



ALAMANCE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

A YEAR OF COVID
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

 (336) 299-3588

 alamancelibraries.org

 342 S. Spring St.

Burlington, NC 27215

04

Mission & Values

06

Library Branches

10

Year in Review

13

Programs & Services

17

Passports

18

Outreach

21

Partnerships

23

Staff & Boards

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.



Alamance County
Public Libraries
www.alamancelibraries.org



EDUCATION



ACCESS

LITERACY

Reflection From Our Director

With COVID-19 lingering much longer than anyone hoped, the Alamance County Public Libraries had to change and adapt our services constantly as situations and expectations changed. Starting the year with a reduced budget and six frozen positions due to anticipated tax deficiencies, we worked within our means to retain as many services to our community as possible while still cleaning, sanitizing, social distancing, and more.

After closing our doors to the public in March 2019, we were successful in implementing curbside pick-up service as soon as North Carolina Stay at Home orders lifted. As time passed we began to realize that impacts of COVID could last a long time and we needed a plan to give our community access to our resources again. In July 2020, we started offering computer appointments which were in high demand. And by October 2020, we were offering Grab & Go services, with 30 minute time limits and one hour computer access on a reduced hours schedule. This got us through the winter and into the season of COVID vaccines becoming available. In response to this, we slowly worked to get our services back to pre-COVID levels and opened to normal operations on July 1, 2021.

On one sad note, circumstances completely messed up the delivery of our Mobile Library. With closures, build delays due to illness, and parts acquisition problems, we took possession of our new vehicle on June 30, 2021 instead of June 2020. But we do look forward to starting our new services in the coming fiscal year!

Through closure, reduced services, reduced hours, and rethinking how libraries meet the needs of our community, we still saw around 90,000 people through our doors, over 24,000 through curbside pick-up, with over 305,000 items circulated. We also saw a spike in our downloadable resource statistics with over 15,000 additional circulations here alone.

Our library was forced to act rapidly in response to COVID and I continue to be impressed and grateful to them all for adapting so quickly and continuing to develop creative ways to reach and assist our community during unprecedented times. We continue to strive for excellence as our largest program initiative of the year, the Summer Reading program moved online through READ Squared, regular virtual programs, take and make kits, and more available in the libraries and through curbside pickup.

It will be interesting to continue to navigate through a world of COVID and we appreciate the support, understanding, and patience of our patrons!

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.

305,626

ITEMS CIRCULATED

87,723

VISITORS

59

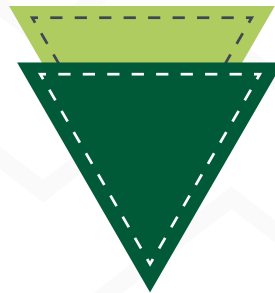
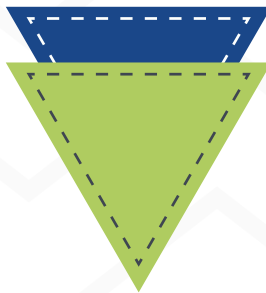
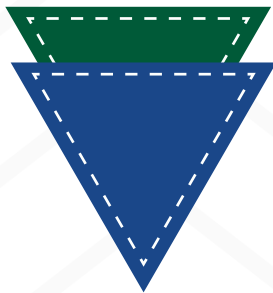
ZOOM PASSES BORROWED

9,016 & 7,282

COMPUTERS USED AND WI-FI USES

237

PROGRAMS OFFERED



4,647

PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS

**S
T
H
G
I
T
H
G
I
H**

LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Total Program 104

Live Views 796

On-Demand Views 987

PRE-RECORDED

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

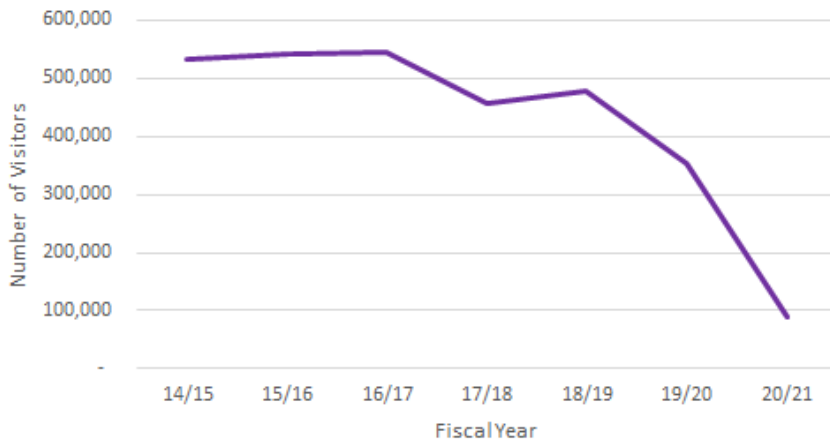
Total Program 36

Views 981



Alamance County Public Libraries

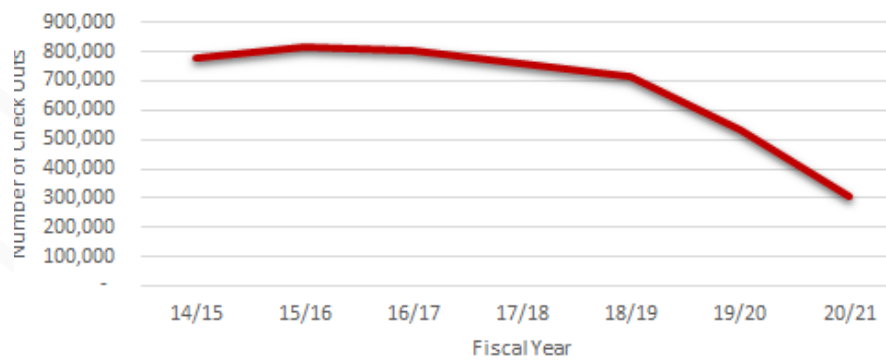
Alamance County Public Libraries Visitors



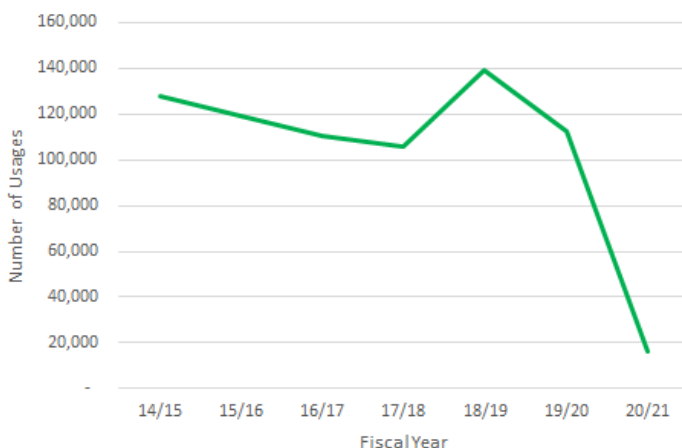
COVID hit libraries hard with the extended timeline impacting all library services. Our doors were closed to the public from March 2020 through October 2020 when we opened up for Grab & Go limited hours. The Libraries became fully operational again on July 1, 2021, when positions frozen due to COVID became unfrozen.

FY 2019-2020 saw a total of 530,967 items checked out. In FY 2020-2021, it was 305,626, a decrease of 43%. This is not as significant a decrease in check-out as expected with library visitors dropping by 75%. There were an additional 1,590 new online library card users compared to 623 the previous year, which increased the demand for downloadable content significantly.

Alamance County Public Libraries Total Circulation



Total Computer & Wi-Fi Usage



While the use of the library Wi-Fi increased significantly, it could not compete with the impact of having to reduce the number of computers available in order to space people out appropriately. Even though we did open up for computer appointments in June 2020. We were able to begin offering hotspots for patrons to check-out in FY 20-21, which did allow for additional community internet use.

94,158

NUMBER OF ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDS

8,114

NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

214,365

ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

51,557

ITEMS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN BRANCHES

1,345,223

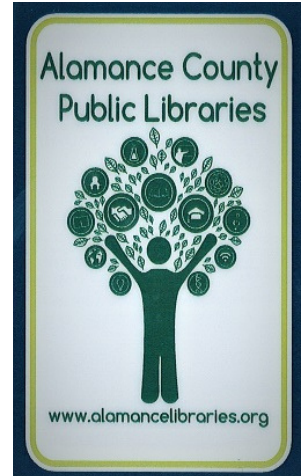
TOTAL CATALOG VIEWS

111

AVAILABLE DATABASES

209,457

DATABASE USAGES





ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Every Child Ready to Read

An innovative program to encourage parents to participate in enrichment activities that create the building blocks for reading through the development of fundamental skills through: talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.

StoryWalks

There are five 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.

What We Offer Virtual Storytimes

A new addition this year due to COVID-19 but well received and something that will continue when services return to normal.

Book Clubs for All Ages

Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes readers to 1.8 million words a year. ACPL offers twelve book clubs to share the love of reading with others, even shifting to virtual meetings didn't stop the momentum!

On the Shelves

A new video series on our YouTube page highlighting many of the new titles, by genre, available for check out.

Your Next Great Read

A new personal readers' advisory service for patrons. Participants can submit their reading preferences are assigned a personal readers' advisory specialist to select books for readers to try. Resulting in exposure to new authors, subjects, and a personal reading relationship with staff.



JOB RESOURCES

Making Opportunities a Reality



Citizenship & GED

Alamance County Public Libraries partners with Alamance Community College to offer regular GED and Citizenship classes to the community, which moved to virtual during COVID and will return to in-person August 2021.



NC LIVE

The Ferguson's Career Guidance Center and EBSCO Learning Express / PrepStep accessed through NC LIVE offers practice exams in a wide variety of career fields. Cypress Resume and other resources on our Job Help page help create resumes and develop skills to prepare for job interviews.



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 resources available.





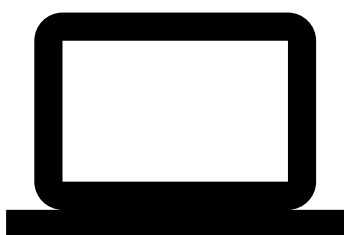
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSISTING THE ALAMANCE COUNTY COMMUNITY



Virtual Resources

We offer a wide variety of virtual resources that include content such as ebooks and textbooks, practice tests, homework assistance, project research material, training videos, and much more.



GED Classes

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 and switched to virtual platforms during COVID.



ACPL Connect

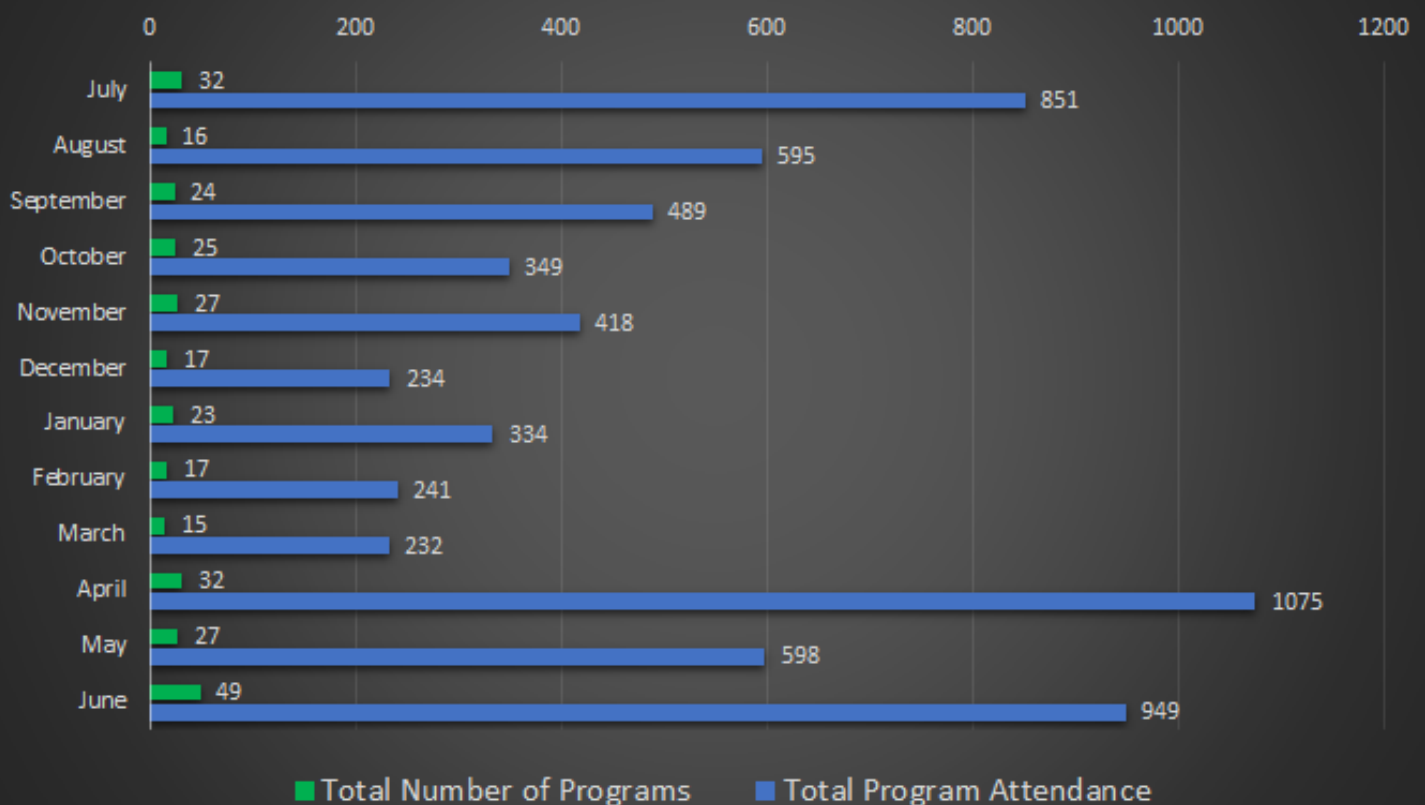
ACPL Connect accounts provide students with easily accessible information and educational resources. Students no longer need library cards. Instead, they can use their school ID number to access library services. Three additional schools were added to the program this year.



Program Statistics

Number of Programs		Attendance at Programs	
Adult programs	87	Adult attendance	1,225
Young Adult programs	35	Young Adult attendance	849
Children's programs	115	Children's attendance	2,573
Total Number of Programs	237	Total Attendance at Programs	4,647

FY 2020-2021 Programs



Virtual Programming

Live Virtual Programs

Live Virtual Children's Programs	58
Views of Live Virtual Children's Programs	363
On-demand Views of Live Child Programs	825
Live Virtual Adult Programs	18
Views of Live Virtual Adult Programs	135
On-demand Views of Live Adult Programs	17
Live Virtual All Ages Programs	24
Views of Live Virtual All Ages Programs	267
On-demand Views of Live All Ages Programs	142

Recorded Virtual Programs

Recorded Virtual Children's Programs	5
Views of Recorded Children's Programs	27
Recorded Virtual All Ages Programs	30
Views of Recorded All Ages Programs	929



Passport Services

Passport Services is available at the May Memorial Library.

Passport Services opened for special access appointments in June 2020 even though the Federal offices had no processing timelines available until November 2020.

Fiscal Years	Passport Applications	Visitors	Phone Calls	Totals		Out of County Customers	Out of County Total
Jul 20	28	13	132	173		18	4
Aug 20	47	18	167	232		25	9
Sept 20	67	23	217	307		64	31
Oct 20	89	28	185	302		52	31
Nov 20	37	24	114	175		26	11
Dec 20	31	23	136	190		20	5
Jan 21	66	40	208	314		30	10
Feb 21	82	44	253	379		58	28
Mar 21	134	58	387	579		79	38
Apr 21	89	37	263	389		6	29
May 21	122	75	272	469		68	27
Jun 21	131	82	381	594		81	35
Total Fiscal Year end 06/21	923	465	2715	4103		582	258



**ALAMANCE COUNTY
PASSPORT OFFICE**
342 South Sping Street
Burlington, NC 27215
APPOINTMENTS ONLY
Call: (336) 570-4160
M-F 9:00 – Noon
M-F 1:30 – 4:00

#BeginYourJourney



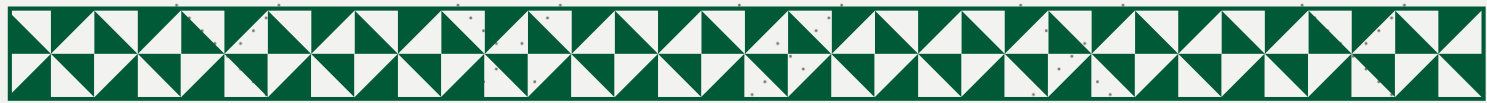
Outreach Services



HOME-BOUND BOOKS



HOME-BOUND BOOKS is a program that delivers print materials on a monthly basis to patrons around Alamance County. It also offers a Books by Mail USPS service.



Outreach Patrons

128



Materials Delivered

9,429



Outreach Volunteers

20 Volunteers
125 Visits Each Month
1,500 Yearly Total

Outreach Services



MOBILE CAFÉ



Bringing the internet to remote locations in the county. Our locations have tables, chairs, and benches to work comfortably while connecting to our Wi-Fi.



Mobile Cafe Patrons

1,046



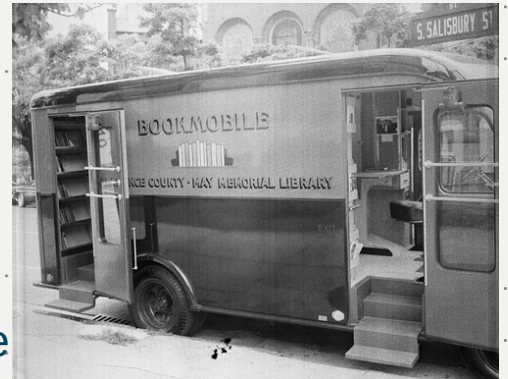
Wi-Fi Usages

815

Outreach Services

MOBILE LIBRARY

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.



Thank you to our Funders & Sponsors!

Library Services & Technology Act Grant,
Impact Alamance Grant,
Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries,
Various Trusts and Endowments to ACPL,
Generous Donations from Alamance County Citizens,
Alamance Community Foundation,
Sean Boone - Alamance County Attorney,
LabCorp

Partnerships &

Collaborations

Community Partners

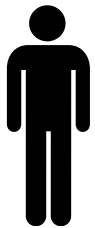


Over 200 partnerships with the community including ABSS, ACC, Elon, Impact Alamance, United Way, and many more.



- GED Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- ESL Classes
- Fitness Classes
- Crafting Classes
- Enrichment Programs

ACPL Connect

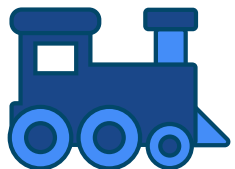
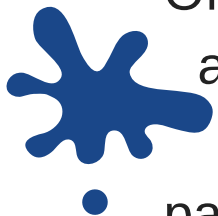


Providing students with easily accessible information and educational resources. Partnering with ABSS, The Burlington School, The Hawbridge School, Clover Garden School, River Mill Academy, Alamance Community School, and Burlington Christian Academy.



Zoom Pass Program

Offering families access to hands-on educational and life skills opportunities at thirteen different organizations and museums, including new partnerships with local theater groups and parks.



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

Alamance Burlington School System
Alamance Community College
Alamance County Agriculture Extension
Alamance County Recreation and Parks
Ag Extension of NC
Authentically Alamance Farmer's Market
Alamance Arts Council
African American Cultural and Heritage
Museum
Mayor Ian Baltutis/City of Burlington
Beaumont Apartments
Burlington Animal Services
Burlington Downtown Corporation
Burlington Housing Authority
Burlington Women's Club
City of Burlington
City of Burlington Horticulture Dept
City of Burlington Recreation and Parks
City of Burlington Stormwater Division
City of Graham
City of Graham – Recreation and Parks
City of Graham Tree Board
City of Mebane
City of Mebane Parks and Recreation
Jessica Embry/Homeschool Coaching Services
Glencoe Mills Heritage Museum
Graham Headstart
Marrowsville Community Group
Mayco Bigelow Community Center
Misty Springs Mobile Home Park
Morehead Planetarium
NC IDEA
NC Science Festival
Mt Hermon Community Center
Saxapahaw Village Kids' Preschool
Gabriel & Julia Kussman
Alamance County Dental Clinic
City of Burlington - North Park Walking Track
Town of Elon - Beth Schmidt Park Walking Trail
NC Symphony (Music Discovery Program)
Orange Enterprises
Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Stormwater Smart
Scott Community Health Clinic
Tucker Street Apartments
Van Denton with Fox8 WGHP
Labcorp
Impact Alamance
Gardner Library Trust
Friends of the Library
Susan Treece Gant Memorial Fund
Alamance County Citizens
State Library of North Carolina
Sean Boone
MVP Video & Promotions
Books 'N Banter
Alamance Community Foundation
Alamance Achieves
Gibsonville Public Library
North Carolina Zoological Park
Animal Park at Conservators Center
Sylvan Heights Bird Park
Pleasant Grove Community Center
Jason Cox
Newlin Elementary / Holy Comforter
Davis Street UMC Women's Club
Sylvan Elementary PTA
Burlington Junior Woman's Club
The Hawbridge School
Sylvan Ruritan
Cedarock Park
Alamance Community College
Mebane Women's Club
Town of Elon Parks & Recreation
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
Crossroads SARRC & Child Advocacy Center
Walking Track at Graham Middle School
Mebane Arts & Community Center

Library Committee Members

Susana Goldman - Director

- Kristen Whitlow - Chair
- Courtney Doi
- Paula Hendricks
- Vacant
- Shannon Whitherow
- Logan Savits
- Colleen Macklin
- Jessica Simmons
- Jordan Dawson
- Craig Turner, County Commissioner

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.

- Julie Monroe, President
- Barbara Roberts, 1st Vice-President
- Madison Taylor, 2nd Vice-President
- Debbie Gunyan, Treasurer
- Jeff Tudor, Past President
- Pat Shoffner, Secretary

Anne Hogan
Debbie Mann
Gay Sharpe
Laura Wright
Linda Shirley
Matt Wall
Ron Oakley
Kathy Oakley
Debra Scott

Patsy Pringle
Rosemary Lewis
Virginia Kenney
Crystal Humble
Hal Vincent

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

"I think the library is awesome. I panic if I don't have a book."
- Patron



We participated in the 30 Days of Science Program, and my kids absolutely LOVED it. The staff came up with really engaging experiments, fun zoom meetings with the experts, and everything was just so well organized.
- Patron



"I enjoy visiting the library with my daughter and grandsons. Such GREAT programs."
- Patron



Get Connected

Our Social Media



www.facebook.com/AlamanceLibraries

3,812 Followers



www.twitter.com/ACLibraries

965 Followers



www.instagram.com/alamancelibraries/

1,470 Followers



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNI2](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNI2uOEDIvKZ4iPcVaXRANw/)

[uOEDIvKZ4iPcVaXRANw/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNI2uOEDIvKZ4iPcVaXRANw/)

53 Subscribers



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