

# RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 23, 2019

Main Library  
101 E. Franklin Street  
2nd Floor, Board Room  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

11:45 a.m.



**Richmond Public Library Board**  
101 E. Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 646-4256 / fax: (804) 646-7685



## **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019  
11:45 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

- Call to order:** 11:45 a.m. Mr. William Yates
- Consent Agenda:** Mr. William Yates
- Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes
  - Approval of Pending Gifts
  - Approval of Statistical Report
- Public Comment Period:**
- Reports:** 12:00 p.m.
- Library Friends Ms. DeBoer/Mr. Dishon
  - Library Foundation Ms. Hansen
- Administration Reports:** Mr. Firestine
- Board Committee Reports:** 12:10 p.m.
- Chairman Mr. Yates
  - Finance Committee Ms. Weaver
  - Facilities Committee Mr. Firestine
  - Governance Committee Mr. Lydiard
- Unfinished Business:** 12:30 p.m. Mr. Yates
- New Business** 12:40 p.m. Mr. Yates
- Approve CY2020 Meeting Dates
- Mr. Yates
- Adjourn**

### **Next Meeting: No Meeting in November**

December 4, 2019 (*Combined November/December Meeting*)  
Ginter Park Branch Library  
1200 Westbrook Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

**Library Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**September 25, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Chair William Yates, Vice Chair David Lydiard, Emily Altman, Christine Peterson, Daisy Weaver, Janet Woody

**STAFF:** Scott Firestine, Clay Dishon, City Attorney Laura Drewry, Gianna Pack, and Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer

**ABSENT:** Barbara Burton, Tanya Francis, Cheryl Clarke, Karin Hansen

Meeting of the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) was called to order by Vice Chairman William Yates at 11:49 a.m. at the Hull Street Branch Library located at 1400 Hull Street, Richmond, Virginia 23224.

<b>Introductions</b>	After calling the meeting to order, Vice Chair William Yates introduced the three new members, Emily Altman, Christine Peterson, and Janet Woody and welcomed them to the meeting.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Approve the June 26, 2019 meeting minutes and the July 24, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. <i>Motion: Daisy Weaver, Second by David Lydiard – Approved Unanimously.</i>  Approve Consent Agenda, Statistical Reports, and the Pending Gifts Report as submitted. <i>Motion: David Lydiard, Second by William Yates – Approved Unanimously.</i>  Mr. Yates requested that there be a discussion on vacancies and appointments to New Business.
<b>Public Comment Period</b>	None.

**REPORTS**

<b>Friends of the Library (FOL)</b>	<p><b>Ruth DeBoer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Meeting, September 15:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was announced that the Friends gave RPL approximately \$29,000 over the year. Part of the money is given directly to the Library to pay for the graphic design computer and printer, and some of those gifts are used for Library staff requesting funds for specific programs.</li> <li>○ Currently there are over 500 members and over 1,000 names in the database to send out information on upcoming events. Five new Board members that were appointed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• October 5: Book Drive.</li> <li>• November 1-3: Book Sale.</li> <li>• 60th Anniversary Event: Invitations will go out in October.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ November 1: First Friday History of the Friends Exhibit at the Main Library.</li> <li>○ Special Collections Room – Large donated collection Exhibit.</li> <li>○ Each Branch will receive a piece of art work to be displayed in their Children’s area.</li> <li>○ There will be speaker – TBD.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr. Lydiard expressed his gratitude on behalf of the LBOT for all of the hard work the Friends have been doing and for their generous donations to fund projects where there is no money in the budget to do so.</p>
-------------------------------------	--

**REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

<p><b>Friends of the Library (FOL) (Continued)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Dishon reported on the breakout of the annual lump sum of \$17,000 in the Pending Gifts Report that the Friends donated to the Library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$8,500 – Annual Summer Reading Programs</li> <li>○ \$2,500 – Children’s Special Programs – Virginia Repertory Theater</li> <li>○ \$1,000 – Youth Arts Month Receptions</li> <li>○ \$2,000 – Teen Programs</li> <li>○ \$2,000 – Children’s Program Supplies</li> <li>○ \$1,000 – Books for Outreach/Daycare Literacy Training</li> </ul>
<p><b>Library Foundation</b></p>	<p><b>Scott Firestine:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation Board met on September 18, reviewing first quarter numbers.</li> <li>• As of June 30, 2019, total assets were \$859,000, which was an increase of \$86,000 over the previous year. There was a donor that gave \$65,000, which is a majority of the increase.</li> <li>• Fundraising Initiatives are going strong for annual unrestricted funds. The Foundation Board needs to raise another \$80,000 to meet their goal for this calendar year. The Board continues to strategize on those initiatives and tracking methods of where the money is coming from.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Administration</b></p>	<p><b>Scott Firestine:</b>  <b>Highlights and Additions to Director’s Report:</b> During the overview of Board Packet and Director’s Report, Mr. Firestine highlighted on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring vacancies: Eights positions, plus filling seven positions of VRIP. RPL is third in the area in regards to competitive wages with Henrico County being number one.</li> <li>• Summer Reading Program: Summer Reading Program (SRP) concluded August 10. There were 1,483 participants this year.</li> <li>• In the past, the LBOT has requested RPL improve relationships with Richmond Public Schools (RPS). On September 6, RPL held a training day for all of the RPS Media Center Librarians. At the Main Library, librarians and staff presented information regarding library resources and services that may be very relevant to RPS students.</li> <li>• RFP for the Integrate Library System (ILS on-line catalog) Update: On-going. City Legal Department continues to review/negotiate contract language for a SAAS ILS with SirsiDynix.</li> <li>• VCU Common Book Update: Author Matt Desmond will visit the Siegel Center October 16 and the Main Library for a follow-up discussion with community influencers on October 17. In the winter of 2020, RPL will provide exhibit space at the Main Library to continue discussions on eviction.</li> <li>• DEQ Grant 2019-2021: Programs will be at Broad Rock, East End, and North Avenue Branch Libraries. On Tuesday, October 22, over 20 people will visit Westover Hills Branch to make rain barrels.</li> <li>• Comcast Channel Update: Installation is mostly complete. Staff will work with volunteers to begin programming and broadcasting from the main studio and control room on the second floor of the Main Library. We are calling the public access channel Access RVA, a service of the Richmond Public Library.</li> <li>• The Science Museum will provide RPL books with a special bar code that will allow patrons who check those books out a free admission to the museum. Every Branch will receive a book. This is a partnership pilot program.</li> <li>• Read-Up Richmond: This is the inaugural event of what will become RPL premier community reading program of the fall. Alex Kotlowitz will interview Jesmyn Ward at the Main Library on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Ward is a two time National Book Award winner and received the MacArthur “genius” grant.</li> </ul>

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>William Yates:</b> Mr. Yates announced Mr. Butterfield resigned in August. He stated the Board will need to elect a new Chairperson and Committee members during New Business. Mr. Yates also stressed the importance of being committed to attend all meetings.
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Daisy Weaver/Scott Firestine:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Weaver did an overview of the Budget. Fiscal Year started July 1, 2019. She reported on the Pending Gifts Report for new members to provide an understanding the report represents money provided by the Friends of the Library, the Foundation, and/or donations from individuals. Finally, she reported Special Fund money revenue is a rolling fund and may cross over fiscal years.</li> <li>• Mr. Firestine reported there would be an impact on the Library Budget due to seven employees taking the incentive for early retirement. The incentive for employees with 33+ plus years would get \$22,000, plus vacation payout per employee. About 250 years of service and knowledge will be leaving RPL on October 31, 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Scott Firestine:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVAC Project for Special Collections Area: Completed.</li> <li>• Main Library: Shifting furniture, rearranging department floor plans, and moving, weeding and combining collection stacks around – Ongoing, but showing an increase in circulation by 8%.</li> <li>• RFP for the Main Library Facilities Master Plan Update: The Master Plan is in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage to hire an architect to do a redesign of the Main Library. There were five proposals received.</li> <li>• There is a RFP advertised to renovate the Main Library restrooms making them to have better access for the first floor. The RFP will close October 4, 2019.</li> <li>• The statue clock in the Library Park at the Main Library was damaged August 2018 from an automobile accident. The cost to repair the clock is about \$16,000 and installation costs. The City’s Risk Management Department will fund the repairs and file an insurance claim against the driver at fault.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>David Lydiard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three vacancies were filled.</li> <li>• For the new vacancy of Mr. Butterfield, would like to find a person with strong financial and/or facilities management background.</li> <li>• LBOT meetings are at different Branches and Main Library.</li> </ul>

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- No unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The LBOT needs to vote on a new appointment for the Chair and any committee vacancy.

Approve Vice Chair William Yates to be appointed as the Chairperson.

**Motion: Christine Peterson, Second by David Lydiard – Approved Unanimously.**

Approve David Lydiard to be appointed as Vice Chairperson.

**Motion: Daisy Weaver, Second by Christine Peterson – Approved Unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

As new Chair, Mr. Yates appointed the following LBOT members to the Board's Committees:

1. Facilities Committee Chair: Janet Woody
2. Finance Committee Chair: Daisy Weaver
3. Finance Committee: Christine Peterson
4. Governance Chair: David Lydiard
5. Friends of Library Liaison: Barbara Burton
6. Voting Member Liaison to the Foundation Board: Emily Altman

Chair Yates reported it was time for Mr. Firestine's Annual Performance Evaluation. He asked Ms. Weaver to meet with him 15 minutes prior to the Board Meeting on October 23 for a brief discussion. Mr. Firestine offered the Board Members a tour of the Main Library prior to the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. by unanimous consensus from the members that were present in the meeting.

The LBOT do not meet in the month of November.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 11:45 a.m. at the Ginter Park Branch Library, 1200 Westbrook Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23227

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. William Yates, Chair

Recorder: Gianna Pack  
Executive Assistant

## Director's Report

October 2019

Director Activities for September 21 through October 18, 2019 (No Meeting in November):

Sep 26 CIP Taskforce Organization Discussion with Robert Steidel, DPU  
Oct 2 City Attorney Susan McKenney – Discuss Sirsi Documents  
Oct 2 Friends of the Library Board Meeting – Main Library  
Oct 2 RVA Access TV Station Meeting with Procedures – Main Library  
Oct 3 FY21 Performance Based Budget Process Meeting – City Hall  
Oct 3 Meeting with Torey Edmonds and Reid Stowe, VCU Health – CDC  
Oct 3 Education Subcommittee Meeting/RVA Counts  
Oct 4 Meeting with Dr. Felecia Williams – VCU Common Book  
Oct 5 RCC Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission Working Meeting – Police Academy  
Oct 5 Friends of the Library Book Drive  
Oct 10 City Council/Education Compact Quarterly Meeting with the Mayor and School Board  
Oct 11 CALD Meeting – Main Library  
Oct 14 Staff Development Training – Main Library  
Oct 14 Author Jesmyn Ward and Alex Kotlowitz – Main Library  
Oct 15 Main Library Master Planning Services – Third Evaluation Meeting with Procurement  
Oct 17 P.S. Matt Desmond, Author of Evicted – Main Library  
Oct 19 Book Lovers Fair – East End

**Hiring Update:** RPL is desperate to fill vacant positions. HR processing of employment is challenged:

- Library Associate–Ginter Park PTE
- Library Associate–Hull Street Youth Services FTE
- Library Associate–North Avenue FTE
- Library Associate–Westover Hills FTE
- Library Technician–Ginter Park PTE
- Library Technician–Ginter Park PTE
- Library Technician–North Avenue PTE
- Library Technician, Senior–Hull Street FTE
- Library Technician, Senior–Broad Rock FTE - VRIP
- Library Technician, Senior–Westover Hills FTE - VRIP
- Library Technician–West End FTE - VRIP
- Library Technician, Senior–West End FTE - VRIP
- Library Associate–East End FTE - VRIP
- Library Technician, Senior–Main FTE - VRIP
- Management Analyst, Associate–Main FTE - VRIP

### Staff Development Training:

All Library locations were closed on October 14 for Staff Development Day. This year the training started at 1:00 p.m. Employees had an opportunity to experience the READ UP author talk with Jesmyn Ward and Alex Kotlowitz. The Main Library re-opened at 6:00 p.m. for registered guests to attend the author program.

**RFP for the Integrate Library System (ILS on-line catalog) Update:** On-going. City Legal Department continues to review/negotiate contract language for an SAAS ILS with SirsiDynix.

**RFP for the Main Library Facilities Master Plan Update:** The selection committee met under the supervision of the Department of Procurement Services on October 15 and selected the following firms to interview in-person on October 31.

- Glave Holmes – 9:00 a.m. to 9:45a.m.
- Moseley Architects – 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- Vines – 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Enteros – 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**2019 YAVA Award:** Public voting closed on September 15. The Library received approximately 600 votes (online and paper). This year there was a tie for 3rd Place. The committee decided to send the top four books for the judges to review. The winner will be announced at the YAVA Celebration on Saturday, November 2 from 2-4 p.m. at the Main Library. This year the event theme is a masquerade ball with music by the Richmond Community High School Band. Youth Services Librarian Jenn Deuell reached out to the local City schools and hopes to have three school field trips attend the event.

**Access RVA Comcast Channel Update:** Library staff met with volunteers from the Comcast public access station. Access RVA, the new television channel, will begin a public flight, a period of 5 weeks of broadcasting on October 21.

**National Library Card Sign-up Month:** During the entire month of September, existing RPL cardholders were offered free replacement cards if their account is in good standing.

RPL partnered with FeedMore’s Central Virginia Food Bank food drive again this year. Patrons could donate unexpired, non-perishable food items to have any fines up to \$10 be forgiven with the exception that this does not apply to lost items, damaged items, or the referral fee on accounts that are in collections. RPL Branches collected approximately 3,565 pounds of nonperishable food items for a total of over 1.5 tons for the year. The breakout is as follows:

- Main – 1,002
- Belmont/Westover Hills – 308
- Broad Rock – 553
- East End/Hull Street – 365
- Ginter Park/North Avenue – 675
- West End – 662

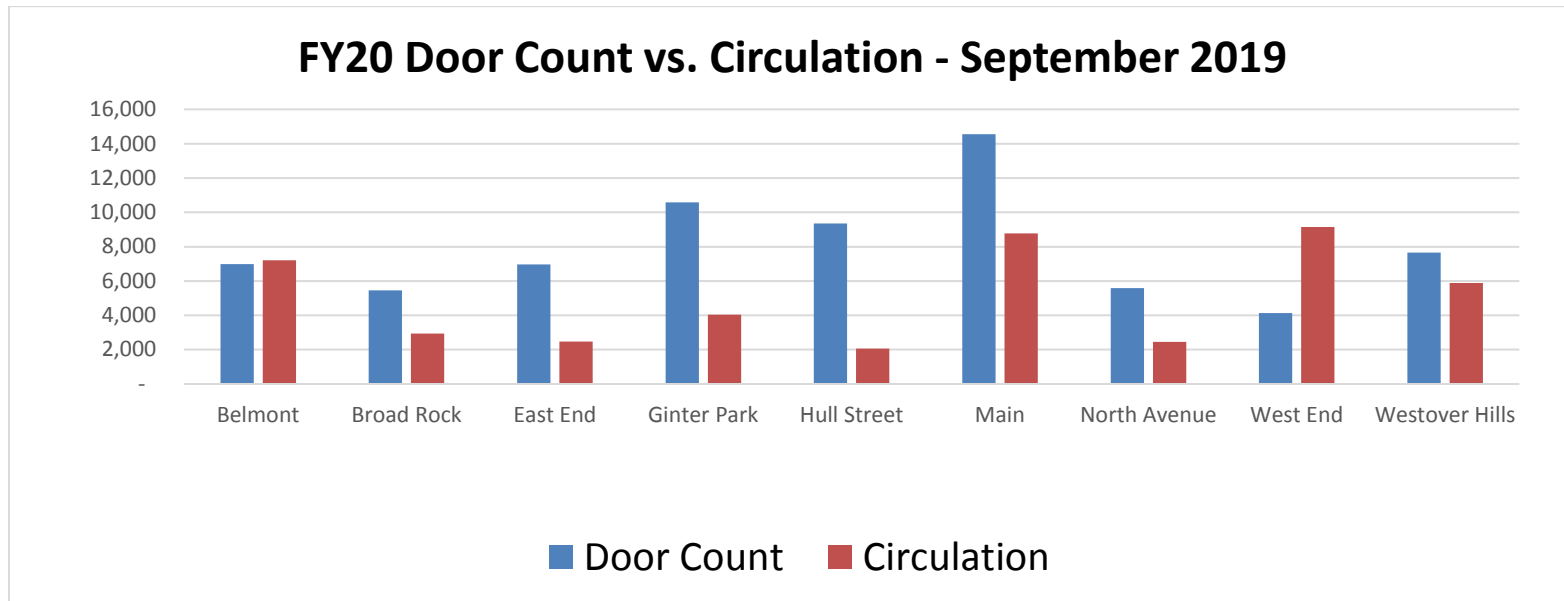


CIRCULATION															
LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total	YTD % Change
Belmont	FY17	12,068	12,314	9,973	9,766	9,727	9,071	9,709	9,715	10,114	9,238	9,446	10,411	121,552	
	FY18	10,836	10,486	8,290	8,385	7,353	6,096	7,651	7,545	8,099	7,402	7,632	7,864	97,639	
	FY19	8,429	8,074	8,103	7,888	7,303	6,144	7,099	6,630	8,077	6,712	6,436	7,110	88,005	-11%
	FY20	7,451	7,560	7,207										22,218	-12%
Broad Rock	FY17	4,883	4,773	4,248	4,706	3,966	3,454	3,729	3,192	3,595	3,377	3,851	4,136	47,910	
	FY18	4,574	4,062	3,726	3,809	3,665	3,096	3,308	2,986	3,132	3,304	2,910	3,289	41,861	
	FY19	3,910	3,609	2,671	3,217	2,505	2,086	2,488	2,801	2,843	2,389	2,419	3,119	34,057	-23%
	FY20	3,652	3,036	2,939										9,627	9%
East End	FY17	4,572	4,371	3,581	3,420	2,945	3,029	3,463	2,981	3,529	4,977	3,515	3,460	43,843	
	FY18	3,635	3,481	3,033	2,948	2,632	2,281	2,698	2,574	2,838	2,637	2,865	3,325	34,947	
	FY19	2,996	2,648	2,614	2,820	2,587	2,176	2,915	2,451	2,249	2,046	2,087	2,534	30,123	-16%
	FY20	2,696	2,663	2,476										7,835	-6%
Ginter Park	FY17	6,247	5,924	5,374	5,770	5,031	4,517	4,812	4,582	5,401	4,641	4,868	5,310	62,477	
	FY18	5,751	6,070	5,338	5,152	4,854	3,898	4,327	4,370	4,522	4,653	4,023	5,263	58,221	
	FY19	5,211	5,163	4,864	4,278	3,762	2,812	3,864	3,653	4,408	3,384	4,174	4,381	49,954	-17%
	FY20	4,397	4,580	4,030										13,007	-21%
Hull Street	FY17	3,174	3,245	3,088	3,131	3,400	2,477	2,816	2,962	2,989	2,348	2,766	2,843	35,239	
	FY18	2,947	3,155	2,178	2,106	2,202	1,772	2,218	2,304	2,241	2,034	1,824	2,147	27,128	
	FY19	2,010	2,305	3,323	1,844	1,838	1,852	2,287	1,870	1,854	1,828	1,976	2,026	25,013	-8%
	FY20	3,082	1,912	2,065										7,059	-61%
Main	FY17	12,103	12,264	10,330	10,655	9,611	9,049	9,629	9,600	10,821	8,969	9,826	10,528	123,385	
	FY18	10,304	11,144	9,794	9,946	9,126	7,750	9,149	8,706	9,223	8,069	7,769	8,155	109,135	
	FY19	8,719	8,877	8,655	9,774	9,099	8,202	9,418	8,749	9,621	9,177	8,795	9,300	108,386	-1%
	FY20	10,098	9,666	8,766										28,530	1%

**CIRCULATION (CONTINUED)**

LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total	YTD % Change
North Avenue	FY17	4,235	4,448	3,768	3,564	3,308	3,260	2,972	2,943	3,186	2,714	3,017	2,985	40,400	
	FY18	3,112	3,455	3,238	3,802	3,011	2,562	3,094	3,328	3,093	2,580	2,271	2,269	35,815	
	FY19	2,979	2,493	2,709	2,918	2,390	2,059	2,604	2,264	2,367	2,887	2,243	2,657	30,570	-17%
	FY20	2,962	2,210	2,462											
West End	FY17	983	1,070	785	752	628	604	647	568	745	502	591	613	8,488	
	FY18	826	3,012	7,426	8,165	7,940	6,974	7,981	7,390	8,641	8,882	9,802	11,202	88,241	
	FY19	11,660	11,438	10,076	10,172	8,539	7,313	9,145	7,434	9,007	8,380	8,746	9,681	111,591	21%
	FY20	11,712	10,702	9,142											31,556
Westover Hills	FY17	9,530	9,400	8,231	8,065	7,407	7,223	7,564	7,848	8,405	6,798	8,059	8,058	96,588	
	FY18	8,685	8,571	7,262	7,133	6,933	6,324	6,895	6,548	6,576	6,660	6,186	7,501	85,274	
	FY19	8,071	7,787	7,566	7,102	6,120	5,364	7,072	6,155	6,511	6,120	5,793	6,435	80,096	-6%
	FY20	7,419	7,175	5,888											20,482
Econtent	FY17	4,107	3,770	3,470	3,611	3,568	3,899	3,962	3,701	4,370	4,102	3,906	4,494	46,960	
	FY18	4,676	4,689	4,042	4,125	3,923	3,874	4,566	4,224	4,835	4,935	5,409	5,320	54,618	
	FY19	5,985	6,407	5,683	5,581	5,278	5,874	6,375	5,874	6,532	6,132	6,424	6,798	72,943	25%
	FY20	7,526	7,283	6,250											21,059
RPL Total	FY17	61,902	61,579	52,848	53,440	49,591	46,583	49,303	48,092	53,155	47,666	49,845	52,838	626,842	
	FY18	57,515	60,843	56,558	57,424	54,326	48,350	54,710	52,552	55,906	55,332	53,155	59,017	665,688	
	FY19	59,970	58,801	56,264	55,594	49,421	43,882	53,267	47,881	53,469	49,055	49,093	54,041	630,738	-6%
	FY20	60,995	56,787	51,225											169,007

DOOR COUNT FY2020	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	TOTAL
Belmont	6,934	7,335	6,992										21,261
Broad Rock	5,768	5,768	5,457										16,993
East End	7,605	8,331	6,965										22,901
Ginter Park	13,767	11,850	10,575										36,192
Hull Street	11,614	10,646	9,344										31,604
Main	16,244	15,626	14,553										46,423
North Avenue	6,383	6,431	5,580										18,394
West End	5,102	4,752	4,127										13,981
Westover Hills	8,342	8,287	7,657										24,286
<b>TOTALS FY20:</b>	<b>81,759</b>	<b>79,026</b>	<b>71,250</b>										<b>232,035</b>
<b>TOTALS FY19:</b>	<b>70,641</b>	<b>73,411</b>	<b>62,975</b>	<b>66,230</b>	<b>62,257</b>	<b>48,425</b>	<b>63,139</b>	<b>60,259</b>	<b>67,552</b>	<b>68,862</b>	<b>67,399</b>	<b>70,910</b>	<b>782,060</b>
<b>TOTALS FY18:</b>	<b>62,057</b>	<b>74,617</b>	<b>69,494</b>	<b>70,700</b>	<b>63,466</b>	<b>55,560</b>	<b>63,750</b>	<b>65,351</b>	<b>68,782</b>	<b>69,881</b>	<b>70,586</b>	<b>71,037</b>	<b>805,281</b>



PROGRAMS FY2020	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	TOTAL FY20	TOTAL FY19
<b>Belmont</b>														
Adult Programs	15	13	11										39	246
Adult Attend	90	70	52										212	1,321
Young Adult Programs	1	1	1										3	11
Young Adult Attend	12	31	2										45	23
Juvenile Programs	8	4	3										15	90
Juvenile Attend	258	95	11										364	1,953
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>65</b>										<b>621</b>	<b>3,297</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>										<b>57</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>Broad Rock</b>														
Adult Programs	4	6	18										28	231
Adult Attend	22	37	84										143	1,336
Young Adult Programs	4	4	5										13	52
Young Adult Attend	94	57	73										224	708
Juvenile Programs	16	17	15										48	303
Juvenile Attend	318	277	129										724	3,637
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>286</b>										<b>1,091</b>	<b>5,681</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>										<b>89</b>	<b>517</b>
<b>East End</b>														
Adult Programs	40	35	40										115	376
Adult Attend	264	175	214										653	3,444
Young Adult Programs	2	1	4										7	55
Young Adult Attend	14	18	11										43	269
Juvenile Programs	10	18	20										48	145
Juvenile Attend	84	1	72										157	2,364
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>297</b>										<b>853</b>	<b>6,077</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>										<b>170</b>	<b>376</b>

PROGRAMS FY2020 (CONTINUED)	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	TOTAL FY20	TOTAL FY19
<b>Ginter Park</b>														
Adult Programs	20	25	32										77	267
Adult Attend	170	276	396										842	2,651
Young Adult Programs	2	2	2										6	6
Young Adult Attend	41	12	10										63	85
Juvenile Programs	10	15	3										28	129
Juvenile Attend	181	169	17										367	1,537
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>423</b>										<b>1,272</b>	<b>4,273</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>										<b>111</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>Hull Street</b>														
Adult Programs	7	5	8										20	85
Adult Attend	95	19	23										137	972
Young Adult Programs	3	3	2										8	26
Young Adult Attend	87	14	8										109	323
Juvenile Programs	16	8	2										26	108
Juvenile Attend	313	134	12										459	2,209
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>43</b>										<b>705</b>	<b>3,504</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>										<b>54</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>Main</b>														
Adult Programs	18	24	30										72	124
Adult Attend	313	765	786										1,864	4,609
Young Adult Programs	13	8	8										29	65
Young Adult Attend	111	39	64										214	778
Juvenile Programs	30	25	29										84	265
Juvenile Attend	827	592	623										2,042	5,511
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,473</b>										<b>4,120</b>	<b>10,898</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>67</b>										<b>185</b>	<b>454</b>

PROGRAMS FY2020 (CONTINUED)	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	TOTAL FY20	TOTAL FY19
<b>North Avenue</b>														
Adult Programs	46	38	10										94	319
Adult Attend	285	210	122										617	2,903
Young Adult Programs	2	0	6										8	54
Young Adult Attend	18	0	57										75	348
Juvenile Programs	11	8	0										19	280
Juvenile Attend	273	246	0										519	5,075
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>179</b>										<b>1,211</b>	<b>8,326</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16</b>										<b>121</b>	<b>653</b>
<b>West End</b>														
Adult Programs	11	10	9										30	144
Adult Attend	121	87	64										272	1,041
Young Adult Programs	1	1	1										3	12
Young Adult Attend	9	5	5										19	50
Juvenile Programs	10	17	14										41	205
Juvenile Attend	174	248	188										610	3,605
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>257</b>										<b>901</b>	<b>4,696</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>										<b>74</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Westover Hills</b>														
Adult Programs	18	23	16										57	214
Adult Attend	424	429	219										1,072	3,598
Young Adult Programs	3	2	1										6	17
Young Adult Attend	59	66	9										134	139
Juvenile Programs	22	18	10										50	254
Juvenile Attend	396	535	449										1,380	4,606
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>677</b>										<b>2,586</b>	<b>8,343</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>										<b>113</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>Grand Total Attend</b>	<b>5,053</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>3,700</b>										<b>13,360</b>	<b>55,095</b>
<b>Grand Total Programs</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>300</b>										<b>974</b>	<b>4,312</b>

<b>COMPUTER USE FY2020</b>	<b>Jul-19</b>	<b>Aug-19</b>	<b>Sep-19</b>	<b>Oct-19</b>	<b>Nov-19</b>	<b>Dec-19</b>	<b>Jan-20</b>	<b>Feb-20</b>	<b>Mar-20</b>	<b>Apr-20</b>	<b>May-20</b>	<b>Jun-20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Belmont Workstation	1,175	1,255	1,219										3,649
WIFI	963	1,047	931										2,941
Broad Rock Workstation	2,131	2,080	1,995										6,206
WIFI	903	826	770										2,499
East End Workstation	1,968	2,168	1,819										5,955
WIFI	1,236	1,281	1,068										3,585
Ginter Park Workstation	1,617	1,418	1,506										4,541
WIFI	1,229	1,173	936										3,338
Hull Street Workstation	1,741	1,770	1,772										5,283
WIFI	1,035	889	905										2,829
Main Workstation	4,023	3,970	3,808										11,801
Childrens Workstation	226	304	132										662
WIFI	3,921	4,529	3,597										12,047
North Avenue Workstation	1,346	1,448	1,287										4,081
WIFI	928	856	824										2,608
West End Workstation	754	834	825										2,413
WIFI	568	476	655										1,699
Westover Hills Workstation	1,520	1,497	1,282										4,299
WIFI	833	853	705										2,391
<b>TOTALS FY20:</b>	<b>28,117</b>	<b>28,674</b>	<b>26,036</b>										<b>82,827</b>
<b>TOTALS FY19:</b>	21,141	23,182	20,857	28,103	23,493	22,565	27,068	24,764	28,491	26,105	28,577	26,512	300,859
<b>TOTALS FY18:</b>	15,815	21,725	22,930	24,159	20,415	10,066	22,675	23,448	21,326	22,134	22,591	20,439	247,723

TECHNICAL SERVICES - ITEMS BY LOCATION										
FY2020	Belmont	Broad Rock	East End	Ginter Park	Hull Street	MAIN	North Avenue	West End	Westover Hills	OverDrive
Jul-19	215	148	147	172	117	379	119	206	213	-
Aug-19	359	260	201	268	145	572	160	409	347	66
Sep-19	318	205	203	312	164	565	168	325	330	162
Oct-19										
Nov-19										
Dec-19										
Jan-20										
Feb-20										
Mar-20										
Apr-20										
May-20										
Jun-20										
<b>Branch Total FY20:</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Branch Total FY19:</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>6,247</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>3,667</b>	<b>1,320</b>
<b>Average:</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>76</b>

NEW PATRON CARDS													
FY2020	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Belmont	138	187	114										439
Broad Rock	129	152	159										440
East End	120	114	124										358
Ginter Park	96	79	62										237
Hull Street	125	130	140										395
Main	383	411	370										1,164
North Avenue	160	128	169										457
West End	152	125	119										396
Westover Hills	153	120	137										410
Online Reg E-Card	162	229	255										646
<b>Total FY20:</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>1,649</b>										<b>4,942</b>
<b>Total FY19:</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>16,226</b>



Richmond Public Library  
 FY20 Operating Budget  
 as of  
 September 30, 2019

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Balance
			Expended 30-Sep-19		Available 30-Sep-19
60000	SALARIES - FULL TIME	\$ 3,068,562	\$ 614,334	20.0%	\$ 2,454,228
61000	SALARIES - PART TIME	\$ 340,544	\$ 76,087	22.3%	\$ 264,456
62000	SALARIES - TEMPORARY	\$ -	\$ 719	0.0%	\$ (719)
63000	FICA	\$ 211,410	\$ 40,944	19.4%	\$ 170,466
63001	RET CON RSRs	\$ 685,267	\$ 131,503	19.2%	\$ 553,763
63002	MEDCARE FICA	\$ 49,443	\$ 9,576	19.4%	\$ 39,867
63003	GROUP LIFE	\$ 18,134	\$ 4,278	23.6%	\$ 13,855
63006	H/C ACT TEMP	\$ 681,426	\$ 136,950	20.1%	\$ 544,476
63008	STATE UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
63011	HEALTH SAVINGS	\$ -	\$ 134	0.0%	\$ (134)
64104	EDUCATION PAY	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
64105	BONUS PAY	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 5,054,784</b>	<b>\$ 1,014,525</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>\$ 4,040,260</b>
71141	BOOKS	\$ 561,783	\$ 239,107	42.6%	\$ 322,676
71141	DATABASES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71142	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS	\$ 9,823	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 9,823
72122	MAGS & NEWSPAPER	\$ 36,596	\$ 2,516	6.9%	\$ 34,080
<b>Collection Development</b>		<b>\$ 608,202</b>	<b>\$ 241,623</b>	<b>39.7%</b>	<b>\$ 366,579</b>
70131	PUBLIC INFORMATION	\$ 2,297	\$ 465	20.2%	\$ 1,832
70161	DATA PROCESSING - OCLC	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
70161	PLANNING MGMT SERVICES	\$ 223,055	\$ 105,066	47.1%	\$ 117,989
70218	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,000
70311	PRINTED SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,000
70412	TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
70413	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,763	\$ 101	3.7%	\$ 2,662
70551	SECURITY	\$ 294,553	\$ 293,628	99.7%	\$ 925
70552	CONTRACT AND TEMP PERSONNEL	\$ 27,500	\$ 24,914	90.6%	\$ 2,586
71012	OFFICE STATIONARY SUPPLIES	\$ 8,955	\$ 290	3.2%	\$ 8,665
71016	ADVERTISING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71143	LIBRARY OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 20,220	\$ 8,923	44.1%	\$ 11,297
72113	POSTAGE	\$ 4,456	\$ 3,000	67.3%	\$ 1,456
72121	CONFERENCES & CON	\$ 2,240	\$ 586	26.2%	\$ 1,654
72123	MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 1,352	\$ 285	21.1%	\$ 1,067
72124	TRAINING	\$ 1,189	\$ 588	49.4%	\$ 601
72131	SOFTWARE	\$ 25,662	\$ 22,695	88.4%	\$ 2,967
72153	EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,200	\$ 10,345	84.8%	\$ 1,855
73104	BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 2,463	0.0%	\$ (2,463)
76119	PAGERS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77103	FUEL-D/O VEHICLE	\$ 2,555	\$ 486	19.0%	\$ 2,069
77104	VEHICLE MONTHLY STANDING	\$ 493	\$ 123	25.0%	\$ 370
77201	INTERNAL PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80001	DEPRECIATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80004	BUILDINGS & STR	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80006	EQUIPMENT & OFFICE MAINTENANCE	\$ 7,160	\$ 3,158	44.1%	\$ 4,002
80007	VEHICLE EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
<b>Other Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 641,650</b>	<b>\$ 477,116</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>\$ 164,534</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 6,304,636</b>	<b>\$ 1,733,264</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>\$ 4,571,373</b>

## RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARIES - General Fund Budget

### Monthly Budget Report September 30, 2019

<u>General Fund Revenue</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Budget</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Actual YTD</u>	<u>% Recognized</u>	<u>Unrecognized</u>
Lost and Damage Books	\$ 21,782	\$ 2,338	11%	\$ 19,444
Overdue Book Fines	\$ 66,121	\$ 8,273	13%	\$ 57,848
Reservation - Book Records	\$ 500	\$ 105	21%	\$ 395
Room Rental Fees	\$ 300	\$ -	0%	\$ 300
Sales Copy Centers	\$ 17,476	\$ 3,834	22%	\$ 13,642
State Library Aide	\$ 170,000	\$ -	0%	\$ 170,000
	\$ 276,179	\$ 14,550	5%	\$ 261,629

#### General Fund Operating

	<u>FY2019-20 Budget</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Actual YTD</u>	<u>% Expended</u>	<u>Unobligated</u>
Personnel	\$ 3,409,106	\$ 691,140	20%	\$ 2,717,966
Fringes	\$ 1,645,679	\$ 323,385	20%	\$ 1,322,294
Books/Materials	\$ 608,202	\$ 241,623	40%	\$ 366,579
Operating Expenses	\$ 641,650	\$ 477,116	74%	\$ 164,534
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,636</b>	<b>\$ 1,733,264</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>\$ 4,571,373</b>

**Encumbrances YTD** \$ **532,529**

#### RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARIES - Special Fund Budget

<u>Special Fund Revenue</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Anticipated</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Actual YTD</u>	<u>% Recognized</u>	<u>Unrecognized</u>
00314 - Gift to the Library	\$ 105,000	\$ 26,205	25%	\$ 78,795
00308 - Verizon E-Rate Grant	\$ 87,977	\$ -	0%	\$ 87,977
00309 - Public Law Library	\$ 250,000	\$ 61,335.00	25%	\$ 188,665
00311 - Gates Foundation	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -
00312 - RPL Foundation	\$ 40,000	\$ 6,000	15%	\$ 34,000
00313 - Friends of the RPL	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,701	76%	\$ 7,299
00000 - Grade Level Reading	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -
	\$ 512,977	\$ 116,241	23%	\$ 396,736

<u>Special Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>FY19 Rollover &amp; FY20 Receipts</u>	<u>FY2019-20 Actual YTD</u>	<u>% Expended</u>	<u>Unobligated</u>
00314 - Gift to the Library	\$ 109,282	\$ 16,187	15%	\$ 93,095
00308 - Verizon E-Rate Grant	\$ (51,344)	\$ 35,967	-70%	\$ (87,311)
00309 - Public Law Library	\$ 129,014	\$ 295,831	229%	\$ (166,817)
Personnel		\$ 11,082		
Fringes		\$ 3,210		
Books/Materials		\$ 279,009		
Operating Expenses		\$ 2,530		
00311 - Gates Foundation	\$ 12,576	\$ -	0%	\$ 12,576
00312 - RPL Foundation	\$ (78,906)	\$ 5,482	-7%	\$ (84,388)
00313 - Friends of the RPL	\$ 52,730	\$ 3,774	7%	\$ 48,956
	\$ 173,352	\$ 357,241	206%	\$ (183,889)

**Encumbrances YTD** \$ **238,029**

Richmond Public Library  
 Foundation, Friends, Groups and Individual Donations  
 FY 2019-2020

Consent Agenda: Pending Library Board Approval - Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Date	Donor Name	Current Month Amount	Purpose/Location	YTD Account Balance		
				Gift	Foundation	Friends
5-Oct-19	Darlene Marschak	\$ 150.00	Art Committee	\$ 150.00		
	<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>				
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,020.34</b>	<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$ 340.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,680.34</b>

**Handout – DRAFT CY20 Meeting Schedule**

<b>Year of 2020 (4th Wednesdays)</b>	
<b>January 22, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Main Library	<b>July 22, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Main Library
<b>February 26, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Broad Rock Branch Library	<b>August 2020</b> No meeting
<b>March 25, 2020</b> 11:45 AM North Avenue Branch Library	<b>September 23, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Hull Street Branch Library
<b>April 22, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Belmont Branch Library	<b>October 28, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Ginter Park Branch Library
<b>May 27, 2020</b> 11:45 AM Westover Hills Branch Library	<b>November 2020</b> No meeting
<b>June 24, 2020</b> 11:45 AM East End Branch Library	<b>December 2, 2020 (Combined Nov/Dec Meeting)</b> 11:45 AM West End Branch Library

## 'From Collecting to Connecting'

The librarian's role has expanded well beyond books | Photos by Jay Paul

by [Eileen Abbott](#), October 13, 2019; Richmondmag.com;

Website: <https://richmondmagazine.com/news/sunday-story/from-collecting-to-connecting/?fbclid=IwAR25MZH5vhKjguUrZLTuIHDRz8X3PAdInT-BY6CvTlbpSLtzzT6IIRV0dII>



*Natalie Draper, manager at the Richmond Public Library's main branch*

Outside the Franklin Street entrance of the [Richmond Public Library](#)'s main branch, 63 year-old John Pegg, sweaty from the sun and smoking a cigarette, sits on a bench to read a book. "My favorite authors are Hemingway and Faulkner," he says.

Homeless after "losing a job and being a chronic alcoholic — but I'm getting treatment," he emphasizes, Pegg explains that his life wasn't always this way.

He's often inside the library researching how to improve his current situation. The librarians, he says, are helping him get his life back on track.

"Librarians are wise people," Pegg says. "They'll furnish you with solid advice."

They also help him with computer skills. "I'm an internet idiot, but they go 'clackety-clack,'" he says, moving his fingers as if typing on a keyboard, "and they come up with the information you're looking for in a heartbeat."

"You'll see a lot more librarians out from behind the desk," says Natalie Draper, manager at the Richmond Public Library's main branch. "I think the focus has shifted from collecting to connecting."

Richmond's nine library branches recorded nearly 800,000 visits during the last fiscal year, with about 630,000 items checked out, Draper says.

But these days, it's more than books that draw people to the library; new technology is a huge reason people visit, and librarians are keeping up with the times. The Main Branch's Innovation Lab includes a 3D printer, 3D scanner and virtual reality goggles, among other equipment.

"The expectation of library workers is that they have a high degree of digital proficiency," Draper says. "I may be expected to do anything from helping someone set up email to teaching a 3D printing class or leading a group on a virtual reality experience on any given day."

Reynolds Community College student Darius Goodwyn uses the library's computers for schoolwork and appreciates that the library keeps up with emerging technology. "It gives students, and people in general, a chance to gain that new knowledge in this technological era," he says.

*Draper and Jonah Butler prepare to livestream a lecture at the library.*



Librarians at the Richmond Public Library also assist people like Pegg, connecting them with social services.

“We have a lot of patrons who are experiencing homelessness or are in some sort of crisis,” Draper says. Partnering with trained social workers, she adds, “We always work to find creative solutions to serve the information needs of patrons, and for some people that’s ‘Where can I find housing, health care, a shower or lunch?’ ”

Recently, Draper and other librarians who have volunteered to do so have been trained to use opioid overdose reversal kits to save lives.

Changes to the library facility also reflect changing times. No longer filled with endless rows of bookshelves, a card catalog and a librarian at a desk whispering “Shhh!” to noisy patrons (though there are still quiet areas), alongside the new innovation labs the library now has open rooms featuring comfortable seating arrangements that invite discussion about educational topics.

The library also offers “enriching and educational programs based on the needs and interests of the community,” says Draper.

Most of these programs are technology-based learning opportunities, but it’s a sewing class that’s in high demand here. Draper teaches the class. She designs and makes her own clothes, which sparked the interest of library visitors who wanted to learn how to sew themselves.

Busier than ever with new duties, librarians still perform more traditional tasks such as research and collection development. That’s one of the reasons Draper chose the career.

“For me, growing up the way I did, a military brat, we moved around a lot. The first thing that we did when we got into a new town is, my mom would take us to get our library cards,” Draper recalls. She says the library was a comforting presence to her during the constant change. “The library connected you to the community. You got to meet the librarian. You could find your favorite author on the shelf within seconds, so you’re sort of going home. Even though home changed a lot, the library was always ‘home.’ ”

Draper hopes everyone who steps into the Richmond Public Library feels the same way about being here.

“Everybody, regardless of how they’re dressed or where they’re from, they’re welcome,” she says. “I always like to think, if you don’t belong anywhere, you belong in the library. For somebody who doesn’t know what the library has, what the library has is nothing but surprises.”



# Books in the Park

RVA Booklovers' Festival offers respite for computer-bleary eyes.

by Karen Newton

Just over a quarter of U.S. adults say they haven't read a book in whole or in part — and that encompasses reading in print, electronically or in audio form — in the past year, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in January.

The second annual RVA Booklovers' Festival may not be for them.

A local small press, BrandyLane Publishers and its imprint, Belle Isle Books, was the first to realize that despite an abundance of festivals — folk, yoga, beer, Hispanic music, mac and cheese, to name only a fraction — there was no book festival in Richmond.

Organizers saw writing conferences and literature crawls, but no large festival dedicated to books and the people who love them. Last year was the event's first edition and they used the interim to attend and take notes from older events such as the Fredericksburg Independent Book Festival and the Williamsburg Book Festival.

According to Christina Kann, the festival's organizer, the primary goal of the festival is to share a love of books and a passion for the city.

"We're delighted to incorporate a secondary goal of raising money for our charitable partners, local literacy organizations Excell and the Read Center," she says. The Excell — it stands for excellence in children's early language and literacy — program brings together families, educators, literacy specialists and community resources to support children's early language and literacy development. The Read Center changes lives by helping adults with low literacy develop the skills they need to reach their goals as employees, family members and residents in the community by providing classes, one-on-one tutoring instruction and community programs.

The festival takes place in Jefferson Park in Union Hill with three stages: the main stage, the Stephanie's Kindness Corner kids'



Festival organizers Mike Hardison, Grace Ball, Christina Kann and Robert Pruett stand in Jefferson Park, which is hosting the second annual RVA Booklovers Festival on Saturday, October 19.

stage and the Poet-tree. One of BrandyLane's editors mentioned being especially fond of a gigantic tree in Jefferson Park and, as literary people, punning was inevitable. The Poet-tree is emceed by the Writer's Den, a local poetry slam group, and will feature poetry group open mics, readings and workshops throughout the day.

The main stage features book talks from a diverse array of writers, including New York Times notable author Louis Bayard, BookRiot's Amanda Nelson and Ben Campbell. Stephanie's Kindness Corner kids' stage is named after BrandyLane author Stephanie Parwulski, who travels from Buffalo, New York, to participate in the festival.

Kann says they'll have more than 50 authors in attendance.

"We invite our own authors, but most of the attending authors are not affiliated with BrandyLane," she says about the process of taking submissions and evaluating every author to determine suitability, while trying to be inclusive. "There are a lot of wonderful indie and self-published authors out there looking for a platform,

and we want to give it to them."

Children's book author Parwulski, whose two books, "Beatrice and the Sunflower Gift" and "Gloria's Hope Tree," are published by BrandyLane's Belle Isle Books, is a festival favorite because, according to Kann, "She embodies the essence of what a good kids' book should do: educate, respect and spread kindness." Parwulski will be one of the children's book authors doing scheduled story times on the kids' stage throughout the day.

"I think events like this are important today because they're a celebration of humanity: our gifts, our wisdom, our perspectives," Parwulski explains. "When people come together at this festival to share their unique art forms, it's such an inspiring experience. Also, I feel that literacy provides an individual with such a beautiful foundation in life, so I'll always be a huge advocate of literary events."

As befits a book festival, all of the authors will have their books available for sale, along with more titles available at the BrandyLane booth, other publishers' booths and local bookseller Fountain

Bookstore's booth. Bookish artisans and crafters will be on hand, along with kids' activities at various author booths, book signings and a raffle.

And because no Richmond festival is complete without food and drink, attendees can count on Dank Eats' pitas, Pulp Fiction's smoothies, Two and a Half Irishmen's bread, and Urban Hang Suite's coffee and tea to keep them well fueled for literary endeavors.

One of those doing a reading at the festival is Anne Poarch, the author of two books of poetry, including her latest, "The Grit and Joy of Being." Of the opportunity to meet a diverse group of authors, illustrators, artisans and vendors in a historic Richmond park, she says, "In a beautiful setting, an outdoor event paired with books and authors can be both relaxing and stimulating to our digitally taxed minds." ■

The second annual RVA Booklovers' Festival takes place Oct. 19 at Jefferson Park, 1921 Princess Anne Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [rvabookloversfestival.com](http://rvabookloversfestival.com). **33**