

Librarian's Report
For May 4, 2026 Meeting

1. Summer Reading

Summer Reading will be held four Wednesdays in June. Sue Pirtle has put together fun programs around the theme of "Plant a Seed." Sue will be assisted by Linda Wiley. Summer Reading is funded by the Friends of the Library. In addition, this year, our library was awarded a \$250 grant through iREAD for the purchase of Summer Reading supplies. The library has received those supplies, and Sue has lined up the programs and performers. Registration for Summer Reading will begin May 18.

2. Outside Book Drop Box

Shawn Martin and Overkill Custom are close to finishing the refurbishment of our outdoor book drop.

3. Technology Grant Update

The quarterly report to the Illinois State Library for the Technology grant was submitted on April 15. I have also submitted a budget amendment in regards to that grant. Progress is still being made toward getting our website to be ADA compliant, but the amendment will cover other technology expenses if the website isn't finished by June 30.

4. IPLAR

I have begun the Illinois Public Library Annual Report. I should have it finished and ready to be signed by Randy and Sue in a few weeks.

5. Security Alarm Updates

Security Alarm has been in several times in April. The updates to the alarm system are finished and there are very few public areas of the library that cannot be viewed on camera.

6. Staff In-Service Day

For our in-service day, the staff & I visited the Carbondale Public Library and Sallie Logan Public Library in Murphysboro. We returned with a number of fun and interesting ideas to try implementing in our library.

7. Email Addresses for Board Members

The Illinois State Library highly recommends that board members have a second email address for library business only. This is suggested because board members' emails are considered public records and have the possibility of being requested in a FOIA request.

8. Exterminating Update

I have received price quotes from two exterminating companies.

9. Programs and Events

April 9, Beryle gave a tour of the library for the Sparta HeadStart group. There were 13 children and 4 adults that enjoyed the tour, a story and some snacks to take with them.

On April 14, the library hosted a get-together with residents of Addington. Linda Wiley presented each visitor with a red rose. They played a Bingo-type game and had snacks.

The week of April 19 – 25 was National Library Week. Each day, the library provided refreshments for all visitors. Tuesday was cookies & coffee day, Wednesday was donuts & coffee day, Thursday was popcorn & water day, Friday was cupcakes & water/coffee day, and Saturday was cookies, cupcakes, donuts and coffee/water (leftovers) day.

10. U. S. 250th Anniversary Celebration

The library has been invited to take part in Sparta's celebration of the event. Sparta's main celebration will take place in June. The library has been invited to be a part of a city-wide scavenger hunt, to create an anniversary/birthday "cake", take part in the parade and to add our own ideas. The staff & I have been brainstorming and have come up with a few ideas.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Colbert on May 4, 2026