

# Pittsylvania County Public Library 2021-2022 Annual Report



## Highlights

***Gretna Library Renovation Begins!*** An almost \$2 million renovation and expansion of the Gretna library got under way in May 2021. The interior of the library will be opened up and new furnishings will provide patrons with a fresh new space. Inside, patrons will enjoy new entrance doors and improved accessibility, more seating, a new meeting room wired for remote meetings, freshened restrooms, as well as a new teen area, expanded children's area with homework computers, and a children's activity and story time room. Outside, many new features are in the works: a welcoming new entrance plaza, digital outdoor signage, children's reading garden, an open patio with power for personal devices, a reading path with outdoor seating, a community stage with amphitheater seating, a music maze, walking trail, hammock stands, and community studio building. Charming 'book benches' will offer an ongoing community art project, while other sculptures will add fun and beauty to the surroundings. New plantings will provide beauty and shade as well as highlighting native plant and tree species and support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

We hope that interior renovations will be complete by late spring 2023, while landscape projects will be added as funding becomes available between Fall 2022 through 2024. The Library Board of Trustees thanks the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, the library's PPL Foundation, members of the public, and the many generous charitable foundations in our region who are making this project possible. Public donations and naming opportunities remain available!





***Free Books for Children!*** Thanks to the generosity of the SOHO Book Center and the Library of Virginia, the Pittsylvania County Public Library and the Ruby B. Archie Library in Danville were given approximately 25,000 children's books to add to our collections and distribute to children in Pittsylvania County and Danville. We distributed books to every school in Pittsylvania County as well as many day care providers and other non-profits to send home with children. The library also hosted many events over the year at which we handed out books, including at the Gretna Fall Festival, the Chatham and Gretna Christmas Parades, the traveling Smithsonian exhibit in Chatham, the Spring Festival in Gretna, at Pop-Up Library events, the First Annual Juneteenth Celebration, and at the Little Laundromat Libraries that we stock. Thank you, SOHO Book Center, for your generosity; the Library of Virginia for arranging the shipping (it was a semi-trailer load!); the Pittsylvania Pet Center for accepting and storing the delivery; and the library staff, board members, and Friends of the Pittsylvania County Public Library who helped sort, bag, move, and hand out books. It truly takes a small army!

***Wonder Books!*** One of the big hits of the year has been introduction of Wonder Books audiobooks for children. Wonder Books include picture books, early chapter books, and juvenile fiction and nonfiction books that have an audiobook built right in to the cover of the book. This lets parents and children listen and share a book together, or children can read along while listening to a book read by a professional narrator. Whatever way you choose, it is an enjoyable experience. Hearing the words while simultaneously reading them helps children of all ages build vocabulary skills, improve spelling and grammar, and increase their comprehension of the story – and we are all for that! We have over 130 Wonder Book titles to choose from, and we are increasing that collection rapidly.

***“We Demand” Visits!*** We are pleased to be able to host traveling exhibits from the Library of Virginia each year. In 2021-2022, we hosted “We Demand,” a large 12 panel exhibit on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in 1920. Over six weeks, the exhibit was on display for a week at each library branch, making it easier for citizens throughout Pittsylvania County to see it. In September and October 2022, look for “Virginia’s Constitutions” to visit a library near you!

***In-Person Programming Returns!*** After two years of pandemic precautions to keep staff and library patrons as safe and healthy as possible, we hope you were as excited as we were to open our doors to in-person events again in April 2022. Video programs were fun to make, but not as fun as seeing a circle of happy faces for story time! Keep an eye on the calendar on our website, [www.pcplib.org](http://www.pcplib.org), to keep up with all the programs at each branch. There is something for everyone, from Mother Goose on the Loose story times for our youngest patrons to book talks, craft classes, tech tutorials, and movie and game nights for adults and families. Have you attended an outdoor movie night yet? It’s fun....and the Slush Bus is frequently in attendance!



**Summer Reading!** Summer Reading soldiered on through the pandemic because reading can be social or socially distanced. But in 2022, we were back to our usual fun and games – and it was great to be back to normal! In 2022, a very impressive 727 patrons registered and read 12,617 books! Kids (and library staffers) enjoyed the crafts, stories, and games.

**6 Years of Chatham Star Tribune Book Reviews!** Library staff have provided the Chatham Star Tribune with monthly book reviews since September 2016. We hope you have enjoyed learning about some of the books, authors, and series that library staff have enjoyed reading.



## Statistics

121,193	Number of physical items available for checkout
1,221,823	Number of digital items available for checkout
1,343,016	Total number of items available for checkout
908	Number of new library card holders in 2021-2022
37,357	Total Number of card holders
101,119	Number of patron visits in 2021-2022
173,875	Circulation of Physical Items
17,803	Circulation for Hoopla and digital magazines ( <i>does not include Libby</i> )
191,678	Total Circulation in 2021-2023
8,749	New Items added to the collection (physical)
6,359	Items removed from the collection (physical)
15,887	Genealogy Searches
28,105	Internet Sessions
181,744	Wireless Sessions





## **Personnel**

**Departures:** Uniqua Carter as Bookmobile Driver, Robyn Doggett as Library Assistant for Technical Services, Myrna Herndon as Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Roberts as Senior Administrative Assistant, Debra Thompson as Gretna Youth Services Specialist, Amy Carter as Mt. Hermon Library Assistant, Breyen Searce as Gretna Library Assistant, and Lisa Tuite as Director

**Arrivals:** Cheryl Montgomery as Senior Administrative Assistant, Amber Pilkin as Library Assistant for Technical Services, Myrna Herndon as Bookmobile Driver, Cammie Johnson as Gretna Youth Services Specialist, Stefanie Callands as Gretna Library Assistant, Jasmine Christian as Gretna Library Assistant, and Rhonda Griffin as Director

## **Library Board of Trustees**

Banister District: Portia Fitzgerald  
Callands/Gretna District: York Pilson  
Chatham/Blairs District: Karen Eades  
Dan River District: Janice Fitts  
Staunton River District: Sandra Moore Rinkle  
Tunstall District: Debra Turner  
Westover District: Sandy Mitchell  
Town of Chatham: Alice Shelton  
Town of Gretna: Shelby Buffington  
Town of Hurt: Phyllis Roach

## **PPL Foundation**

President: Mary Wertz  
Vice President: Debra Turner  
Treasurer: Bert Eades

## **Friends of the Library**

**In Memoriam:** We remember and honor the service of H. Darrel Shelton, who served as Treasurer of the PPL Foundation and the Friends of the Library groups for 30 years. He was a true Friend of the Library.