



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



2021-2022

OUR MISSION:

We connect people to ideas and information to improve lives and strengthen our community.

OUR VISION:

A strong, inclusive community where lifelong learning is celebrated and all citizens have access to ideas, information, and technology.

ANNUAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

24,903

Library
Visits

844

Meeting
Room Users

27,596

Materials
Circulation

5,743

Total Wi-Fi
Sessions

2,413

Wi-Fi Users

1,196

Attendance
at Programs
& Events

304

New Library
Cards Issued

4.5

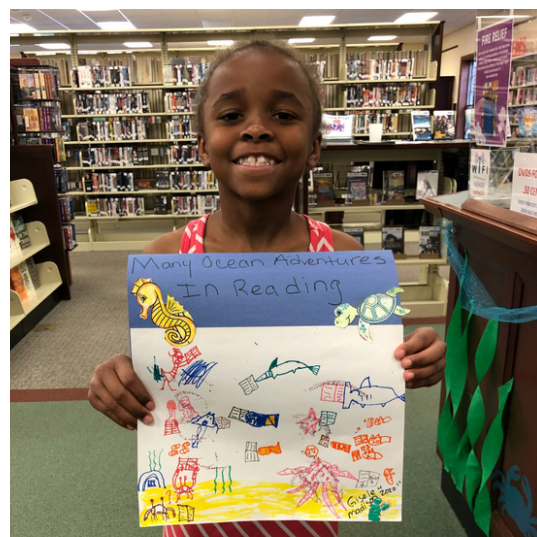
Library Staff
Members
(FTE)

4,856

Public
Computer Uses

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Eliminated overdue fees** to help increase materials checkouts and improve library accessibility for all
- **Offered a variety of COVID-safe programs** featuring in-person outdoor events, virtual offerings, and take-home activities for children and teens
- **Modernized our website**, adding an e-mail newsletter and a new library calendar where patrons can reserve the community meeting room and register for events completely online
- **Increased library visits by 79% and increased circulation of materials by 40%** over the previous year
- **Added all editions of the Rappahannock Times from the 1950s to our online newspaper archive**, available through our website
- **Increased participation in the Summer Learning Program** across all age categories
- **Completed a study of our library building** with the architects at Enteros Design that will help guide the Library Board of Directors in updating or expanding our current facility
- **Logged 6,645 books** read as part of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Everything we do is centered around our community. With a focus on respect, accessibility, and excellence, we maintain a welcoming and engaging attitude both within our library and beyond its walls.

- Strengthened our **partnership with Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge** through seasonal Storywalks and special events at the Refuge's Hutchinson Tract.
- Partnered with the Tappahannock-Warsaw Moose Lodge to host a **Fiction Writing Contest for Essex County Youth** with a total of 33 submissions.



- Distributed over 1,500 books through our three **Little Library Boxes** located throughout the county. We also worked with local student groups to hold book drives to fill the boxes. With help from some awesome volunteers, new materials are regularly added to each box.
- **Circulated Wi-Fi hotspots** to help bridge the digital divide in our community.
- Hosted young volunteers as part of summer **VolunTEEN program**.

- **Other community partners** included:

- Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society
- The Essex County Museum and Historical Society
- Acme Ice Cream Parlor
- The Woman's Club of Essex County
- Tappahannock Main Street
- Essex County Public Schools
- Essex County Head Start
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Tappahannock-Essex Rotary Club
- The Virginia Living Museum
- Tappahannock-Essex Volunteer Fire Department and Essex County Emergency Management
- Essex TRIAD





YOUR LIBRARY IS HERE FOR YOU!



Even while we've stretched to meet our community's needs during chaotic times, we're still offering the same great books, programs, and technology access, along with an unwavering commitment to customer service.

TOP CIRCULATING ITEMS OF 2022

ADULT BOOKS

2 Sisters Detective Agency
(Patterson)
Mercy (Baldacci)
Run, Rose, Run (Parton
& Patterson)
Verity (Hoover)
High Stakes (Steel)

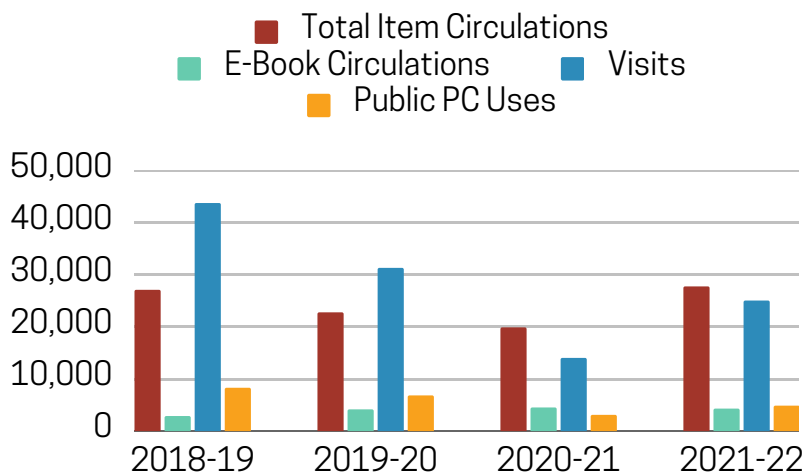
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Forest
Hide & Seek
My Little Pony: the Manga
Doggo and Pupper Save the World
Cat Kid Comic Club: On Purpose
Extreme Animal Rumble

DVDS

Encanto
Ghostbusters: Afterlife
Clifford the Big Red Dog
Cruella
Barbie: Fairytopia

LIBRARY STATS ACROSS THE PANDEMIC



LIBRARIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The pandemic shifted library services and our society in big ways. More than ever, people need comfortable community spaces where they can teleconference, engage in online learning, gather for meetings, and work individually. We continuously look for ways to support remote workers, job seekers, students, and local organizations as we all navigate these changes.





MAKING POSITIVE IMPACT

FEEDBACK FROM OUR 2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY

96%

Agreed the library provides excellent customer service

94%

Agreed our staff is "extremely helpful"

95%

Would recommend the library to a friend

COMMENTS FROM OUR PATRONS

"We are lucky to have this library and the great people that work there!"

"The library could use more space or renovation to provide more private meeting, studying, & work space."

"I really like the fact that everybody working here, no matter what you need help with, will help to the best of their ability. And if they don't know, they will send you in the right direction."

"My favorite thing about the library is how welcoming it is to everyone."

"Welcoming, comfortable, BOOKS!"

Libraries provide hope, ignite growth, and build community. It's all made possible through support from you. Thank you!

LEADERSHIP

Library Board of Directors

Robert LaFollette, Chair
Kevin Dolan, Vice-Chair
Melissa Ware, Secretary
Chris Bowden, Treasurer
Elizabeth Fowler
Rev. Cornelius Holmes
Dr. Gene Quarles
Latanya "Shelly" Weeden
Dana Wells

Friends of the Library Board

Betty Anne "Boo" Garrett
Bess Haile
Vickie LaFollete
Andrea Mittman
Julie Strock

Library Director

Dana Smook

ESSEX PUBLIC LIBRARY

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