


ALAMANCE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

 (336) 229-3588

 alamancelibraries.org

 342 S. Spring St.

Burlington, NC 27215

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Mission & Values

Alamance County Public Libraries provide learning opportunities for **all members** of our community to be successful in living a **larger life** by nurturing the **heart** and the **mind**.



Approachable and Inviting
Knowledgeable and Professional
Open Minded and Respectful of Diversity
Supportive and Positive
Resourceful and Innovative



Reflection From Our Director

This year has been a year of many changes. As things seemed to steady after a crazy number of years, we've also taken the time to reflect on how library patrons use our spaces as well as tracking how well the materials we offer are being used. We no longer get as many patrons interested in spending twenty minutes browsing the stacks to find their next read, they use our online catalog and our new **library app** (search for Alamance in your app store!) and place items on hold.



Since we also added **24/7 Pick-Up** lockers outside the Graham Public Library, we have expanded our access to those unable to get to the library during operating hours and provide more flexibility to those still weary of contact with others.

Our busy year resulted in **over 300,000 library visitors** and **almost 500,000 items checked out**. We saw a massive increase in our electronic materials being utilized, with the **total annual check-outs on Libby and Hoopla jumping from 43,282 in 2021-2022 to 89,258 in 2022-2023, a 200% increase**. Which shows that even though people are returning to use our physical space, they are also increasingly utilizing our downloadable and online resources as well.

Summer Reading also showed that our community is definitely interested in getting out and about again. In the two months of our annual Summer Reading program, we promoted **Find Your Voice** with **1,189 participants** reading over **431,487 minutes** and **80 programs** attended by **1,560 participants**. This is just a small part of the overall programs for the entire fiscal year though. Our full-time staff of 31 were able to offer **835 programs** throughout the year, for those from birth to death, and welcomed **31,909 attendees** to those programs.

We pride ourselves on being able to adapt our services in response to the community's needs and had this year **37,794 computer users** and **31,010 wi-fi users**. We also lent out wi-fi **hotspots 120 times** during the year. As we have seen an increase in the number of people interested in utilizing devices at private tables, we are beginning to add the option of checking out Chromebooks for in-house use, which we foresee as being a testing ground for the possibility of checking them out for take-home use.

We are proud of the opportunity we had to host Governor Cooper at the Mebane Public Library for an announcement awarding funding to expand connectivity to the Alamance County Community. And are excited to have the opportunity to repair and expand our facilities and services due to special monies from the State for libraries in response to problems identified during COVID and will continue to work on these projects moving into the future. Things are changing at the libraries and we hope our community returns to find our spaces more welcoming and ready to help every day!

Susana Goldman
Director of the Alamance County Public Libraries

May Memorial Library

Alamance County Public Libraries



May Memorial Library
342 S. Spring St.
Burlington, NC
(336) 229-3588

The first public library serving Burlington was located in Broad Street High School in the early 1920s. By 1937, the public library had moved to temporary quarters in a storefront located on Main Street. In 1938, industrialist W.H. May, Sr. and his two sons donated \$15,000 towards the purchase of the old U.S. Post Office for use as a public library. This building was constructed in 1918 and stands at the corner of E. Davis and S. Spring Street.

May Memorial Library opened for business on June 2, 1938. At that time, only the main floor fronting on S. Spring St. was in use. In 1945, a Seth Thomas grandfather clock was donated to the library by Col. Eugene Holt, grandson of textile magnate E.M. Holt. It quickly became a much-beloved symbol of the library within the community. In 1955, the basement floor with an entrance on E. Davis Street was remodeled and opened to the public.

By the 1960s, Alamance and Chatham counties had signed a formal cooperation agreement to become the Central N.C. Regional Library with May Memorial Library as its headquarters. In 1981 a new library wing with approximately 4,600 square feet of additional space on the main floor was opened and the basement and second floor of the library were given over to staff work areas. In the late 1990s, local textile CEO Allen Gant, Jr. of Glen Raven, Inc. offered an adjacent building, the former Sears Department Store, to the City of Burlington to expand the public library. The original 1918 building and 1981 addition were linked as one wing with the 1950s Sears building as the other wing connected by a vaulted ceiling entryway and officially opened November 17, 2000.

Graham Public Library

Alamance County Public Libraries



Graham Public Library
211 S. Main St.
Graham, NC
(336) 570-6730

The opening of the Graham Public Library as an extension of the May Memorial Library was the highlight of library service in 1967 in Alamance County. Through a partnership with the City of Graham and the board of the May Memorial Library, the Graham Public Library opened in September 1967 in the Graham City Hall as a 3,000 square foot facility with more than 5,000 books. In 1969, the Stokes family was commemorated for the monetary gift made by the Stokes children in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Stokes, which made the Graham Library possible.

In 1994, a two million dollar project was approved to construct, equip and furnish two new Graham facilities: the Graham Public Library and the Graham Police Department. Scheduled to be completed in 240 days, both buildings were placed south of the municipal building; the police department off of Maple Street and the library off of Main Street. The new 10,500 square foot library, which is more than three times the size of the original library, opened its doors on Monday, July 31, 1995.

Mebane Public Library

Alamance County Public Libraries

Mebane Public Library
101 S. First St.
Mebane, NC
(919) 563-6431



In 1935 the idea that started the Mebane Public Library began with a local literary club, the Reviewers. Through their efforts in recruiting support and funds, the small beginning of the Mebane Public Library was made possible by Mr. E. M. Yoder, Principal of the Mebane Public School in 1936. Members of the Reviewers Club served as library clerks in the small room in the school. The official Mebane Public Library opened in December 1936 in the Commerical & Farmer's Bank Building, situated at the corner of Clay and North Fourth Streets.

In the Fall of 1941, the building owners offered to sell the building to the City of Mebane for the permanent home of the library. Through the efforts of local civic club fundraising, the building was purchased without the use of any tax payer funds. In 1975, the library moved into a 5,000 square foot space in the back of the Mebane Town Hall.

By the late 1990s, the windowless space at the Mebane City Hall had become cramped and library use had outgrown the space. In the early 2000s the idea to refurbish a vacant mill building revitalized the community. Built in 1919 as Durham Hosiery and changing hands over the years to become Dixie Yarns in the 30s and R.L. Stowe Mills until 2001, the renovated space offered three times the capacity for the new Mebane Public Library and opened its doors on November 7, 2005.

North Park Library

Alamance County Public Libraries

North Park Library
849 Sharpe Rd.
Burlington, NC
(336) 226-7185



The North Park Community Center was built by the City of Burlington in 1978 with funds from the federal Housing and Community Development Act. Initial partnering organizations operating part-time from the new facility included the Burlington Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau, the Alamance-Caswell Area Mental Association, the Alamance County Health Department and the N.C. Central Regional Library.

On May 15, the North Park Library opened in a small room (approximately 300 square feet) of the community center and offered 'listening posts,' special programs, a story hour and a small collection of books and materials.

As popularity grew, a meeting room space was added to the library's availability, doubling the size to approximately 600 square feet. This allowed for more materials and the eventual addition of public computer space. In 2015, the City of Burlington began renovation projects in North Park. Early efforts provided new carpet and a reorganization of resources. Later efforts included a brand new entrance within the atrium of the community center.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Alamance County Public Libraries

In 1938, a county bookmobile began its service in Alamance. Carrying 400 books in a converted light-delivery truck, a three-week rotation of deliveries was established.

By 1951, a second vehicle increased capacity to 1,600 books and records, making deliveries to 83 stops every two weeks. The next thirty years of continuous bookmobile service continued to grow and thrive in Alamance County until the last vehicle couldn't be replaced in the late 70s/early 80s.

In 2021, ACPL took possession of our new, high-tech Mobile Library! We then began running a designated route in October 2021, serving over 40 stops on a three-week schedule with appearances at special community events as well!



17
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

200
STOPS

4,255
VISITORS

5,523
ITEMS CHECKED OUT

1,943
PEOPLE ATTENDED
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

BookMARK

Alamance County Public Libraries

Providing free books, Internet and programs to remote and disenfranchised neighborhoods and communities around Alamance County.



137
STOPS

834
VISITORS AT STOPS

858
BOOKS GIVEN OUT

17
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

292
WI-FI USAGES

588
PEOPLE ATTENDED
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

24/7 Pick-Up Lockers

Available at the May Memorial Library.



89

**REGULAR
PATRONS**

5,021

**ITEMS PICKED
UP**

24\7 Pick-Up Lockers began their operations in August 2022.

Made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant through the State Library, this no contact, easy access locker system allows patrons to pick-up their requested materials with just their library card. Since then, they have been used to pick up over 5,000 items during the fiscal year for anyone unable to make it into a library during operating hours to get their requested library materials.

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

Alamance County Public Libraries

HOME DELIVERY is a service that delivers physical materials on a monthly basis to patrons with mobility issues throughout Alamance County. It also offers a Books by Mail USPS service.

128

PATRONS

9,553

ITEMS

DELIVERED

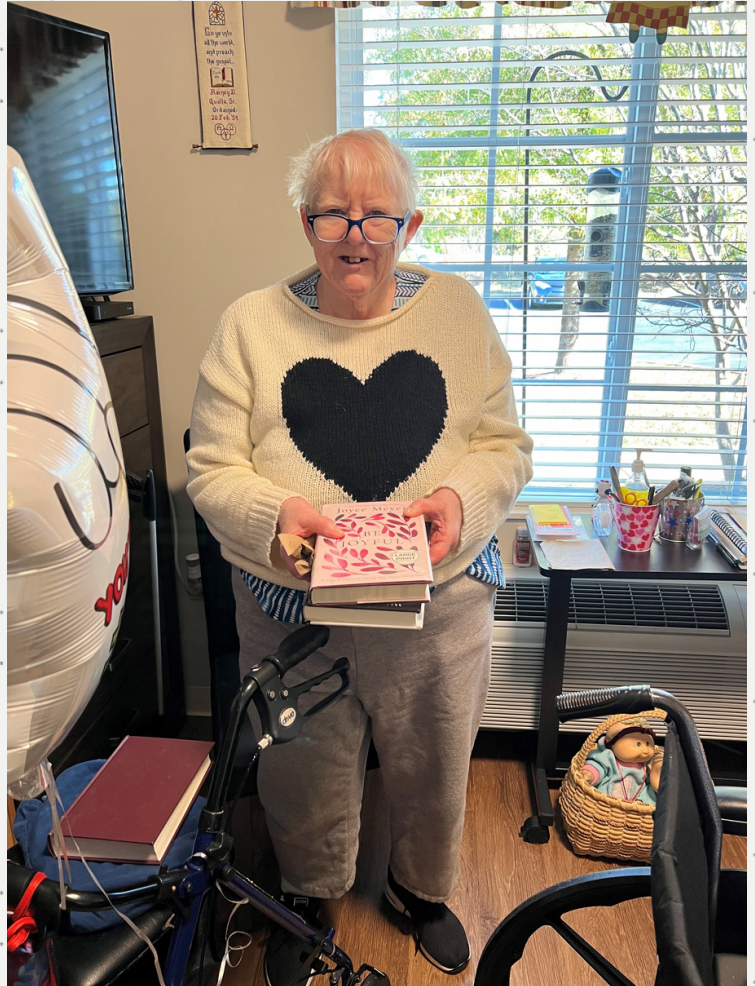
17

VOLUNTEERS

26

VISITS EACH

MONTH



43

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

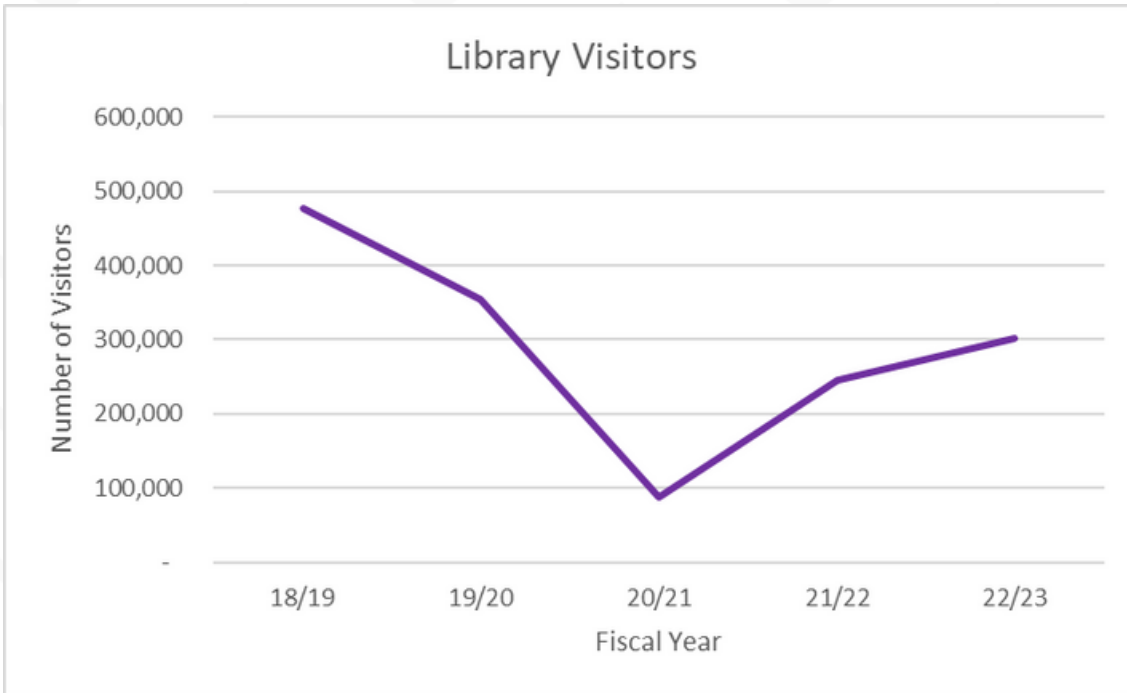
4,661

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN

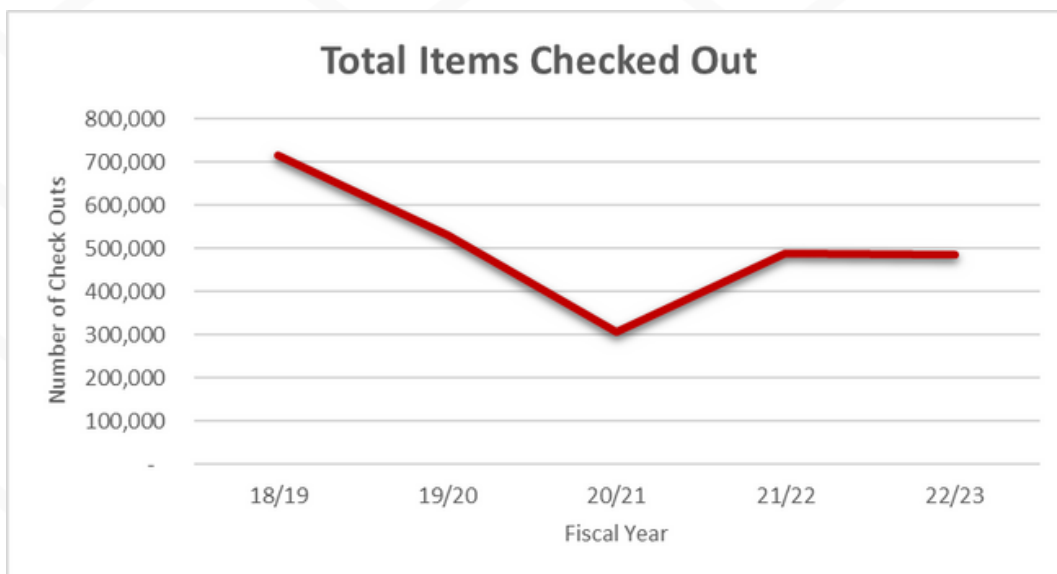
OUTREACH PROGRAMS

301,429 485,752

LIBRARY VISITORS ITEMS CHECKED OUT



While we're not quite back to pre-COVID numbers, seeing an increase to 301,429 library visitors is a vast improvement since the onset of COVID. Although it has not been a quick recovery from the pandemic, the increase across all statistics represents the significant impact libraries make on the community as our numbers edge right under the 2019-2020 totals.

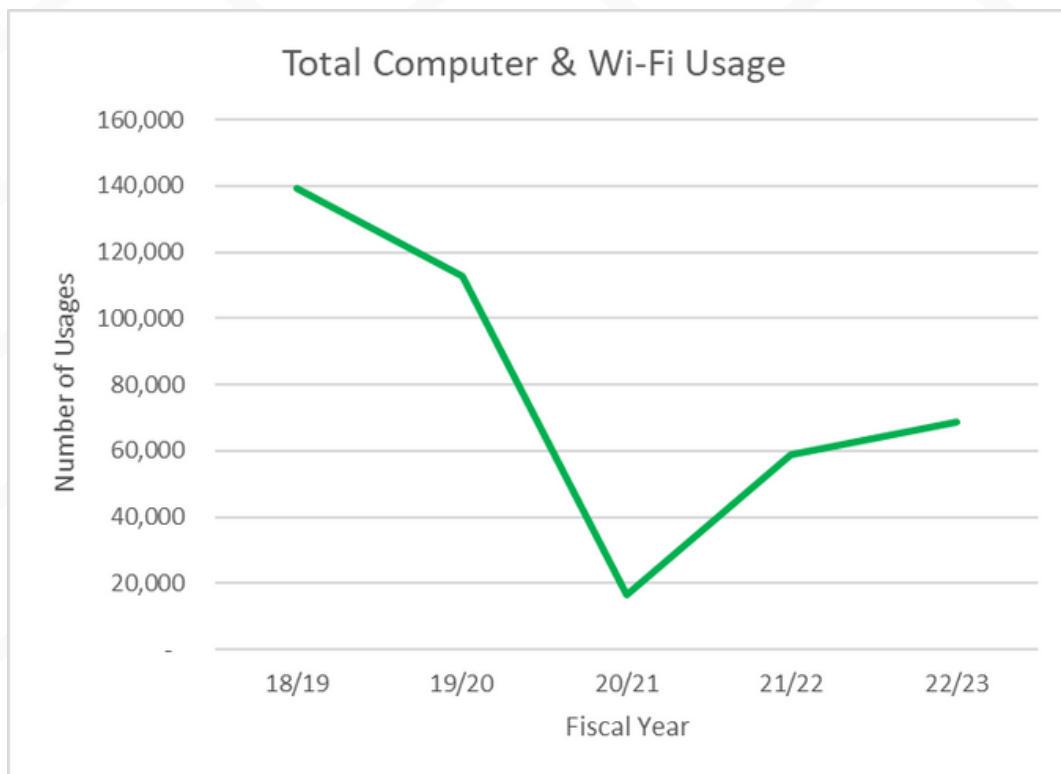


FY 2022-2023 showed a total of 485,752 items checked out. These steady numbers that are right around FY 21-22 total of 488,700 show that library materials are still in demand even though the inclination to pay for streaming services and print materials are high.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

37,794 & 31,010

COMPUTERS USED AND WI-FI USES



We see a steady increase to the libraries' computers and public wi-fi. And continue to see the change from library computer to personal device usage increasing.

37,794 - Public Library Computer Uses
31,010 - Wi-Fi uses

The interest in Zoom passes and program participation saw a significant improvement as well.

291

ZOOM PASSES BORROWED

1,213

PROGRAMS OFFERED

32,441

PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS

88,223

NUMBER OF ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDS

10,827

NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

199,848

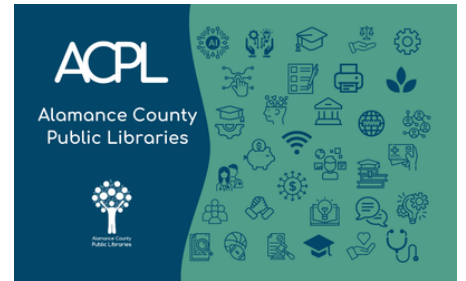
ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

34,075

ITEMS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN BRANCHES

1,428,326

TOTAL CATALOG VIEWS



123

AVAILABLE DATABASES

134,609

DATABASE USAGES

Services & Resources

StoryWalks

There are four StoryWalks scattered around Alamance County that feature deconstructed children's books in a safe, social distancing activity for families that promotes literacy and physical activity.

Your Next Great Read

A personal readers' advisory service for patrons. Participants can submit their reading preferences and are assigned a personal readers' advisory specialist to select books to try.



Zoom Pass Program

ACPL and the Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries have teamed up with area attractions to make the ACPL ZOOM Pass program available. Passes are limited in number each day, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. ZOOM passes will be good only for the date indicated on the pass.

24/7 Pick-Up Lockers

We are excited to be able to offer a new contact free option to pick up library hold materials. Available at the Graham Public Library, patrons may request their pick-up location to take place at the outside locker system.

InterLibrary Loan

Materials not owned by any of the libraries of the Alamance County Public Libraries may be borrowed via InterLibrary Loan Service.

Mobile Printing

Print from your hand-held devices to the Graham, Mebane or May Memorial public libraries. \$0.10 per page for black and white printing and \$0.40 per page for color printing.

Local History & Genealogy

Online and in-person assistance and resources are a big part of the quest towards discovering your personal history. Our libraries have local history and genealogical collections specific to their communities.

JOB & CAREER

Making Opportunities a Reality

Computers & Technology

ACPL is proud to offer access to public computers during all operating hours. Wi-fi is available 24/7. We offer 20 hotspots on a twenty-eight day check-out for anyone unable to access the Internet from their homes. We also provide printing (both in-house and from mobile devices), faxing, scanning and copying services. This year we worked to begin offering Chromebooks for in-house use.



Through our online databases and NC LIVE, we offer over 120 resources providing online access to complete articles, newspapers, journals, and encyclopedias, and more. All available free of charge to library patrons, both in the library and remotely with your library card. This year's new additions were Chilton Library for car repair and Value Line Online for investment management.

Online Job & Career Training Resources

ACPL staff offer virtual, in-person, and pre-recorded programs that are advertised and shared through social media and YouTube on Job and Career tools and other available resources. A wide variety of resources are also available to assist in writing resumes, cover letters, and prepare for interviews. Some resources include:

- Ferguson's Career Guidance Center
- EBSCO Learning Express/Prepstep
- Niche Academy
- and more!



GED Classes with ACC

GED classes are offered for students who have not completed their high school education. These classes are offered to those who need to improve academic skills in order to qualify for better jobs. Class locations vary based on need.

Education & Literacy

ASSISTING THE ALAMANCE COUNTY COMMUNITY

Storytimes

We offer a wide variety of storytime options for parents and families. Weekly in-person themed programs, virtual storytimes - both live and pre-recorded, stay-home lessons, and take-home storytime kits.



ACPL Connect

ACPL Connect accounts provide students with easily accessible information and educational resources. Students no longer need library cards. Instead, they can use their school ID number to access library services.

Every Child Ready to Read

Every Child Ready to Read is an initiative created by the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children to encourage parents, as their child(ren)'s first teacher, to participate in enrichment activities that create the building blocks for reading.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Studies have shown that by age three, a child's brain has reached 80 percent of its adult volume. Early experiences and interactions are a key factor in a child's brain development. Early literacy skills have a lifelong impact on educational and occupational success. We challenge parents and guardians to participate and win prizes in reading 1,000 books to their children before kindergarten.



In-Person Programs

Number of Programs

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Adult programs | 317 |
| Young Adult programs | 76 |
| Children's programs | 820 |
| Total Number of Programs | 1,213 |

Attendance at Programs

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Adult attendance | 2,696 |
| Young Adult attendance | 462 |
| Children's attendance | 29,441 |
| Total Attendance at Programs | 32,441 |

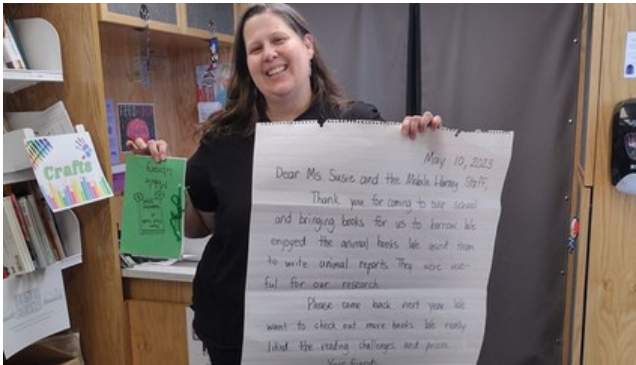


Virtual Programs

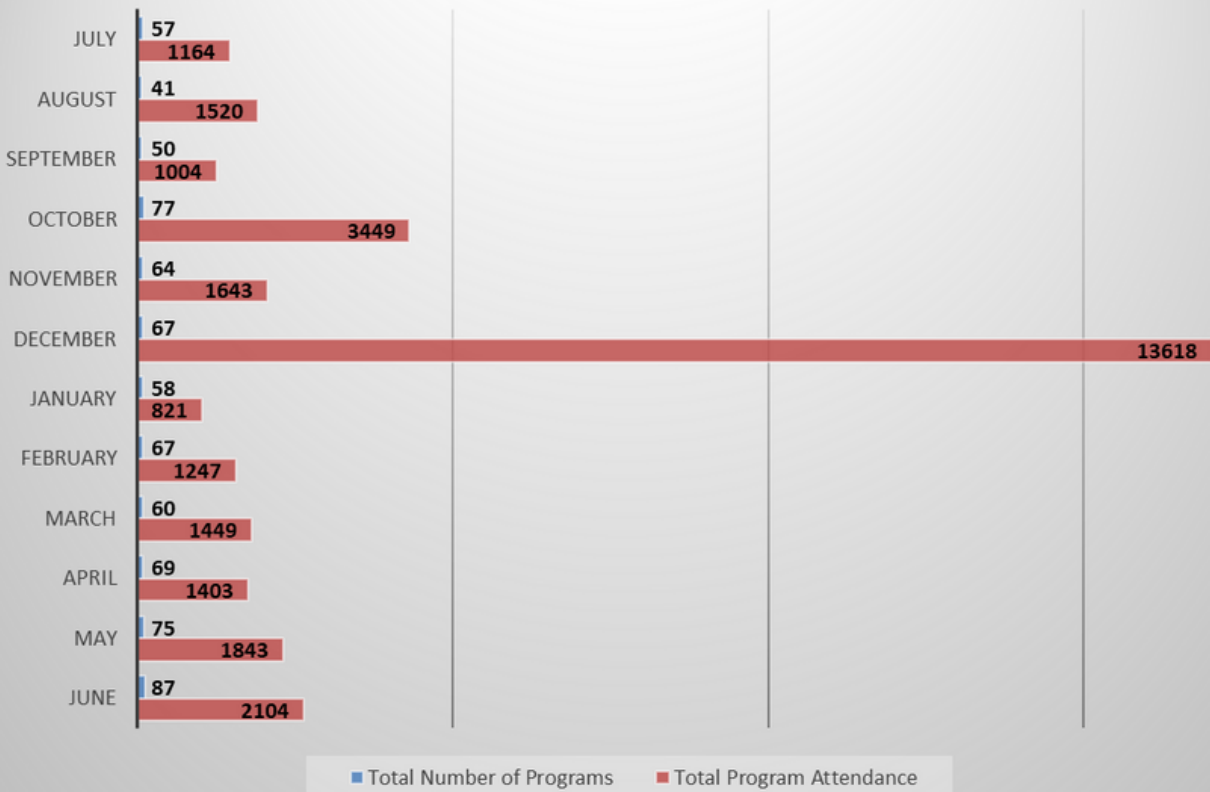
| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Total Programs | 2 |
| Live Views | 50 |
| Recorded Views | 194 |

Programs by Topic

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Agricultural Programs offered | 39 |
| Agricultural Program attendance | 1,480 |
| Technology Programs offered | 57 |
| Technology Program attendance | 503 |
| Early Literacy Programs offered | 359 |
| Early Literacy Program attendance | 10,770 |
| STEAM Programs offered | 201 |
| STEAM Program attendance | 4,097 |



FY 2021-2022 Program Total by Month



BY THE NUMBERS



Alamance County Public Libraries

Library Committee

Logan Savits – Chair & Burlington Representative

Courtney Doi – Vice Chair & Mebane Representative

Lorna Nelson – Mebane Representative

M. Angeline Hill – Burlington Representative

Kimberly DiMuro – Graham Representative

Bonnie Whitaker – Graham Representative

Jessica Simmons – County-at-Large Representative

Shannon Witherow – County-at-Large Representative

Paula Hendricks – County-at-Large Representative

Pamela Thompson - County – Commissioners Member–at–Large

Susana Goldman - Director

The functions and responsibilities of the Committee shall be as follows:

1. To recommend programs, policies, and regulations for the operation of the library.
2. To recommend a schedule of fines and charges for failure to return, damage to, or loss of library materials.
3. To advise the Board of Commissioners on library matters.
4. To advocate on behalf of the library system.

The Committee shall also keep abreast of the needs and desires of the users of all the public libraries in the county, and endeavor to fulfill these needs by recommending policies to the Alamance County Commissioners for the operation of these public libraries which are consistent with those needs.



Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries

The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries support the programs and activities of the Alamance County Public Libraries. Our mission is to increase interest in and to raise the level of library services in our community, to better relationships between library staff and community, to give and allow the exchange of information, and to encourage education and literacy.



Barbara Roberts, President
Vacant, Second Vice-President
Crystal Humble, Treasurer

Debra Scott, First Vice-President
Julie Monroe, Past President
Pat Shoffner, Secretary

Jeff Tudor
Debbie Mann
Gay Sharpe
Laura Wright
Ron Oakley
Kathy Oakley
Debbie Gunyan
David Pinson
Tom Whitaker
Vickie Whitaker

Anne Hogan
Patsy Pringle
Rosemary Lewis
Virginia Kenney
Hal Vincent
Linda Shirley
Matt Wall
Lauren Bradshaw
Andrea Patterson-
Masuka



The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries fund 100% of all programming materials for Alamance County Public Libraries.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Thank you to all who have partnered
with us this year!

Alamance Burlington School System
Alamance Achieves
Alamance Community College
Alamance County Cooperative Extension
Alamance County 4-H
Alamance Recreation & Parks
Alamance County Dental Clinic
Alamance Community Foundation
Ag Extension of NC
Authentically Alamance Farmer's Market
Alamance Arts Council
Beaumont Apartments
City of Burlington
City of Burlington Horticulture Dept
City of Burlington - North Park Walking Track
City of Burlington - Recreation and Parks
City of Graham
City of Graham – Recreation and Parks
City of Graham Tree Board
City of Mebane
City of Mebane - Recreation and Parks
Glencoe Mills Heritage Museum
Marrowtown Community Group
Misty Springs Mobile Home Park
Mt Hermon Community Center
Saxapahaw Village Kids' Preschool
Town of Elon - Beth Schmidt Park Walking Trail
Town of Elon - Recreation and Parks
Orange Enterprises
Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Stormwater Smart
Scott Community Health Clinic
Tucker Street Apartments
Gardner Library Trust
Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries
Gibsonville Public Library
North Carolina Zoological Park
Animal Park at Conservators Center
Sylvan Heights Bird Park
Pleasant Grove Community Center
Headstart
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
Graham Historical Museum
African American Cultural Arts & History Center
Haw River Museum
Mebane Women's Club
Walking Track at Graham Middle School
Burlington Women's Club
Sylvan Ruritan
Mayco Bigelow Community Center

Mebane Arts and Community Center
Mebane Historical Museum
Crossroads SARRC & Child Advocacy Center
Alamance Arts
Alamance Community School
Alamance County Health Department
Alamance Forward
Alamance Historical Museum
Alamance Partnership for Children
Another Chance Treatment
Beginning Visions Child Development Center
Bridging Oceans Summer Camp
Burlington Animal Services
Burlington Housing Authority
Burlington Downtown Corporation
Burlington Writers Club
Burlington Youth Council
Cedar Ridge
Civitan's Club
CityGate Dream Center
Crossroads
Durham County Public Library
Elon University
Jessica Embry
First Baptist Church
Christina Flaherty
Front Street United Methodist Church Preschool
The Hawbridge School
Homeplace of Alamance
Joyful Learning Center
JSS Head Start
The Learning Center at Harvest Baptist Church
LatinxEd
Lorena Meza Lara
Dr. Ademe Mekonnen, North Carolina A&T
NAACP Voter Registration
NC Master Gardener Volunteers
NC Science Festival
Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Tiffany Pollard
Positive Attitude
SAFE Food Pantry
Southeastern Healthcare of North Carolina Alamance County
Studio 1
Town of Green Level
Three College Observatory
United Way
Village of Alamance
The Village at Brookwood
Mary Widdis
YMCA

"I had placed some books on hold and one was misplaced. Two May Memorial staff went above and beyond trying to find the book for me yesterday. They advised they would keep looking and call me back if it was found. And kept their word, I received a call and was advised they did locate it and it would be on the hold shelf for me for pick up. I thought I would let you know they were so sweet and helpful! ❤️"



Saturday's Storytime was amazing! There was standing room only with such a great turnout. The books and songs and leader were fun. My child was a little shy being in a new space with so many new people but was riveted and stayed engaged the whole time (unusual for my wiggle worm of a toddler!). We definitely plan to attend next month's and however many more there are after that.

Thanks for (a) giving us a space to share our feedback with the survey and (b) acting on input from the community to offer a Saturday option for this phenomenal programming. I am excited and plan to bring more working-mom-friends with me to future weekend ones.

Thanks for this and all you do for our community every day!



MY KIDS AND I WERE BUMMED OVER THE LOSS OF A PET AND STUMBLED INTO THE LIBRARY LOOKING FOR SOME NEW THINGS TO CHEER US UP. STAFF ENGAGED THE KIDS IN THE SCAVENGER HUNTS AND CHATTED WITH MY SON FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT NEW BOOK IDEAS. WE LEFT FEELING REFRESHED AND CARED FOR. WHAT AN AMAZING RESOURCE OUR COMMUNITY HAS WITH THE LOCAL LIBRARY SYSTEM. YOU GUYS ARE GREAT. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

"WE APPRECIATE THE LIBRARY'S INCLUSIVITY AND HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO DISPLAY A WIDE VARIETY OF BOOKS ABOUT DIVERSE POPULATIONS. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO! LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE THE BEST---I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU."

Get Connected

Our Social Media



www.facebook.com/AlamanceLibraries

5,288 Followers



www.twitter.com/ACLibraries

948 Followers



www.instagram.com/alamancelibraries/

1,727 Followers

We now have an App! Find us in your app store!

Android
Users



iPhone
Users



Alamance County
Public Libraries

The Alamance County Public Libraries have worked to build a community-based space for Alamance County.

We strive to provide an abundance of events and activities to our community members that bring them together through both education and enrichment.

We are thankful for an amazing staff and supporters who help make all of this possible.

Thank you!



Alamance County Public Libraries