



Director's Written Report

Illustrating Elements of CRRL's Strategic Plan

READ • LEARN • MEET • INNOVATE

September 1, 2022 - November 30, 2022



Director's Goals: Accomplishments September- November



Public Relations:

- Appointed to the Topside Federal Credit Union Board of Directors
- Appointed Chair of the *Public Libraries* Advisory Committee
- Continued service on the PLA Leadership Advisory Committee
- Session speaker for Prince William County Public Library Staff Day
- Panel speaker for Chamber of Commerce's Distill It! event
- Panelist for the Chamber's Community "Conversations on Civility"
- Guest speaker for Stafford Rotary Club
- Session presenter for UMW's Leadership Colloquium
- Guest speaker for UMW's Coffee Talk
- Guest speaker, UT Knoxville MLIS class
- CRRL Deputy Director elected as Virginia Library Association Secretary, a two-year term



Public Relations: (continued)

- CRRL Access Services Librarian received VLA's George Mason Award
- Porter Branch named Best Library in Stafford by *Inside Nova Magazine*
- Celebration of Porter Memorial Library's 30th anniversary, held in November
- Uniquely Spotsylvania Art Show, held at Salem Church Branch in October; cash prizes awarded by the Friends of the Library
- Staff continue monthly radio interviews on *Town Talk* with Ted Schubel
- Continued service as Chair of the Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Board of Directors



Organizational Development:

- Strategic plan complete and ready for Board presentation
- Five-year technology plan completed
- Completed renovations to the Fredericksburg Branch (until FY24 city renovations occur)
- Nearing completion of renovations to the Cooper Branch
- Two telehealth booths for Montross and Newton branches arrived; Cooper Branch's telehealth booth arrives in January
- Focus and emphasis on three main themes from the Employee Survey continue (Compensation, Autonomy and Stress)



Library Administration:

- Several staff attended the annual VLA Conference in Norfolk
- CRRL staff presented several sessions at VLA Conference
- Two staff attended other professional conferences recently
- Visited every branch at least once per quarter
- Attended the bi-annual Virginia Public Library Directors Association meeting in Richmond
- Deputy Director and I met with several county supervisors and with the Stafford County Administrator a second time
- Staff distributed 4,205 free COVID-19 testing kits to community members



Financial Management:

- Annual audit is nearing completion with results to be reported at the March 2023 Board meeting
- Meetings with local budget managers for the FY24 budget have begun
- FY23 spending is on target, and projections are positive, even with a reduced budget
- Created new financial report on direct and indirect expenses by locality and by branch for most expenses
- ARPA funds from the Library of Virginia are expected in the amount of \$18,000 for the telehealth booths
- CRRL received a grant for \$7,500 from the Community Foundation for technology and equipment
- Additional local grant of \$3,600 is expected



Board Relationship:

- Maintained regular contact with Board Chair
- Met with Board Chair to finalize draft agenda for December Board meeting
- Communicated regularly with Library Board
- Reported BiblioCommons app changes and updates to Board
- Attorney engaged for Board's interests on Library Agreement updates



Additional Highlights



Librarian Recognized by Virginia Library Association

Access Services Librarian Babak Zarin has been awarded the **2022 George Mason Award** for his dedication to improving accessibility and inclusion in administering the **Fredericksburg Subregional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled** (also known as the **Talking Books Library**).



Deputy Director Elected to VLA Executive Council

Deputy Director Rebecca Purdy has been elected to a 2-year term as **Secretary** on the **Virginia Library Association Executive Committee**, after previously serving VLA on the **Children's and Young Adult Roundtable** and the **Jefferson Cup Committee**.



Staff Present at VLA

Five CRRL staff presented at the **Virginia Library Association Conference**, October 19-21 in Norfolk. Topics included **Lunch & Learn**, the **Deaf Culture Digital Library**, the **Civic Book Club**, and increasing engagement between **Public Services** and **Technical** staff.



Porter Branch Recognized

Inside Nova Magazine's annual "Best Of" competition named Porter Branch the **Best Library in Stafford** for the fifth year in a row.



Happy Birthday, Porter Branch

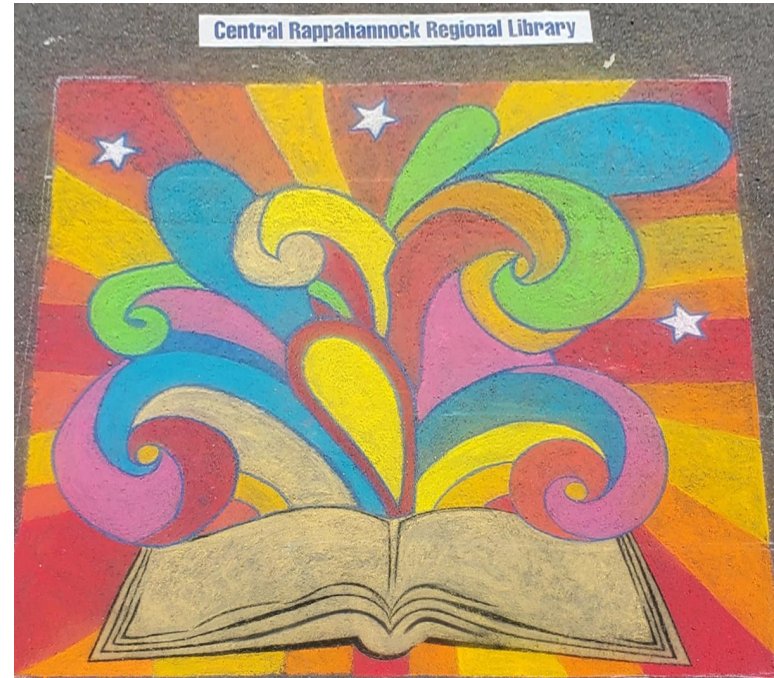
On November 16, CRRL celebrated the **30th Anniversary of Porter Branch**. Customers dropped in for refreshments, activities, a slideshow, and a **Recognition Ceremony**.



Via Colori Stafford

CRRL participated in **Via Colori Stafford** the weekend of September 24-25, joining many area organizations in this annual celebration of art. CRRL's square was sponsored by the **Friends of the Library**.

Friends
of the Library

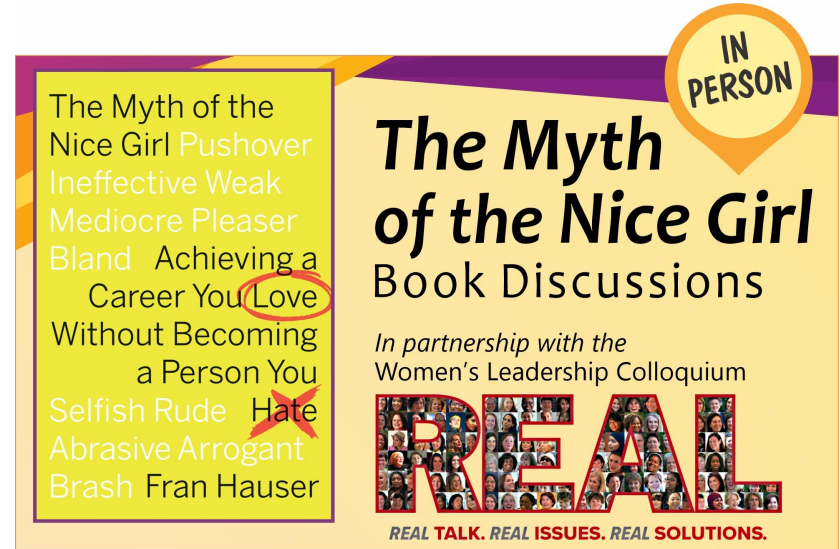


Director's Goal: Public Relations

The Myth of the Nice Girl Book Discussions

CRRL partnered with the **Women's Leadership Colloquium** at the **University of Mary Washington** to discuss **Fran Hauser's** award-winning book, *The Myth Of The Nice Girl: Achieving a Career You Love Without Becoming a Person You Hate*.

Sessions were hosted August through October at branches in each of CRRL's jurisdictions with one virtual session, with extra copies available for checkout.



2022 Teen Stop Motion Video Contest

CRRL's annual **video contest for teens** attracted amazing entries from area **students in grades 6-12**. Winners and Honorable Mentions were announced at the **Viewing Party** on November 17 at **Howell Branch**.



2022 Trebuchet Contest

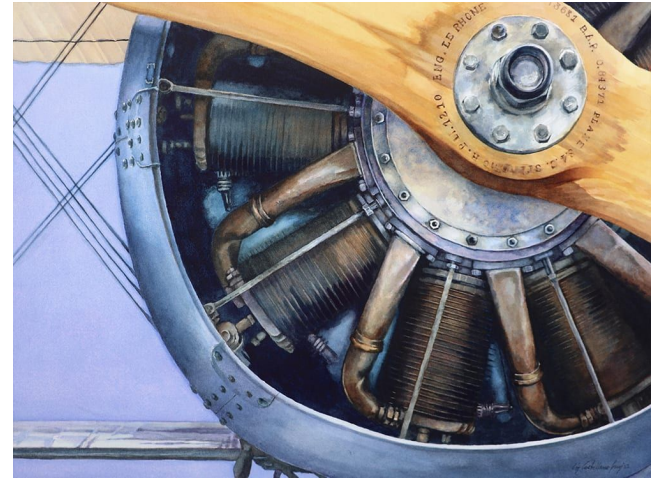
CRRL's annual **Trebuchet Contest** was held on October 8 at **Gayle Middle School**. Competitors brought handcrafted trebuchets for the contest.



Uniquely Spotsylvania Art Show

This show celebrating **artistic works unique to Spotsylvania County** was held October 3 - November 30 at **Salem Church Branch**, with an **opening reception** on October 10. Cash prizes were donated by the **Friends of the Library**.

Friends
of the Library



Best in Show: *Shannon Airport Museum--1914 Le Rhône Rotary* by Liz Castellano-King

Uniquely SPOTSYLVANIA



Director's Goal: Library Administration

Renovations for Cooper Branch

Cooper Branch
received new paint
throughout and is
looking sharper
than ever.



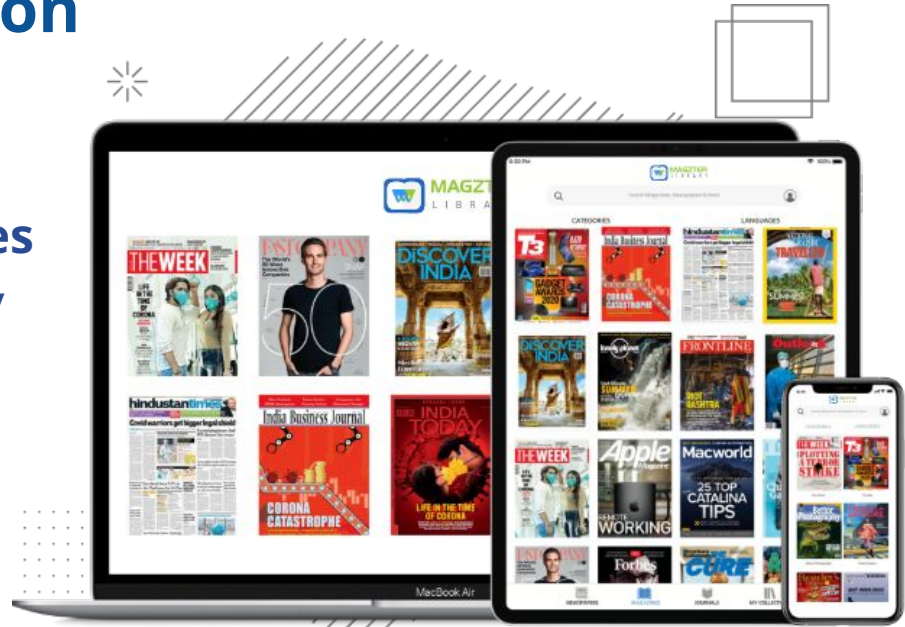
Book Drops for Newton and Montross Branches

Newton and **Montross** branches had **outdoor book drops** installed in August, making returns much more convenient for customers.



New eMagazines Collection

Starting October 1, CRRL began offering **Magzter eMagazines**, a collection of over **4,000 eMagazines** that can be read in a browser or by using the app for Apple or Android phones. This service is provided by the **Library of Virginia**.



New Language Learning Tool

Starting September 20, CRRL offers **Transparent Language**, which provides an interactive learning experience for learning **120 languages, ESL/ELL materials** in 34 languages, **American Citizenship Test** prep, an **American Sign Language** course, **workforce development lessons** for medical and business terminology, and more.



DMV Connect

The **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles'** portable office visits a CRRL branch each month to process **driver's licenses, ID cards, titles, and registration.**



Rappahannock Writers' Conference

CRRL's annual writers' conference was held November 5, at **Germanna Community College**—the **Platinum Sponsor**. Other sponsors include **Mystery Writers of America** and **Topside Federal Credit Union**. Held in partnership with **Indie Author Day**. Virtual and teen tracks were also offered.

A total of **122 adults** and **14 teens** attended in person, with an additional **115** attending virtually.



Community Partners

This fall, the library's partners for classes and events included:

- Downtown Greens
- The City of Fredericksburg
- Greater Fredericksburg Black Chamber of Commerce
- Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society
- Rappahannock Rap Storytelling Guild
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Blue Gray Therapy Dogs
- Stafford Museum and Cultural Center
- Women's Leadership Colloquium



Director's Goal: Library Administration

Park After Dark

CRRL storytellers joined the **Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Department** at Kenmore Park on October 21 to present **family-friendly silly and spooky tales**.



PHOTO COURTESY FREDERICKSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION



Kudos

This library is filled with amazing services and wonderful staff. We thought we had a great system in Fairfax, then moved here and found out what a great library system really looks like!

Howell Branch Customer

Thank you to the Virginiana Room volunteers who spent hours helping me locate my grandfather's burial site. They deserve recognition!

Fredericksburg Branch Customer

We just moved here and found this library to be a great asset and lovely experience.

Newton Branch Customer

My daughter loves the storytimes, she likes to sing the songs to her friend and pretend to be the librarian herself. I love seeing her play "librarian."

Snow Branch Customer

Awesome people and environment, professional system/management. Very sweet, cozy and quiet place to study, work and read!!! Will keep coming back.

Salem Church Branch Customer



