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STRASBURG COMMUNITY LIBRARY INC.

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report
July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

195 W. King Street Strasburg, VA 22657

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I. Message from the Outgoing President

My term as President of the Strasburg Community Library Inc. ended June 30, 2023. I leave knowing the Library has strong leadership, a clear vision for the future, and a commitment to ensure that the Library is an enduring community treasure and resource.

As the year progressed, Library programs such as Baby Rhyme Time and Pre-School Story Time returned to pre-pandemic participation levels. Patron-initiated programs such as *Knit & Knatter* and *All Booked Up* took root and provided opportunities for the community to meet over special interests. The Library sponsored several enrichment programs including author talks, artist receptions, and was part of the Shenandoah County 250th birthday celebration.

The Library's Executive Committee continued to balance operating expenses with ongoing maintenance of the building. This year's maintenance projects included painting and restoring the King Street façade and porch, replacing a 40-year-old boiler and repointing the 1833 stone foundation.

Leaning into the mission that this is a Library for all the community, the Library won a grant to improve accessibility for patrons and visitors with mobility issues. This was one of two grants awarded to libraries in Virginia. Implementation of the ADA grant started on June 7, 2023, with a community conversation about accessibility. The ADA projects covered by the grant will be completed by May 31, 2024.

I am honored to have served the community of Strasburg as the President of the Executive Committee of the Strasburg Community Library. I am proud of the results from this past year, grateful for the service provided by our volunteers, and excited about the future of the Library and its important place in the Strasburg Community.

Til Turner

Strasburg Library Executive Committee Fiscal 2023

Til Turner
President

Vacant
Vice President

Laurel Winkelmann
Secretary

Mary Lindert
Treasurer

Vacant
Ass't Treasurer

Doug Sobers
At Large Member
(Building & Maintenance)

Amy Jett
Library Operation
Manager, non-voting
member

II. Mission and Focus

The mission of the Strasburg Community Library is to be a well-run, friendly small-town library that encourages literacy, promotes lifelong learning, and strengthens the community of Strasburg and surrounding areas.

In 1959, the Strasburg Business Women’s Club opened the Strasburg Community Library, the first public library in Shenandoah County. Sixty-four years later, the Strasburg Community Library continues to provide the community with professional library services with small-town friendliness.

The Strasburg Community Library Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The Town of Strasburg generously supports the activities of the Library with an annual grant. The Strasburg Community Library collaborates with the Shenandoah County Library system under a memorandum of understanding, allowing it to offer resources to the community far exceeding what it could provide on its own.

In conjunction with the Shenandoah County Library system, the Strasburg Community Library provides the community with free access to:

- A large collection of adult, young adult and juvenile fiction and nonfiction in print, electronic, and audio formats;
- Research and current event databases;
- The Internet and computer lab; and
- Microsoft Office and other productivity and education software.



In addition, the Strasburg Community Library:

- Hosts free programs for enrichment in the arts, literature, culture, science and other areas;
- Conducts baby and toddler and pre-school story times to develop a love of reading and learning;
- Organizes the Summer Reading Program for children and teens to encourage continued interest in reading and learning;
- Provides the community convenient access to business machines for a nominal charge.

III. Year in Review

A. Operations

The Strasburg Community Library (“Library”) served over 11,000 patrons and visitors in fiscal

2023, a growth of almost 20 percent from fiscal 2022. Patrons checked out or renewed over 17,000 print books, CDs and DVDs and requested over 3,000 circulating items from other libraries in the Shenandoah County System which were delivered to Strasburg for local pickup. These circulation numbers do not capture the use of digital ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers by patrons who consider Strasburg their “home” library.

A library is more than books and is as important to a community as a post office. The table below summarizes the program offerings and attendance in fiscal 2023 compared to the prior year.

	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	+/- Change	% Change
Visitors	9,551	11,393	1,842	19.3%
Computer Lab Use	1,134	870	(264)	-23.3%
Number of Preschool Programs	62	102	40	64.5%
Total Attendance, Preschool Programs	766	1,440	674	88.0%
Number of Adult Programs	9	37	28	311.1%
Total Attendance, Adult Programs	197	443	246	124.9%
Number of Grade School (K-5) Programs	12	14	2	16.7%
Total Attendance, Grade School (K-5) Programs	159	165	6	3.8%
Number of Young Adult (12-18) Programs	2	2	-	0.0%
Total Attendance, Young Adult (12-18) Programs	57	11	(46)	-80.7%

Highlights include:

- Attendance at weekly preschool programs grew by over 60 percent. Participants often stay to socialize and play in the “board” room.
- Artist receptions and author talks continue to be popular enrichment programs for adults.
- Adult special interest groups such as *Knit & Knatter* or *All Booked Up* met regularly and answered a need to build community while engaging in hobbies.
- The digital divide remains in Strasburg. Fifteen percent of Strasburg households do not have a computer and about 25% do not have access to broadband internet. Free access to the computer lab and internet and a printer for a nominal fee helps bridge the digital divide, regardless of whether someone has a library card.
- Participation in programs for grade schoolers also grew reflecting the popularity of the Summer Reading Program. The Library continues to experiment with formats and times for programs for children and teenagers and will be seeking community opinions through a Community Needs Assessment survey in fiscal 2024.



B. Building and Maintenance

The Library merges a historic residence with an addition built in 2002. The historic section of the house reflects the charm and hospitality of bygone days. The addition doubled the size of the Library and added library-like space.



Access Independence Visit

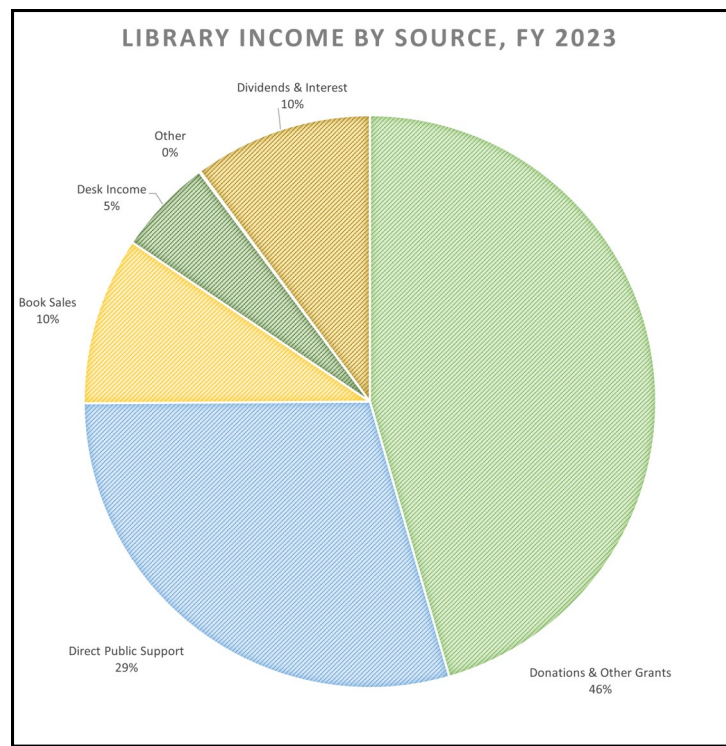
Maintenance projects completed in fiscal 2023 included painting the King Street side and front porch, repointing the stone and rubble foundation under the historic house and replacing the 40-year-old boiler. Grants from the Shenandoah Community Foundation and the Shenandoah County Library supported the King Street painting project. A grant from the Shenandoah County Library Foundation covered the cost of replacing the boiler.

The Library will improve its accessibility for visitors and patrons with mobility issues, thanks to a grant under the *Libraries Transforming Communities* program administered by the American Library Association. Implementation of this grant started with a community conversation in June and will be completed in fiscal 2024

IV. Financial Results

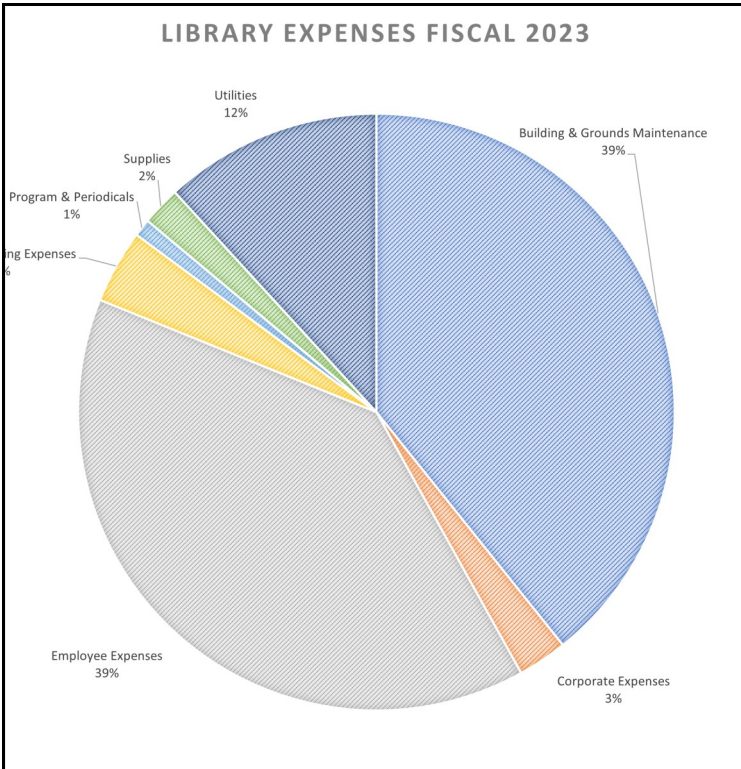
A. Income

The Library raised \$61,000 in fiscal 2023 to help cover its operating and maintenance expenses. Thanks to the Town of Strasburg for direct public support which made up 29 percent of the Library's income. Thanks also to the Shenandoah County Library Foundation, Shentel and over seventy donors who showed their support with their grants and gifts which accounted for 46 percent of the Library's income. The Library generated 25 percent of its income through its book sales, returns on its savings, and "desk" income – fines and the nominal fees charged for printing, copying and faxing.



B. Expenses

The Library's expenses for fiscal 2023 were approximately \$68,000, leaving the Library with a loss of approximately \$6,500.



Employee expenses, building and ground maintenance and utilities made up 90 percent of the Library's expenses.

The loss is primarily attributable to increased energy costs, the unexpected but necessary re-pointing of the foundation under the historic house to prevent further deterioration of the mortar, and a shortfall in income from book sales.

Going forward, the Library has reviewed and updated its pricing and sales options for its book sales. The Library has also committed to undertaking priority

capital improvements of the building in conjunction with an identified source of funds.

V. Looking Forward

The Library starts fiscal 2024 with strong leadership and a full complement of officers on the Executive Committee. New President Laurel Winkelmann will be joined by Debbie Martin, Vice President; Renee Downing, Secretary; Mary Lindert, Treasurer; Donna Peterson, Assistant Treasurer; and Doug Sobers, Building and Maintenance member at large. These dedicated volunteers join Amy Jett, Operation Manager and non-voting member, to guide the growth of the Library, to fulfill the Library's mission and to make financially sound decisions to ensure the future of the Library as a resource for the Town of Strasburg and surrounding areas.

Other projects include building a larger cadre of volunteers, issuing a Community Needs Survey as input to the Library's next 5-year plan, implementing the ADA Accessibility grant, and developing a long-range plan for supporting legacy donors.

VI. Partnerships & Support

The Library's participation in the Shenandoah County Library system provides extensive resources to Strasburg and the surrounding areas. Further, the Strasburg Community Library relies on its volunteers, generous contributions from the community and book sales from its Book Sales Room to meet its mission to be a well-run, friendly small-town library.

A. Partner in Shenandoah County Library System

The Shenandoah County Library is a valuable partner to the Strasburg Library. The County Library system contributes to program expenses, purchases print books, eBooks and audiobooks and provides other resources such as the computer lab – all available for free in Strasburg. The Strasburg Community Library is linked electronically to all Shenandoah County Library locations. The twice-weekly courier provides users of the Strasburg Community Library with books for pickup in Strasburg from any library in the Shenandoah County Library system.

The Shenandoah County Library System also assigns to Strasburg two part-time circulation assistants who provide professional library expertise.

B. Other Community Collaborations

Community collaborations allow the Library to offer special programs to the community. The Library thanks each partner for their contribution to the Library and their positive impact on enriching the Strasburg community.

Artist Receptions

Nancy Kibler Rabe
Dr. William Wade's Early Shenandoah County Art Exhibit
George Hoffman
Laura Ellen Wade presented Tasha Tudor's Christmas
Suzanne Arthur
Laura Hepler



Photographer George Hoffman Reception

Author Talks

Yin Leong, author of the Geomancer Apprentice series
Charlie the Dog
Kathy Kehoe, *Images of Strasburg*
Keshia Willi, *Fire Tales*



Local Artist Laura Hepler Reception

Other Special Programs

Talewise Theater: Pirates Lost at Sea
Walter Garcia – Spanish class for 6- to 12-year-olds
Seven Bends State Park
Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Shenandoah County 250th Anniversary Celebration
Tech Programs including Words in Your Ear and eBooks Anytime
Native American Stories at Strasburg Museum’s Children’s Day
Visit with Mrs. Claus
Vintage in the Valley Programs as part of Strasburg’s Vintage in the Valley Days
Cinco de Mayo poster contest sponsored by Walter Garcia
Trivia Contests at Box Office Brewery
Seed Exchange and Talk with Kerry Higdon



Summer Reading Program with Furry Friends

Harry Potter Trivia Contest
Furry Friends and Humane Society
Wildlife artist Cindy Kreiman

C. Volunteers

Last year, volunteers donated 3,536 hours to work at the circulation desk, answer computer questions, offer book recommendations, organize the Book Sale Room, and lead preschool and toddler story times. The Strasburg Community Library runs on volunteer power. The Library’s ability to provide well-run, friendly library services to Strasburg is a direct result of the hours donated by these dedicated volunteers. The Library couldn’t do it without you!

Morgan Altizer
Donna Bollhoefer
C.J. Borden
Mary Chrisinger
Judy Crawford
Don Crigler
Gail Crigler
Rusty Dodd
Renee Downing
Kathy Doyle
Max Fairman
Sue Foster

Tracy Gallo
Suzanne Glover
Leigh Henry
Dorothy Hintz
Mary Hitchings
Elizabeth Kepler
Mary Lindert
Glenna Loving
Debbie Martin
Shana Mendelson
Cheryl Metz

Savannah Pearson
Donna Peterson
Mary Redmon
Kathi Shull
Charlene Smedley
Doug Sobers
Til Turner
Helen White
Mallory Willet
Monica Williams
Laurie Winkelmann

High School Interns:

Ella Doyle

Anya Fuller

Jazmine Myers

Keira Welch

D. In-Kind Giving

In-kind contributions are donations of goods, services or products by local businesses, organizations or individuals. The Library thanks the following contributors for their support of the Library.

Suzanne Arthur	Bill and Lorna Parsons
Box Office Brewery	Susie Robinson
Jeremy Busse	Terry Ryman
Craig Ernst of Renaissance Wood	Steve and Kate Schindler
Estate of Gloria Stickley	Summer Reading Program Support including:
Bob Flanagan, CPA	Chick-Fil-A
Fox's Pizza	Massanutten Eagles (Teen Gift Cards)
Leigh Henry	Town of Strasburg
	Volunteers of the Library for prize baskets

E. Organizational Donors

The Library relies on the financial support of organizations that recognize the positive contribution the Library makes to the community. The Library is thankful for the operational support provided by these organizations.

Amazon Smile	Shenandoah County Library
Box Office Brewery	Shenandoah County Library Foundation
Lion's Club of Strasburg	Shentel
Massanutten Eagles Aerie #4186	Town of Strasburg
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Child Care Center	Winkelmann & Associates

F. Individual Donors

Generous individuals demonstrated their commitment to the Library through financial giving. Their gifts, no matter how big or small, help keep the lights on. The Library deeply appreciates their support and generosity.

John and Barbara Adamson	Gail Crigler	Laura Hepler
Suzanne Arthur	Kathryn Doyle	Brenda Hiserman
Doris Baker	Robert L. Funk III	Susan Howard
Donna Bollhoefer	Patia Gillespie	Wayne & Margaret Ireson
C.J. Borden	Lonnie and Terry Goad	Jack and Dorothy Jenkins
Judy Crawford	Gerald and Jane Goechenhour	W. Daniel Kitzmiller

Individual Donors, continued

Thomas Knowles	Daisie Oden	Mary (Peggy) Simon
Jill Kupeski	Donna Peterson	Charlene Smedley
Mary Lindert	Nancy Rabe	Karen Staudinger
Glenna Loving	Judianne Rinker	Carla Wallen
Deborah Martin	Sherry Ritenour	Linda Williams
Diane Morrissey	Kenneth Sheck	Steven Williams
Sam Muscaro	Raymond and Linda Sibert	Laurel Winkelmann

G. Gifts Made in Memory of:

Throughout the year, generous donors have made gifts to the Library in memory of a loved one. These gifts recognize the special place that the Library had in the loved one's life.

Juanita Artz

Diane Fulton

Robert Baker

Richard and Laura

Ryan

Anne Barr

Robert L. Funk III

Glenna Loving

Virginia Aliotti

Donna Bollhoefer

C.J. Borden

Lonnie and Terry Goad

Jeffrey Padgett

Jodie Hovermale

Richard and Laura Ryan

Jack and Liz Schillinger

Mary Redmon

Robert F. Smith

Robert L. Funk III

Robert P. Taff

Robert L. Funk III

H. Gifts Made in Honor of:

Sometimes, the best gift is a donation to honor a special someone who cherishes the Library. The following exemplifies gifts in honor of that special person.

C.J. Borden

Elizabeth (Ashley) Williams