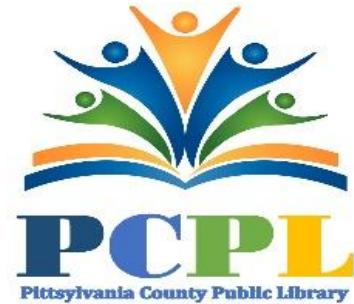


# Pittsylvania County Public Library

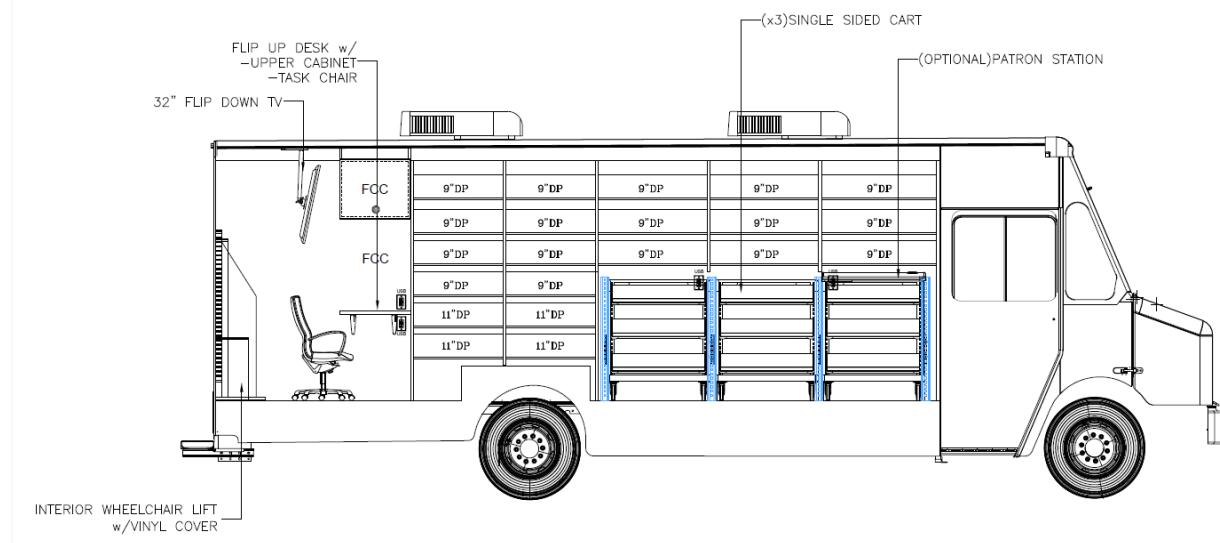
## 2024- Dec 2025 Annual Report



### Highlights

**Bookmobile!** The purchase of a new bookmobile was made possible through County contributions, grants, and private donations. The Pittsylvania County Public Library would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Danville Lions Foundation for their generous grant award of \$100,000, the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region for their \$41,707.50, JT Minnie Maud for \$15,000, Caesars Virginia for their \$5,000 grant, and Chatham Lions' Club for \$3579.04 towards the purchase of a replacement bookmobile. These grants, along with the funds provided by Pittsylvania County and individuals, are invaluable to our mission of providing accessible library services to the entire community.

The current bookmobile has served us well for 18 years, but its age has led to frequent breakdowns and extended repair periods. These disruptions have a significant impact, especially during the summer months when the bookmobile is essential for supporting summer reading programs and providing access to books for children who are out of school. In addition, the bookmobile also visits nursing homes, daycares, elementary schools, shut-ins, and provides stops in all parts of our large county.



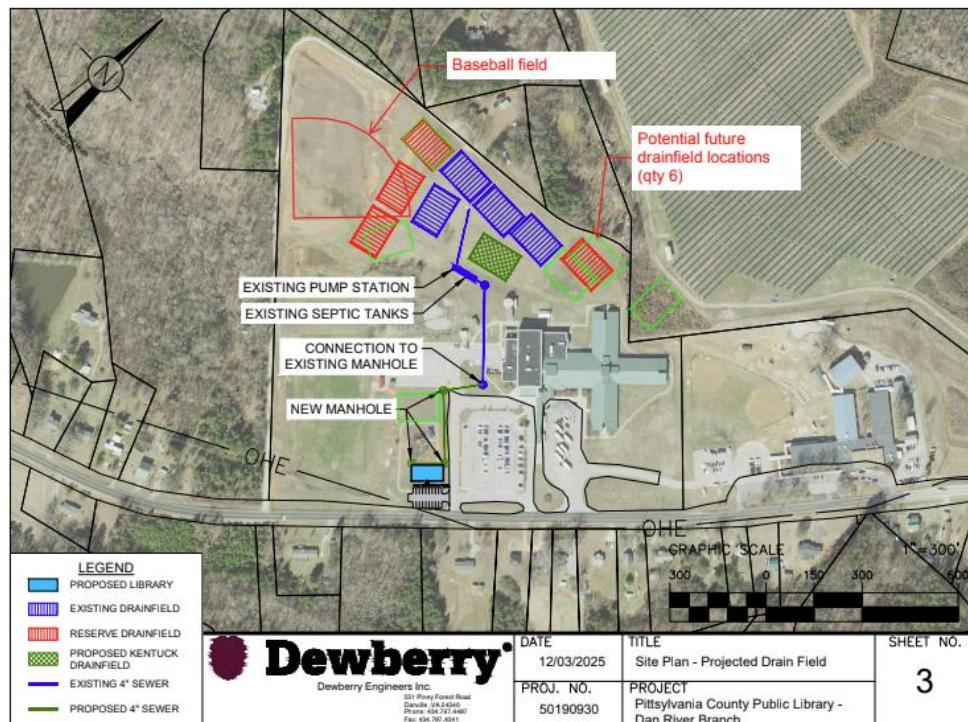
These generous grants allowed us to officially place the order and pay the 50% deposit for our new bookmobile, ensuring uninterrupted library services for all Pittsylvania County residents. With the estimated cost of the new bookmobile at \$360,000, and with support from local residents and contributions from the County the order has been placed and work can begin on the bookmobile, which is expected to be completed in fall of 2026.

**Chatham Outdoor Terrace!** Chatham Library was awarded a \$25,000 Make More Happen Grant that provided funding for create a terraced landscape for outdoor seating and concrete stage for programs and performances. A shed was also added to additional storage. The County provided funding to build a deck and replace the back door so that patrons can exit the library directly to the back and be able to have handicap accessibility from the deck. This phase of the project is expected to begin in the summer. The Chatham Library is now working on the running electricity to the building and stage, as well as, looking for funding to build an outdoor pergola over the stage.

**Dan River District Library Branch Proposal!** A group of citizens are interested in having a library

branch in the Dan River District. Several possibilities were considered. Discussions with Kentuck Baptist Church to donate property did not materialize. Other locations that were considered included the old trail depot, but did not have water or sewer access, a location near the industrial park, which is closer to the city than preferred, and potential locations to purchase. With the estimated cost to build

a branch, donated land would be ideal to give a location and seed money for potential grant application. Land was donated for both the Gretna and Brosville Branches. A presentation was made to the School Board regarding the idea of locating a branch near the schools. A meeting at Dan River Middle School with library staff, school maintenance director, DRMS principle, public works director, health dept. staff, consultant from the library feasibility study, and engineers from Dewberry was held to discuss property at the school that might be a potential future site for a library branch. The schools are concerned about the already overcapacity of the septic fields, which already require being pumped weekly. Dewberry created a potential site plan with possible drain fields. School Maintenance stated that some areas suggested for drain fields were already designated as future baseball fields and shared concern for viable reserve septic fields. Dewberry prepared an alternate sketch which worked around the baseball fields. We are waiting to see if the School Board is comfortable with this proposal.



***Gretna Renovations Complete!*** The Gretna Library has experienced increased patronage and expanded school partnerships since the completion of renovations and the ribbon cutting on September 26, 2023. The nearly \$2 million renovation and expansion project began in May 2021 and transformed both the interior and exterior of the library into a modern, welcoming community space.

Inside, the library was renovated with an open design and new furnishings, providing patrons with a fresh and inviting environment. Improvements include new entrance doors with enhanced accessibility, additional seating, a new meeting room equipped for remote meetings, refreshed restrooms, a dedicated teen area, an expanded children's area with homework computers, and a children's activity and story time room. A new water fountain with a bottle filler was also added to better serve patrons and promote sustainability.

Significant enhancements were made to the exterior of the building as well. New stone landscaping was installed at the front of the building, replacing wood mulch to create a more aesthetically pleasing entrance while reducing long-term maintenance and costs. A new awning was installed over the patio doors, helping to mitigate rain intrusion during storms. Additional outdoor features include a welcoming entrance plaza, a children's reading garden, an open patio with power for personal devices, a reading path with outdoor seating, a community stage, a music maze, and a walking trail. Charming "book benches" and other sculptures add visual interest and a sense of playfulness to the grounds. New plantings provide beauty and shade, highlighting native plant and tree species, and supporting pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

The Library Board of Trustees extends its sincere thanks to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, the library's PPL Foundation, members of the public, and the many generous charitable foundations in our region whose support has made this project possible.

Additionally, Delegate Eric Phillips helped secure further funding through the State Budget. An allocation of \$160,000 in the FY 2024–2025 budget supported remaining renovation items, including repaving the parking lot, purchasing STEM supplies, acquiring an outdoor movie screen and projector, and constructing an outdoor storage shed



**Summer Reading!** Summer Reading theme was “Color Our World.” Branches decorated bright paint themes. The branches worked together to provide similar programs and prizes.

Summer Reading programs span over 9 weeks in June and July. PCPL hosted 550 youth who participated in the 2025 summer reading programs.

- 152 - Preschool (ages 2 – 5)
- 235 - Children (ages 6-10)
- 61 – Teens (ages 11-17)
- 142 adults (ages 18+9)



### **Capital Needs!**

- **Bookmobile** – The bookmobile has been fully funded and is being built.
- **Chatham** – In addition to the new carpet and meeting room, the Chatham Library is focusing on creating an outdoor program space. This will include a terrace seating area with stage. The Chatham library is also working on adding a rear door for the public and a deck. An additional concern for the Chatham Library is the limited parking, especially during library programs and events.
- **Brosville** – The Board of Supervisors approved \$45,000 in the FY 24-25 budget which allowed for the replacement of the worn carpet, installation of an epoxy floor in the meeting room, cutting back trees, and replacing the circulation desk.
- **Security Cameras** – For the safety of patrons and staff, external security cameras were installed at all four library branches and the History Center.

### **Programs and Services!**

- **Coffee with Vets** - Local veterans are invited to connect over coffee and conversation.
- **Bingocize** – A socially engaging 10-week group-based program that combines exercise, falls prevention education, and the widely popular game of bingo. Program is designed for older patrons.
- **Cards of Kindness** - Spread holiday cheer by bringing together Gretna Middle School Beta Club students and library patrons to create heartfelt cards for local first responders. The cards were delivered to the Gretna, Hurt, and Climax Fire & Rescue Departments and the Gretna and Hurt Police Departments, where they were warmly received as a sign of appreciation and community support.
- **Kids Garden Planting** – Mt Hermon started a community garden bed! Patrons and staff planted early-season flowers and vegetables.
- **Library Talent Show!** - Ages 0-12 Brosville asked patrons to join them for a talent show. Each participant had 3 minutes to show off their talent for a chance to win a gift card.
- **Computer 1-on-1** - Need specific assistance or have a basic computer question? 30-minute session per patron; first come, first serve.

- **Computer Classes** – Our licensed Senior Planet facilitator at Mt. Hermon Library offer a variety of computer classes including AI, Digital Genealogy, and computer basics.
- **Passports** – The library system applied to become a Passport Facility. Staff at each branch are going through training, which we hope to offer this fall.
- **3D Printer** – The Brosville Library purchased a new 3D printer. Beginning classes and introduction to 3D printing is being offered.
- **Pre-school Expo at ODAC** – Library staff participated in an event at the ODAC aimed at pre-school students and introducing the children and parents to library programs and services.
- **Adult Painting Classes** – Mt. Hermon Library offers a popular painting class for adults. Library staff provide the materials and instruction while patrons paint their masterpiece.
- **Book Talks and Reviews** – As libraries all across the country has been providing for decades, our library offers a variety of book clubs and discussions. One of the most popular is offered monthly at the History Center, where locals discuss and present a book they have enjoyed to encourage others to also read it.
- **Santa! – Letters to Santa & Santa Visits** – Santa made his way to each branch, visiting with children of all ages. If you weren't able to see Santa in person, the library also sent him letters.
- **Gretna – School Collaboration** – Gretna Library partnered with Gretna Elementary and Gretna Middle School through field trips, Library Nights, and early literacy programming. Nearly every elementary school student visited the library, and 494 youth library cards were issued. Over 400 parents and student attended Library Nights, which introduce families to library services, encourage parental involvement and promote year-round library use, with school sponsoring door prizes and giveaways to support literacy.



**Baker & Taylor** – After almost 200 years in service, Baker & Taylor announced they would be permanently closing in January 2026. The sudden announcement and subsequent layoffs caused libraries across the country to scrambled to find alternate book distributors. The unforeseen closure and mass shift in vendors created backlogs and cancellations that are still impeding book distribution and libraries' ability to provide the latest editions for the public. Ingram has since

hired and began training staff to help fill the wave of orders. Books are slowly starting to be delivered, with the library receiving fall orders after the New Year.

## Statistics

### System Wide Statistics

	24-25 YTD	23-24 YTD	% Diff
Circulation	548,701	540,295	1.6%
Patron Visits	108,741	111,373	-2.4%
Library Program Attendance	23,088	19,250	19.9%
Internet (Computer use and Wireless)	364,207	328,675	10.8%

## Personnel

**Departures:** Kim Matthews retired after 28 years of service at the Brosville Library. Hannah Moser left after a year on the Bookmobile, Abigail Wallace as Library Assistant, Earline Grant as Library Assistant.

**Arrivals:** Francina Jones is the new Branch Manager at the Brosville Library, Emily Budd as Library Assistant, Erin Bryant as Library Assistant. Tray Reynolds is scheduled to begin as Outreach coordinator in January 2026.

## Library Board of Trustees

Banister District: Portia Fitzgerald  
Callands/Gretna District: Julie Ragsdale  
Chatham/Blairs District: Karen Eades  
Dan River District: Janice Fitts  
Staunton River District: David Law  
Tunstall District: Vacant  
Westover District: Sandy Mitchell  
Town of Chatham: Alice Shelton  
Town of Gretna: Shelby Buffington  
Town of Hurt: Mike Irby

## PPL Foundation

President: Steve Scruggs  
Vice President: Karen Eades  
Treasurer: Bert Eades