



Moving Forward to Serve the Community in Meaningful Ways

The library is a dynamic community hub, evolving beyond books to offer flexible workspaces, innovative lending programs, a makerspace, and diverse events that educate and entertain patrons of all ages.

New additions to the library in 2023, included:

A Library Van - As items move daily between libraries, the van will save money spent in delivery services. Additionally, it will be used in outreach programming. Outreach is a primary value of the library. We meet community members where they are. In 2023, we widened the way we serve our community and boosted how often we interact with those we serve.

Purchase of Congress Park building - This administration building will allow for more patron space (funding was provided by the sale of a long-held vacant lot).

Beanstack App - From "Shark Tank" to your library, this app motivates people to read using recognition, gamification principles, and competition to grow a reading culture.

Copier Payment Kiosks - installed at each location to make it simpler for patrons to make copies.

FamilySearch Affiliate Library - Many patrons take advantage of our genealogy databases, and now as a FamilySearch affiliate, we can offer deeper free privileges.

LOTE4 Kids - In an effort to make language learning accessible, and as always - free, we now provide LOTE4Kids, an app with more than 60 languages.

Celebrating Service

Community-focused libraries can do amazing things.

The Washington-Centerville Public Library demonstrated this by successfully hosting *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This event, funded in part by the Centerville-Washington Foundation's Community Impact Grant, showcased the library's strong community partnerships. Thanks to support from throughout the community, the event attracted more than 5,000 visitors over the five-day period.



The Wall That Heals honors the 58,281 U.S. service men and women who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. The event at Yankee Park featured 24/7 access with round-the-clock volunteers, an escort ride with motorcycle and uniformed officers, and a mobile education center.

The Vietnam War created a lasting slogan: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Some Vietnam veterans had never been officially thanked for their service and were visibly touched by the recognition.



Statement of Activities in Service to the Community

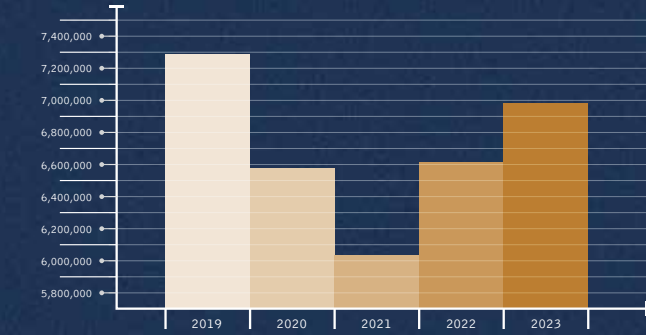
It's no accident that our library is consistently ranked in the 1% of libraries nationwide.

We are most proud of our financial stewardship of public funds and what we have been able to accomplish with the funds received. In fact, patrons receive \$4.38 in value for every \$1 in taxes paid by citizens.

By investing wisely, frugal spending, and fundraising, we have been able to broaden programming, increase services, and plan for an expanded Creativity Commons - the only public library makerspace in Montgomery County - offering a multitude of equipment at the cost to users of just materials.



Operating Expenses



Clearly, we adjusted spending due to the circumstances brought on by the pandemic.



When did you last visit the library? Did you know that the library offers you:



1,600,365
visitors



4,981
meeting
room uses



65,908
cardholders



Streaming
devices up
192%

2,428

children and teens in
Summer Reading Club



78,227

patrons assisted



eAudiobook circulation up more
than **52%** (from 2022)



Juvenile tablet circulation up
34% (from 2022)



20+
Recycling
initiatives,
700 lbs
of trash
diverted



105,816
program
attendees in
484 programs



17,139
visitors to
Creativity
Commons (+
59 programs)



Outreach

Speaker's bureau: senior
center visits, collection
delivery, community events

- Board games and a puzzle exchange
- Passport services
- Tech rentals like Rokus loaded with streaming services—and hotspots
- Culture passes for free museum entry
- Digital audiobooks through apps like Libby
- Fun programs for all ages, such as “Nailed It” events
- Creativity Commons, our makerspace for DIY projects
- Free access to thousands of premium periodicals including “The New York Times”, “The Economist”, and “The Wall Street Journal”
- Speakers Bureau (offering speakers on a variety of topics)



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Empowering our Community

A Year of Growth and Discovery