

December 4, 2024

To: WRL Board of Trustees  
Subject: FY 2026 WRL Proposed Budget

The WRL Board of Trustees Finance Committee met with staff in October to review the FY 2026 Proposed Budget. The following documents are presented to the board:

- FY 2026 Proposed Budget
- Local Funding by Circulation
- Funding Formula Calculation
- City/County Fees Calculation
- Estimated Non-Budgetary Income

The library's overall objective was to maintain fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency. The proposed budget, reflecting a modest 1.83% increase from the previous year, demonstrates a prudent and deliberate approach to financial management. This increase remains well below the 5% cap established by contract, highlighting the library's commitment to fiscal discipline.

Key considerations:

- **Maintaining Jurisdictional Costs:**  
The library has prioritized keeping jurisdictional percentage increases under 10%, ensuring alignment with financial expectations and constraints of supporting jurisdictions.
- **Maximizing Staffing Efficiencies:**  
The library does not anticipate additional position or reclassification requests this year, reflecting a focus on maintaining current staffing levels and avoiding long-term cost escalations.
- **Strategic Compensation Adjustments:**
  - A reduction of \$175,000 in the overall compensation budget for Position Vacancy Savings reflects thoughtful planning around staffing needs.
  - The continued unfunding of two positions from FY 2025 further highlights the library's ability to optimize staffing without compromising core services.
  - A estimated 4% increase in compensation and benefits accounts for cost-of-living adjustments and benefits.

This budget represents a balanced strategy to address rising operational costs while adhering to fiscal limits and sustaining quality services. It reflects the library's dedication to cost containment without compromising its mission to serve the community effectively.

The following summary of operations budgets increases/decreases are proposed to support new costs or initiatives.

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- The Collection Materials budget is increased 4.55% or \$30,000 to fund the increasing costs of digital formats and databases.
- The Bank/credit card Fees budget is increased \$500 to account for increased use of electronic payment processors.
- The Computer Replacement budget was decreased \$5,000 to support current replacement schedules and the Computer Software & Supplies budget was increased \$5,000 to support current purchases.
- The Contractual Services budget is increased \$10,000 to fund increases in contracts such as custodial services and HVAC.
- The Leases budget is decreased \$2,000 due to current agreements and usage.
- The Board and Recognition Expenses is increased \$500 to cover the increased costs in the staff recognition events.
- The Catalog & Website services budget is increased \$10,000 to fund increases in contracts and implementing additional services.
- The Local Mileage budget is decreased \$1,000 to reflect savings in travel costs.
- The Printing budget is decreased \$1,000 to reflect the savings in costs.

Local jurisdiction funding calculations were based on the contract for library services. York County's contribution percentage increased from 10.16% to 10.68% as a result of increased circulation usage. James City County and the City of Williamsburg split the remaining portion of funding based on their jurisdiction's circulation percentages 85.67% and 15.33%, respectively.

The library follows the James City County Payroll and Personnel policies by contract. The compensation section of the budget will be revised when guidance is received from James City County Financial & Management Services. The FY 2026 WRL Proposed Budget will be presented to the Library Board of Trustees for adoption at the January 22, 2025 meeting.

**Williamsburg Regional Library**  
**Proposed Budget - December 4, 2024**  
**Fiscal Year 2026**

	<b>FY 2024 Final Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final YTD</b>	<b>FY 2025 Approved Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$\$ Change from FY25 Budget</b>	<b>% Change from FY25 Budget</b>
<b>Compensation</b>						
Salaries & Wages	4,712,839	4,331,075	5,078,939	5,282,097	203,158	4.00%
FICA	358,784	318,596	388,539	404,081	15,542	4.00%
Virginia Retirement System	509,146	474,320	616,147	640,793	24,646	4.00%
Health Insurance	720,840	667,538	740,940	770,578	29,638	4.00%
Retire Medical/Def Comp Match	13,010	11,357	14,387	14,962	575	4.00%
Unemp/Life/Workers Comp	62,901	60,551	72,746	75,656	2,910	4.00%
<b>COMPENSATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,377,520</b>	<b>5,863,437</b>	<b>6,911,698</b>	<b>7,188,166</b>	<b>276,468</b>	<b>4.00%</b>
Position Vacancy Savings	0	0	0	(175,000)	(175,000)	N/A
<b>COMPENSATION TOTAL</b>	<b>6,377,520</b>	<b>5,863,437</b>	<b>6,911,698</b>	<b>7,013,166</b>	<b>101,468</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
<b>Collections</b>						
Collections	674,014	660,694	660,000	690,000	30,000	4.55%
<b>COLLECTIONS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>674,014</b>	<b>660,694</b>	<b>660,000</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>4.55%</b>
<b>Operations</b>						
Advertising	7,700	7,108	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Bank/Credit Card Fees	10,000	8,312	9,500	10,000	500	5.26%
Building Maintenance	50,000	44,180	55,000	55,000	0	0.00%
Communications	35,000	34,569	40,000	40,000	0	0.00%
Computer Replacement	45,000	13,920	45,000	40,000	(5,000)	-11.11%
Computer Software & Supplies	75,000	73,487	75,000	80,000	5,000	6.67%
Contractual Services	180,000	178,698	180,000	190,000	10,000	5.56%
Equipment	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Financial Services (City)	28,018	28,018	28,371	28,843	472	1.66%
Fund Balance Projects	164,343	60,080	0	0	0	N/A
Human Resources (JCC)	89,373	89,370	95,963	103,675	7,712	8.04%
Insurance	40,000	37,359	42,000	42,000	0	0.00%
Leases	45,000	32,184	40,000	38,000	(2,000)	-5.00%
Legal/Recovery Services	6,000	5,322	7,500	7,500	0	0.00%
Board & Recognition Expenses	7,250	7,170	7,500	8,000	500	6.67%
Catalog & Website Services	165,000	158,994	170,000	185,000	10,000	5.88%
Library Programs	25,000	18,445	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
Local Mileage	3,000	2,369	4,000	3,000	(1,000)	-25.00%
Maintenance Supplies	17,500	17,371	18,000	18,000	0	0.00%
Memberships	8,050	8,004	9,000	9,000	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	1,500	1,316	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
Postage	16,000	15,774	17,000	17,000	0	0.00%
Printing	3,500	2,780	5,000	4,000	(1,000)	-20.00%
Professional Services	15,500	14,000	16,000	16,000	0	0.00%
Software Maintenance	15,000	10,064	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Supplies	80,000	58,975	70,000	70,000	0	0.00%
Travel & Training	30,000	21,772	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
User Refunds	0	98	0	0	0	0.00%
Utilities	220,000	214,744	230,000	230,000	0	0.00%
Vehicle Services	18,000	17,509	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%
<b>OPERATIONS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,401,734</b>	<b>1,181,994</b>	<b>1,262,834</b>	<b>1,293,018</b>	<b>30,184</b>	<b>2.39%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,453,268</b>	<b>7,706,125</b>	<b>8,834,532</b>	<b>8,996,184</b>	<b>161,652</b>	<b>1.83%</b>

**Williamsburg Regional Library**  
**Proposed Budget - December 4, 2024**  
**Fiscal Year 2026**

	<b>FY 2024 Final Budget</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final YTD</b>	<b>FY 2025 Approved Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$\$ Change from FY25 Budget</b>	<b>% Change from FY25 Budget</b>
<b>Government</b>						
City of Williamsburg	1,011,574	1,011,574	1,085,316	1,141,588	56,272	5.18%
James City County	5,917,016	5,917,016	6,223,211	6,305,171	81,960	1.32%
York County	807,665	807,665	826,845	890,410	63,565	7.69%
State Aid	474,670	474,794	510,015	510,015	0	0.00%
Fund Balance	0	0	56,145	0	(56,145)	100.00%
<b>GOVERNMENT SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>8,210,925</b>	<b>8,211,049</b>	<b>8,701,532</b>	<b>8,847,184</b>	<b>145,652</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
<b>Generated</b>						
Lost Books	8,000	11,232	10,000	11,000	1,000	10.00%
Interest	10,000	73,618	45,000	55,000	10,000	22.22%
Copy Machines	20,000	40,094	35,000	40,000	5,000	14.29%
Other Library Revenue	10,000	7,774	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Meeting Room Use	30,000	34,192	33,000	33,000	0	0.00%
<b>GENERATED SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>166,910</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>149,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>12.03%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,288,925</b>	<b>8,377,959</b>	<b>8,834,532</b>	<b>8,996,184</b>	<b>161,652</b>	<b>1.83%</b>

Williamsburg Regional Library  
 Funding Formula Calculation  
 For FY 2026

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	\$	8,996,184	
Minus: State Aid	\$	(510,015)	
Minus: Generated Revenue + Fund Balance	\$	(149,000)	
FY 2026 Tri-Jursidiction Funding Amount	\$		<b>8,337,169</b>
York County Funding (Reduced to 80%)	\$		890,410
City & JCC Funded	\$		7,446,759

BUDGET FOR FY 2026	FY 2024 Circ %	FY 2025 Adopted Budget (LEVEL)	FY 2026 Planning Split based on Funding %	Difference	% Change from FY25
York County	10.68%	\$ 826,845	\$ <b>890,410</b>	\$ 63,565	7.69%
City of Williamsburg	15.33%	\$ 1,085,316	\$ <b>1,141,588</b>	\$ 56,272	5.18%
James City County	84.67%	\$ 6,223,211	\$ <b>6,305,171</b>	\$ 81,960	1.32%
Total		\$ 8,135,372	\$ <b>8,337,169</b>	\$ 201,797	

**Williamsburg Regional Library**  
**For Budget Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026**  
**Local Funding by Circulation**

FY 2024	City of W	James City	Subtotal	York	Subtotal	Other	Total
Physical Circulation	97,244	564,358	661,602	105,242	766,844	6,141	772,985
Digital Circulation	44,082	216,206	260,288	36,788	297,076	5,164	302,240
<b>FY 2024 Total Circulation</b>	<b>141,326</b>	<b>780,564</b>	<b>921,890</b>	<b>142,030</b>	<b>1,063,920</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>1,075,225</b>
Local Funds Percentages	13.28%	73.37%		13.35%			
York Reduced 80% for Local Funds				10.68%			
City/JCC Split Circulation	141,326	780,564	921,890				
City/JCC Split Local Funds	15.33%	84.67%	100.00%				

FY 2023	City of W	James City	Subtotal	York	Subtotal	Other	Total
Physical Circulation	101,010	608,176	709,186	106,135	815,321	7,988	823,309
Digital Circulation	37,492	186,144	223,636	29,528	253,164	5,017	258,181
<b>FY 2023 Total Circulation</b>	<b>138,502</b>	<b>794,320</b>	<b>932,822</b>	<b>135,663</b>	<b>1,068,485</b>	<b>13,005</b>	<b>1,081,490</b>
Local Funds Percentages	12.96%	74.34%		12.70%			
York Reduced 80% for Local Funds				10.16%			
City/JCC Split Circulation	138,502	794,320	932,822				
City/JCC Split Local Funds	14.85%	85.15%	100.00%				

FY 2022	City of W	James City	Subtotal	York	Subtotal	Other	Total
Physical Circulation	101,837	607,905	709,742	103,708	813,450	6,290	819,740
Digital Circulation	41,187	228,707	269,894	43,354	313,248	3,027	316,275
<b>FY 2022 Total Circulation</b>	<b>143,024</b>	<b>836,612</b>	<b>979,636</b>	<b>147,062</b>	<b>1,126,698</b>	<b>9,317</b>	<b>1,136,015</b>
Local Funds Percentages	12.69%	74.25%		13.05%			
York Reduced 80% for Local Funds				10.44%			
City/JCC Split Circulation	143,024	836,612	979,636				
City/JCC Split Local Funds	14.60%	85.40%	100.00%				

**Williamsburg Regional Library  
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026  
City/County Fees Calculation**

	Percent not to exceed	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Fee
City of Williamsburg - Financial Services	1.5%	\$ 1,922,834	\$ 28,843
James City County - Human Resources	1.5%	\$ 6,911,698	\$ 103,675
		<u>\$ 8,834,532</u>	

**Williamsburg Regional Library  
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026  
Estimated Non-Budgetary Income \*\***

	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate	\$\$Change	% Change
Gifts & Memorials	40,000	55,000	15,000	37.50%
Friends & Foundation	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
Library Grants	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Program Services	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**\*\* Over 90% of all gifts are designated for a specific collection or program. Expenditures relating to gift income are recorded separately and not included in the Proposed Budget.**

## Williamsburg Regional Library October 2024 Snapshot

### Library Visits

Williamsburg Library	26,925
James City County Library	12,710
Stryker Center	772
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>40,407</b>

### Williamsburg Library Circulation

Jurisdiction	WL Circulation	Percent of Total
City of Williamsburg	7,576	19%
James City County	26,248	65%
York County	6,395	16%
Other	406	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,625</b>	

### James City County Library Circulation

Jurisdiction	JCCL Circulation	Percent of Total
City of Williamsburg	931	3%
James City County	22,541	82%
York County	3,672	13%
Other	207	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,351</b>	

### Total Physical Circulation by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Total Circulation	Percent of Total
City of Williamsburg	8,836	13%
James City County	50,749	72%
York County	10,193	14%
Other	703	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,481</b>	

### Digital Circulation

Jurisdiction	Digital Circulation	Percent of Total
City of Williamsburg	3,626	14%
James City County	18,534	70%
York County	3,992	15%
Other	450	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,602</b>	

# beyond the shelves



## Ford's Colony Model Railroad Show

See some fabulous model trains and intricate layouts by expert hobbyists

*plus*

*jigsaw puzzling competition, holiday puppet storytime, and D&D day of play*

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Create holiday crafts and watch a Bluey marathon  
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Compete in a snowball fight and start a hand sewing project  
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## TWEENS & TEENS

Play Dungeons & Dragons and make 3D ornaments  
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## WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY

(757) 741-3300 [info@wrl.org](mailto:info@wrl.org)

## LIBRARY CLOSURES

Dec. 24-25 (all day)

Dec. 31 (open 9 am to 5 pm)

Sign up for WRL's weekly or monthly newsletters to find out about upcoming events, the library's latest titles, ideas on what to read or watch, and more.  
[wrl.org/newsletters](http://wrl.org/newsletters)

Programs made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation are indicated by this symbol 



## Concerts

### Dewey Decibel Concert Series

**The LCV Project: An Acoustic Christmas**  
Dec. 2, 11 am

**Williamsburg Library Theatre**

Join the LCV Project with Louis C. Vangieri for a delightful new & unique concert experience – through the gentle sounds and creative arrangements for instrumental solo acoustic guitar – featuring a blend of traditional carols and heartwarming songs for a family friendly. Free admission, no tickets required.

**Bill Jenkins and the Virginia Mountain Boys**

Dec. 6, 7:30 pm

**Williamsburg Library Theatre** 

Singer, song-writer, and cross-picking guitar virtuoso Bill Jenkins and his string band, the Virginia Mountain Boys, bring to life the authentic ballads, camp meeting songs, and early bluegrass favorites of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Tickets: \$5 (Friends of WRL \$4). Call (757) 741-3370 to purchase tickets.

**Peninsula Concert Band**

Dec. 11, 7 pm

**Williamsburg Library Theatre**

The Peninsula Concert Band will present selections from a broad range of band music that includes marches, contemporary show tunes, concert band versions of classical orchestral music, patriotic medleys, and traditional works for concert band. Free admission, no tickets required.

**Higher Ground Jazz Band**

Dec. 13, 7 pm

**Williamsburg Library Theatre**

The Higher Ground Jazz Band is a community outreach group that seeks to uplift and inspire with swing, Latin, and jazz standards as well as modern big band arrangements. It is currently under the direction of Joel Joyner, who has played with Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Dizzy Gillespie and more. Free admission, no tickets required.

**York River Concert Band**

Dec. 19, 7 pm

**Williamsburg Library Theatre**

Formed over 30 years ago, the York River Concert Band is made up of local community members of all ages and walks of life. Free admission, no tickets required.

## Exhibits

**Public Governance: The Journey to Building a Better Williamsburg**

Dec. 12-31

Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm

**WRL Gallery at Stryker Center**

This exhibit explores the rich history of Williamsburg's city government through a captivating collection of photographs, tracing the transformation of local governance from its colonial roots to the modern era.

**'Twas the Night Before Christmas**

Dec. 1-Jan. 3

Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm (closed Dec.

24-25)

**WRL Gallery at Stryker Center**

Join William & Mary Libraries in partnership with the WRL Gallery at Stryker Center this winter to explore the food history behind Clement C. Moore's famous poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Learn about the connection between sugar plums and Christmas, see the many ways illustrations featured alongside the poem have included food and learn about Christmas dinners around the world!

## Democracy at Work

Dec. 1-31

### WRL Gallery at the Library Theatre

Meet some men and women who dedicate their lives to public service in a new journalistic exhibit created by the Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism at WHRO Public Media. Explore this creative photo gallery that will take you behind the scenes to meet the people who protect “we the people” and hear their inspiring stories.

## Films

### Throwback Thursday: Welcome Back Notre Dame!

Thursdays at 2 pm

Williamsburg Library Theatre

#### Dec. 5: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1999) NR

In 15th-century Paris, a gypsy girl (Maureen O'Hara) becomes the object of obsession by the city's ruthless Chief Justice (Cedric Hardwicke) and the hunchbacked bell ringer (Charles Laughton) of Notre Dame cathedral. 1hr 56min

#### Dec. 12: *Amélie* (2001) R

Audrey Tautou plays a kind-hearted soul who delights in helping other people find happiness. The cathedral of Notre Dame plays a seminal role in this comedy directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. In French with English subtitles. 2hrs 2min

#### Dec. 19: *The Three Musketeers* (2011) PG-13

D'Artagnan and the three Musketeers unite to defeat Cardinal Richelieu and his nefarious plan to seize the throne of France. This action-packed version of the classic story features fantasy elements, slapstick comedy, and a swordfight atop Notre Dame cathedral. 1hr 50min

#### Dec. 26: *Midnight in Paris* (2011) PG-13

While vacationing in Paris, a struggling writer (Owen Wilson) discovers that he can time-travel back to the 1920s, where he encounters famous authors and painters. This romantic comedy is a delightful love letter to the beautiful city of Paris. 1hr 34min

## Cinema @ Scotland St.

6 pm

Williamsburg Library Theatre

#### Dec. 16: *You Hurt My Feelings* (2023) R

Julia Louis-Dreyfus plays an unpublished writer whose marriage is rocked when she finds out that her husband doesn't like her latest novel. This domestic drama about “trust, lies, and the things



we say to the people we love most” costars Tobias Menzies. 1hr 33min

### Art House Café: Dame Maggie Smith Tribute Month

Tuesdays at 2 pm

Williamsburg Library Theatre

#### Dec. 3: *My Old Lady* (2014) PG-13

A mordant New Yorker (Kevin Kline) in Paris to sell a home he inherited is horrified to discover that it is occupied by an elderly woman (Maggie Smith) and her daughter (Kristin Scott Thomas) under an obscure French legal arrangement that prevents them from being evicted. 1hr 47min

#### Dec. 10: Film plus a Christmas Tea Party 2 pm: *Tea with the Dames* (2018) NR

Four legends of British stage and screen spill the tea in this documentary: Dames Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Eileen Atkins, and Joan Plowright share their thoughts on everything from art to aging to love to life in the spotlight. 1hr 24min

**3:30 pm: Join us in the library gallery for a small British-themed tea party in honor of Maggie Smith.** Tea, cookies, and scones will be served.

#### Dec. 17: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969) PG

Dame Maggie Smith won the Best Actress Oscar for her performance as an eccentric Scottish school teacher who has an unsettling influence over the impressionable girls in her charge. 1hr 56min

#### Dec. 24: Library closed for Christmas Eve

#### Dec. 31: *Ladies in Lavender* (2004) PG-13

Maggie Smith and Judi Dench play sisters living together in a seaside village in Cornwall in the 1930s. One day a mysterious young foreigner

washes up on the beach. They take him into their home and befriend him, despite the concerns of their suspicious neighbors. 1hr 44min

### Celtic Film Series

6 pm

Williamsburg Library Theatre

#### Dec. 12: *A Date for Mad Mary* (2016) TV-14

The story of ‘Mad’ Mary McArdle returning to her small Irish home town after a spell in prison is a tough and tender story about friendship, first love, and letting go of the glory days. 1hr 22min

### WRL Film Society

Dec. 1, 1-2:30 pm

Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

Join a discussion group for movie lovers! Come share your views on the films you have recently watched (no major spoilers) and discuss a set of questions posed by the group leaders. To get on our mailing list for the group, send a request through the Ask a Librarian form at [wrl.org/ask-a-librarian](http://wrl.org/ask-a-librarian).

## Adults programs

### Ford's Colony Model Railroad Show

Dec. 7, 10 am-5 pm

Dec. 8, 1-4 pm

James City County Library & Norge Depot

The engineers of the Ford's Colony Model Railroad Club return for their 20th year of entertaining visitors and sharing their talent for building miniature worlds. Come enjoy the trains and scenery at the library and the Norge Depot, with special door-to-door transportation by the Kiwanis.

### **Holiday Entertaining How-To with Trader Joe's**

**Dec. 10, 10-11:30 am**

**Stryker Center, Room 127**

Entertain like a pro this season with help from your local Trader Joe's! Pick up easy and tasty appetizer tips and see how to create a fabulous charcuterie board. Taste delicious samples and get in the holiday spirit! Reservations required. Please call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register.

### **Let's Talk with Hampton Roads Perinatal Dec. 10, 6 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Schell Room**

Each month will be a meet up and a discussion of a particular topic with staff from Hampton Roads Perinatal Center. This month's topic will be lactation and a breastfeeding support group/education.

### **Jigsaw Puzzle Competition and Swap**

**Dec. 14, 1-4 pm**

**Stryker Center, Room 127**

Test your puzzling skills in a competition and swap out some of your puzzles. Teams of four will compete to finish a 500-piece puzzle within two hours. If you don't have a complete team, we'll pair you up on the day of the contest.

Puzzle swap: Bring in your old puzzles to swap them out for different ones. NOTE: All puzzles must be in the original box and contain all the pieces. Swap ends at 3:30 pm. Competition continues until 4 pm. For ages 13+; space is limited so registration is required. Call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register.

### **Cutting the Cord**

**Dec. 14, 2-3:30 pm**

**James City County Library, Kitzinger Room**

Tired of paying that high bill for Cox TV? Learn how to save money every month by not paying for channels you don't watch. Learn about options for streaming the same Live TV channels you get from Cox, over your Home Wi-Fi for \$25-\$70 a month with no annual contracts.

### **Writers' Club: The Snowflake Method for Writing Your Novel**

**Dec. 22, 2 pm**

**Stryker Center, Room 127**

Feeling stuck on where to start with your story? Overwhelmed by the thought of plotting your novel? In this workshop, you'll learn about distilling your idea into one powerful sentence that captures the essence of your story, outlining plot points of your novel, and more.

### **Dungeons & Dragons Day of Play**

**Dec. 28, 1-4 pm**

**Stryker Center, Rooms 127 & 128**

Join us for an afternoon of multigame play for tweens, teens, and adults! Multiple game

leaders will lead single-meeting campaigns for ages 9 through adult. Choose to play with teens & adults or tweens & families. Register by December 23 by emailing [anorfolk@wrl.org](mailto:anorfolk@wrl.org).

## **virtual author talks**

*Register and view virtually at [libraryc.org/wrl](http://libraryc.org/wrl)*

### **Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post**

**Dec. 4, 2 pm**

**Virtual** 

Join us for an absolutely dazzling presentation with the emeritus curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Dr. Jeffrey E. Post as he talks about *The Smithsonian National Gem Collection Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels*. From 1991 to 2023, Post served as Curator-in-Charge of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection.

### **On Pulse-Pounding, Family-Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave**

**Dec. 11, 2 pm**

**Virtual** 

Join us for a captivating conversation with #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave, as she chats with us online about her newest book *The Night We Lost Him*. *The Night We Lost Him* focuses on estranged siblings who discover their father has been keeping a secret for over fifty years, one that may have been fatal.

## **makerspace**

### **Introduction to English Paper Piecing**

**Dec. 2, 9 am-12:30 pm**

**James City County Library, Kitzinger Room**

Hand sewing project! Learn two different hand quilt piecing techniques as we explore English Paper Piecing (EPP) and the iconic cathedral window square. Space is limited. For ages 13+. Reservations required. Please call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register.

### **Embroidery Machine 101**

**Dec. 6, 2 pm & Dec. 19, 5 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Makerspace** 

Join us for this beginner's class on how to use the Makerspace's embroidery machine. Spots are limited for this hands-on class so please call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register. For ages 13+.

### **Cricut 101: Gift Tags**

**Dec. 10, 2 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Schell Room**

Learn how to utilize the Cricut to make your

own custom gift tags for the holiday season! For ages 13+. Space is limited; please call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register.

### **Introduction to Embroidery Machine Appliqué**

**Dec. 12, 10 am**

**Williamsburg Library, Makerspace** 

Learn to appliqué on our embroidery machines! Create a small square with a design to take home. Must have taken Embroidery Machine 101 first. For ages 13+. Spots are limited so please call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register.

### **Decorate a Wooden Ornament**

**Dec. 12, 6:30 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Schell Room**

Get in the holiday spirit by decorating a wooden ornament to take home with you. For ages 10+, no registration required. While supplies last.

### **Sit & Stitch**

**Dec. 29, 1 pm**

**James City County Library, Kitzinger Room**

Join us for this program where beginners can meet up and learn the basics of knitting and people with projects are encouraged to stitch along with others. No registration required. Some basics are provided for those without a project.

## **classes**

*Call (757) 741-3300, option 2 to register for classes.*

*Want to learn computer skills at home at your own pace? Visit [wrl.org/find-it-online](http://wrl.org/find-it-online) and click the Lifelong Learning tab to see what's available.*

### **Beginning PowerPoint**

**Dec. 5, 4:30 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

### **Beginning Excel**

**Dec. 8, 3 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

**Dec. 11, 10:30 am**

**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

### **Top Ten Tips for Using Your New iPhone or iPad**

**Dec. 11, 2-3:30 pm**

**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

### **Where, Oh Where, Did My Files Go?**

**Dec. 14, 10:30 am**

**Williamsburg Library, Schell Room**

No registration required.

### **Beginning Word**

**Dec. 14, 10:30 am**

**Williamsburg Library, Room B**

### Internet 101

Dec. 18, 11 am

Williamsburg Library, Room B

### Introduction to Libby

Dec. 19, 10 am

James City County Library, Cosby Room

## book groups

### Whodunnits

Dec. 3, 6:30 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Free Read

### Fellowship in a Ring

Dec. 4, 6:30 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Holiday Potluck and Reindeer (Trivia) Games

### Turning Pages

Dec. 17, 6:45 pm

Williamsburg Library, Room B

Free Read

### Real People/Real Stories

Dec. 19, 2 pm

Stryker Center, Room 128

Free Read

### Next Chapter Book Club

Dec. 21, 2-3 pm

Williamsburg Library, Room B

Join a unique book group for teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each month we read together, talk about different worlds and interesting characters, and learn about exciting new things. Reading skills are not required. All books are provided. Please contact [Lniedzwick@wrl.org](mailto:Lniedzwick@wrl.org) for more information.

## Children programs

### 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Every day

Both libraries and online 

The idea is simple, the rewards are priceless. The goal is to have read 1,000 books before your little one starts kindergarten. Sign up and log your reading at [wrl.beanstack.org](http://wrl.beanstack.org) to earn prizes while you build important early literacy skills and work towards school reading readiness.

### Story Trail

Every day

James City County Library, Outside 

Take a walk out of doors and read a story at the James City County Library Story Trail. We invite families to walk from page to page in the green space behind the library any time during the library's open hours.

### Reading Wrap-Up Beanstack Challenge

Dec. 1-31

Both libraries and online

December is the perfect time to wind down and wrap up. Reflect on the year you've had, the stories you've read, and the things you've learned, and look forward to the year ahead. Earn points by logging your reading and completing activities. Complete the challenge to earn a journal and bookmark for your fresh new reading goals. Visit [wrl.beanstack.org](http://wrl.beanstack.org) to sign up.

### Quiet Time for the Spectrum

Dec. 1, 12-1 pm

James City County Library

Enjoy the library before hours in a quieter, less stimulating environment for people with autism and sensory issues.

### Cena con Cuentos

Dec. 3 & 17, 5-6:30 pm

Stryker Center 

Cena con Cuentos is a storytime program in Spanish for families that speak Spanish at home with children from ages 0 to 10. It is offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Each program combines stories, songs, activities, and dinner for the whole family. Participation is free. To sign up, please contact Sara Meldrum by text at 571-310-0802 or email at [smeldrum@wrl.org](mailto:smeldrum@wrl.org). *Special thanks to the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation for supporting this program.*

## holiday fun

### Holiday Puppet Storytime

Dec. 1, 2 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Sing and dance with our puppets and enjoy books, flannel board stories, and other activities. This month's storytime will feature holiday-themed songs and stories, and a craft. Recommended for ages 3+. Space is limited; please pick up a ticket at the Youth Services desk starting 30 minutes before the program.

### 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Exhibit Kickoff

Dec. 8, 1-3 pm

Stryker Center, Rooms 127 & 128

Celebrate the opening of this collaborative exhibit between William & Mary Libraries and the WRL Gallery at Stryker Center with fun for the whole family, including activities for kids. At 1 pm, join Olaf the Snowman for a wintery dance party with music and games. Starting at 2 pm, craft a snowman magnet.

### Make a Snowflake

Dec. 31, 1 pm

Williamsburg Library, Youth Services Program Room

Spend a cozy craft day decorating a wooden snowflake with winter sparkles.



### Preschool Dance Party

Dec. 7, 11 am

Stryker Center, Room 127

What do you get when you add balloons and bubbles to music? A fantastic preschool dance party! Join us for an exciting hour of songs, movement, rhymes, and just plain fun.

### Engineering with LEGO®

Dec. 10, 2 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Learn STEAM concepts, problem solving, and the engineering process while you build with LEGO® bricks, in another installment of our LEGO® Education SPIKE series. For ages 5-12; pick up a ticket at the Youth Services desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve your spot.

### Learn to Play Chess

Dec. 10, 5:30 pm

Williamsburg Library, Youth Services Program Room

Learn and practice this classic game. Recommended for beginners ages 6+.

### Beanbag Book Club

Dec. 15, 1:30 pm

Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

Join us for our youngest book club! New participants are welcome any time. This month, we'll read, craft, and play games around the book *Marco Polo Brave Explorer* by Cynthia Lord. Includes a copy of the book to keep. Space is limited; pick up a free ticket at the Youth Services desk beginning 30 minutes before the program begins. For ages 5-8.

### Paws to Read with K-9 Connection

Dec. 22, 2:30 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Reading is even more fun when you can share it with a fluffy, four-legged friend, and it's a great way for beginning readers to practice with a patient audience. Drop in to read a story to trained therapy dogs, no registration required.

### Bluey Marathon

Dec. 23, 12-7 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Drop in throughout the afternoon to enjoy the adventures of Bluey, Bingo, and the rest of the Heelers. Grab some popcorn and get cozy with this favorite animated family series.

### Sensory Movie: *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (2024) PG

Dec. 28, 2 pm

James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

Enjoy a special movie screening in a sensory-friendly environment. The lights will be on, the movie volume turned down, and attendees are free to move around, and dance, walk, and

sing. Fidgets and some inflatable chairs will be available. This showing is geared toward those with special needs or young children, but everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like more information, contact Linda at Lniedzwick@wrl.org. 1hr 29min

### Jonathan Austin's Magic Show

Dec. 30, 10 am

Williamsburg Library Theatre

Watch with bated breath as Jonathan Austin pedals on his unicycle high above the crowd, performing magic and juggling clubs, rings, canoe paddles, rubber chickens, baseball bats, and more.

## storytimes

*Space is limited, please pick up a ticket at the Youth Services desk 30 minutes before the program.*

*No storytimes Dec. 23-27*

### Baby Lapsit Storytime

Mondays, 10 am

Williamsburg Library

Tuesdays, 10 am

James City County Library

Youth Services Program Rooms

Baby Lapsit Storytime is a storytime program especially for babies from birth to 18 months and their caregivers. This storytime includes 15 minutes of songs, fingerplays, and lap games. This storytime will feature the same songs and activities every week; this repetition of rhymes and songs forms a foundation for learning for your baby and strengthens the language connections in the brain.

### Baby Stay and Play

Mondays, 10:15 am

Williamsburg Library

Tuesdays, 10:15 am

James City County Library

Youth Services Program Rooms

Stay after storytime or just come in for the play-date to chat with other caregivers while your baby has fun with our toy collection. On the first Monday and Tuesday of each month, experts from Child Development Resources will join us to answer your questions about your baby's development.

### Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays, 10 am,

Williamsburg Library

Wednesdays, 10 am,

James City County Library

Youth Services Program Rooms

Toddler Storytime is a storytime program designed for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers, featuring brief stories, rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and other activities.

### Preschool Storytime

Mondays, 2 pm

James City County Library

Wednesdays, 10 am

Williamsburg Library

and Thursdays, 10 am,

James City County Library

Youth Services Program Rooms

Preschool Storytime is a storytime program designed for preschoolers aged 3 to 5 and their caregivers featuring stories, rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and other activities.

# Bookmobile

### Up, Up, and Away Storytime

Dec. 13, 10 am

Waltrip Williamsburg Executive Airport

Join the Bookmobile team for an all-ages storytime at the airport. While you're there, you can see planes take off and land right outside!

## saturdays @ frink

At Abram Frink Jr. Community Center,

8901 Pocahontas Trail.

### Sewing Saturday: English Paper Piecing

Dec. 7, 9:45 am-12 pm

Hand sewing project! Learn two different hand quilt piecing techniques as we explore English Paper Piecing (EPP) and the iconic cathedral window square. Space is limited. Reservations required; call (757) 741-3324 to register.

### Maker Saturday: Wreath Making

Dec. 7, 10 am-1 pm

Discover how to make stunning shabby chic book page and rag wreaths using items you may have at home. Each student will have the opportunity to make a unique wreath to proudly display for family and friends. All necessary supplies are provided. This craft is recommended for ages 5+.

### Pop-N-Play

Dec. 14, 10 am-1 pm

Play fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) games, ride Roller Racers, and other fun activities.

### Bookmobile FunFest: SNOW BALL

Dec. 21, 10 am-1 pm

Join us for an unforgettable day of lights, dancing, crafting, STEAM projects, snowy day stories, sparkly crafts, and an epic snowball fight! Wear your funniest winter hat and get ready to crank up the tunes and compete in a team snowball fight.

### Coding Robots

Dec. 28, 10 am-1 pm

Come meet our coding robots. Learn to drive and turn the robots on flat surfaces. Plus, other fun STEAM activities.



## Tweens & Teens programs

### Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

**Dec. 5, 6 pm**

#### Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

WRL's teen volunteer group meets the first Thursday of the month to share ideas for library services and work on various tasks. Application and orientation required.

### 3D Ornaments

**Dec. 12, 6:30 pm**

#### Williamsburg Library, Makerspace 🇺🇸

Learn about 3D printing and design a decorative holiday ornament! For ages 13+, no registration required.

### Teen Creative Writing

**Dec. 16, 6-8 pm**

#### James City County Library, Cosby Room

Join us for an opportunity to explore experiences and feelings through creative writing in a relaxed, safe, and nonjudgmental environment. For ages 13-18, no registration required.

### Mario Kart Tournament

**Dec. 21, 1-4 pm**

#### Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

Race to victory in a *Mario Kart* tournament. 1st place wins a prize! For ages 9-18. No registration required.

### Anime Evening

**Dec. 23, 5-7 pm**

#### James City County Library, Teen Room 🇺🇸

Celebrate the beginning of winter break

with an evening of anime (*Ascendance of a Bookworm*) and snacks in the Teen Room. For ages 13-18, no registration required.

### Teens Night Out

**Dec. 27, 6-8 pm**

#### James City County Library, Teen Room 🇺🇸

Celebrate the end of the month with friends, games, snacks, music and more. For ages 13-18, no registration required.

### Dungeons & Dragons Day of Play

**Dec. 28, 1-4 pm**

#### Stryker Center, Rooms 127 & 128

Join us for an afternoon of multigame play for tweens, teens, and adults! Multiple game leaders will lead single-meeting campaigns for ages 9 through adult. Choose to play with teens & adults or tweens & families. Register by December 23 by emailing [anorfolk@wrl.org](mailto:anorfolk@wrl.org).



## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS TODAY!

The Friends of WRL Foundation exists to support Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) and its mission to inspire and nurture a vibrant community through exceptional library services. Thanks to your support, we're funding programs that make a positive impact every day!

***Together, we're building a stronger community.***

### BUILDING CURIOSITY IN CHILDREN

Our library sparks children's imagination through reading challenges, storytimes, and special programs like Paws to Read and Summer Reading. Over 2,100 children participated in WRL's Summer Reading Program, reading nearly 40,000 books! Play is an important part of learning, too. Last year, 140,000 people visited the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio for hands-on fun. The library is adding a natural playground, thanks to a partnership between the Friends and local Kiwanis Clubs.

### SUPPORTING ADULTS

WRL is a hub for adult learning and connection. In FY24, over 444,000 items were checked out, and the Adult Summer Reading Program engaged 650 participants. Library programs attracted over 30,000 attendees—10,000 more than the previous year.

### REACHING BEYOND LIBRARY WALLS

With the support of the Friends of WRL and Sentara Health, WRL's mobile teaching kitchen brings culinary literacy classes to underserved areas in the community. Also, WRL's Outreach team visits 18 neighborhoods, various preschools and schools, and 24 continuing care communities each month, ensuring that everyone has access to the library.

### JOIN US!

Your donations help the library innovate and dream big. With your continued support, we can keep growing and serving our community. Donate today to be part of our journey!



*In this guide, programs made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation are indicated by this symbol *



To join the Friends or donate:  
Visit: [wrl.org/give](http://wrl.org/give)  
Call: (757) 741-3390  
Email: [bgoldberg@wrl.org](mailto:bgoldberg@wrl.org)