

**Frankfort Public Library District
Strategic Plan Quarterly Assessment
October 2025—December 2025**

Highlight of Completed Progress this Quarter



Experience: Implement events and programs that promote community togetherness.

This quarter, the Library hosted its second Puzzle Swap, which gave the community an opportunity to support each other in a shared hobby. In response to a perceived need in the community, the Library hosted a temporary food pantry from November 1 through December 31. It was heartening to see so many library visitors bringing in food donations to aid community members in need. During the busy finals weeks, hundreds of students utilized the Library to study and work on assignments, taking study breaks to meet with stress-reducing therapy dogs. Youth Services hosted a Cards for Veterans program, creating cards for the Manteno Veteran’s Home. Several new reading programs were developed, including Read Widely: The American Experience, an Adult reading program inspired by the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Youth Services developed a Winter Reading Program, and introduced Tags for 10, a reading program meant to bridge 1000 Books Before Kindergarten to Read for a Lifetime, to provide reading programs for children of all ages.

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.

The Library was actively engaged with community partners this quarter including working with the Village of Frankfort for Ghost Stories on the Green, with the Frankfort Police Department at the Trunk or Treat event, which had 1400 attendees.

The Library worked with the *Lincolnway City Lifestyle* on an article about local public libraries. The Library’s storywalk this season was *A Love Letter to My Library*, which staff used to highlight many of the programs and services the Library offers. The Library hosted a Fall Volunteer Fair, to respond with demand that cannot be filled with the Spring Volunteer Fair. The Library cohosted a Senior Health program with the Frankfort Township. It also hosted the I Can Dream Center for a Library visit and storytime.

The Library was out and about in the Community this quarter, including visiting more than 1700 students during school visits to District 161, District 157c, and Lincolnway East. Library staff attended Riverside Healthcare’s Community Health Fair to share information on Library resources and services, and provided spooky entertainment at the Frankfort Park District’s Senior Halloween Luncheon. The Library had a booth at the October 5th Farmer’s Market, interacting with 180 booth visitors. Four Library staff members presented at the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference. Finally, Library Trustees represented the Library at the

Frankfort Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner and the ILA South Suburban Local Legislative Meetup.

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)

Connects to new IPL State Standard Programming 4: “The library partners with local educational, social, cultural, and recreational organizations in order to present programs that address the community’s needs.”



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

This quarter, the Library developed design work for Reading Room regrading and recladding project, which will stop water intrusion into the building. The Library also added rolling whiteboards to the Meeting Rooms in response to community requests, and added a bleeding control station to provide additional safety resources for visitors and staff. Sadly, a prominent tree near the Library’s entrance had to be removed for the continued health and safety of the building. The Library is also working with an Eagle Scout on designing trellises for the Library that will be used to grow native plants.

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.

The children’s audiobook collection was reorganized to make it more user friendly and intuitive for Library visitors.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Access 8: “The library provides signage to identify collections, services, and amenities.”



Experience/Access: Utilizing Staff and Community Feedback to further develop our Library of Things Collection

Additional hotspots were added to the Library of Things collection, to meet the community demand for this resource.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Collection Management 7: “The library circulates physical objects and digital tools (a.k.a. “Library of Things”).”



Experience: Provide excellent services and experiences for patrons

The Library held its annual staff inservice day, which focused on customer service training, reviewing the Person in Charge Guidelines, and Naloxone training. In response to the abrupt closing of book wholesaler Baker & Taylor, the Library had to pivot purchasing procedures to continue to meet the needs of the community.

Luckily, the Library had already diversified purchasing, so this change wasn't as abrupt as it was for other libraries. A new "try table" was added to Youth Services to increase accessibility of various toys and games for young Library visitors.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Safety & Emergency Preparedness 3: "The library provides training for staff on safety and emergency preparedness. The library includes safety and emergency training in new employee on-boarding procedures."



Experience/Access/Communication: Outreach Vehicle Fundraiser

A Dine & Donate fundraising event was held in partnership with Oberweis, which was a "sweet" way to raise support for the Outreach Vehicle. The Friends of the Library also dedicated their annual Giving Tree fundraising specifically to the Outreach Vehicle Fundraiser this year.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Finance and Budget 7: "The library seeks non-traditional sources for fundraising (e.g., corporate sponsors/donations, endowments, investments) to supplement the annual budget."



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

A Library staff member is now participating in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) e-course. Additionally, the Conservation Foundation came to the Library to provide insights on ways the Library's landscaping could incorporate more native plants.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Building & Grounds 10: "The library strives to make its buildings and grounds as environmentally friendly as possible."



Access/Experience: Senior Planet Programs increase accessibility for seniors

The Library received a \$10,000 grant to support and expand Senior Planet programming for seniors in the community.



Experience: Develop a staff culture statement and service philosophy.

Conversations about developing a staff culture statement began at the Library's Staff Inservice Day this quarter.

Up Next Items



Experience: Increase internal cross-department collaboration, in order to optimize program scheduling.

Staff are looking for opportunities to plan programming in ways that allow for events for multiple age groups to be occurring around the same times, to reach wider audiences and introduce different generations of Library visitors to new

opportunities.



Experience: Frankfort Public Library's 60th Birthday

The Library has a 60th anniversary in May of 2026, and staff are planning ways to celebrate this anniversary with the community through promotion and programming.



Experience: Programs Incorporating the United States's Semiquincentennial

With the United States celebrating 250 years this year, the Library is finding ways to incorporate the Semiquincentennial into programs and events. Some suggestions include partnering with the Village for events, incorporating the special semiquincentennial Burpee seeds into Library landscaping, and bringing in historical

performers for programming.