

STAUNTONTM

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Annual Report

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

1 CHURCHVILLE AVENUE, STAUNTON, VA 24401
540.332.3902 | WWW.STAUNTONLIBRARY.ORG



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a year of changes at Staunton Public Library! If you've visited us lately, you'll notice that the most visible updates are on the first floor. We've moved our check-out desk to provide an improved customer service experience for you. In addition, we've created some new comfortable seating areas to give visitors a range of choices: a silent study space, a quiet reading room, and a conversational browsing area by the new books.

We've also seen a shift in usage towards our digital collections. Digital check-outs increased 35% in just one year! Don't you love the convenience of browsing the library's eBooks in your pajamas on a Sunday night? We sure do, but that doesn't mean we'll get rid of our print collections any time soon. It's all about balance.

Some things simply don't change, though. Our staff is still patron-focused and making collection and programming decisions based on community needs, because the Staunton Public Library exists for YOU. So come on in, see what's new, and tell us what you'd like to see in the future.

Sarah Skrobis, Director of Library Services



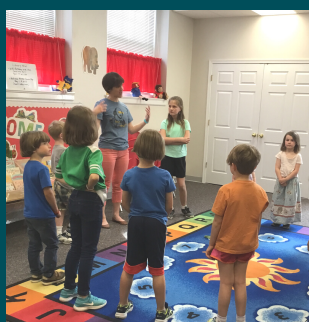
FISCAL YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE



367,391

ITEMS
CHECKED OUT



174,766

VISITORS



25,637

COMPUTER
USES



19,378

CARD
HOLDERS



841

PROGRAMS
OFFERED



11,028

REFERENCE
QUESTIONS



594

PUBLIC
MEETINGS



2,392

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Staunton Public Library Advisory Board Members serving during FY2019

Christy Davis - Chair, Dr. Josh Howard - Vice-Chair, Dan Swift - Secretary, Lisa Brooks, & Dr. Mark Peterson

PUBLIC SERVICES



Relocated the first floor check-out desk to provide improved customer service



Instituted open access to the local history and genealogy collections

Hosted two traveling exhibits from the Library of Virginia:

- Teetotalers & Moonshiners: Prohibition in Virginia
- Strong Men & Women in Virginia History



Became the only public library in Virginia to host Geri-Fit® strength training classes; SPL participated in a study which then granted public performance rights for future use

Collected over 1,600 lbs. of food for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank during the annual Can Your Fines forgiveness month

OUTREACH

- Pop-Up Playground at Gypsy Hill Park
- Nonfiction Nights at the Frontier Culture Museum
- Staunton Pride Festival
- Shakespeare's Birthday Party at the American Shakespeare Center
- Monthly visits to over 20 different sites including daycares, preschools, public schools, and low-income housing



Photo courtesy of CJ Clark

TECHNOLOGY & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Digital circulation increased over 35%

Was one of 121 stops on the Digital Bookmobile's route across the United States.



Hosted 39 technology classes and one-on-one Book a Librarian appointments

Overhauled the website to provide better accessibility and highlight new digital resources provided by the Library of Virginia

Partnered with the Friends of the Library to divert books from recycling by scanning and sending unneeded discards and donations to Better World Books

Coordinated catalog and patron database maintenance work between the Valley Libraries partners



YOUTH SERVICES

9,441 attendees at 602 programs

544 children and 92 teens participated in the 2019 Summer Reading Games program

Received one of 70 national grants to participate in the American Library Association's Great Stories Club series on Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation: a thematic teen book club that engages underserved teens and encourages young people to find their voices and speak truth to power

Hosted authors M.K. England and Anne Marie Pace to connect young readers with writers they love

Implemented a range of STEAM programs including terrarium and log cabin building work shops, Sciencetellers performance, and a Magical Makerspace before Queen City Mischief & Magic



OUR BEST ASSET: STAFF

Technology Services Librarian Kayla Payne elected Secretary of the Virginia Library Association

Participated in annual Valley Libraries Staff Development Day; toured Libbie Mill Library and the Library of Virginia

Launched staff-wide training on serving patrons experiencing homelessness

Staff members attended the annual Virginia Library Association, American Library Association, and Association of Rural and Small Libraries conferences

Hosted a representative from the Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind to discuss best practices for serving patrons with disabilities



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

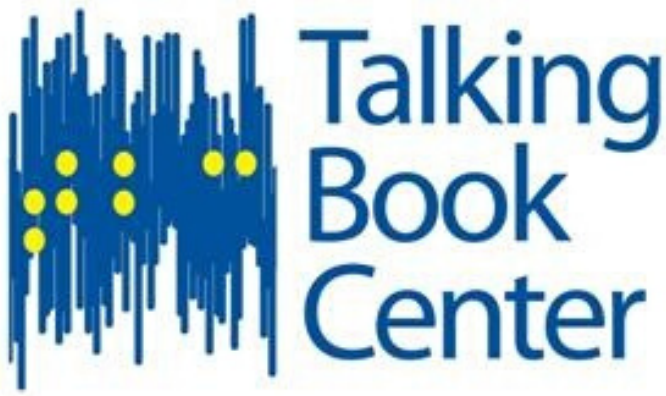
Friends of the Staunton Library awarded their first \$500 Teen Advisory Board Scholarship

The Friends hosted fundraisers: Bingo at Bedlam Brewery and two book sales that raised over \$10,000 with the help of 164 volunteers

The Staunton Library Foundation purchased a new copier for public use

Volunteers contributed almost 2,400 hours of service





Named National Subregional Library of the Year by the National Library Service for the Blind & Print Disabled and accepted the award at the Library of Congress

Circulated 19,415 items, an increase of 14.5% over 2018

Conducted outreach at Queen City Mischief & Magic, Staunton Pride, Augusta County Senior Health Fair, Staunton City Senior Health Fair, and an open house event

Received grant funding from United Way Rockbridge, United Way Greater Augusta, Community Foundation of the Blue Ridge, CAPSAW, and the Rotary Club of Staunton

Started monthly patron newsletter to promote accessible activities, encourage community involvement, and provide information on the latest titles

