



# Connecting Our Community

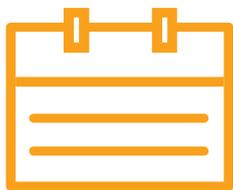
## YEARLY IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS



**33,512**  
visits to the  
library



**29,827**  
item checkouts



**105** events  
with **1,894**  
attendees



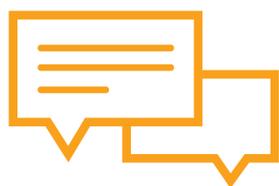
**9,407**  
public computer  
use sessions



**406**  
new patrons  
registered



**11,464**  
WiFi  
connections



**1,295**  
meeting room  
users

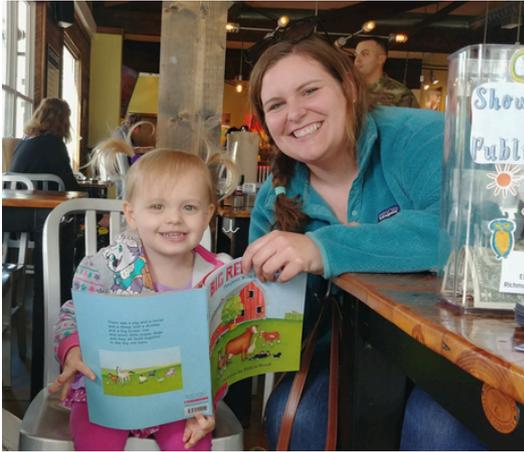


**1,952**  
e-book  
downloads



**12,933**  
website visits

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



It certainly has been a busy year at Essex Public Library. The fiscal year began with the retirement of longtime Director Bess Haile. I had the pleasure of working with Bess for a week in August as she prepared me to take the reins. She promised, with her usual cheerful enthusiasm, "You are going to have so much fun in this job!" At the time, I was overwhelmed by the newness of the position, but one year later, I can see that Bess was right.

It is the wonderful community here that makes this job a fun and fulfilling one. I have enjoyed meeting countless library patrons and supporters. So many have helped make our library successful over the years. We are in the perfect position at the public library to help promote a strong sense of community through our programs, services, and daily interactions. During storytime, while helping with genealogy, when we teach someone how to use email, we're building those connections each day. We have the opportunity to connect people to ideas, to their community, to each other, and that work can be truly momentous.

One of our most important achievements was the addition of a full-time youth services specialist, a new position vital to serving area families. Beth Rohne joined our staff in October 2017, and she jumped head first into serving our youngest learners. We will continue to grow our offerings and outreach efforts for children and families during the upcoming year.

We now have 6,820 registered library card holders. Many others use our free services like public computers, meeting rooms, and WiFi but do not have library cards. Circulation of materials increased by sixteen percent during the last year. Our library buzzes with activity as patrons access reliable information, technology, and entertainment. Through our many services and resources, we improve well being and support lifelong learning in Essex County.

In this report, you can learn more about our accomplishments and special projects. Our staff is busy, and yes, we are having fun, too! In the coming months, I look forward to expanding our services, improving the spaces in our library building, and continuing to grow meaningful community connections.

**DANA SMOOK**

*Director, Essex Public Library*



## ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The building's leaky roof was replaced in October, paid for from Essex County's Capital Reserve Maintenance Fund.
- Added a full-time youth services specialist to our team, a new position vital to meeting the needs of children and families.
- Installed a bike rack in front of the building.
- 250 people attended the 2018 Summer Reading Kickoff Party, featuring stories, face painting, carnival style games, and international crafts for the "Reading Takes You Everywhere" summer reading theme.
- The Friends of the Library sponsored three excellent events: their signature "Evening with a Writer" event featuring Jennifer Coken, a special event with local author Marty Taylor, and a Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser which brought in over \$1,300.
- Our Winter Reading Bingo challenge was popular among both children and adult readers.
- Materials circulation, visits, and event attendance numbers were all up compared to the previous year.

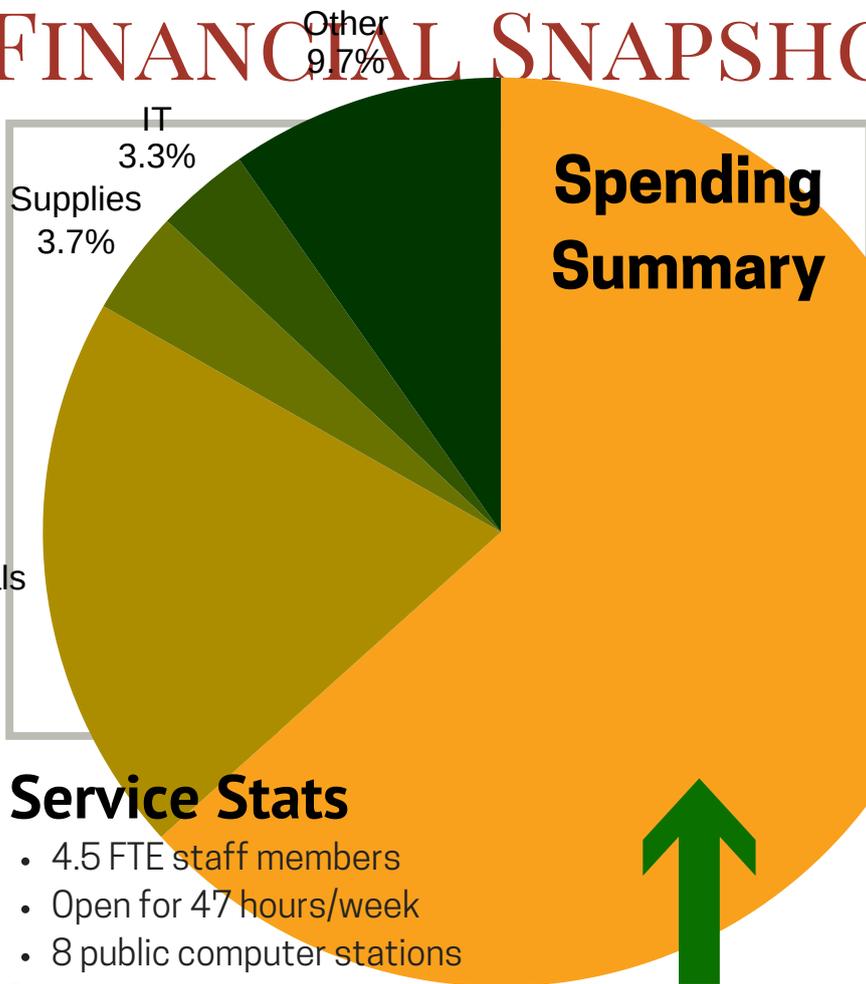
## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Provided library tours and storytime programs to Tappahannock Elementary School students at all

- grade levels.
- Coordinated with Head Start to extend programming for preschoolers and their caregivers through our storytime events.
- Worked with the Tappahannock Rotary Club to help promote their Big Croaker Fishing Tournament art contest for youth.
- Organized a free community seed and plant exchange.
- Attended "Local Library Day" at Northern Neck Burger.
- Helped strengthen County-wide youth services through participation in the Essex Youth Coalition.
- AARP Tax-Aide volunteers provided assistance to 214 taxpayers at our location.
- Supported Rivah Homeschool Co-op's educational events and initiatives.
- Partnered with volunteers from the Essex County Jr. Woman's Club to plan summer reading events.



# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



## \$27 per capita expenditures

Virginia public libraries average \$32.86 on expenditures per capita. The average cost of a hardback book in the U.S. is \$27.

## Service Stats

- 4.5 FTE staff members
- Open for 47 hours/week
- 8 public computer stations
- 3 library visits per capita
- (state median is 3.75)
- 2.85 item circulations per capita (state median is 4.56)



**Funding, circulation, and visits increased**

## Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount
Essex County (in kind)	\$184,762
Town of Tappahannock	\$4,000
State Aid	\$55,231
EPL Endowment	\$38,000
Gifts/Donations	\$2,998
Misc./Other	\$11,712
<b>Total 2017-18 Funding</b>	<b>\$296,703</b>



## 2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Strock, <i>Chair</i>	Ellen Copeland, <i>Secretary</i>	Michael Rawlings
Kevin Dolan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Robert LaFollette	Isobel Swinson, <i>Friends of the Library President</i>
Suzanne Derieux, <i>Treasurer</i>	Joanne C. Moore	

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Isobel Swinson, <i>President</i>	Hannah Tiffany, <i>Programs Chair</i>	Bess Haile
Cynthia Carter, <i>Treasurer</i>	Betty Anne Garrett, <i>Membership Chair</i>	Elizabeth D. Wood
Joanne Woody, <i>Secretary</i>		Cyanne Yates

## ESSEX PUBLIC LIBRARY

117 N. Church Ln. Tappahannock, VA 22560  
(804) 443-4945 EPLVA.org

Our mission is to provide a space for people, materials, and services to help community residents meet informational, educational, and recreational needs. We improve lives in our community by providing lifelong learning opportunities and connecting people of all ages to ideas and information.