



# PUBLIC Q&A FORUM

**WEDNESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 17**  
**6:00 PM**





**Annual Report**

**Board of Trustees**

**Funding & Finance**

**Ethics, Transparency, Accountability**

**Leadership - Elections**

# YEAR-END REPORT



ERIN ROONEY

## SAMUELS PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY REPORT

JULY 2024  
THROUGH  
JUNE 2025



"We truly feel our community's support. In the midst of our funding challenge, your visits, checkouts, and kind words make a difference." --Erin Rooney, Library Director

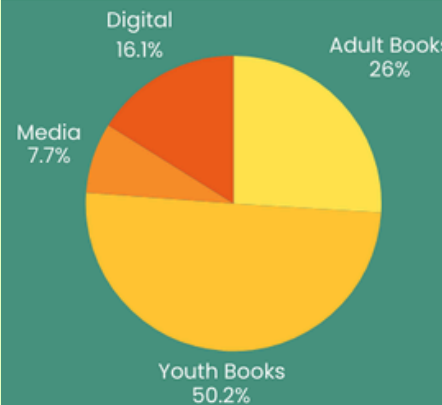
Samuels Library is proud to continuously adapt to the needs of our community. Your library is always working to grow and improve. We welcome your input and participation. If you aren't already a card-carrying member of the library, get your free card today!

WELCOME  
**132,715**  
Visitors



**2,014**  
New Patrons

Total Patrons  
**15,983**



Total  
Checkouts  
(Physical & Digital)

**400,002**



**925**  
Programs With  
**20,894**  
Attendees



**46,645**  
Questions Answered

**25,984**

Computer and  
WiFi Sessions



**563**

Documents Notarized

**12,139**  
Volunteer Hours



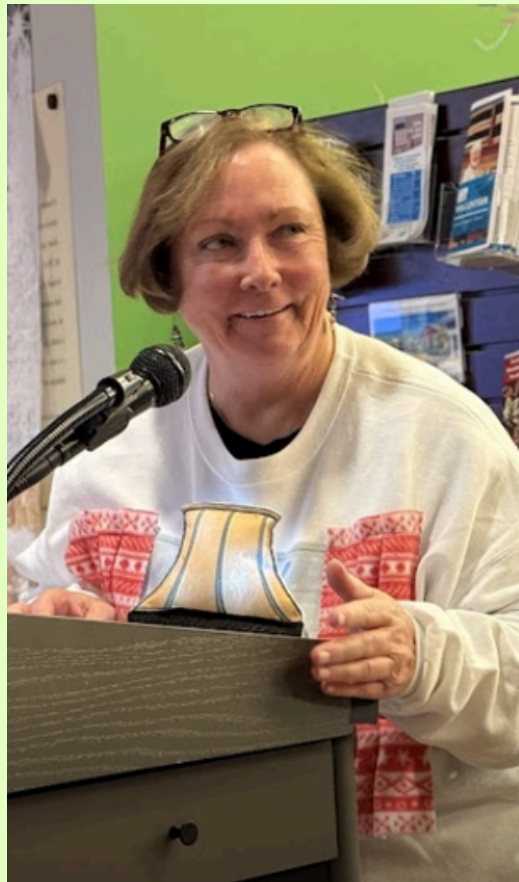


# 2025 VLA Awards

## Samuels Public Library

### Advocacy Award

Individuals (librarians or professional associates), libraries, or other organizations distinguished for advocacy of libraries and/or information access are eligible. Institutions, businesses, or academic programs whose activities have contributed to the development, growth, and extension of library and information services in the local community, the state, or the nation are also eligible. The award consists of a plaque presented at the Annual Conference, and one day's food and lodging for the honoree or one representative of the honored group or organization.



## Eileen Grady, Director of Operations

### VLAPAF Supporter of Professional Associates Award

The VLAPAF Supporter of the Year Award was established in 1996 as a means of recognizing an individual who has provided significant support to their staff and who has been a champion for library support staff in Virginia libraries. If you know someone who has been an advocate for continuing education programs and pay increases for their library support staff and who has encouraged their library staff to excel in the workplace, you are encouraged to nominate them to receive this award and recognition. You may nominate a supporter of Professional Associates.

**Link to Awards Page:** <https://www.vla.org/vla-awards>



# Board *of Trustees*





# FUNDS NEEDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

As of September 16, 2025, the Warren County Board of Supervisors have moved all funds appropriated for Library Services to other county departments.

Operating Budget Income Required                      \$1,532,380 Total

Warren County Funding	+ \$0
Donations	+ \$1,242,142
State Aid	+ \$254,763
Fines, Fees, Etc.	+ \$35,475



Funds Raised  
We have raised \$707,579 toward our Donor Emergency Fund goal of \$1,242,142.

## EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Salaries & Payroll Items	\$1,095,360
Books & Related Items	\$149,900
County Building Maintenance	\$68,900
Other Operational Expenses	\$90,800
Office Expenses	\$40,750
Library Technology	\$41,170
Technology Replacements	\$23,500
Library Circulation & Cataloging System	\$22,000

Expenditure Funding Required                                      \$1,532,380 Total

# Uses of VA State Aid

**76% • Books and Library materials**

*For many systems, State Aid is the only funding source for materials.*

**9% • Salaries for professional librarians (MLS)**

**12% • Equipment (including computers), furniture, automation systems, etc.**

Virginia



**America's charitable nonprofits rely on:**

**Ethical principles**

**Transparency**

**Accountability.**




***ethics: the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group***

- Mission, Values, Strategic Plan
- Protecting patron privacy
- Integrity - Honesty and Forthrightness
- Respect and Compassion for patrons, donors & volunteers
- Citizen Governance and District Representation
- Board Trainings: Conflict of Interest Policy & Ethics Conduct 9/6

<https://old.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/ldnd/PublicLibraryTrusteeHandbook19FINAL.pdf>

- Adherence to local, state and federal laws (includes FOIA)





# TRANSPARENCY

An example of transparency is providing access to public meeting minutes and financial data online through a civic web portal, allowing them to understand how decisions are made and how funds are spent.



***“In general, exempt organizations must make available for public inspection certain annual returns and applications for exemption, and must provide copies of such returns and applications to individuals who request them.”***



***“Platinum being the highest level, signifying a comprehensive display of goals, strategies, and results, which helps donors make more informed decisions about their contributions.”***



# Who Holds Nonprofit Boards Accountable?



## ACCOUNTABILITY

### **State and Federal Authorities:**

- Warren County Board of Supervisors - Voting Representative at Library Meetings, Annual Budget Request Process, Mid and Year-End Reports and Performance Measurements, MOA compliance.
- IRS: Governs nonprofits for tax-exempt status and requires annual reporting, such as Form 990, to ensure legal compliance and accountability.
- State of Virginia - Compliance with reporting and requirements for funding
- State Attorneys General and Charity Officials: Oversee charities within their states to ensure they are operating legally and in the best interest of the public.

### **Internal Board Responsibilities:**

- The Trustees are a volunteer, governing board responsible for its own actions and must ensure that the organization follows laws, acts ethically, is transparent, and achieves its mission.
- Finance/Investment Committee: Evaluates external auditors, presents findings to the board, and ensures that recommendations for financial improvement are implemented.

### **Public and Stakeholders:**

- The Public: Through public scrutiny and social media, patrons and residents increasingly hold nonprofits accountable for their mission and values.
- Donors and Beneficiaries: As the ultimate stakeholders, donors and the people the library serves expect transparency and responsible stewardship of resources.





## Conclusion

- Tonight's vote is merely opting out of an *automatic* contract renewal, preserving options for the county.
- Warren County taxpayers have a rightful expectation that public services paid for with public funds should be under the oversight of public library board.
- There will not be 1 second of time in Warren County when public library services are not funded. Claims of defunding the library are aimed at creating alarm and turmoil.

### Video index

- ⦿ E. Extension Office - Quarterly Report
- ⦿ F. Public Comment Period for Items on the Agenda, (30 Minute Time Limit)
- ⦿ G. Reports – Board Members, County Administrator, County Attorney
- ⦿ H. Approval of Minutes - February 18th 2025
- ⦿ I. Consent Agenda
- ⦿ J. Library Funding Agreement
- ⦿ K. Additional New Business
- ⦿ L. Public Comment Period for general comments not on the Agenda (30 Minute time limit)

## Mar 04, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting

[Full agenda](#)[Share this video](#)[Transcript](#)

THE CLAIM THAT NO ASSETS WERE PURCHASED WITH COUNTY DOLLARS DOES NOT HOLD UP TO SCRUTINY.

IN CONCLUSION, TONIGHT'S VOTE, FIRST OF ALL, IS MERELY OPTING OUT OF AN AUTOMATIC CONTRACT RENEWAL, WHICH PRESERVES OPTIONS FOR THE COUNTY

WARREN COUNTY TAXPAYERS HAVE A RIGHTFUL EXPECTATION THAT PUBLIC SERVICES PAID FOR WITH PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE UNDER OVERSIGHT OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

THERE WOULD NOT, THERE WILL NOT BE ONE SECOND OF TIME IN WARREN COUNTY WHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES ARE NOT FUNDED

CLAIMS OF DEFUNDING THE LIBRARY ARE AIMED AT CREATING ALARM AND TURMOIL

[02:00:01]

THAT'S ALL I HAVE

ALRIGHT, SO IF THERE'S NO OTHER DISCUSSION, I, I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS

OKAY

YEAH

UM, JUST WANTED TO, UM, WANTED TO KEEP MY COMMENTS, KEEP MY COMMENTS SEPARATE FROM MY QUESTIONS FROM MR. BELK

BUT, UM, UH, A FEW THINGS

UH, I JUST WANTED TO RESPOND TO A COUPLE OF THE PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT WERE SAID TONIGHT

UM, FIRST OF ALL, SOMEONE SAID THE LIBRARY IS NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

AND I, I AGREE WITH THAT.

WE, WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A LIBRARY

UM, UH, WHAT CORPORATION IS ON THE OPERATING END OF THAT, UM, COULD CHANGE, BUT I, I DON'T FORESEE A LIBRARY GOING AWAY

I DON'T FORESEE, UH, THE LIBRARY BEING DEFUNDED, UM, OR SHUT DOWN ANY OF THOSE THINGS

THAT'S NOT UH, THE INTENT HERE





# November 4, 2025 General Election

Register to vote, update an existing registration or ask for mail in ballot:

Through Friday, October 24, 2025

## Early, in-person voting:

**Begins:** Friday, September 19, 2025

**Hours:**

Monday through Friday - 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Saturdays:**

October 25, 2025

November 1, 2025

*Saturday hours 9:00am - 5:00pm*

**Closed:**

Sundays

Monday, October 13, 2025 (*for Columbus Day*)

**VISIT**  
**our**  
**HALL**  
**DISPLAY**  
**for more**  
**information**

<https://www.warrencountyva.gov/589/Upcoming-Elections>