



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

June 24, 2026

West End Branch Library
5420 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23226
(804) 646-1877

11:45 a.m.



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



Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

11:45 a.m.

A G E N D A

Call to order:	11:45 a.m.	Ms. Peterson
Agenda		Ms. Peterson
Consent Agenda:		Ms. Peterson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Minutes-May 27, 2026, Regular Meeting • Approval of Statistical Reports • Approval of Pending Deposited Gifts Report 		
Public Comment Period:		
Reports:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Friends • Library Foundation • Library Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Library/Community Services Manager • Advocacy Taskforce • Policy Taskforce 		Ms. DeBoer/Mr. Dishon Ms. Revere/Mr. Firestine Mr. Firestine Ms. Lisa Crisman Ms. Carter-Gunter/Mr. Green Ms. Altman
Board Committee Reports:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Report • Finance Committee • Facilities Committee • Governance Committee 		Ms. Peterson Mr. Firestine Ms. Woody/Mr. Firestine Ms. Peterson
Unfinished Business		Ms. Peterson
New Business		Ms. Peterson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote for Chair • Vote for Vice Chair 		
Adjourn		Ms. Peterson

Next Meeting:

Date: July 22, 2026
 Time: 11:45 a.m.
 Location: Ginter Park Branch Library
 1200 West brook Avenue
 Richmond, Virginia 23227
 Phone: 804.646.1236

Library Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
May 27, 2026

PRESENT: Chair Christine Peterson, Emily Altman, Brent Graves, Antione Green, Cynthia Hinds, Janet Woody, William Yates

ABSENT: Vice Chair Sheron Carter-Gunter

STAFF: Scott Firestine, Clay Dishon, Attorney Shannan Fitzgerald, Gianna Pack, Cheryl Clarke, Susan Revere, Phil Shephard, Chloe McCormick, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer

The Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) meeting was called to order by Chair Christine Peterson at 11:47 a.m. at the Main Library located at 101 E Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The meeting was posted, and the public could attend in person or by viewing the Richmond Public Library YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/2VfKL9U>, where it was live streamed. A quorum was established.

Agenda	<p>Approve the May 27, 2026, Agenda as submitted.</p> <p><i>Motion: <u>Janet Woody</u>, Second by <u>Emily Altman</u></i></p> <p><i>AYES: <u>6</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Green was not present for the vote.</i></p>
Consent Agenda	<p>Approve the April 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as Submitted:</p> <p><i>Motion: <u>William Yates</u>, Second by <u>Emily Altman</u></i></p> <p><i>AYES: <u>5</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Green was not present for the vote.</i></p>
Public Comment Period	None present.
Reports	
<p>Friends of the Library (FOL)</p> <p><u>Ruth DeBoer</u> <u>Clay Dishon</u></p>	<p>Ms. DeBoer reported the Friends organization was in the process of cleaning up following the May book sale and continuing efforts to recruit additional volunteers. She shared that the spring book sale was very successful and generated approximately \$24,000, setting a new fundraising record for the organization. Ms. DeBoer expressed her appreciation to staff and volunteers for their assistance and support during the book sale.</p> <p>Ms. DeBoer also reported that a couple of board members recently resigned due to job-related reasons, creating a total of four vacancies on the Board. Efforts are underway to encourage volunteers to step forward and fill open positions.</p>

Reports (Continued)

<p>Library Foundation</p> <p><u>Susan Revere</u></p>	<p>Ms. Revere provided an update on the Foundation’s recent activities and developments.</p> <p>Foundation Updates:</p> <p>Ms. Revere shared that the Foundation is welcoming Dr. Ron Ferguson to Richmond Public Library to host the “Early Learning Lab with Ron Ferguson: The Basics for Children and Their Caregivers.” The program is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Children’s Area near the Early Learning Center. Dr. Ferguson will provide a presentation followed by a Q&A session focused on simple and effective ways parents can support early learning and childhood development. Families will also have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities with children’s librarians. Registration is required for attendance.</p> <p>Children’s Area Upgrades:</p> <p>Ms. Revere reported that Westover Hills and Ginter Park Branch Libraries have completed installation of their new children’s area assets. Open Houses are currently being scheduled, and invitations will be extended to Board members. She also noted that upgrades at the North Avenue and West End Branch Libraries are the next phase of the project.</p>
<p>Administration</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Mr. Firestine had no additional updates beyond what was included in his Director’s Report.</p>
<p>Memory Lab/Special Collections</p> <p><u>Chloe McCormick</u></p>	<p>Senior Librarian Chloe McCormick, who oversees the Memory Lab and Special Collections, provided an update on the many successes and ongoing projects within these areas. In 2026, the Memory Lab conducted 468 appointments, and staff assisted patrons with more than 250 local history-related inquiries.</p> <p>Ms. McCormick also reported that new equipment has been acquired, including a large-format scanner that will allow the Library to digitize maps from the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation and Maury Cemetery in-house.</p> <p>She shared a digitization update, noting that with funding from the Mellon Foundation, the Library is digitizing significant collections of records from city-owned cemeteries, local churches, City of Richmond annual reports, City Assessor of Real Estate property cards, and other historical materials. Digitized materials are made available through Digital Special Collections, which has added more than 60,000 digital items in 2026.</p> <p>Ms. McCormick further reported that Special Collections recently accepted the donation of the Richmond Free Press collection, a comprehensive archive chronicling the publication’s 34-year run documenting Richmond’s Black community. The Library will begin processing the collection this summer and plans to add oral histories with the Boone family and Free Press staff members. The collection includes more than 250 boxes of photographs, biographical files, and newspaper copies.</p>
<p>Advocacy Task Force</p> <p>Sheron Carter-Gunter Antonie Green</p>	<p>No Formal Report.</p>

Reports (Continued)	
Policy Taskforce <u>Emily Altman</u>	Ms. Altman reported the Richmond Public Library Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 is in the process of being reviewed. More information coming.
Chair Report <u>Christine Peterson, Chair</u>	No Formal Report.
Finance <u>Bill Yates, Chair</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Mr. Yates reported on the financials to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget passed with the 2% cut, which was planned • The Collective Bargaining 3.25% raise for staff – money will be added to cover • Starting July, the City will start negotiations with the new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the five bargaining units which will impact FY2028 • CIP received another million dollars to help with the facilities expansion and improvement
Facilities <u>Janet Woody, Chair</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Mr. Firestine reported on two key topics. First, he shared that the final Dewberry Report has been completed, and copies of the report were distributed at the meeting for review prior to the June 2 meeting with the Facilities Committee, LBOT members, and Dewberry Engineers Inc. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Branch Library Study for the East End, Belmont, and Westover Hills Branch Libraries and to answer any questions related to the study. Mr. Firestine also reported that the EV Bookmobile has been ordered.
Governance <u>Christine Peterson, Chair</u>	Chair Peterson discussed two key topics in Governance: <p>Succession Plan: Chair Peterson reported that there has been limited interest from members in serving in the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the upcoming term. She announced that, if no additional interest is expressed, she is willing to continue serving as Chair until the conclusion of her term on June 30, 2027.</p> <p>Chair Peterson also shared that Ms. Sheron Carter-Gunter does not wish to continue serving as Vice Chair when her term ends. If no other nominations are presented, Mr. Graves will assume the Vice Chair position. She also noted Mr. Graves has not agreed (though is inclined) to then step into the Chair position after her term ends.</p> <p>Chair Peterson encouraged members to consider the proposed leadership plan and advised that a vote will take place at the June 24 meeting.</p> <p>Vacancies: Chair Peterson stated that she would like to see trustee representation from each City district, noting that having all districts represented gives the Library a stronger voice throughout the City. She reported that there are currently trustees representing five districts, while districts 3, 6, 7, and 9 do not currently have representation on the Board.</p> <p>Chair Peterson shared that she plans to speak with the Councilmembers from the unrepresented districts to identify individuals within their communities who are supportive of libraries and may be interested in serving as trustees. She also encouraged Board members to reach out to her if they know of potential candidates from those districts who would be a good fit for the Board.</p>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Peterson confirmed the 3-Board Working Session scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Main Library. She explained that the meeting will focus on messaging, based on feedback received from attendees during last year's session.

Chair Peterson reported that Reagan Thacker from the Library of Virginia will again serve as speaker and facilitator for the meeting. She shared that the program has been designed to elevate the Board's communication and advocacy efforts by helping participants develop their own personal approach to communicating the Director's key messages. The session will include discussion of data points and guidance on how members can draw from their own stories and neighborhood experiences to craft messages that feel authentic and comfortable to deliver. The training will also address what to say and different methods of delivery, all based on Mr. Firestine's identified messaging points. Chair Peterson stated that the expectation is for participants to learn from an expert facilitator, practice communication techniques during the session, and leave with a stronger understanding of how to effectively share the Library's message.

Chair Peterson also noted that the LBOT has hosted the previous two meetings and expressed her hope that the Friends and the Foundation would host future meetings to keep the momentum going.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. by unanimous consent from the members who were present.

The LBOT's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at the West End Branch Library located at 5420 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, 23226, starting at 11:45 a.m.

Approved: _____
Christine Peterson, Chair

*Recorder: Gianna Pack, CAP
Senior Executive Assistant*

Director's Report June 2026

Director Activities:

- Jun 2 Branch Library Study with Dewberry – Virtual
- Jun 3 RPL Foundation Board Meeting – Broad Rock Branch Library
- Jun 3 RPL Friends Executive Board Meeting – Main Library
- Jun 4 Commerce Road Development Meeting with Harper Associates, Chair Peterson, Brent Graves – Main Library
- Jun 4 Harm Reduction Vending Machine Response Meeting with Anna Jones – Virtual
- Jun 4 Urban Libraries Council Meeting with Directors – Virtual
- Jun 8 Informal and Formal Council Meetings – City Hall
- Jun 10 Update on RPL Facilities Expansion with Gil Johnson and Chair Peterson – General Services Office
- Jun 18 Meeting with Carole Weinstein and Susan Revere – Main Library
- Jun 19 Juneteenth Holiday – Libraries Closed
- Jun 22 Informal and Formal Council Meetings – City Hall
- Jun 23 Ginter Park Children's Area Open House – Ginter Park Branch Library
- Jun 23 LBOT 3-Board Retreat – Main Library
- Jun 25 Westover Hills Children's Area Open House – Westover Hills Branch Library
- Jun 30 Annual MAP Retreat with Mayor – Midtown Green

Hiring:

- **June 2026 Hiring Update:**
 - 0008 – PT Library Technician, Main Library – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 0018 – PT Library Technician, West End Branch Library – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 0075 – PT Library Associate/YS, Main Library – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 00129 – PT Temporary Library Associate, Main Library – Candidate Selection Phase
- **Hired/Location:**
 - John Dietz promoted to 0059 – FT Library Technician, Hull Street Branch Library – June 13, 2026
 - Shawn Williams promoted to 0185 – PT YS/Library Associate, Main Library – June 13, 2026
 - Evan Voldal, 0026 – FT Library Technician, East End Branch Library – June 29, 2026

The Learning Lab with Dr. Ron Ferguson: Richmond Public Library was pleased to host *The Learning Lab with Dr. Ron Ferguson* on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Dr. Ferguson, a MIT-trained economist and former faculty member at the Harvard Kennedy School, led the program for parents, caregivers, and young children in the Children's Area and Early Learning Center.

The event attracted 44 participants and provided families with practical, research-based strategies to support early literacy and child development at home. Attendees engaged in interactive learning experiences, including hands-on activities facilitated by library staff. One memorable moment occurred during a number-recognition activity when a child successfully identified the number ten for the first time, demonstrating the immediate impact of the program's learning approach.

Participants expressed appreciation for the simple and effective techniques presented during the session, as well as the opportunity to learn and practice skills alongside their children. The program was made possible through the support of Thrive Birth to Five and the Richmond Public Library Foundation.

Director's Report (Continued)

June 2026

RippleCon 2026: Richmond Public Library hosted its fourth annual RippleCon, the Library's mini comic convention, on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event continued its impressive growth, drawing 675 attendees and establishing itself as one of the Library's most popular annual programs.



This year's RippleCon featured two internationally recognized guest celebrities: Andrew Wincott, the voice actor for Raphael in *Baldur's Gate 3*, who traveled from London, England, and Jon McLaren, the voice of Star-Lord in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, who joined us from Toronto, Canada. Both guests generously provided free autographs and spent considerable time engaging with patrons, creating memorable experiences for attendees of all ages.

The event also showcased 40 local vendors offering a wide variety of fandom-related merchandise and artwork. Attendees participated in four hands-on workshops, including Jedi Lightsabers, Avatar Yoga, Paper Quilling, and Miniature Painting. Mini Dungeons & Dragons campaigns were especially popular and reached capacity throughout the day.

Additional activities included children's and teen crafts, gaming opportunities, costume decorating, and a selection of food trucks. The event concluded with a special guest panel discussion and a cosplay contest featuring prizes for participants.

RippleCon continues to grow each year, attracting new audiences to the Library while celebrating creativity, community, and popular culture. The success of this year's event reflects the dedication of Library staff, volunteers, community partners, and vendors who helped make the day a memorable experience for all who attended.



Outreach and Engagement Update: Richmond Public Library staff spent May spreading the word about our Summer Reading Program! Staff visited several school programs including Woodville Day Nursery, the Health Fair at Swansboro Elementary School, the Get-Ready-For -Summer Literacy Night at Anny Julia Cooper, Encore/Lunch at Henry L. Marsh Elementary, the Anna Julia Cooper Kindergarten Clap-Out, and the Southampton Elementary Literacy Luau.

We also had the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts take a field trip to our Westover Hills Branch. Finally, we distributed Summer Reading Logs to every single Richmond Public Schools PK-5th grader and all Read with Ripple daycare students.

Aside from school events, we tabled at the Westover Hills Neighborhood Picnic, the District 4 Meeting, and spoke at Urban Baby Beginnings Sisters' Keeper program. We also hosted our monthly Bilingual Storytime at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. In all we reached over 1,200 community members during the month of May.

Something Amazing Happened at the Library!

- **Broad Rock Branch Library** – Broad Rock Branch Library AARP employee Lolita Seward was honored with the NBC12 Acts of Kindness award for her kindness in working with the children at Homework Help. She received \$300 and a gift certificate to Mexico Restaurant and will be featured on the NBC12 news on June 2 (Article attached).
- **Ginter Park Branch Library** – Because of the new landscaping, thanks to the RPL Greening Project, the Ginter Park Library was included in the Bellevue Civic Association Garden Walk. We had more than 70 people come to the library to see the impressive new grounds, and many of them stopped in to see the library and get new library cards.
- **Main Library** - 30+ kids between the ages of 0 – 10 sat still for about half an hour while Library/Community Services Manager/YS Beth Morris performed Peter and the Wolf with members of Richmond Symphony Orchestra. Truly a great experience. For 30 minutes, Beth had them all in the palm of her hand!
- **West End Branch Library** – A 77-year-old patron with very little experience using computers or mobile devices recently visited the West End Branch on three occasions to print legal documents, sign them, and have them notarized. Each visit presented some challenges, as the patron was unfamiliar with the technology involved in the process.

On every occasion, Library Technician Nico D'Archangel took the time to help. Nico patiently guided the patron through each step, helping navigate the patron's iPhone, access and print documents, and complete the notary process. His kindness, patience, and willingness to help made what could have been a frustrating experience much easier and more comfortable for the patron.

Nico's gracious and attentive customer service exemplifies the Library's commitment to meeting patrons where they are and ensuring everyone feels welcomed and supported.

- **Westover Hills Branch Library** – A patron named Justice has been coming in lately job searching. She does taxes seasonally and is looking for something outside of tax season. Do to the access and space here, she was able to use our meeting room for a Zoom interview! When I spoke to her afterwards, she was not sure if it was the job she wanted but getting the interview was a big step. She had moved here recently and at first just came in for some printing. It was so easy to print from her phone, and she said she felt everyone was inviting. Justice said she was grateful to come to the library and feel welcome.

CIRCULATION FY2026														
LOCATION	FY	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
Belmont	FY23	8,400	9,297	8,586	8,967	7,642	6,982	8,312	8,167	9,161	8,345	8,716	9,056	101,631
	FY24	9,417	9,967	9,066	9,340	8,224	7,515	9,085	8,454	8,780	9,182	9,140	9,329	107,499
	FY25	9,655	8,891	9,159	9,439	8,600	9,685	9,164	9,328	9,468	9,614	9,043	9,811	111,857
	FY26	10,213	9,752	11,015	10,166	9,544	9,351	9,291	8,605	9,104	8,976	9,295		105,312
Broad Rock	FY23	1,886	2,413	2,106	1,977	1,721	1,531	1,758	1,807	2,330	2,290	2,080	1,884	23,783
	FY24	1,897	1,953	1,950	2,106	1,836	1,828	2,008	2,135	2,556	2,417	2,229	2,415	25,330
	FY25	2,543	2,564	2,515	2,701	2,433	2,490	2,515	2,241	2,307	2,148	2,138	2,589	29,184
	FY26	2,507	2,094	2,325	2,122	1,921	1,545	1,630	1,577	1,875	1,932	1,791		21,319
East End	FY23	2,898	3,313	2,951	2,837	2,246	1,990	2,671	2,600	2,487	2,526	2,519	2,451	31,489
	FY24	2,952	3,044	2,307	2,215	2,041	1,988	2,534	2,742	2,961	2,967	3,003	3,038	31,792
	FY25	3,418	2,890	2,989	3,180	2,661	2,606	2,709	2,690	2,782	2,556	2,571	3,160	34,212
	FY26	3,166	2,922	3,254	3,298	3,043	2,831	2,591	2,868	3,003	2,800	2,818		32,594
Ginter Park	FY23	4,607	4,802	4,463	4,174	3,610	3,612	4,283	3,728	4,660	4,232	3,889	4,525	50,585
	FY24	4,819	4,795	4,104	3,878	3,733	3,391	4,214	3,947	4,242	3,943	4,241	4,733	50,040
	FY25	5,575	5,005	4,430	4,460	4,045	4,169	4,550	4,683	5,323	5,033	5,169	5,806	58,248
	FY26	6,204	5,920	5,939	5,723	5,385	4,928	5,641	5,616	5,653	5,474	5,416		61,899
Hull Street	FY23	1,987	2,359	2,346	2,331	1,895	1,822	2,069	2,073	2,049	2,272	2,233	1,930	25,366
	FY24	2,386	2,461	2,030	2,359	2,470	2,137	2,281	2,059	1,870	1,849	1,777	2,036	25,715
	FY25	2,123	2,120	2,146	2,295	1,785	1,847	1,500	1,517	1,709	1,516	1,445	1,503	21,506
	FY26	1,706	1,778	1,827	1,928	1,522	1,540	1,545	1,512	1,709	1,348	1,610		18,025
Main	FY23	7,932	9,457	8,777	8,957	7,149	6,313	8,304	8,189	9,523	8,891	9,053	8,341	100,886
	FY24	9,347	9,863	9,016	9,344	7,839	7,022	7,933	8,265	9,416	9,041	8,665	8,386	104,137
	FY25	8,724	9,236	8,857	8,888	7,880	7,467	8,022	8,039	9,212	8,823	8,639	9,568	103,355
	FY26	10,102	9,751	10,612	9,629	8,928	8,682	9,108	9,186	9,588	8,252	8,642		102,480

CIRCULATION FY2026 (CONTINUED)

LOCATION	FY	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
North Avenue	FY23	2,139	2,118	2,085	2,378	2,367	1,743	949	77	-	-	226	1,005	15,087
	FY24	1,638	2,294	2,259	2,390	1,998	1,943	2,392	2,108	2,011	2,119	2,358	2,748	26,258
	FY25	2,943	2,899	2,907	2,965	2,321	2,375	2,468	2,478	2,843	2,441	2,702	3,318	32,660
	FY26	3,217	3,201	3,530	3,389	3,107	3,326	3,441	3,455	3,514	3,353	3,894		37,427
West End	FY23	13,150	13,412	10,950	11,072	10,121	8,552	10,395	9,966	10,771	10,338	10,968	11,745	131,440
	FY24	12,573	12,176	10,311	10,507	9,828	8,881	10,400	10,328	10,789	11,027	11,457	12,216	130,493
	FY25	13,977	12,956	11,756	11,346	9,624	9,890	11,234	10,498	10,948	10,547	10,591	12,538	135,905
	FY26	13,404	12,202	12,155	11,749	10,858	10,000	11,533	11,785	11,764	10,387	11,213		127,050
Westover Hills	FY23	8,424	8,612	8,155	8,407	7,765	6,496	7,540	7,706	8,344	7,423	7,463	8,703	95,038
	FY24	10,057	9,438	8,550	8,313	7,733	7,198	7,721	8,131	8,432	8,196	8,131	9,168	101,068
	FY25	10,085	9,495	8,938	8,821	7,746	7,906	8,363	8,067	8,351	8,209	8,659	9,636	104,276
	FY26	10,556	9,937	9,759	9,611	8,136	8,663	9,191	9,210	10,073	9,330	8,767		103,233
E-Content	FY23	16,079	16,510	14,806	14,910	15,126	16,515	19,182	17,810	23,496	24,317	24,593	24,071	227,415
	FY24	25,640	27,387	26,401	27,051	26,710	27,809	34,405	35,378	37,274	36,890	37,078	39,698	381,721
	FY25	41,178	40,652	40,124	39,955	42,109	44,466	50,662	46,551	51,789	50,778	52,187	46,592	547,043
	FY26	54,175	54,617	52,066	52,375	50,586	53,204	59,296	52,363	57,669	56,079	59,597		602,027
Totals	FY23	67,502	72,293	65,225	66,010	59,642	55,556	65,463	62,123	72,821	70,634	71,740	73,711	802,720
	FY24	80,964	82,302	76,087	77,602	72,788	71,882	83,052	84,421	89,019	88,063	87,982	94,249	988,411
	FY25	100,221	96,708	93,821	94,050	89,204	92,901	101,187	96,092	104,732	101,665	103,144	104,521	1,178,246
	FY26	115,250	112,174	112,482	109,990	103,030	104,070	113,267	106,177	113,952	107,931	113,043		1,211,366

PROGRAMS FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
Belmont														
Adult Programs	9	11	9	10	5	11	10	8	14	15	10			96
Adult Attend	57	60	75	73	32	51	43	35	58	63	76			837
Young Adult Programs	3	0	2	2	2	2	0	3	1	2	2			21
Young Adult Attend	3	0	2	4	4	4	0	9	2	8	8			35
Juvenile Programs	20	6	17	17	11	11	13	14	15	17	15			184
Juvenile Attend	460	132	323	323	208	220	220	222	261	333	358			3,710
Total Attend	520	192	400	400	244	275	263	266	321	404	442	0	3,727	4,582
Total Programs	32	17	28	29	18	24	23	25	30	34	27	0	287	301
Broad Rock														
Adult Programs	3	0	6	8	5	4	5	10	13	12	6			104
Adult Attend	6	0	18	43	60	17	46	193	100	81	24			1,698
Young Adult Programs	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	1			36
Young Adult Attend	16	9	11	22	1	4	5	7	25	30	27			236
Juvenile Programs	44	24	33	35	24	30	23	28	31	18	43			318
Juvenile Attend	242	77	98	131	37	27	36	66	152	459	89			2,153
Total Attend	264	86	127	196	98	48	87	266	277	570	140	0	2,159	4,087
Total Programs	50	27	42	46	31	37	31	41	47	33	50	0	435	458
East End														
Adult Programs	24	17	14	5	3	3	3	3	6	2	4		84	75
Adult Attend	136	198	159	28	22	22	18	18	65	14	101		781	712
Young Adult Programs	12	7	9	9	6	8	6	8	8	8	5		86	110
Young Adult Attend	54	30	35	32	11	7	12	21	7	20	17		246	456
Juvenile Programs	22	7	17	19	11	16	12	20	20	20	17		181	242
Juvenile Attend	191	79	118	143	69	141	46	165	136	168	260		1,516	2,793
Total Attend	381	307	312	203	102	170	76	204	208	202	378	0	2,543	3,961
Total Programs	58	31	40	33	20	27	21	31	34	30	26	0	351	427

PROGRAMS FY2026 (CONTINUED)	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
Ginter Park														
Adult Programs	12	10	13	9	11	11	11	12	18	13	14		134	118
Adult Attend	51	40	43	28	27	38	36	38	57	46	32		436	433
Young Adult Programs	10	6	3	5	4	2	3	5	5	4	3		50	93
Young Adult Attend	44	10	5	0	2	1	1	17	21	7	6		114	234
Juvenile Programs	29	18	28	31	23	28	23	28	26	26	25		285	275
Juvenile Attend	351	132	195	150	159	148	129	212	175	208	174		2,033	1,798
Total Attend	446	182	243	178	188	187	166	267	253	261	212	0	2,583	2,465
Total Programs	51	34	44	45	38	41	37	45	49	43	42	0	469	486
Hull Street														
Adult Programs	7	7	15	14	6	9	10	13	11	8	10		110	65
Adult Attend	26	34	71	53	23	74	45	65	56	29	26		502	362
Young Adult Programs	4	1	3	1	5	1	3	2	3	2	2		27	28
Young Adult Attend	25	2	0	1	25	0	0	0	2	0	0		55	83
Juvenile Programs	12	10	19	7	5	9	9	10	14	14	4		113	80
Juvenile Attend	174	96	162	48	60	15	36	15	72	54	4		736	1,352
Total Attend	225	132	233	102	108	89	81	80	130	83	30	0	1,293	1,797
Total Programs	23	18	37	22	16	19	22	25	28	24	16	0	250	173
Main														
Adult Programs	16	14	25	32	23	14	20	24	19	17	13		217	279
Adult Attend	188	278	423	374	332	209	224	525	328	378	282		3,541	7,116
Young Adult Programs	20	17	15	15	12	18	14	17	16	14	16		174	171
Young Adult Attend	211	115	90	105	91	91	68	100	98	117	89		1,175	1,052
Juvenile Programs	27	19	44	39	32	25	21	49	41	40	44		381	344
Juvenile Attend	863	394	389	422	486	285	404	796	625	569	671		5,904	6,886
Total Attend	1,262	787	902	901	909	585	696	1,421	1,051	1,064	1,042	0	10,620	6,102
Total Programs	63	50	84	86	67	57	55	90	76	71	73	0	772	336

PROGRAMS FY2026 (CONTINUED)	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
North Avenue														
Adult Programs	9	7	11	10	9	3	6	8	6	7	6		82	74
Adult Attend	45	36	84	140	70	58	28	38	42	53	32		626	594
Young Adult Programs	2	2	5	5	5	18	5	5	3	5	2		57	20
Young Adult Attend	59	40	19	34	15	167	17	19	12	17	7		406	208
Juvenile Programs	25	17	22	26	11	2	14	22	24	24	24		211	240
Juvenile Attend	342	312	378	402	197	12	180	296	275	285	315		2,994	3,396
Total Attend	446	388	481	576	282	237	225	353	329	355	354	0	4,026	4,198
Total Programs	36	26	38	41	25	23	25	35	33	36	32	0	350	334
West End														
Adult Programs	12	10	17	19	18	18	10	15	20	17	9		165	154
Adult Attend	48	53	106	142	146	68	55	62	111	105	72		968	736
Young Adult Programs	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2		24	18
Young Adult Attend	25	17	5	7	6	1	4	2	3	0	3		73	40
Juvenile Programs	29	16	21	27	12	19	14	18	21	26	21		224	235
Juvenile Attend	504	194	231	349	140	203	142	233	232	383	293		2,904	3,337
Total Attend	577	264	342	498	292	272	201	297	346	488	368	0	3,945	4,113
Total Programs	45	28	40	48	32	38	26	35	44	45	32	0	413	407
Westover Hills														
Adult Programs	6	6	10	7	7	6	8	7	10	10	11		88	128
Adult Attend	35	27	35	37	43	48	50	69	107	154	90		695	971
Young Adult Programs	3	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	2		29	32
Young Adult Attend	21	38	0	6	0	1	8	6	4	29	8		121	98
Juvenile Programs	33	17	32	34	20	23	26	25	29	32	25		296	286
Juvenile Attend	739	550	1,618	716	379	605	429	488	610	802	556		7,492	5,468
Total Attend	795	615	1,653	759	422	654	487	563	721	985	654	0	8,308	6,537
Total Programs	42	27	44	43	29	32	36	35	41	46	38	0	413	446
Grand Total Attend	4,916	2,953	4,693	3,813	2,645	2,517	2,282	3,717	3,636	4,412	3,620	0	39,204	46,794
Grand Total Programs	400	258	397	393	276	298	276	362	382	362	336	0	3,740	3,826

DOOR COUNT FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL
Belmont	5,000	5,000	5,587	6,420	4,894	4,789	5,281	4,437	5,832	6,065	5,840		59,145
Broad Rock	5,285	5,381	4,888	5,002	3,569	3,271	3,673	4,189	4,345	5,029	4,573		49,205
East End	5,175	5,658	5,538	5,783	3,889	3,846	4,096	4,680	4,857	5,118	4,199		52,839
Ginter Park	4,921	4,820	4,234	4,283	3,563	3,225	3,330	4,734	4,696	4,602	3,760		46,168
Hull Street	2,646	2,654	3,358	3,759	2,314	2,684	2,658	3,246	3,523	4,193	3,513		34,548
Main	16,091	18,303	15,550	17,242	13,809	11,051	12,109	15,244	15,538	15,034	17,471		167,442
North Avenue	3,256	3,380	3,256	3,645	3,141	3,154	3,126	3,543	3,910	4,125	3,954		38,490
West End	4,638	4,358	4,280	3,720	3,588	2,986	3,504	3,512	4,081	3,762	3,731		42,160
Westover Hills	6,673	5,865	7,133	6,029	4,628	4,913	5,090	5,059	5,684	6,090	5,673		62,837
TOTALS FY26:	53,685	55,419	53,824	55,883	43,395	39,919	42,867	48,644	52,466	54,018	52,714		552,834
TOTALS FY25:	51,117	54,769	46,019	50,443	37,015	41,276	43,168	39,985	48,783	45,396	46,593	51,924	556,488
TOTALS FY24:	39,382	46,969	32,640	45,796	32,816	35,874	42,622	46,082	46,907	56,662	54,040	52,146	531,936

NOTE: July-August 2025: The Belmont door counter was currently out of service and scheduled for replacement.

NEW PATRON CARDS													
FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
Belmont	163	147	145	131	91	101	112	90	112	107	85		1,284
Broad Rock	84	101	86	82	35	36	69	59	77	42	43		714
East End	60	75	60	57	44	29	56	64	45	53	56		599
Ginter Park	83	79	53	49	111	50	59	50	42	57	46		679
Hull Street	64	51	49	38	28	23	47	33	33	58	37		461
Main	284	392	448	584	425	443	431	329	283	320	341		4,280
North Avenue	42	47	55	58	27	32	40	33	18	29	53		434
West End	105	87	82	72	56	60	75	62	55	59	73		786
Westover Hills	125	79	110	97	47	46	68	62	78	76	62		850
Online Reg E-Card	1,061	1,068	1,116	835	813	837	1,275	678	835	861	939		10,318
Total FY26:	2,071	2,126	2,204	2,003	1,677	1,657	2,232	1,460	1,578	1,662	1,735	-	20,405
Total FY25:	1,545	1,715	2,165	1,743	1,598	1,375	2,020	1,844	1,868	1,745	1,745	1,978	21,341
Total FY24:	1,526	1,689	1,492	1,768	1,668	1,200	1,924	1,581	1,655	1,595	1,510	1,534	19,142

COMPUTER USE FY2026	Jul-25	Aug- 25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May- 26	Jun-26	TOTAL
Belmont Workstation	611	575	468	619	479	513	515	396	639	688	588		6,091
WIFI	763	885	901	893	718	490	263	598	640	851	952		7,954
Broad Rock Workstation	695	675	734	732	502	514	560	725	745	649	654		7,185
WIFI	1,662	1,167	1,107	1,156	511	532	298	1,371	810	948	1,122		10,684
East End Workstation	210	547	530	429	234	-	-	582	612	526	504		4,174
WIFI	1,375	1,586	1,319	1,254	664	657	268	1,286	818	1,215	978		11,420
Ginter Park Workstation	719	700	577	571	492	526	549	611	794	822	694		7,055
WIFI	895	1,506	1,532	1,087	647	516	260	666	965	1,048	1,078		10,200
Hull Street Workstation	457	599	662	700	479	511	499	632	550	528	500		6,117
WIFI	1,295	1,379	995	911	494	409	270	790	605	714	880		8,742
Main Workstation	2,175	2,241	2,244	2,040	1,736	1,745	1,885	1,920	2,202	2,031	2,273		22,492
WIFI	7,388	8,683	6,996	7,205	4,440	3,285	2,229	5,202	7,295	8,811	9,320		70,854
North Avenue Workstation	588	617	493	522	322	338	381	413	528	487	424		5,113
WIFI	1,411	959	766	621	386	373	173	583	437	573	594		6,876
West End Workstation	357	372	331	323	246	267	309	323	318	418	494		3,758
WIFI	1,874	1,367	1,681	1,228	849	983	454	1,029	991	1,211	1,381		13,048
Westover Hills Workstation	587	531	528	510	400	348	452	450	475	520	424		5,225
WIFI	744	726	745	671	308	229	155	523	391	568	582		5,642
TOTALS FY26:	23,806	25,115	22,609	21,472	13,907	12,236	9,520	18,100	19,815	22,608	23,442		212,630
TOTALS FY25:	21,187	21,829	20,636	23,149	17,841	19,621	17,496	18,232	21,343	21,448	21,953	23,306	248,041
TOTALS FY24:	16,191	18,566	17,176	18,563	13,735	14,255	16,296	17,267	17,903	18,723	19,691	19,587	207,953
TOTALS FY23:	13,430	14,930	14,136	14,657	11,832	11,834	13,204	13,045	13,988	13,375	15,025	15,034	164,490

Note: Effective December 2025, East End Branch Library's Computer Tracking Workstation was out of service and is scheduled for replacement. January and February 2026 – Server Issues. Missing data.

TECHNICAL SERVICES - FLOATING ITEMS ADDED / DISCARDED				
FY2026	Printed Materials Added (All Branches)	Overdrive Added	Monthly Total Added	Monthly Total Discarded
Jul-25	2,424	787	3,211	785
Aug-25	1,806	335	2,141	420
Sep-25	1,602	427	2,029	709
Oct-25	1,109	339	1,448	635
Nov-25	735	329	1,064	1,223
Dec-25	1,266	373	1,639	7,469
Jan-26	1,086	500	1,586	5,932
Feb-26	1,261	385	1,646	516
Mar-26	1,467	562	2,029	716
Apr-26	1,625	402	2,027	893
May-26	1,483	629	2,112	289
Jun-26				
FY26 Totals:	15,864	5,068	20,932	19,587
FY25 Totals:	16,705	4,573	21,278	23,358
FY24 Totals:	14,096	5,041	19,137	43,251

LAPTOP CHECKOUTS FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL
Belmont	2	3	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	14
Broad Rock	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
East End	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	0	10
Ginter Park	1	4	1	3	2	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	17
Hull Street	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	7
Main Library	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
North Avenue	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
West End	2	8	5	2	7	8	2	6	2	1	0	0	43
Westover Hills	4	6	4	6	7	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	38
TOTALS FY26:	12	25	11	14	20	11	8	11	17	6	0	0	135
TOTALS FY25:	35	20	26	26	22	23	15	14	30	18	13	21	263

Jul-25		Aug-25		Sep-25		Oct-25		Nov-25		Dec-25		Jan-26		Feb-26		Mar-26		Apr-26		May-26		Jun-26		Total Requests	Total Attended
Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended		
13	71	17	80	16	41	26	63	15	71	5	34	11	54	18	110	17	84	15	62	17	41			170	711
20	79	3	137	21	283	32	176	23	282	27	498	19	128	28	410	29	280	35	245	31	262			268	2,780
27	98	42	184	34	137	40	129	28	105	28	62	33	76	18	158	30	152	34	140	26	90			340	1,331
23	116	15	55	16	114	11	77	14	111	8	53	15	38	11	164	21	231	19	179	21	121			174	1,259
9	107	13	309	13	254	21	363	16	306	10	155	10	160	7	132	17	256	10	160	11	146			137	2,348
27	1,776	26	1,637	25	1,406	32	2,807	26	790	19	889	27	1,995	33	770	25	1,346	30	2,235	33	3,796			303	19,447
21	467	14	713	18	452	20	635	16	225	14	207	19	170	26	905	28	985	22	735	25	812			223	6,306
11	364	15	853	17	668	16	744	24	790	10	330	17	430	21	390	20	555	13	270	20	830			184	6,224
19	843	22	1,145	28	763	29	1,150	19	526	20	435	34	995	29	345	27	1,075	22	675	27	911			276	8,863
76	76	62	62	83	83	78	78	52	52	84	84	69	69	54	54	81	81	75	75	88	88			802	802
12	12	18	18	10	10	5	5	3	3	14	14	9	9	15	15	14	14	19	19	20	20			139	139
109	219	90	222	97	205	99	202	72	147	74	153	96	224	96	172	105	235	95	184	96	252			1,029	2,215
100	354	81	343	84	321	87	341	66	286	71	254	82	323	101	321	98	409	84	411	87	422			941	3,785
86	326	79	387	78	302	89	359	65	293	66	305	85	370	91	411	73	402	87	474	92	428			891	4,057
15	121	17	85	13	72	11	59	15	45	12	30	8	22	10	31	9	41	13	45	7	36			130	587
7	73	13	146	14	170	8	96	12	211	6	72	6	98	12	140	14	201	14	165	11	201			117	1,573
79	145	81	174	75	117	71	129	53	90	47	86	44	107	60	119	65	118	70	121	75	144			720	1,350
5	15	3	24	10	48	14	120	10	126	6	42	10	215	11	68	11	107	11	102	7	82			98	949
659	5,262	611	6,574	652	5,446	689	7,533	529	4,459	521	3,703	594	5,483	641	4,715	684	6,572	668	6,297	694	8,682	-	-	6,942	64,726
550	3,309	523	4,111	562	4,327	635	5,412	537	3,673	521	4,189	447	4,117	578	5,930	634	6,401	680	6,647	653	6,034	647	6,707	6,967	60,857

Richmond Public Library
 FY26 Operating Budget
 May 31, 2026

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Actual and Encumbered 31-May-26	% Spent	Balance Available 31-May-26
60000	SALARIES - FULL TIME	\$ 4,733,156	\$ 3,934,672	83.1%	\$ 798,484
60001	OVERTIME PERMAN	\$ 19,176	\$ 2,630	13.7%	\$ 16,546
61000	SALARIES - PART TIME	\$ 426,914	\$ 543,655	127.3%	\$ (116,741)
62000	SALARIES - TEMPORARY	\$ 10,000	\$ 49,264	492.6%	\$ (39,264)
63000	FICA	\$ 314,974	\$ 271,049	86.1%	\$ 43,925
63001	RET CON RSRs	\$ 291,626	\$ 257,370	88.3%	\$ 34,256
63002	MEDCARE FICA	\$ 73,674	\$ 63,571	86.3%	\$ 10,103
63003	GROUP LIFE	\$ 28,766	\$ 20,423	71.0%	\$ 8,343
63004	CONSTITUTIONAL	\$ 69,193	\$ 59,078	0.0%	\$ 10,115
63006	H/C ACT TEMP	\$ 958,691	\$ 851,634	88.8%	\$ 107,057
63008	STATE UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ -	\$ 6,426	0.0%	\$ (6,426)
63011	HEALTH SAVINGS	\$ -	\$ 14,375	0.0%	\$ (14,375)
63100	VRS HYBRID DB	\$ 439,381	\$ 312,078	71.0%	\$ 127,303
63105	VRS HYBRID DC	\$ -	\$ 21,508	0.0%	\$ (21,508)
63110	VRS HYBRID VLDP	\$ -	\$ 15,916	0.0%	\$ (15,916)
63115	VRS Hybrid 401a	\$ -	\$ 23,836	0.0%	\$ (23,836)
64103	Educnctv #81	\$ -	\$ 18,054	0.0%	\$ (18,054)
	Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,365,551	\$ 6,465,540	87.8%	\$ 900,011
71141	BOOKS	\$ 952,359	\$ 865,533	90.9%	\$ 86,826
71141	DATABASES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71142	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS	\$ 2,456	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,456
72122	MAGS & NEWSPAPER	\$ 29,277	\$ 5,818	19.9%	\$ 23,459
	Collection Development	\$ 984,092	\$ 871,351	88.5%	\$ 112,741
70131	ADVERTISING	\$ 2,297	\$ 7,496	326.4%	\$ (5,199)
70161	PLANNING MGMT SERVICES	\$ 483,050	\$ 426,868	88.4%	\$ 56,182
70215	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$ 81,200	\$ 32,363	39.9%	\$ 48,837
70218	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,351	97.9%	\$ 51
70412	TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
70416	EMPLOYEE PARKING	\$ 21,600	\$ 23,360	108.1%	\$ (1,760)
70311	PRINTED SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,000
70413	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,263	\$ 935	41.3%	\$ 1,328
70551	SECURITY	\$ 294,543	\$ 255,702	86.8%	\$ 38,841
70552	CONTRACT AND TEMP PERSONNEL	\$ 22,000	\$ 66,486	302.2%	\$ (44,486)
71012	OFFICE STATIONARY SUPPLIES	\$ 3,047	\$ (260)	-8.5%	\$ 3,307
71016	ADVERTISING	\$ -	\$ 10,000	0.0%	\$ (10,000)
71143	LIBRARY OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 19,220	\$ (6,229)	-32.4%	\$ 25,449
72113	POSTAGE	\$ 4,456	\$ (214)	-4.8%	\$ 4,670
72121	CONFERENCES & CON	\$ 1,904	\$ 580	30.5%	\$ 1,324
72123	MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 677	\$ 2,745	405.5%	\$ (2,068)
72124	TRAINING	\$ 1,055	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,055
72131	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	\$ 25,662	\$ (15,436)	-60.2%	\$ 41,098
72153	EQUIPMENT	\$ 138,341	\$ 77,172	55.8%	\$ 61,169
73104	BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 10,170	0.0%	\$ (10,170)
76119	PAGERS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
76652	PAPER PRODUCTS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77103	FUEL-D/O VEHICLE	\$ 1,686	\$ 1,741	103.3%	\$ (55)
77104	VEHICLE MONTHLY STANDING	\$ 493	\$ 452	91.7%	\$ 41
77107	AUTO EXPENSES C	\$ -	\$ 9,023	0.0%	\$ (9,023)
77201	INTERNAL PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77401	CLAIMS & SETTLEMENTS	\$ -	\$ 995	0.0%	\$ (995)
77501	DIT CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 9,741	0.0%	\$ (9,741)
80001	DEPRECIATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80004	BUILDINGS & STR	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80006	EQUIPMENT & OFFICE MAINTENANCE	\$ 31,160	\$ 11,586	37.2%	\$ 19,574
80007	VEHICLE EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
95002	OPERATING TRANS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
	Other Expenses	\$ 1,140,056	\$ 927,627	81.4%	\$ 212,429
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 9,489,699	\$ 8,264,518	87.1%	\$ 1,225,181

Richmond Public Library
 Foundation, Friends, Groups and Individuals
 FY2026

Consent Agenda: Deposited Gifts over \$100 Shown as of
 June 24, 2026

Date of Check	Donor Name	Current Month Amount	Purpose/Location	YTD Account Balance		
				Gift	Foundation	Friends
	<i>No Donations</i>	\$ -				
	Monthly Total	\$ -				
	YTD Total	\$ -	Year To Date Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

A CIP Initiative: Improving our Libraries

Background: Richmond Public Library (RPL) is experiencing an unprecedented surge in demand. From FY 22 to FY25, we've seen a 36% increase in visitors, a 113% increase in new cardholders and a 317% rise in program attendance. Our technology usage (PC; Wi-Fi) has gone up 400%. However, our physical infrastructure no longer satisfies the demand. We propose expanding three of our oldest and smallest libraries and building a new library in the proposed Commerce Road development.

Expand three existing libraries (year built/square feet): Belmont Branch(1956/7,400), East End Branch (1965/6,216) and Westover Hills Branch (1959/5,072) are no longer meeting user needs.

- **Solution:** Expand each of these libraries to ~15,000 sq ft. Dewberry Engineers Inc. has confirmed that all 3 libraries can be expanded, on the same building footprint, through a major renovation or complete rebuild.
- **Price/Time:** Dewberry has provided a wide range of design options and projects that a renovation or rebuild of each library is about the same cost and timeframe, ~\$17M over 2.5 years.
- **Next Step:** Solicit additional library input, agree on design, and move on to next steps.

Build new library: Our newest library was built 39 years ago. Since there are 5 libraries north of the river and 3 south of the river. a new library on the south-side is warranted. Richmond's population growth supports this.

- **Solution:** Add a new library as an anchor to the new Harper Associates Commerce Road development. At 25,000 sq ft it will provide the full range of library services and provide space to expand our memory lab.
- **Price/Time:** To build new, the cost is projected to be ~\$25M. Options for a build/lease arrangement are also possible. The start date is likely sometime in 2028.
- **Next Steps:** RPL will hire an urban planner to look at the development and guide us on the best location.

Benefit: Expanding libraries allows us to not only meet the current and future needs of our residents, it also supports each of the mayor's seven pillars for a Thriving Richmond.

Our Ask: CIP funding of \$75M for expansion of three existing libraries and the construction of a new library on the Commerce Road site south of the river.

Richmond Free Press archive finds permanent home at city library

34 years of Richmond history is now preserved for generations to come. Following its closure, the Richmond Free Press has donated its entire archive to the city

By [Cherisse Hoffman](#)

Published: May 29, 2026 at 6:17 PM EDT

<https://www.12onyourside.com/2026/05/29/richmond-free-press-archive-finds-permanent-home-city-library/>

RICHMOND, Va. (WWBT) - The Richmond Free Press may be gone, but it's not finished yet. After shutting down, the newspaper has donated its entire archive to the Richmond City Library. Inside boxes containing 34 years of history are stories that moved this city and amplified Black voices. Jean Patterson Boone, former publisher of the Richmond Free Press, said the family didn't know where the archive would end up.

"We had no idea exactly where we were going to land with our voluminous amounts of paper. But here we are and we're delighted to be here," she said.

The archive includes articles, a 1992 edition, photos and audio cassettes. One photo shows Raymond Boone interviewing Doug Wilder.

The collection also contains editorial notes, letters and decades of work painting a picture of where Richmond has been and how far it's come.

"There are facts and there are stories in this collection that just don't exist anywhere else. So we're honored to be able to share them," said Ben Himmelfarb, Community services manager at the main library.

Regina Boone, former photojournalist for the Richmond Free Press, said devoted readers of 34 years can come back and look at editions they missed or reminisce.

"You will see what we used to do. And then for our devoted readers of 34 years, they can come back and look and see and maybe look at editions that they missed or reminisce or they can say, 'oh my gosh, I know I was on the cover of the Free Press. I'd love to come see that edition or see those photos,'" she said.

From day one, people were running to get their hands on the Richmond Free Press every Thursday. The late Raymond Boone knew he'd built something special.

Jean Patterson Boone recalled the early days.

"My husband and I were driving and were like, wow. People really are reading this. I mean, we knew we were doing the right thing, but there was still this wow factor that carried us through these many years," she said.

The family said they believe this is exactly what he would have wanted.

"I know that he is just like whew, the archives are safe," Regina Boone said.

In the end, they want Richmonders to walk in, dig in and walk out inspired.

"We are providing a tool for you to enlighten yourself, to put many tools in your tool chest, right? And that's what we hope. And we just hope the legacy of the Richmond Free Press will live on," Regina Boone said.

The library said it has many boxes to go through. The archive will be on display for all visitors to see this fall.

∞ END ∞

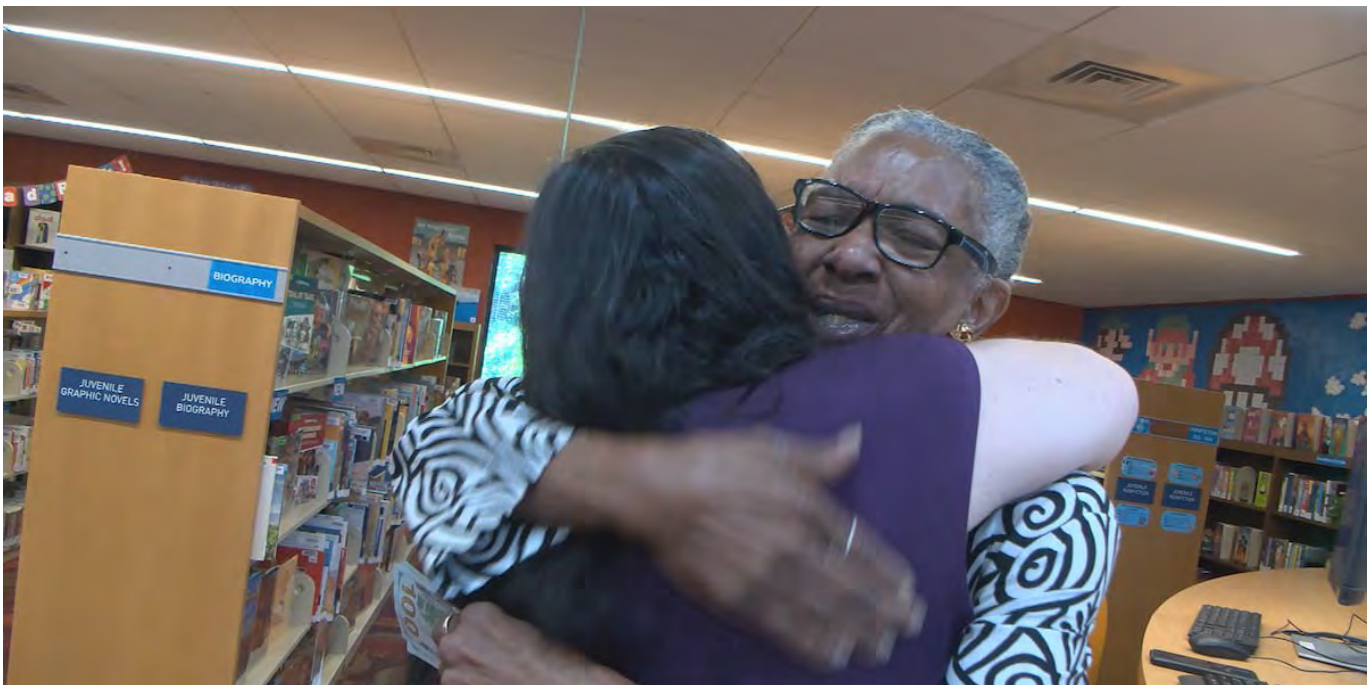
Richmond library assistant bridging gap for area students

At Broad Rock Library in Richmond, you will find endless adventures with every book.

By [Ashley Hendricks](#)

Published: Jun. 2, 2026 at 7:11 PM EDT | Updated: 16 hours ago

<https://www.12onyourside.com/2026/06/02/richmond-library-assistant-bridging-gap-area-students/#ha3u7cjcacr60kqpgcp575flkz0fixp0w>



RICHMOND, Va. (WWBT) - At Broad Rock Library in Richmond, you will find endless adventures with every book.

You will also find Lolita Seward, who's bridging the gap for local students.

"I love them, I do. I really, I'm so eager for them to learn," Seward said.

Heather Montgomery, who helped nominate Lolita for the Acts of Kindness award, says her contributions to students and this Richmond community are immeasurable.

∞ END ∞

Richmond Public Library hosted
*The Learning Lab with
Dr. Ron Ferguson*
Saturday, May 30, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Main Library

