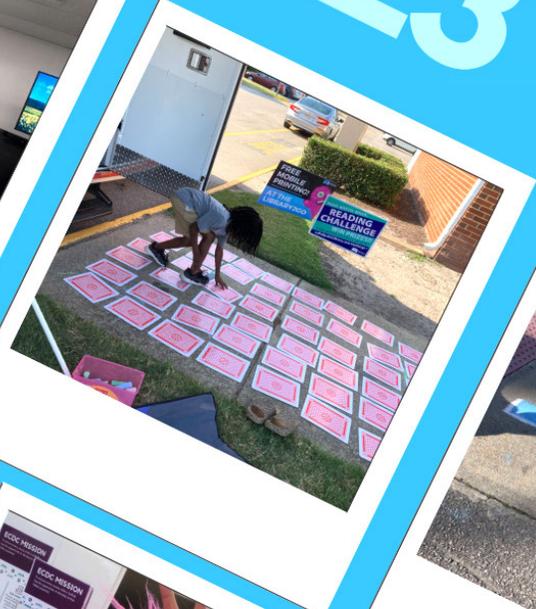




SUFFOLK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



INDEX



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Library VISION Statement Suffolk Public Library is a hub for community connection and a spark for change.

Library MISSION Statement Connect individuals to experiences, information, and resources to prioritize equitable access to opportunities, and serve the unique needs of a diverse community.

DID YOU KNOW?

All classes and events organized by Suffolk Public Library are free to attend! It also does not cost anything to sign up for a library card to give you access to print and digital items and other valuable resources. Virginia and North Carolina residents are eligible to apply for a library card.

STATS-AT-A-GLANCE

116,646
CHECKOUTS OF
PRINT ITEMS

AUDIOBOOKS
BOOKS
MAGAZINES



9,080 Computer Hours
10,806 Computer Users

Library Visits

114,637
Total

New Library Users

3,844
Total

Attendance at Library Events

**Number of views*

12,844
In-Person
3,850*
Virtual

EBOOKS & MORE



33,692 Checkouts
284 New Users
899 Average Active Users
Per Month



5,016* Checkouts
843* New Users

**From January - June 2023*

FINANCE RECAP FISCAL YEAR 2022 -2023

2022 - 2023 Adopted Budget
\$4,002,167

Per Capita
\$ 40.62

This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCES

Suffolk Public Library staff represented Suffolk and shared knowledge and experiences with other library systems at various conferences:

- Ali Flake, Senior Librarian of Community Engagement, presented “Let’s Change the Way We Think: Bookmobiles as a Branch” at the 2022 Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) Conference.
- Raynell Carpenter, Library Learning and Staff Development Supervisor, and the Suffolk Public Library Staff Engagement Team (SET) presented at the 2023 VLA Professional Associates Forum Conference.



VLA 2022 PRESENTATIONS

- “Cultivating Virginia Library Leadership” Clint Rudy.
- “Party Like It’s National Library Week: Using National Library Week as a Staff Engagement Tool” Tiffany Duck, Sarah Townsend, Minerva Hernandez-Garcia, Megan Mulvey.
- “Racial Healing in Libraries: Supporting Staff When Trauma Shows Up at Work” Tiffany Duck, Sarah Townsend
- “Connect Your Community: Getting Out of the Library and Back Into the World” Amanda Henderson, Minerva Hernandez-Garcia, Deborah Owen.
- “Redifining Access and Personalizing Mobile Services Post Pandemic” Ali Flake, Megan Mulvey.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Shawna LoMonaco, Early Childhood Development Manager, was awarded a 2023 Virginia Library Association (VLA) Scholarship.
- Keirstin Winslow, Library Experience Manager, attended the 4th National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color as a VLA travel grant recipient.



GRANTS RECEIVED

- Emergency Connectivity Fund
- Obici Health Care Foundation Grant
- RIPL Grant

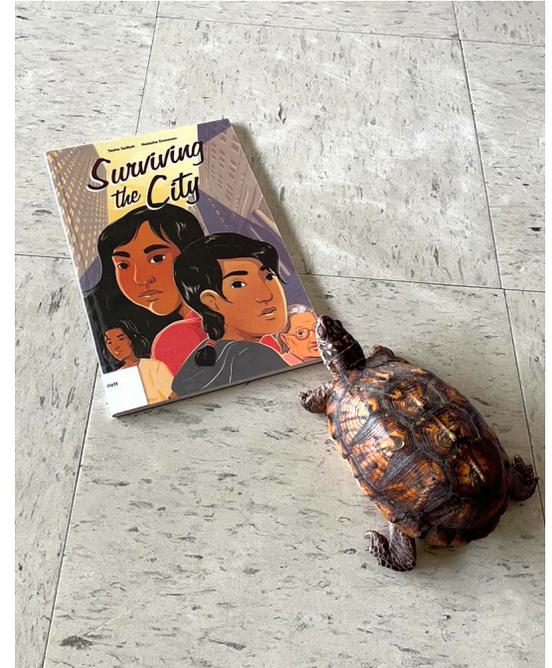
TOTAL: \$74,498.00

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



ABOUT

Friends of the Suffolk Public Library (FOSL) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, corporation that provides support for the Suffolk Public Library. People can support the Friends through their regular book sale, Amazon Smile, vehicle donations, Kroger Community Awards and by becoming a member. Learn more at suffolkpubliclibrary.com/Friends.



FOSL SUPPORTING SPL

FOSL offered valuable support to the community and library staff in a variety of ways this year. They provided funding for:

- Supplies for a variety of events and classes
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Winter Reading Challenge

\$10,000
DONATED TO
SUFFOLK PUBLIC
LIBRARY



CONTACT

300 Carolina Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
757-514-1024

BOOK SALE

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday & Monday: Closed

DONATIONS

Donations gladly accepted during bookstore hours at the FOSL store or at any library location during regular business hours. Contact FOSL for larger donation quantities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH

Suffolk Public Library's Community Engagement team focused on their mission to bring outreach services that are personalized and accessible to the community.

The Community Engagement team:

- Focused on bringing outreach services directly to customers in order to reduce gaps in access and increase community connections.
- Selected outreach locations prioritizing communities with low-income level and high risk factors, traditionally underserved populations and physical barriers to library locations including distance, ability and accessibility.
- Built new partnerships with organizations that share a common mission.
- Brought partners together by hosting Partner Mixers.
- Made connections with Suffolk Public Schools to bring library services to schools and learn ways to support the learning of Suffolk students.
- Worked in partnership with Virginia Legal Aid Society to create the Suffolk Community Resource Guide.
- Provided free afternoon snacks and summer lunches to aid in addressing child hunger in Suffolk.
- Continued our free WiFi in the Park service as well as kept little libraries in the community stocked with free books and activity kits.



565
TOTAL NUMBER
OF OUTREACHES



BRINGING THE BEST OF THE LIBRARY TO YOUR DOOR!

EXPANDING SPL DELIVERS

- Last year we launched a brand new home delivery service! The preliminary test run focused on reaching our community members in Holland borough.
- We have expanded SPL Delivers to bring library services to homebound community members in Holland, Whaleyville, and within a 5 mile radius of Downtown Suffolk!
- For more information about this service, call (757)514-7715 or email spldelivers@suffolkva.us

DID YOU KNOW?

Suffolk Public Library provides library services throughout the city, not just in our buildings, to reduce gaps in access and increase community connections. Current Outreach Services consist of:

- **Library2Go:** Our library on wheels carrying books and access to technology with iPads, gaming equipment and cutting-edge demonstrations.
- **Neighborhood Walks:** Visits on foot to local communities. Library staff walk through a variety of neighborhoods ready to answer questions about library services and upcoming events, and bring a few books along!
- **Pop-Up Library:** Library experiences outside of library locations tailored to match the needs and interests of intended customers.
- **Offsite Programming:** Classes taken to customers in retirement communities, schools and more.
- **Deposit Collection Delivery:** Deposit collections offer library materials at an off-site location.

4,825
PEOPLE SERVED AT
OUTREACH VISITS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SUMMER & WINTER READING

Suffolk Public Library challenged the community to work together to reach reading goals. We hosted the challenges through Beanstack, and introduced Beanstack's Bingo feature!

Together, our community read:

- **Summer Reading Challenge:** 11,314 books.
- **Winter Reading Challenge:** 12,621 books.

23,935
BOOKS READ
FOR READING
CHALLENGES



PROVIDING MEALS TO KIDS

This year Community Engagement continued the summer lunch service, Mess Hall, as well as launched a new afternoon snack service at Morgan Memorial Library and providing snacks on the Library2Go.

Some things to know:

- In Suffolk alone, nearly 50% of students are eligible for Suffolk's free lunch program, with 18 out of 22 public schools participating. Of those 18 schools, 5 are within five miles of Morgan Memorial Library and have a participation rate of over 80%.
- The area surrounding Morgan Memorial Library is not only low-income and over half a mile from a supermarket, but it is also an area where nearly 10% of households do not have a vehicle, making it low-access as well.
- Mess Hall provides activities and learning as well as serving free lunches to kids during the summer months when schools are not in session in an effort to aid in reducing child hunger.
- Since its start, the Afternoon Snack service has provided **839 snacks to Suffolk children.**



578
FREE MEALS SERVED
THROUGH SUMMER
MESS HALL

COMMUNITY LEARNING

LEARNING THROUGH FUN

Suffolk Public Library's Community Learning team offered classes and events that provided the community with learning opportunities that are inclusive of all ages, abilities, and content. Classes and events were offered in a variety of ways inside the libraries, virtually, and in an outreach capacity. The goal of the team was to provide free access to quality classes, events, and experiences to limit barriers and bring fun and learning to Suffolk.

The Community Learning team:

- Offered take-home kits for participants of a variety of ages to enjoy creative classes from the comfort of their home. Kits were also offered to provide entertainment and learning to students during school breaks. Some popular kits include Spice of the Month, Suffolk Handicrafts, Anime Paint Night, Get Creative @Home, and Winter Break kit.
- Continued providing adaptive classes and events to include community members whom would benefit from more individualized assistance, such as Just Duet, Bingo Boogie, and Adaptive Art Fridays.
- Provided the community with technology assistance through Discovery Appointments, where participants can have one-on-one training on topics such as computers, cell phones, research and genealogy projects.
- Aided community members on their journey to learning about their family histories through Genealogy Meetups.
- Hosted the first stop of the Library of Virginia's brand new LVA On the Go mobile library.
- Created StoryWalks to bring reading adventures to families in various parts of Suffolk, including city parks.
- Offered scavenger hunt experiences such as Explore Suffolk and The Amazing Peanut Chase to get community members exploring and engaging with Suffolk locations and businesses.
- Connected the community with important guest speakers and educators through the Suffolk Discovers series and Women In Local Politics.

4,139
PEOPLE ATTENDED
VIRTUAL AND LIVE
EVENTS



21,399
BOOKS READ FOR THE
ECDC 1000 BOOKS BEFORE
KINDERGARTEN
CHALLENGE

ENCOURAGING YOUNG READERS

- The Early Childhood Development Commission (ECDC) continued the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge to encourage early literacy and begin a lifelong love of reading.
- In partnership with the Suffolk Humane Society, the BARKS Reading Program events resumed in-person meetings, where young readers can practice reading out loud to certified therapy dogs.
- Battle of the Books (BOB) returned, this time in partnership with Portsmouth Public Library. Teams of 3rd to 5th grade students read and discussed books to compete in the ultimate reading trivia competition. Participants also got to meet authors of some of the selected books!
- Fun and engaging Storytimes were offered at North Suffolk, Morgan Memorial and virtually through Saturday Storytime and a Craft with over 6,121 attendees throughout the year!

COMMUNITY LEARNING

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Suffolk Public Library connects people to information, ideas and experiences as well as to other people who share similar interests. Some highlights from this year that brought the community together were:

- **IconiCon:** Our 7th annual multi-fandom event that is the area's biggest free gathering of sci-fi, fantasy, comic, and anime fans. 500 attendees.
- **Black and Super:** A celebration of Black comic characters and Black comic creators. 49 attendees.
- **Summer Dance Soiree:** An end of summer dance to celebrate summer, this year the theme was Alice in Wonderland. 75 attendees.
- **Tangled Hearts Murder Mystery:** Our first murder mystery event in several years. 55 attendees.
- **¡Vamos a Bailar! Let's Dance!:** Our first fall dance featuring various Latin dance forms and music. 39 attendees.
- **Haunting @Chuckatuck: A Haunted House Adventure:** Chuckatuck library transforms into a haunted house experience. 150 attendees.
- **Amazing Peanut Chase:** A city-wide scavenger hunt that has participants exploring all over Suffolk and competing for a prize. 79 attendees.
- **Homeschool Hub:** New topics are explored each triad for homeschool students to supplement their curriculum.
- **Parking Lot Pride:** A celebration of our LGBTQIA+ community, bringing people together and offering resources. 300 attendees.
- **Battle of the Books:** A reading competition for 4th - 6th grade students, this year we partnered with Portsmouth Public Library. 350 attendees.
- **Snakes of Virginia:** An educational event about local species of snakes. 175 attendees.
- **Harlem Nights: A Jazz Social:** Held at the Suffolk Art Gallery, this social highlighted important Harlem Renaissance figures and provided jazz and dancing. 40 attendees.
- **Kite Festival: Basant:** We welcomed spring with a kite-flying festival at Sleepy Hole Park! 90 attendees.
- **LARP with the Library:** Live Action Roleplay events focused around various themes bring young fans together. 163 attendees combined.
- **National Teen Library Lock-In:** A teen-only late night hangout adventure at the library. 34 attendees.
- **Pet Picnic at Chuckatuck:** An event to bring people and pets together. 33 attendees.



16,983
PEOPLE ATTENDED
LIBRARY CLASSES AND
EVENTS

RESOURCES

LIBRARY OF THINGS

Suffolk Public Library maintains a collection of unique items available for cardholders to check out.

482
CHECKOUTS OF
WORLD LANGUAGES
ITEMS

Included in Suffolk Public Library's Library of Things are:

- **Adventure2Go Kits:** Themed adventures-in-a-bag for kids.
- **BookClub2Go Kits:** Supplies for hosting your own book club including 6-10 copies of the same book along with discussion questions and a book sign-out sheet.
- **Cake Pan Collection:** Cake pans of a variety of themed and seasonal designs, the most popular being the Dragon pan.
- **Crocheting & Knitting Kits:** A way to learn how to crochet or knit with yarn and needles included.
- **Litter Cleanup Kits:** Everything you need to easily organize your own litter walk including litter grabbers, safety vests, bags and bucket. Made possible through a partnership with City of Suffolk Litter Control.
- **Tech2Go:** Lendable technology available at Morgan Memorial Library and North Suffolk Library.
- **WiFi2Go:** Mobile hotspot lending program for cardholders 18 years of age or older.

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

Did you know that your library card unlocks free language resources such as:

- Books for all ages in multiple languages.
- English language course books (Beginner to Advanced).
- Language learning audiobooks.
- Language learning kits with audio CDs, Books, and Online Learning.
- Access to Transparent Language Online, offered through Library of Virginia. These courses include interactive audio lessons, language and culture lessons, reinforcement activities, voice recognition, motivational tools, and learning support.

HANDPICKED FOR YOU
**READY
READS**

40
SUBSCRIBERS TO
READY READS

READY READS SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Ready Reads is a monthly subscription service where participants receive curated content based upon their preferences at the first of each month.

How it works:

- Anyone with a Suffolk Public Library card in good standing can sign up, or they can first sign up for a free library card online.
- Subscribers complete a form designating how many titles they would like to receive each month along with preferences such as preferred genres and books and authors they have or have not enjoyed in the past.
- Library staff select titles that match reader preferences and subscribers pick up their order on the first operating business day of each month.
- Subscribers can update their preferences and provide feedback.



RESOURCES

NEW MEETING SPACE AT NORTH SUFFOLK LIBRARY

North Suffolk Library opened three brand new meeting spaces thanks to the generous contribution of the Early Childhood Development Commission (ECDC). The commission provided almost 2/3rds of the funding with remaining funds from the library's budget. This almost \$35,000 project provides the following:

- A Conference Room (up to 12 people)
- A Study Room (up to 4 people)
- A Resource Room with tools available to early childhood educators (up to 4 people).

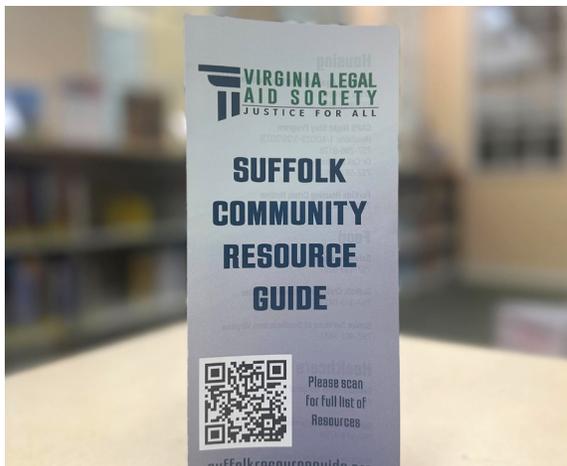
To learn more about the rooms and to reserve them, visit: suffolkpubliclibrary.com/meet



SUFFOLK'S OWN LIBBY PLATFORM



This year, Suffolk Public Library was excited to announce the launch of our very own Libby platform to host our digital collections! The Libby app is very easy to use, and can work on phones, tablets, and with Kindle and other digital reading devices. The best part is that our digital library is available 24/7, and you can borrow books and other digital materials anytime and anywhere!



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Suffolk Public Library partnered with the Virginia Legal Aid Society to create a printed brochure of resources for the community! Additional resources are linked to Suffolk Public Library's website.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can pickup library materials 24/7 with our library lockers! There are lockers located at our Morgan Memorial and Chuckatuck Library locations. All you need to do is select the locker option at your preferred location when placing holds!

1,122
LIBRARY LOCKER
RESERVATIONS

LEADERSHIP



Clint S. Rudy
Director of Libraries



Sarah Townsend
Assistant Director of Libraries



Minerva Hernandez Garcia
Community Learning Manager



Keirstin Winslow
Library Experience Manager



Kyle Binaxas
Technology and Content
Strategy Manager



Megan Mulvey
Community Engagement Manager

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Sean Bilby, President
Nancy Creekmore, Vice President
Jeanette Akujuobi
Jeffrey T. Benton

H. Lee Cross IV
Sharon Slate
Kimberly Ellis

LOCATIONS & INFO



CHUCKATUCK LIBRARY

5881 Godwin Blvd. | Suffolk, VA 23432
(757) 514-7310
Mon: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Tues - Sun: Closed
24/7 Library Lockers



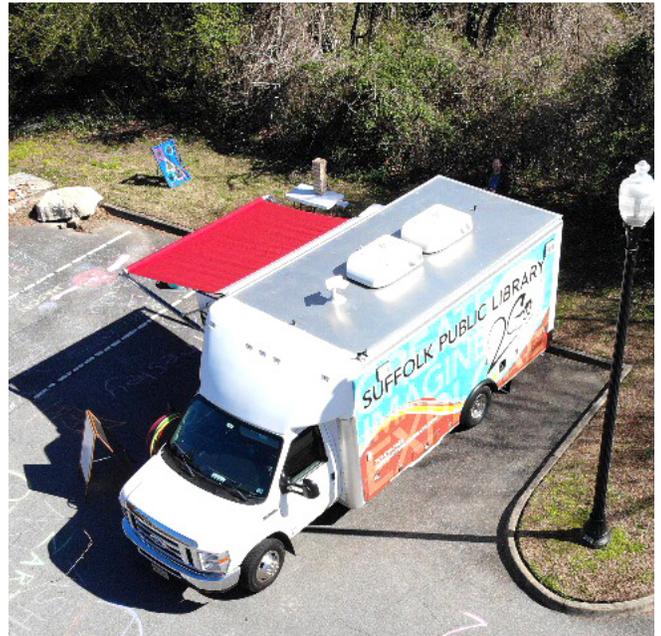
MORGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

443 West Washington St. | Suffolk, VA 23434
(757) 514-7323
Mon - Thurs: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Fri - Sat: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun: Closed



NORTH SUFFOLK LIBRARY

2000 Bennetts Creek Park Rd. | Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 514-7150
Mon: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Tues - Fri: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat - Sun: Closed



LIBRARY2GO

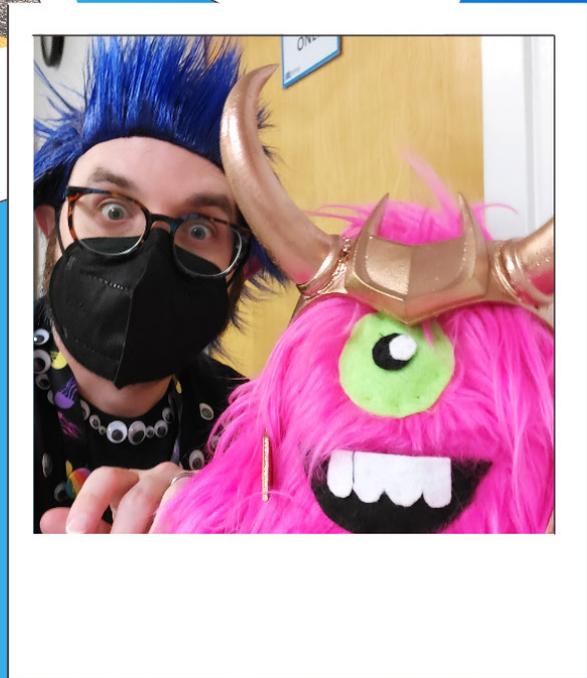
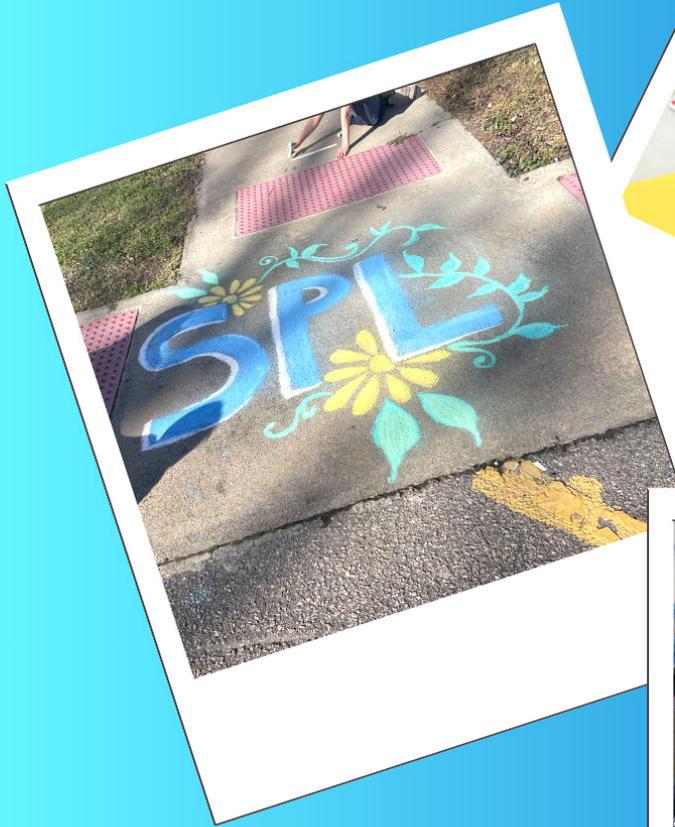
Launch Site: Morgan Memorial Library
Find upcoming Library2Go visits at:
suffolkpubliclibrary.com/outreach

LIBRARY ADVENTURES



LIBRARY ADVENTURES





**FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR
MORE LIBRARY ADVENTURES!**

 **SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

 **@SUFFOLKPUBLICLIBRARY**