



ALAMANCE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

(336) 299-3588

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



Alamance County
Public Libraries
www.alamancelibraries.org



Reflection From Our Director

This has definitely been a year of change for the Alamance County Public Libraries, not to say that each year won't continue to change as quickly as things seemed to this year. Starting the year off with a bang, we successfully got permission to no longer charge overdue fines - removing that barrier from past and future library accounts! Wonderfully, this resulted in **10,827 new borrowers**, a **35% increase** over last year, and over 2,000 long lost and overdue items being returned.

Soon after that, we rolled out new operating hours across the May Memorial, Graham, and Mebane Libraries. Patrons no longer scramble to remember which branch is open until which time on which day of the week.

In October 2021, we began our Mobile Library service. This is the culmination of four years of hard work, fundraising and seeking support to start this new service. Happily, we saw over 600 patrons in the first month, and ended the fiscal year having served **244 stops** and seeing over **2,500 visitors**. Our Mobile Café had a good year as well, even through staffing shortages, seeing **897 visitors**, participating in fourteen events, and giving out over **750 books**.

Throughout the year we were thrilled to be able to provide the services, resources, and programs that our community needs. We experienced over **250,000 library visitors** through our doors and **checked out almost 450,000 items**.

Patrons were happy to have access to computers and study areas again, which was reflected in the **33,051 - Public Library Computer Uses** and **25,677 - Wi-Fi** uses for the year. Total public or personal device usage resulted in a **196% increase** over FY 20-21 and was only a 40% decrease from our pre-COVID FY 2018-2019. This shows that while many personal habits did change due to COVID, the need for access and connectivity remains critical in Alamance County.

Through the hiring and retention challenges, the seemingly never-ending impact of COVID, and the eventual slow return to 'normality', we offered up and participated in over **700 programs and events, seeing over 31,000 participants**.

Summer Reading programs are running strong through the middle of our fiscal year change and give us a good idea of the returning interest of our community to get involved with each other again. We look forward to the year and changes to come!

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!



244

STOPS

2,762

VISITORS

2,853

ITEMS CHECKED OUT

639

PEOPLE ATTENDED
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

8

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Mobile Café

Alamance County Public Libraries

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



200
STOPS

897
VISITORS AT STOPS

762
BOOKS GIVEN OUT

14
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

190
WI-FI USAGES

13,009
PEOPLE ATTENDED
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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.

114

PATRONS

9,693

ITEMS

DELIVERED

15

VOLUNTEERS

25

VISITS EACH

MONTH



50

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

3,979

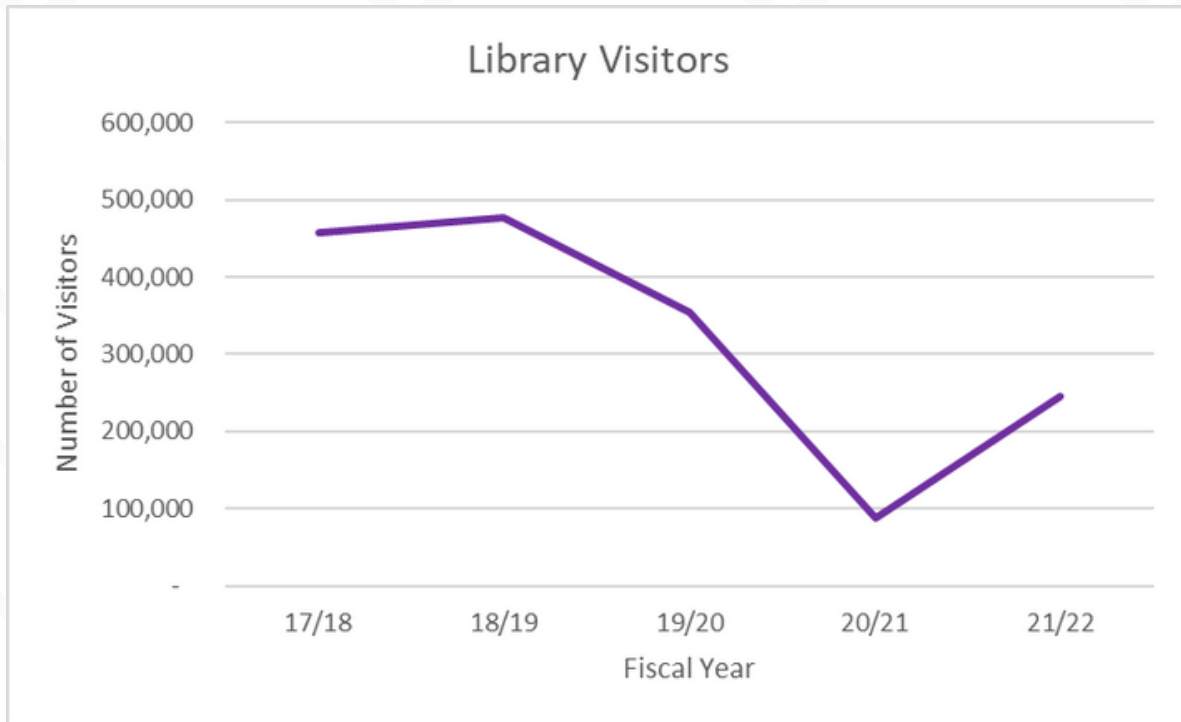
PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

256,283 448,543

LIBRARY VISITORS

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



We see a sharp improvement upon opening our doors again for our normal operating hours on July 1st. While we're not quite back to pre-COVID numbers, seeing 246,283 library visitors is a vast improvement to previous years. Reminding citizens that libraries are once again operating normally is our continued goal.

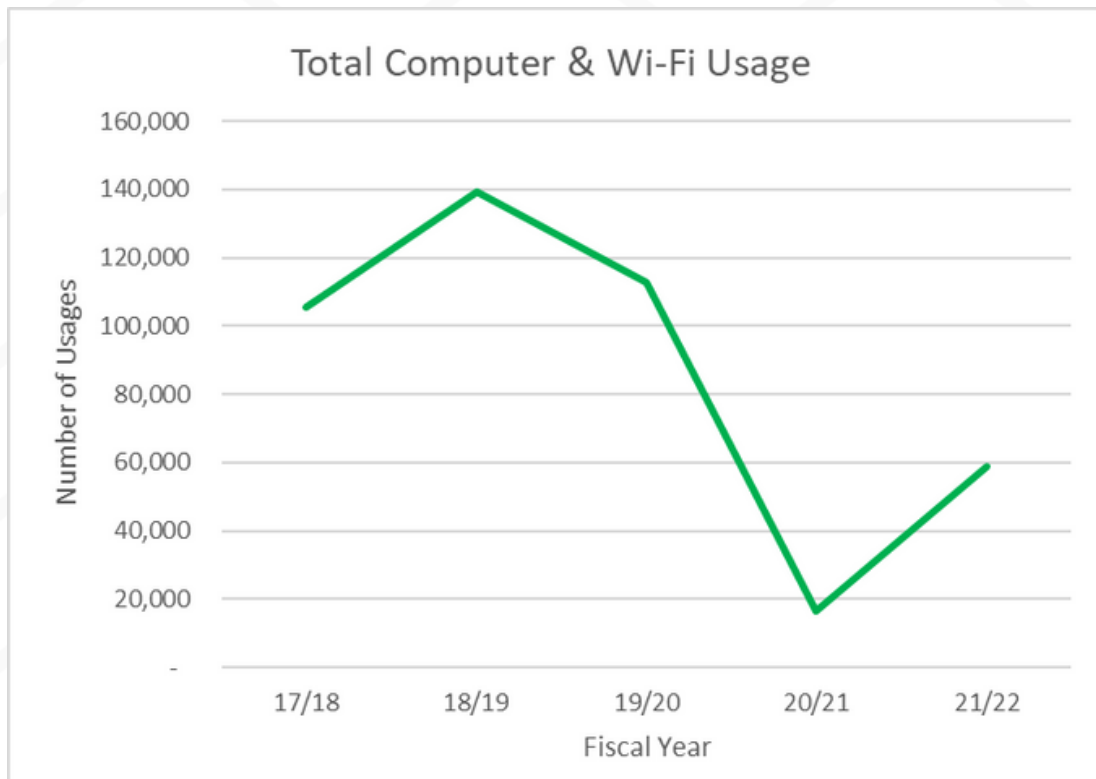


FY 2020-2021 showed a total of 305,626 items checked out. In FY 2021-2022, it was 448,700, an increase of 60%. This is an excellent first year recovery from the impact COVID had on patron habits. With the 10,827 new library card users during the year, we expect to see a continued increase of material check-outs, computer use, and program attendance.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

33,051 & 25,677

COMPUTERS USED AND WI-FI USES



Total uses of the libraries' computers and public wi-fi surged this year as restrictions were eliminated. But trends have also changed as the margin between personal device usage and library computer usage equalized.

33,051 - Public Library Computer Uses
25,677 - Wi-Fi uses

The pre-COVID FY 2018-2019 margin between library computer use and wi-fi use was 99.6% compared to FY 2020-2021's 25%.

236

ZOOM PASSES BORROWED

772

PROGRAMS OFFERED

31,265

PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS

86,748

NUMBER OF ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDS

10,827

NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

209,123

ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

41,290

ITEMS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN BRANCHES

1,491,601

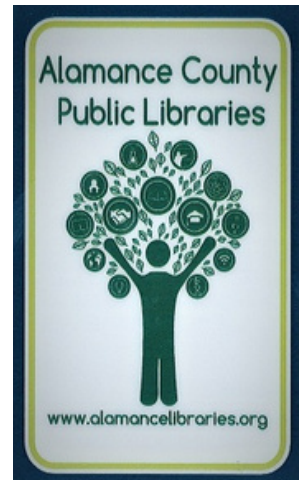
TOTAL CATALOG VIEWS

119

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.

Little Free Libraries

We are proud to sponsor 21 Little Free Libraries throughout Alamance. The concept of Take a Book, Leave a Book began in 2009 in Wisconsin by a man who built one to honor his mother (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/about/>).

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.

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.

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. In 2020, we began circulating 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.



NC LIVE – offers citizens of North Carolina online access to complete articles from over 10,000 newspapers, journals, magazines, and encyclopedias, indexing for over 20,000 periodical titles, and access to over 24,000 electronic books. NC LIVE is available free of charge to library patrons, both in the library and remotely.

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
- Cypress Resume
- and more!



GED Classes with ACC

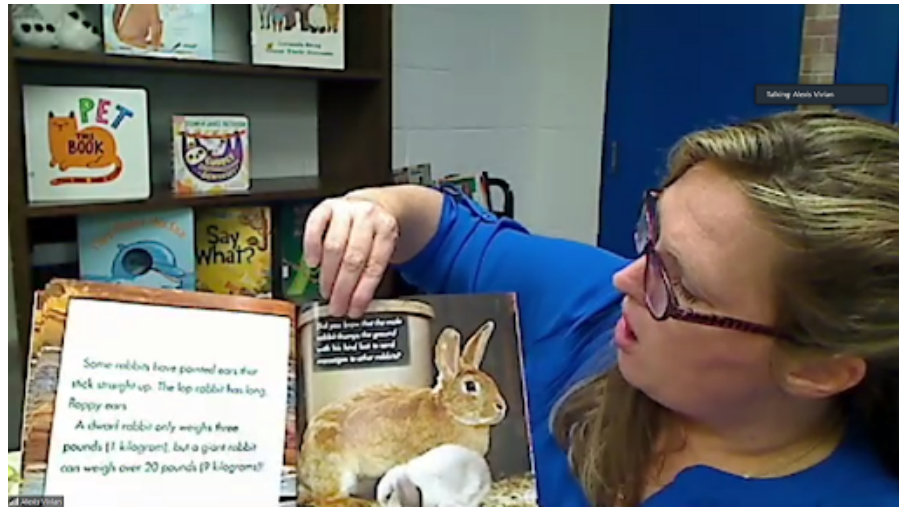
GED classes are offered for students who have not completed their high school education. These classes are offered to those who need to improve academic skills in order to qualify for better jobs. Classes switched to virtual platforms during COVID, but are back in person. Class locations vary based on 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	167
Young Adult programs	103
Children's programs	502
Total Number of Programs	772

Attendance at Programs

Adult attendance	2,034
Young Adult attendance	966
Children's attendance	28,265
Total Attendance at Programs	31,265



Virtual Programs

Total Programs	69
Live Views	644
Recorded Views	194

Programs by Topic

Agricultural Programs offered	7
Agricultural Program attendance	156
Technology Programs offered	19
Technology Program attendance	32
Early Literacy Programs offered	45
Early Literacy Program attendance	1,088
STEAM Programs offered	11
STEAM Program attendance	169



BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2021-2022 Program Total by Month



■ Total Number of Programs ■ Total Program Attendance

PASSPORT SERVICES

Available at the May Memorial Library.

Alamance County Passport Services opened regular appointments on July 1st, 2021 and underwent numerous changes as the Federal Government services were backlogged due to the pandemic. Requirements required double the time spent with customers and often required congressional office interventions.

Fiscal Years	Passport Applications	Visitors	Phone Calls	Totals
Jul 21	114	49	289	452
Aug 21	103	80	289	472
Sept 21	73	55	238	366
Oct 21	122	72	277	471
Nov 21	75	54	239	368
Dec 21	87	41	182	310
Jan 22	106	67	348	521
Feb 22	97	50	238	385
Mar 22	134	90	393	617
Apr 22	112	53	262	427
May 22	146	75	318	539
Jun 22	112	73	322	507
Total FY 2021-2022	1,281	759	3,395	5,435



**ALAMANCE COUNTY
PASSPORT OFFICE**
342 South Sping Street
Burlington, NC 27215
APPOINTMENTS ONLY
Call: (336) 570-4160
M-F 10:00 – Noon
M-F 1:30 – 4:00

#BeginYourJourney 



Alamance County Public Libraries

Library Committee

- Kristen Whitlow – Chair & Mebane Representative
- Colleen MackLin – Vice Chair & Graham Representative
- Courtney Doi – Mebane Representative
- M. Angeline Hill – Burlington Representative
- Logan Savits – Burlington Representative
- Jordan Dawson – Graham Representative
- Jessica Simmons – County-at-Large Representative
- Shannon Whitherow – County-at-Large Representative
- Paula Hendricks – County-at-Large Representative
- Craig Turner 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 the late return of, 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, Vice-President
Debbie Gunyan, Treasurer

Julie Monroe, Past President
Pat Shoffner, Secretary

Jeff Tudor
Anne Hogan
Debbie Mann
Gay Sharpe
Laura Wright
Ron Oakley
Kathy Oakley
Debra Scott

Patsy Pringle
Rosemary Lewis
Virginia Kenney
Crystal Humble
Hal Vincent
Linda Shirley
Matt Wall



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 County Dental Clinic
Alamance Community Foundation
Ag Extension of NC
Authentically Alamance Farmer's Market
Alamance Arts Council
Beaumont Apartments
Burlington Downtown Corporation
City of Burlington
City of Burlington Horticulture Dept
City of Burlington - North Park Walking Track
City of Graham
City of Graham – Recreation and Parks
City of Graham Tree Board
City of Mebane
Glencoe Mills Heritage Museum
Marrowtown Community Group
Misty Springs Mobile Home Park
Mt Hermon Community Center
Saxapahaw Village Kids' Preschool
Gabriel & Julia Kussman
Town of Elon - Beth Schmidt Park Walking Trail
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
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
Mebane Women's Club
Crossroads SARRC & Child Advocacy Center
Walking Track at Graham Middle School
NC IDEA

African American Cultural Arts & History Center
Alamance Achieves
Alamance County Civil Rights Trail Marker Committee
Alamance Community College
Alamance County Cooperative Extension
Alamance County 4-H
Alamance Recreation & Parks
Lynda Aleshire
Ian Baltutis, City of Burlington
Burlington Animal Services
Burlington Housing Authority
Burlington Recreation and Parks
Burlington Women's Club
Shereá Burnett, This Woman's Words
CityGate Dream Center
Lisa Cox at Alamance Battleground State Historic site
Daughters of the American Revolution, Battle of Alamance Chapter
Duke Lemur Center
Elon Recreation and Parks
Front Street UMC
Danica Heflin, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society
Graham Historical Museum
Graham Recreation and Parks
Haw River Museum
Headstart
Historic Stoner's Cemetery Committee
Dr. Bryan Holler, Space Telescope Science Institute
Kidz-N-Progress
LatinxED
Lorena Meza Lara
Mayco Bigelow Community Center
Mebane Arts and Community Center
Mebane Historical Museum
Mebane Parks and Recreation
Morehead Planetarium
NAACP Voter Registration
NC Science Festival
Positive Day School
Preservation Burlington
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
Sons of the American Revolution, Alamance Battleground Chapter
Carole Troxler
Three College Observatory
Wade's Childcare Center
Sarah Williams, Shrouding Sisters

"My kids and I were bummed over the loss of a pet and stumbled into the library looking for some new books and a movie to cheer us up. Ms. Samantha engaged the kids in the preschool and kids' 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."



"I enjoy visiting the library with my daughter and grandsons."

"We participated in the 30 Days of Science Program, and my kids absolutely LOVED it. Ms. Alexis came up with really engaging experiments, fun zoom meetings with the experts, and everything was just so well organized. My kids were so disappointed when May 1st rolled around and I didn't have any experiments lined up. She went above and beyond for me as well. My kids won a prize during the science festival, but I wasn't familiar with the Burlington area and asked for suggestions on what to do. She set up an absolutely fantastic day trip for my family. My kids cannot wait to explore more of the Haw River Trail and eat at Smittys again!"



"COMING TO STORYTIME WAS REALLY A HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WEEK. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARIES FOR OFFERING SOMETHING SO INCREDIBLY VITAL FOR US NEW PANDEMIC PARENTS."

"MY DAUGHTER IS 10 MONTHS AND ALREADY LOVES BOOKS (MOSTLY TO CHEW ON). LUCY LOVED THE STORY TIME. I WAS SO SURPRISED AT HOW ATTENTIVE SHE WAS. SHE COULDN'T TAKE HER EYES OFF MS. MELODY. SHE WAS GIGGLING, IMITATING SOUNDS, AND SMILING THE WHOLE TIME. IT ALMOST BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES BECAUSE I WAS SO HAPPY SHE COULD FINALLY EXPERIENCE A STORY TIME."

Get Connected

Our Social Media



www.facebook.com/AlamanceLibraries

4,227 Followers



www.twitter.com/ACLibraries

977 Followers



www.instagram.com/alamancelibraries/

1,587 Followers



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

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

70 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