



**TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
SAM T. WILSON LIBRARY**

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021-2022



11968 Walker Street, Arlington TN 38002

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# Letter From The Library Director

One year ago, I was filled with pride to describe the quality services the Sam T. Wilson Public Library provided while enduring the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, I feel that same pride as we continue to see our impact grow and evolve. This report highlights the Library's impact in a fast changing and rapidly growing community.

Services expanded through print and digital collections and diverse interactive programs. Our library is recognized for its value not only to Arlington but also the surrounding communities.



The Library proudly serves our growing Town and our mission remains the same: to meet the needs and to exceed the expectations of the Arlington community.

The Library updated technology and collection offerings through an American Rescue Plan Act grant. New public computers offer faster and more efficient service to our patrons. Though our facility is small our program attendance has grown, both onsite and at offsite locations like the Arlington Safe Room, the Forest Street Park, and Farmer's Market Pavilions. We partner with the local Senior Center to provide art programs for multiple ages and adult genealogy programs.

Throughout the year we focused on the library resources community members rely on and expanded community outreach. Library staff participated in community reader days in local schools and curriculum days where we registered 70 students and faculty for library membership cards in just one evening! We developed





partnerships with local daycares for weekly storytimes to develop literacy skills.

Thank you for making this a year to remember. The Sam T. Wilson Public Library staff are grateful for the commitment and support of the Town of Arlington, the Library Advisory Board, the Library Friends of Arlington, Library Systems & Services, and the many local partnerships that make our Library an essential resource and the heart of the Arlington community.

**Lisa Lance | Library Director**



Storytime Craft Week



Christmas Tree  
(Recycled Nonfiction Books)

# Programming & Outreach

 The library is a pillar of the community, a place for all ages to learn and grow together.

## EARLY LITERACY

Arlington's youngest residents learned crucial early literacy skills to set them on a successful path in school through programs including:

- **Tiny Tots Lapsit** – This weekly virtual storytime was introduced in October 2020. Take home sensory kits help parents and caregivers interact more effectively with their little ones while attending Tiny Tots virtually.
- **Read with Me Storytime** – A weekly virtual storytime includes guest readers from community leaders to Town staff. The program for toddlers and preschoolers is designed so children can better see the book and presenter and follow along easily. Following the printed words as a story is read is an important pre-reading skill.
- **Bedtime Storytime** – A weekly virtual storytime contributes to brain development and relieves anxiety.
- **Preschool/Toddler Tuesday Storytimes** – This program is held at Forrest Street Park, the Farmer's Market Pavilion and the Arlington Safe Room. Average weekly attendance at this popular program was 75.



Storytime: Farmer's Market Pavilion, June 7



Storytime Outreach – ABC School PreK Class



## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

The Library serves as a local hub for children and teens. Wide-ranging activities and a Creative Space to learn and enjoy through weekly STEM programs keep children busy, safe and engaged. Monthly book clubs, kids and teen art programs and the Summer Reading Club round out offerings for children.



STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) June 2022



Elementary Book Club



Masterminds Tween & Teen Book Club



Chess Club (patio and indoors)





Residents particularly enjoyed Monday Bingo and Chess Club. A new program, Art With Haley expanded to both early and afternoon sessions.



Art With Haley (Senior Center)



Art With Haley (Library, early session)



In March, Library staff and local elementary school students and teachers came together to celebrate Read Across America Week at Donelson Elementary School.



Donelson Elementary 2nd Grade Class



Donelson Elementary 2nd Grade Class

## ANNUAL EVENTS



Christmas on the Square 2021

Arlington's annual Christmas on the Square event returned to a full community celebration in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Library staff joined the festivities and distributed more than 400 tree card craft kits, held storytimes, gave out information packets and assisted the Library Friends of Arlington with the Santa Letter Writing Station held inside the historic post office.

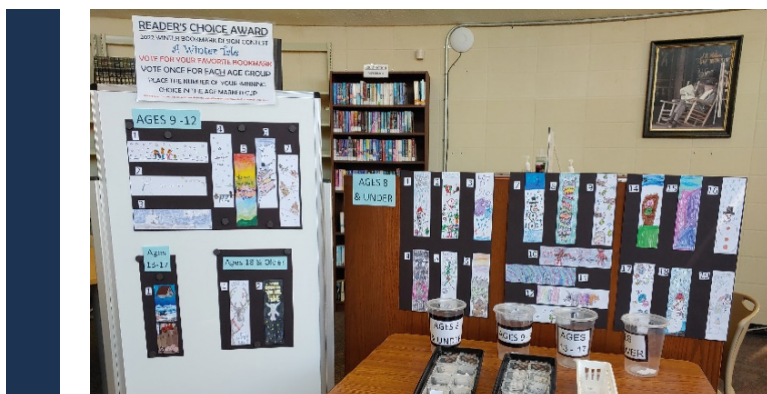


Arlington in April Storytime,  
Bubble-Bubble Pop song

The Library participated in Arlington in April. Staff hosted storytimes, distributed hundreds of craft kits, registered new patrons for library cards and promoted summer reading. The Library Friends of Arlington held a successful book sale providing support for library programs.



Patrons of all ages have become eager participants in both the annual summer reading and winter bookmark design contest. First Citizens National Bank of Arlington sponsors the contest. Winning bookmarks are added to the bookmark collection at the library and made available to the public.



2022 Winter Bookmark Contest



2021 SRP Bookmark Winner Board



The third year of *Supply and Forgive for Fines* was a great success. This program encourages patrons with overdue fines to donate school supplies to students in need. This unique program supports Arlington in two ways: Overdue fines are waived for patrons and school supplies are donated to students. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, 85 school supplies were donated to local schools.

Library fine forgiveness continued into the holidays with the third annual *Food for Fines Forgiveness* program. Through this program, fines are waived for patrons who donate canned goods. The local food pantry received more than 165 food items.



The Library's Summer Reading program is a vital resource to prevent learning loss. Summer Reading programs are designed as a fun alternative to combat this loss by incentivizing reading.

Summer 2022 registration was exceptional with 511 registrations. The previous year's registration total was met halfway through this year's program! Many new families became regular library users during the summer and a new one-month record of 116 library card registrations was set.

More than 1,000 weekly craft kits for all ages were distributed during the first few weeks of summer reading. Interactive programs included children's book illustrator Rich Davis, and Awesome Aquariums by Dixon Gallery & Gardens. A visit from Tennessee State Park Ranger Overstreet introduced the kids to Sweetpea, a Barred Owl.



Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Awesome Aquariums



Shelby Wildlife, Farmer's Market Pavilion

# Flexibility: Key to a Growing Community

The explosion of use during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 underscores the Library's importance to the community. Many of the innovative services introduced during the pandemic will continue.

Kids Zone DIY Craft Day is a popular monthly event providing themed craft kits with an average of 150 kits picked up at each session. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022 staff prepared more than 3,600 take and make kits.

Library book clubs were a great success, providing flexible opportunities to join the conversation:

- Homeschool Book Club (HSBC) returned to in person meetings with the opportunity to join the online chat. Club titles included great books such as *A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord and *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini.
- The new Elementary Book Club gave the younger group an opportunity to review and discuss a book and to recommend titles to other readers.
- The new Masterminds Tween and Teen Book Club is a more traditional style book club. Participants make projects related to each month's book.



First Elementary Book Club

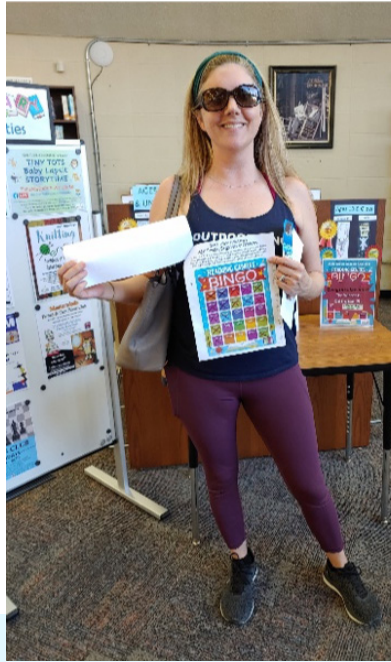


October Fun Fest, ASR



Adults enjoyed a Winter Bingo Reading Challenge. For every bingo that was claimed they received an entry into a prize drawing sponsored by Vinegar Jim's Restaurant, a local Arlington favorite.

The Seed Library is offered from March through June, or as long as the supply lasts. Patrons may check out up to 5 seed packets and often share their successes and failures. More than 300 seed packets were donated by the American Seed Corp., Baker Creek Heirloom, Gurney's Seed & Nursery and many others.



Seed Library 2022

**The Library Friends of Arlington (LFA) sponsored 25 non-resident library cards to non-resident seniors that are unable to afford a library card.**



LFA Book Sale, October 2021



LFA Non-Resident Card Sponsorship

**Sam T. Wilson Public Library**

In Partnership with

**Library Friends of Arlington**

**Now offering**

**Senior Non-Resident Library Card Sponsorship**

Want to join a great Library? Age 50 and older?  
Live outside of the Town of Arlington city limits?

The Library Friends of Arlington sponsorship program pays the non resident library card fee for the first year. Limited cards sponsored per year.  
Contact the Library for details.

**Membership Highlights:**

- 24/7 Online Access
- Bestsellers
- eBooks \* eAudiobooks \* eMagazines
- Audiobooks
- DVDs
- Free Classes & Programs
- Free Computer Use (with active card)
- Free Wi-Fi
- & more

**JOIN TODAY!**

Free library cards for  
Town of Arlington residents  
with proof of town residence!

Non Resident Fee - \$50  
Senior (age 50 & older) - \$25

Sam T. Wilson Public Library \* 11908 Walker Street \* Arlington TN \* 901.867.1954

# Library Statistics

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022



**2,064**

PUBLIC SERVICE  
HOURS



**15,578**

LIBRARY VISITS



**5,602**

WEBSITE VISITS



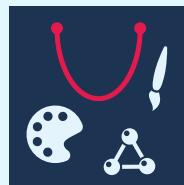
**325**

CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAMS



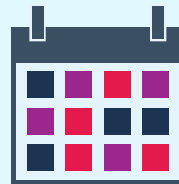
**3,383**

CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE



**3,899**

PROGRAM KITS  
(STEM, STORYTIME, CRAFT)



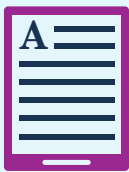
**413**

TOTAL PROGRAMS



**4,004**

TOTAL PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE



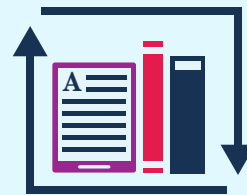
**16,474**

ELECTRONIC  
MATERIALS  
CIRCULATION



**28,274**

PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CIRCULATION



**44,748**

TOTAL  
CIRCULATION



**590**

NEW BORROWERS



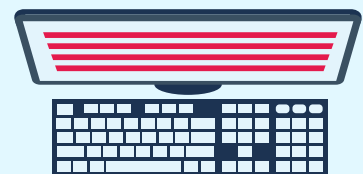
**3,314**

TOTAL BORROWERS



**6,909**

TOTAL REFERENCE  
QUESTIONS



**1,133**

USE OF COMPUTERS