

**Frankfort Public Library District
Strategic Plan Quarterly Assessment
January 2025—March 2025**

Highlight of Completed Progress this Quarter



Experience: Implement events and programs that promote community togetherness.

This quarter, the Library implemented a number of events and programs that promoted community togetherness. Of particular note included the Community Wishing Trees, which had 97 participants, and the Holiday Happenings Scavenger Hunt, where 140 participants learned about winter holidays from various cultures. The Library hosted the annual Day of Service, where community members came together to make 80 cat toys for Lulu's Locker Rescue, sew 38 chemo port cushions for The Cancer Support Center, and made cards 85 for our local homebound seniors. At a separate event, families created cards for the veterans at the Veterans' Home in Manteno. The Library also hosted an Art Days series, where 100 children created art and then 50 community members attended the subsequent Art Show. [Staff will continue to implement events and programs which promote community togetherness.](#) (E.1, E1.2, C.2, S.2)



Communication: Create and deepen partnerships with local organizations to enhance the Library's presence in the community.

This quarter, the Library worked with many continuing and new community partners. First, the Library partnered with the Will County Clerk's Office for March Early Voting & the 2025 Consolidated Election. After hearing that the Will County Executive is proposing to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Will County, the Library Director joined with representatives from other Will County public libraries to brainstorm ways to promote local libraries as part of this initiative. The Library hosted a *Dog Man* party, which featured the special guest from a K-9 police unit. The Youth Services Department has been coordinating with the Village of Frankfort and the local school districts in hopes of coordinating a community art project. There are also two partners that the Library is working with to bring new senior programming to the Library: the Frankfort Township Senior Services Department and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc. The Library hosted a second Earth Awareness Fair, which highlighted 26 organizations and had 154 attendees. The Library is working with the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce on an article for the local Community Guide, and as part of Summer Reading planning, Library staff contacted over 70 local businesses about being sponsors, with 33 businesses generously agreeing. The Library served as a site for Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin to hold pop up hours for local constituents. Finally, as part of the Frankfort Park District's development of the new Fort Frankfort park, the Library will be partnering to install a new small storywalk. [Staff continue to seek out opportunities to both partner with other area organizations, and find outreach opportunities in the community, outside of traditional Library spaces.](#) (C.2)



Space: Make intentional and meaningful changes that align with Library and community need.

Despite the winter weather, the Library made some building improvements this quarter. First, a new fire alarm panel was installed in the East End of the Library, as the existing panel had reached its end of life. An updated server was installed to support better traffic to the Library's integrated library software system, which has resulted in less downtime between the Library and the SWAN catalog. Finally, the Library is preparing to tackle one of its largest building projects in several years, replacing the East End 1977 air handler. To prepare for this project, Library staff have been hard at work doing a deep cleanout of the basement. The project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025. [The Board and Administration continues to utilize data from the budget, capital priorities, and facility assessment to address building maintenance projects as they fit the Library's needs and budget. Staff will continue to assess Library usage and reorganize space as needs require and allow. \(S.1\)](#)



Access: Make material organization changes to make the collection more browsable.

Following the discovery of many purposefully misleading "title summaries," meant to mislead patrons into checking them out instead of the bestsellers they were imitating on Hoopla, the Library took steps to remove all AI-generated content from our Hoopla account. The Teen Librarian is hard at work updating YA Nonfiction categories, which were last updated over a decade ago and no longer match how teens browse for materials. The goal of this relabeling project is to make the YA Nonfiction collection more intuitive to browse.



Experience/Access

Library staff are collecting feedback from both Library staff and Library patrons to continue to add new items to the Library of Things collection. There is a focus on items that may be used infrequently or be expensive to purchase for a one-time or limited use. The goal is to develop this collection to have something for everyone in all stages of life. Additionally, new programming is in development to highlight the wide breadth of resources available in The Lab, such as creating designs for the Glowforge. The hope is that these programs will serve as access points to these creative resources.



Experience

This quarter, staff continued their professional development training, through both virtual learning opportunities, such as webinars, local continuing education opportunities, and attendance at library conferences. Four Adult Services staff members are in the process of training to utilize the resource Senior Planet, which would allow the Library to offer new programming for District residents who are fifty and older.

Additionally, the Library trained new staff members as notaries this quarter, focusing on staff who had work hours that aligned with the high-demand times for notary appointments. Notary services continue to be in high demand in our community.



Communication: Utilize all communication tools to promote Library services and programs.

This quarter, the Library utilized Facebook ads to promote the Earth Awareness Fair, in addition to the normal communication methods. Analytics from this ad indicate that the advertisement reached younger demographics than the Library's other communication platforms typical do. This is useful data for future communication purposes. Additionally, following requests from community members, the Library developed candidate questionnaires for the candidates for Library trustee in the April Consolidated Election. These questionnaires were then made available on the Library website for District voters to reference.



Space: Optimize Library procedures to foster environmental sustainability & stewardship.

The Library has established a new Green Committee made up of Library staff members. They will be reviewing Library procedures and looking for opportunities to make these procedures more environmentally friendly and sustainable. The Library also continued to offer popular "Swaps" programs, such as the Craft Supplies Swap. These types of programs encourage the community to reuse items that might otherwise be discarded.

Up Next Items

As the Strategic Plan is now halfway through its intended period, a Mid-Plan Review will be conducted. Please see the Mid-Plan Review for the Action Plan of priorities for the remainder of the Strategic Plan.