

Lorain Public Library System

Annual Report 2022



Lorain Public
Library!
System

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

While still not quite back to pre-pandemic numbers, we are happy to report that foot traffic did increase in 2022. Many of our patrons discovered our eLibrary during the COVID-19 closure and found they liked the ease of use and not having to go out in inclement weather. We are thrilled they have found new ways to access the collection and other library resources.

We spent time working with Northeast Ohio Regional Library Service to develop a Strategic Planning survey that was available via paper copies at each branch, on our website and in our quarterly program guide Connections. We do these surveys every few years to help us determine how we can best serve our communities. We want to know what the patrons feel are the biggest needs in their area or even within their own homes and how the library might be able to address those needs or at least provide information, programming or resources to assist.

The results were tabulated, and we are parsing through the responses. Some of the easy to accomplish requests that do not require a change to the budget structure are already being implemented. Other requests, ideas and needs will continue to be discussed and evaluated to become part of the 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan. This plan lists our goals for the next three years and covers capital improvements to our buildings, additions to our collections and resources, our online user experience, bringing new initiatives and outreach opportunities to our specific communities and more.

Our annual Summer Reading Program, themed “Oceans of Possibilities” was successful across all age groups with children, teens and adults all completing and turning in game boards for their chance at fun ocean-themed prizes.

Speaking of summer, we expanded the hours at our Little Library on the Lake, a shipping container turned library location on the shores of Lakeview Beach in Lorain, to noon to 4 p.m. The later hours gave our Outreach Department staff more opportunity to interact with park attendees. We were also open from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the first four Fridays in July before the Lorain County Metro Parks’ Summer Concert Series.

The renovation and expansion of our Avon Branch continued throughout 2022. Like so many others, LPLS fell victim to supply chain issues, which caused a delay in the steel arriving to begin the framing. The steel finally arrived in February, and we were able to flip operations from the original building to the new south addition in September. Watching it all come together has been fun for not just staff but for the eager residents of Avon as well.

We look forward to the grand reopening in 2023, as well as so many other new initiatives and resources to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lorain Public Library System.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz

Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz
Director



VISION STATEMENT:
We are the catalyst for personal and community growth, discovery, and success.

OUR MISSION:
Connecting our communities to experiences that enrich, empower, and inspire every day.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Carolyn Anderson | Norm Herschelman | Jeff and Karen Sigsworth |
| Rose Benson | Lois Kane | Gail and Steve Smith |
| Maureen and Rick Bihn | William Kirk | The Estate of Joan D. Stevens |
| Jennifer Black | Jennifer Klug | Michele Stewart |
| Nick Broyles | Jason Knight | Michelle Strauser |
| Rey Carrion | Craig and Lois Koehler | Dr. Garalynn Tomas DNAP, CRNA-APRN |
| Joanne Eldridge | Dianne Kosboth | Darryl Tucker |
| John and Lil Fecek | Sue and Terry Lang | University Club of Lorain |
| Joan Fitzgerald | David Martin | Betsy Vasas |
| The Garden Club of North Ridgeville | Vivian McCullough | Virginia Waratinsky |
| Gelenius Family | Ben and Jane Norton | Brian Waugaman |
| Terri Frederick | Brenda Norton | Bob and Joanne Weiller |
| Friends of the Lorain Public Library | Christine Redovan | Rebecca Whittington |
| Anne Godec | Christopher Rewak | Clarence and Mary Ann Wills |
| Robert and Susan Hatch | Joanne Rosinsky | Victor Zaborowski Sr. |

ABOUT THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

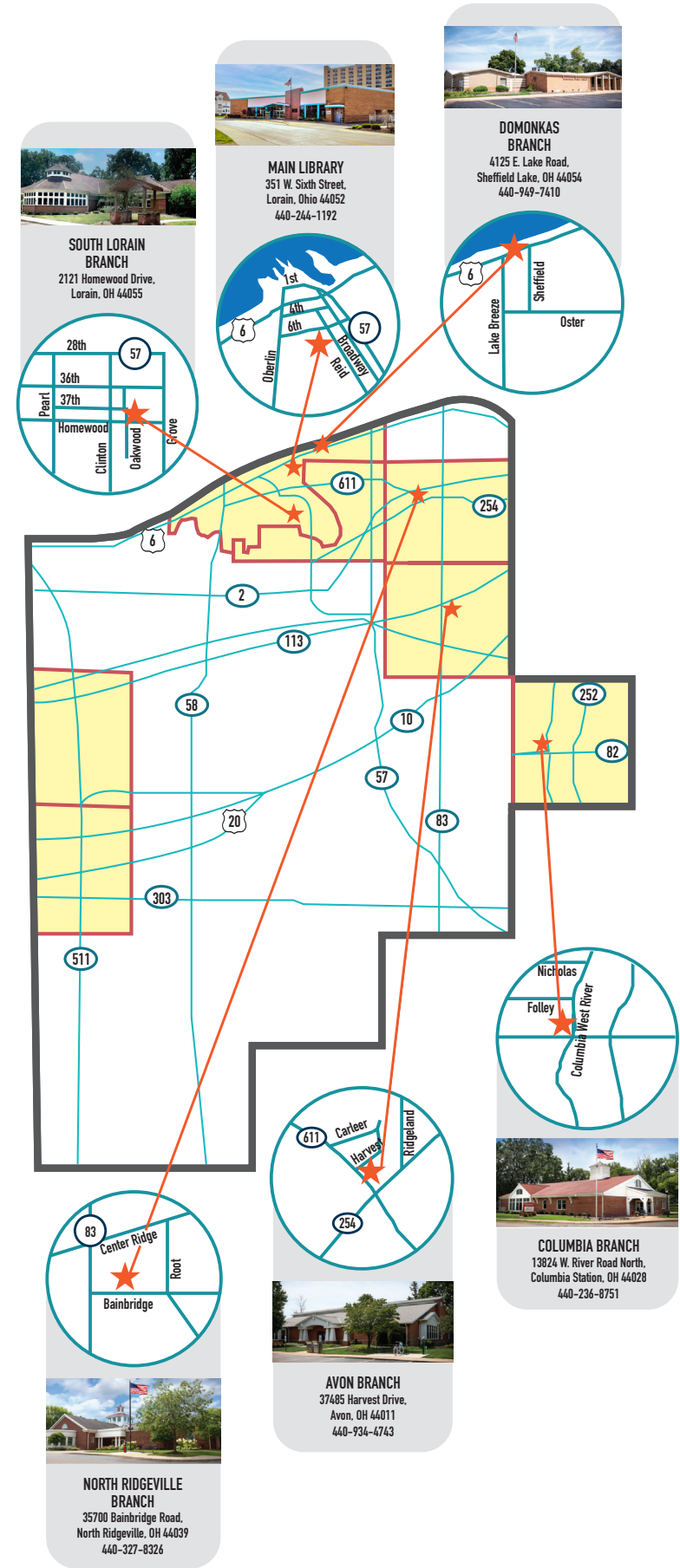
The Lorain Public Library System, or LPLS, is the largest, most comprehensive library system in Lorain County, Ohio, with much of its service area comprising the northeast part of the county. The estimated population in the library system’s service district is over 154,000. It serves both large and small communities, boasting a diverse patronage consisting of various economic, ethnic and educational backgrounds, with our Main Library sitting in the heart of downtown Lorain, the International City.

Library services are provided from six branches in Lorain, Avon, Columbia Station, North Ridgeville and Sheffield Lake. Additionally, LPLS has a Little Library on the Lake at Lakeview Park in Lorain and Outreach Services, which include a Books by Mail program and an extensive array of eServices available on our website.

School districts in the service area include Lorain City Schools, Avon Local Schools, Clearview Local Schools, Columbia Local Schools, Firelands Local Schools, North Ridgeville City Schools and Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools.

Lorain Public Library System provides everyone with free, educational, informational and entertainment resources through responsive quality service to support lifelong learning.

LPLS LOCATIONS



THE TOP FIVE
IN EACH CATEGORY FROM 2022

FICTION

- Steal by James Patterson
- Sparring Partners by John Grisham
- Run, Rose Run by Dolly Parton
- The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
- Dream Town by David Baldacci

NON-FICTION:

- Ten Ohio Disasters: Stories of Tragedy and Courage That Should Not Be Forgotten – by Neil Zurcher
- The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede
- Rich Dad, Poor Dad: What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money - That the Poor and Middle Class Do Not! By Robert T. Kiyosaki
- Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience by Brene Brown
- Foot care handbook by Stephanie L. Tourles

COOKBOOKS

- The Plant-Based Family Cookbook: 60 Easy & Nutritious Vegan Meals Kids Will Love! By Claire Swift
- DASH Diet Meal Prep for Beginners -by Dana Angelo White
- Half Baked Harvest Every Day: Recipes for Balanced, Flexible, Feel-Good Meals by Tieghan Gerard
- Italian Cooking Like Nonna: Authentic Family Recipes with Extraordinary Flavor and Endless Variations by Caroline De Luca
- Healthy Easy Mexican: Over 140 Authentic Low-Calorie, Big-Flavor Recipes by Velda De la Garza

AUDIOBOOKS

- Better Off Dead: A Novel by Lee Child
- The Wish: A Novel by Nicholas Sparks
- The 6:20 Man -by David Baldacci
- Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone by Diana Gabaldon

DVDS

- Spider-Man: No Way Home
- Ghotbusters: Afterlife
- The Batman
- Dog
- The Lost City

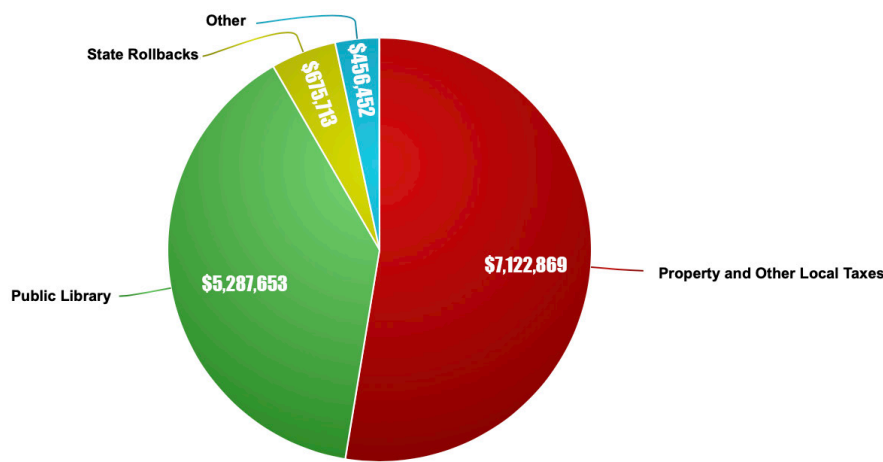
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Dog Man: Grime and punishment by Dav Pilkey
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot by Jeff Kinney
- Big Nate: Beware of Low-Flying Corn Muffins by Lincoln Peirce
- Guts by Raina Telgemeier
- Rowley Jefferson’s Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories by Jeff Kinney

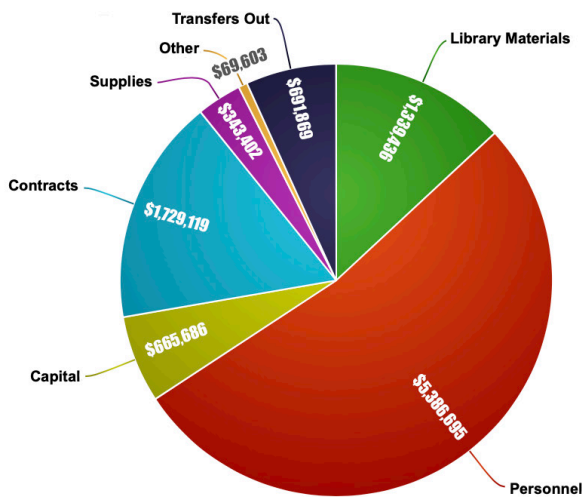
TEEN BOOKS

- One of Us Is Lying by Karen M. McManus
- The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Barnes
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- Good Girl, Bad Blood by Holly Jackson
- Family of Liars by E. Lockhart

2022 Financials



REVENUE SOURCE DOLLARS	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$7,122,869	52.60%
Public Library	\$5,287,653	39.04%
State Rollbacks	\$675,713	4.99%
Other	\$456,452	3.37%
Total Revenues	\$13,542,687	100.00%



EXPENDITURES	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Library Materials	\$1,339,436	13.10%
Personnel	\$5,386,695	52.68%
Capital	\$665,686	6.51%
Contracts	\$1,729,119	16.91%
Supplies	\$343,402	3.36%
Other	\$69,603	0.68%
Transfers Out	\$691,869	6.77%
Total Expenses	\$10,225,810	100.00%

2022 ELIBRARY STATISTICS

265,421	eBook, digital audiobooks, video storybooks (OverDrive, Hoopla Digital, Bookflix)
11,044	Digital magazines (OverDrive, Consumer Reports)
14,498	Digital movies and television (Hoopla Digital, Kanopy, Access Video on Demand)
2,173	Streaming music (Hoopla Digital)
8,935	Online education course enrollment (Gale Courses, Knowledge City, LinkedIn Learning, Tutor.com)
9,237	African American Heritage and Ancestry
61,270	New York Times, Newsbank, Wall Street Journal
158	Creativebug

2022 SYSTEM STATISTICS

- 355,150 Library visits
- 17,967 Open hours
- 69,758 Library cardholders
- 7,878 New library cards issued
- 1,675 Programs offered
- 25,864 In-person program attendance
- 316,570 Materials owned
- 973,120 Materials loaned (not including eMedia)
- 379,195 Total digital circulation
- 38,733 New materials
- 55,713 Computer bookings
- 111,425 Website users
- 5,544 Facebook followers
- 1,844 Twitter followers
- 1,306 Instagram followers
- 292 TikTok followers

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS IN 2022:

Facebook:
A post about the Freedge opening at the South Lorain Branch. **68,835** reach

Twitter, Instagram and TikTok were all posts about books.

1,758 impression on Twitter for “Something Wilder” by Christina Lauren,

7,451 views on Instagram for a post about great first lines

2,681 views on TikTok for “Under the Whispering Door” by T.J. Klune.



Donna Kelly-Sprinkle
Manager

“Staff worked super hard to get things in place and organized...It was worth every second of hard work to see the smile and hear the wows as patrons walked in to the new space for the first time.”



AVON BRANCH

The Avon Branch was under construction the entire year. The new portion of the building, the South end, was opened to the public in September. This includes the circulation desk, administrative offices, the much-anticipated drive-thru window, a larger Children’s Area, Kathy Petersen Story Time room and a Teen Zone with new computers and interactive smartboards.

Staff were excited to then start hosting programs inside the building once again. They began with the community favorites – Story Times, book discussion group, crafts and Tech Club. The expanded space called for an expanded staff, so Avon now has six new staff members.

Throughout the year the branch staff also remained active in the community, participating in city-sponsored movie nights, the Tree Commission’s Arbor Day event, Timberlake Summer Lunch Program, a Health and Safety Fair, Superhero Day, Not-So-Spooky Halloween and the Avon Tree Lighting at Christmas.



COLUMBIA BRANCH

Columbia Township is growing by leaps and bounds as developers are actively buying 100+ acre parcels and building residential subdivisions – which means lots of new families attending programs at the library! Fifty people attended the “Warm and Fuzzy” program featuring alpacas and hot chocolate in September and even more attended the Nutcracker Tea Party with performances by the Cleveland Ballet in December!

The Columbia Friends volunteer group is reaping the rewards of all the new residents as their three annual book sales brought in almost \$3,000 this year! They donate those funds back to the library by providing program supplies and contributing to the Columbia Levy Fund – the Columbia Branch is slated to be on the ballot again in 2025.

The branch partnered with local animal shelter Berea ARF for a “reading to rescues” program in which children were registered in advance for a 15-minute time slot to sit in the cat room and read to the cats housed at the shelter. The program, which helped children build confidence with their reading and speaking and brought attention to the shelter and the cats in particular, proved so popular it will be continued in 2023.



John Guscott
Manager

“The Columbia Branch hosted a Nutcracker Tea Party with performances from the Cleveland Ballet. Over 50 patrons attended the program! Librarian Kari Mariner was a guest on WEOL FM earlier that week to promote the program and the library.”



Anne Godec
Manager

“The newest space we added at Domonkas isn’t even in the building! A Storybook Trail was installed at Ferndale Park. It’s a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors with your children or grandchildren, enjoying a story and burning off excess energy at the same time! This was made possible through a partnership with the Friends of the Domonkas Library, the city of Sheffield Lake and the Rotary Foundation.”



DOMONKAS BRANCH

Domonkas was really focused on community service in 2022.

Their annual MLK Month of Service had the highest number of donations since its inception, collecting over 400 blankets, hats, scarves and gloves for those in need. Many of the items were handmade by the crocheters and knitters in the community.

Domonkas was added as a distribution point for the annual LPLS Operation WARM coat giveaway in December, where those in need could go to the branch on the designated days and times to pick out, try on and take home warm outerwear for the whole family.

Domonkas was one of two branches to pilot a new service that LPLS hopes to expand in the future. The meeting room was turned in to a photo studio for a day during which patrons could pre-register for a half hour time slot to have free family holiday photos taken in front of a beautiful wintery backdrop complete with lit trees, fake snow, a wooden bench and a fleece blanket to throw over their lap. The photos were then edited and either downloaded to a flash drive or emailed to the patron. The gratitude was heartwarming.



MAIN LIBRARY

The United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) returned this year to assist patrons with their tax returns. They reported that 406 returns were prepared, resulting in \$545,327 in refunds and an estimated \$110,838 saved by taxpayers for using free tax prep at the library instead of a paid preparer.

2022 saw the inaugural Toni Morrison Poster Contest, mirroring the already established essay contest hosted by the Community Foundation of Lorain County in which a different theme is chosen each year based on the writings of Lorain native Toni Morrison. The winning pieces in each age category were professionally framed and hung in the Toni Morrison Room.

Main hosted the 5th Annual LPLS Writer’s Conference, an outdoor carnival to kick off the annual Summer Reading Challenge and staff were excited to participate in the International Festival that returned to Black River Landing after having taken a hiatus.



Joy Walk
Assistant Manager

“Staff from the main library might be found collaborating with our amazing neighbors. Partnerships with local schools, involvement with Lorain Historical Society and the StoryWalk at Black River Landing allow staff to take the library outside of the building.”



Jennifer Winkler
Manager

“In 2022, North Ridgeville staff completed over 800 passport applications, averaging a minimum of 65 appointments each month. We received a perfect score for our 2022 passport audit and were awarded a certificate to recognize exemplary performance from the Acceptance Facility Oversight.”

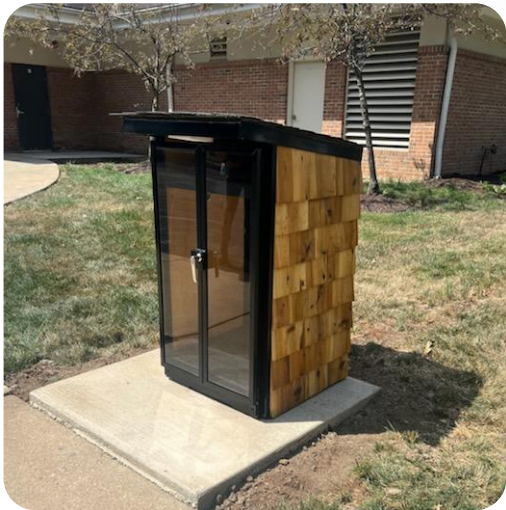


NORTH RIDGEVILLE BRANCH

The North Ridgeville Branch expanded its collection of nontraditional items with Disc Golf sets, fishing poles for various ages and skill levels, tackle boxes and lures that can all be used in the park across the street. The branch also has 30 new children’s educational Launchpad tablets and an expanded Read-Along collection

The branch partnered with Connecting for Kids to offer more adapted programs for families with children that struggle in an area of development, ChildTime Learning Center to offer monthly story times to its toddler and preschool classes, (on top of the ten weekly story times held within the branch), Danbury Senior Living for a monthly outreach of craft, trivia and wellness programs, the American Red Cross on hosting six blood drives at the branch and the Kiwanis Club on a special story time in which the North Ridgeville Police Department sent officers to read to the kids.

Staffers also attended a future career fair at the High School, where they introduced families to our test prep resources, assistance with potential scholarships and Tutor.com for homework and resume help. Our Kindergarten Readiness resources were promoted at the Early Childhood Learning Community’s Countdown to Kindergarten event, and over a dozen visits were coordinated to the North Ridgeville City Schools. In a show of appreciation for all that we do, one family had their toddler dressed up as Ms. Kelsey (one of our librarians) for Halloween, complete with a library lanyard and Ms. Kelsey’s ukulele.



SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH

More than 50 people attended our outdoor party to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month which included a lively set by Latin City Soul (band member Dominic Cataldo is also a frequent member of the chess club at the South branch), street taco demonstrations and samples from Tienda La San Luis and a beautiful traveling exhibit from Latino Lorain.

A new story time, EatPlayGrow, was initiated and did extremely well. Additional new programs included those in which patrons learn how to operate a Cricut machine and a new Diverse Voices Book Club focusing on works from underrepresented authors providing a variety of perspectives. We hope to encourage adventurous reading and provide a safe space to share our thoughts.

South Lorain staff attended the Sacred Heart Festival, multiple school open houses and provided movies for the Movie Nights at Oakwood Park. Local children’s author Racquel Ortiz was the spring Maker in Residence hosting workshops and spending open studio hours answering questions and teaching patrons about her craft. Local business owner Bart Gonzalez of Techne provided popular computer and tech classes.



Danielle Coward
Manager

“El Centro and the Health Department enabled us to install a free refrigerator known as a Freedge. It is a 24/7, 365 day a year opportunity for members of the community to access food without filling out any paperwork. The Hunger Network Food Rescue Program and the Apples grocery store in Sheffield will be donating regularly.”



Katie Cooley

“2022 was a year of rebuilding and reconfiguring the Outreach Department. It was a time to assess community needs and ensure our services and programs meet those needs. We want to meet the community where they are and bridge gaps in access to library services.”

LITTLE LIBRARY ON THE LAKE AND OUTREACH

Little Library on the Lake hosted a different educational program each week throughout the summer and had many fun new pieces of equipment available to parkgoers to borrow free of charge.

The Outreach Department heads up the annual Summer Reading Challenge for LPLS which in 2022 had 495 preschool, 1,551 school age, 144 teen and 594 adult participants for a grand total of 2,784. They also lead the Summer Lunch Program which provides a free lunch and activity for area youth. This is available at three of our branches every weekday while school is out of session.

Outreach staff began offering Story Strolls at Kipton Community Park and Black River Landing in Lorain, offering families a way to connect with literacy, nature and community all at once.

They also developed a relationship with Lorain County LGBTQ+ and now provide bi-monthly youth programming while caregivers and parents of LGBTQ+ and gender diverse youth meet to engage in a support group and social connection.



NEW SERVICES:

- We added Northstar Digital Literacy service to our eLibrary resources.
- Our IT Department worked with Blue Technology and Envisionware to offer cashless transactions when utilizing our public printers and copiers.
- Kwikboost cell phone charging stations have been installed at both the Main and South Lorain Branch.
- LPLS continues to help bridge the digital divide in our communities. This year we worked with the City of Lorain Department of Building, Housing & Planning to install a server at Century Park in Lorain to provide free WiFi access.
- In response to the ongoing opioid crisis, LPLS partnered with Lorain County Public Health to install Naloxoboxes at each branch. Naloxobox.org describes them as “a smart solution to public access naloxone and opioid overdose response tools.” Their mission is to “improve the capacity of bystander rescuers to save the lives of victims of opioid overdose with overdose response tools, including naloxone”
- Lorain County Public Health’s Healthy Places grant allowed LPLS to purchase a Mamava lactation pod the Children’s Area of the Main Library. A private caregiver lounge is also now available at the Avon Branch.

SYSTEM WIDE INITIATIVES:

- We brought back the popular Community Shred Day at each branch where we had a shred truck in the lots of our branches and permitted patrons to bring up to five bags or boxes of papers to be shredded for free. Approximately 300 cars attended the North Ridgeville event alone and recycled over six tons of paper. One patron donated \$100 to express their thanks.
- Thanks in part to a grant from the Nord Family Foundation, we started a Maker in Residence program in which a local artisan is scheduled for open studio hours and hands-on workshops at a particular branch for a three-month residency. Our 2022 makers were glow forge artist Carida Diaz, children’s author Raquel Ortiz, multimedia artist Hiatt Hernon, landscape painter Bob Wagner and singer/songwriters Fayavan Barbee and Kennedy Nagel. The program will continue in 2023.
- With a grant from the Stocker Foundation, LPLS purchased a dramatic play station for each branch. The one for Domonkas is a Health Care Station where children can pretend to visit a doctor’s office. In the waiting area, they can sign in for an appointment, update a reusable patient file, play on a wooden phone while they wait and pay any fees with a credit card. The exam room portion includes an eye chart, scale, height measuring station, play sink, x-rays and blood pressure cuff. Other play stations included a Market Stand Station (Avon Branch), Culinary Station (Columbia Branch), Fresh Market Station (Main Library), Animal Care Station (North Ridgeville Branch) and Diner Station (South Lorain Branch).
- LPLS’s Winterwear Share program was a resounding success again this year. We accept donations of new or gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves for the less fortunate in our communities. Many of the hats and scarves that we receive are handmade. We also received funding to distribute a record number of 720 coats and 228 pairs of children’s shoes from Operation WARM and the Stocker Foundation. We then host specific distribution events at our Main, South Lorain and Domonkas branches where families can try them on and choose what they like to stay warm over the winter months. We partner with Rising Titans, an early literacy initiative comprised of local daycares and organizations concerned with early learning, to identify recipients. The first distribution event of the year served 82 families and community partners Rising Titans, Head Start, Neighborhood Alliance and Lorain County Health & Dentistry were also on hand with giveaways and fun activities. Some of the survey comments afterwards were “I’m grateful for the help. Amen.” and “It helped out so much. I got custody of my sister’s four kids plus I have my own. Very hard time and y’all helped me so much.”
- Each LPLS branch also participated in the United Way’s Fill the Bus campaign in which school supplies are collected and given to families that are struggling to purchase the items their kids will need for school. United Way reported that overall, 29,776 items were collected and distributed. We received a thank you letter from them saying “When the community and organizations such as Lorain Public Library stand up and come together, our impact is so much greater. Thank you for your help in making Fill the Bus 2022 a success!”
- LPLS worked with a local church and other community organizations to identify twelve refugee families from war-torn Ukraine. We provided them with ten hotspots and purchased books for all the kids in their native language as well as offered each a pen and journal. We also made them aware of Transparent Language, a free resource offered in our eLibrary, that has specific lessons for Ukranian speakers to learn English.
- LPLS continues to grow its culinary initiatives. We were excited to be one of a select group to be invited to a conference regarding food security hosted by the Urban Library Council.



LorainPublicLibrary.org