

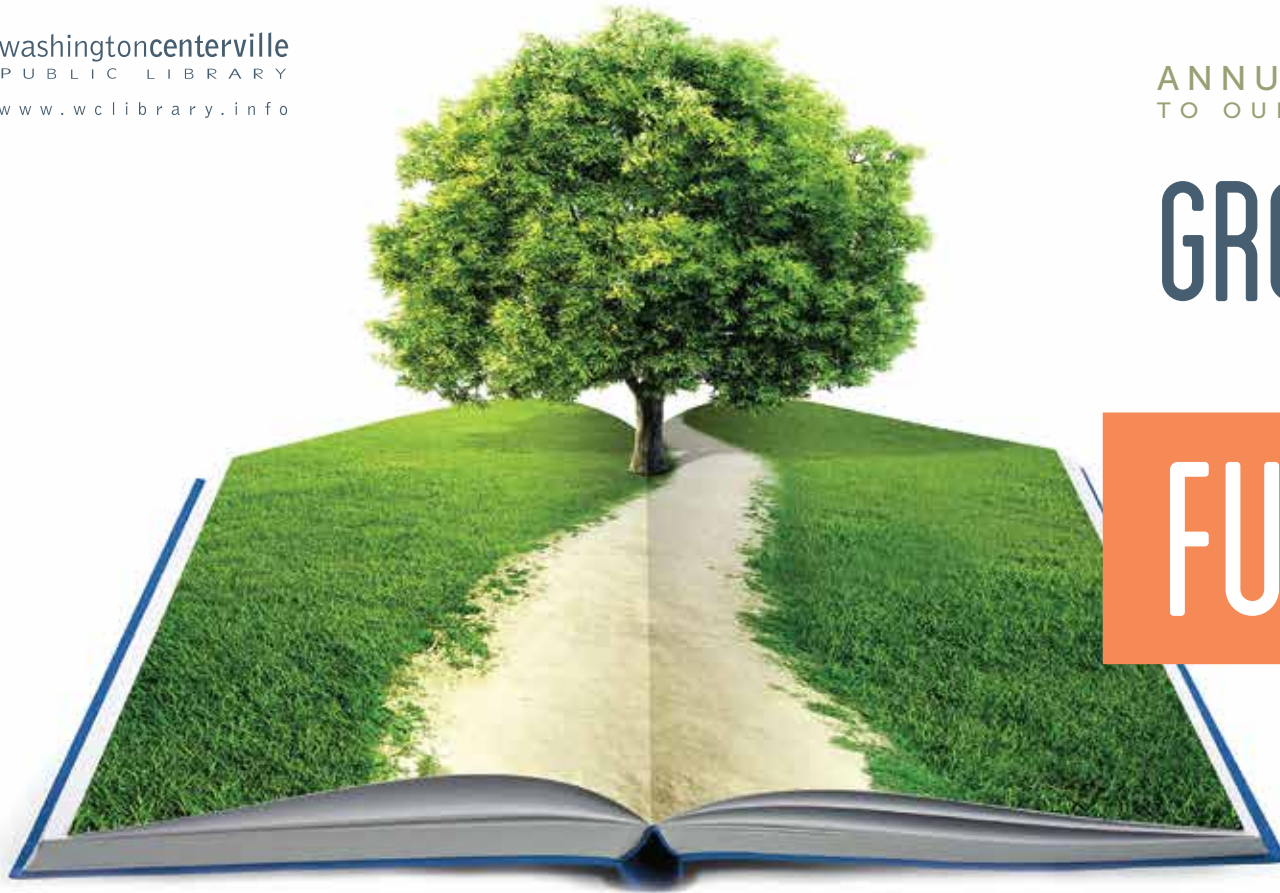


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2015
ANNUAL REPORT
TO OUR COMMUNITY

GROWING
FOR THE

FUTURE





Welcome To
The Future

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

Growing the Library Collection

Making traditional and electronic materials available to the public is at the heart of the Library's mission. Responding to the ever-changing demands of our patrons is just great customer service. In 2015:

- Library patrons borrowed more than 2.1 million items.
- Traditional materials, like print books and DVDs, represented 90% of all checkouts.
- More than 318,000 digital items were checked out, a 19% increase over 2014.
- Hoopla was added to meet the growing demand for digital music and movies.
- Checkouts of digital music were twice that of traditional music CDs.
- eAudios checked out more often than books on CD.
- A newly redesigned website made accessing digital content even easier from smartphones and tablets. In 2015, more than 1 million patrons visited the library website making it the most heavily 'visited' library location.

Growing Facilities

Improving existing library facilities and planning for the future expansion of Woodbourne Library generated much public excitement and anticipation in 2015. Highlights include:

- Opening Bob Corbin Drive, a rear drive located behind Woodbourne Library to provide a safer, more convenient way to exit the property.
- Selecting architect LWC, Inc. to guide the creation of a master site plan via surveys, focus groups, and public forums which also identified the top priorities for the future library expansion slated to begin in 2017.
- Execution of the master site plan will marry three separate parcels of land into one, unified campus with expanded parking, an outdoor programming space, a 10,000 square foot addition, and renovation of the existing library interior.

The expansion project, which is estimated to cost approximately \$4,000,000 - \$5,000,000, will come from existing Library operating and building funds. No new money will be requested from local citizens to fund the construction and renovation.

PLANTING THE SEED



Creating Strong Foundations

Whether it is learning to read, managing money or creating something new, Washington-Centerville Public Library creates a strong foundation for young readers! In 2015:

- More than 12,000 children attended weekly classes to hear stories and learn early literacy concept; 10% more than in 2014.
- Nearly ½ of all Centerville City Schools students in grades K-5 participated in the summer reading program reading either 60 books or 30 hours each.
- Collectively, teens participating in the summer reading program read more than 5,000 books
- Nearly 13,500 visitors enjoyed learning more about earning, saving and spending money via the interactive Money \$mart exhibit on display at Centerville Library and related programs and contests. The exhibit was funded by a \$100,000 grant awarded to the Library by the American Library Association and FINRA.
- More 'maker' classes were offered for kids and teens to reinforce important science, technology, engineering and math skills.
- The first Little Free Library debuted at Schoolhouse Park. The library, which encourages children to 'take a book, leave a book', was a collaborative effort between the Friends of WCPL, the Park District, Patrick Hansford Architects and local carpenters.



GROWING MINDS

Encouraging Lifelong Learning

You are never too old to learn something new! WCPL is committed to growing minds at every age through instructive and enlightening experiences and research assistance. In 2015:

- Nearly a quarter of a million citizens took advantage of educational or enlightening experiences at WCPL.
- More and more classes were dedicated to connecting readers and authors. Six monthly book discussions, a quarterly Brown Bag Lunch featuring new titles, and special author appearances by Beth Macy and Tess Gerritsen helped further the library's mission.
- Writers found support at the Library as a venue to participate in National Novel Writing Month.
- More than 170,000 visitors learned more about the natural world through the *Peanuts...Naturally* exhibit hosted by the library in the spring. The exhibit was funded by the Woodbourne Library Arts Endowment. A Summer Experience, encouraging local adults to read *Silent Spring*, as well as other environment-related events, complemented the exhibit.
- More than 400 off-site classes were presented by the Library's Speakers Bureau to educate adults about specialized topics. This is a 7% increase over the prior year.
- New services like Book-a-Librarian and a newly launched Brown Bag Business Lunch class provide specialized assistance to individuals and small business professionals. In all, WCPL staff assisted over 200,000 citizens in finding needed information.

CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS

Working Together for Success

Educating a community is a collaborative endeavor and that was never truer than in 2015.

- Nearly 50 different individuals and organizations partnered with the Library to offer collaborative classes and services.
- Proceeds from three Friends of WCPL book sales, a 5K run and other special events, generated more than \$25,000 to fund outdoor improvements and seasonal plantings, summer reading programming, exhibit opening receptions; and tablets for teaching and exhibit use. Since 2011, the Friends of WCPL have donated more than \$100,000 to support Library projects.
- More than 30 energetic members of the Teen Advisory Board actively support the Library and Friends of WCPL by volunteering at special events and book sales.
- Citizen volunteers help deliver library materials to homebound residents in Centerville and Washington Township. Deliveries were up 18% over the prior year thanks to these volunteers.



REAPING A

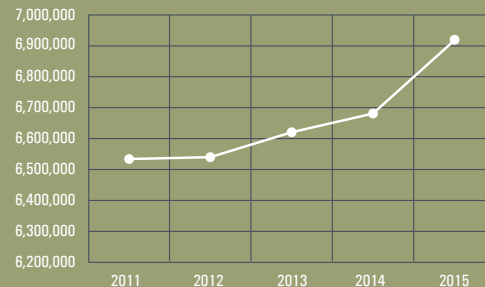
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Spending Wisely

Responding to community needs, while being good stewards of public money is a hallmark of WCPL and one that continued in 2015.

- After almost seven years of declining state revenues, the Library saw a small increase to library funding, total tax receipts were up by 9.9%.
- Despite the increase in state revenue, the Library continued to hold the line on expenditures. In 2015, expenses rose only 3% over the prior year. For the past four years, expenses have only increased 5%.
- For the 6th year in a row, spending on new library materials increased to ensure library users find what they need.
- Library Journal once again recognized WCPL as a 5-Star Library underscoring the library's success at maintaining quality while keeping expenses down.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES





2015
BY THE

NUMBERS

5-Star Library

2,150,164 Items Checked out, including:

1,123,308 books (print and audio)

815,050 movies, music & games

211,806 eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMusic, eZines

1,114,311 Online Library Visits (to library websites)

630,207 In Person Library Visits (Centerville and Woodbourne Libraries)

204,699 Questions Answered

166,116 Computer Stations/WiFi Users

73,316 Library Cardholders

233,122 Program Attendees

6,457 Open Hours



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