

Below is a partial list of what LPLS has done with the funding and grants we have received and the community partners we have worked with in just the past five years since the last levy in Lorain and Sheffield Lake:

- **December 2017** – Began offering passport services at the North Ridgeville and Avon branches.
- **January 2017** – LPLS began offering an eCard for online materials
- **June 2017** - Summer Lunch Program begins; offering lunch to local school-age children three days per week while school is not in attendance.
- **September 2017** – LPLS branches become registration locations for the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.
- **December 2017** - Celebrated new South Lorain Branch renovation that included new flooring, the children's area moved to become a new early literacy room with educational toys and the former children's area became an adult seating area with outlets for electronic devices.
- **October through December 2017** – LPLS forgave fines in lieu of a donation to the Hurricane Maria Relief Fund for Puerto Rico, raising \$4,500
- **December 2017** – LPLS began partnership with Rising Titans Kindergarten Reading Readiness Collaborative to offer free kindergarten readiness programs
- **April 2018** – LPLS partnered with Lorain County General Health District to provide a bike repair station and bike racks at the Main Library, South Lorain branch and Domonkas. (stations were later also added to the Avon, Columbia Station and North Ridgeville branches)
- **May 2018** – LPLS begins annual six-week Food & Fun program with a grant from the Community Foundation of Lorain County
- **June 2018** – LPLS installs AED devices and begins loaning Blood Pressure Kits funded by Lorain County Health Department.
- **Summer 2018** - The Discovery on the Go vehicle is purchased with funds from Stocker Foundation and LPLS Foundation to focus primarily on emerging literacy for youth who will be introduced to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) to gain background knowledge, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Discovery on the Go visits community organizations, schools, and events to read books and facilitate S.T.E.A.M. activities with young people.
- **Fall 2018** Partnered with Operation Warm and Stocker Foundation to provide free winter apparel to the Lorain community.
- **2019** – The LPLS Technical Services Department staff are moved from an off-site building in to the Main Library; saving thousands of dollars in rent annually.
- **February 2019** – LPLS offered Project DAWN training at all branches presented by Lorain County Public Health, funded by Ohio Department of Health.
- **February 2019** – LPLS began offering medication disposal pouches and tamper-resistant locking medicine bags for free at all branches, provided by Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lorain County.
- **March 2019** – Food for Fines with Second Harvest resulting in 2,216 pounds of food, which provided over 1,845 meals to food insecure families in our area

- **March 2019** - Main Library renovated to include improved efficiency and safety as well as lower utility costs
- **March 2019** – Main Library renovation includes a Teen Space featuring video games and TV monitors to give teenagers a safe place to go after school to do their homework or hang out.
- **April 2019** – LPLS partners with Cleveland International Film Festival to offer discounted tickets to cardholders.
- **May 2019** - LPLS launched the Go Lorain Bike Share Program, in collaboration with Lorain County Public Health, Lorain County Metro Parks and the Lorain County Community Action Agency. The Main Library and South Lorain Branch began lending adult bikes, bike helmets and bike locks.
- **June 2019** – Summer Lunch Program expands to five days per week at Main Library, South Lorain Branch and Domonkas Branch to provide lunch to school age children while school is not in session.
- **June 2019** – Main Library became a “Fresh Stop” pick-up location in partnership with City Fresh.
- **June 2019** – LPLS went fine free to remove barriers to access
- **June 2019** – LPLS partners with Cleveland Public Theater and the MetroHealth System to offer ENDepence, a play that explores the opioid epidemic.
- **June 2019** – LPS hosts a special NASA exhibit showcasing achievements of Apollo, models of NASA’s new space rocket, the Space Launch System and the Orion spacecraft.
- **June 2019** - Domonkas Branch renovation begins and includes improved efficiency and lower utility costs.
- **Fall 2019** – The Winterwear Share coat donation program launched as an expansion of the successful Operation Warm program, providing winter apparel to Lorain community from donations accepted at all six branches.
- **August 2019** – LPLS began offering mobile hot spots from Main Library, South Lorain branch and Domonkas with funding from Nordson Corporation
- **August 2019** – A StoryWalk is christened in the park across from the North Ridgeville Branch in partnership with NR Parks and Rec Department and Lorain County Health Department.
- **November 2019** – LPLS partners with Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to offer discounted tickets to cardholders.
- **Winter 2019** –LPLS partnered with Second Harvest of North Central Ohio for a Mobile @ Main Food Pantry event. (Was to be the first of many but COVID shut this down)
- **January 2020** – LPLS announced expanded hours, consistent across all branches.
- **January 2020** – LPLS begins circulating Memory Care Backpacks for those with dementia, their caregivers and family.
- **February 2020** - Toni Morrison Reading Room was rededicated and collection expansion began
- **March 2020** – COVID-19 hits.
 - LPLS closes all branches to the public in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus.
 - LPLS boosts WiFi signal and radius from all branches to include their parking lots

- LPLS begins 24-hour eCard application processing to get new patrons access to eLibrary resources quickly
- LPLS adds to its eLibrary with Audio Book Cloud (audio books for all ages), Romance Book Cloud for the older crowd, Teen Book Cloud (grade 7-12 eBooks), Tumble Books Library (K-6 children's eBooks) and Teen Math Library (Math eBooks).
- LPLS creates AskALibrarian@lpls.org to continue to serve the community remotely while the branches are closed.
- **March 2020** – 400 Mobile hotspots are purchased to be distributed to over 200 families to help with connectivity during at-home learning and working.
- **April 2020** – LPLS partners with American Red Cross to open the Main Library and North Ridgeville Branches for much needed blood drives during the pandemic.
- **April 2020** – Branches remain closed.
 - LPLS begins virtual programming including Storytimes, a Writer's Group and a Book Discussion Group.
 - LPLS continues to grow its eLibrary for available resources while branches are closed, adding Newsbank, Knowledge City and Candid. In May, Acorn TV and Pongalo were added as well.
 - LPLS staff begin offering Remote Reference via phone five days per week.
- **May 2020** LPLS begins offering contactless curbside service at all six branches.
- **June 2020** – LPLS reopens all six branches to the public with limited hours and new safety measures in place.
 - LPLS partners with United Way of Greater Lorain County to offer free tax preparation services at the Main Library.
- **July 2020** – LPLS begins offering Grab & Go Activity Kits at all six branches for various ages.
- **Spring 2020** - Charlie Carts are purchased with funds from the Community Foundation of Lorain for the Domonkas and South Lorain branches to enhance their culinary programming, both in-person and virtually.
- **Spring/Summer 2020** - Hold lockers are added to the Main and South Lorain locations to add to the contactless pickup options for patrons. Lockers are already in place in North Ridgeville and Avon and on order for Domonkas and Columbia.
- **Summer 2020** – LPLS helps bridge the digital divide by purchasing Chromebooks for seniors throughout our service district and offering one-on-one assistance as to how to use them.
- **July 2020** – In collaboration with Lorain County Metroparks and the City of Lorain, a converted shipping container is refurbished and placed on the beach at Lakeview Park in Lorain and christened “Little Library on the Lake.” It provides free sports and leisure equipment purchased with funds from Lorain County Health Department for park-goers seasonally as well as free WiFi all year long.
- **August 2020** – LPLS begins offering free WiFi stops at community parks throughout the service district with its mobile hotspot on wheels, Discovery on the Go.
- **August 2020** – LPLS assists with the US Census by partnering with El Centro on a Back to School drive thru where school supplies were given out as well as census applications

- **August 2020** – LPLS partners with North Ridgeville Heart and Sole to support local farmers by offering fresh produce pick-ups at the North Ridgeville Branch.
- **September 2020** – Thanks in part to the Nord Family Foundation, the Culinary Literacy Center is completed at the Main Library and begins virtual cooking demonstrations for all ages.
- **September 2020** – Thanks in part to a grant from the Nord Family Foundation, Create Space is opened for public use with an embroidery machine, a GlowForge engraver, a Cricut and more.
- **September 2020** – LPLS adds Tutor.com to the eLibrary, offering live tutor assistance for students and resume and cover letter assistance for job seekers.
- **September 2020** – LPLS expands back to regular hours. (?)
- **October 2020** – LPLS begins offering free Grab & Go activities at all six branches. South Lorain Branch also provides these to the students in the Headstart program of Lorain City Schools weekly with plans to expand to offer to the parents in March, 2021
- **November 2020** – LPLS works with Clevnet to pilot a contactless checkout app
- **Fall 2020** – LPLS partners with Hope Farms to install an urban farm at the South Lorain Branch, with another coming to the Main Library in spring, 2021
- **November 2020** – Main Library partners with the Urban League in “Project Ready to Serve” to provide live tutoring space for 4th and 5th graders.
- **December 2020** – LPLS creates a drive- thru Christmas event for children to see Santa and his reindeer while listening to Santa read a story on the car radio.
- **January 2021** – LPLS supports United Way of Greater Lorain County on their Collect>Sort>Deliver initiative to get professional attire to job seekers.
- **February 2021** – Adapted Backpacks are made available for children with limited fine and gross motor skills in a partnership with RePlay for Kids through a grant from the Community Foundation of Lorain County.
- **March 2021** – LPLS coordinates with Lorain County Public Health to assist residents in scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments.
- **March 2021** – Began offering Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) kits at the Avon, Avon Lake and Domonkas libraries with assistance from Northcoast Rotary and other community organizations.
- **March 2021** – LPLS begins assisting Lorain County Public Health in scheduling vaccination appointments for residents in both English and Spanish.
- **March through June 2021** – Shred Days are planned at each branch as another free community service.

(see capital improvements on next page)

Capital Improvements since 2017

All branches:

- UV lighting at five of the six branches

- Flagpoles redone with pulley systems
- Installed VOIP phone system
- Sharps containers installed in all branch bathrooms
- New water fountains installed with filtered fill stations
- New fleet that includes one delivery truck, three maintenance vehicles, a tractor, a trailer and a plow
- Lawn maintenance and snow removal brought in-house for several branches for a significant cost savings
- Landscape maintenance and upkeep
- Annual vendor contract review for best pricing and service. (Led to new janitorial and security contracts within last five years)

Main:

- New boiler
- New chiller
- Energy efficient windows installed
- Parking lot hardscapes repaired
- Exterior paint refresh
- New soft seating and meeting room furniture
- Interior leaks led to drainage tile repair
- Bike shelter installed in parking lot

South Lorain:

- New soft seating and meeting room furniture
- New exterior LED sign
- New public computers
- Renovation of the catch basin

Domonkas Branch

- Energy efficient windows installed
- New exterior LED sign
- New HVAC system
- Newly paved parking lot