

SUFFOLK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

INDEX



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

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

309,983
CHECKOUTS OF
PRINT ITEMS

AUDIO BOOKS
BOOKS
MAGAZINES



14,103 Computer Hours
19,632 Computer Users

Library Visits

135,308
Total

**New
Library Users**

7,730
Total

**Attendance at
Library Events**

**Number of views*

25,095
In-Person
2,918*
Virtual

E-BOOKS & MORE



30,423 Checkouts
558 New Users
562 Average Active Users
Per Month



Libby. **32,567** Checkouts
2,369 New Users

FINANCE RECAP FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

2023 - 2024 Adopted Budget
\$4,173,547

Per Capita
\$ 40.66

This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

ACHIEVEMENTS

STATE & NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

American Library Association Annual & LibLearnX Conferences

Keirstin Winslow, "Black Caucus of ALA Member Toolkit" Poster Session

Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Services Annual Conference

Megan Mulvey, "SPL & Community Partners: The Story of Us"

Southeast Collaborative Online Conference

Ali Carroll, "Who's the Boss?: A New Library Manager Toolkit"

Clint S. Rudy, "Secrets of Library Employment: Turning Taboos into Empowerment"

Virginia Library Association State Conference

Clint S. Rudy, "Secrets of Library Employment: Turning Taboos into Empowerment"

Heather Nygaard, "From Many, One: The Perks & Pitfalls of Partnerships"

Megan Mulvey, "SPL & Community Partners: The Story of Us"



LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

- **Clint S. Rudy**, President-Elect 2024, Virginia Public Library Directors Association
- **Diamond Chavis-Waller**, Virginia Library Leadership Academy 2024
- **Jane Gagne**, Virginia Library Leadership Academy 2024 & Association of Rural and Small Libraries Leadership Academy
- **Keirsten Winslow**, American Library Association Emerging Leader

GRANTS

- **Obici Healthcare Foundation Grant: \$20,000**, Early Childhood Development Commission used the funds to provide training, materials, curriculum support to licensed and unlicensed childcare providers in Suffolk to meet the requirements needed to access subsidy and provide quality

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Jane Gagne, Law 4 Librarians 2024
- Minerva Hernandez Garcia, Research Institute for Public Libraries
- Shawna LoMonaco, Virginia Library Association

AWARDS

- **Virginia Silver Standard of Excellence**, Virginia Public Library Directors Association
- **Outstanding Program in Cooperation with Other Agencies (for Parking Lot Pride 2023)**, Virginia Public Library Directors Association

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, vehicle donations, Kroger Community Awards and by becoming a member. Learn more at suffolkpubliclibrary.com/Friends.



\$10,500
DONATED TO
SUFFOLK PUBLIC
LIBRARY

FOSL-Funded Project Spotlight

Building Future Innovators, One LEGO Brick at a Time !

A portion of FOSL funds has been dedicated to providing LEGO robotics kits for a variety of events and programs. These kits are sparking creativity and innovation, empowering students to dive into the world of robotics with hands-on learning. Thanks to FOSL, future engineers and inventors are now equipped to build, program, and bring their robotic creations to life, one LEGO brick at a time.



CONTACT

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

BOOK SALE

Thursday - Saturday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday & Wednesday: 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

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

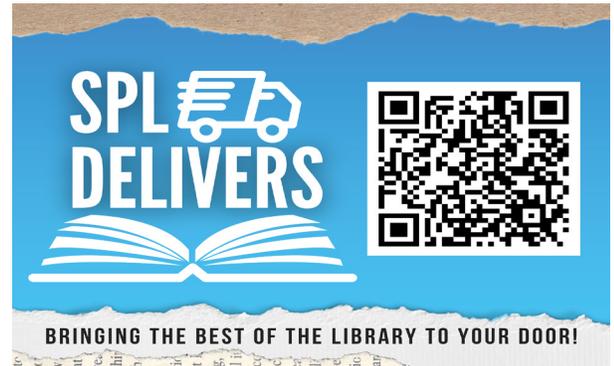
Suffolk Public Library's Community Engagement team focused on their mission to bring outreach services that are personalized and accessible to the community.

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 undeserved populations and physical barriers to library locations including distance, ability and accessibility.
- **Community Partner Mixers** (November 23, May 24)
- **Creekside Elementary:** monthly field trips for Kindergarten classes
- Supported the outreach activities of community organizations by hosting them at library locations, including VA Legal Aid, Suffolk Master Gardeners, and a coat/household supply distributions from StarHaven
- **Tech Instruction Outreach:** Monthly events for the Active Seniors Program at East Suffolk Rec Center in April 2024



145
TOTAL NUMBER
OF OUTREACHES



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

6,215
ATTENDEES AT
OUTREACH

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 iPad's, 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:** experiences outside of library locations tailored to match the needs and interests of intended customers.
- **Off-site Programming:** Classes taken to customers in retirement communities, schools and more.
- **Deposit Collection Delivery:** Deposit collections offer library materials at an off-site location.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERED WITH...

- **Suffolk Public School's Early Start Program** to register WHRO to install a WHRO corner. CE and ECDC visited each class to deliver library cards and library goodies including a free book.
- **Foodbank of Southeastern VA** to distribute produce boxes on Library2Go visits to Heritage Acres Apartments
- **WHRO** to install at WHRO Corner at the Morgan Memorial Library to distribute free books and literacy info to families
- **VA Legal Aid** to distribute print versions of the Suffolk Community Resource Guide
- Welcomed partners including WHRO, Suffolk Police Department, Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and College Hoodies for Kids on Library2Go visits and Neighborhood Walks



23,935
BOOKS READ
FOR READING
CHALLENGES

578
FREE MEALS SERVED
THROUGH SUMMER
MESS HALL



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ECDC)

In partnership with the Early Childhood Development Commission (ECDC), Suffolk Public Library supported social, emotional, and kindergarten readiness with Growing Up Kindergarten, and connected parents and caregivers with important information about their child's needs at the Parent Connect series.

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 community members opportunities to celebrate and learn about the cultures of Suffolk through events
- **Build Your Crown! and Nourish Your Natural Crown** introduced participants to the basics of hair braiding and natural hair care respectively.
- Continued to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- **Handling The Holidays** offered an on-line opportunity for participants to learn strategies and techniques to take care of their mental health during the busy holiday season.
- **Lightning Theater Camp** connected students with a free mini-theater camp experience over the course of 4 weeks, where students learned everything from acting to set design.
- **Adventure Club** connected teens and adults to the history and treasures here in Suffolk, including a Suffolk Ghost Walk, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge "Swamp Safari, and Great Dismal Swamp's Underground Railroad Pavilion Tour.
- Provided activities for all ages, accessible from home. From kits like Spice of the Month and Spring Break Kit to YouTube tutorials like Saturday Story time and Get Creative @ Home, learning activities could be done anywhere, accessible from anywhere



3,000
BOOKS VIA LITTLE FREE
LIBRARIES

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:

- **The 8th annual IconiCon**, a multi-fandom event that is the area's biggest free gathering of sci-fi, fantasy, comic and anime fans, brought out 800 attendees from all fandoms, from Star Wars to Pokémon.
- **Parking Lot Pride** brought out 318 people to celebrate Pride Month in a fun, safe, welcoming environment. Plus, Rainbow Families provided families with LGBTQ+ family members a safe space to meet other LGBTQ+ families and connect with resources, year-round.
- **Teen Lock-In** provided a space for 30 teens to connect over shared interests, from books to music to video games.
- Families boogied on down to the **Summer Dance Soirée**. With an Under the Sea theme, 119 attendees enjoyed dancing and under-the-sea themed games and activities.
- **A Dance with Death** had 50 detectives sleuthing to find whodunit during a dance-inspired Murder Mystery.
- SPL celebrated the start of summer with **Summer Kickoff: Cardboard Camp**, where 120 builders let their imagination guide them in making fantastic cardboard creations.
- **Festival of Flags** provided a space for 24 attendees to celebrate and learn about the many countries in the Afro-Diaspora.
- 130 little ones and families welcomed the new year at **Noon Year's Eve with activities**, refreshments, and a balloon drop at noon.
- SPL offered fans of all ages the opportunity to connect with fellow fans at events. **Paw Patrol Party!, The Little Mermaid Party, and Running with Riptide!** welcomed a combined total of 389 attendees.
- SPL put a spotlight on local musical talent at **Something in the Stacks in October 2023 and Shelf Bound Sound May 2024**. 103 music fans saw their favorites and found new favorites at the music events.

28,095
PEOPLE ATTENDED
LIBRARY CLASSES AND
EVENTS



RESOURCES



BOOKS THAT TALK!

VOX Books combine outstanding picture books, chapter books, and non-fiction titles with audio recordings that capture children's attention and make learning and literacy development fun.

Since their introduction in 2015, VOX Books have been embraced by schools and libraries across the globe as a powerful tool for engaging children with books and developing the reading skills needed for success in school and in life.

LIBRARY OF THINGS

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

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:** Lend-able technology available at Morgan Memorial Library and North Suffolk Library.
- **WiFi2Go:** Mobile hotspot lending program for cardholders 18 years of age or older.

CROCHET KIT REVAMP

Dive into the world of crochet with our new and improved kits, now featuring vibrant new materials and handy tools. We've swapped out the bags for something more stylish, added an updated how-to-crochet book, and included a delightful array of yarns. Plus, our crochet toolkit is packed with all the essentials you need to bring your projects to life.



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 audio books.
- 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.

RESOURCES



READING AROUND THE CLOCK

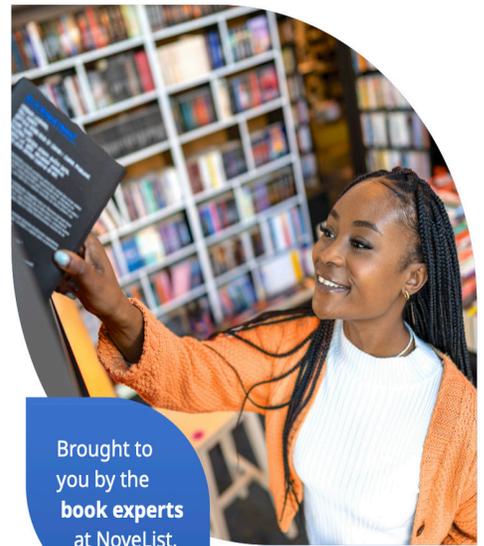
You can pickup library materials 24/7 with our library lockers! There are lockers located at our Morgan Memorial and Chuckatuck Library locations. All you need to do is select the locker option as your preferred location when placing holds!



The next read,
guaranteed!

Power up your catalog records!

NoveList Select supercharges individual book records in library catalogs. Powered by the incredible metadata in NoveList, readers can find their next favorite read within their catalog searches.



Brought to you by the **book experts** at NoveList.

LAPTOPS TO-GO

You can check out a personal laptop and take it home for up to one week!

41
NEW TAKE HOME LAPTOPS

YOUR NEXT BEST READ

Our new incorporation of the NoveList Select catalog enhancement allows customers to view related series' titles, curated recommendations, and read-a-likes each time they click on an item in our catalog. No additional searching required!

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:

- Conference Room (up to 12 people)
- Study Room (up to 4 people)
- 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

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 Benton

H. Lee Cross IV
Sharon Slate
Kimberly Ellis
Tracey Hamilton

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

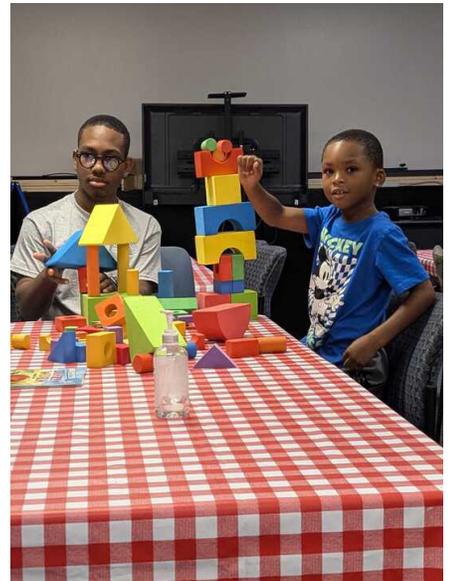
2000 Bennetts Creek Park Rd. | Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 514-7150
Mon: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Tues - Fri: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat - Sun: Closed



LIBRARY2GO

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

LIBRARY ADVENTURES



LIBRARY ADVENTURES



CONNECT WITH US

www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com

 @SUFFOLKPUBLICLIBRARY

 SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCATIONS & HOURS

MORGAN MEMORIAL

443 W. Washington Street

Suffolk, VA 23434

Phone: 757-514-7323

Mon - Thu: 10 AM - 8 PM

Fri: 10 AM - 5 PM

Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM

NORTH SUFFOLK

2000 Bennetts Creek Park Road

Suffolk, VA 23435

Phone: 757-514-7150

Mon - Thu: 10 AM - 8 PM

Fri: 10 AM - 5 PM

Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM

CHUCKATUCK

5881 Godwin Boulevard

P.O. Box 2568

Suffolk, VA 23432

Phone: 757-514-7310

Mon: 10 AM - 8PM