

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





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A Message from the System Administrator



Identifying & Addressing Microaggressions presentation
Staff Development Day 2022

Every year, we release an annual report to summarize the challenges and achievements our libraries have experienced throughout the year. And while you will find many such accomplishments in this year's edition, we cannot fully encapsulate all of the gains and developments from our libraries this past year in just a few pages.

We started 2022 with a long-awaited celebration of our annual library awards. Though we were not ready to resume the event in person, we held a virtual celebration in February to honor the winners and nominations of the previous two years. It was our privilege to recognize and honor some of the outstanding individuals who helped serve our community during the height of the pandemic.

The library system later concluded a 12-month celebration of our 35th anniversary year which first began in the summer of 2021. We were pleased to receive a proclamation from the county commissioners and a delegation citation sponsored by four Pennsylvania senators, commending Berks County Public Libraries on the system's triumphs over the past three-and-a-half decades.

Efforts for our celebratory year culminated in the launch of a new collection: the Library of Things. A first for Berks County, this collection expanded the definition of libraries to include the lending of non-traditional materials for library cardholders. From household tool kits to jumbo yard games, an automotive engine fault code reader to a Darth Vader cake pan, these tools and gadgets allowed patrons to connect with their library in a new way.

Our role as the System office is to support member libraries in providing excellent resources and services that positively impact our communities.



And in 2022, we asked patrons to share their impact stories with us. Further in this report, you'll be able to read a sampling of Library Stories and the positive effect our libraries leave behind.

While there are many notable successes from 2022, there are still more exciting possibilities to be had in 2023 and beyond. Just as libraries have transitioned in years past to provide transformative services to their patrons, so too will they continue to evolve for the betterment of those they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy C. Resh".

Amy C. Resh,
System Administrator
Berks County Public Libraries

About Us

The Berks County Public Libraries (BCPL) System is a department of the County of Berks and serves 428,849 county residents across 866 square miles and 72 municipalities. Through the support of the Berks County commissioners, the Library System staff aids in strengthening the Berks County community by providing centralized support for the 19 full-service, member libraries and four branches. A seven member at-large Advisory Board, appointed by the Board of Commissioners, works in collaboration with member libraries to promote life-long learning and community engagement through resource collections, technology and programming.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this federated system is to meet the ever-changing needs of the people of Berks County and provide consistent, high-quality, countywide benefits to member libraries through development, coordination and promotion of public library services. Operating as a department of county government and in cooperation with the Reading District Library Center, the System provides leadership and technical assistance for improvement of library services through strengthening of the System's libraries and library resources.

LIBRARY SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD

Virginia Hand, President
Helen Sheimo Flynn, Vice President
Debbie Noel, Ed.D., Secretary/Treasurer
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LIBRARY STORIES

Library Stories is a community survey where we asked patrons what the library means to them. The purpose of this project is to share the importance of libraries and how they have influenced and transformed the lives of those who use them.

Offering a sense of community, connection and belonging, serving as a local source to free Internet access, and helping voracious readers save thousands every year—Berks County residents have benefited from their local library in a variety of ways.

“ I also love saving money instead of always purchasing books.

Last year when we couldn't be in person at the library and I was teaching my children from home, the staff would gather a variety of books based on the themes I was teaching.

They went above and beyond to support our learning from home...

I will forever be grateful for their suggestions and guidance.”

— Emalee, Brandywine Library

“ The library provides endless resources, materials and information to fulfill any need. It is a source that acts as a community hub and has **saved me tens of thousands of dollars over the years** through the ability to borrow resources and materials for free.”

— Jenn, Muhlenberg Library

“ We started coming to the library when my son was about 6 months old to attend story times. After my daughter was born, we continued attending weekly story hours and checked books out to vary our reading supply. Being able to look the books up online and have them ready to pick up when we get there has been so helpful when my kids have reading assignments for books we don't own.

I can't think of a single thing that I don't absolutely love about the library.”

— Angel, Boyertown Library

“ I used to purchase physical books, but I consume them at a rate that is just so wasteful. **The library allows me to get as many books as I want, as often as I want with no financial burden whatsoever.**”

— Kate, Fleetwood Library

“ We've moved six times since 2000. Along with church, the library provides a sense of stability across the miles. In a new area where we need GPS to get to the grocery store, having a sense of the geography of a space goes a long way to making you feel settled.

In my life, the library has always been a good place. **It seems part of who I am.**”

— Sarah, Bernville Library

“ **My neighbor was house bound and needed to send a fax.** I was able to send it for her from the Mifflin Community Library.”

— Maureen, Mifflin Library



Gina's Story

Patron of Schuylkill Valley Community Library

Gina and her family have been active library users for quite some time, attending programs, borrowing homeschool materials, and utilizing the Schuylkill Valley Community Library's assorted collection of books and games.

On more than one occasion, Gina turned to the library for help when issues arose that prevented her from connecting to her job online.

"I was working full time as an Administrative Assistant," says Gina. "I had a project that day for work that needed to be done. My Internet company was working on maintenance and had shut down my Internet without notice."

As a regular library visitor, Gina immediately thought of her library who offered free Internet connection and private, quiet workspaces that would allow her to plug in her laptop and work with some privacy.

"Not being able to connect to the Internet would have been a big issue," she notes. "I know my boss would not have been happy, especially with this situation with this deadline. I had no flexibility to move it to a later time, and it would take the majority of the day to complete it."

"When you work completely virtually, your company/clients expect you to be able to get the job done and are counting on you. So, without Internet I would not be able to do my job."

Gina appreciates what her library has been able to offer, especially over these last few years. From grab-and-go craft packs to the support shown by library staff, the library has been a blessing for Gina and her family.

"I don't know what we would do without our local library! Especially during the pandemic," Gina says.

Photo of Gina's son
at a homeschool lab program.

Photo taken by Gina

LIBRARY OF

THINGS



In summer of 2022, Berks libraries took a step forward in redefining the perception of libraries as a place for just books. Joining other libraries across the nation, they developed a new collection to help provide patrons with access to items—things—that are not easily accessible or infrequently used. The Library of Things was established, allowing anyone with a Berks County Public Libraries (BCPL) card to borrow from a collection of non-traditional materials including gadgets, tools, games, kits, electronics, and other “things.”

Over the years, libraries across the nation have implemented their own Library of Things collections; however, this was the first time such a collection was made available to Berks County Public Libraries cardholders.

Each library curated a local collection based on community need and housed items at their library for any other BCPL patron to borrow.

The collection’s primary benefit is its variety of expensive, specialty, or otherwise seldom-used items that patrons may borrow without the financial commitment. Just as someone would use their library to borrow a book rather than purchase it themselves, this collection allows patrons to try a new hobby or utilize an occasional tool without needing to purchase the item on their own.



Kodak film and slide scanner.

Borrow – Don't Buy!

In addition to the financial savings to library patrons, the collection simultaneously lowers the community's carbon footprint by reducing individual consumption and waste, and by extension, lessening the manufacturing and transport emissions associated with those items.

The collection continued to grow throughout the year, expanding to include 338 individual items. As patron awareness of these new and unique offerings grew, they began to connect with their library in new ways, borrowing 707 "things" from the Library of Things collection in 2022.

"We're thrilled to offer tools, equipment, and other unique accessories for patrons to utilize as they need," said Amy Resh, system administrator for Berks County Public Libraries. "How many times have you purchased something to only use it on one or two occasions? This collection serves to fulfill those short-term wants and needs by providing free access to a variety of items without the financial or environmental waste associated with one-off usage."

One Mifflin Community Library patron happened upon the library's leather punch tool as she went to return another "thing", the Darth Vader cake pan. She immediately grabbed it off the shelf to take home and fix her husband's belt.

Another patron was visiting the Exeter Community Library one day when she spotted their regulation cornhole kit on the shelf. She quickly checked out the kit for some outdoor, summer entertainment.

Due to the unique nature of the collection and the occasional large size of a particular "thing", library patrons are required to pick up and drop off each item at the owning library. The library delivery service, while helpful in transporting traditional materials between libraries, is unsuited for delivering items such as a pressure washer or a pop-up canopy.

Even though Library of Things materials have a pick-up and drop-off requirement, all items may be borrowed by anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Berks County with a BCPL card.

While libraries continue to adapt and transform to better serve their communities, their purpose remains the same: to supply free and open access to a broad range of materials and services. The Library of Things collection is just one extension of library service, providing another accessible resource to Berks County residents.

The collection will continue to evolve with new additions added in the future.

Library patrons can explore the full Library of Things collection by going online to www.berkslibraries.org/library-of-things



Quest 2 virtual reality headset.



Bird watching kit

Library of Things collection includes:

- Portable DVD Drive
- Science microscope
- Crochet hooks and knitting needle sets
- Happy Birthday yard signs
- Jumbo Connect 4 yard game
- Automotive engine fault code reader
- Cordless drill/driver kit
- Ukulele starter kit
- Jewelry making kit
- Projector screen and stand
- Cricut EasyPress
- P-handle hand truck
- Ice cream maker
- Portable telescope kit
- Karaoke speaker
- Dungeons & Dragons starter set
- Stud finder wall scanner
- Podcast starter set



BERNVILLE AREA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

Bernville Area Community Library is a vital public resource that serves to connect people of all ages to all forms of knowledge (books, movies, music) and to programs that not only educate but also inform, entertain and enrich. The library is committed to being a welcoming and safe environment for everyone. Well-informed and unbiased staff with a strong commitment to intellectual freedom and range of opinion offer helpful services to patrons of all ages. As a hub in the community, it provides an atmosphere that allows for lifelong learning.

Year in Review

2022 was a successful year!

We were excited to have our programming back at the library and in person. We offered Mother Goose on the Loose for infants, Toddler Storytime, and Preschool Storytime in addition to the monthly programs of Lego Club, Anime Club, and Read to the Therapy Dog. We also launched a monthly Book Club for Adults and an Adult Anime Club.

We had a successful Summer Quest offering programs for all ages with our biggest success centered on getting teens more involved. They attended Summer Quest programs, and through that a connection was made. Our teens were equally excited to plan and participate in The Haunted Library on Halloween night as they created life size books and represented

characters from those books. This event turned into a fundraiser to help raise funds for the renovation of a new Teen Lounge within the library. Additionally, our teen group held a Teen Arts & Crafts Fair in November to showcase their talents and make a little money for themselves. We also hosted a visit from Santa in December as he shared cookies and milk with the children. They listened to Santa read stories and participated in activity stations.

We were pleased to be able to continue our Community Outreach with our local daycare/preschool and had two successful Book Sales and a Basket Raffle at Bernville Community Day.

We would like to thank our municipalities for their contributions this year as they helped us continue to serve our community. We look forward to a successful year of serving our patrons and our community.

Debe Donley, Director/Children's Librarian
Bernville Area Community Library



The Haunted Library fundraising event.



BERNVILLE AREA
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

6721 Bernville Road, Bernville, PA 19506
610-488-1302 | backstaff@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/bernvill

Total Circulation	33,597
Collection Size	22,288
Registered Borrowers	1,112
Service Area Population	5,396
Patron Visits	15,448
Number of Programs	175
Program Attendance	2,349



BETHEL-TULPEHOCKEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library brings people, information and resources together to enrich lives, advance knowledge, and strengthen the community.

Year in Review

In 2022 we continued to expand our program offerings. Betsy held our first ever Touch-A-Truck event in April with over 300 attendees and began monthly STEM Club, Craft Club, and Homeschool Hangouts. We also started a Knitting Circle and began hosting monthly Painting Parties. Kellee added to her health and wellness offerings with a Kombucha Class and “I’m That Girl” Book Club.

We also kept hosting many of our favorite programs. Kellee held Time Management, Trim Healthy Mama, and Intro to Homeschool Classes. I had the opportunity to teach a Bestsellers & Baked Goods class, where we discuss more than 60 new releases each month. Betsy’s storytimes were a big hit, her ocean-themed summer events were tons of fun, her Gingerbread House and Grinch holiday parties boasted roughly 100 attendees each, and her Teen Club and Pizza & Pages events continue to bring teens and tweens to the library.

Judy Emerich, our Circulation Supervisor, celebrated 10 years at our library. Judy is one of our best-known faces and is such a gift to our community. She oversees new materials processing, collection maintenance, patron requests, and makes sure all our visitors get what they need quickly.

Finally, we are excited to share that the renovation and expansion of our library will start in March 2023. Construction will begin with an addition to the back of the building and progress to renovation of the existing building in late summer. In early 2024, we will have an 8,000 square foot, modern, efficient space, where you can sit down to read or work, and where you don’t have to walk through the bathrooms to get to events!

Thank you for sticking with us and helping make 2022 a success. Here’s to more great things – and more space – in our future.

Kaitlin Lehman, Director
Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library



Left to right, top row: Kellee, Judy, Daphne, Trish, Kaitlin, Betsy. Bottom row: Kaylin, Bethany, Katie.



8601 Lancaster Avenue, Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-4060 | bethelp@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/bethel-tulpehocken

Total Circulation.....	105,342
Collection Size	28,074
Registered Borrowers.....	1,666
Service Area Population.....	7,474
Patron Visits	21,839
Number of Programs	171
Program Attendance.....	4,614



BOONE AREA LIBRARY

Mission Statement

Boone Area Library’s mission is to provide a wide variety of materials and events which reflect the culture of our community. We serve to entertain, educate, and inspire life-long learning relevant to all. Our vision is to be a community dedicated to enriching the lives of all by bringing people, information, and ideas together.

Year in Review

2022 was a year full of fun and exciting new things. We greatly expanded on our programs for all ages. There were Escape Rooms and Trivia Nights for Adults and Teens. We built a connection with French Creek State Park who came out multiple times to teach children about different animals and preserving nature. We also built closer connections with our local school district by starting a program Stories With Teachers. It was a great opportunity for children to see their past and future teachers over Summer Break. The schools have also worked with us with promoting the library to students by showing all that we offer.

This year we were able to expand on our fundraising opportunities. Our annual Duck Derby held at the park is always a community favorite. We sold over 1,100 duck tickets. Families gathered in the park to spend the day walking around the Farmers Market that we teamed up with and waited to see if their duck would be the lucky winner. We brought back our Wine Pull, which was always a patron

favorite, as well as our Holiday Breakfast where Santa made a special appearance to take pictures with the children.

One of our goals for this year was to improve our building. We were able to give our community room a fresh coat of paint and we repaired parts of our broken HVAC system.

Ashley Cole, Director
Boone Area Library



Youth Services Coordinator, Sarah Terry, at an outreach program at the Primary Center.



129 N. Mill Street, Birdsboro, PA 19508
610-582-5666 | boone@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/boone

Total Circulation	55,960
Collection Size	30,672
Registered Borrowers	1,970
Service Area Population	22,388
Patron Visits	24,629
Number of Programs	243
Program Attendance	5,461



BOYERTOWN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Boyertown Community Library will serve the community's diverse needs by providing current informational, educational, and recreational resources. The library will be a safe, comfortable, and welcoming space where people learn and discover, explore their passions, and find resources that contribute to a full life.

Year in Review

2022 was a year of progress and change for our library. When long serving director, Susan Lopez, resigned her position at the start of the year, little did I realize that I would be named as her successor. I joined the library the previous year as the youth librarian, but brought with me a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment that we needed to build upon the tradition of community service of our former directors.

Throughout the year, our dedicated and knowledgeable staff kept pace with leadership changes in the library and the episodic loss of our air conditioning system throughout the summer. (Needed replacement parts were not available for several long months.)

We received grants from Boyertown Community Center, Inc. Fund of Berks County Community Foundation and United Way of Berks County to support most of our programs for youth and adults. Our staff has seen many changes, but we are striving to continue to welcome all of our patrons and serve them with integrity.

The efforts and enthusiasm of our dedicated volunteers found in the

Friends of the Boyertown Library brought back the monthly library book sales. This cherished community event is a mighty effort undertaken each month involving the movement of at least a ton or two of tables, books, music, movies and puzzles to present an attractive browsing opportunity for our faithful followers and seekers of great values.

The library board undertook a significant review of long range plans for the library. In conjunction with input from myself and the staff, the board is moving forward with planning to expand usable space and to create a more comfortable environment for our patrons.

We now have a Library of Things, materials of items, such as a pickle ball set and a light table, you can try out without cost. We are now fine free, so there are no more late fees on our materials. So, you may see some new faces, but we will be ready to help you when you visit us!!

Denise Pulgino Stout, Director
Boyertown Community Library



The fall basket raffle featured over 150 baskets as part of the library fundraiser.



24 N. Reading Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-0496 | boyertowncl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/boyertown

Total Circulation.....	178,495
Collection Size.....	38,808
Registered Borrowers.....	6,220
Service Area Population.....	16,143
Patron Visits.....	64,549
Number of Programs.....	236
Program Attendance.....	3,102



BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Brandywine Community Library’s Mission is to encourage learning by providing free and equal access to information, technology, resources and services, be a gathering place for the community, and promote the love of reading.

Year in Review

The Brandywine Community Library is proud of what we have accomplished in 2022. We added a plant sharing station and launched the Library of Things where patrons may borrow various objects such as equipment, tools, and craft items. We expanded our board game collection to include over 90 games and started new programs like Don’t Read This Book Club, Tuesday Morning Conversation Crew, and Pokémon Club.

Our summer programming was extremely popular, with 114 programs offered to our community in eight weeks. One of our patrons expressed their appreciation of this, saying “I appreciate all of the options- no matter how busy we were, when we had some time there was a program we could go to.”

The summer program included 237 children and 30 teens. Eighty-four of those youth met or exceeded their reading goal and 10 youth read over 5,000 minutes each. The most impressive aspect of the program was Oceightvius, the octopus that grew paper-link tentacles across the library to show the amount of books and

minutes read. At the conclusion of the program Oceightvius had 12,212 links signifying 4,101 picture books and 162,232 minutes read. The links were then given to children as a visual representation based on how much they read and recorded during the summer.

We saw an increase in participation in our homeschool group as well as our tween/teen programs. Our homeschool group grew so much in 2022 we had to offer two days of activities in order to split up the group. Teentober was a hit with tweens and teens earning raffle tickets for attending events and checking out materials. They enjoyed the weekly activities so much they asked to meet more often resulting in the addition of TnT Hangout on Monday nights.

We are proud of all of our community partnerships but were excited to begin new collaborations this year with the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra and Opportunity House.

It was an exciting year and we look forward to new opportunities in 2023!

Heather Wicke, Director
Brandywine Community Library



Attendees of the TnT (Tweens and Teens) Game Night



60 Tower Drive, Tipton, PA 19562
610-682-7115 | brandywinecl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/brandywine

Total Circulation.....	62,171
Collection Size	29,589
Registered Borrowers.....	1,534
Service Area Population.....	12,632
Patron Visits	26,741
Number of Programs	263
Program Attendance.....	5,116



EXETER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Exeter Community Library is to provide an interactive, community-centered space in which to share resources that enhance the cultural, social, and intellectual lives of its diverse population.

Year in Review

257,722. That is how many books, movies, e-books, e-audio, magazines, and more, that you, our patrons, checked out from our library this year!

We have worked extremely hard to provide patrons with the items you want and need along with programs for all ages as we get our library back to its pre-COVID state. We increased our circulation by 41% and have been seeing phenomenal increases in program attendance, holding over 140 programs for adults alone.

In July, we received an ARP Grant from Berks County to begin building an outdoor theater on the library grounds. This project was originally a “pie-in-the-sky” dream for us and we are grateful to our many donors and the township for making this a reality for our community. By November, the project was finished and we are planning a grand opening celebration, entitled “Library Day” on May 13, 2023.

Our beloved library matriarch, Sandy Hanson, passed away in mid-September. Sandy was a longtime member and past-president of our

Friends of the Exeter Community Library. From the moment this library was in existence, she was here. Our Friends group is still a vital part of our library, continuing to honor Sandy’s legacy by sponsoring and volunteering at many of our programs.

This summer, we had the pleasure of getting to work with a graphic design intern from Kutztown University, who has also been our library patron since childhood. Robert re-designed our “brand” and designed posters, flyers and brochures with a fresh, contemporary look.

We also added two amazing patrons to our board this year. Welcome to Chris Sperat, a kindergarten teacher in Pottstown, and Laura Biancone, a volunteer coordinator for CASA of Berks County.

Our informal motto, “More Than Books” has never been more true than it is today. We have expanded our Library of Things collection which includes family games, a digital film scanner, and even a Check Engine Light Code Reader. With the addition of our outside theater

and our permanent StoryWalk, the Exeter Community Library is a thriving and essential part of this community.

Mallory Hoffman, Executive Director
Exeter Community Library



Sandy Hanson reading *The Great Dragon Rescue*.



4569 Prestwick Drive, Reading, PA 19606
610-406-9431 | exetercl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/exeter

Total Circulation.....	257,722
Collection Size	54,284
Registered Borrowers.....	7,202
Service Area Population.....	27,358
Patron Visits	93,327
Number of Programs	336
Program Attendance.....	6,308



FLEETWOOD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Fleetwood Area Public Library serves the Fleetwood Borough, Maidencreek Township, and Richmond Township communities. Our mission is to drive the Fleetwood Area forward by providing equal access to quality resources and technology, encouraging an early and lifelong commitment to learning, and strengthening our community by providing and connecting patrons to quality programs and services.

Year in Review

The Fleetwood Area Public Library (FAPL) has been in our new space on the first floor of the Community Center for 2 years now and our patrons love the new environment. We took on a new director in October and are all adjusting. There were many successes in 2022 we are proud of.

We have continued expanding our programs in 2022. Our meeting spaces have continued to be used by the community as well as library programs on a weekly basis. We continue to run our Preschool Play program, Teen Hangout, Family nights and a new adult Art Club. All of these programs are met with great response and we look forward to extending some of these in the future.

During summer of 2022 our partnership with the Fleetwood Borough continued and “Tigers in the P.A.R.K.” had a very successful year. Twice a week we provided stories and stations for families to explore in our local parks. On the third day we met at a different location in our area to showcase a business or other local attraction. We

had over 1,000 people attend our summer program. It continues to be one of our most popular events. The best part of Tigers in the P.A.R.K. is the entire program brought in cooperation from over a dozen organizations and businesses. Our “Tigers in the P.A.R.K.” program won the Best Practices Honorable Mention award from the Pennsylvania Library Association for 2022.

As the 2022-2023 school year began we continued to offer our Satellite programs to our local preschools and to the schools in the Fleetwood Area School District. Teachers request books on their special school card and every Wednesday books and materials are delivered to the school and old materials are brought back. We also assisted with the High School Book Club and helped supply them with copies of their monthly read.

Jennifer Schwegler, Director
Fleetwood Area Public Library



Ms. Stacy, FAPL's Youth Services Coordinator, introducing one of our many Tigers in the P.A.R.K. presenters at the Fleetwood Park.

Total Circulation.....	73,129
Collection Size	25,119
Registered Borrowers.....	1,726
Service Area Population.....	16,821
Patron Visits	31,061
Number of Programs	329
Program Attendance.....	6,235



110 W. Arch Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522
610-944-0146 | fleetwoodapl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/fleetwood



HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Hamburg Public Library provides services and programs to our community to encourage coming together, forming connections, engaging in lifelong learning, and finding inspiration. We believe in honoring yesterday, embracing today, and inspiring tomorrow.

as well as a Library of Things including a thermal leak detector, telescope, voltage tester, and more. We also partnered with Hamburg Borough and Bike Schuylkill to loan bikes for a free community bike share program, which will make the Schuylkill River Trail accessible to new people in the community.

Year in Review

In 2022, the Hamburg Public Library celebrated its 118th anniversary of continuous service to the Hamburg area. We are looking forward to the next 118 years!

The library had many successes in 2022. This year was the Hamburg Public Library's biggest summer learning program to date. We had almost 270 children participate in the program! We also introduced our monthly spice club. Every month patrons could pick up a spice kit, which included a sample of a different spice from around the world, the history of that spice, recipes, and cookbook suggestions. Other programs that were provided include adult craft take-home kits, children's educational and craft activities, a chance to interact with a live bee colony, and a murder mystery book club. We are excited to continue adding more dynamic programs in 2023.



The community all abuzz at the library with a visit from a live bee colony.

The Hamburg Public Library also began introducing new collections for our patrons to check out. This included puzzles and board games,

As if this wasn't exciting enough, 2022 marked the beginning of our library expansion project, where we will increase the amount of usable space the library offers the community and most importantly, make our library accessible to all members of our community. We are looking forward to our new addition, which will highlight the historic structure we already have while adding the changes necessary for a busy modern library.

Chelsea Williams, Director
Hamburg Public Library



35 N. Third Street, Hamburg, PA 19526
610-369-0496 | hamburgpl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/hamburg

Total Circulation	69,431
Collection Size	19,313
Registered Borrowers	2,060
Service Area Population	16,299
Patron Visits	34,369
Number of Programs	40
Program Attendance	1,317



KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Kutztown Community Library is a gathering place for minds of all ages to connect with the world and each other through our services and programs.

Year in Review

In 2022, the Kutztown Community Library offered opportunities to learn and expand the hearts and minds of our community. Our yearlong humanity series “Beyond Kutztown” explored the diversity found in and beyond our borders and was funded by an American Rescue Plan Grant. As the area becomes increasingly varied, we filled the need to expand understanding of different cultures, races, and religions to improve how underrepresented groups are treated.

Each month we incorporated a variety of activities, from knowledgeable speakers to gain perspective, book discussions to share thoughts, crafts to emphasize the topics, and the StoryWalk to promote literacy.

Highlights of the year included a fascinating discussion about the discovery of a long-lost Rodin sculpture in New Jersey town hall. A riveting talk with a holocaust survivor had a participant say, “hearing about the experience directly from a survivor shines a different light on the learning.” A teacher based foundation led a discussion about being a Muslim in America brought new understanding. Finally, our happiest moment was launching our StoryWalk in the Kutztown Park.

A patron summed up the year with “What a joy it has been for my son and daughter to learn more about other cultures and people that are different from themselves. We absolutely loved it.”

The “Beyond Kutztown” series has created a stronger sense of community, a continuing legacy, and unforgettable library experiences.



Young readers enjoy our StoryWalk.

Did you know?

- If everyone who attended our programs stood hand-to-hand, we would reach from Kutztown to Kempton.
- The library was open over 46 hours per week. That is 2,404 hours in 2022.
- If 98,000 items check out were laid end to end, it would reach 15 ½ miles!

Janet Yost, Director
Kutztown Community Library

Total Circulation.....	99,163
Collection Size	29,523
Registered Borrowers.....	2,896
Service Area Population.....	16,870
Patron Visits	41,508
Number of Programs	263
Program Attendance.....	5,648



70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown, PA 19530
610-683-5820 | kutztownpl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/kutztown



MIFFLIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Mifflin Community Library is to create and promote free and equal access to knowledge for our community through dynamic media, technology and programming in a safe, welcoming environment.

Year in Review

2022 started off strong with a full return to in-house programming. Although grateful to operate virtually, we are very happy to see so many friendly faces returning through our doors. Programming for children and youth has been as busy as ever with four Story Times running weekly, as well as Spanish Story Time, Family Yoga, Dungeons & Dragons, visits from local authors and therapy dogs. Adult programs include our Knitting, Pinochle, Writing Club and a very successful Concert in the Park Series!

Our collection has evolved, with items being added on nearly every shelf in the Children’s Wing and Adult Sections. This year, we expanded our Spanish Section, as well as integrated New Experiences Juvenile Kits for families to help address tough topics. Kids of all ages can also benefit from our Library of Things, a collection that includes yard games, craft tools, and unique baking pans! Taking your child to the library not only builds the foundation for Early Literacy, it opens up a bridge to help them better understand themselves as well as their neighbors free of cost.

You can see firsthand the impact that the public library can play in a community. The library is a safe space, a refuge and a destination. Whether you come to us for help with a resume or printing out a photo of your grandchild, each request matters. The doors to the public library remain open to all. There is no admission, other than your own library card. It is the support of our community that enables us to continue to do the work that we do and do it with love. Our

commitment to this community connection can be seen in our reading challenge theme for next year, “A World of Opportunities!”

So come say hello the next time you’re in the neighborhood. Read, play, or sit down for a bit during your busy day. Take home a story or two with you when you do. Help us to keep stories alive and communities connected, not just for children but for all of us in 2023!

Natasha Donaldson, Director
Mifflin Community Library



Young library patrons participate in a coloring activity.

Total Circulation.....	122,524
Collection Size	35,708
Registered Borrowers.....	3,896
Service Area Population.....	27,022
Patron Visits	42,378
Number of Programs	276
Program Attendance.....	6,411



6 Philadelphia Avenue, Shillington, PA 19607
610-777-3911 | mifflincl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/mifflin



MUHLENBERG COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Muhlenberg Community Library is to promote lifelong learning opportunities by offering free Library services to all who seek to change, improve, enrich, and enjoy their lives. Our vision is to build an awareness of the Library as a center of knowledge and resources as well as a springboard for creative ideas to enrich our community. Muhlenberg Community Library will be a welcoming safe hub of knowledge, resources, programs, and activities for all citizens to make connections towards community progress.

Year in Review

The Muhlenberg Community Library began 2022 with a 'pre-COVID', business-as-usual approach by having fully open hours and in-person programs and browsing. In spite of staffing shortages and lingering COVID issues, we had an extraordinarily successful year.

Volunteer Sylvia Shaner received the Berks County Public Library System Volunteer Award for over twenty-five years of library service, and the library welcomed a new director to the team.

We hosted two amazing programs for our community funded by the Berks County Community Foundation. The library was awarded the \$1,000 Berks County Arts and Culture Ramp-Up grant back in 2021 to encourage in-person programming for 2022. The first event was a performance by accomplished Violinist Amy Fernbach followed by a violin demonstration with firsthand instruction for the audience. The second was the Literacy Luau which featured Polynesian food and performers from the Culture Shock Performing Arts Center providing interactive dance instruction.



The Literacy Luau, funded by a Berks County Community Foundation grant.

Other highlights included a variety of fun, well-attended events, and programs. Our teen community enjoyed an Anti-Valentine's Day party with food and a piñata while Summer Quest concluded with a Carnival which included prizes and games. Most notable, the library had over 250 patrons attend our Trunk or Treat fall event. In December, we hosted our Annual Holiday Open House which featured a chorus, a visit from Santa, and Conductor Dave's celebrated toy train display!

The Board of Trustees, with support from the staff, held fundraisers for the library that included our First Holiday Trail of Lights, and our Second Annual Harvest Craft Fair that took place at the Muhlenberg Township Building. Additionally, we hosted several Nellie Walter Psychic Medium Sessions, raffles, book sales, and three fundraising collaborations with local restaurants.

Moving forward into a new year, we remain dedicated to providing our community with access to the latest technology and services, quality programs for all ages, and a wide variety of the latest library materials.

Christie Brown, Director
Eileen Simms, Assistant Director
Muhlenberg Community Library

Total Circulation	64,428
Collection Size	34,626
Registered Borrowers	2,654
Service Area Population	30,026
Patron Visits	40,249
Number of Programs	244
Program Attendance	4,785



3612 Kutztown Road, Laureldale, PA 19605
610-929-0589 | muhlenbergcl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/muhlenberg



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY—MAIN

Mission Statement

The Reading Public Library will generate a library for the future by meeting the informational, educational, and recreational needs of library consumers today.

Year in Review

This was a year of expansion for RPL, as we traveled outward on the four tracks of our strategic plan: Co-designed Programs, Library Staff Reflects the Community, Intentional Partnerships, and Create Digital Opportunities.

To prepare to explore Co-designed Programs, we prioritized bringing quality “in-person” programming back to the library in full force. Due to community input, we also continued to provide digital library service through an increase of digital media and a continuation of virtual programs.

By participating in the first ever City of Reading teen internship program, we expanded our Staff who Reflect the Community. Fourteen teens worked at each library branch, gaining valuable on-the-job experience. RPL utilized a PA Humanities grant and developed an Intentional Partnership with Millersville University to create several free art workshop series that included watercolor, photography, children’s illustration, poetry, drawing, and Mojigante mask making. Our Senior Outreach program expanded from 13 to 20 locations over the year developing even more partnerships.

The library added an ImageRich version of the Reading Eagle to the digital collection, creating more Digital Opportunities for the community. Additionally, construction began for a new Dr. Jerome I.

Marcus Learning & Meeting Commons at the Northeast Branch. This project will create a meeting room that the public can reserve free for individual or group projects, virtual meetings, and discussions.

In total, the library secured over \$413,000 in grant funding for 2022 from local, state, and national organizations. This included a \$100,139 ARPA grant awarded by the City of Reading to support three programs targeted at enhancing the library’s virtual and digital offerings. While the majority of these funds will be used to digitize the PA Room, RPL’s local history collection, funds will also be used to boost the WiFi reach outside of each library location and to enhance our virtual programming.



Halloween Bash with the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra.

Other highlights for the year include the start of a Library of Things, and two amazing author events. We welcomed Dion Leonard and his sweet pup, Gobi, to the library for a presentation on their amazing true story. In addition, as a District Center in collaboration with the other libraries in the Reading District, we coordinated a presentation on Amy Sarig King’s new book and the topic of censorship.

Melissa Adams, Executive Director
Reading Public Library



100 S. Fifth St., Reading, PA 19602
610-655-6350 | rplref@reading.lib.pa.us
www.readingpubliclibrary.org

Total Circulation.....	101,384
Collection Size	195,569
Registered Borrowers.....	13,354
Service Area Population.....	95,112
Patron Visits	81,908
Number of Programs	1,904
Program Attendance.....	21,293



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY—NORTHEAST

Mission Statement

The Reading Public Library will generate a library for the future by meeting the informational, educational and recreational needs of library consumers today.

The Northeast Branch is a neighborhood library that offers opportunities to people of all ages. It is a safe gathering place. Our bilingual staff is happy to help our Spanish-speaking patrons and encourage them to utilize what we offer at our library. We provide materials and services in Spanish and English.

We are here to help everyone in both a live and virtual format, no matter the challenge of our changing circumstances.

Year in Review

The Northeast Branch focused on lifelong learning, returning to in-person programming slowly, but surely. We continued to offer on-the-go materials for both adults and children. Preschoolers returned to us for story time; school age children made the library their after-school spot once again; and adults continued to use our services on a daily basis.

We came back strong in 2022 with enriching programs and activities for children such as Robotics Club, Handfuls of History, STEM Building Hours, Family Collage nights and much more. We collaborated again with several organizations in 2022, including Million Youth Chess Club, Yocum Institute for Arts Education and Longwood Gardens for their Community Reads. Staff from Migrant Education and tutors from Penn State Berks campus came to Northeast this fall to offer homework help and tutoring for our Spanish-speaking families. We

also offered drop-in activities every day of the week for those looking for something more laid back.

We continued our virtual yoga classes and in-person ESL classes for adults, and created our own 3-month healthy eating series GoPack for adults that was incredibly popular. We also re-connected with our teen patrons with some engaging activities geared toward the teen crowd such as Teen Tabletop Gaming and a Tween Advisory Board.

During the summer, our branch was awarded a \$5,000 South of Penn grant to work in collaboration with the 11th and Pike Playground to provide weekly story times and activities to the kids there.



Dion Leonard and his dog, Gobi, at 12th and Marion Elementary school in November 2022.

We were especially excited this year to team up with Dion Leonard, the internationally best-selling author of “Finding Gobi,” at two outreach visits in Reading schools and at the Reading Main Library. Dion and his dog, Gobi, were very well received!

The Northeast Branch continued to be a place of amusement, connection and hope for the future. We look forward to 2023 and connecting in new ways with our patrons.

Rachel Constein, Branch Manager
Reading Public Library—Northeast



1348 North 11th St., Reading, PA 19604
610-655-6361 | rplne@reading.lib.pa.us
www.readingpubliclibrary.org

Total Circulation	19,071
Collection Size	24,315
Registered Borrowers	13,354*
Service Area Population	95,112*
Patron Visits	27,862

*Branch serves same population as Reading Public Library—Main.



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY—NORTHWEST

Mission Statement

The Reading Public Library will generate a library for the future by meeting the informational, educational, and recreational needs of library consumers today.

The Northwest Branch is a community center, providing access to computers, digital and print media, and other tools necessary for personal and professional growth. With our various programs, we are a place for families to come together in the midst of busy life. We seek to be a place of refuge, where generous help is provided to all who come through our doors.

At the heart of our operation is our care for our community and our desire to serve in the best possible ways.

Rob Martin, Branch Manager
Reading Public Library—Northwest

Year in Review

Each day, the local youth enjoys After School Club and Homework Help. In the safety of the library, they are able to socialize study, play a video game, or relax with a craft. With a view toward inclusivity, our programming is sensory friendly and sensory seeking, designed to provide a safe space for neuro-divergent children and their caretakers. Here families enjoy making sensory bottles, play in sensory bins, or participating in a personalized one-on-one story time. Each Wednesday the library provides a new STEAM activity. This year we introduced drones and our young patrons loved racing them along our high ceilings.

Along with children and youth programming, we continue providing practical computer assistance to patrons—creating an email account, performing an internet search, opening a Word or Excel document, and linking accounts to smart phones and tablets. Patrons may receive help in job searching, locating necessary legal documentation, and renewing automobile registrations, among other needs.

Total Circulation	5,454
Collection Size	14,018
Registered Borrowers	13,354*
Service Area Population	95,112*
Patron Visits	11,440

*Branch serves same population as Reading Public Library—Main.



901 Schuylkill Avenue, Reading, PA 19601
610-655-6360 | rplnw@reading.lib.pa.us
www.readingpubliclibrary.org



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY—SOUTHEAST

Mission Statement

The Reading Public Library will generate a library for the future by meeting the informational, educational, and recreational needs of library consumers today.

The Southeast Branch is a busy library that serves a diverse neighborhood. We strive to provide resources and services that make a positive impact on our patrons’ lives. Our bilingual staff takes pride in helping patrons accomplish their goals.

Year in Review

It was an exciting year at the Southeast Branch. We hosted a wide variety of programs and events. For adults, we offered writers’ workshops, ESL classes, Healthy Recipe Go Packs, a bilingual women’s book club, a crochet club, and painting classes. For teens, we held manga drawing lessons, book discussions, and chess tournaments. For kids, we hosted story times, children’s author events, magic, theater and science shows, a juggling workshop, an outdoor lawn party, preschool movement classes, and much more. Popular shows for all ages included PA Bat Rescue and Forgotten Friends Reptile Sanctuary.

We collaborated with many organizations in 2022, including Million Youth Chess Club, Berks County Master Gardeners, Berks Community Action Program, Yocum Institute for Arts Education, All-Abilities Fitness, and Longwood Gardens. In addition, we worked with several schools: 16th and Haak Elementary, Amanda Stout Elementary, Central Middle, and New Story Perkiomen.

In the spring, as part of the Longwood Gardens Community Read program, we planted a red oak tree in the backyard and decorated it with painted ornaments. We enjoyed watching it grow through the seasons. We held a successful plant and seed exchange in April, giving community members the opportunity to bring and take seeds, houseplants, and vegetable and herb starts. This summer, patrons and staff excitedly watched a monarch caterpillar turn into a butterfly, which we released in the backyard at the end of August!

We were excited to add an art display system to the inside walls this year. It is a wonderful addition to the library, allowing us to display works by our patrons and local artists. We held our first art show in February and since then the library walls have been filled with amazing art. In addition, we hosted an artist-in-residence for five months this year! Margaret Fortunet held weekly painting and illustration classes, working creatively with patrons of all ages.

We are proud of all that we accomplished in 2022. It is a privilege to serve the residents of Southeast Reading.

Emily McNulty, Branch Manager
Reading Public Library—Southeast



Chess at the library with the Million Youth Chess Club



1426 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading, PA 19602
610-655-6362 | rplse@reading.lib.pa.us
www.readingpubliclibrary.org

Total Circulation.....	40,394
Collection Size.....	37,473
Registered Borrowers.....	13,354*
Service Area Population.....	95,112*
Patron Visits.....	21,297

*Branch serves same population as Reading Public Library—Main.



ROBESONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Robesonia Community Library is to serve the community by providing materials and programs for patrons of all ages so that they may discover the power of information and develop the enjoyment of reading and learning both now and in the future.

Year in Review

While in 2021 the Robesonia Community Library was still adapting to COVID-19, in 2022 the library returned to how things were before the pandemic. Our programs, such as Story Time and Teen Time, were in person and held inside. We began to bring up toys for the children’s area and also turned on our Early Literacy station for kids to play on. We continued to hand-out craft packs for kids and Teen Book Drops for teens throughout the year. We also started a new collection at the library called the Library of Things, with items like a murder mystery game, a yard sign, a crochet kit, and a light box.

In the spring, we participated in the Longwood Gardens Community Read and held programs related to the Community Reads, The Songs of Trees and We Planted a Tree. Every patron who participated in our Community Read program also received a ticket voucher for Longwood Gardens. We began two monthly events in the spring, a fundraiser at Castaneda’s Mexican Restaurant and card making class, both of which continued throughout the rest of the year. We also had local author, Linda Ruth, visit the library to talk about her new book One in Ten Thousand.



The Yocum Institute performs a play during Summer Quest.

The library was very busy in the summer. We had a table set-up with games and a raffle at the Robesonia Street Fair in June. June was also the beginning of our Summer Quest, which could be done in person or online. During Summer Quest, we held our Furnace Creek study with Miss Cindy, where we visited a trout hatchery and explored in the local creek with patrons and our local playground program. Summer Quest ended in August with our Water Picnic. At our Water Picnic we provided food, crafts, water games, and at the very end, a water fight! We also ended our Summer Quest with our raffle prize drawings, many graciously donated by local businesses and patrons.

In the beginning of fall, we had a new addition to our staff, library aide Ian Keris! On Trick-or-Treat night, we handed out books and other goodies to trick-or-treaters. At the end of the year, the Robesonia Community Library decided to go fine free, starting January 2023. We ended 2022 with Holiday Movie Night and our Wish Tree!

We thank our patrons, businesses, and municipalities who supported us in 2022 and hope to provide everyone with more materials and services in 2023.

Leah Ruth, Interim Director
Robesonia Community Library



75-A South Brooke Street, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-693-3264 | robesoniac@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/robesonia

Total Circulation.....	28,993
Collection Size	21,906
Registered Borrowers.....	838
Service Area Population.....	4,986
Patron Visits	16,394
Number of Programs	183
Program Attendance.....	1,054



SCHUYLKILL VALLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

Schuylkill Valley Community Library is dedicated to providing resources and opportunities that support the literary, technological, and leisure needs of our patrons.

Year in Review

2022 was a year of change for Schuylkill Valley Community Library. With the help of the Keystone grant and the Keystone Communities grant we were able to finish building and furnishing the Virginia & Theresa Santilli Room. We were also able to complete several other updates to the library such as new carpeting, a new roof, and ADA compliant bathrooms and entrance doors.

SVCL got an updated look with new furniture and rearrangements within our space. This allowed for separate spaces for our younger children, school age children, and teens! Patrons are enjoying the changes that have been made and have given very positive feedback.

We have also seen an increased interest in regards to our programs and services. Our new room allows for more people to attend and have adequate space to work. We have seen our numbers rebounding and growing since pandemic restrictions have eased and have been able to return several of our prior programs to in person formats.

There has been lots of growth this year, especially within our cookbook club and homeschooling program. Our cookbook club has doubled in size from last year with many new people eager to create and share recipes! The homeschooling program has also expanded with many new families joining in the fun and learning.

Another change in 2022 was welcoming a new director in August. These changes have rejuvenated us and we are looking forward to what the next year brings!



The newly finished Virginia & Theresa Santilli room was part of the library's recent expansion.

Marissa Loeb, Director
Schuylkill Valley Community Library



1310 Washington Road, Leesport, PA 19533
610-926-1555 | svcl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/schuylkill-valley

Total Circulation	44,734
Collection Size	18,897
Registered Borrowers	1,551
Service Area Population	15,702
Patron Visits	17,672
Number of Programs	246
Program Attendance	3,869



SINKING SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Sinking Spring Library is committed to being a center for lifelong learning by developing and maintaining a collection of materials designed to fulfill the informational, recreational, and educational needs of the community.

Year in Review

The year 2022 began with a new director and a new direction for Sinking Spring Library. We have moved beyond being a “grab and go bookshop” to being a more welcoming atmosphere and a “third space” (a place separate from work and home) that patrons can enjoy. The Borough of Sinking Spring’s population will be expanding in the near future to include a new apartment complex and independent living facility, and we are adapting to the community’s needs as these changes including a downtown revitalization project are being implemented.

In addition, the library has greatly increased adult programming that was very minimal in previous years, updated the magazine and adult nonfiction collection to better reflect our patrons’ interests, increased hands-on learning and STEAM programs in the library, and encouraged staff to “think outside the box” in terms of applying solutions to problems.

For the first time, we have an artist-in-residence, Bernadette Bresnahan. The artist lent her original paintings for display and taught classes to patrons. New adult programming included topics in art, gardening, food, and traditional crafts. In addition, there is a chess club, pinochle group, and game night for grown-ups that meet

regularly in the library. Pop-up book clubs are a new innovation that began in 2022 in an effort to reach patrons who do not traditionally attend book clubs. Topics included horror and science fiction. Additionally, our youth librarian has done a wonderful job of creating hands-on programs and activities in the library. The number of STEM kits and Library of Things items allow patrons to continue learning and exploring at home as well as in the library setting.

We have also reached out to the community for new partnerships and donors. Sherwin Williams donated enough paint for the entire library including painting supplies. Woodmeisters donated labor and laminate to complete an island top in the staff workroom. Patrons have been enthusiastic about the changes in the library with many people complimenting the new look. One would categorize 2022 as the year of new beginnings, creativity, and innovation for the Sinking Spring Library.

Wenonah Riegel, Director
Sinking Spring Public Library



A new look in the library thanks to generous community partners.



3940 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
610-678-4311 | sspl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/sinking-spring

Total Circulation.....	77,559
Collection Size	21,817
Registered Borrowers.....	2,088
Service Area Population.....	4,286
Patron Visits	38,078
Number of Programs	133
Program Attendance.....	1,435



SPRING TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Mission Statement

Spring Township Library’s mission is to engage our community in literacy and learning by providing materials and information for life, work, and pleasure; and to engage in community outreach so that the township’s population knows what our libraries can provide for them.

We at the Spring Township Library are proud to be part of the nationwide library community that continues to adjust and support patrons. As we keep adapting and evolving, we will continue to rise to the occasion and remain a dependable resource for all in the community into 2023 and beyond.

Year in Review

Throughout 2022, we have safely provided access to many materials whether by our in-person lending, or digital media access through Libby and Hoopla. We continue to offer hotspot rentals for use on the go.

These programs cover topics ranging from STEM programs, storytime offerings, homeschool support groups, book clubs, writing workshops, local authors appearances, and so much more. In addition to socially driven programs, we offer passive programs, such as scavenger hunts, writing, painting, and crafting contests, as well as interactive stations around the library. In total we held 461 programs at both libraries, offering something for all ages. Our programs were attended or watched virtually 5,662 times!

The Friends of Spring Township were able to offer various ways our patrons could support the library while also interacting out in the community. Including sales of Christmas decorations, used book sales, receiving a small discount at a local restaurant, or offering orders and delivery of PSU Creamery ice cream, our Friends of Spring Township were an invaluable resource for our library.



The circulation desk decorated for Summer Quest (top). A young reader improving their skills at Therapy Dog Story Hour (bottom).

The Spring Township Library will continue to guarantee our patrons have safe options for various services and programs offered by the library. We will continue using virtual programs and look forward to offering a diverse selection of events, classes, and activities. Our library offers a welcoming and meaningful experience to all who enter. The Spring Township Library is an essential, strategic component to the success of the township.

Barbara Kline, Director
Spring Township Library

Total Circulation.....	72,341
Collection Size	19,991
Registered Borrowers.....	3,849
Service Area Population.....	28,407
Patron Visits	38,150
Number of Programs	461
Program Attendance.....	5,662



78C Commerce Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-373-9888 | springtwp@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/spring-township



VILLAGE LIBRARY OF MORGANTOWN

Mission Statement

The Village Library provides resources, services, programs, and technology to enrich lives, build community, and foster success.

Year in Review

2022 was the Year of the Teens at the Village Library. We created our first ever teen advisory board and celebrated a fantastic year with teen events. Members from the Teen Advisory Board put together an art show where other teens could sell their works, resulting in a wonderful write-up in our local paper. We had over 50 community members enjoy the art show and purchase masterpieces created by local teens. Recognizing the cost of running programs and material expenses, the Teen Advisory Board put together a craft fair & bake sale fundraiser to help the library. Through this effort, proceeds benefited future teen programs and materials with the craft fair becoming a yearly tradition.

The library also saw growth in other ways. We welcomed more than 220 new library card holders this year. In July, we reached a record high circulation count of 5,223 which surpassed the entire 2021 circulation total. Our summer was also quite eventful. We were fortunate to receive the Ready, Set, Read grant through United Way which helped bolster our Summer Quest program. These funds helped us provide exciting and engaging programs such

as: Jesse and Friends, Center for Aquatic Science, Talewise, and the Berks County Parks and Recreation. Children were able to experience hands-on themed sensory play with the makeshift reading boats earning a top spot as a favorite activity.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of working with Millersville University to create a science literacy program internship. Our intern, Manny, made science fun and entertaining through an online experience. Printable worksheets were created to go with each science theme that could be done at the comfort of home or at the library. I am happy to report our science program reached the United Kingdom and India.

The library continues to host wonderful adult programs such as: the Senior Pinochle Card Group, The Stitch Craft Group, and a Cup of Tea with a Book. We look forward to many more engaging events in 2023 ranging from: book clubs at wineries, a role playing/gaming group, and themed parties.

Maria Long, Director
Village Library of Morgantown



Two, young readers enjoy the library's reading boats.



207 North Walnut Street, Morgantown, PA 19543
610-286-1022 | village.library@villagelibrary.org
www.villagelibrary.org

Total Circulation.....	58,049
Collection Size	29,538
Registered Borrowers.....	2,515
Service Area Population.....	11,826
Patron Visits	52,341
Number of Programs	212
Program Attendance.....	2,056



WERNERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Wernersville Public Library inspires learning, creates community, and transforms lives with quality resources and services.

Year in Review

We are pleased to announce Wernersville Public Library achieved Gold Star status in the PA Forward program, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association that highlights libraries' role in moving Pennsylvania forward. This means we have fully committed to providing programs in the five literacies (Basic, Information, Civic and Social, Health, and Financial) that are essential to our patrons' success in all the roles of their lives.

This was a very busy year, with the Library returning to all the places it regularly visited before the pandemic. We provided the staff at SpringRose Child Care and Friday's Child with reading materials, while children at these sites got to enjoy visits from Library staff for monthly story times. After a two-year hiatus, Conrad Weiser East Elementary School approved the Library's return with Imagination Station as a free afterschool program. We also visited the Conrad Weiser Middle School and High School for Back to School Nights, Library Card Signup Month, and restarted the delivery of books to encourage reading in the 7th grade ELA classes.

Whether it was egg hunts or tree lightings, the Library took part in many local events. We brought our button maker to the Western Berks Fire Open House and manned a table at the South Mountain YMCA's Healthy Kids Day. The Library added the Green Valley Pool

to its summer outreach, while still reading to the children every week at the Conrad Weiser Pool, South Heidelberg's playground, Bynden Wood Day Camp, and The Ice Cream Cone.

The Library hosted two authors in 2022. The first was Linda Ruth, author of *One in Ten Thousand: For the Love of Lee, A Mother's Story*. Attendees were able to hear about her 50 years of advocacy for her autistic son. Our second author, Teresa Messineo, discussed her most recent book, *What We May Become*, and gave attendees a look at how she approaches her research so that it becomes a historical fiction novel and not a history report.



The library visited many community spots in 2022 including the firehouse (top left) and East Elementary (top right).

Lastly, although the Library prides itself on its educational programs, there were many moments in which the arts shined. Sunflower wreaths and pumpkin painting were hits, but our First Annual Mini Art Show took first place in patron involvement. 56 canvases were distributed, and 47 people cast votes for their favorite works of art. Library staff are sure the Second Annual in 2023 will be even better!

Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Director
Wernersville Public Library

Total Circulation.....	53,122
Collection Size	24,445
Registered Borrowers.....	1,833
Service Area Population.....	16,669
Patron Visits	21,239
Number of Programs	278
Program Attendance.....	8,406



100 N. Reber Street, Wernersville, PA 19565
610-678-8771 | wernersvillepl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/wernersville



WEST LAWN-WYOMISSING HILLS LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library’s mission is to engage our community in literacy and learning by providing materials and information for life, work, and pleasure; and to engage in community outreach so that the township’s population knows what our libraries can provide for them.

Year in Review

Open since 1937, the West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library is dedicated to providing access to the services and information our patrons need for today and for the future. Now a branch of the Spring Township Library, our two Library outlets work together with the Berks County Public Libraries to meet the ongoing educational and enrichment needs of the citizens of the Township.

The West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library is presented with a unique location that allows us to host a variety of programs for an engaged community. These programs cover topics ranging from STEM and other educational programs, Storytime offerings, homeschool support groups, weekly chess, mahjong, and pinochle groups.

In addition to our typical program offerings, we have been able to partner with the local church and utilize the auditorium located in the same building. This allows special events to be attended by many patrons. These can range from educational animal workshops, classes on how to grow vegetables in your backyard, movie nights, or even cosplay contests!

Throughout 2022 we have safely provided access to many materials whether by our in-person lending, or digital media access through Libby and Hoopla. The extensive catalog of items such as DVDs and video games as well as the options to rent items from our Library of Things, continue to draw praise from our patrons. We were also able to offer hotspot rentals for use on the go.

The Friends of the West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library were able to offer a multitude of programs and fundraising opportunities. In the form of discounts at local restaurants, classes from local professionals, book sales, and an always popular Holiday Basket Raffle. We would not be able to succeed without the Friends contributing to our library.

The West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library will continue to guarantee our patrons have safe options for various services offered by the library. We will continue using virtual programs and look forward to offering a diverse selection of events, classes, and activities.

Barbara Kline, Director
West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library



Young readers improving their skills at our Therapy Dog Story Hour.



101 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609
610-678-4888 | wlwhl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/west-lawn

Total Circulation.....	40,031
Collection Size.....	19,867
Registered Borrowers.....	3,849*
Service Area Population.....	28,407*
Patron Visits.....	25,085

*Branch serves same population as Spring Township Library.



WOMELSDORF COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Mission Statement

The Womelsdorf Community Library recognizes its responsibilities as follows: to provide high-interest reading, audio, audio-visual, and electronic materials for all ages; to provide materials and story times that will encourage children to read; to sponsor special programs of interest to the community; to provide current access to electronic information services to patrons; to offer basic reference services as part of the education and cultural life of the Womelsdorf Community; to plan and adjust for future needs of the community; to act as a resource center for the community.

Year in Review

In 2022, the community of Womelsdorf shared their support for the library in many ways. We were able to purchase new computers and a new book drop with the support and funds provided by the community and Womelsdorf Borough Council. We also hosted our annual Fire and Ice Festival in July in conjunction with the town carnival. We saw a record turnout in festival attendees, and were able to raise funds for the library, despite the intense heat. Our connection with the community and local organizations is stronger than ever, and we look forward to our Fire and Ice Festival in summer 2023!

We continue to offer a variety of programs for all ages, and had a wonderful time celebrating our Summer Quest from June through early August. Our youngest patrons enjoyed Story Time with Elsa, Songs and Stories of the Ocean with local performer Matthew Dodd, and an authentic Dinosaur Dig with paleontologists Mike

and Roberta Straka. Our adult patrons took part in Book Bingo and raffles with various educational program opportunities. We had a great time exploring an Ocean of Possibilities!

At the end of 2022 we welcomed new staff and said goodbye to old friends. In October, we added a new Children’s Program Coordinator to our team, Dolores Pfeuffer-Scherer, who comes to us from the world of academia and museums. We are so excited for her plans for educational, holistic programming in 2023! In December, we said goodbye to board members Trista Oxenreider, Carolyn Bauerle, and Danell Schoemaker, and welcomed a new trustee, Aislinn Staaby, to our team. We look forward to what the future holds for the library in 2023, and cannot wait to experience another year of service with our stellar community!

Sarah Bair, Director
Womelsdorf Community Library



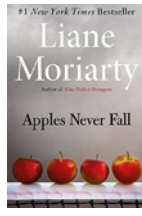
Summer Quest Program: Songs and Stories of the Ocean with local performer Matthew Dodd.

Total Circulation	43,813
Collection Size	21,235
Registered Borrowers	1,404
Service Area Population	2,892
Patron Visits	16,245
Number of Programs	236
Program Attendance	2,990



203 W. High Street, Womelsdorf, PA 19567
610-589-1424 | womelsdorfcl@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/womelsdorf

2022 Highlights



Two Books Tied For First Place



803,809 Library Visitors

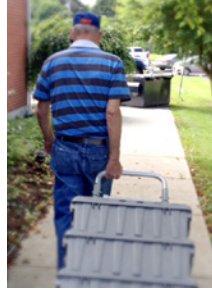


98,670 Reference Questions Answered



219,304 Digital Downloads

37,475 Crates Delivered



420,366 Website Sessions



6,229 Library Programs

98,111 Attendees



Adult



Teen



Children



Top Circulating Print Titles

1,706,907 Total Circulation of Library Materials



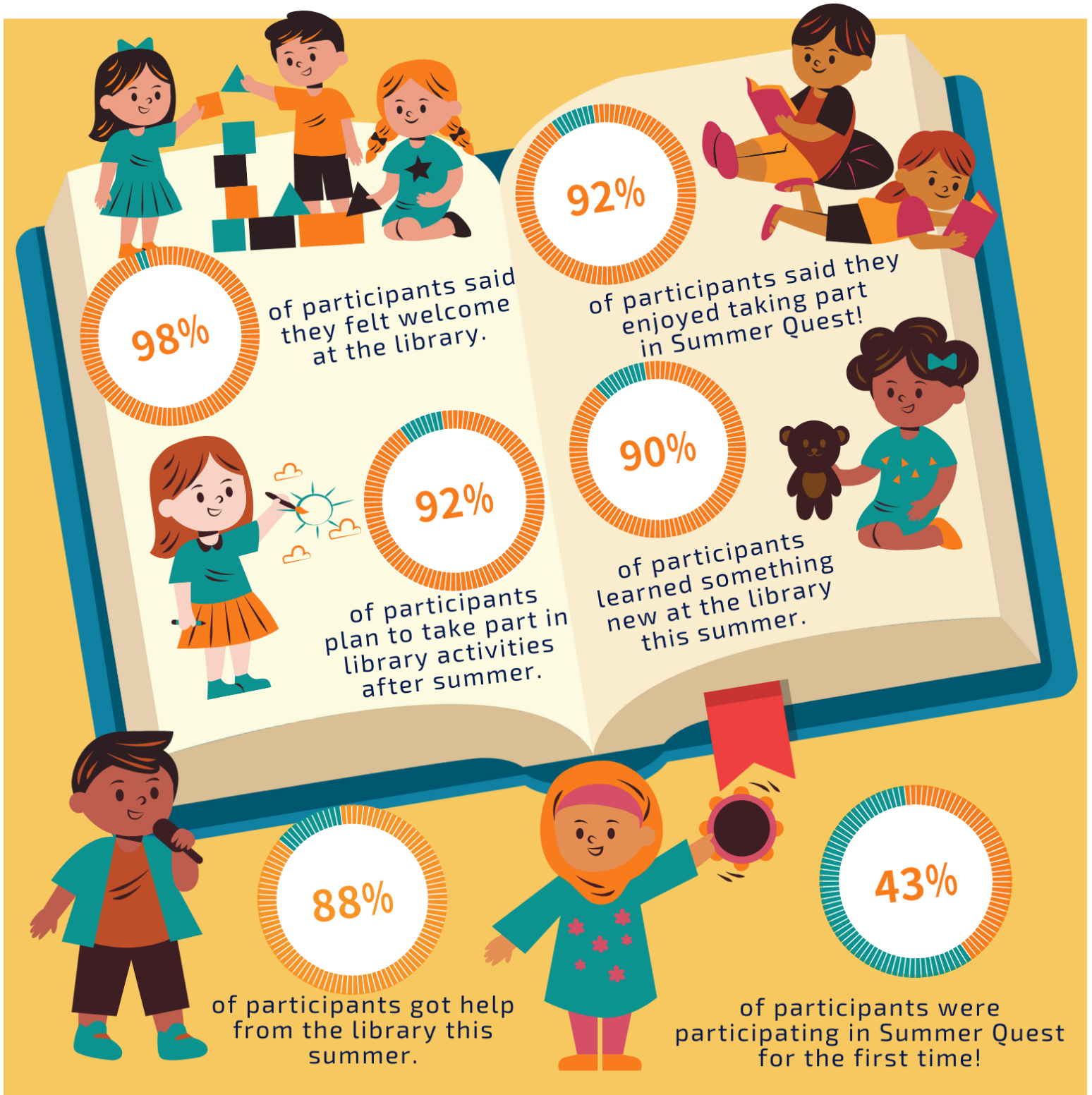
Berks County libraries saved residents over

\$31,219,100

in digital & print materials

Summer Quest Summer 2022

Summer Quest is Berks Libraries' summer learning program that provides FREE amazing learning opportunities and activities to fight the summer slide.





BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
20TH ANNUAL

LIBRARY EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

Celebrating Libraries— Honoring Innovation, Leadership, and Service
Ceremony held on March 1, 2023

- Outstanding Local Business *Firefly Bookstore*
- Outstanding Library Director *Debe Donley, Bernville Area Community Library*
- Outstanding Library Staff Member *Linda Capozello, Reading Public Library*
- Outstanding Library Volunteer *Weston Niemczyk, Muhlenberg Community Library*
- Outstanding Fundraising Effort *Rock the Library, Village Library of Morgantown*
- Outstanding Program *Beyond Kutztown, Kutztown Community Library*
- Trustee of the Year..... *Bernville Area Community Library Board of Trustees*
- Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations Award *Reading Public Library*
- Dreisbach Award for Exemplary Service..... *Mike Najarian, Reading Library District*
- Linda Baer Friend of the Year..... *Annette Heffelfinger, Friend of Kutztown Community Library*

