

Ireland, Michelle

---

**From:** Williamsburg Regional Library <noreply@libraryaware.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:02 AM  
**To:** - County Administration  
**Subject:** WRL News Summer 2024

[View Online](#)



*Inspiring and nurturing a vibrant community through exceptional library services.*

[WRL Website](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Newsletter Signup](#)

# WRL NEWS

*July-September 2024*

Summer is one of the busiest and most rewarding times of year for Williamsburg Regional Library, and this year was no exception. Seeing children, adults, and families enthusiastically participate in WRL's diverse programs highlights the library's vital role at the heart of this community.

A particularly touching moment for me this year happened during our annual ComicCon event. I watched as young attendees, dressed as their favorite characters, felt fully welcomed and accepted. One costume contest participant shared, "Thank you to everyone who told me how awesome my costume is. This was my first time dressing up for an event, and it really boosted my confidence!" Witnessing their joy and the camaraderie that blossomed in this space reminded me of how important the library is—not just as a place for fun or learning, but as a sanctuary where everyone can find acceptance, connection, and a sense of belonging. This feeling can be rare in the fast pace of modern life.

I invite you to read on and discover more about how WRL has enriched lives and fostered connections this summer. From hands-on workshops to thought-provoking discussions, it's been an incredible season, and we're excited to share it with you.

- Sandy Towers, Library Director

## Virginia Library Association Awards

---

**“Eletha Davis is a compassionate and committed leader who has tirelessly served our community for four decades. Her dedication to expanding access to knowledge, technology, and library services has positively impacted countless individuals, ensuring our outreach efforts effectively reach those who need them most.”- Sandy Towers**



The Virginia Library Association (VLA) recognized Outreach Services Director Eletha Davis with the 2024 Librarian of Color Forum Award for her 40 years of outstanding public service. Eletha has been a pivotal outreach ambassador for the library since 1984 and has delivered outstanding service to adult care facilities, correctional institutions, preschools, schools, and neighborhoods. She is a leader who cares deeply for the community and is known for her commitment to youth programming, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring access to library experiences for everyone.

The VLA also awarded former WRL library director Betsy Fowler an honorary life membership to VLA in recognition of her achievements in public libraries, a legacy that was recognized by the Virginia legislature this year through House Joint Resolution no. 98. In July 2024, Governor Youngkin appointed Fowler to the Library of Virginia Board.

## ComicCon

---



the [Friends of WRL](#) for funding this event.



Summer Reading Was One for the Books!



Thousands of readers had an unforgettable summer at the library! The 2024 Summer Reading Road Trip was a huge success, attracting enthusiastic children every week who shared their latest reading adventures, won prizes, and took part in exciting summer reading events. Over 2,300 children took part in the program and collectively read over 42,000 books, totaling 672,000 minutes spent reading! Free Book Week marked the end of the summer activities, both inside the buildings and on the Bookmobile. The WRL team distributed 2,219 books during Free Book Week, which capped off the end of the program for children.

Kids weren't the only ones having fun; nearly 700 adult readers completed Summer Reading logs for amazing grownup prizes all summer long. It's just another reminder that you're never too old to celebrate reading. *Special thanks to the [Friends of WRL](#) for funding this program.*

## Explore Virginia

---



Since the Explore Virginia collection launched in May, hundreds of library users have enjoyed visiting cultural and historical sites across the state. In July, WRL expanded this popular collection with two new destinations: the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk and the Children’s Museum of Richmond, including both the downtown and the Chesterfield locations. Even more new experiences will be added to the collection soon! See all the available locations that you can visit at [//wrl.org/explore-virginia](http://wrl.org/explore-virginia). *Special thanks to the Friends of WRL for funding this collection.*

## Want More?

Follow us on social media for all the latest happenings.



**Williamsburg Regional Library**  
7770 Croaker Rd  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188  
757.741.3300

[www.wrl.org](http://www.wrl.org)

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Subscribe via RSS or ATOM Feeds](#) | [View Online](#)

If you are having trouble unsubscribing from this email, please contact:  
Williamsburg Regional Library at 757.741.3300, 7770 Croaker Rd, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188  
[info@wrl.org](mailto:info@wrl.org)