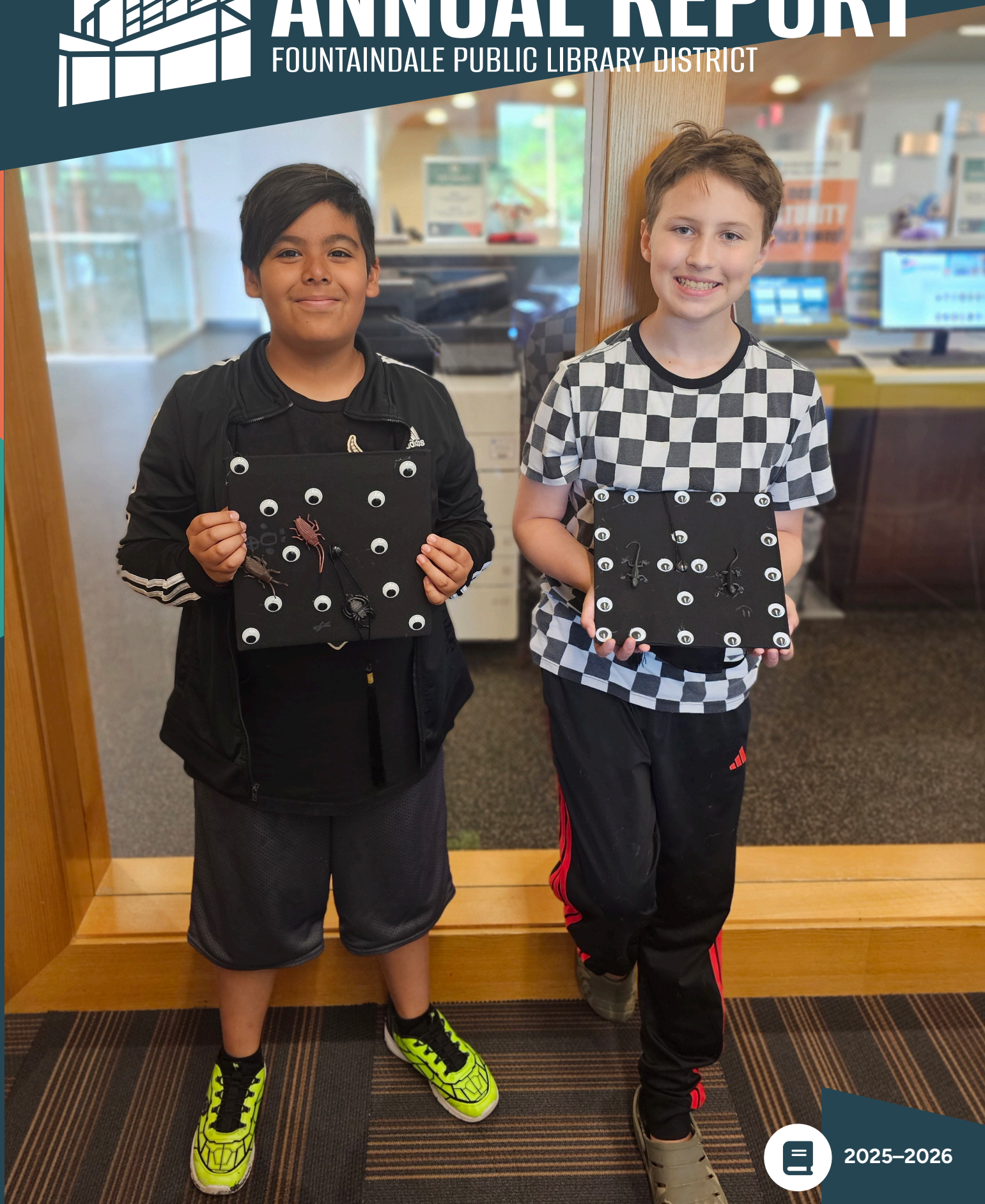
ANNUAL REPORT

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT



2025–2026

MISSION

We inspire lifelong learning, foster creativity and connect you to resources and to the community through our robust collection of books and technology, extensive services and knowledgeable staff.

VISION

Discover. Create. Grow.

"This library is wonderful. It's a really calming place you can go to take a good rest by reading a good book."
- Ben W.

"Gorgeous library with great programs and loads of material and friendly professional librarians."
- Jeffrey W.

"Beautiful public library; every section is amazing. We borrow books, games, movies and records often."
-Katie O.

SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

Every big adventure begins with a small step, and in 2025–2026, we saw how small changes at the library can make a lasting difference. From creating more opportunities for young children to discover the joy of reading to finding new ways to make the library more welcoming, accessible and engaging, we focused on the little things that help our community thrive. This annual report celebrates the meaningful impact of those efforts and the many ways we continue to connect people with stories, ideas and one another. Because sometimes, the smallest steps lead to the biggest possibilities.

REACHING YOUNG READERS

We are grateful for the grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), secured by Illinois State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel. With this grant, we made the following meaningful improvements and exciting new additions to our Children's Services area—all designed to help our youngest visitors learn, play and discover a love of reading.

In January, we unveiled a **book vending machine**, giving children something special to celebrate their reading achievements: a free book to keep! Children from birth through fifth grade can earn a book by reaching reading milestones in programs such as 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Reading Dragons & Friends, Winter Reading Challenge and Summer Adventure. It's one more way to celebrate young readers and help them build their own home libraries.

In the spring, we rolled up our sleeves and transformed our Children's Services area into a more inviting, engaging space for little learners. This brand-new shelving features easy-to-browse bins, interactive play elements and cozy places to sit and read. With child-friendly heights and more accessible displays, the new layout makes it easier for children to explore, discover new favorites and choose books independently.

Our youngest visitors also have more opportunities to learn through play, thanks to another generous donation from the **Friends of Fountaindale Library**, who have supported our library for 45 years. Their gift brought a new play kitchen, train table and additional toys to Children's Services, creating even more opportunities for children to use their imaginations, explore and learn while visiting the library.







EXCITING ADDITIONS

We're always looking for new ways to make your library card even more valuable.

- Enjoy the **36,034 new physical items** added to our collection, including:
  - Osmo Pocket cameras and RØDE wireless microphones in Studio 300.
  - Portable, compact power banks with built-in cables in our Tech to Go! collection.
- Read more than 600 spine-tingling titles that fill our new **Horror Fiction collection**.
- Explore an extensive collection of eBooks and audiobooks, including Audible Exclusives, with The Palace Project.
- Try Lote4Kids to teach your child a new language or enjoy children's digital picture books and activities in over 100 world languages, including Spanish, Polish, Arabic and even American Sign Language.
- Stay informed of what's happening when you drive by our **new outdoor digital sign**.

CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The library doesn't stop at our doors! Our Outreach Services team brings library resources, programs and services directly to the people and places that make up our community. Through our Bookmobile and Library Express Van, we visit local preschools, elementary schools, community centers, senior centers, neighborhoods and community events, offering everything from storytimes to senior programs and other enriching activities.

This year, we expanded our reach through several exciting partnerships. We teamed up with Valley View School District to bring monthly storytimes and Library Express Van visits to the newly built Debbie Sykora Early Childhood Center. We also launched a monthly storytime at the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow International Airport and partnered with The Promenade Mall to welcome more than 800 people at two community events.

We continue to extend our services beyond traditional library spaces. Through our Read While You Wait initiative, we places books in everyday waiting areas, including clinics, laundromats and service centers, where anyone can pick up a book and read—no library card or checkout required. We added new locations at Suburban Medical Group and the Will County Health Department & Community Health Center. It's a simple way to make reading more accessible and help you make the most of a few extra minutes in your day.

In February, we reimagined our former Preschool Round-Up into a new Early Learning Expo. For the first time, the event welcomed not only local preschools but also family- and literacy-focused vendors, giving local families more opportunities to discover valuable resources, connect with organizations and find support for their children's early learning.

Whether we're bringing books to a school, sharing stories with families or making reading available in a waiting room, our goal remains the same: to meet you where you are and provide enriching experiences that extend beyond our library walls.







BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Trustee

"My children and I love this library! They have so much to offer with story time and tons of activities. A great selection of children's books and tons of events for the whole family. They have so much for teens and adults. The staff is always helpful and accommodating, and it is a clean place!"
-Hayley S.

"Bolingbrook's finest... extremely friendly staff and amenities that outshine most libraries in the area."
- Darren M.

FOUNTAINDALE BY THE NUMBERS

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
630.759.2102

New Cardholders
3,235

Item Checkouts
774,705

Hold Requests Fulfilled
76,779

Events Held
3,494

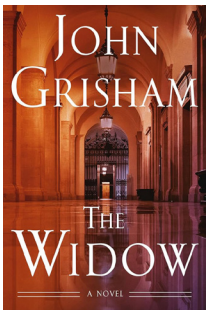
Outreach Vehicle Visits
17,469

Meeting & Study Room Reservations
10,520

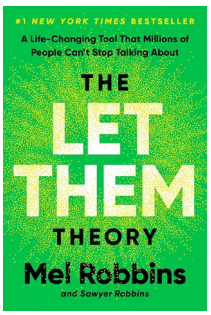
School Reading Club Participants
5,926

MOST POPULAR MATERIALS

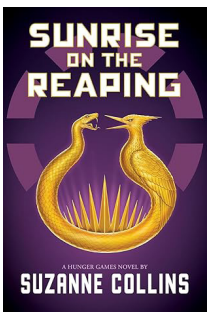
Adult Fiction



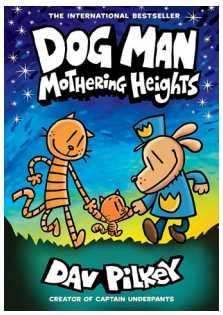
Adult Nonfiction



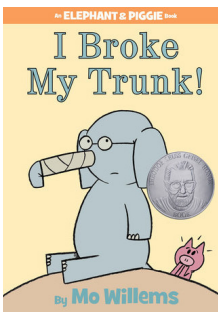
Teen



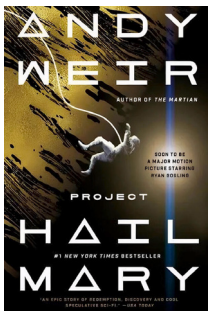
Juvenile



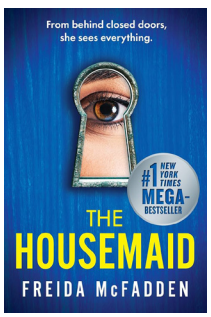
Picture Book



eBook



Audiobook



Movie



Children's Movie



Vinyl Record

