

Below is a partial list of what Lorain Public Library System has done with the funding and grants we have received and the community partners we have worked with since 2019. This list does not include any standard library materials for loan (i.e. books), standard program supplies, presenter fees or staffing.

2023

- **February 2023** – LPLS receives another grant to sponsor the art supply community giveaways for Art in the Park events in June and July.
- **Feb, 2023** – United Way tax prep continues
- **February, 2023** – The annual MLK Month of Service initiative at the Domonkas Branch yields over 260 new and/or homemade hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, coats and socks to be donated to a local charity.
- **April, 2023** – The Avon Branch celebrates the completion of the renovation and 16,000 square foot expansion that includes a reading garden, drive-up window, expanded meeting rooms, technology upgrades, a Create Space, a dedicated teen space, an enlarged children’s area and a demonstration kitchen sponsored by the Nord Family Foundation.
- **April 2023** – LPLS applies for an in-kind grant for 1,000 solar eclipse glasses for the community.
- **Spring, 2023** – LPLS works with Lorain County Solid Waste Management District to host free Shred Days at each branch as another free community service.
- **Spring 2023** – LPLS works with Neighborhood Forest again to provide free tree saplings for area children to plant in celebration of Earth Day.
- **Summer 2023** – LPLS works with the City of Lorain to open Little Library in the Park at Oakwood Park to loan games and sports equipment for use in the park. It is open seasonally and staffed by South Lorain Branch staff.
- **Summer, 2023** - LPLS collaborates with Goodwill to have one of their clients work alongside library staff for three weeks to learn what skills they would need for a future job in libraries.
- **March, 2023** - LPLS collaborates with Cleveland Seed Bank to make Seed Libraries available at three of our branches.
- **2023** – LPLS works with Ohio Means Jobs to have a Lorain High School student work at the Main Library from May through October to gain job skills and experience.
- **2023** – LPLS collaborates with Ohio Means Jobs host a series of programs for job seekers including job search help, career building and interview skills.
- **2023** - LPLS partners with Pathways Plate, a new nonprofit created to promote good nutrition and prevent obesity in minority communities of Lorain County, to host weekly holistic health culinary programs throughout the summer
- **2023** – North Ridgeville Branch receives new passport photo equipment to increase the quality and efficiency of the service while reducing the number of rejections from NPC.
- **Fall, 2023** – Friends of the Lorain Public Library uses funds made from book sales to purchase kindergarten readiness kits to be donated to Lorain Public Schools. Kits included social-emotional learning and sensory information as well.

- **Aug, 2023** -LPLS hosts a free legal advice clinic on a Saturday morning at Main with a gathering of Lorain/Cleveland area workers with Ohio Legal Aid Society. Over 40 attendees sought help.
- **Oct, 2023** – Another season of Winterwear Share in which LPLS collected new or gently used outerwear to share with community members in need.
- **Nov. 2023** – Friends of Columbia Library, Inc. secures a \$250 grant for the non-profit organization Path & Green’s Period Packing Party to supply menstrual products to youth that cannot afford them.

2022

- **January 2022** – The annual MLK Month of Service Drive at the Domonkas Branch yields its largest donation to date with over 400 blankets, hats, scarves and gloves for those in need.
- **2022** – The United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) returns to the Main Library to assist patrons with 406 tax returns resulting in \$545,327 in refunds and an estimated \$110,838 saved by taxpayers for using free tax prep at the library.
- **2022** – The Maker in Residence initiative begins to connect the public with various forms of art and those that create it locally with a grant from Nord Family Foundation.
- **February 2022** – LPLS receives Lorain County Public Health’s Healthy Places grant for a Mamava lactation pod for the Main Library.
- **Spring 2022** – LPLS partners with Neighborhood Forest to provide free tree saplings for area children to plant in celebration of Earth Day.
- **Spring 2022** – LPLS partners with the Friends of the Domonkas Library, the city of Sheffield Lake and the North Coast Rotary Foundation to add a literary trail to Sheffield Lake’s Ferndale Park.
- **2022** – LPLS partners with the Lorain County Public Health and El Centro to open a 24/7 accessible Freedge at the South Lorain Branch to assist those in the community. The Hunger Network Food Rescue Program and the Apples grocery store in Sheffield donate regularly.
- **2022** – LPLS partners with Lorain County Solid Waste Management to host an annual Community Shred Day at each branch.
- **Summer 2022** – North Ridgeville Branch begins loaning fishing poles, tackle boxes and lures to be used in the park across the street where no fishing license is required. Many of the items were donated by the local Cabela’s store.
- **Summer 2022** – LPLS applies for and receives a grant to sponsor the art supply community giveaways for Art in the Park event in September.
- **2022**- LPLS adds Northstar Digital Literacy Service to its eLibrary as another free resource for patrons.
- **2022** – North Ridgeville Branch receives a perfect score from the Acceptance Facility Oversight on their passport services audit and are awarded a certificate to recognize exemplary performance. Staff completed over 800 passport applications, averaging a minimum of 65 appointments each month in 2022.

- **2022** – LPLS works with a local church and other community organizations to identify twelve refugee families from war-torn Ukraine and provide them with ten mobile hotspots, books for the kids in their native language and information about Transparent Language, our free resource that has specific lessons for Ukrainian speakers to learn English
- **2022** – LPLS offers Kwikboost cell phone charging stations at the Main Library and South Lorain Branch.
- **2022** – LPLS works with the City of Lorain Building, Housing and Planning Department to install a server at Century Park to provide free WiFi access.
- **2022** – LPLS partners with Lorain County Public Health to install Naloxboxes at each branch to improve the capacity of bystander responders to save the lives of victims of opioid overdose with overdose response tools, including naloxone.
- **2022** – With a grant from the Stocker Foundation, LPLS purchases a dramatic play station for each branch: a health care station for Domonkas, a market stand station for Avon, culinary station for Columbia, fresh market station for the Main Library, animal care station for North Ridgeville and a diner station for South Lorain.
- **Fall 2022** – LPLS participates in the United Way of Greater Lorain County’s “Fill the Bus” campaign to collect and donate school supplies to families that could not afford them. United Way reports that overall, 29,776 items were collected.
- **Fall 2022** - Launching Phenomenal Learners begins with a \$250,000 grant from Libraries Accelerating Learning to offer free tutoring services for any school-age child in the city of Lorain at either the Main Library or South Lorain Branch.
- **Winter 2022** – LPLS teams up with Operation WARM and the Stocker Foundation for Winterwear Share, to distribute a record number of 720 coats and 228 pairs of children’s shoes as well as donated hats, scarves and gloves for those in need in our communities.

2021

- **January 2021** – LPLS supports United Way of Greater Lorain County on their Collect>Sort>Deliver initiative to get professional attire to job seekers.
- **January 2021** – Domonkas Branch collects 387 donated blankets, hats, scarves and gloves, many of them handmade by members of the community as part of its annual MLK Month of Service Drive. Items were donated to new partner, St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain.
- **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 3,385 COVID-19 vaccine appointments.
- **March 2021** – LPLS begins offering Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) kits at the Avon 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 Spanish.

- **2021** – Telehealth Room opens at the Main Library where community members can speak with their healthcare providers in a safe environment without having to find transportation to the clinic or hospital.
- **March through June 2021** – LPLS works with Lorain County Solid Waste Management District to host free Shred Days at each branch as another free community service.
- **April 2021** - LPLS resumes passport services at the North Ridgeville and Avon branches.
- **2021** – LPLS introduces Treat Your Shelf, a service to provide patrons with a list of suggested titles specifically curated by library staff for the individual patrons based on their interests and preferences.
- **2021** – North Ridgeville and South Lorain branches participate in the “Put A Lid On It” campaign to celebrate National Bike Safety Month. The events included free bike helmets and bike helmet inspections, safety information, free bike registrations, a bike rodeo, outdoor story time, obstacle course and bike-themed crafts.
- **2021**- The Domonkas Branch refresh is completed and includes a new information desk, new tables and chairs, new paint and carpet, a new monitor and camera for hybrid programming, speakers and a story time media cart to assist with virtual and hybrid programming.
- **2021** – South Lorain Branch is chosen as one of only 50 libraries in the country to host the ALA traveling “Thinking Money for Kids” exhibit.
- **2021** – LPLS breaks ground on the Avon Branch renovation and 16,000 square foot expansion.
- **2021** – LPLS begins handing out free COVID-19 home test kits, continually reordering more to ultimately hand out over 20,000 free tests in 2021.
- **2021** – The city of North Ridgeville utilizes the library’s meeting room spaces to teach fire safety to over 360 incoming kindergartners and first grades attending Safetyville.
- **2021** – LPLS partners with Pathways Enrichment Center to offer a series of programs for their Pathways Plate initiative with produce donated by Solidarity Urban Farms.
- **2021**- LPLS secures funds from the North Ridgeville Heart and Sole Collaborative to purchase a three-speed adult trike as part of the bike share program. The adult trike is ideal for those experiencing arthritis, neck, back or posture issues.
- **2021** – North Ridgeville Heart and Sole also donates funds to acquire a Charlie Cart for the North Ridgeville Branch to enhance culinary programs.
- **June 2021**- LPLS hosts a pet food drive to benefit the Berea Animal Rescue Fund, where Columbia Branch patrons can sign up for Reading to the Rescues.
- **July 2021** – LPLS partners with Lorain County Public Health, El Centro and the Lorain County Urban League to host two free vaccine clinics. The second was a drive-thru event at which free school supplies were also handed out.
- **July 2021** – LPLS installs a literacy trail outside the Columbia Branch in memoriam of and due to a donation from longtime Children’s librarian Marilyn Fetchet.
- **Summer 2021** – LPLS serves 1,075 brown bag lunches to kids as part of the Summer Food Service Program.

- **Summer 2021** - LPLS partners with North Ridgeville Heart and Sole to host six weeks of produce bag pickups at the library. Over 400 bags of locally grown produce were sold with all proceeds supporting local farmers.
- **Summer 2021** – LPLS grows their literacy trail offerings with a new trail at Black River Landing in Lorain.
- **Summer 2021** – The Hope for Futures Urban Farm thrives allowing LPLS to host several “pick your own veggie” events for the community.
- **September 2021** – LPLS commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the attacks on 9/11 with several months of programs throughout the system including multiple book discussions, the recording of personal experiences as part of Lorain County Memory and an exhibition from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.
- **2021** - LPLS partners with several other organizations and libraries in Lorain County to host a zoom discussion of Robin D’Angelo’s “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism.”
- **October 2021** – LPLS receives a grant from Stocker Foundation for two Science and Wellness kits for each branch.
- **November 2021** – In partnership with the city schools and senior center, the North Ridgeville Branch collects over 600 thank you letters written by local children and community members honoring our veterans in time for Veteran’s Day. The letters were delivered to veterans throughout Lorain County.
- **Winter 2021** – LPLS receives a donation of coats from Stocker Foundation as part of Operation WARM and includes them with their own Winterwear Share initiative to provide over 500 coats and accompanying hats, gloves and scarves to 87 local families. Included a packet of literature and goodies from Lorain County Health and Dentistry, Lorain County Public Health, Second Harvest and Lorain County Metro Parks.
- **2021** - North Ridgeville Branch partners with the American Red Cross to host five blood drives. Registrations were full and averaged a 95% attendance rate.

2020

- **January 2020** – LPLS announces 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 is rededicated and collection expansion begins.
- **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** – Over 400 mobile hotspots are purchased to be distributed to over 200 families to help with connectivity during at-home learning and working.
- **March 2020** - LPLS partners with United Way of Greater Lorain County to offer free tax preparation services at the Main Library.
- **April 2020** – LPLS partners with American Red Cross to open the Main Library and North Ridgeville Branch for much needed blood drives during the pandemic.
- **April 2020** – Branches remain closed.
 - LPLS begins virtual programming including Story times, a writer's group and a book discussion group.
 - LPLS continues to grow its eLibrary 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.
- **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 Library and South Lorain Branch 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.
- **May 2020** - LPLS begins offering contactless curbside service at all six branches.
- **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.
- **June 2020** – LPLS reopens all six branches to the public with limited hours and new safety measures in place.
- **July 2020** – LPLS begins offering Grab & Go Activity Kits at all six branches for various ages.
- **July 2020** – In collaboration with Lorain County Metro Parks 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 U.S. 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, the Create Space opens 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 (from the reduced COVID 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.

2019

- **2019** – The LPLS Technical Services Department staff move from an off-site building in to the Main Library, saving thousands of dollars in rent annually.
- **February 2019** – LPLS offers Project DAWN training at all branches presented by Lorain County Public Health, funded by Ohio Department of Health.
- **February 2019** – LPLS begins offering medication disposal pouches and tamper-resistant locking medicine bags for free at all branches, provided by Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County.
- **March 2019** – Participates in 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 renovates to include improved efficiency and safety as well as lower utility costs.
- **March 2019** – Main Library renovations include 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 launches 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 begin 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 and South Lorain Branch become a “Fresh Stop” pick-up location in partnership with City Fresh.
- **June 2019** – LPLS goes 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** – LPLS 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 launches 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 begins offering mobile hot spots from Main Library, South Lorain branch and Domonkas with funding from Nordson Corporation.
- **August 2019** – A StoryWalk is installed at South Central Park across from the North Ridgeville Branch in partnership with North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department and Lorain County Public Health.
- **November 2019** – LPLS partners with Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to offer discounted tickets to cardholders.
- **Winter 2019** –LPLS partners 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).

Capital Improvements since 2019

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