking photographs or videos are solely liable for any injury to persons or damage to property that result from their activities on Library property. They also have sole responsibility for obtaining all necessary releases and permissions required by law from persons who can be identified in any photograph or video or for copyrighted materials. The Library assumes no responsibility for obtaining these releases or permissions.

VII. Right Subject to Compliance with Policy

The Library reserves the right to direct any individual or group violating this policy to cease the taking of photographs or videos.

Approved July 18, 2023
Reviewed and revised September 15, 2026

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HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy 103 **Public Comments**

Purpose: To inform the public of the principles that guide the opportunity for public comments at meetings of the Highland Park Public Library ("the Library") Board of Trustees ("the Board") and its committees ("the Committee").

General Policy

The Library provides the opportunity for the public to speak on any Library-related issue during the Public Comments item of the agendas of the Board and Committee meetings.

For the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the scheduled meeting agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public comment will be permitted at each meeting when the public is present.

Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to speak during the Public Comments segment of the meeting, subject to the guidelines listed in this policy and the Library's Patron Conduct Policy.

Public Comments Guidelines

1. Public Comments are permitted during the Public Comments segments of all Board and Committee meetings.
2. Persons wishing to speak must attend the meeting.
3. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes for their comments.
4. Members of the public wishing to speak are urged, but not required, to sign in prior to the commencement of the Board or Committee meeting and provide their name, address, and topic on which they wish to speak. If applicable, the individual shall provide the identity of the organization or association on whose behalf they are speaking.
5. The Board President or Committee Chairperson will ask if anyone wishes to address the Board or Committee, respectively, and will determine the order in which speakers are recognized. To promote effective and efficient Public Comments, preference will be given to speakers who sign in.

6. Speakers are urged, but not required, to identify themselves, their residence address, topic(s) and groups affiliation, if any, before speaking.
7. Groups are asked to designate a single spokesperson.
8. Members of the public shall not discuss individual Library personnel issues or confidential Patron matters, and the speakers' concerns or comments should be limited to Library business. Comments on the performance of specific Library employees must be addressed to the Executive Director or their designee ("the Executive Director") separate from the Board or Committee meeting. When needed, discussion with the Board about an employee will be held in closed executive session.
9. All public comments shall be addressed to the Board or Committee as a whole and no comments shall be addressed to individual members of the Board, Library staff or other members of the public.
10. Abusive, profane, frivolous, harassing and/or repetitive comments and/or personal attacks will not be permitted. If any member of the public indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to conducting public business, the speaker will forfeit the remainder of their time.
11. Failure to adhere to this and other Library policies may result in removal of the speaker from Library property.
12. Board members will generally not respond to comments from speakers, however, on occasion, the Board President or Committee Chairperson may respond as appropriate and ask questions for clarification or direct speakers to the Executive Director for assistance. Issues requiring possible action by the Board or Committee may be added to a future agenda. Issues that may need to be addressed by the Executive Director will be duly noted.
13. The Board President shall have the authority to determine further procedures regarding public participation not otherwise defined in Library policy.
14. The Board and Committee meeting minutes shall contain a summary of each speaker's comments.

Revised May 16, 2023
Reviewed and revised September 15, 2026

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy 211 **Social Media**

Purpose: To define the Highland Park Public Library's ("the Library") use of social media and required conduct of people contributing to the Library's social media content.

General Policy

The Library uses social media as a marketing component to increase awareness about Library services and otherwise promote information consistent with the Library's mission, which often includes, but is not limited to, providing information about Library resources, upcoming programs and events, and other Library-related content. The Library has an overriding interest in providing accurate and appropriate information on social media sites.

The Library's social media policy applies to everyone who interacts with the Library's social media accounts, regardless if they are registered as Library cardholders. In accessing the Library's social media accounts, such users' posts, comments, tags or other content shall only be germane to Library services, resources, programs, and operations; in full compliance with the Library's policies and applicable local, state and federal law.

General Use and Purpose of the Library's Social Media

The Library's social media pages and content are a limited public forum to share Library-related information, and not a traditional public forum for the general exchange of ideas and viewpoints. The Library does not make its social media accounts available for general public discourse.

All posts, comments, messages, tags, or other content will be monitored and reviewed for compliance with this policy.

General Guidelines

1. The Executive Director or their designee ("Executive Director") reserves the right to reproduce all content for Library publicity and marketing, including comments, posts, messages, photos, and images, in other public venues. Reproduction of content may be edited for space or content.

2. All content posted on Library social media sites is subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the State of Illinois record retention laws.
3. All content posted to any Library social media accounts is bound by the social media platform's terms of use, and the Executive Director reserves the right to report any violation of the platform's terms of use to the company.
4. People who enter private or personal information on a Library social media site do so at their own risk, and the Library is not responsible for any damages resulting from the public display of, or failure to remove, private or personal information.
5. Any content posted by a member of the public on Library social media accounts is the opinion of the poster only, and does not imply endorsement of, or agreement by, the Library.

Standards of Use

Prohibited content that includes any of the following will be removed:

1. Content that is not germane or reasonably related to the subject matter of the original Library post or to Library services, resources, programs, or operations generally.
2. Content that violates local, state, or federal law or which promotes activity which violates local, state, or federal laws.
3. Content that constitutes unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of a protected class status.
4. Obscene, sexually explicit, or otherwise inappropriate content.
5. Incitement to imminent violence, or actual threats to the safety of specific individuals, groups, or the public at large.
6. Private or personal information about individuals, groups, or entities.
7. Commercial promotions or solicitation.
8. Solicitations or requests for donations.
9. Spam, malware, or viruses.
10. Content that is clearly defamatory on its face.
11. Content in support of or in opposition to political candidates, referendums, or campaigns.
12. Content that violates copyright, trademark rights, or other intellectual property rights.

Removal of Users' Comments and Denial of Access

The Executive Director reserves the right at any time and without prior notice to remove any content that violates this policy; and the right to block access to Library social media sites for any individual who repeatedly violates this policy.

Any individual whose content has been removed in whole or part from the Library's social media pages or whose access has been blocked may have the decision reviewed upon written request to the Executive Director.

The Executive Director reserves the right to pause or disable the access for public comments if the quantity of comments to be evaluated negatively impacts the operations of the Library.

Limitation of the Library's Liability and Users' Indemnification

The Library, its employees, the Library's Board of Trustees ("the "Board") and its Trustees, and the Library's volunteers are not responsible or liable for any damages, direct or indirect, resulting from any content posted by any person in any forum.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Library, its employees, the Board and its Trustees, and volunteers are not responsible or liable for any damages, direct or indirect, resulting from a user violating this policy, or for the Library's failure to remove content in violation of this policy.

To the full extent permitted by law, all users indemnify and hold harmless the Library, its employees, the Board and its Trustees, and the Library's volunteers for any injury, damage, or loss resulting from a user's violating this policy, or for the Library's failure to remove content in violation of this policy.

Revised December 13, 2022
Reviewed and revised September 15, 2026

Announcements and Updates

- The **Floral Design Workshop** fostered both lifelong learning and community connection, with participants bonding over their arrangements and eagerly requesting more adult programming. This success highlights how our hands-on events naturally encourage local socialization, aligning with broader community wellness goals. Thank you, Marketing Specialist Beth Keller, for another great program.

- HPPL has been accepted to participate in the **Yiddish Book Center's 2027 Program "Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion through Yiddish Literature"**, through which we will share additional Yiddish literature with our local community and foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Thank you, Adult Services Librarian Rebecca Hayes for leading this important work!

Service Highlights

Programs: (see activity report, pages 2-3)

- Administration & Media Services created *Caminando Juntos (Walking Together),* hosting *Preparación para el regreso a clases (Back to School Readiness)* (141 uses).
- Adult Services hosted Bring Your Own Craft at Curt's Café (11 attendees)
  - Attendees brought their own craft project to work on and meet fellow crafters. Treats from Curt's Café were provided.
- Adult Services organized a *Floral Design Workshop* (65 attendees)
  - More details are above.
- Media Services completed 82 Book-a-Librarian 1:1 appointments.
- Youth Services hosted Craft Craftapalooza (65 attendees)
  - A drop-in event providing space and craft supplies for participants to explore their creativity and make something of their own.

Use of Resources:

- *Ransom: a novel* by Silva Daniel was the highest circulating book by Highland Park patrons; film *Project Hail Mary* was the top DVD/Blu Ray title.
- See collection statistics, pages 5-6 and the following chart.

Library Social Services:

- 2 individual patrons served in 5 patron engagements.
- Social Services Coordinator Diana Alvey met with partners in Uvalde, Texas, to learn more about programming and services for the community.

Outreach:

- Outreach team members attended 2 events and engaged with 593 individuals.
  - National Night Out
  - Highwood Public Library End of Summer Fair
  - Draw Together at the Art Center
    - Part of the 12-week summer drawing program led by local artist Daniel M. Canlas, where participants were introduced to essential drawing techniques. All supplies, including colored pencils, were provided.
- The Library hosted 11 storytimes for a total of 140 attendees. No storytimes were held in the community this month.

Partnerships:

- Three virtual events were hosted in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium:
  - The Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen: A conversation about the legacy of cooking icon Julia Child with Smithsonian curator and public historian Paula J. Johnson, author of *Julia Child's Kitchen: The Design, Tools, Stories, and Legacy of an Iconic Space* (52 attendees).
  - Overcoming Burnout to Lead with Resilience and Alignment: Internationally acclaimed inventor, former CEO, and national bestselling author Jane Chen shared how to cultivate the emotional intelligence and self-compassion to beat burnout and lead through uncertainty with sustainable strength (38 attendees).
  - A Miss Marple Mystery with Lucy Foley: A conversation with acclaimed and bestselling author Lucy Foley about her new Miss Marple mystery "Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel" (23 attendees).

Patron Comments (see comments chart page)

Staff

Training and Professional Development: (see activity report, page 1)

- At the August all-staff meeting, staff recognitions and HR updates were shared, followed by a review of construction updates. Also, during the meeting:
  - The emergency procedure for Shelter In Place / Severe Weather and the Simple-Texting emergency notification procedure were reviewed.
  - Membership Services Manager Danny Quinlan presented an update on BiblioCore, the new public access catalog system.
  - Adult Services Manager Cynthia Medrano and Youth Services Manager Marcia Beach shared the exciting results of the Staff Summer Reading Club.
  - Four staff members also shared their Training Takeaways from The American Library Association (ALA) conference.
- All staff were invited to complete American Heart Association CPR and First Aid training with Highland Park Fire Department. 14 staff are registered for sessions in August and September.

New/Departing Staff (see activity report, page 3)

Facility & Technology

Projects in progress

- Refreshing staff workstations
- Supporting construction
- Transitioning away from SMS/voice Multi Factor Authentication
- Installing new shades on staff conference room windows
- Working on lower-level entrance 2-week closure and impacts to staff and patrons

Upcoming projects

- Removing cameras and people counter from lower-level lobby area for demo work
- Big Move 2.0 planning

Projects completed

- Completed backend support of new BiblioCore catalog interface
- Conducted backup recovery testing of servers to validate the restore process
- Completed the Cyber Liability Insurance application
- Set up a new web server and implemented a local asset management system
- Shampooed carpets in all study rooms
- Oversaw rebuild of condensate pump in penthouse mechanical room
- Oversaw boiler updates (new burner assembly and draft inducer motor)

Library Safety

- Suspensions issued: 0
- Incident reports documented: 1
- Police on-site: 1 for false burglar alarm

HPPL in the News

- *We're on the hunt for Barack Obama's tan suit. Help us find it"* was featured in the Chicago Sun Times on August 17, 2026 (see article following report)
    - In this article, a conversation between the author, Lynn Sweet, and library membership services staffer, Dara Bass, was highlighted.
- *Highland Park Cooling Centers Open During Heat Wave* was featured in Patch.com on September 01, 2026 (see article following report)
- *Highland Park To Hold 9/11 Anniversary Ceremony at Ravinia* was featured in Patch.com on September 03, 2026 (see article following report)

Staff Monthly Report

We asked staff to share something they're proud of, a challenge they're experiencing, and a favorite story about a patron, team member, or partner interaction. Here are a few highlights.

- I had a patron come in looking for books that were similar to Babysitter's Club. After finding out that they prefer full textbooks instead of graphic novels. I went searching through the shelves. I found quite a few options that were similar to Babysitter's Club. I was very happy to see that the patron ended up taking most of the titles I suggested including one graphic novel. I love it when we find books for patrons and they give them a chance. This is especially hard with a large portion of our collection in storage.

- Not a challenge but a frustration that many experience with the constant delay of the construction. However, it is so nice that the board acknowledges our skills when interacting with patrons and our excellent job despite the noise.

- I said hi to a young patron I hadn't seen in a few months and noted that it had been a while. He said that he had been traveling for most of the summer and had really missed the library "even like this" (referring to its scaled-down size). Hah!

- A patron expressed how excited she was for the construction to be over and empathized with how challenging it could be for staff to work through all the noises and changes. I thanked her for her kindness and said it would be worth it for the new exciting space!

- A patron came up to the desk and expressed how thrilled she was with the 50 states display and how she was going to read books marked with the Dakotas since she had taken a lovely trip there last year. She asked if the books would be displayed for a while since she wanted to check out more states.

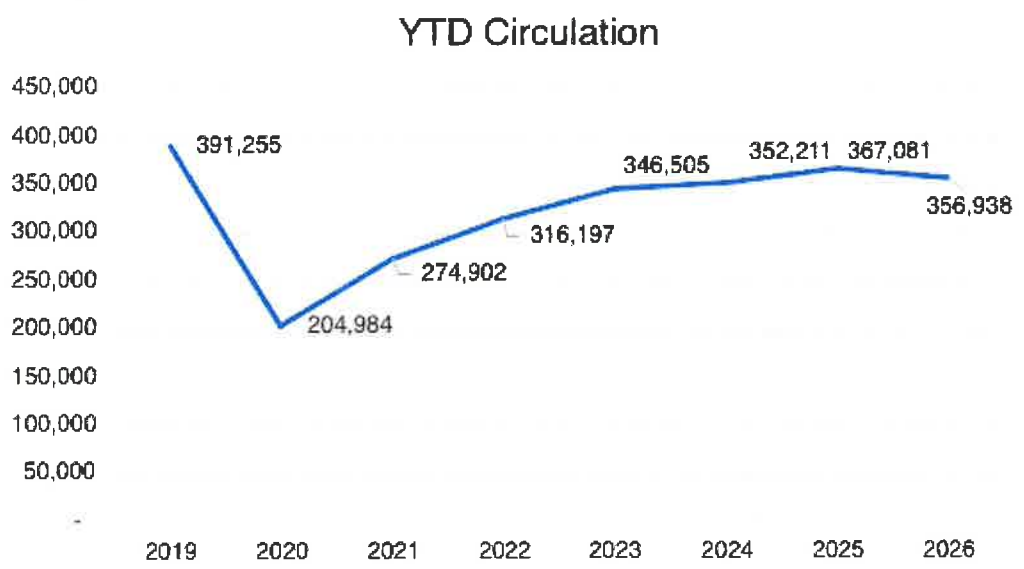
- From a patron: "I was getting on the elevator today at some point during Craftapalooza. A mom and two kids got on with me. The kids were so excited! The mom was saying to them, 'Can you believe how many crafts we made? How cool was that!!'" So happy they enjoyed Craftapalooza!

- When I was at the National Night Out at the Water Park, so many people told us how much they loved the library. They can't wait for everything to be ready after the construction is finished.

- A caregiver in Baby Booktime let me know that she likes to take home the lyric sheet for the songs and rhymes we do in story time to practice at home, which is great because that's what they're for! (The same caregiver exclaimed "this is the perfect toy for her!" when I brought out the tummy time mirror toy for her baby, who immediately started gazing at herself in it).

Library Data

- 8-Year Comparisons: Year-To-Date Circulation, January-August

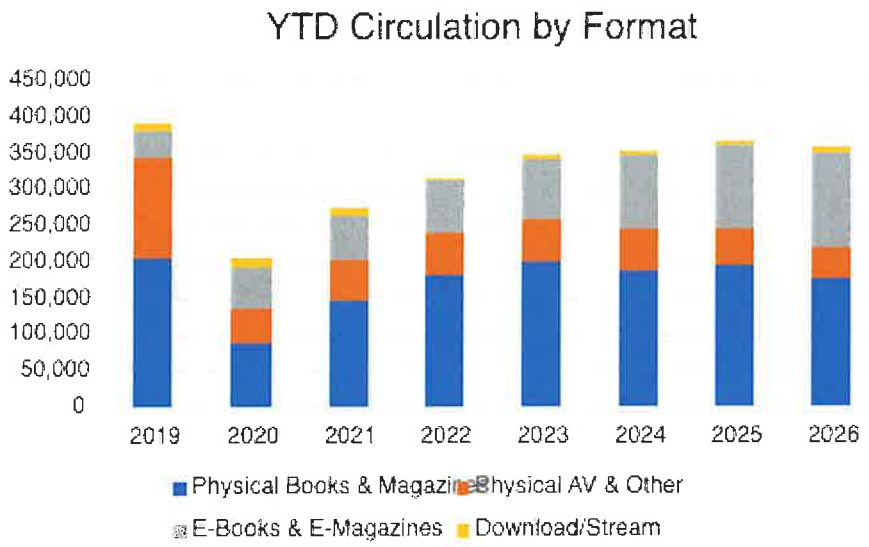


Does not include CCS & ILL borrowed from other libraries.

Note: Library closures in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic negatively affected collection use.

Library Data, continued

- 8-Year Comparisons: Year-To-Date Circulation, January-August



YTD Circulation by Format

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Physical Books & Magazines	204,959	88,101	146,392	181,870	199,930	188,260	196,117	175,745
Physical AV & Other	139,580	48,824	57,964	59,604	59,509	57,072	49,275	44,271
E-Books & E-Magazines	36,834	56,449	59,111	69,875	82,545	101,613	114,969	130,421
Download/Stream	9,882	11,610	11,435	4,848	4,521	5,266	6,720	6,501
Total	391,255	204,984	274,902	316,197	346,505	352,211	367,081	356,938
Physical materials as percentage of total circulation	88%	67%	74%	76%	75%	70%	67%	62%

Does not include CCS & ILL borrowed from other libraries.

Note: Tracking method for e-materials changed in 2022 which could result in a slight variance.

FY26 TOTAL
LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2026 YTD TOTAL	2025 YTD TOTAL	% CHANGE
GENERAL	Gate Count Laurel Entrance	8,975	9,256	10,255	9,956	10,325	10,998	10,832	11,167					81,764	83,619	-2%
	Gate Count Stairwell Entrance	4,503	4,321	5,088	4,558	4,246	5,106	5,149	3,064					36,035	48,692	-26%
	TOTAL COUNT	**13,478**	**13,577**	**15,343**	**14,514**	**14,571**	**16,104**	**15,981**	**14,231**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**117,799**	**132,311**	**-11%**
CIRC	Fiction books	15,877	14,800	15,747	12,739	12,606	13,166	13,450	13,183	0	0	0	0	111,568	129,755	-14%
	Nonfiction books	7,462	7,194	7,804	6,802	6,974	6,855	7,176	11,611	0	0	0	0	57,140	58,006	-1%
	Videogames	668	576	567	516	657	646	716	742	0	0	0	0	5,088	5,319	-4%
	DVDs	2,988	2,637	3,016	2,529	2,673	2,720	2,723	2,742	0	0	0	0	22,028	26,145	-16%
	Music CDs	982	764	773	718	752	815	829	718	0	0	0	0	6,351	6,776	-6%
	Audiobooks	353	331	336	268	321	284	337	327	0	0	0	0	2,557	2,608	-2%
	Blu-rays	1,023	916	1,045	887	984	1,092	1,102	1,198	0	0	0	0	8,247	8,427	-2%
	Magazines	566	530	344	346	271	407	343	355	0	0	0	0	3,162	4,538	-30%
	Other physical formats	395	218	252	229	181	210	204	225	0	0	0	0	1,914	3,818	-50%
	Overdrive eBooks	7,549	6,218	6,938	6,394	6,896	6,754	6,943	7,203	0	0	0	0	54,895	51,853	6%
	Overdrive eAudiobooks	5,721	5,159	5,708	5,768	5,958	6,063	6,152	6,288	0	0	0	0	46,817	38,368	22%
	Overdrive eMagazines	2,930	2,596	2,999	2,768	2,550	2,891	2,678	3,049	0	0	0	0	22,461	16,255	38%
	Hoopla eBooks	399	308	386	377	372	371	413	384	0	0	0	0	3,010	3,435	-12%
	Hoopla eAudiobooks	414	362	438	418	389	394	433	390	0	0	0	0	3,238	5,058	-36%
	Hoopla eMusic	57	52	50	57	45	56	45	59	0	0	0	0	421	715	-41%
	Hoopla eVideos	201	209	244	169	178	219	233	269	0	0	0	0	1,722	1,670	3%
	Hoopla other	38	34	29	27	26	18	12	19	0	0	0	0	203	179	13%
	Kanopy eVideos	531	416	597	532	557	474	522	526	0	0	0	0	4,155	4,156	0%
	Teen Fiction	189	174	170	151	266	309	318	265	0	0	0	0	1,842	0	0%
	Teen Nonfiction	8	7	8	3	12	33	23	23	0	0	0	0	117	0	0%
	Teen Magazines	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0%
	CIRCULATION TOTAL	**48,351**	**43,501**	**47,452**	**41,698**	**42,668**	**43,777**	**44,652**	**49,577**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**356,938**	**367,081**	**-3%**
	CCS & ILL LENT	**3,057**	**2,608**	**2,864**	**2,577**	**2,162**	**2,374**	**2,660**	**2,537**					**20,839**	**21,865**	**-5%**
	CCS & ILL BORROWED	**3,145**	**2,279**	**2,372**	**2,706**	**2,717**	**2,853**	**2,920**	**2,761**					**21,753**	**23,372**	**-7%**
	NON-HIGHLAND PARK BORROWERS (RBPs)	**1,936**	**1,847**	**1,857**	**1,478**	**1,490**	**1,755**	**1,773**	**1,664**					**13,800**	**17,574**	**-21%**
SELF CHECK	**Self Check**	**10,359**	**8,840**	**10,526**	**8,130**	**7,616**	**9,472**	**8,633**	**8,468**					**72,044**	**84,873**	**-15%**
	Self Check %	**60.0%**	**59%**	**63%**	**57%**	**57%**	**58%**	**56%**	**56%**					**59%**	**58.0%**	**2%**
PATRON CONTACTS	**Reference**	2,784	2,926	2,939	2,694	3,041	3,526	3,275	3,437	0	0	0	0	24,622	25,331	-3%
	Other	119	78	271	187	285	722	621	306	0	0	0	0	2,589	3,846	-33%
	MONTHLY QUESTIONS	**2,903**	**3,004**	**3,210**	**2,881**	**3,326**	**4,248**	**3,896**	**3,743**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**27,211**	**29,177**	**-7%**
PROGRAMS	**TOTAL CONDUCTED**	92	**94**	**100**	**83**	**128**	**132**	**134**	**36**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**799**	**762**	**5%**
	TOTAL ATTENDEES	2,022	**2,117**	**1,627**	**1,153**	**1,359**	**2,491**	**1,640**	**657**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13,066**	**14,338**	**-9%**
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS	**Social Media Insights (Facebook, Instagram)**	876	1,342	16,853	670	508	636	965	766	0	0	0	0	22,616	6,724	236%
	Video Engagement (Library You Tube Page Visits)	772	788	789	544	515	807	434	406	0	0	0	0	5,055	10,611	-52%

Library Activities – August 2026

Meetings and Continuing Education:

Adult Services
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing
Documenting Natural Disasters: Community Memory and Recovery
Readers Advisory Interest Group (RAIG) - Time Travel
Introduction to Bibiocore's Browse and Discover Page

Youth Services
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing
SLJ: Picture Book Palooza Sessions
UW Madison iSchool - First Amendment Audits & Situational Awareness (online course)
Booklist Webinar: Tundra Books 2026
NCompass Live: Dazzling Displays
Booklist Webinar: Graphic Novels and Manga Showcase

Membership Services
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing

Technical Services
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing
OCLC - July 2026 Virtual AskQC Office Hours - Get more from your metadata: what's new in MARC 3XX (recording)
Highland Park Green Alliance meeting
CCS -- Cataloging and Metadata Maintenance (CAMM) technical group meeting
CCS -- Standard Cataloging Rules and Practice (SCRAP) Advisory Group meeting (recording)

Administration
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing
Binational Week of Education at the Consulate of Mexico: Facebook Live
Adult Mental Health First Aid in Spanish
OH Counsil on Aging
AFA Care Connection
Harvard Edu

Media Services
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing

Communications
Knowbe4 Training: Social Media Phishing

Date	Program	Presented by	Attendance
	For Children		
8/3	Rock & Read	K. Dienes	34
8/6	Rock & Read/10:30	K. Dienes	3
8/6	Rock & Read/11:30	K. Dienes	6
8/10	Craftapalooza	H. Grasse, K. Dienes	65
8/12	Baby Booktime/10:00	L. Tripp	12
8/12	Baby Booktime/11:30	L. Tripp	4
8/13	PJ Storytime	M. Beach	8
8/20	Rock & Read/10:30	K. Dienes	26
8/20	Rock & Read/11:30	K. Dienes	7
8/24	Panel to Panel Graphic Novel Book Club	L. Tripp	7
8/26	Baby Booktime/10:00	L. Tripp	9
8/26	Baby Booktime/11:30	L. Tripp	5
8/31	Rock & Read	K. Dienes	26
8/3-8/9	Origami Challenge	B. Burns	68
8/1-8/31	100 Books Before High School	Youth Staff	0
8/1-8/31	Children's Choice Awards Book Club	Youth Staff	2
8/1-8/31	Monarch Award Book Club	Youth Staff	4
8/1-8/31	1000 Books Before Kindergarten	Youth Staff	3
		Total Youth Attendance	**289**
	For Adults		
8/1	Game Club	A. Robb	3
8/3	The Great American Puzzle Challenge	J. Bixby	2
8/4	LSC Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen	B. Keller	52
8/5	Digitizing and Organizing Your Photos	T.J. Moaton, N. Rodriguez	5
8/5	LSC Overcoming Burnout	B. Keller	38
8/7	Caminando Juntos	J. Reyes, C. Rositas-Sheftel	141
8/8	Bring Your Own Craft - Curt's Café	R. Hayes	11
8/8	Drawing 101	C. Medrano	4
8/15	Drawing 101	R. Hayes	4
8/19	Floral Design Workshop	B. Keller	15
8/20	Minute to Win It	D. Alvey	5
8/22	Drawing 101	R. Hayes	1
8/22	3D Printing for Kids	T.J. Moaton, N. Rodriguez	8
8/25	Readers' Round Table	M. Bulaich	6
8/27	Film Discussion	A. Robb	1
8/27	LSC Lucy Foley/Miss Marple	B. Keller	23
8/31	Speed Puzzle Competition	H. Gonzalez	15
8/1-8/31	Community Puzzle Station	C. Medrano	34
		Total Adult Attendance	**368**

TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
657

Outreach

8/4	National Night Out	D. Alvey, L. Rector, J. Troutman	254
8/8	Highwood Public Library - End of Summer Fair	HPPL Staff	248
8/15	Draw Together at the Art Center	HPPL Staff	91
		Total Outreach Attendance	**593**

Social Media Engagements

Facebook		527
Instagram		239
YouTube		406
	Total Social Media	**1172**

New Hires:

None

Departures:

None

STRATEGIC BRIDGE PLAN 2025-2027 **August 2026 Report (9/10/2026)**

PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

Library Goal 1: Improve physical accessibility by completing the library expansion, providing larger activity spaces, an ADA-accessible elevator, and ADA-accessible restrooms.

Project Timeline and Monthly Progress:

- **Construction timeline:**
  - Project phases - Substantial Completion Target
    - Makerspace – Library occupancy September 2026
    - Stair & Elevator – October 2026
    - Lower-Level Offices – November 2026
    - Renovated Youth Services – November 2026
    - Addition – December 2026
    - Archive & Gallery – January 2026
- **August progress:**
  - Continue Stone Veneer Installation in Addition
  - Continue ACT Grid and Trim at First Floor Renovation
  - Continue Drywall and Paint in the First Floor Renovation
  - Start Clay Tile Roof at Addition
  - Install Steel and Masonry at Elevator Shaft
  - Complete Roof Demolition and Install New Roofing at Elevator Shaft
  - Start Installing Drywall at Addition
- **September outlook:**
  - Complete In-Wall MEP's
  - Clay Tile Roof Install at Addition
  - Complete Stone Veneer Installation at Addition
  - Install Storefronts and Windows at Addition
  - Complete Site Utilities and Final Grading at Addition and Existing Garden
  - Complete Drywall and Taping/Sanding at Addition/Renovation/Lower Level/Elevator Shaft
  - Complete Demo, Drywall, Ceilings, etc. at Lower-Level Lobby
  - Install Gutter System in Lower-Level
  - Backfill and Pour Concreate at Elevator Pit and Landings
  - Install MEP's at Elevator and Install Elevator
  - Install Steel for Stairs and Complete Stair Installation

PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

Project Budget and Monthly Spending:

	Project Budget	Spent to Date
Consultant, Insurance, Legal, Permit	$ 901,013	$ 890,263
Building Construction (Lo Destro)	$ 8,684,500	$ 5,128,085
Construction Contingency	$ 445,000	$ 0
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	$ 579,500	$ 224,175
Moving & Other	$ 138,875	$ 17,473
Owner Contingency	$ 66,112	$ 0
Total	$ 10,815,000	$ 6,259,996

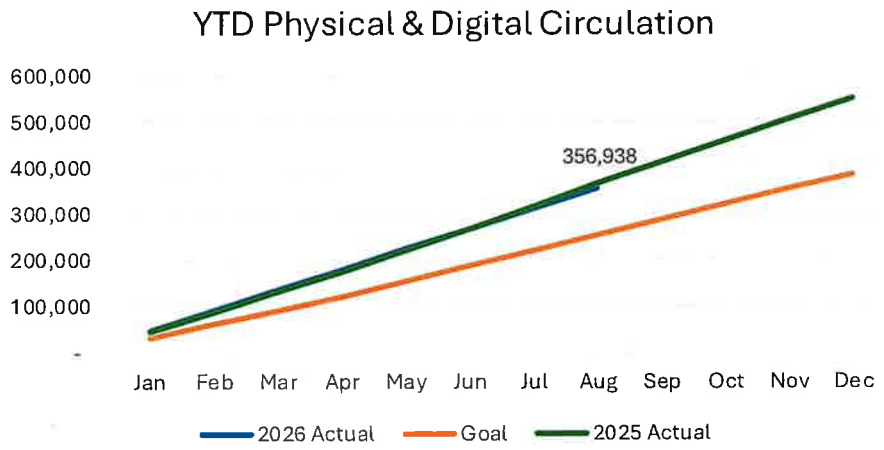
Project Budget and Monthly Spending:

Administration (Admin)
• Attended bi-weekly construction update meetings. • Completed signage bid package for public bid.
Information Technology (IT)
• Attended bi-weekly construction update meetings.
Facility
• Attended bi-weekly construction update meetings.

PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

Library Goal 2: Optimize community use of library services and collections in the face of temporary disruptions related to the expansion project by providing effective service and responding to patron and staff needs.

Collection Usage:



Adult Services (Adult)
• Hot Picks Allocation 66% expended to ensure the latest and greatest titles are available for patron checkout. • Hot Picks Book Club collection launched with 6 popular titles. 70% of the collection has already circulated at least once. • Teen Librarian trained to purchase Teen Books; 48% of new Teen titles added in 2026 have circulated.
Communications (Comms)

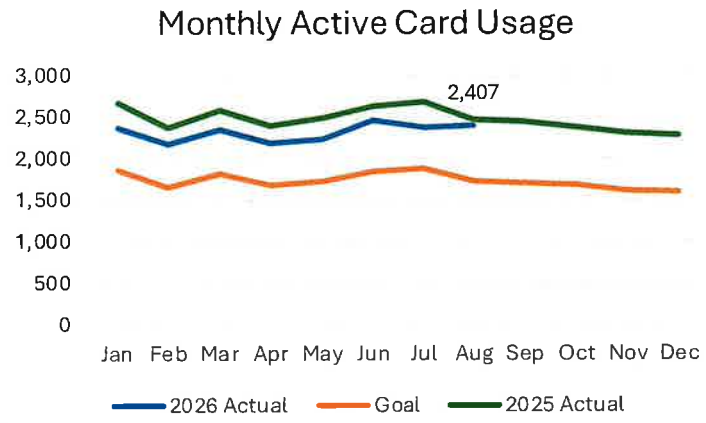
• Sent Monthly-Check It Out! Email with book recommendations; 66.7% open rate.
• Sent an automated email Welcome Campaign to new cardholders with content to raise awareness of services and collections. A series of three emails; first sent within 24 hours of obtaining a card, the next two sent in 7-day increments.
  ◦ Welcome #1: 194 sent, 57.7% open, 17% click rate
  ◦ Welcome #2: 178 sent, 58.4% open, 4.5% click rate
  ◦ Welcome #3: 182 sent, 51.6% open, 1.6% click rate
• Promoted Culture Grams in youth email;11 clicks
• Promoted Perfect Picks Jr in youth email; 13 clicks
• Promoted BiblioCore in Youth, Adult, and Monthly emails; 986 clicks

Technical Services (Tech)
• Items in process over 6 weeks: 4. We met our goal every week this month.
Youth Services (Youth)

PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

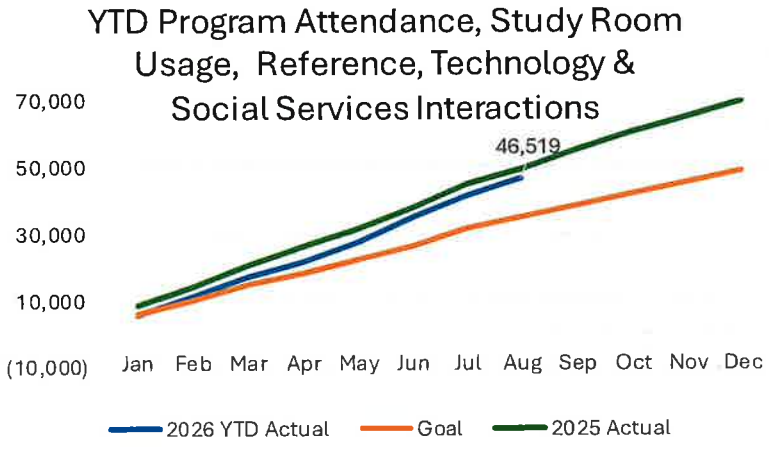
- Placed a large order of holiday books for upcoming major holidays. These holidays were not considered for curation because the plan at the time suggested Youth Services would be fully complete and we would have access to the full collection in time.

Library Card Usage:



Communications (Comms)
• Automated monthly bounced email report generated and sent to Membership. • Created a campaign for Library Card Sign-Up Month, including designing and ordering branded swag items for giveaways.
Membership Services (Member)
• The library added 196 new card signups this month. • Worked with Communications to create swag for Library Card Sign-up Month Raffle/Giveaways to increase the overall number of library cards.

Services Usage:



PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

Adult Services (Adult)
• Teen Librarian scheduled a new program, "Tea & Crumpets" to launch in January to continue building relationships as we prepare for the new Teen Room to open. • Offsite Bring Your Own Craft program consistently fills capacity with 11 patrons attending this month's session at Curt's Cafe.
Communications (Comms)
• Library Speakers Consortium (LSC), virtual author events, both live and recorded: o Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen; 52 o Overcoming Burnout; 38 o Lucy Foley; 32 • Floral Design workshop, held in the Brenner Room; 15
Media Services (Media)
• 1:1 skill-building sessions continue to surpass the monthly average (56) to almost 150% (82). Computer sessions are also on the rise now that schools are back in session.
Membership Services (Member)
• The library attended 3 outreach events in August. o August 4th – National Night Out, the library interacted with 154 patrons, handing out library swag and discussing the library's renovation. o August 8th – Highwood Library End of Summer Reading Resource Fair, the library interacted with 248 patrons, handed out school supplies to students o August 15th – Draw Together at the Art Center, the library interacted with 91 patrons and showed off the library's Library of Things collection, particularly the library's button maker in helping patrons make their own button.
Social Services (SS)
• Outreach efforts included participation in National Night Out and the Highwood Library Summer Send Off, as well as preliminary coordination with Warren Township for an upcoming Youth Mental Health First Aid training. Reviewing program proposals and following up with presenters to confirm Paper Perennials for Hispanic Heritage Month and Music Therapy.
Youth Services (Youth)
• Youth Services completed all summer programming and is now on a temporary programming hiatus as we prepare for the move back into the completed department.

PROGRESS TO GOAL: 2026 cumulative data reporting with monthly activities

Communications that support Goal 2 service initiatives will be reported above. Communications that support awareness about use of the facility during construction (timelines, benefits, progress, service interruptions, etc.) will be reported below.

Communications (Comms)
• Expansion sign for construction fence with QR code to Reimagine webpage; 12 scans. Indoor signage with QR codes to the Reimagine webpage; 6 scans. • Added expansion summary in email #1 of Welcome Campaign with link to Reimagine page; sent to 176 people, 2 link clicks. • Added construction images of youth project spaces in the youth program emails to keep families informed of progress; 11 clicks. • No Friends book donation signage directing patrons to other local libraries accepting donations; 2 scans. • Shared project progress images in monthly email; 73 clicks. • Shared two late opening days in emails, signage, and social media. • Created in-building signage to direct patrons using the lower-level entrance to the elevators while the stairs are closed.

Library Goal 3: Increase website and digital technology accessibility by working to conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), 2.1, Level AA, providing ADA accessible user interfaces.

Communications: Web & Digital Technology Accessibility Group
• Continued investigating the use and tracking of Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs) when selecting vendors.

COMPLETED Library Goal 4: Launch and successfully complete the "Reimagine Your Library" fundraising campaign to raise $1 million for the expansion project, ensuring necessary resources are available to enhance services, spaces, and community impact.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

We're on the hunt for Barack Obama's tan suit. Help us find it.

We're not looking for the replica he wore in a skit with Larry David on HBO; we want the real thing.

By Lynn Sweet Aug 17, 2026, 12:01am CDT

Barack Obama takes questions during an Aug. 28, 2014, news conference at the White House. Obama's tan suit, which he later gave away, became a viral controversy. Charles Dharapak/AP Photo

The opening of the museum in the Obama Presidential Center this summer sparked an unintended consequence: a new wave of interest in former President Barack Obama's famous tan suit.

The Obama tan suit that launched one of Washington's most absurd controversies when he wore it to an Aug. 28, 2014, news conference.

The tan suit that inspired a hilarious press conference skit starring Obama and Larry David on the August finale of his HBO sketch series.

The suit that is not in the museum.

The legendary suit reporters were told Obama gave away when he was cleaning out a closet.

I'm on assignment to find Obama's tan suit.

I don't know when Obama gave it away or to whom.

This is more than hunting for a needle in a haystack. I don't even know where the haystack is.

I wasn't sure at first how to proceed. It's not like the suit was taxpayer-funded traceable public property or an official gift that had to be transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration upon leaving office.

So I just jumped in. I made an initial list of 68 people to call to get the ball rolling. On my punch list: I needed to know who made Obama's tan suit — the origin story.

And I found, with the help of a pal, the not widely known genesis of the tan suit. It was made by Martin Greenfield, who sewed his first stitches when he was a prisoner at Auschwitz, repairing the torn shirt of an SS soldier. After the young teen survived the Auschwitz and Buchenwald Nazi concentration camps, Greenfield eventually became a famous tailor in Brooklyn, New York.

When I first tell people I'm on the hunt for Obama's tan suit, I can hear their eyeballs rolling. When I tell them a Holocaust survivor who came to the U.S. made the suit — well, something clicks, and they want to know more about my project.

Photos of Martin Greenfield with Barack Obama and Bill Clinton hang on the wall at Martin Greenfield Clothiers in Brooklyn, New York. In the top photo, Greenfield (left) and his sons Tod and Jay (right) pose with Obama Zubaer Khan/Sun-Times

Greenfield died in 2024. His sons run the company now. I recently talked to one son, Jay, who went to the White House to measure Obama for suits. I'll have lots more to pass along from my interview with Jay in another column.

But first, let me explain my tan suit project. The journey will unfold in print and the digital world. We'll have videos. Maybe some events. And I'll be reaching out to you to figure out what the uproar over the suit means in 2026 — and why some folks thought it should be in the museum.

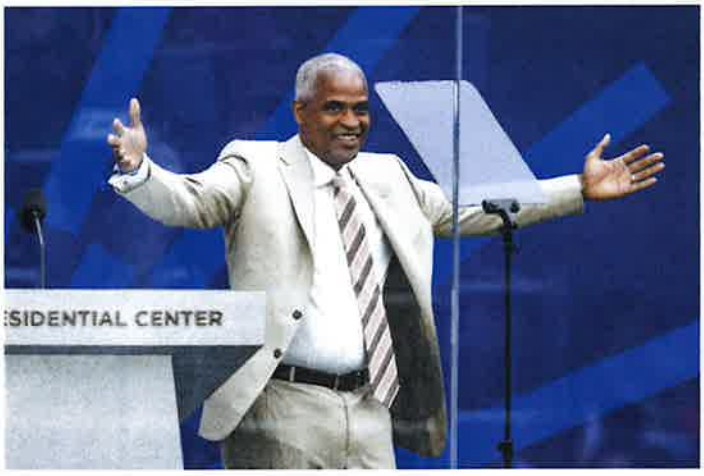
The suit triggered a political firestorm when Obama wore it to a news conference where he talked about crises in Ukraine and the Middle East. Critics said he looked unpresidential. Supporters said the criticisms were racially based.

The Obama tan suit controversy touched on the raw fault lines surrounding race in this nation. Other presidents — Ronald Reagan, for example — wore tan suits with impunity. But not the nation's first Black president.

I don't accept that the Obama tan suit is lost forever, because I haven't tried hard enough yet to find it.

What we know is the tan suit is having a moment.

Let me tell you what we saw during the June 19 Obama Presidential Center dedication. Marty Nesbitt, the chair of the Obama Foundation, came to the stage dressed in a re-creation of the famous outfit: tan suit, white shirt, copycat striped tie. Guests, including former late-night stalwarts Stephen Colbert, David Letterman and others also wore tan suits to the ceremony.



Obama Foundation Chair Marty Nesbitt shows off his tan suit at the June 18 Obama Presidential Center opening ceremony. Ashlee Rezin/Sun-Times

Nesbitt's getup was a surprise — and very intentional. He had a statement to make.

When Obama saw Nesbitt, the former president got up from his seat, embraced his friend and said, "I love that tan suit."

Nesbitt said it was "inspired by a very good friend of mine who made tan suits famous. And I don't know about the rest of you all, but I thought he looked pretty good wearing his, so I decided to wear one myself. ... [This] is my way of just showing a whole lot of love."

Rewind to June 3. I'm at a media preview briefing at the Obama Presidential Center.

Obama Foundation CEO Valerie Jarrett and Michael Strautmanis, the Obama Foundation chief corporate affairs officer, are among the briefers. Strautmanis is asked what he wished was in the museum that's not there.

"Tan suit," he said.

Jarrett delivered the bombshell.

"The reason we don't have the tan suit is President Obama gave it away when he was cleaning out his closet," she said. "But we thought about a replica, but that would not be authentic, and so, we do not have the tan suit."

Colbert, former host of "The Late Show," is one of the people who expected the tan suit to be in the museum.

Last May, in one of his last episodes, Colbert interviewed Obama in the museum. The comedian demanded to know if "the tan suit is here."

Looking over a photo of the infamous 2014 news conference, Obama told Colbert, "I look great." But he didn't mention he gave it away.

In the HBO show, "Life, Larry and the Pursuit of Unhappiness," the Obama and David spoof creates a fictional comic backstory about why Obama wore that suit to the news conference. The show was produced by Barack and Michelle Obama through Higher Ground, their company.

It was taped in December in an Obama-era Oval Office recreated on a Los Angeles soundstage. In the skit, Obama wears a tan suit with a jacket that's a spot-on ringer of the original. However, it was a replica, made by costume designer Christina Mongini.

So the hunt continues.

I understand why this assignment ended up in my lap. Until last year, I was the longtime Washington bureau chief at the Chicago Sun-Times. A highlight of my career was covering

Barack Obama from the Senate to the White House, to his post-presidency and the development of the Obama Presidential Center.

I was not shocked about the tan suit in 2014 because I had seen Obama out of his dark suit uniform. I was with him on Aug. 23, 2006, when the then-Illinois senator wore a beige suit while visiting the Illinois Africa Office for Trade and Investment in Johannesburg. (That office no longer exists.) I was surprised when I saw Obama wearing a light-colored suit but never thought of writing about it.

The night before my interview with Jay Greenfield, I was in a panic because I never got a copy of Martin Greenfield's memoir, "Measure of a Man: From Auschwitz Survivor to Presidents' Tailor." I was kicking myself for being unprepared.

I ran over to the Highland Park Public Library, and to my relief, they had the book. When I was checking it out, I explained why I wanted it, because I want to enlist everyone in my cause. I see that as part of this project — telling everyone what I am doing to see if one thing can lead to another.

I chatted with library membership services staffer Dara Bass and told her about the connection between the book, Obama's tan suit and my tan suit project.

The next day, Bass sent me a note.

"Your storyline is interesting," she wrote, because "it highlights the origin story of the bespoke garment and a human behind it. Moreover, your angle is unique because it sort of shifts the focus from the person who donned the clothing (in the spotlight) onto the person whose hard-earned skill and expertise led him to create it (behind the scenes)."

I don't know how this quest for Obama's tan suit ends. But I do know how it begins.

Patch 9/9/26

Highland Park Cooling Centers Open During Heat Wave

Here's where you can cool off and escape this week's heat wave in Highland Park.

Rachel Barnes, Patch Staff Tue, Sep 1, 2026

HIGHLAND PARK, IL — The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory as heat indices climb to over 100 degrees in the Chicagoland this week.

Conditions are expected to get dangerously hot and humid starting Tuesday through Thursday, forecasters said.

"Stifling humidity and high temperatures will lead to dangerous heat today and tomorrow. Prolonged exposure to the dangerous heat may lead to heat-related illnesses," forecasters said.

For those looking to escape the heat and remain safe from the weather, Highland Park operates cooling centers at the following locations:

- Recreation Center of Highland Park - 1207 Park Ave. W.
- Highland Park Public Library - 494 Laurel Ave.
- City Hall - 1707 St. Johns Ave.

While forecasters advise staying indoors during this heatwave, people who

must be outside are encouraged to exercise caution. Officials recommend

drinking plenty of fluids and checking in on relatives and neighbors.

Patch
Community Corner

Highland Park To Hold 9/11 Anniversary Ceremony At Ravinia

The city said the ceremony will include remarks, music and a Last Alarm Bell Ceremony led by the fire department.

Rachel Barnes, Patch Staff Posted Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 10:32 am CTU updated Tue, Sep 8, 2026 at 1:01 pm CT

HIGHLAND PARK, IL — Highland Park will hold its September 11, 25th Anniversary Observance at 9 a.m. at Bennett Gordon Hall at Ravinia Festival.

The program is planned to remember those who were killed and injured in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and to honor those who responded to the call for aid, with special recognition for first responders from Highland Park and Highwood.

The Highland Park Fire Department will lead the Last Alarm Bell Ceremony as part of the observance. The program will also include remarks by Mayor Nancy Rotering, Chief of Police Lou Jogmen, Fire Chief Joe Schrage and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Brennan, who provided mutual aid in New York City, according to the city.

The event will be presented by the City of Highland Park in partnership with Ravinia Festival, North Shore School District 112, Township High School District 113, the Highland Park Public Library, the Park District of Highland Park and the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association.

The city said the ceremony will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. It will also remain available for viewing after the event on the city's YouTube channel.

DATE	GENERAL SUGGESTION	KEY	KEYWORD	Anonymous ?
Aug-26	Laura Farlik was a tremendous help to me today. Thanks to all - Nick, TJ, and Julia.	ST	Media Department/Laura Farlik	N
Aug-26	Gus helped me pick this book out. I needed help finding something to read and he was great.	ST	Gus Palas	Y
Aug-26	Joseph was beyond patient with a patron on the phone for over 15 minutes providing digital help. Also, Rebecca and Gus were very enthusiastic about a finished puzzle. So fun!	ST	Joseph Grossman, Rebecca Hayes, and Gus Palas	N
Aug-26	A special thank you to Joseph for helping my husband and I. You were so patient, helpful, knowledgeable and assisted us with such expertise and kindness. We so appreciate it!	ST	Joseph Grossman	N
Aug-26	Please, please keep your book collection, especially history and other non-fiction. Many libraries are getting rid of books. Some folks still like books instead of computers. You have a great collection. Thank you!	C	Book Collection	Y
Aug-26	I used to be able to get HBO Max on the Roku, but not any longer. Please try to get HBO Max on Roku.	S	HBO Max on Roku	N
Aug-26	The handicap parking spot needs a concrete stop to stop tires. I don't want to hit the wall and am afraid I will be sticking out in the back. I don't want to get out of the car to see if I am sticking out. P.S. I love the puzzles!	B	Handicapped Parking Spot	Y
Aug-26	Please get HBO back on the Roku. There is a way to get virtual credit cards with some banks which might fire the need here. Thank you.	S	HBO on Roku	N
Aug-26	I am taking the drawing class on Saturday. I appreciate that it's free and received such lovely drawing supplies, but the instructor does not teach. He puts an image on the screen and tells the students to draw it. He doesn't critique or give any feedback. I feel like I am wasting my time.	PR	Drawing class	Y

Aug-26	I would like a class for parents of teen/middle schoolers on parental controls on iphones. We all need support to figure out the plusses and minuses of parental control!	PR	iphone controls	N
Aug-26	The HPPL seems to be the only business in the nation to have a live human answer the phone during business hours. Thank you!	S	Phone calls	N
Aug-26	Thank you for the jigsaw puzzle exchange. When I came for jigsaws, two women departed with two full shopping bags each! Maybe have a limit until the end of the day?	PR	Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange	Y
Aug-26	I listened to Lisa Foley interview from the Library's speaker consortium today. It was fabulous. I have read Lisa Foley's books and this made me like her even more. I loved her input and book suggestions too. Keep it up!	PR	Lisa Foley Interview	N
Aug-26	Thank you again x100 for the great skill of reference tech heads. Wolf and Rebecca helped me solve tech/computer problems.	ST	Wolf Winkler & Rebecca Hayes	N
B = Building	P=Policy	PR=Programs		
F = Food & Beverage	S=Services	R=Renovation		
C = Collection	ST=Staff	CS=Computer System		