

FY 20

22

Prince William Public Libraries
Annual Report
FY2022

Message from the Chair and Director

Prince William Public Libraries had a very successful year in 2022, from a robust return to in-person programming and library visits by patrons, to receiving awards for publications and communications, to implementing a record number of grant-sponsored programs. All these elements furthered PWPL's mission and vision during year four of the current strategic plan.

We want to thank the staff, Library Board of Trustees, volunteers, and community members who supported library services this past year. The Library Board welcomed new trustees this year, yet they did not miss a beat in their ability to provide valuable advice and counsel. The Library Foundation continued their robust funding support of programs and services, including long-time community favorites such as 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and Summer Reading, to our newer Winter Reading and environmental programs. Foundation support enabled many new grant programs and services to come on board. Our seven dedicated Friends of the Library groups continued raising funds to support ongoing branch programs and our new Makerspaces.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to our staff—from the Administrative Support Center to the hardworking public services staff in our branches—

for your commitment, dedication, and perseverance this past year. Lastly, we want to thank our community. From the local businesses who helped fund key programs to our patrons whose smiles, library visits, and social media engagement often provided the motivation we needed to keep going. Thank you for helping to make this year a thriving return to normalcy.

Please take a moment to read through the contributions from all the different divisions that make up your Prince William Public Libraries and share your own stories by tagging us on social media ([facebook.com/princewilliampubliclibraries](https://www.facebook.com/princewilliampubliclibraries), [instagram.com/pwpls](https://www.instagram.com/pwpls), twitter.com/princewmlibrary) using [#pwplibraries](https://www.pwplibraries.com).



Brian Murphy
Chair, Library Board of Trustees



Deborah L. Wright
Director, Prince William Public Libraries

Prince William Public Libraries 2019–2023 Strategic Plan

Vision

We are the hub connecting people to the transforming power of information.

Mission

Prince William Public Libraries (PWPL) brings people, information, and ideas together to enrich lives and build community in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Strategic Goals

Future-Ready, Easily Accessible Technology

PWPL will provide access to state-of-the-art technology following industry best practices to address both internal and external customer expectations.

Community Building

PWPL will expand activities to connect communities and schools to library resources.

Approachable, Adaptive Experts

PWPL will strengthen and broaden staff development and competencies to provide excellent user experiences.

Versatile, Inviting Spaces

PWPL will enhance the mix of multi-functional, inviting spaces to create attractive, modern community destinations.

Community-Responsive Enrichment

PWPL will provide programming that grows the system's user base and reflects our evolving community.

Lifelong Learning

PWPL will reach more adult users by providing more lifelong learning and workforce development opportunities.

Physical & Virtual Media Collections

PWPL will develop 24/7 access to robust collections in all available media that respond to public interest and demand.

Future-Ready, Easily Accessible Technology

Wi-Fi 24/7

PWPL improved wireless coverage inside its 12 library branches and extended Wi-Fi outside the buildings to their outdoor areas and parking lots. The public now has access to free and reliable Wi-Fi 24/7, regardless of whether they have a library card. These improvements resulted in a 2,300 percent increase in Wi-Fi use.



Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots

PWPL doubled the number of devices from 200 to 400, and they became the most checked out item of the year with 1,885 checkouts.

AWE Learning Stations

PWPL added more AWE stations to its branches. AWE Learning Stations offer interactive games, e-books, videos, and more for young learners.

"Two little girls befriended each other and had the BEST time playing with AWE at Central Library. I

don't think I've ever witnessed kids have so much fun at the AWE Station."—Amanda, Youth Services Librarian.



Sewing Machines

PWPL added *sew* many new sewing machines in FY2022.

A generous donation of six new sewing machines from Micron Technology, Micron Foundation, and SPARK Education Foundation was made available to all 12 library branches for Sewing STEAM programs. In addition, Bull Run Library added five sewing machines for patrons to use in their new Makerspace.

An announcement about the new sewing machines resulted in 343 Likes, 41 Comments, and 55 Shares on Facebook.



In addition, PWPL added:

- Self-checkouts at all 12 branches.
- 3D printers at Central and Bull Run Library Makerspaces.
- New digital microfilm scanner at RELIC.
- Whisper Room at Central Library's Makerspace.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

PWPL expanded its outreach to introduce PWPL and its services to the greater Prince William community and to connect more community members to library resources. Library Card Drives, festivals, concert series, and other events provided library staff with opportunities to promote library resources and services.

Underserved Communities

PWPL is committed to extending its services to community members who, for various reasons, cannot come to libraries. Funded through a grant, children residing at local homeless shelters were given an opportunity to visit a library, attend a story time, and participate in a hands-on water safety program.

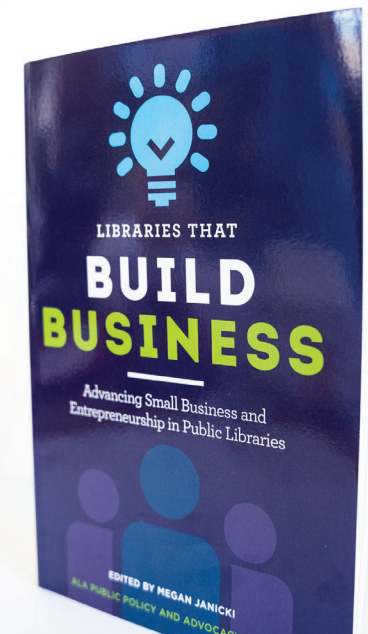
Youth at the Prince William County Juvenile Detention Center received books and participated in job training workshops to learn new skills and gain knowledge to help them when they leave the center.

Business Community

PWPL is a resource for local businesses in Prince William County and the City of Manassas. In FY2022, PWPL hosted Prince William Chamber of Commerce members at a networking event at Manassas City Library, introducing them to MAGIC and other resources that are available to them for free.

PWPL's MAGIC became a Chamber of Commerce member, ensuring that more than 1,200 member businesses were introduced to the services and support that MAGIC provides. MAGIC presented at Chamber meetings to share how it could help local businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits. MAGIC partnered with 1 MillionCups Prince William at Centerfuse to introduce local entrepreneurs to library resources and research services.

MAGIC was also featured with its own chapter in American Library Association's book "Libraries that Build Business: Advancing Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Public Libraries." This new book spotlights ways to advance entrepreneurship in public libraries. PWPL was one of only 30+ libraries nationwide that contributed to this book, highlighting resources and services offered by MAGIC.



COMMUNITY BUILDING



Starting July 1

Bring in **all** of your overdue items (books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, etc.) to any branch and receive a discount on your fine!

We'll forgive half of your fine!

Whatever your balance is, you'll be able to pay half to zero out your balance.



The "Fine" Print (Part 1)

This offer only applies to outstanding fines, not lost/damaged items or ILL fees.

The "Fine" Print (Part 2)

All overdue items must have been returned to take advantage of this program. Any unpaid fines are eligible for the discount.

We're
Going
FINE-FREE
Starting
July 1!



Going Fine-Free

On July 1, 2021, PWPL went fine-free to remove barriers to access to library resources and better serve the community. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, PWPL suspended fines from March–November 2020. After looking at the data, leadership chose not to reimplement fines as the benefits far outweighed the small amount of revenue received.

PWPL joined more than 280 library systems across the country that have gone completely fine-free. According to the Urban Libraries Council and American Library Association, data and experiences from other libraries have proven that removing late fees removes unfair economic barriers to library access for youth and patrons from disadvantaged backgrounds. A common, related driver is increasing engagement with the library and inviting users back who had been shut out because of fines.



"A book by Steve Harvey was just returned to us. The patron said she checked it out in 2004 or 2008; she had moved around a lot and thought this book was lost. It turned up at her sister's house! She came to Dumfries to pay her fine. We reinstated her as a patron and enjoyed her story. This book traveled through time and distance, from the old Gainesville Library to the new Dumfries Library!"—Dumfries Library Staff

Partnering with Prince William County Public Schools

The partnership between PWPL and local schools remained strong and impactful in FY2022. PWPL donated books to students, hosted programs at schools, engaged students in library reading challenges and other activities, facilitated class visits to libraries, and helped educators stay informed about library resources useful for teaching.

ESL Students

PWPL continued to partner with Literacy Volunteers of American–Prince William, Inc. to offer English Conversation and Citizenship Classes for English learners in FY2022. In addition, PWPL established a new relationship with Legacy Impact, a local organization serving this population. They hosted their classes at the library and introduced their students to library resources. Many students applied for library cards immediately after class and checked out bilingual picture books for their children and English language learner books for themselves.

COVID-19 Test Kit Distribution

PWPL continued to support Prince William County Government in executing measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since early 2022, libraries have helped distribute more than 117,000 free, at-home COVID-19 test kits.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Spreading Joy

Although PWPL staff has donated to Toys for Tots for more than 25 years, 2021 was the first year the public could drop off toys at libraries.

PWPL visited local senior centers, offered programs, and facilitated the Holiday Smiles and Valentines for Veterans postcards initiatives. More than 100 valentines were delivered to area veterans.



Engaged Community

Often, PWPL is contacted by area residents who want to help support our mission individually. A resident donated a new bike rack to Dale City Library, and RELIC received a donation of materials and documents about the once-proposed Disney Park in Prince William County. While these acts of kindness may seem small, their impact lasts for years.



New Vehicle Wraps

PWPL wrapped its courier vehicles to create more brand awareness as staff drove around the county. The wrapped vehicles stand out and display some of the most important services and resources that PWPL offers to the public, including new library users and those who may not yet be aware of PWPL.



APPROACHABLE, ADAPTIVE EXPERTS



PWPL expanded staff development opportunities by adding internal and external training to Niche Academy, offered staff possibilities to learn new skills and gain experience through work groups, and supported the Prince William County philosophy of Leadership at All Levels.

Serving as a workgroup member provided an opportunity to develop leadership at all levels, cultivate collaborative skills amongst colleagues, and communicate across divisions and with community partners.

Through book displays and programs, PWPL demonstrated its ongoing commitment to inclusivity and librarians expanded their reach as approachable experts. Popular displays and programs included:

- Adaptive story times.
- Building Buddies program.
- Different Dream Parenting program.
- Immigrant Voices in Fiction book display.
- Neurodiversity display.

Adapting to a new situation, librarians connected with patrons staying at home during the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual programs designed to educate, engage, and ease the burden of staying home. Some of these programs, such as Bookish Beverages and Dastardly Drinks, Spa and Home, Kitchen Secrets, and workout programs, became so popular that PWPL continued to offer them virtually even after the return of in-person programming.

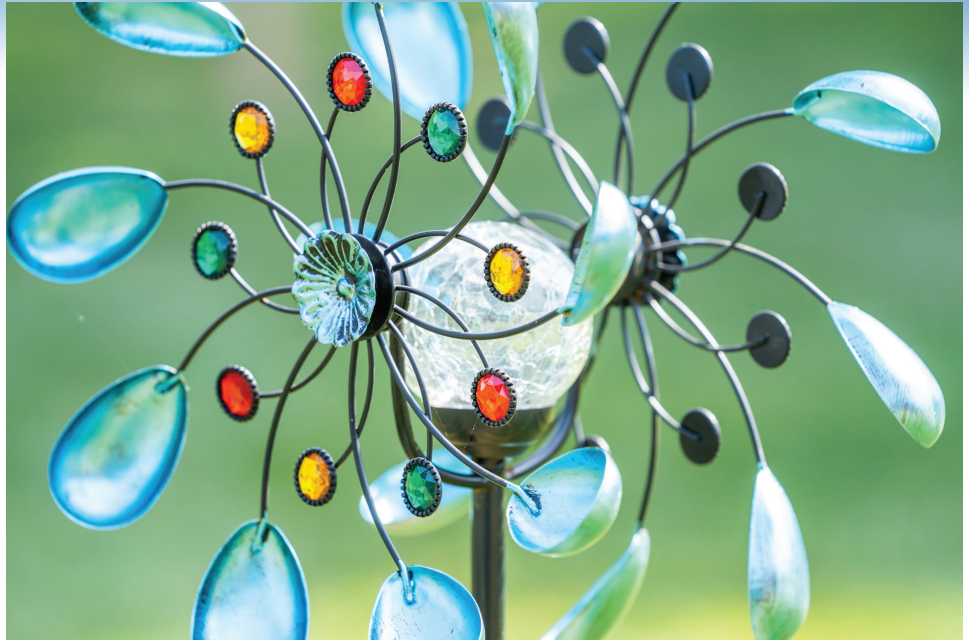


VERSATILE, INVITING SPACES

Central Green and Story Trail

PWPL opened Central Green, a first-of-its-kind outdoor library space for hands-on environmental education, programs, and more. Patrons can enjoy a pollinator garden, weather station, windmill, story trail, and outdoor seating.

PWPL's first permanent Story Trail behind Independent Hill Library takes patrons through 16 stations around a one-mile loop. The trail is a product of exemplary community collaboration between PWPL, Prince William County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Keep Prince William Beautiful, and Eagle Scouts Troop 35 Dumfries.



Library Renovations

New furniture, more seating for patrons, and open, flexible, welcoming, and more functional spaces were introduced to Dale City and Chinn Park Libraries, and a major renovation began at Bull Run Library.



Welcome to the STORY TRAIL!

Follow the story through 16 stations around the one-mile loop. The stories will change with each season, so come back soon to experience a new story.



COMMUNITY-RESPONSIVE ENRICHMENT



Increased Variety

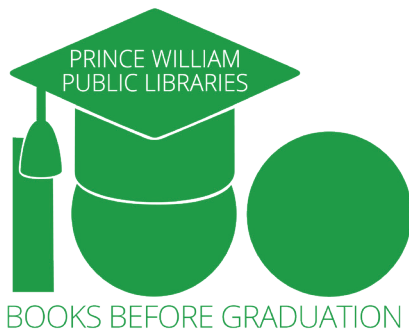
PWPL increased the variety of programs to appeal to broader audiences.

Makerspaces and pollinator gardens brought the community together. In June 2022, the Facebook post about the equipment delivery to the new Makerspace at Bull Run Library yielded 194 Likes, 37 Comments, and 43 Shares. The pollinator gardens at six branches are the results of a community-wide collaborative effort of librarians, Prince William Master Gardeners, multiple Prince William County Government agencies, Freestate Farms, Friends of Library groups, Eagle Scouts, volunteers, and library patrons and friends. Outdoor programs utilizing these new spaces quickly became some of the most popular PWPL programs.

Increased Diversity

Responding to the increasing diversity

of Prince William County, PWPL offered Korean, Russian, and Spanish Story Times for children and English conversation classes for adults.



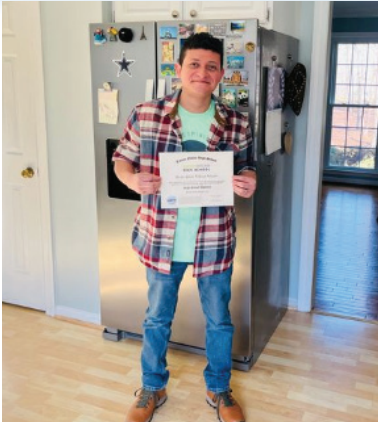
To engage more young adults, PWPL opened a Gaming Lounge at Montclair Library. The 100 Books Before College program was renamed to 100 Books Before Graduation to be more inclusive to students who may not attend college upon graduation.



All Ages

LIFELONG LEARNING

Career Online High School



PWPL started to offer scholarships for Career Online High School (COHS) in FY2021, and in FY2022, the program had its first three graduates. Their responses clearly demonstrate this program's impact on people's lives and the importance of public libraries offering this lifelong learning opportunity.

Jhonys received a scholarship from PWPL to attend COHS, and he just received his diploma and Certificate of Completion for COHS's Career Readiness Program.

Jhonys came on foot, by land, to the United States from El Salvador when he was 14 years old. He was fleeing for his life due to a family conflict. He does not yet have residency in the U.S. because no one thought to file for asylum for him as a minor. He studied at Freedom High School for a while, but he had to drop out to start working full-time when he was 15.

Jhonys and his wife shared that they are both so grateful for the opportunity. He never thought he would have the privilege of getting a diploma! Now he has started applying to NVCC and looks forward to doing more meaningful work.

Workforce Series, Smart Money Series, and Supporting Remote Workers Series

PWPL enhanced its lifelong learning programs, including new topics like Build a Compelling Resume, Kickstart Your Job Search, Career Transitions, and Take the Work out of Networking. In addition to career development, other programs focused on skills related to Health and Wellness, The Ins and Outs of Purchasing a Home, How to Boost Your Credit Score, and Retirement Planning.

Learning Circle

Although designed as an in-person, small-group supportive learning initiative, this program has proven its importance and impact during the pandemic and as a virtual program. A group of learners expanded their knowledge and skills in Learning Circle focused on Health Matters for Non-Native Speakers, learning how to schedule a doctor's appointment, visit the doctor's office and describe pain and symptoms, and the importance of knowing and tracking their health history. One of the participants was happy to learn new vocabulary for visiting the dentist because she could now understand without the help of her husband.

LearningExpress Library

Lawrence stopped by Montclair Library to let Senior Librarian Lena know that he passed his ASVAB test with a 93 out of 99, thanks to LearningExpress Library, a database for test preparation available through PWPL's Digital Library.

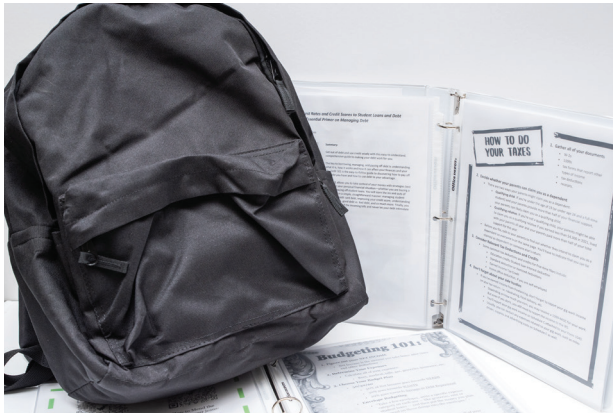
Lawrence came to thank Lena and to show a friend how to use library resources to pass his exam with flying colors.



PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL MEDIA COLLECTION

Foreign Materials Added to Collection

PWPL enhanced the collection of foreign language periodicals for the community, such as People en Español, Hola, and Akhbar-e-Jehan magazines.



Special Items

Responding to community demand, PWPL purchased more American Dolls and Wonderbooks in Spanish.

In addition, PWPL added:

- Adulting 101 backpacks and book boxes.
- Early Literacy Kits.
- "I Love Virginia State Parks" Backpacks.
- SAD Lamps.

Tumblebooks

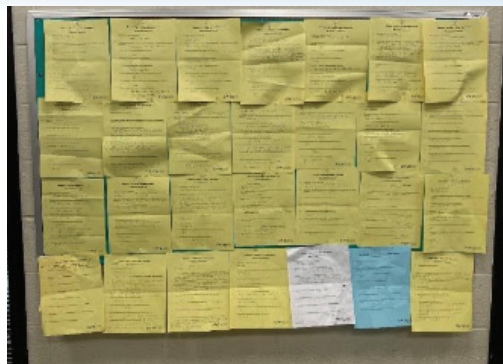
PWPL added "TumbleBookLibrary," a new Digital Library Resource. TumbleBookLibrary has over 1,000 animated, talking picture books, read-along capture books, and more for grades K–6. PWPL can now share access to TumbleBookLibrary with Prince William Schools and Manassas City Schools.

Launchpads and Vox Books

PWPL made significant acquisitions of a large number of titles in two popular formats—Launchpads, the child-friendly tablet devices, and the read-along "Vox Books," including many bilingual English and Spanish titles.

A screenshot of the TumbleBookLibrary website. The header features the TumbleBookLibrary logo on the left, the Prince William Public Libraries logo in the center, and a language selection dropdown set to "English" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for HOME, INDEX, FAVORITES, PLAYLIST, COMMON CORE, HOW TO TUMBLE, HELP, CONTACT US, TUMBLE MATH, and NEWSLETTER. A secondary navigation bar lists content types: Story Books, Read-Alongs, eBooks, Graphic Novels, Non Fiction, Videos, Language Learning, Playlists, and Puzzles and more. The main content area displays two rows of book covers. The first row is titled "New Books!" and includes covers for "BUFFALO WILDY", "DEAR BAOBAB", "Thunderstorms Work Scaries", "A SKUNK IN THE HONKLETON", "Dreams of Hope", and "A TRIP TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD". The second row is titled "Celebrating the Black Identity" and includes covers for "Oscar", "MOM ZOLA", "I AM SCOT", "Love is", "MAD ABOUT CRIMINALS", "When We Are Kind", and "A Little Miss Lou".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARDS



Public feedback on the Potomac Master Plan was posted for staff to read in the break room.

Community Engagement

The thank you notes, feedback, social media comments, and other messages from the public demonstrate the value of the library and the impact that library services have on people's lives. Awards from professional organizations provide further recognition of PWPL's work, vision, and mission, and the expertise of PWPL staff.



Aaron saw a staff member outside the library and asked about how to get a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. He came into the library and got his first library card since high school, along with a hotspot.

Awards

In FY2022, PWPL was awarded:

Urban Libraries Council 2021 Top Innovator Award in Wellness, Safety, and Sustainability category for PWPL's "Resilient and Responsible Communities" program series.

Two Hermes Creative Awards: Gold Award for Strategic Marketing Campaign, "PWPL Brand Drives the Miles," and Honorable Mention for Electronic Media/Social Media/YouTube Video, "PWPL's Wi-Fi Has Left the Building!"

American Library Association's PR Xchange Award for "PWPL's Wi-Fi Has Left the Building!" YouTube video in the category of "Material Promoting Collections, Services, and Resources."



FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION



Friends help Prince William Public Libraries:

- Fund programs.
- Purchase equipment and supplies.
- Offer incentives to program participants.
- Build community relationships.



Prince William Public Libraries has seven Friends groups:



Friends raise money through:



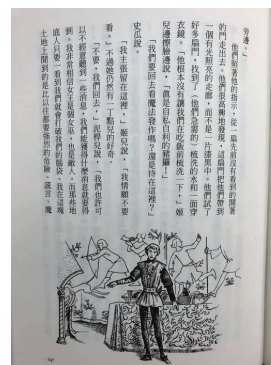
Friends of the Libraries

PWPL has seven Friends groups that are committed to providing support to their designated library and five smaller libraries. Friends groups help fund library programs, furniture, and much more. To mention only a few examples, in FY2022, Chinn Park Library opened a dedicated area for young adults Teen Space and Haymarket Gainesville Library built a community garden thanks to the support from their Friends groups.

Feedback from a Patron:

"Happiness is finding a book at the Prince

William Public Libraries used book sale in a language that's tough to find for some students we serve. Thanks, Friends of Library!"—Unity Braxton Middle School

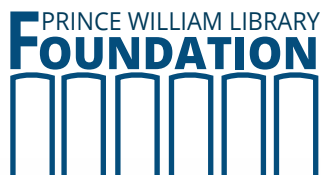


The Prince William Library Foundation

The Prince William Library Foundation was selected as the 2022 Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Award recipient from the Prince William Chamber of Commerce.

Grants and Sponsorships

In FY2022, Prince William Library Foundation was awarded 18 grants with a total value of more than \$37,000 and secured sponsorships of over \$25,000.



FY2022 BY THE NUMBERS



Resident Usage



2,304,507	Circulation (Print and Digital)
1,857,630	Library Visits
3,219	Programs Offered
160,621	Program Attendance
317,564	Number of Registered Patrons
452,710	Information Requests
94,659	Wi-Fi Users
232	Outreach Events and Partnerships
3,785	People Reached at Events



Funding Sources

Revenue from Other Localities	\$1,136,378
Misc. Revenue	\$2,648
Charges for Services	\$181,243
Revenue from Commonwealth	\$299,574
Total Revenue	\$1,619,844
Total Expenditures	\$19,162,562





PRINCE WILLIAM
Public Libraries