Expanding the Reach

Pittsylvania County Public Library

Library Expansion Concept Paper
Prepared for the Pittsylvania Board of Trustees

June 2018
2018 Pittsylvania County Public Library Expansion Proposal

Purpose: Expand library services within unserved regions of Pittsylvania County

Pittsylvania County is beautiful, rural, sparsely populated and economically disadvantaged. The ten elementary schools in Pittsylvania County range from 52-73% economically disadvantaged for the purposes of providing school nutrition programs [Appendix A]. While 90% of kindergartners met the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) benchmark, only 67% of Third Grade students met the benchmark [Appendix B]. Just 14.6% of the county’s population of 63,000 holds a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Pittsylvania County Public Library (PCPL) currently serves this 968 square mile region with four branches and bookmobile. Many families are too distant from or otherwise unable to frequently visit a library branch, and many households do not have a tradition of book ownership or reading. Expanded library access throughout the county would increase literacy, support lifelong learning that improves educational and workforce success, and improve community access to digital government and social services.

In March 2018, a group of interested individuals gathered at the Pittsylvania County History Research Center & Library to discuss the expansion of library services within Pittsylvania County [Appendix C]. From this conversation, a work group continued to explore the idea of expanding library services into the unserved areas of the county. As a result, this concept paper outlines the current services and facilities, defines the community value of library services, describes the vision for expanded access, and presents a proposal for expanding library services to all areas of Pittsylvania County.

The vision for the Pittsylvania County Public Library system is to establish a library branch in each of the unserved regions of Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River and the expansion of the Gretna library branch. Each of these branches will become a community destination for early and family literacy, provide workforce resources, be a life-long learning center, deliver community health materials, and serve as a community gathering space supporting civic engagement.

Overview of the Current Services & Facilities
The Pittsylvania County Public Library has a rich, hundred years of history. Mostly driven by the public desire for access to library services, the library branches were constructed when local residents offered the property, the local community raised the required funds, and volunteers delivered the services. As described in the following list, the residents of Pittsylvania County have made a significant contribution in building the current library resources.

- 1913: Subscription library run by volunteers established in Chatham
- 1939: Pittsylvania County Public Library established with building and books donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Bruce.
● 1939: Bookmobile service begins with vehicle loaned from the Works Progress Administration.
● 1984: Pittsylvania Public Library Foundation (PPL Foundation) is established as a 501(c)3.
● 1989: New Chatham library is constructed at the current location.
● 1992: Brosville/Cascade Library is added to system.
● 1996: Gretna Library is included as part of the Riddle Center and becomes a part of the system. The building was shared with Danville Community College.
● 2006: Current bookmobile is purchased and was funded by Pittsylvania County and PPL Foundation.
● 2008: Mt. Hermon Library is welcomed into the system.
● 2013: History Research Center & Library is added. The building is operated by Pittsylvania County Public Library and owned by the Pittsylvania Historical Society.
● 2015: Danville Community College vacated the Riddle Center with the space reverting to the Pittsylvania County Public Library.
● 2018: Mt. Hermon Library moved to its new location. The project was funded by Pittsylvania County and PPL Foundation.

Existing Library Footprint
Currently, the library footprint consists of five library facilities located along the Route 29 corridor and on the western side of the County. It is apparent that gaps in community access are real.

Pittsylvania County is fortunate to offer a bookmobile service. The Bookmobile makes 50-60 stops around the county each month, Tuesdays through Thursdays between 9 am and 4:30 pm with an average stop time of 60 minutes. School visits, mostly to private schools, are longer, but not open to the public.

Although all areas are served by the library’s bookmobile, there are some limitations to this service including:

● No WiFi or public computers on the bookmobile.
● No early literacy or other public programs although this services does participate in Winter and Summer Reading programs.
● Bookmobile does not operate when schools are closed for weather.
● Challenging to identify and gain agreement for stops.

The current Bookmobile was purchased in 2006 with an expected lifespan about 20 years. Therefore, it is expected that this unit will be replaced in 2026 at a projected cost of $150-185,000.
The Value of Libraries to Communities: A Review of the Literature

Numerous studies have clearly recognized libraries as delivering a high educational and economic value for any investment made in its operation. Within this paper, several studies are shared that support the concept of establishing a community-based library which provides essential resources for a productive and engaged community. The Pittsylvania County Public Library supports these ideas and works to implement the collective regional vision.

Library Contributions to Economic Development

A 2007 report by the Urban Libraries Council, Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development, found that strategies for building a strong economic base are being realigned to reflect the ‘new economy’ requirement for highly educated and technologically skilled workers. Public libraries provide access to digital information and technology that helps communities transition from manufacturing and service economies to high tech and information economies. Library facilities often anchor downtown and commercial developments. They can be attractive neighborhood amenities. Key findings from the report include:

- Early literacy services are contributing to long-term economic success
- Library employment and career resources are preparing workers with new technologies
- Small business resources and programs are lowering barriers to market entry
- Public library buildings are catalysts for physical development

The study also found an increasing number of economic research tools being used to measure the public value of libraries, such as cost-benefit impacts and return on investment calculations. These studies “consistently identify positive economic impacts made by libraries at the national, state and local levels” (Liu 2004; Barron et al. 2005; McClure et al. 2000; Berk & Associates 2004). Libraries partnering with workforce development agencies, chambers of commerce and others to provide job and career information services and micro and small business support are broadening the impact of traditional library information resources.

A July 2017 report for the American Library Association, Rural Libraries in the United States: Recent Strides, Future Possibilities, and Meeting Community Needs, noted that with negative population growth and a relative lack of new industries, including technology-oriented businesses, many rural communities do not have a path toward economic growth. Libraries can be part of the solution in terms of building job skills and supporting the growth of new businesses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has found that economic growth and non-recessionary employment gains in communities is positively correlated to educational attainment. Libraries support local economic growth by supporting local education as well as through direct support to businesses and job seekers.

A 2015 Pew Research Center report, Libraries at the Crossroads: The public is interested in new services and thinks libraries are important to communities, found that 65% of Americans ages 16 and older say that closing their public library would have a major impact on their community. Low-income Americans, Hispanics, and African Americans were more likely than others to say that a library closing would impact their lives and communities. The study found that Americans want libraries to: support local
education; serve special constituencies such as veterans, active-duty military personnel and immigrants; help local businesses, job seekers and those upgrading their work skills; and embrace new technologies such as 3D printers and provide services to help patrons learn about high-tech gadgetry. This trend is reinforced in the 2016 Pew Research report, Libraries 2016, which found that 80% of Americans felt public libraries should offer programs to teach people digital skills. 50% felt libraries should help patrons learn how to use new creative technologies like 3D printers. 57% of Americans still feel that libraries should offer more comfortable places for reading, working and relaxing.

A 2011 report from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, Measuring the Value of Public Libraries: The fallacy of footfall and issues as measures of the value of Public Libraries, notes that public libraries provide social benefits beyond value for the dollar calculations. Public libraries provide services that support the wider community, such as support to the visually impaired, economic benefits from individuals finding work or skills, or the educational benefit to children and adults through access to books and learning.

The 2015 Pew Report noted that 46% of Americans ages 16 and over visited a library or bookmobile in person in the prior year. 23% of those who have paid a visit to a library in the past year had done so to look for or apply for a job. 48% of all Americans 16 and older say libraries help people find jobs “a lot” or “somewhat,” but certain groups are more likely to say libraries help people find jobs: 58% of Hispanics, 55% of African Americans, and 53% of people in households with annual incomes under $30,000.

A 2013 Pew Research Report, How Americans Value Public Libraries in their Communities, found that 91% of Americans say that they know where the closest public library is to where they currently live, and among these respondents, most said the closest public library is five miles or less away from their home. The closer a person lives to a library, the more likely they are to visit.

The 2017 ALA report, Rural Libraries, noted that public transportation quality and the ability to walk to nearby libraries decreases as one moves away from urban centers. In a recent study of after-school programs in rural communities, the Afterschool Alliance found that these distances and the transportation issues they entailed prevented many schools from viewing after-school programs as cost effective, while students and parents were often less able to access existing programs due to these barriers.

A majority of U.S. voters value public libraries, according to a 2018 report by OCLC and the American Library Association. From Funding to Awareness: Voter Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries in 2018 found that 55% of American voters view the public library as an essential local institution that is a source of community pride (53%), advances education (58%), and enhance the quality of life in any community (51%). Voters frequently visit public libraries (70%, averaging 8.6 visits in the past year) and use the library for doing work and research (67%), accessing books and technology (66%), using computers and the internet (65%) and accessing WiFi (64%). These voters appreciate libraries that are convenient to get to (66%) and that have a broad range of materials to explore (65%). Voters value public libraries as gathering places (44%), and 37% have attending community meetings or library-organized programs or events in the last six months (33%).
PCPL Response: The Table 1 below illustrates the growth in patron use of library services and the growth in library infrastructure and funding. PCPL proposes to expand its branches and services to each county region to support the findings presented in the various research studies.

Table 1: Pittsylvania County Public Library: A 2000 – 2017 Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Statistics</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Registered Borrowers</td>
<td>8,737</td>
<td>33,334</td>
<td>281%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Library Visits</td>
<td>48,088</td>
<td>164,628</td>
<td>242%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Attending Library Programs</td>
<td>4,646</td>
<td>16,854</td>
<td>262%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Reading Participants</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>612%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Computer Users</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>76,175</td>
<td>8,200%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of WiFi Sessions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64,065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cataloged Book Items</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>123,139</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total Materials</td>
<td>92,405</td>
<td>706,691</td>
<td>665%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Circulation</td>
<td>132,715</td>
<td>389,474</td>
<td>193%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Population</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>63,167</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Library Branches</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Hours per Week</td>
<td>146.5</td>
<td>232.5*</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Internet Terminals</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>315%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Paid Staff (FTE)</td>
<td>15.23</td>
<td>21.79**</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Income</td>
<td>$448,908</td>
<td>$1,076,584</td>
<td>139%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVA State Aid Grants</td>
<td>$125,167</td>
<td>$154,711</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since March 2018, 244.5 hours per week (67% increase)
**Since January 2018, 22.79 FTE (49% increase)

Libraries and Racial Equity
A 2018 report by the Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity, Advancing Racial Equity in Public Libraries: Case Studies from the Field, found that libraries across the country have been at the forefront of local and regional initiatives to proactively change the policies, practices, and systems that create barriers to prosperity and well-being for people of color. Libraries are going beyond race-neutral policies that often continue to mask structural barriers. Among other things, libraries are working to
diversify their workforces. They are also reconsidering structural barriers to equity and full participation.

The 2016 report, *Public Libraries: A Vital Space for Family Engagement*, observes that engaging families in anywhere, anytime learning is critical for children’s academic and social development, but is also a matter of equity. Families with high incomes spend almost seven times as much as low-income families on out-of-school enrichment activities. Libraries have books, digital resources, expertise and free programs that are accessible to every family in every home. Libraries are places where children and adults can learn together to use these resources and strengthen their relationships.

**PCPL Response:** The Pittsylvania County Public Library has 28 staff members (24 women, 4 men); 78% are Caucasian, 22% African American (Pittsylvania County is 76.3% Caucasian, 21.5% African American, and 2.6% Hispanic).

**Libraries and Healthy Communities**

In its April 2018 report, *The State of America’s Libraries*, the American Library Association noted that low health literacy is a major source of economic inefficiency in the U.S. healthcare system. Nine in ten adults have difficulty understanding and making use of the health information they receive. Public libraries have also worked with community partners to address the national opioid crisis. Libraries are a trusted institution and a source of health and healthcare resource information finding.

The 2017 ALA Report, *Rural Libraries*, noted that rural residents have more difficulty accessing healthcare than individuals in more populated areas. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rates 1,582 of 2,050 primarily rural counties in the United States as health professional shortage areas. This makes scheduling appointments for basic health services more difficult, and even more difficult to access specialist care. Additionally, in 2013, about 15 percent of rural citizens were uninsured and did not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid, as opposed to 9 percent of individuals in metropolitan areas. Rural libraries empower patrons by helping them find and evaluate online health information, supplementing regional healthcare systems.

The 2018 County Health Rankings *Key Findings Report* notes that meaningful gaps persist in health outcomes between counties in the U.S. in large part because of differences in opportunities for health. Unemployment, education (lower high school graduation rates) and fewer transportation options make it harder to be healthy. Better educated individuals live longer, healthier lives than those with less education, and their children are more likely to thrive. In their call to action, the report suggests supporting community development and revitalization through policies and incentives to increase economic opportunities, and building social connectedness to cultivate empowered communities and promote civic engagement.

The July 2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps report, *What Works? Strategies to Improve Rural Health*, found that nearly one in five rural counties had experienced worsening premature death rates over the past decade. Better-educated individuals experience longer, healthier lives. People with greater social support, less isolation, and
greater interpersonal trust live longer and healthier lives than those who are socially isolated.

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (www.countyhealthrankings.org), found that out of 133 counties in Virginia, Pittsylvania ranked 70th for overall Health Outcomes (1 is the highest ranking; 66 is the median). The County is 77th for Length of Life, 87th for Health Factors, and 104th for Health Behaviors (including smoking, adult obesity, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, etc.). The County ranked 82nd for Clinical Care, 65th for Social and Economic Factors, and 126th for Physical Environment (due in particular to drinking water violations and 85% driving alone to work).

PCPL Response: Pittsylvania County Public Library branches have hosted healthcare signups, healthy eating programs, cancer prevention and care programs, exercise programs, bloodmobile visits, and veterans’ healthcare outreach van visits. PCPL is a member of the Pittsylvania County Chapter of the Health Collaborative and the Cancer Task Force.

Libraries and the Digital Divide
A July 2017 report for the American Library Association, Rural Libraries in the United States: Recent Strides, Future Possibilities, and Meeting Community Needs, found that 39% of rural residents (approximately 23 million people) lack access to the 2015 Federal Communications Commission’s updated home broadband standards of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speed and from the 2010 standard of 4/1 Mbps download/upload speeds to account for streaming media and other data-intensive applications. In rural areas, broadband providers are often unwilling to provide home broadband or they require additional line installation fees that put the cost of services out of reach for many households. Smartphones have become a primary point of access for many individuals without home broadband, but internet-enabled phones and tablets are not capable of many complex tasks like writing cover letters or completing homework assignments. Access to computers in libraries and librarian assistance and expertise are still invaluable services.

Federal investment to support broadband expansion to more than 21,000 community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries and health centers has been critical to expanding the network of rural broadband access.

PCPL Response: The Pittsylvania County Public Libraries participate in the Federal E-Rate program to support broadband internet access for the public. The library provides 49 public access computers with connection speeds of 10.1-100 Mbps and one-on-one assistance to patrons for computer instruction or help with smart phones and tablets. In FY2017, 85,541 30-minute user sessions were logged on public access computers, equating to 42,270 hours of computer access. Children are offered Playaway Launchpads for in-house eLearning. The library also offers business quality printing and low per-page rates.
PALS Data and Library Access

Early literacy screening is the key to providing effective literacy instruction and preventing future reading problems. The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) provides a comprehensive assessment of young children’s knowledge of the important literacy fundamentals that are predictive of future reading success. PALS is the state-provided screening tool for Virginia’s Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI) and is used by 99% of school divisions in the state on a voluntary basis.

PALS consists of three instruments, PALS-PreK (for preschool students), PALS-K (for kindergartners), and PALS 1-3 (for students in Grades 1-3). PALS assessments are designed to identify students in need of additional reading instruction beyond that provided to typically developing readers. PALS also informs teachers’ instruction by providing them with explicit information about their students’ knowledge of literacy fundamentals. Mid-year assessment and PALS Quick Checks allow for ongoing student progress monitoring throughout the year [https://pals.virginia.edu/].

In reviewing the data on Pittsylvania County students [Appendix B], findings indicated that:

- 10% of Kindergartners do not meet the PALS benchmark.
- 16% of First Graders do not meet the PALS benchmark.
- 20% of Second Graders do not meet the PALS benchmark.
- 33% of Third Graders do not meet the PALS benchmark.

Pittsylvania County Schools with the highest number of students below the benchmark:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twin Springs (12)</td>
<td>Stony Mill (21)</td>
<td>Union Hall (18)</td>
<td>Kentuck (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentuck (11)</td>
<td>Twin Springs (17)</td>
<td>Twin Springs (17)</td>
<td>Gretna (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gretna (7)</td>
<td>Gretna (16)</td>
<td>Gretna (16)</td>
<td>Stony Mill (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside (5)</td>
<td>Kentuck (12)</td>
<td>Kentuck (15)</td>
<td>Mt. Airy (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mt. Airy (10)</td>
<td>Stony Mill (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kentuck and Gretna Elementary Schools were among the lower-performing schools in all grade levels. Twin Springs and Stony Mill Elementary Schools were among the lower-performing schools in 3 of the 4 grade levels. Overall, children are losing ground in reading from kindergarten through third grade.

Gretna has a Pittsylvania County Public Library branch library, but the facility is small (currently 3,910 square feet). The children’s book collection is 8,951 volumes in approximately 200 square feet of space. It is the only branch with a part-time, not full-time, youth services specialist. The library is located between the high school and middle school, not near the elementary school. It is open 48 hours per week (10am until 8pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 10am until 6pm on Wednesday and Friday; and 10am until 12noon on Saturday).

Twin Springs Elementary School is now served by the new Mt. Hermon library, which opened in March 2018. It offers expanded children’s space, more children’s programs, and an expanded collection of materials. The branch is open 52 hours each week, from
10am until 8pm Monday through Thursday, 10am until 6pm on Friday, and 10am until 2pm on Saturday. The school is located 1.3 miles from the library branch.

Stony Mill Elementary School is located between the Brosville and Mt. Hermon libraries, but not convenient to either. Stony Mill Elementary is 3.5 miles from the Brosville branch and 10.4 miles from the Mt. Hermon branch. The Brosville branch is somewhat difficult to find and access and has limited parking (nine parking places plus one handicapped parking place for patrons). The branch is open 44.5 hours per week (9:30am until 6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 9:30am until 8pm on Thursdays). The branch has no Saturday hours.

Kentuck Elementary School has no branch library nearby. Mt. Hermon is the closest branch, 9.6 to 11.4 miles depending on route).

Mt. Airy Elementary School has no branch library nearby. Gretna is the closest branch, 11.9 miles away, and as noted, is open only two hours on Saturday morning.

It is worth noting that the lowest performing schools are associated with the library branches open the fewest evening and weekend hours, or are simply remote from any library branch.

**PCPL Response:** The Pittsylvania County Public Library system supports our children through its services.

- The most effective way to support and increase reading proficiency is by free choice reading – making books and time to read available to children; reading to children every day (parents and others); and by parents and other adults modeling reading behavior, coupled with having reading materials available.

- Libraries support these behaviors by making a wide variety of free-choice reading material available to all families at no cost; by promoting reading through story times and summer and winter reading programs; by associating libraries and books with fun; and by helping children and other patrons find and try books that reflect their interests.

- Libraries provide books at all reading levels as well as audiobooks and graphic novels that appeal to struggling readers; magazines, ebooks and e-audiobooks; and books that ‘read along’ with voice and word highlighting.

**PCPL Proposal for Expansion**

To deliver the maximum level of service to our community and its children, the Pittsylvania County Public Library proposed to expand its locations and services into every region of our county.

- In Gretna, the library will increase the size, collection, and staffing to attract and better serve students and their families. It will expand library into the entire building to increase from 3,910 sf to approximately 7,000 sf; increase collection size and number of public access computers; increase staffing to provide a full-time youth services specialist and 1 additional part time staff to increase service hours from current 48 to 52 (adding additional evening and weekend hours comparable to those offered at Mt. Hermon). It
will add amenities that make the library a more appealing ‘destination’ for the entire family, such as additional seating, coffee service, outdoor space, etc.

- In Brosville, the library will increase the staffing at Brosville by adding a full-time assistant branch manager, enabling the youth services specialist to expand outreach and programming. It will add an additional part-time staff to increase service hours from current 44.5 to 52, with more evening and new Saturday hours similar to Mt. Hermon. It will increase the number of parking spaces at the Brosville library (currently nine available for patrons) to enable more patrons to participate in programs. Finally, it will add amenities to make the library a more appealing ‘destination’ for the entire family.

- The library will open new libraries to serve the Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River districts to support students and families in the Kentuck, Mt. Airy Elementary, and Hurt school populations. It will make these libraries appealing ‘destinations’ for the entire family.

**Vision for Expanded Access**

With the goal to dream, concepts began to emerge of a library with its branches becoming a community destination for early and family literacy, provide workforce resources, be a life-long learning center, deliver community health materials, and serve as a community gathering space supporting civic engagement.

**Each branch** will have defined spaces that supports:

- Circulation services with a collection of around 20,000 items in multiple formats that accommodate community interests
- Teen gathering space with all the young adult books centered around the space
- Children’s programming room
- Print resources for young children, juveniles, teens, and adults
- Computer stations for individual use – increase access to computers with space around the area for some privacy -- perhaps using glass walls; Include space for providing instructional capabilities encouraging teaching; walls should be designed to write on the walls
- Sufficient parking
- Large meeting space
- Small group tutoring room to support individual learning needs
- Provide space for employment and job support resources
- Gathering spaces for adults to create a destination
- Interactive learning children’s area creating an indoor outdoor space with equipment that would be found “outdoor play space”
- Outdoor reading garden
- A sensory play area for the younger children – with shade sails
- Training space for at least 25 people with tables – along with areas where they can host training with parents and children for reading practices and Play and Learn (interacting with children)
- Exercise space for the public – classes are offered for the community
- A community center because of space availability for offering classes with a separate entrance with access to restroom facilities
• Kitchen space for classes such as cooking, diabetic, nutrition classes – partner with Virginia Tech Virginia Cooperative Extension
• Electronic signage for outreach to people who do not use the library
• Staff support space
• An open, airy environment as created with an abundance of windows
• The standards for excellence from the Library of Virginia
• A nature walk connected to the library – creating a destination – combining wellness with reading
• White boards and group flip chart options
• High bandwidth for web access
• Networking centers for senior adults for reading groups, wellness support, skill building
• Networking centers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
• Fire and water features to create an inviting space for quiet reading
• A “maker space” http://www.makerspaceforeducation.com/makerspace.html – for entrepreneurs to use for product creation (include tools such as 3-D printers, sewing machines . . . other)
• Flexible space that will be used for displays for art, historical exhibits

Facility size and location was considered and several guidelines were suggested:
• Current facilities are ranging from 5,000 – 7,000 square feet; new libraries should be designed to accommodate the need
• Locate facilities in an area where people are – they will come to the library as they are going to other sites. Or, create the library as a destination.
• Need a minimum .6 sq. ft. per person (currently at .36 in Pittsylvania County) up to 1 sq.ft. per capita, according to the Planning for Excellence guidance provided by the Library of Virginia

Staffing requirements to manage each branch and deliver personalized support to patrons with evening and weekend hours to optimize community access and programming requirements.

Alternative Expansion Options
During the review, the workgroup considered several options for providing service to the unserved regions.
• Replace Bookmobile with a 5th-wheel truck and trailer.
  o Trailer carries books, WiFi, laptops, and tables and chairs. Staff use truck to move trailer, restock and travel from main to mobile library.
  o Partner with a church, VFD, etc. to share parking, power, bathrooms, and meeting space. Library pays partner for services, installs needed outlet and locks.
  o Operates 1 week per month, then relocates to different quadrant of the county.
  o Library staff operate the library for 4-6 hours per day, Tuesday-Saturday. Use Mondays to restock, relocate the trailer.
  o Would require additional staff.
  o Still costly – maybe $100,000 initially, plus annual staff and operating costs
• Install an automated library vending machine similar to the option Milwaukee Public Library has used.
  o Cost around $250,000 plus shelter and land (could be co-located with other county facilities)
  o Estimated $25,000 annual operating costs
  o Must be visited daily to restock, pick up returns
  o Can be WiFi hotspots
  o No public computers, no programs

• Create “Pop-Up” libraries using the Suffolk Public Library model.
  o not always a set location
  o weather dependent (use a 10x10 tent)
  o require patrons to return materials at a standard library
  o WiFi hotspot
  o Some programming
  o Require a large van to transport equipment, books in milk crates.

• Open a public library instead of a school library in a high school using the Chicago model.
  o City rents space from the Board of Education and pays operating costs, but Board of Education covers building maintenance costs.
  o Perhaps, PCPL could explore partnerships with Pittsylvania County Schools in underserved areas recognizing that this type of partnership would require careful consideration regarding security and access during school hours.

• Use the Gretna library model where the library is built between two schools.

• Creative Reuse of existing buildings such as the Ringgold Rail Depot or Carter Bank in Hurt.

• Build 1 or more new libraries using same building plan.
  o Mt. Hermon model – simple shape, open plan.
    The building is 5,000sf – has space for good collection, space to read, use computers, have programs and meetings.
  o Provides all library basics – meeting space, computers, WiFi, books and audiobooks, and library programs.
  o Requires additional staff in addition to building costs.
    • The existing Mount Hermon building cost $475,000 and $236,000 to renovate (and reused existing fixtures); $232,000 to furnish (and used existing fixtures); and $100,000 to provide books (Mt. Hermon had existing collections)

Whatever option is identified and selected, there are building considerations for every library including:
• Books are heavy and require a substantial foundation.
 ● Need adequate parking – people tend to stay longer per visit than previously, and want programs.
 ● Need access to 100mb internet access – preferably fiber.
 ● Power, water, sewer.
 ● ADA standards for accessibility.
 ● High traffic area – visibility is important and the County library system currently has no advertising budget.

Proposal
On behalf of a small group of individuals who have examined the current state of our Pittsylvania County Library System and its opportunities for expanding its support to our entire community, it is our proposal that the Pittsylvania County Public Library establish a library branch in each of the unserved regions of Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River and expand the Gretna library branch. The branches would be designed and staffed to become a community destination for early and family literacy, provide workforce resources, be a life-long learning center, deliver community health materials, and serve as a community gathering spaces supporting civic engagement and community building for all ages.

Next Steps
The group requests that the Library Board of Trustees approve these recommendations and present them to the Pittsylvania County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors. The Trustees would request from the Board of Supervisors a resolution authorizing and funding a professional feasibility study to assess the library expansion proposal and recommend a course of action to implement the initiative.

In addition, the group requests that a public advisory panel be established consisting of representation from the community, educational institutions, library staff, and local government and be included in the feasibility study process.

Discussion participants included members of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors (Bob Warren, Joe Davis, and Charles Miller); County Administrator David Smitherman; members of the Pittsylvania County School Board (Cassandra Crump and Don Moon); Jessie Barksdale, Banister resident; Shannon Stoler, Dan River resident; Alice Shelton, Chair Library Board of Trustees; Angela Wells with SmartBeginnings; Lisa Tuite, Pittsylvania County Public Library; and Martha Walker, Virginia Tech/Virginia Cooperative Extension.
References

- Pew Research Center (2013). *How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities*: 54% of Americans have used a public library in the past year, and 72% live in a “library household.” Most say libraries are very important to their communities. http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/12/11/libraries-in-communities
## Appendix A

Pittsylvania County Public Schools  
Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students by School:  
School Nutrition Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Code</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0030</td>
<td>JOHN L. HURT ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>73.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>MT. AIRY ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>71.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0280</td>
<td>GRETNA ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>70.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>BROSVILLE ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>68.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0290</td>
<td>GRETNA MIDDLE</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>66.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>UNION HALL ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>66.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0640</td>
<td>CHATHAM ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>64.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1460</td>
<td>SOUTHSIDE ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>63.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1090</td>
<td>DAN RIVER MIDDLE</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>62.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1710</td>
<td>STONY MILL ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>62.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1690</td>
<td>KENTUCK ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>61.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>GRETNA HIGH</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>58.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1680</td>
<td>DAN RIVER HIGH</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>56.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>CHATHAM MIDDLE</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>55.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130</td>
<td>TUNSTALL MIDDLE</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>53.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>TWIN SPRINGS ELEM</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>52.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1720</td>
<td>CHATHAM HIGH</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>51.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1730</td>
<td>TUNSTALL HIGH</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>41.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>58.678%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To comply with the information and reporting requirements for report cards and performance indicators of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Department of Education conducts the Student Record Collection. A student is defined economically disadvantaged if the student:

1. is eligible for Free/Reduced Meals,
2. receives TANF, or
3. is eligible for Medicaid.

Please note: If the student is identified as experiencing homelessness or becomes identified as migrant, at any point during the school year, the student is automatically identified as Disadvantaged and is also eligible for the Free and Reduced Meals Program.
Appendix B

Pittsylvania County Schools
Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)
Percentage of Students Identified for PALS & Percentage Met Benchmark
Spring 2018 Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary School</th>
<th>Kindergarten # Students Identified</th>
<th>First # Students Identified</th>
<th>Second # Students Identified</th>
<th>Third # Students Identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brosville</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gretna</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentuck</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Airy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Mill</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Springs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Hall</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>551</strong></td>
<td><strong>615</strong></td>
<td><strong>528</strong></td>
<td><strong>191</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Identified</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>101</strong></td>
<td><strong>107</strong></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage Identified</strong></td>
<td><strong>10% Kindergarten</strong></td>
<td><strong>16% First Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>20% Second Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>33% Third Grade</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage Met Benchmark</strong></td>
<td><strong>90% Kindergarten</strong></td>
<td><strong>84% First Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>80% Second Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>67% Third Grade</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that in grade 3, only 191 students were assessed because according to the PALS Screening Requirements, all third graders take the SOL (Standards of Learning) Assessment and are not required to be assessed in the spring. Students who are assessed are those students who have participated in SOL intervention and remediation. Therefore, the percentage of identified students reported is not a reflection of the entire third grade population.
### School Year: 2017-2018

**PALS Screening Requirements**

Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI) Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Mid-Year</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindergarten</strong></td>
<td>All students are screened.</td>
<td>Optional progress monitoring window</td>
<td>All students are screened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Grade</strong></td>
<td>Students who are new to Virginia Public Schools, and students who received summer intervention are screened.</td>
<td>Optional progress monitoring window</td>
<td>All students are screened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Grade</strong></td>
<td>Students who are new to Virginia Public Schools, and students who received summer intervention are screened.</td>
<td>Optional progress monitoring window</td>
<td>All students without a &quot;high benchmark score&quot; are screened. *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Third Grade</strong></td>
<td>Students who are new to Virginia Public Schools, and students who received summer intervention are screened.</td>
<td>Optional progress monitoring window</td>
<td>All students take the SOL test.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The purpose of the high benchmark is to exempt from future PALS 1-3 screenings those students whose PALS 1-3 scores are so high that it is unlikely that future screenings will identify them for additional instruction. Students meeting the high benchmark do not need to take PALS 1-3 in the future unless teachers wish to administer the assessment to these students for instructional purposes.

K-3 students who are identified by PALS must receive two and one-half hours of additional instruction each week at a student-to-teacher ratio of no more than five-to-one.
Appendix C
March 2018 Discussion Summary

On Monday, March 26, 2018, at four o’clock in the afternoon, interested individuals gathered at the Pittsylvania County History Research Center & Library to discuss the expansion of library services within Pittsylvania County. As the group began to discuss the need and whether or not to consider library expansion as a viable option, each person was asked to respond to the following questions. The responses are captured below.

Why is an expansion of library services important?
- Offers the opportunity to improve community literacy through children and adult programs and resources. It is important to examine the PALS and other scores gathered through in-school assessments.
- Supports a lower poverty rate when individuals improve their educational attainment.
- Creates year-round access to a variety of resources that prepared students for future work.
- Supports economic development. Libraries are part of attracting businesses to the County, an investment in human capital, and prepare workers through online classes and reading resources. In addition, the library offers community rooms, online resources, and serve as an innovation center for community groups.

The group noted that perhaps 50 percent of the County’s population would react negatively to expending funds for library expansion. In addition, based on the current budget projects, funds are not available from County resources for capital outlay or operational costs.

Who is impacted by these services?
Although “everyone” might be the first response, the group was asked to identify specific groups of people who would be impacted by library services.
- Employers
- Entrepreneurs
- Preschoolers
- School aged children
- Senior adults
- Parents
- Unemployed individuals
- Marginal groups who require extra care in receiving services
- Migrants
- Home schooled children

What value does it bring to economic development efforts?
- Offers a quality of life component.
- Provides literacy-based businesses.
- Delivers an investment of local government in human capital.
- Becomes the public face of our County and welcomes all.
- Increases access to career choices and references.
What is your hope and vision for delivering these services?
- Provide seven or more library locations with one in each district positioned to serve the maximum populations.
- Fully staffed with full access.
- Attract middle and high school students.
- Meets the needs of family while in the library including offering school related topics, play areas, and coffee bars.
- Deliver services that would lead to a decreased influence of “pop” culture on children.
- Encourage children to read.
- Provide a community room.
- Offer a variety of books where children see themselves in the books.
- Be a place where “real life” is addressed and needs are impacted.

What would be some ways or strategies for moving your vision to a reality?
- Gather the data points on geographic locations of current users and potential locations for new facilities.
- Define population center of County residents.
- Identify potential locations of new library branches ensuring innovative use options, high speed internet access, and visibility.
- Offer a pilot “summer reading program” for children.
- Recruit new library card holders ensuring every child in the County has a library card.
- Define the need the public library would meet outside of a school library.

The group asked:
- If libraries influence the retention of businesses and/or the workers?
  - Is there any relationship to workers access to libraries and the worker’s income?
- Compare children’s school test scores pre-library with those scores after the library branch is opened. The group was reminded that test scores are reflective of multiple variables.
- Compare kindergarteners’ test scores/performance based on those who utilized library services and those who did not.