



Central Rappahannock Regional
Library
INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING

Director's Written Report

Illustrating Elements of CRRL's Strategic Plan

READ • LEARN • MEET • INNOVATE

March 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024



Public Relations:

- The Fredericksburg Branch hosted the Fredericksburg Arbor Day Celebration, honoring Dr. Marci Catlett, which I attended
- I appeared on the Fredericksburg Advance podcast in April, promoting the library and our services
- I attended the Chamber's General Assembly reception in May at the new Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce location
- My board work for Rappahannock Goodwill Industries, the Chamber of Commerce, and Topside Federal Credit Union continues



Organizational Development:

- The Westmoreland Library on the Go van has been retrofitted inside and wrapped with CRRL branding on the outside. The next step will be adding books, equipment, and staff
- We offered AED and CPR training to staff this spring
- New Fredericksburg City Councilwoman Jannan Holmes received a personal tour of both IdeaSpace and the Fredericksburg Branch in April
- Presented our FY25 budget request to the Westmoreland Board of Supervisors
- Worked with Fredericksburg City Manager and Police Chief to turn Fredericksburg Branch video camera monitoring over to the police department, removing the responsibility from staff



Library Administration:

- Spotsylvania Towne Centre Branch lease extension completed for a five-year term
- CRRL distributed 1,567 COVID tests kits this quarter
- We celebrated National Library Workers Day on April 10th with lunch for all staff
- I attended the regional library directors meeting at Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in May



Financial Management:

- Access Services' former suite removed from our lease obligations, saving over \$18,000 annually
- We joined The Local Choice for our health care options and expect to save a considerable amount in our benefits line item (final figures will be available at the June 10th Library Board meeting)
- The library received \$3,000 in sponsorships for support of the annual Summer Reading Challenge program



Board Relationship:

- Met with Board Chair to discuss budget concerns
- Maintained regular contact with Board Chair regarding any library-related issues
- Met with Board Chair and Vice Chair to discuss June agenda



Additional Highlights





1,000 Books Before Kindergarten was a wonderful experience. Thank you for all of your hard work and creating a safe space for learning!

Salem Church Branch Customer

I appreciate you being open late on Tuesday evenings and for all you do for the community.

Snow Branch Customer

It is such a joy to work with your helpful staff.

Montross Branch Customer

I am so thankful for the library having a space I can come in and get my work done.

Howell Branch Customer

5-star review via Google Business: I love this library. Allows for snacks, perfect for kids. Always clean and the library staff is always accommodating and willing to help when needed.

Fredericksburg Branch Customer



Library Speakers Consortium Author Talks

Virtual author talks from *New York Times*-bestselling authors and thought leaders represent a wide variety of genres and topics.

People who can't attend the live talks can watch the recordings later!

librarypoint.org/lsc-authors



A promotional graphic for a virtual author talk. The background is yellow with horizontal stripes. At the top left, a purple banner says "VIRTUAL". In the center, "Author Talk" is written in large brown letters, with "with Rebecca F. Kuang" below it. To the right is the book cover for "BABEL: AN ARCANINE HISTORY" by R.F. Kuang, featuring a detailed illustration of a gothic cityscape. At the bottom left, it says "Sponsored by 50 Years Friends of the Library" with a logo of a blue book character. At the bottom right, it says "Provided through Library Speakers CONSORTIUM" with a logo of a stack of books.



CRRL-Con - A Comic Book Convention at the Library!

567 fans of comics and cosplay attended CRRL's **10th annual comic book convention** on May 18 at **Howell Branch**.

- Events for all ages
- Authors & artists
- Comics giveaways
- Costume contest
- Crafts & Demonstrations
- Comic Art Show
- CRRL-Con Comedy Show

librarypoint.org/CRRL-Con

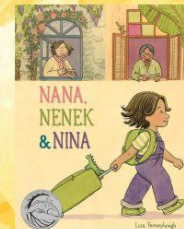
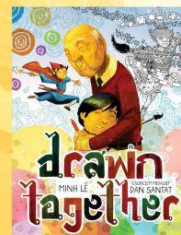


Asian American & Pacific Islander Awareness Month

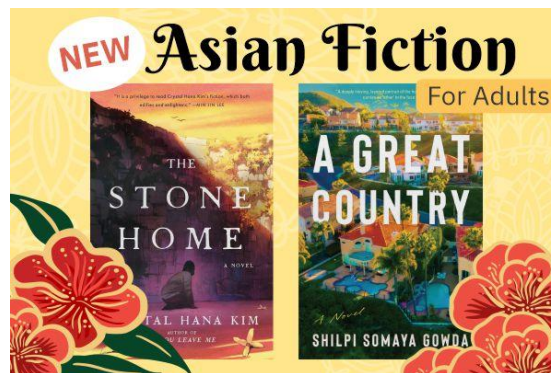
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a time to celebrate and explore the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

APALA Winners

Picture books that celebrate Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage



For Children



The Claudia Emerson Teen Poetry Contest

Winners were awarded cash prizes, donated by the Friends of the Library, and were invited to read their work at Teen Poetry Night. Entries were be judged by local poets Laura Bylenok and David Anthony Sam.

librarypoint.org/teen-poetry-contest

Sponsored by **Friends**
of the Library 



A Visit from the Patawomeck Indians of Virginia

The **Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia** shared their history and **culture** through an **interactive exhibit** at Fredericksburg, Porter, and Salem Church branches.



2024 Strong Men and Women of Virginia Poster Exhibit

This year's honorees:

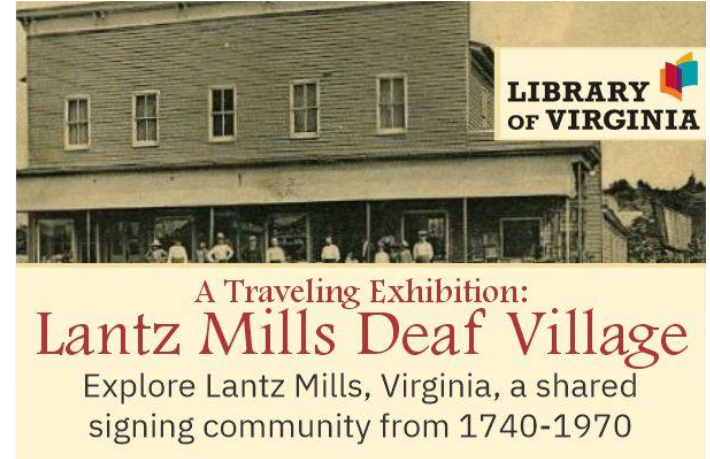
- **Sheriff R. Tyrone Foster** (top left)
- **Dr. Erma L. Freeman** (top right)
- **NASA Project Director Gregory L. Robinson** (bottom left)
- **Capt. Janet H. Days, CO of Naval Station Norfolk** (bottom right)



Lantz Mills Deaf Village Exhibit

Salem Church and Howell branches shared an exhibition about Lantz Mills, Virginia, a **shared signing community** that, between 1740 and 1970, was home to many families with a mix of hearing and Deaf parents and at least one or more Deaf siblings.

An exhibition from the Library of Virginia with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Sorenson Foundation.



deaflibva.org



Director's Goal: Library Administration

Teen Art Show Reception

On March 1, winners and honorable mentions in the **29th Annual Johnny P. Johnson Teen Art Show** were celebrated at a reception. Winners were awarded cash prizes donated by the **Friends of the Library**.



librarypoint.org/teen-art



Director's Goal: Library Administration



Fredericksburg Regional Spelling Bee

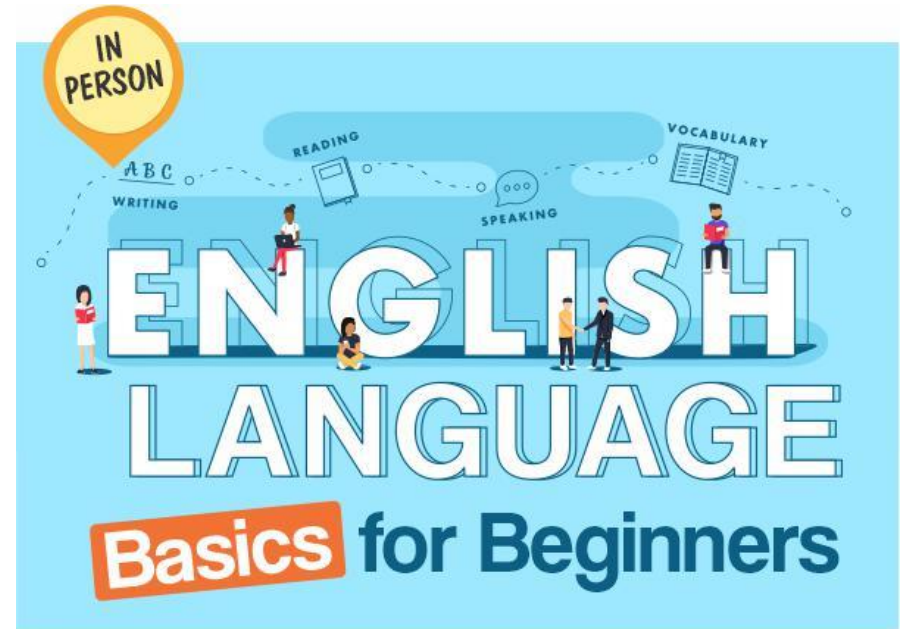
On Saturday, March 2, local division **spelling bee winners competed to represent our region at the Scripps National Spelling Bee**, now in its 99th year.



Language Studies

- English Conversation Groups
- English Language Basics for Beginners
- French Conversation Group
- Spanish Conversation Group

librarypoint.org/ell-answers



Grow a Reader Specials



IN PERSON

Grow a Reader with your library

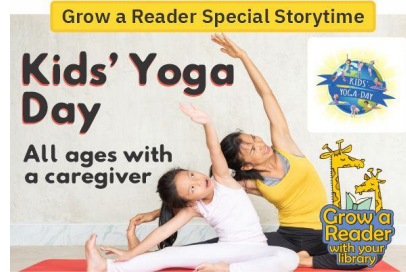
Sensory Time

For youth of all ages with autism or other developmental challenges, with a caregiver.

Grow a Reader Special Storytime

Kids' Yoga Day

All ages with a caregiver



Grow a Reader with your library

Grow a Reader Special

Happy Passover

Stories, songs, and activities.



All ages with a caregiver.

Grow a Reader Special

Easter

All ages with a caregiver.

Stories, songs, and activities.



Grow a Reader with your library

Grow a Reader Special

Costume Day

Comic-Con EVENT



Grow a Reader Special

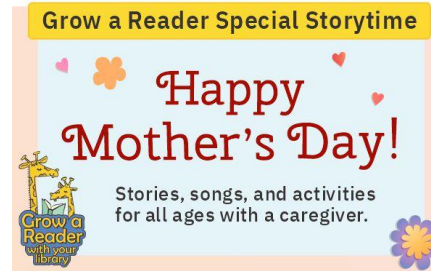
EARTH Day



Grow a Reader Special Storytime

Happy Mother's Day!

Stories, songs, and activities for all ages with a caregiver.

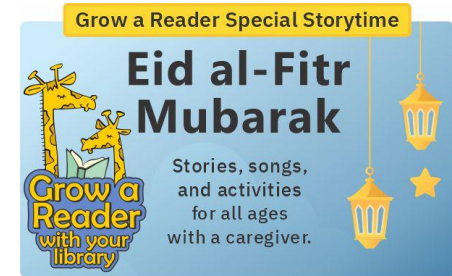


Grow a Reader with your library

Grow a Reader Special Storytime

Eid al-Fitr Mubarak

Stories, songs, and activities for all ages with a caregiver.



Grow a Reader with your library



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

A reading challenge for the youngest among us that encourages children to develop a love of books early on.

Children being read to or reading on their own earn rewards as they hit milestone goals.

librarypoint.org/1000-books



New Library of Things Music Kits ...and More

Check out some fun!

- Boomwhackers
- Digital Drum Set
- Percussive Musical Instruments
- Ukulele

librarypoint.org/things



Science Fun for the Solar Eclipse

In addition to hosting **educational and fun activities**, CRRL distributed **approximately 4,000 pairs of eclipse glasses** donated by the "**Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries**" project of the STAR Library Network.



Book Group Partners

- Adventure Brewing Co - Eagle Village
- Colonial Beach Brewing
- Curitiba Art Cafe
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
- FXBG Pride
- Hague Winery
- Zibibbo 73

librarypoint.org/book-groups



Community Partners for Lunch & Learn

- Astra Void Cosplay
- Jon Bachman
- Dr. Antonio Barrenechea, UMW Special Collections
- Business Agility Consulting Group
- Discover Stafford
- Fredericksburg Area Museum
- Friends of the Library
- Michael Salmon
- Reclaim Arcade

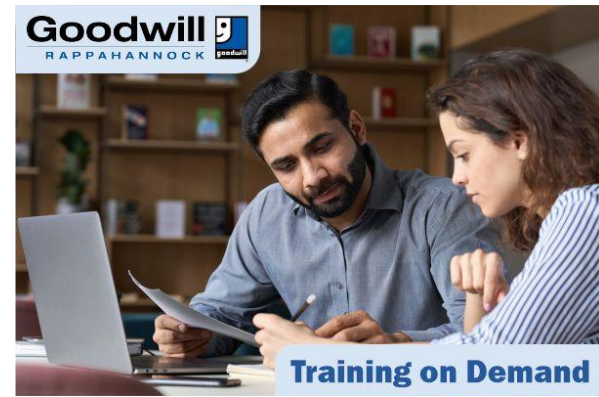


Job Skills Workshops and Training on Demand

with Rappahannock Goodwill Industries

- Computer Skills to Succeed at Work
- Networking and Social Capital
- Practice Interviews

librarypoint.org/job-answers



Director's Goal: Library Administration

Friends of the Library Membership Month and Spectacular Spring Sale

- The Friends of the Library have been supporting CRRL for over 50 years.
- Friends who renewed or joined in April received special membership rewards!

