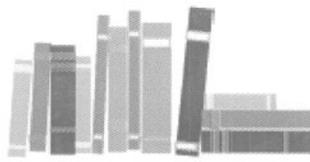


**ANNUAL REPORT
BLACKWATER LIBRARY**



Blackwater Regional Library

serving franklin, isle of wight, southampton, surry, & sussex

Mr. Michael Johnson
County Administrator
Southampton County
P O Box 400
Courtland, VA 23837

RECEIVED NOV - 8 2010

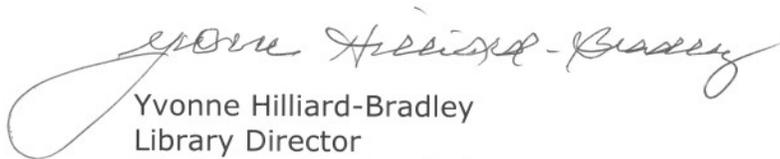
Dear Mr. Johnson,

We at Blackwater Regional Library appreciate all you do for public libraries and for our communities. We take pride in our library system and strive to create a safe, fun environment that encourages reading and learning in all of our users. We believe that the public library serves an essential and irreplaceable function in the life of the community. Thank you for the part you play in our success.

We would like to take this opportunity to share our 2009-2010 Annual Report with you. The Annual Report provides a summary of the results of the library system's Long Range Plan which guides us in our programming, services, and budget priorities.

Enclosed are enough copies to be shared among your Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Hilliard-Bradley
Library Director
Blackwater Regional Library
757-653-2821
yvonne@blackwaterlib.org

"The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history." - Carl T Rowan."

Enclosures: 2009-2010 Annual Report

22511 Main Street Courtland, Virginia 23837
www.blackwaterlib.org

Blackwater Regional Library

www.blackwaterlib.org

Annual Report 2010



"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." ~Henry Ward Beecher



Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Sussex, and Surry
www.blackwaterlib.org

servicing Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Sussex, and Surry

We Are More Than Just Books....

Education and Literacy

Promoted Reading in All Branches: included displays on: Banned Books Week, Black History Month, Children's Book Week, Read Across America, Every Child Ready to Read, Summer Reading Program, and Teen Read Week.

Teens: 1,996 young adults attended 58 teen programs.

Resources for Individuals with Disabilities: Titles were acquired on various topics including: Gluten Intolerance, Heart Disease, Autism, Diabetes, Infertility, Depression, Cancer, Alzheimer's, Addiction, ADHD, Post Traumatic Stress, etc.

outreach to schools
7,665
participants

- Check out of print and non-print materials:
 - teen: 23,284
 - adult: 215,268
 - music: 9,438
 - kits: 1,346
 - newspapers/magazines/etc: 13,545
 - juvenile: 130,582
 - audiobooks: 16,775
 - vhs/dvd: 71,212
 - magazines: 5,467
- Database Use: 19,562
- Library staff answered over 105,000 questions

storyhours
7,220
participants

Libraries are the one American institution you shouldn't rip off. -Barbara Kingsolver, Animal Dreams

Literacy programming included: Early Literacy, Mother Goose on the Loose, Mothers/Parents Morning Out, PAWS programs, Family Reading Night, Science Saturdays, and author visits.

School events attended: Open Houses, Back To School Night, Career Day, Book Clubs, Terrific Tuesdays, Winter Reading Program, Author Visits, Teen Tech Week poster contest, PTA meetings, and Head Start groups.

Book Clubs: Our branches reach out to students at elementary, middle, and high schools through lunch time book clubs.

Teen programming included: Anime Night, Teen Gaming Night, Henna Art, Decorating Hats and Sun Catchers, Twilight Movie Night, Blacksmith program, Baseball Night, Video Gaming, Gamer Bus, Author Visit by Maggie Stiefvater, Teen Magic Workshop, Board Game Day, Teens that Steal the Scene, and more

Community Enrichment

Virtual Community: The Blackwater Regional website provides resources for different groups such as parents, homeschoolers, teens, children, kids, and seniors.

Databases: Citizens have access to genealogy, health, law, and many more databases. Blackwater also offers electronic access to thousands of articles and reference resources through online databases.

Community Outreach: We took 134 free programs to 4,429 people in the community in addition to our school outreach

- Adult program attendance: 4,629 participants
- 5,488 one-on-one computer sessions were held with library users

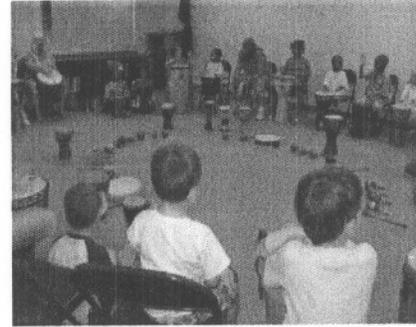
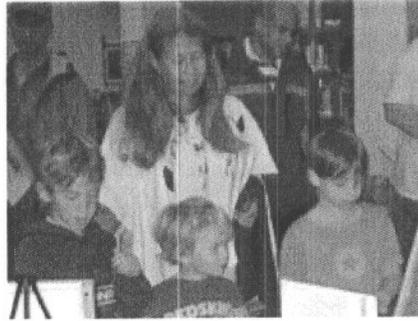
Programming included: Book Clubs, author signings, Stitch-n-Knit, Senior Movie Night, Computer Tutoring, Adult Summer Reading, QuickBooks, Volunteer Receptions, Medicare Supplement Plans, Saving on Prescription Drugs, Senior Day

Community events: branches participated in a Community Day, Renaissance Faire, September 11th Commemoration Ceremony

One-on-one computer sessions: In addition to one-on-one computer instruction, several branches held computer classes and/or hour long computer tutoring sessions.

Cultural Diversity

Multicultural Diversity: 50 programs showcased multicultural themes, including Cinco de Mayo, Hispanic Heritage Month, African American History Month, Native American Heritage Month, Henna Art, St. Patrick's Day, Anime Night, English as a Second Language and Sign Language.



- Displays included: Hispanic Heritage Month, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Month, Black History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Native American Heritage Month.

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest. ~Lady Bird Johnson

And so much more....

WINTER READING PROGRAM

This program runs for a month in the Winter and encourages children ages birth to 1st grade and their parents to read. This year we had 1,044 children registered and 4,335 books were read!

PROGRAMMING

Programming offered included: storyhours, adult, teen, after-school, classroom outreach, community outreach and Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults.

PAWS TO READ THERAPY DOGS

Children at times may be intimidated by reading aloud so several of our branches offer a PAWS program where children read to the therapy dog to build their self-confidence.



MOTHERS/PARENTS MORNING OUT

Three of our branches offer a program in which parents and caregivers come to network while the children can enjoy blocks, board books, puppets, and music. Book lists and information on how to work on early literacy skills are available to help parents. (32 programs / 296 participants)



COMPUTERS / WIRELESS ACCESS

Computers are available to the public. Free internet access is provided as well as current software for word processing tasks. Wireless is also available at all of our locations.

2010 Highlights

- On average **28 items** were checked out system-wide every hour we were open.
- Blackwater Regional Library checked out **486,917** items to our patrons this year!
- **Over 38,000** children and adults attended programs from storyhours to author talks to the Summer Reading Program.
- Our branches were open a total of **17,184 hours** to serve the needs of our customers.
- The library partnered with over **150 different organizations** throughout the year.
- **Book Clubs** at the schools met 40 times, reaching 497 children during the school year.
- Over **1,600 various programs** were held during the year!
- Our library was visited **430,210** times throughout the year.
- Computers were used **75,792** times by patrons this year.
- **4,610 new patrons** signed up for library cards.

"So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries" ~Kurt Vonnegut [In These Times, 8/6/2004]

Branches

Carrollton Branch
14362 New Towne Haven Lane
Carrollton, VA 23314
Ph. 757-238-2641 Fx. 757-238-3932

Claremont Branch
91 Mancha Avenue
Claremont, VA 23899
Ph. 757-866-8627 Fx. 757-866-8628

Courtland Branch
22511 Main Street
Courtland, VA 23837
Ph. 757-653-2821 Fx. 757-653-9374

Franklin Branch
280 North College Drive
Franklin, VA 23851
Ph. 757-562-4801 Fx. 757-562-0162

Smithfield Branch
255 James Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
Ph. 757-357-2264 Fx. 757-357-0883

Surry Branch
11640 Rolfe Highway
Surry, VA 23883
Ph. 757-294-3949 Fx. 757-294-0803

Wakefield Branch
Wilson Avenue
Wakefield, VA 23888
Ph. 757-899-6500 Fx. 757-899-2400

Waverly Branch
125 Bank Street
Waverly, VA 23890
Ph. 804-834-2192 Fx. 804-834-8671

Windsor Branch
18 Duke Street
Windsor, VA 23487
Ph. 757-242-3046 Fx. 757-242-3726

....and our wonderful Bookmobile

www.blackwaterlib.org