



# Strategic Plan 2018-2023

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Pittsylvania County Public Library



## Engage. Enlighten. Empower. Expand.

Since its establishment in 1939, the Pittsylvania County Public Library has provided the citizens of our county with information, entertainment, small business and student support, and community engagement through literature, programs, and services for all ages and interests.

The Pittsylvania County Public Library has grown since 1939 from a single small building and a Works Progress Administration bookmobile into a library system of four branches, a history research center and library, and a bookmobile.

Our collections have expanded to include audiobooks, large print, DVDs and a vast array of digital offerings and databases. Thousands of hours of internet time are provided annually on public access computers. Multiple programs are offered daily, from early literacy story times, craft and education classes, thoughtful adult discussions, and food and exercise classes.

In March 2018 we relocated our newest branch within the Mt. Hermon community. The new Mt. Hermon library offers a vision for our future: a vibrant community hub with indoor and outdoor spaces that provide meeting, learning, reading, and working spaces for young children and families, teens, adults, and community groups.

In June 2018, a small working group of interested citizens and library staff produced a report, *Expanding the Reach*, that outlines a vision for expanding library services to the underserved areas of the county. If implemented, this plan would renovate and expand the existing Gretna branch, improve the Brosville branch, and establish three

new library branches in the Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River districts. The goal of the expansion effort is to extend the benefits of library materials, programs, and services to underserved communities.

Supporting early and family literacy, promoting digital literacy and access, and meeting the information and entrepreneurial needs of underserved communities supports the vision and future of the county. Libraries can empower communities and build civic engagement.

To serve those goals, this five year plan builds upon eighty years of library service to better connect people to the information, experiences, and resources they need to make their lives, and our community, better.

We will measure our progress toward these goals through the collection of meaningful statistics of library usage and the continuous solicitation of feedback from our patrons and the public. The library director and staff are grateful for the guidance and support of our Library Board of Trustees, PPL Foundation Board, Friends of the Library groups, and the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and county administration.



## Engage with our community through collaborative efforts and the provision of services, materials and facilities that meet community needs.

### Engage

Engage with the community through outreach, collaboration, and the provision of services, collections, hours, and facilities that meet their needs.

Work with the Pittsylvania County Public Schools and local private educational facilities and organizations to support literacy throughout the county.

Continue collaboration with the Cancer Research and Resource Center, the Pittsylvania County Health Collaborative, the Bloodmobile, the Extension Office and other groups to promote healthy living and awareness of health and wellness programs and resources in our area.

Work with civic groups such as the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chatham First, Revitalization for a Greater Gretna, the Pittsylvania Pet Center, God's Storehouse, the Northern Virginia Food Bank, and local garden clubs on projects to improve local communities and support individuals and families in need.

Maintain and expand the Little Laundromat Libraries and supply books for the read-to-the-animals book cart at the Pittsylvania County Pet Center to put reading opportunities and materials in locations to engage new readers and support individual and family literacy.

Promote local history in collaboration with the Pittsylvania Historical Society, History United, and other groups. Create a digitization station for individuals and groups to preserve local history; provide public access to digital history materials through a library portal.

Provide inviting and accessible meeting and tutoring spaces where small groups and students can collaborate and study.

Engage remote library users with excellent Bookmobile service and library website and social media pages that are informative and easy to navigate.

Increase the vitality and engagement of the Friends of the Library groups.

## Enlighten

Provide a variety and diversity of materials in formats that meet the needs of our community.

Offer lifelong learning opportunities through programs that build skills, encourage creativity, satisfy curiosity, and build community.

Continue to expand and enhance our Open Educational Resources web portal to free educational materials.

Create a Useful Links web portal to curated government and scholarly resources and agencies for community reference, such as tax and legal information, student aid, health resources, and government services.

Continue to provide online student test proctoring, driver's testing and other support services.

Provide community building programs such as the Created Equal civil rights series, the Where's William historical engagement program, and history walks in the community.

Promote STEAM programming in children's, teens, and adult activities.

## Empower

Continue to provide early literacy story times to build the foundations of reading in young children through Mother Goose on the Loose, Wednesdays for Wees, and other story time programs in the library and in schools and day care facilities.

Promote Family Literacy through family story times, social media and in-library campaigns, and through Little Laundromat Libraries.

Establish a program to provide library cards to every Pittsylvania County Public School student.

Promote digital access and literacy in the community through free WiFi, public access computers, one-on-one computer support, and low-cost printing.

Expand digital access by de-linking overdue fines from computer access and digital material borrowing.

Add to branch Maker Space materials and offerings to support creativity and hands-on learning.

Create a digitization station for patrons to preserve and share their personal history materials. Host digital history materials in a publicly accessible format.

Expand healthy living programming, including healthy eating and exercise programs.

“Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.”

-Henri Frederic Amiel

## Expand

Establish a program to provide every Pittsylvania County Public School student with a library card.

Expand public awareness of library programs and services through new and existing venues.

Offer innovative services and programs to meet patron needs at all age and skill levels.

Improve existing library facilities by:

- Increasing parking for patrons

- Increasing evening and weekend operating hours

- Renovating the Gretna library

- Maintaining and upgrading comfortable patron spaces.

Collaborate with community groups to create eye-catching outdoor art and garden spaces.

Implement *Expanding the Reach* to identify and create new library facilities in the Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River districts.

Expand opportunity through greater access.





## Pittsylvania County Public Library Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023

**Our mission:** to connect people to the information, experiences, and resources they need to make their lives, and our community, better.

**ENGAGE** with the community through outreach, collaboration, and the provision of services, collections, hours, and facilities that meet their needs.

**ENLIGHTEN** by providing informative and entertaining materials in a variety of formats that meet the diverse needs of our community.

**EMPOWER** our patrons and the public by promoting literacy in all forms, encouraging creativity, fostering lifelong learning, supporting healthy living, and providing support to students, businesses, and entrepreneurs.

**EXPAND** our services and offerings continuously to serve our community better, in both the physical and digital realms.



*Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.*

*-Laura Bush*



# #CheckOutPCPL

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.” - Henry Ward Beecher

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