

# Annual Report

Ph: (540) 942-6746  
 Fax: (540) 942-6753  
 E-mail:  
[mahmoudz@ci.waynesboro.va.us](mailto:mahmoudz@ci.waynesboro.va.us)  
 Web address:  
[www.waynesboropubliclibrary.org](http://www.waynesboropubliclibrary.org)  
 Online catalog (OPAC)  
[www.valleylibraries.org](http://www.valleylibraries.org)

## Hours:

Monday-Friday  
 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.  
 Saturday  
 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

## Staff:

Zahir Mahmoud, Director  
 Elzena Anderson, Assistant Director  
 Rebecca Lamb, Adult Services  
 Jamie Kollar, Youth Services  
 Rhonda Smith, Front Desk Manager  
 Marta Grove, Publicity  
 Karen Vest, Archivist

## WPL affiliates:

### Board of Trustees:

Ann Colman  
 Amy Tillerson-Brown  
 Lowell Lemons  
 Debra Ray  
 Brenda Moore

### Friends of the Library Board:

Kevin Ryan, President  
 Jeff Schwenk, Treasurer

Total Circulation: **311,735**  
 Items Checked Out: **207,631**  
 Items Checked In: **251,942**  
 Items Renewed: **57,165**  
 E-book Downloads : **5,582**  
 Audiobook Downloads:  
**2,085**  
 New Cards Issued: **1,495**  
 Computer Use: **28,495**  
 Number of Programs: **609**  
 Total Program Attendance:  
**11,211**  
 Genealogy Searches  
 (ProQuest): **25,710**

## Director's Report

Zahir Mahmoud

The mission of the Waynesboro Public Library is to provide quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities; through print and digital resources as well as programs and facilities that reflect the ever changing needs of the communities we serve.

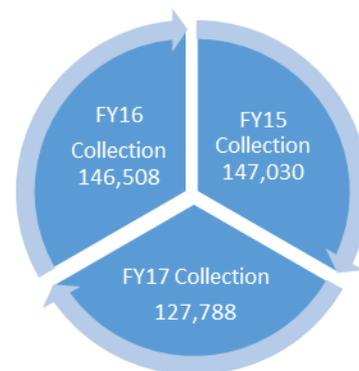
### Objective:

To guide our work with each other and the community we serve, we value and are dedicated to the following:

- A well-trained, enthusiastic, and dedicated staff in a stimulating and collegial setting
- Quality service
- Respect for the individual, both staff members and the public
- Teamwork and collaboration with community and governmental organizations to deliver the best possible services
- Equal access to information
- Responsible stewardship of public and philanthropic resources
- Appropriate technology to extend, expand, and enhance services for all patrons
- Ongoing assessment of our services and work methods to ensure responsiveness to the community
- Actively publicizing of our resources and services
- A welcoming, inviting, and safe building and grounds

In 2017, the Waynesboro Public Library continued to improve and provide a higher level of service to Waynesboro citizens. A major area of focus was balancing the collection and improving accessibility. We added 7,715 items to the collection. However, 26,661 dated or damaged items were withdrawn from the collection, which included 4,867 items from juvenile collections. Currently, the total library collection of print and audio visual materials stands at 127,788 items.

We expanded our access to digital content. Additional funding was allocated to e-books and downloadable audiobooks from OverDrive. In addition, we started providing Rosetta Stone, which can be accessed remotely. We also subscribed to Hoopla for downloading e-books, audiobooks, movies, and music.



## Director's Report continued

There was no major shift in the library's overall budget. All revenue sources stayed much on the same level. Local revenue decreased slightly compared to 2016 as the RFID project, a capital expenditure, was partially funded in 2016.

Five high-definition external cameras were installed around the library building along with two interior cameras in the Youth Services Department. In addition, the DVR unit for the security system was upgraded for better quality images.

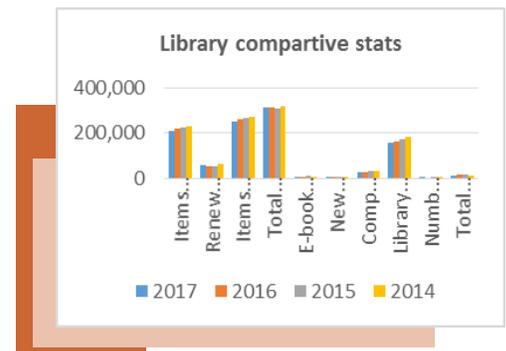
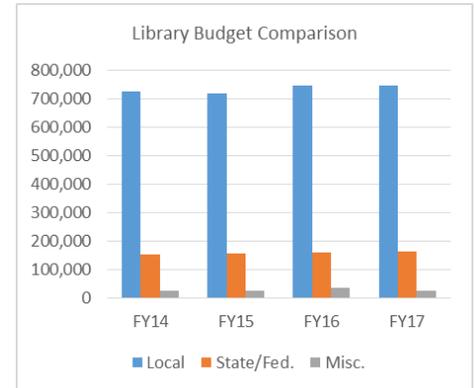
Outreach with public schools and area daycare centers is improving. Our staff organized regular tours of the library in addition to visiting public schools and neighborhoods. Recently, the Youth Services Department conducted story time and craft programs off-site in a low-income neighborhood.

The library received the 2017 Outstanding Cooperative Program Award from Virginia Public Library Director's Association for a mini-golf event. Turning the library into an amazing miniature golf course not only served as the foundation of a great fundraising program, but it also brought in new people, allowing us to showcase new capabilities, and generated massive publicity. It was a great way for our community to explore the facility.

The circulation department continues to offer courteous and efficient service to all users regardless of age, race, sex, nationality, educational background, or physical limitations. Our knowledgeable and dedicated staff is the reason why patrons return again and again. Library patrons have come to depend on our staff for meeting and satisfying the identifiable needs of our community. Several improvements and new options were introduced. There is now a Fast Traxx option for books (first come, first served) with a short check-out period and a new copier that allows use of a USB for color copies and creating a digital files. Circulation staff are able to use the iPad to assist patron's questions on a variety of on-line services, including apps, the online catalog, and our website. Patrons can now speed up the new card application process by entering their own information with the iPad and front desk staff finalize the process. The iPad was also utilized to register children for the Summer Reading Program.

The circulation department also added a new cash register, increased the amount of holds that were processed, blocked computer access when accounts reach \$35.00, and increased the Fast Traxx DVD limit to two per card. DVD circulation increased due to raising the check-out limit from a total ten to DVDs per card to twenty. Finally, Blue Ridge Community College joined the Valley Consortium for improved resource sharing.

To boost circulation, a display unit was relocated to the central lobby and has featured themed books each month. In addition, a smaller display unit was added near the circulation desk. This unit usually displays enticing cookbooks, but is also useful for books related to special exhibits. We also tested bringing back *BookPage*, a magazine for patrons that reviews and promotes forthcoming books.



## Publicity

Marta Grove

The first quarter of the fiscal year wrapped up yearlong preparations for Library Mini Golf, which was held on Sunday, November 6. It was a huge hit and great success. About 130 people participated or looked on during the six hours the library was turned into an 18 hole mini golf course. Thirty volunteers were on hand to help things go smoothly. All twenty-seven sponsorship spots were filled by businesses and organizations. The event raised over \$5000 for the Friends of the Library to support technology upgrades. Participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves, saying the fundraiser was “creative and awesome,” “such a cool idea,” “more fun than it should be,” and that it was a “pretty impressive course.”

The library continued to participate in downtown merchant meetings and outreach events. A partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Art Center formed out of the merchant meetings. Their Local Landscape and Landmarks exhibit featured some historical places in Waynesboro, which tied into WPL’s local history collection. WPL was at the opening reception tea and talk with a display table, provided an information binder at the exhibit, and SVAC had a display case exhibit at the library.

In coming years, WPL is sure to benefit from opportunities and relationships put in place in FY17. The library looks forward to advancing its reach and visibility in the community thanks to these activities.



Mascots at Library Mini Golf.

## Adult Services

Rebecca Lamb

Adult programming served 1,442 people from November 2016 through June 2017. Programs ranged from local history to a Smart Money Series that covered Medicaid, Internet security, wills, and home energy efficiency. Craft programs included creating jewelry, Zentagles, watercolors, holiday ornaments, and blackout poetry, along with the popular Valentine tea and craft social. Midday Music returned after a long hiatus and featured live music and screenings of Lincoln Center performances, with the latter being provided through a new partnership with the Lincoln Center. The Irish music concert in March was the most successful of the series, with more than forty people attending. Ongoing programming included WPL Knitters, Adult Color Therapy, and Friday Night at the Movies.

The computer classroom was updated and used to teach new and returning technology classes, including digital photos, introduction to Word, introduction and intermediate Excel, Hoopla, and OverDrive. The computer classroom was also used for proctoring exams and Book-A-Librarian sessions, which provide thirty minutes of one-on-one training with a librarian.

The third annual Author Fest featured thirty-six local authors, our largest number ever. This event allowed local authors to sell and promote their books. Book a Trip headed to the National Zoo in summer 2016 after reading a related book. Other special events included the Cruise-In of classic cars and W Con in conjunction with the children’s department. Outreach events included the Christmas Parade, Holiday Showcase & Indoor Block Party, an AARP luncheon meeting, and helping with the library’s booth at the Chamber of Commerce’s Up Conference.

In addition to changing displays featuring local organizations and artists, the library hosted several traveling exhibits this year. These included *Strong Men & Women of Virginia* about stellar African American Virginians and *Rocket Girls*, an exhibit on loan from the International Women’s Air & Space Museum that celebrates the women astronauts who served in the space shuttle program. The library was also selected to host the interactive multi-media exhibit *Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference* that was organized by the Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning in partnership with the American Library Association with funding from the National Science Foundation. Related programming during the two-month exhibit included classes on solar energy and nanotechnology.

## Youth Services

Jamie Kollar

This year has been challenging one in youth services, but it was ultimately very rewarding and successful. We saw the departure of our long-time Children's Programmer in the spring; she has been much missed by staff and patrons alike. However, our new Children's Programmer has brought great energy and new ideas, and has hit the ground running. Fortunately, our busy programming schedule did not suffer during the transition. We have provided area children and families with regular story times, music and movement programs, STEAM activities, and a variety of exciting special programs, as well as a diverse and up-to-date collection in both children's and young adult. All areas of the collection have been weeded, removing outdated materials to make way for new acquisitions, and we have been able to fill nearly all patron requests for new titles.

Regular story times have continued to be popular, attracting families and preschool groups for stories, songs, and crafts. Swing & Sway got kids moving each week, while Chat & Play gave them a chance to socialize and play freely. MasterMinds and Junior MasterMinds provided STEAM activities for a wide range of ages, with activities including kinetic sand, sun-sensitive paper, and non-Newtonian fluid experiments. Visits from therapy dogs continued during Happy Tails, where kids enjoy reading to an attentive, nonjudgmental canine listener. During Get Carded, we provided a fine forgiveness incentive to get kids back in the library. Our Book-A-Day program encouraged parents to continue reading to their little ones at home. The program is currently being revamped to bring it more in line with 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs nationwide, but the goal of increased early literacy remains the same.

Special programs this year included the return of Breakfast with Santa, one of our all-time community favorites, and a busy Easter Egg Hunt. Kids and parents enjoyed the farm-themed magic of Agricadabra, and everybody won a prize in Book Bingo. Therapy dogs from Positive Paws made special appearances at Bark & Boo, our spooky fall costume party, and the Valen-Pup Party. WPL joined forces with the Wayne Theatre to bring an extra-special program, Mad Science: Jurassic Encounters. Featuring a life-size baby T-rex and plenty of dinosaur facts, this program needed both the larger stage and the increased seating capacity of the Wayne Theatre, and brought in over 300 people.

As always, our Summer and Winter Reading Programs were big hits. Over winter break, families teamed up for the Iditarod Challenge, logging their time spent reading together and moving through a series of arctic "sled race" maps. In summer, we introduced a new game of Book Bingo, in which kids completed a series of reading challenges to mark off squares on a bingo card. Summer kicked off with our second annual WaynesboroCon, a comic-con style event featuring games, crafts, a magic show, and a costume contest. We ended summer programming with an outdoor Fun Fest that featured a petting zoo, a bounce house, and more. In between, we had an appearance by the one-man circus show, Flow Circus, as well as a chance for older kids to learn some circus skills from the performer, and a hugely popular presentation by the Wildlife Center featuring live snakes.

School tours, classroom visits, assemblies, and on-site appearances at community events helped us to reach outside the library's existing patrons and engage new people. In collaboration with the Office on Youth, we were able to start a mini-bookmobile program, bringing books, library card sign-up, and fine forgiveness to kids in Parkway Apartments, a low-income housing complex. Plans to expand this program are in the works.



**Bark & Boo participants.**