



Director's Written Report

Illustrating Elements of CRRL's Strategic Plan

READ • LEARN • MEET • INNOVATE

September 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023



Director's Goals: Accomplishments September-November



Public Relations:

- CRRL hosted the Library of Virginia's Library on the Go vehicle in October
- Interviewed by a *Free Lance-Star* reporter, which resulted in 2 CRRL-related articles
- Book launch of *Rachel's Dream*, by local author Ruth Coder Fitzgerald:
- CRRL received FLS front-page coverage
 - The event was attended by approximately 85 customers at the Fredericksburg Branch
 - Thanks to a Community Foundation grant, CRRL gave out 75 copies of the book to families and teachers



Public Relations: (continued)

- Attended the University of Mary Washington Great Lives opening reception, where CRRL is a partner in the series
- Attended the annual Rappahannock United Way Women United Women of Influence Award Luncheon
- Staff participated in all four local Christmas Parades
- Monthly appearances on *Town Talk* continued; I was on the November 29 show
- Spoke at the *Fredericksburg Advance* digital newspaper ribbon-cutting and had an opportunity to promote CRRL to Rep. Spanberger



Organizational Development:

- Continued focus and emphasis on three main themes from the Employee Survey (Compensation, Autonomy, and Stress)
- Continued attending Public Library Association Leadership Development Committee meetings, which offer free national online fall training sessions
- Eight staff attended the annual UMW Leadership Colloquium
- Served on the Metzger Award Committee for the UMW Leadership Colloquium
- 10 staff and I attended the Virginia Library Association Annual Conference in Chantilly
- Nine staff presented four sessions at the annual conference
- Offered annual staff vaccine clinic at two locations



Library Administration:

- Visited all branches at least once this quarter
- Deputy Director and I are scheduled to meet with the new Westmoreland County Administrator in December
- CRRL hosted staff from Loudoun County Public Library for branch and system tours
- Attended the annual Virginia Public Library Directors Association meeting at the Library of Virginia
- CRRL hosted the VLA Region 5 Library Directors meeting at Porter Branch
- Staff distributed 3,786 free COVID test kits through our partnership with Virginia Department of Health
- Work continues on a lease extension with Cafaro Companies and Spotsylvania County for the Towne Centre Branch



Financial Management:

- CRRL received the American Library Association Great Stories Club grant
- CRRL also received a \$7,500 Community Grants Fund and \$2,785 from the Northern Neck Insurance Community Grant fund
- Met with the library's auditor regarding the FY23 annual audit
- CRRL financial team met with local Budget Managers regarding the FY25 budget season



Board Relationship:

- Met with Board Chair to review the December board meeting agenda
- Maintained regular communication with the Board Chair and other board members
- Press release sent regarding Library Board elections



Additional Highlights



Kudos

Staff are always wonderfully helpful and it's great that copying is free! This library is a fantastic asset to the community!

Cooper Branch Customer

Your classroom carryout service is absolutely vital in supporting instruction in our school. We appreciate all you do to support us busy teachers.

Salem Church Branch Customer

For such a small library, the collection is very nice!

Towne Centre Branch Customer

Anytime we need help or assistance in any way everyone there is so nice, kind, and go above and beyond to see that we are satisfied! It's appreciated to have assistance but the kindness is especially thoughtful and remembered.

Fredericksburg Branch Customer

I am very appreciative of the study rooms. I come in for two hours most days and I feel twice as productive as when I'm at home.

Howell Branch Customer



LVA on the Go Van Visits

The Library of Virginia's van with **state-of-the-art technology** brought LVA's vast resources and staff expertise to CRRL, helping people engage with **local history, family history, educational materials, and more.**



Grant for Westmoreland Library on the Go Van

The **Northern Neck Insurance Community Grant** of **\$2,785** will support development of the **Library on the Go van** to serve Westmoreland County.



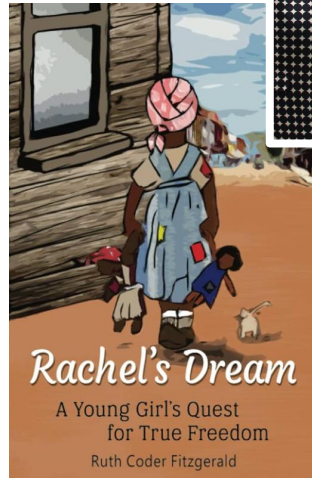
Director's Goal: Library Administration

Story and History

Discovered as an unpublished manuscript written by the late local historian **Ruth Coder Fitzgerald**, *Rachel's Dream* is a juvenile novel about a 12-year-old free African American girl living in 1832 Fredericksburg.

CRRL received a **\$3,500 grant** from the **Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region's Virginia Heritage Fund** to edit and publish the book in a multi-year collaboration.

the
community
foundation



Director's Goal: Library Administration



Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15



- **Books & audiobooks** from the **Hispanic American** experience
- **Streaming documentaries** and **full-length movies**
- **Picture books, storybooks, and chapter books**
- **Resources** for **Spanish speakers** and **those who are learning**
- **Cookbooks with recipes** from **Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean**

librarypoint.org/hispanic-heritage





RAPPAHANNOCK WRITERS' CONFERENCE 2023

Where Writers Grow

On November 4, we spent **a day celebrating and encouraging writers** with workshops, panel discussions, and a keynote by nationally recognized author **S.A. Cosby**. **151 people** attended the main conference track, **72** attended the virtual track, and **25** attended the teen track.

Many thanks to our sponsors for helping us put on another successful conference for our writing community.

librarypoint.org/writers-conference



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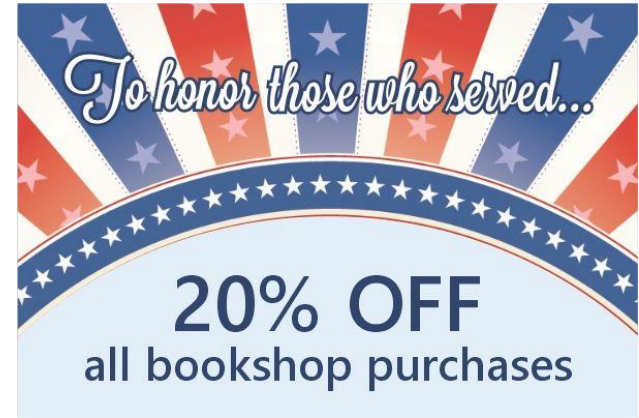
Director's Goal: Library Administration

Friends of the Library

Our much-anticipated fall Friends' sales were wonderful opportunities to stock up on books and videos for gifting or keeping.



Friends
of the Library



Halloween Hoopla!

Our littlest readers and listeners enjoyed **stories, songs, and a costume parade!**

Held at every library branch in **October.**

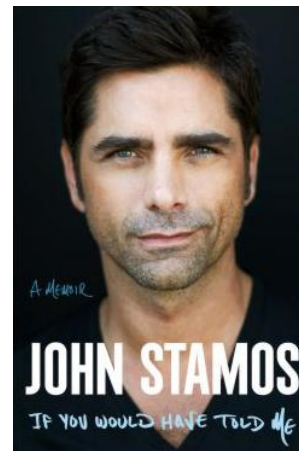


Library Speakers Consortium Author Talks

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



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Director's Goal: Library Administration

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Caregivers read books, any books, to their child, with the ultimate goal of reading **1,000 books** together before the child enters kindergarten.

- Record books on a phone, a desktop computer, or a paper log.
- All books count, including books read at storytime, and reading a book over and over counts over and over.



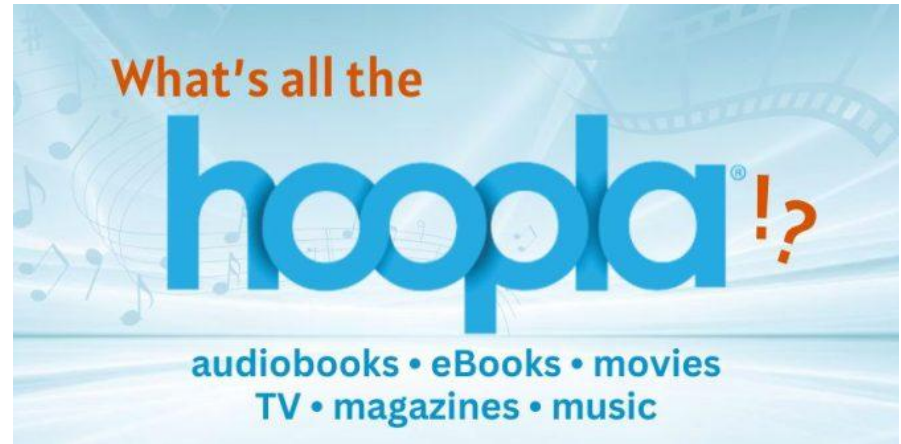
librarypoint.org/1000-books



hoopla Digital

Starting in **September**, customers gained access to more than 1 million+ audiobooks, eBooks, videos, music, and more to download or stream to mobile devices or computers. There are titles for all ages in more than 115 languages and never any holds.

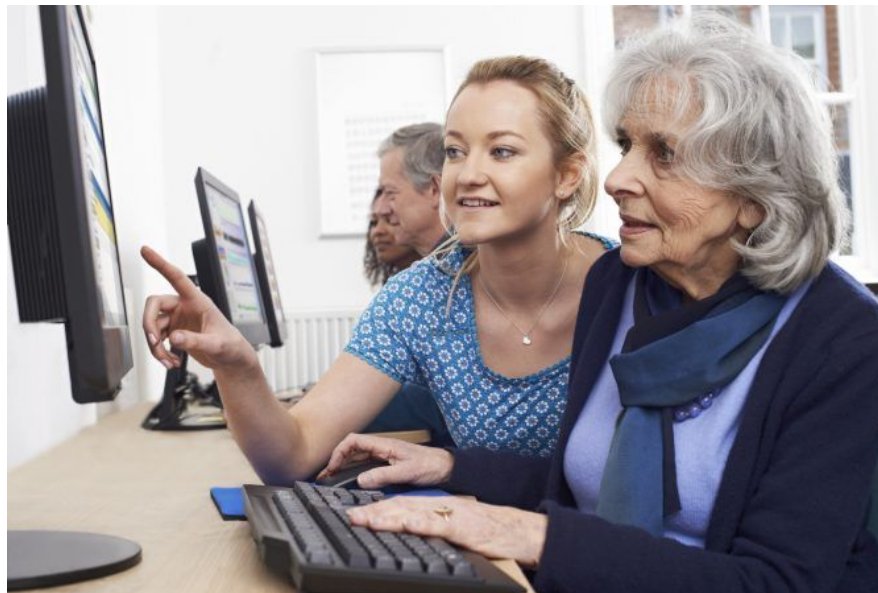
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Civic Lab: Resources for Older Adults

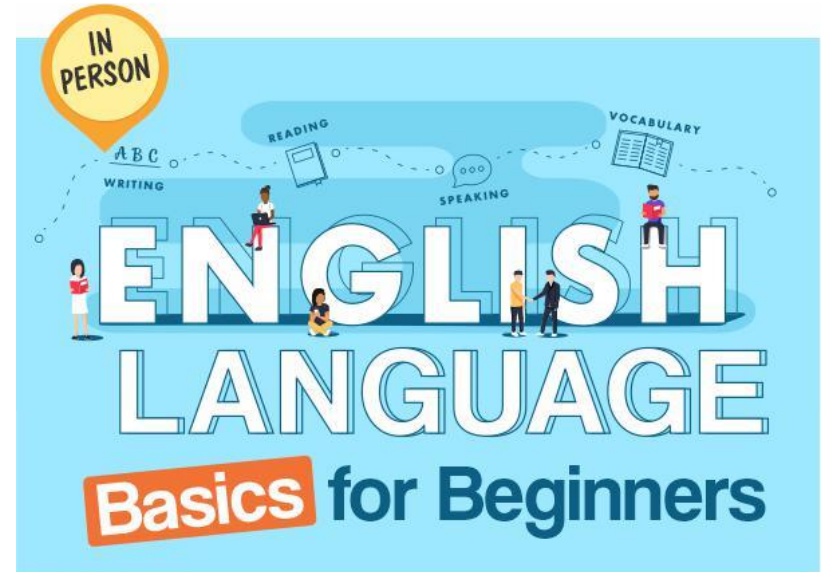
Civic Labs explored community service agencies, such as:

- **Healthy Generations Area Agency on Aging** ([HealthyGenerations.org](https://www.healthygenerations.org))
- **SeniorNavigator.org**
- **United Way 2-1-1 Essential Community Services** (211.org)
- **Virginia Division for Community Living: Office for Aging Services** (vda.virginia.gov)



Language Studies

- **English Conversation Groups**
- **English Language Learners Book Group** - sponsored by Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education
- **French Conversation Group**
- **Spanish Conversation Group**
- **World Languages Discussion Group**



Paws for Reading & Time with a Therapy Dog

Blue Gray Therapy Dogs and their handlers visit the library:

- Children in **grades K-5** practice their reading with therapy dogs trained to be avid listeners.
- Customers **grade 7-adult with disabilities** can read or relax with a therapy dog.



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



Volunteers 17 and older can sign up at **RedCrossBlood.org** to help restock this vital supply for our community at a library branch.



Civic Lab: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Participants explored community resources for victims of domestic violence and joined a conversation about how to take action to help stop it.



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Director's Goal: Library Administration

Book Group Partners

- Central Virginia Housing Coalition
- Colonial Beach Brewing
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
- Fredericksburg Pride
- Hague Winery
- Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education (RARAE)
- Strangeways Brewing
- Zibibbo 73



Lunch & Learn Partners

- Blue Star Families
- Create Art Podcast
- Drive Smart Virginia
- Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center
- Kenmore Club (RACSB)
- Mental Health America of Fredericksburg
- Rappahannock Area Community Services Board
- Senior Medicare Patrol
- Virginia Cooperative Extension



Telling Your Story Using Podcasting



Healthy Charcuterie Board 101



