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Fairfax County Joint Library Board of Trustees Committee, Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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[00:00:02] all I have my remarks. Good afternoon, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started in this joint meeting of our Library Board of Trustees and Board of Supervisors of October 15th, 2024. And I just want to kick things off just to remind my colleagues, if you're thinking it's been a while since we've had a joint meeting, you would be right. Our last joint meeting was October of 2021, so it's been a little bit, but we wanted to make sure we could regularly engage with so many of our boards, authorities, and commissions in the county, and we had an opportunity to put libraries

[00:00:41] up and make sure that we could have that joint meeting. I think it comes at an opportune time. As the board knows, the libraries have appointed a new executive director, effective Monday, November 4th, I'm told. But I want to give a special thanks to Christine Jones, who's been filling in very well the slot of acting director and obviously no stranger to any of us in the library. So I definitely appreciate all the extra work that's been in your lap and will be in your lap for at least a couple more weeks and appreciate your dedication. And of course, we're looking

[00:01:17] forward to spending more time with Eric and getting to know him a little bit better. We're glad he's joining our team. And there have been a lot of milestones since we last met in 2021, and I was shocked to find out February 1st of this year that the library, of course, turned 85 years old, which is hard to believe,

and that, you know, as we said when we had an item at the board on this, we were often reminded that this started with a $250 appropriation from the board in 1939

[00:01:53] is how the library system got started. So it was important to the board then. It's important to us now. More than $250 important, but if that hadn't happened, we might not be sitting here. So just a great reflection point. And just a few other anniversaries to mention. In 2023, John Marshall reached its 60th year, and the Kings Park Library celebrated its 50th anniversary. In 2023, the library has made, I believe this is right, its 20 millionth digital loan since launching

[00:02:27] the service, and over 3 million digital loans were made last year alone. So pretty remarkable shift, especially for many of us who spent a lot of time in the libraries many, many years ago in particular, are a major change representing today's modern library system and what it means to our residents.

[00:02:47] And, of course, we know our system is the largest in Virginia, serving 1.2 million people, circulating over 11.2 million books last year alone. And so I think just helpful for our public watching this to just get a snippet of the major footprint that our Fairfax County Public Libraries have in the county and the major importance to our residents.

[00:03:13] And I know myself and my colleagues here were happy that in the last budget we were able to include additional money, half a million, for the collection because I know that's a big, big priority of the library boards and something that we're going to continue to work on and thank Supervisor Alcorn for his advocacy on that as well.

[00:03:32] And so with that, we're glad to be together and to have this time to have a conversation. Everyone should have a copy of the agenda. We are going to get a presentation from Diane Cohn, Acting Deputy Director for the Libraries, and then have an opportunity through that and after that for more conversation with our library board appointees.

[00:03:54] And with that, I am going to turn to our Chair of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, Suzanne. Welcome. Thank you. Do I need to tap something? Yes, just turn that when it's green, And then when you're done speaking, you can start Brad again. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone.

[00:04:10] My name is Suzanne Levy, and I am the chair of the Library Board of Trustees. I represent the city of Fairfax, and I'm thrilled to announce that the library board, with the assistance of Chris Leonard and Nuan White, has selected our new director, Eric Carzon, who starts November 4th.

[00:04:27] We're very excited to welcome him to FCPL and introduce him to all of you. After 42 years as a librarian and 11 years as a library trustee, I can't tell you how frequently people are still surprised to learn about the variety of free resources and services that their public library provides.

[00:04:49] We are certainly known for our collection of books, but FCPL provides so much more than books. Today, my fellow trustees and I are going to tell you about some of the exciting things that the library branches in our own districts are doing. Before that, I have the honor of introducing Diane Cohn, FCPL's current acting deputy director.

[00:05:11] In her regular capacity, Diane is FCPL's director of technical operations, which includes the people who select and purchase library materials in all formats. Diane will tell us all about some of the challenges public libraries face when purchasing electronic materials.

[00:05:30] Public libraries don't buy electronic materials the same way we buy print materials or the same way that members of the public buy electronic materials, and we thought you would all be interested in the challenges our material selectors face.

[00:05:46] Diane? Good afternoon. As introduced, my name is Diane Cohen. I'm the acting deputy director for the library, and previous to this, I was eight years in the role as the director for technical operations, which manages the selection, acquisition, and receiving of materials, as well as making the materials shelf-ready and applying metadata to them so they can be found in our library automation system. We also deal with the ongoing maintenance

[00:06:20] of the collection, as well as the deacquisition or the weeding of items that are superseded out of date or have basically given their all. So how are digital books different than physical books?

[00:06:36] Public libraries play an essential role as a dynamic place for innovation, equity, and opportunity. And we level the playing field, increase literacy, and strengthen the foundation of our communities. As collections have evolved beyond strictly physical ownership, collection development librarians are faced with a complex set of considerations in the stewardship of taxpayer funds allocated for digital content, particularly e-books and e-audiobooks. Digital resources aligned with intellectual freedom, library stewardship, individual rights, and fair

[00:07:13] reasonable prices for taxpayers are critical to the ongoing success of public libraries. This presentation and the infographic are intended to provide a preliminary overview of how into how ebooks in libraries different from ebooks direct to the consumer or print books. At the heart of the matter is that the electronic titles are not owned like traditional titles. Rather, they're

[00:07:46] licensed like software. And from that, all the differences flow. The first sale doctrine does not apply to e-books. Contract law applies and supersedes the copyright protections that libraries have that is codified in copyright law. Publishers, they don't have to sell electronic versions to public libraries, should they so choose. And publishers get to choose not only the price,

[00:08:16] but the model that they'll sell to libraries. So the first sale doctrine provides that an individual who knowingly purchases a copy of a copyrighted work from the copyright holder, that's a lot of copies, from the copyright holders, they then receive the right to sell, display, or otherwise dispose of that particular item, notwithstanding the interest of the copyright owner. So basically, you can't buy it and then make a bunch of copies of it and

[00:08:53] give it away. So you can't infringe on their rights. And this first sale doctrine is a cornerstone in American law that allows libraries to lend books. It also allows residents to donate their unwanted copies to the library or to the friends or to sell it themselves on a secondary market. Residents are unable to donate e-books in the same way because first sale doctrine applies. Excuse me, does not apply. And rather, the license agreement that we signed in our

[00:09:31] contracts deems that the content is non-transferable. So you cannot donate your e-books to a library, nor can you will your Audible collection to your family. And should the library choose to change platforms or the digital vendor, unlike a physical library where you pack it up and you move the collection and then you're in another facility, we may or may not be able to transfer

[00:09:59] all of our holdings depending on the contracts with the new platform. So contract law supersedes our copyright protections. Each library in the United States and Canada must protect their own

interests within every contract. Otherwise, it can be argued that the copyright concepts such as fair use, and archival versions does not apply to the digital versions. Publishers can choose to

[00:10:38] not sell to libraries, and they have. The Audible award winner, including 2016's Born a Crime by Trevor Noah, we cannot get on e-audio. 2024's Audi award-winning Iliad featuring Audra McDonald, we cannot get on e-audio. And there are other popular titles, such as Eleanor Catton's Burnham wood that are only from audible they are exclusive and while libraries literally cannot buy this ebook format there are some things some inroads being made but very few and very slowly and referring

[00:11:18] back to the first sale doctrine if publishers choose not to sell to libraries there is no secondary market where we can get these on behalf of our residents they are simply not available in that format. So in addition to setting the pricing for e-books, publishers can dictate the licensing terms, and there are many different licensing models, as you will see on the infographic.

[00:11:45] Different publishers offer different models, and e-book pricing for libraries is not like that for direct-to-consumer. I, personally, can buy the Kindle version of The Women by Kristen Hanna for $14.99 on Amazon, or the hardback for $18.45. But as a buyer for the library, the hardback costs slightly less from our distributor, and I can get it for $16.32.

[00:12:13] But the e-book costs four times more at $60, and in 24 months, I have to repurchase it because the license will expire. And this is where some of the seeming minutiae starts, and where the concept of collection development in a digital collection is challenging. Between the pricing and the models, actively developing and maintaining a robust collection suitable for our diverse community becomes time-consuming and more difficult, and at some point it's going to

[00:12:50] become impossible. So to get into some of the minutiae I mentioned a moment ago, there are many models out there, but a given publisher still tends to stick with one or two of them. Perpetual Access is most like print. Once it is purchased, the e-book is licensed in perpetuity, and it checks out to one person at a time, hence the one copy, one user, O-C-O-U. The Big Five used this model when they first moved into publishing, and then they ditched it for greener fields.

[00:13:29] Metered Access. This comes in multiple forms with regard to the metering, but the Big Five publishers generally have a 24-month model. During the pandemic, they added in a 12-month model, which, thank you, for half the cost of the 24-month. And there's also a 26-checkout access model. So at the end of 24 months, or 12, or 26-checkout, the book is removed from the collection. The license is removed. And if we want to keep it in the collection, we must repurchase

[00:14:04] it every 24 months. Now, FCPL has a three-week checkout, which translates to about 34 checkouts per license in a two-year period, unless somebody returns it early. We're encouraging that. And we do encourage that, and our power users are pretty familiar with. The next one I want to talk about is metered access concurrent user. This model allows the library to buy single-use licenses in groups of 100. This often is referred to, excuse me, this is often offered on titles that

[00:14:42] also offer the one copy, one user model. And this is great. And we like this as buyers because it allows us to buy down or at least try to maintain control over our holds. But the single use license is, as it says, after one use, I'm basically buying 100 checkouts when I buy a license like that. And it is more expensive than the one copy, one user, but it has its uses in other ways.

[00:15:11] Our cost per circulation module is something that we use only in very select circumstances at FCPL. This is due both to the availability and the costs. With our voracious readership, this is not a cost-effective model for us. And we do use it in some places, like for children's textbooks, which have a lower price point. They have less demand. And they do better meet the way kids use the library. Unlike adults who understand placing holds, kids are like,

[00:15:47] they kind of want it now. I mean, adults do too, but the kids much more so. We also use it when there are no other kind of options available. And we choose like the metered access concurrent user or the simultaneous use, which I'll get to in a moment.

[00:16:04] And we'll use it to ensure that the material is available now for reasons. It doesn't matter what the reason is, but we've used this in the summer of 2020 with our racial equity reads, and we used this when we did an all Fairfax reads. We put a bunch of money toward it because it was more important to get books immediately into the hands of our residents.

[00:16:27] As an example, Kristen Hanna's The Women is not available as a cost-per-circ model. But one of our previous books, The Nightingale, is. It costs $10.79 per checkout. That's an unacceptable price point for us.

[00:16:46] With over 660 checkouts and 500 holds this year alone, this book is four years old, it would cost us $12,775 for one title in one format. As I said earlier, it's just not the fiscally responsible option for most times.

[00:17:07] The simultaneous use option, however, that allows for as many concurrent checkouts as demand warrants for a certain period of time. Generally, we use a 30-day or 12-month subscription for this. The model on the whole is by far the most cost-effective for FCPL, and we have several simultaneous use packages that allow us to generate over 3 million holds in a year, despite the overall high costs of digital materials.

[00:17:41] It's most definitely the cornerstone of our available now, and I sometimes refer to it as a, oh, look, a dragon kind of model, because we're trying to, people who come for the women. We're trying to offer them something that's similar, but that's available now. So it is used for our e-book of the month. We pay between $250 and $325 for 30 days, and we highlight it in Libby, the digital reading app for the library. It usually averages around 1,200 or 1,300 checkouts

[00:18:20] in that 30-day time period, with just over 3,000 being our largest checkout in a 30-day period. That was Pretty Guilty Women, in case anybody's interested. It kind of hit the zeitgeist in the summer of 2023 with White Lotus meets Pretty Little Liars. Anyway, it was really good.

[00:18:40] The calculated cost for circulation for these, for our e-book of the month, is generally between $0.02 and $0.30, depending on if we already have it in simultaneous use and how popular it is. We also have a digital magazine collection that is simultaneous use, and it generates about 500,000 checkouts in a year, which makes its calculated cost per circ about $0.10. It costs us $55,000 as a simultaneous use package, which is expensive, but as a calculated cost per circulation makes it

[00:19:19] worthwhile because of the number of checkouts we have. And this is a very, very far cry from the $10.79 of the Nightingale. We also have several e-audiobook simultaneous use packages. We have an e-book package from the Independent Publishers Group and a comic book package. And all of these help to

generate circulation while keeping some of those prices down overall for the collection. In FY24, our simultaneous use packages generated over 800,000 checkouts. So

[00:19:58] back to reiterate, electronic titles are not owned like traditional titles. Rather, they are licensed like software. And from that, all the differences flow. First sale doctrine does not apply to books.

[00:20:15] Contract law applies and supersedes protections for libraries that are codified in copyright law. Publishers don't have to sell us electronic books. Publishers get to choose the sales model, license terms, in addition to the price.

[00:20:33] Making public library selectors' jobs just a little banana pants in balancing collection needs, customer demand, and our fiduciary responsibilities. Does anybody have any questions? Well, Diane, thank you for that.

[00:20:49] We are sure glad you have this figured out. Collectively we could all be relieved at that, but but really fascinating I guess to kick off questions I mean one of the obvious ones is every library system in the country has this problem Some are not in the position. We're in Financially and and don't have the resources that we have and so it almost begs for some type of federal Government fix here consumer affairs fix if nothing else and so I'm just curious is

[00:21:24] you know, do we know any specific efforts that are underfoot to do that? And certainly, you know, if there's anything at the state level, we had a legislative committee meeting in this room to start the day this morning. You know, if there's anything we can be doing to help people understand how this is really affecting the library's ability to, you know, provide the resources that our residents have come to expect. And I'm sure it's never a comfortable situation to be on the other side when, you know, someone is wanting to know not all the technical reasons you just gave, but why the heck can't they get this material?

[00:21:59] And that's a hard question to answer, especially if you're at the front desk with someone and given the complexity. And so what can we be doing to help try to get more attention on this? Is that already happening? And where is that happening? That's a great question.

[00:22:17] We have had several in the past couple of years, several states have worked on policies individual efforts. Maryland had one that was overturned in federal court because it was deemed that the way their law was written, it was an infringement on the federal interstate commerce.

[00:22:37] Thank you. Trading back and forth. And so others have, New York's was vetoed by their governor and a couple other states have something in the process. There's a little bit, I'm a little concern for massachusetts because they are doing what i consider a gamesmanship which is if it is not considered reasonable by their um whomever is looking at it then the public libraries will not be allowed to use digital content and so that's a little concerning if that one passes um so the

[00:23:15] federal level is probably the right place for this to be happening we are currently making efforts through ALA, the American Library Association, as well as the Urban Library Council, which Fairfax County Public Library is a member, we are working on efforts to get the word out and do things like I am doing here, our first.

[00:23:37] We're doing some things this year, and I'm on an e-book action committee that is helping to move some of this forward, working with publishers and distributors to start there and continue advocating and making public information but trying to get better inroads through our publishers.

[00:23:57] Yeah, I think, I mean, to me that makes sense, and I do think there has to be a federal fix to this. I mean, if you think about the interstate commerce issues we're talking about here, they're particularly pointed here when we live in an area like this, and, you know, it just further complicates matters.

[00:24:13] And so, you know, I think this is probably a good candidate once we get the technical lingo right. to consider as part of our federal legislative package because I'm sure that our members of Congress are aware of this, but it wouldn't hurt for us to start talking about this at a granular level from the user standpoint, but also using, you know, the Board of Supervisors platform to elevate that issue, at least our support for a fix at the federal level. And so with that, I'm going to recognize our legislative committee chair, Supervisor Walkinshaw.

[00:24:46] Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Diane, thank you for that explanation, because that was the best that I've spent a fair amount of time on this issue at the Legislative Committee, but I learned a lot from that. And Director Hudson did come before us at the Legislative Committee probably in 2022, definitely in 2023, highlighting this issue, and we added language to both our state and federal programs.

[00:25:11] Subsequent to that, Senator Marsden, who, if nothing else, is a devoted reader of our legislative programs, actually drafted legislation and introduced it in the General Assembly in 2023. I think, to your point, Diane, the legislation that he introduced probably would have been, if it passed and were signed into law, would have been challenged in court by the industry and may or may not have survived.

[00:25:38] But the state-by-state approach also creates a challenge of the state can't force publishers to, you know, if you create restrictions on licenses, they can just say we're not going to sell to libraries in Virginia. And that's why probably a national or federal approach would be cleaner.

[00:25:56] You know, the prospects of that in Congress, quite frankly, are not good. Usually the publishers and the authors are fighting each other over copyright law. This is one where publishers and authors are aligned against libraries and readers, I would suggest.

[00:26:16] But I really think the key is members of Congress have to be hearing from their constituents. Great to hear from librarians, and I hope librarians will bang down the doors of Congress, but they really need to be hearing from their constituents saying, I want to read this title, and I can't because you all haven't acted.

[00:26:34] And, you know, whatever we can do to support that, that is the only prospect, I think, for something like this to move forward. Because copyright law issues, I mean, it rarely gets touched because it's just too hard to get a majority or 60 votes in the Senate to do anything around copyright law.

[00:26:51] So it's going to be very difficult. And I do think we should continue to pursue the state approach and maybe look to craft a more targeted, Maybe if you were to take another look at Senator Marsden's legislation, and is there a more narrow, more targeted approach that maybe would have both better prospect for success in Richmond and withstand legal scrutiny more than the Maryland legislation did, we could give that the old college try in the upcoming session.

[00:27:24] Okay. Very good. Other questions on this? Jimmy, Supervisor Beerman. I just – I wouldn't bother with the state. The copyright clause of the constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8.

[00:27:42] I mean I think if the state had problems, I would focus on the federal and, you know, I mean it would be great to pass good state law. But then to watch it get struck down, you know, actually we're lucky here because our legislative chairman has so much federal experience, James.

[00:28:06] So, you know, I would focus our efforts there. Thanks. And I think to that point, Jimmy, the importance that was made about hearing from the users, these members of Congress. I mean, we know our delegation probably be fine on this, but, you know, what's happening across the country.

[00:28:22] And to me, it's certainly it's about access. You can't get the material. But in some cases, it's because the libraries in your jurisdiction can't afford to buy the material. So from a taxpayer standpoint, you know, how much are we willing to spend?

[00:28:38] And from an equity standpoint, how many library systems across the country don't have limited access? They just don't have access to these at all because the price is just too complicated. And they may not have someone like Diane who can navigate through all these different things and find the one that's best.

[00:28:54] I mean, literally, you know, we're talking about some jurisdictions, they have one library in the whole county. How in the world are they navigating all the complexities of this? Supervisor Alcorn. Thank you. Just to follow up on that, how much are we spending every year roughly on digital materials?

[00:29:21] It varies. The initial allocation that we usually put forward is about $1.2 million. And then we do things throughout the year as we can, and sometimes we'll get donations to help along with that. Okay. And as a percentage of our overall collections, what is it, half?

[00:29:39] Of the, in terms of volumes? In terms of cost. Oh, cost. In terms of cost, that's a little over a third. Okay. It's maybe 42 percent. So not quite half. Not quite half. But still significant. Okay. So, you know, there might be some, it might, financially it might make sense for us to be thinking about a longer term investment.

[00:30:04] here, you know, even though it might take a while. I guess one other question to follow up on the chairments, which is, are there other large or significant library systems that are organized around this issue? Is there anybody pushing a solution other than, I guess, the ALA you mentioned?

[00:30:28] I'm going to say yes, because the ULC basically added this to a major agenda move because of its large library systems who are just like we can't do this anymore this is unsustainable yeah yeah i i guess i would i would encourage you to be in touch with any groups like that you know that are working on it and yes and you know come back with how we could help uh because i think this is it's going to take probably a while uh but certainly working in collaboration with other systems that are facing this too and and you know getting the word out basically you're right i mean

[00:31:06] our our members of congress are going to need to hear uh about this and it and if it's only coming from fairfax county it's not going to work uh but obviously if there's a larger coalition you know across the country that could you know potentially move the needle so thank you yeah okay other questions. Supervisor Stork and Supervisor Behrman. Sorry, that wasn't a hand up. That was just saying we got five members of Congress representing us. 10th, 8th, 11th, two senators.

[00:31:38] Supervisor Stork. I appreciate the background and particularly the evolution of the digital part of the process. Of course, I got to go back to, you know, when Andrew Carnegie and really got the whole

library movement really going. I know it existed before then. And what was the history, was there any history then about individual books? Because you've got to believe at that point in time there was some resistance. And how did that evolve?

[00:32:07] Do you have any sense of that history and evolution to the model that we have at least for hard copy books today? The one thing I'm going to say about that is based on based on the way the publishers have delved into the electronic version of things. I am unbelievably thankful that our constitution has copyright law embedded in it. I think if we did not, they would be getting rid of it. They would have moved to a different hard copy model entirely,

[00:32:45] and they would not allow us to do with as we will. That is pure speculation on my part, only based on the behavior in the electronic market. And I don't know the legal pieces of that? I assume there was, was there not some kind of legislation at some point in time that said libraries could recirculate these books for X period of time or, you know, yes. As a matter of fact, that is. So Congress only did act to do probably something to give us the hard copy model that we've, we started working with today. Yeah. The first sale doctrine is in 17 USC subsection

[00:33:22] 109. So they have, they actually outlined where those are. And then there's of course court cases and whatnot that are above my head on that. Any sense of when that transpired in history? I know I'm asking questions that you're unlikely to know.

[00:33:40] That particular one, I do not know. I was just curious, if nothing else, we can at least share. It was codified in the Copyright Act of 1909 after the Bob's Merrill v. Strauss case. And I don't have the full story there. I did use to practice copyright law, so I should know this off the top of my head.

[00:33:57] But it goes back to the Copyright Act. So the Constitution vests in Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, that Congress makes laws related to intellectual property. So it goes back to the Copyright Act. So we know a little over 100 years ago, Congress did something to provide public libraries with the ability to recirculate hard copy books.

[00:34:21] So in the end – and the part of the reason I brought that up is that because that's part of the messaging to Congress is that this is your responsibility. And whether you choose to exercise or not, you know, it's – we're going to – And I'm not as familiar with certain aspects of it, but I know that it was also part of when – if anybody remembers Blockbuster, when Blockbuster was reselling the – or relending the videos.

[00:34:50] There was big court cases around that, and it was found that it was within the first sale doctrine. They had to pay a boatload more, but they were allowed to do it. Thank you. Okay. One last thing.

[00:35:05] I just want to make sure we understand this. The circulation numbers have gone up both for books and for digital books. And I don't know if my numbers are the most accurate, but I know what I got was, you know, 3 million digital loans in the last year, 11.2 million books loaned over that last year.

[00:35:27] And so as a percentage over time, the digital loans are going up dramatically. Because I'm wondering at what point, you know, when you want to get people involved, at some point we're going to affect more people than we're not. That moves the needle at the congressional level. And so we're seeing as a percentage dramatic increases in the number of digital inquiries and checkouts. And it's not to say that we're not seeing books go up every year, they're just not growing as quickly. Is that fair? Yes, that's fair to

say. And as a matter of fact just last night at 11 24 p.m we hit our 3 million mark for the year so we basically have

[00:36:06] already hit the numbers from last year october electronic electronic electronic so the digital alone with with you know two and a half months to go here and how many library systems hit that oh not very many like it's 37 37 library system right i was just gonna say and some of them are actual systems versus library like we're Fairfax and those are consortium like multiple we'll it'll take us a long time to catch up with King County in Toronto though well don't count us out all right any other questions or

[00:36:44] comments on this subject yes Supervisor Menezes I'll be super quick here thank you mr. chairman I just want to say thank you to the board thank you for being here today thank you for presenting thank you to the leadership it's absolutely you know really it's really important for us to be looking at this and one of my question was so we have a regional agreement with DC Maryland Virginia correct does the number that you just mentioned is that all from this area or is that coming from that that regional agreement it's it's coming from both we have reciprocity so it does cross lines and some of our power users

[00:37:24] that's how they're able to they're subscribed allowed in DC and in Arlington as well as us. But those are few and far between. They're like 10% of our total user base for that. Do we push out that agreement to residents so that they know that if they can't find an e-book, for example, here, that they can go to Maryland or D.C. electronically and try to get one of the e-books that they couldn't get here? I don't know that we advertise that. I think the next meeting I went to of the local collection development, they might bring out some pitch works if I did, but they are very, they're, they have, we have a lot of crossover from

[00:38:01] power users. I don't know that we've, um, pushed that recently. I just didn't know if that was something that, yeah, that's pushed out. Thank you. Thank you very much. Uh, okay. Uh, we're going to move on to our, our next agenda item, which is the board of trustees, uh, round table discussion. I'm going to turn to my colleague, Suzanne, to leave that. Okay. Um, just as we do at our monthly Library Board of Trustees meetings.

[00:38:27] We're going to do what we call the round table here. I think you all do that at the end of your meetings. And I'm just going to ask the group to go around, starting with our vice chair of the board, Sujatha Hampton. Before Sujatha speaks, we do not do that at our board.

[00:38:43] Sorry. You gave me a nightmare for a moment. I guess I'm confusing you with city council. Well, we get to talk a lot. I'm sorry. Okay. hi everyone thank you so much for inviting us to join you today um i am the drainsville trustee and i have four libraries in drainsville so i'm just going to go through each of our libraries and tell you just a tiny bit of something that's cool that's going on there all right i'll start with dolly madison c mcclain uh the dolly madison's library dolly

[00:39:19] madison's library's new youth services manager marta steenstra davis was recently selected for the Virginia Library Association's Cardinal Cup Committee. The Cardinal Cup Committee honors the most distinguished biography, historical fiction, or American history book for young people in an effort to encourage quality writing for young readers of these genres.

[00:39:42] And the Great Falls Library, just in Great Falls, the All My Rage book box program for teens pairs a library copy of the young adult book All My Rage by Sabah Tahir with a gift box of items that are

mentioned throughout the book.

[00:39:58] Each box contains themed gifts that participants keep, information about the author, discussion questions, a Spotify reading soundtrack, and a recipe. At specific points in the book, the teens are invited to open the gifts that correspond to what they read. The boxes were funded by the Friends of the Great Falls Library.

[00:40:17] That's so cute. That's a cute idea. Herndon, fortnightly, is home to one of FCPL's three makers' labs. Herndon's lab is rich with various activities, tools, and equipment for all ages thanks to the generosity of our Herndon friends, community demand for our staff coordinator, Sahadev Pudel.

[00:40:37] And just this summer, children were in heaven exploring tools like the Sphero Bolt, Cubelets, Robots, Snap Circuit, 3D printers, sewing machines, and many more. Some community members created their wedding decorations and embroidered a wedding veil using the CryCut cameo and embroidery machines.

[00:40:57] Also at Herndon Four Nightly, they partnered with the town of Herndon and Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in a community event, Que Pasa, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event represented the vibrancy of Latin and Hispanic cuisine, crafts, live music, and performances.

[00:41:16] With the goal to remove barriers to service, the library showcased its many offerings from our Spanish language story times and early literacy resources to our collection of Spanish language materials. Thank you. Hi, I'm Brian Engler.

[00:41:32] I'm the Braddock District trustee. And in the Braddock District, we have three libraries assigned to us here, two community libraries. They're the pretty standard ones that you see that have friends groups. And those friends groups have book sales.

[00:41:48] The book sales make money. And that helps to pay for some of the programming. So those two libraries I'll mention right now. And then I'll go on to the third entity. Kings Park Friends coordinated with the Plum Center, which provides outreach to adult high schoolers.

[00:42:08] Last spring, for example, a staff visited the Plum Center. They registered over 20 students at that center for library cards. And they took book resources and other resources with them as kind of a pop-up library.

[00:42:24] The Plum Center has no physical books or library within it, and so that was very, very useful, and everybody really appreciated that, so I'm sure Kings Park's going to continue it. They also have a friend's volunteer who is a micromineralogist.

[00:42:43] His name is John Wiedner. He leads a monthly junior geologist lab in Kings Park and for the whole area. Burke Center staff, we also have had book sales, paid money in programs, including this evening we have an author presenting there, as a matter of fact.

[00:43:03] The Burke Center staff is undertaking a massive shift of shelving within the library. The flow of the library when it was built 15, 16 years ago, I guess, was okay, but things changed, collections changed.

[00:43:22] I use that term because I live right around the corner, so I walk there quite often. I had a large Korean collection. Now it's not quite so large. So at any rate, they're trying to improve that accessibility and flow within the library and by reorganizing the shelves in the fiction and nonfiction areas.

[00:43:42] So I know it's taking them a lot of time and clanking work and stuff to move those shelves around. So I'm looking forward to seeing how it works out. The third entity we have is somewhat different. It's access services. It's in this building right across from the shop or whatever.

[00:44:00] What's it called? The kitchen downstairs. But they provide services. They don't have a friends group because people don't come into their branch quite often. They have a group called advisory, an advisory group, and they're very, very active.

[00:44:18] They're perhaps, I've met with them, perhaps more active than many Friends groups. But they do get donations from other Friends groups when they need money for special programs. For example, Chantilly Friends donated $15,000 to them.

[00:44:34] They purchased a bunch of large print materials for home delivery customers. We have large print within our libraries, but these are for home delivery. It will be only available to access service libraries by agreement with the Chantilly Friends for the first year.

[00:44:51] And then after that, they'll be available to all library customers throughout the system. So that's pretty nice. The George Mason Friends have donated $10,000 to purchase more assistive technology and games. These, thanks to their funds, will have a Zoom text keyboard that's available to all the libraries.

[00:45:16] It's being put together now. So these are the sorts of things that the access services does. And when I met with them, one of the biggest issues they had was that they – I won't say they tend to be forgotten, but they tend to be somewhat overlooked because they're not an actual library, but they're a very important part of our system.

[00:45:37] And perhaps the most important thing that anyone can do, any of us, including the supervisors, would be to get the word out to people who aren't library patrons that if they have low vision, if they have the hard of hearing and all, we have facilities for them.

[00:45:54] And that's access services. The people who have library cards, of course, are told this. Our library staff is very familiar with it, and they're referred to access services. But according to the people I spoke to down there, there's probably a vast number of Fairfax County residents who could use these services and simply don't know about them.

[00:46:16] So getting the word out about access services, I think, is important. It's a part of the Braddock District, but it's also a part of the whole system. So thank you very much for having us here today. I appreciate it, and I appreciate Supervisor Walkinshaw putting me on the board. Thanks. My name is Gary Russell.

[00:46:35] I represent the Mount Vernon district, and as Sujaffa, my district has four branches currently. And it's interesting because three of those four branches are located either on or within walking distance of Route 1.

[00:47:01] Three of them are within walking distance of the Franconia district. So between the two districts, we represent the Route 1 corridor, and that's why I want to thank Supervisor Lusk and the whole board for sending us a superstar like Russell Brooks to join the board.

[00:47:30] I've already talked with Russell and like his two predecessors, Keith Flax and Wilbur Jasper, who I enjoyed very much working with on the board.

[00:47:45] He is well aware of the interests and needs in our quarter that are more diverse and often different than those that prevail in the other districts.

[00:48:10] And so I chose two programs that reflect that. The first one is the writing class for adult English language learners at the Lorton branch.

[00:48:31] In response to a community request, the Lorton staff found a dedicated instructor and an assistant to conduct the program. In fact, the classes have become so popular that their attendance regular exceeds that of the conversation group that spawned it.

[00:48:57] One of the volunteer instructors also meets with small groups individually that need a little extra help. And I want to hasten to add that it should be noted that this is also a very good example of the synergy that was created when co-located the library with the community center.

[00:49:26] The Lorton Community Action Center works with the English Empowerment Center to offer ESL classes in the community center. And so we have both the LCAC and the community center often referring people to the library program.

[00:49:50] The other one that I wanted to mention is we go down to the Sherwood, the regional branch, which is one of those that's within walking districts of the Franconia district.

[00:50:12] That service area has the second largest percentage of preschool children. And so with help from the Sherwood Library friends, Brian talked a lot about the friends, they're indispensable.

[00:50:38] They funded early learning equipment and toys for our preschool story room where they can learn through play and early learning, early literacy.

[00:50:59] One of the things that the little patrons like the best is that they've got a new farmer's market stand, which emulates the McCutcheon, Mount Vernon farmer's market that takes place every Wednesday morning out in the parking lot.

[00:51:23] If you'll allow me one editorial comment, we were talking about the electronic titles. I talked to Senator Barson when he was working on that, and I think you understand these publishers, this is a significant source of income from them.

[00:51:46] And then they have the law behind them. And so any attempt to try to change it is an uphill battle. So in his case, they hired some prominent lobbyist firm, and it didn't go anywhere because the lobbyist firm went around and did what lobbyists do.

[00:52:05] So with all this discussion, the thing respectfully we would ask you, the only immediate cure to help this is next year when they do the budget, if there would be some way that you would remember this conversation. and we might be able to get a few more dollars for these electronic books because in some cases, like I said, people are waiting a year on the list.

[00:52:30] And this is Fairfax County, Virginia, and that shouldn't be the case. So I would respectfully ask you to consider that. I'm a Springfield representative, and my library is a POIC, so I'll read you a couple things that we're doing at the POIC library.

[00:52:46] POIC launched a Rhythm Around the World series consisting of five music dance performances, from salsa dance lessons to engaging in Bollywood dancers, listening to Irish and Maricetti

bands. Patrons joined, and for many of them, the audience grew from up to 50 or 80 people at some of the meetings that we had.

[00:53:08] Well, excuse me, we went from 58 up to 150. They're also doing storytelling. There was a first trip ever to Greece, and greased music, and people were given passports in which they could bring them to stamp at each show, and those who attend, the majority will receive a special memento.

[00:53:29] Also, the POHIC managers were presented at the Virginia Library Association on how making safe space at the POHIC is serving as an antidote to loneliness. This is drawing from a lesson from Potential Solutions presented at the U.S. Surgeon General's white paper, identity loneliness as an epidemic in America, and so this has been working very well at the POHIC library.

[00:53:54] Our new number from the Franconia is going to be here, so I'm going to give a brief update as to what's going on in the Franconia, John Marshall and Richard Burry. At the John Marshall Library, they have significantly expanded programs offering for all age groups.

[00:54:12] response to requests for adult program, they've introduced the beginners, Japanese Mahjong, a series of hands-on crafts, family programs to celebrate the diversity of communities such as Lutriol and Felt Sugar Skulls. We also have established an English conversion group to assist those learning to speak English. In October, they were having a costume and decorator to update him at helping families save and recycle for the Halloween holiday.

[00:54:41] The Richard Byrd Library welcomes students from the Neighbor's Second Story Safe Youth Project. Many of you know Second Story is a nonprofit funded by a government grant, but the county puts a lot of money into Second Story, and they do a lot with young people that are having problems and things.

[00:55:03] So they have this program, a weekly reading adventure program. In this growing program, young students, many of whom are reading below grade level, are paired with older teens, volunteers from local schools to practice their reading skills in a one-on-one small group setting.

[00:55:20] So thank you for allowing me to present this to you. Good afternoon, everyone. I come as a representative of Fairfax County Public Schools, where I serve as a senior manager for library information services. And a little fun fact is, Ms. Palchek, I had your niece at Mantua when I was a librarian many years ago, so I have that library connection there.

[00:55:41] The potential, and you've heard everyone who's spoken so far and who will speak, is the amazing things that are happening in the public libraries. And our task on the library services side is how do we pair with public librarians and really optimize those opportunities for our families.

[00:55:58] So in the library system, in the schools, we lift students and families, but we, you know, librarians see students every day, families not as much. So in 2017, my predecessor, Priscilla Dando, worked with the Fairfax County Public Library to create the LEAP program that Brian referred to.

[00:56:16] And I have some statistics that are pretty exciting. There are roughly about 185,000 LEAP cards that have been issued. The stats for the fiscal year 24 include 2,168 different FCPS leave accounts were used for at least one checkout during that fiscal year.

[00:56:34] A total of 5,430 checkouts were made to those users. Checkouts were recorded at all 23 public library locations. And a large portion of the checkouts occurred via outreach events at library locations facilitated by our school age and teen outreach department.

[00:56:52] So that really is a model of success that we're continuing. So right now what we're doing is working with librarians where we've connected the public youth services manager, the names, contact information with the school librarians that are served by those public libraries.

[00:57:10] So there are public librarians who have come to book clubs that have facilitated book clubs during school hours, after school hours. They have a table on the back-to-school night where families can apply for library cards, so they help facilitate that. And right now we're trying to make curricular connections, so if there's a unit coming up, especially we, Fairfax County, adopted a new basal reading system, and there are themes throughout that year.

[00:57:34] So public librarians are excited to, you know, put out displays that will tie in with those themes or battle of the books, different events that are held in school libraries. The public librarians are really eager to partner with them in order to create those displays.

[00:57:50] So there's so much going on in the public libraries from, you know, the small appliance repair to the light pollution kits that families can check out. And so we are tasking our school librarians to work with the family liaisons at each school because they're the ones that have the closest connection often with the families at those schools just to get the word out of all the amazing things that are happening.

[00:58:13] So thank you for having us today. We appreciate it. All righty. I'm Liz Walker, and I represent the Sully District on the board. I'm also the board's representative to the Fairfax Library Foundation.

[00:58:31] And as part of that, just wanted to let you all know that the foundation, in addition to 85 years in the library system, we are celebrating 30 years as a foundation in support of our libraries. They will be celebrating that achievement next March, March the 29th, and all of you will be invited and we hope to see you there.

[00:58:53] We have two wonderful libraries in Sully District. They're regional libraries, the Chantilly Library as well as Centerville Library. And from month to month, they usually are in the top five in terms of library patrons coming into the building as well as the collections themselves.

[00:59:13] I think one of them is, Centerville is about 30 years old now, but it might be one of the newest libraries joining the system, but it's already 30 years old, and we're very proud of our two libraries in our community. There are so many things going on in all of our libraries in the system, and it's really hard to choose what you're going to feature and highlight with all of you today, but I have four that I'd like to mention.

[00:59:38] The Centerville Library hosted a solar eclipse party in April. The Centerville Friends purchased solar eclipse glasses for the event, and staff distributed 100 pairs of glasses within two minutes. Very popular.

[00:59:55] Attendees had the choice of viewing the solar eclipse outside on the front patio or watching NASA's live video footage on the large screen in the meeting room. Participants on the patio generously shared their eclipse glasses to allow everybody a chance to view it themselves. Over 211 people came to this event, many expressing the joy of experiencing it within their community.

[01:00:17] The other event was the Centerville Neighborhood School Readiness Project, and the Centerville Regional Library hosted the Ready to Shine Family Resource Fair in May. Multiple county organizations set up tables and library meeting rooms are on the patio.

[01:00:35] Over 200 enthusiastic guests enjoy the free food, received free books in English and Spanish, and registered for preschool and kindergarten, and participated in many hands-on activities, and there was a lot of joy I experienced that day. Chantilly Regional Library, the staff there is very diverse, and they love sharing their culture and country of origin with the community through programs and events. In the past year, they have held educational programs about, now excuse me, I'm not very fluent in Korean, so in other languages, so I'm going to do my best to pronounce this. Chuseok, which is the Korean Thanksgiving

[01:01:14] Day, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, Sayalo, which is the Korean Lunar New Year, and Huli, Festival of Colors, and Eid. Our community embraces these programs, and the turnout is always fabulous. The programs are intended for families, and it is clear that the attendees enjoy learning about the rich traditions surrounding these cultural days as much as our staff loves sharing them. The last event, which is a larger program than just at Chantilly Library, but Chantilly hosts it, this is the Children's Summer Reading Festival, and it was

[01:01:50] the second year that Chantilly Regional Library hosted this. It was planned by the Library Foundation, the FCPL Programming Department, and the Chantilly Regional Library staff. The event was held in August, and it's there to celebrate the Summer Reading Adventure Program from the library. Approximately 2,700 people attended, and attendees enjoyed face painting, a balloon artist, caricature artist, popcorn, cotton candy, crafts, educational displays, moon bounce, along with a variety of other activities. It was truly a collaborative event that provides education and

[01:02:28] fun for many people in the community. That was held between 12 and 3 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon, And when I left at 2.30, people were still arriving. It was unbelievable in terms of the community response. I would like to point out as well that many of the friends groups of all of our libraries helped sponsor that program.

[01:02:52] And there were five of them, Kingstown, Pohick, Richard Byrd Library, and Burke, with Burke being a very high-level sponsor, as well as both Chantilly and Centerville Friends groups both participated in sponsoring that.

[01:03:10] I'd also like to point out that the Centerville Friends, which is the newest Friends group in the county, they also established for the first time a $2,000 scholarship that the foundation does distribute as part of their program. So we're very, very proud of what we have going on in our community and our libraries.

[01:03:28] Thank you. Hi, so my name's Kripa. Officially, I am the member at large, but I live in Hunter Mill district. And as Parker, who officially represents Hunter Mill, can't be here. I'll be sharing the updates that he has gotten. I also wanted to add that Chantilly is one of the libraries that I often go to based. I'm in unincorporated Herndon. So Reston, of course, I go to that one a lot. I also go to Herndon Fort Lightly and I go to Chantilly.

[01:03:58] i paid my very first visit to centerville library earlier this year there was a production of a play called murder in the library and that was a i had such a blast so i'm yeah i'm i love the libraries in your district but on the hunter mill end there is also the patrick henry library or it's currently called the patrick henry library the staff at patrick henry work really closely with madison High School to issue library cards to all of their reading support students, and a lot of them have IEPs. They hand-delivered the cards along with packets of library information and programs.

[01:04:37] They also visited Cedar Lane School. That is the alternative high school in that area, and there they issued library cards. They checked out books. They also provide information about library programs and services. Over in Reston, it got remodeled recently. I've been able to visit.

[01:04:55] it is a lot brighter and cleaner, and it feels happier in there now. The bathrooms also got remodeled. I have not had, like, I haven't seen that for myself, but I'm looking for, like, note to self, spend more time in Reston Library. They also, yeah, it's brighter, it's cleaner, there's new light fixtures, new blinds, and it looks a lot happier. And this library also provides 30 English language learning classes per week, serving over 300 people. Classes are offered both virtually and in person, and includes a range of skill levels and class size options.

[01:05:34] Yeah, libraries are awesome. Last but not least, Fran Milhauser representing the Mason District of Fairfax County, and I love statistics and making charts to measure what we do in the library, but then I came upon an interesting quote a while ago, and it was, not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

[01:06:05] And for me, that really resonated in terms of the library. I think of the library as sort of a secret weapon of local government because people don't have to go. They don't have to pay taxes there. They don't have to get a building permit. They choose to go to the library. And the service that we provide so often is strictly one-on-one. And it's almost like this just happens until a meeting like today when you hear about all these amazing things but I do love how many people walk through the doors how many books do they check out how many did they return how many ebooks how many people in the community booked our meeting rooms how much money this year you can

[01:06:45] find out how much money you saved this year on your checkout receipt like I mine's up to two thousand dollars I'm sure I bet Suzanne's a lot higher yeah you can have a contest that would be fun. And the number, our number of unique digital users, which we were talking about already, that in fiscal year 22, it was 90,000. In fiscal 23, it was 120. And in 24, it was 150 unique digital workers and users. It's an amazing trend. And we already talked about that. Fairfax FCPL is one of

[01:07:23] only 37 libraries in the world to hit three million digital checkouts in a single year, and we've already hit that in October. But then the uncountable, intangible things that happen in libraries that people that I always loved, I'm a retired librarian, I opened the Chantilly Library, in fact, way back then. The people who just come in to browse and then find the perfect book that they didn't know they really absolutely had to have. Or people who come in to get warm, or to get cool or to get water you know that's an amazing thing and the kids who know it's a safe

[01:08:02] place after school and I go back to my days as a branch manager at the soon to be renamed Woodrow Wilson Library and it was before cell phones and the kids would come in they would come to the reference desk and they'd go may I use the telephone and we say sure hola mama estoy en la biblioteca and mom knew that they were safe and it was just every day after school that would happen um so then on to some other things that are going on in throughout the library was alluded to the the fix-it clinic so i just participated at richard bird at their fix-it clinic because

[01:08:39] i make jewelry and i repair jewelry and so i was there with people repairing vacuum machines vacuuming machines vacuum you know what i mean cleaners that's what they are and lamps so i called my husband said get the scan light that's not working he came and brought that they fixed it um and then on to what i'm really supposed to talk about which is mason district and i'm happy to do that uh so at

george and that's another thing do you know that we call our libraries by their first names if it's not one of the geographic libraries it's george or

[01:09:15] dolly or martha we don't use their last names so at george um they're coming up with brain gym which is puzzles games and activities to challenge the mind you can also go to a chair yoga class and an upcoming program called bingo size which is bingo plus exercise you don't know in partnership with ElderLink.

[01:09:44] So I'm going to have to go check it out. At TJ, oh, that's right, we use initials. The New American Picture Book programs that celebrate the diverse community at TJ. And then back to Woodrow, which will soon be Calmore this Saturday.

[01:09:59] So if you're around Saturday morning, we'll be doing the renaming. And where we host the annual Calmore Day celebration. And also this month, We did the Hispanic Month celebration at Woodrow Wilson. So that's it for the library at this meeting.

[01:10:17] Thank you very much. And Suzanne wants to say something. She's not last but not least. I get to report on the Oakton Library because Sue Park wasn't able to be here today. The Oakton Library provides three preschool story times per week, averaging 60 people per session.

[01:10:35] That's a lot of young children. City of Fairfax, in May, the Virginia Room team launched family history kits, which include tools to start gathering and preserving your family history. The three kits are very popular and already have had 12 circulations since they're launching.

[01:10:54] These are backpacks with cards, things to take to your family gatherings and ask questions of your grandparents and great-grandparents. In addition, the City of Fairfax Library has partnered with the City of Fairfax to host a regular series of events and participate in special outreach events, including Fundy Monday programs, weekly story times in the park, the Asian Festival on Main, Fairfax Pride, and not to mention the ever-popular Fairfax City Regional Library Precision Book Cart Drill Team in the Fourth of July Parade.

[01:11:32] And I should say Vienna also has a drill team that does the Halloween parade. Finally, I wanted to mention that last week ago, Monday, there was a program celebrating the Washington and Old Dominion Trail.

[01:11:48] Three of the supervisors were there. And we also celebrated the fact that the Nova Parks is donating their research collection on the trail to the Virginia Room for preservation and organizing. And amongst those archives are 2,000 photos and 2,000 original documents.

[01:12:09] So there is always something new and exciting going on in the library. We only touched on a few of them here and hope you'll all be able to visit your local libraries regularly. All right. Thank you very much for that.

[01:12:25] And I'm going to turn, if anyone has any questions or other additional comments, let me start with Fran. Yeah, I wrote myself a note. While I was researching for the ceremony on Saturday, I found out that it was 1953 when the budget for branch libraries was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

[01:12:46] So there was 1939 and then the branches. So I wanted to be sure to mention that. Thanks. Thank you very much. Supervisor Stort. You're mentioning using first names, and so I want to thank Kathy and Lynn, Kathy at Lorton and Lynn at Sherwood Hall Lane for their work.

[01:13:05] but most importantly i was hearing from them over the years and it sounds like it's better but i wanted at least to ask this broadly we had a severe shortage of staff the hours were changed we're back to where we were and i understand we still have challenges but is are things better i mean are you seeing kind of things continue to improve are we still it's a nip and tuck kind of thing whether or not we have enough folks to cover the libraries thanks for that question um things are much better we have enough people to have uh the branches open to the regular hours um we're still hiring like crazy um customer service is really tough these days and and we're

[01:13:44] not the only agency that's suffering i think lots of i think the schools are suffering i think anybody who does direct customer service is finding that um it's tough people's fuses are really short and um i think that people who want to work in libraries it's kind of like a calling like being a nurse or a teacher.

[01:14:06] And so they still want to do it. But the people who thought they might want to don't. And so we're not seeing those people enter our workforce the way that we might have 10 or 15 years ago. We absolutely appreciate it. I absolutely appreciate particularly Kathy and Lynn because I see them more regularly and get to thank them personally.

[01:14:24] But thank you all for the work you've done to try to bridge that gap and reduce and get us back to at least the hours that we've had historically. So thank you. Thanks. Okay. Supervisor Palchik. Thank you so much. Thanks for the presentation.

[01:14:40] And Marlene now reads with my two-year-old. They are both avid readers, so thank you. I will. Question. I was looking up, I believe, is it the foundation that partners with the Imagination Library, the Dolly Parton Program to send books to zero- to five-year-olds?

[01:15:00] Foundation's listed. I don't know. It is. Okay, because, I mean, what I love is libraries are both places, and there are also ways to access books. So I was wondering if you have updates. It's through NCS. Through NCS, okay. It's a partnership with Neighborhood and Community Services, and the foundation is the pass-through, and it's only a couple of zip codes in Fairfax County.

[01:15:21] So it's a limited partnership, but we do have, I think it's two zip codes that we partner with. Two, okay. And so the new state expansion would not include us, I assume. I think the state just passed the legislation. They did, and I need to look into that. I'm not familiar enough with it yet to have an opinion.

[01:15:38] Okay, love that. Well, thank you all so much. And as you know, boundaries cross borders. So I appreciate all the work that you and all of our librarians do. Thank you, Supervisor Palchuk. And speaking about boundaries, I'll mention it because it's been something I've been trying to get everyone's attention on for a long, long period of time.

[01:16:00] And I just kind of look at Natalie a little bit with her FCPS connection, but it still frustrates me to this day that every single one of our middle and high school students with their student ID doesn't automatically have library privileges and also Fairfax connector privileges preloaded on those cards. And I don't, I still don't know why that's so hard to do, but I'd sure love to get an update from IT and we don't have to do it at this meeting. But, you know, this is something that a lot of other jurisdictions have done and you know when we think about equity and

[01:16:38] challenges that people have going multiple places and filling out multiple applications to get the right to do what should be easy in the county which is for our students in particular to be able to access

transit and to be able to access our libraries is still something I haven't given up on. So anyone who has any great ideas on how we can turn that into reality, I'd sure love to hear them. But it's something we've talked about, I know, for a lot of years, but still haven't been able to accomplish. Yeah, Christine, please. We actually, we do have the LEAP cards, which

[01:17:14] every FCPS student at all levels has a LEAP card just by enrolling in FCPS. So that gives them access to three checkouts, um, without an ID. So it's not, it's not perfect. It's not maybe what you're talking about, but it means that if a student comes in, they don't have to leave empty handed. We can help them, um, no matter what with, with or without a parent. Yeah. I, I definitely appreciate that. I think that's, it is a great program and it's kind of a good, while we're waiting for, you know, a technological advancement to try to make this easier on all of you too,

[01:17:51] so that you don't have to maintain a separate process and a separate card and the technology that is associated with that. But hopefully we can move more aggressively in that direction. And it's been, you know, there are challenges with it, I realize, especially on the transit part, which requires a parent opt-in provision.

[01:18:12] But I still think, especially for our young people, if we can just make this easier for them and make going to the library more natural and for them to understand it's it's an extension of privileges everybody get not just the ones who can navigate and figure out how to do it so i just i just want to keep that idea out there and and as opportunities come up if we can we can improve on that i think it would help a lot of kids may i um share two quick things um i know it's late in the day and i'm not going to take a lot of time but there were two other items that um did not get shared and i think you actually

[01:18:47] might want to do these two things so um a bunch of our branches have memory depots and those are a combination of technology that allows you to digitize your photographs your slides your vhs recordings all the outdated um your if you have an old mixtape that reminds you of an old high school boyfriend or girlfriend um you can you can uh digitize all of that and recapture that 8-tacks, super 8-tacks, beta tapes, anything you got.

[01:19:16] I mean, we go way back. So if you still have that mixtape and you don't want to lose it forever, bring it into a library and we'll put it on a flash drive for you. And then the other thing that I think is really exciting is the library is doing a library of things, which is items that you can check out.

[01:19:34] Everyone knows you can check out books, but you can also check out things like board games, and you can check out binoculars, and you can check out nature backpacks and we have a wide variety of things. So as you're talking to your constituents, what we're trying to do is buy things that you might want to use for the weekend, but you don't need to own. And so don't buy it, borrow it. And we are recycling and we're doing it actively. So I hope that this presentation gave you a taste of the wide variety of services that people pay for every day, and they should look to us first before they go out and spend

[01:20:12] their own money. So thank you for your attention. Thank you very much for that. I appreciate that. Anything else anyone wants to add before we wrap up? We just published our annual report for last year in a very easy way to read, very high level.

[01:20:31] It has a lot of statistics in there, and your representatives will be getting you copies if you haven't received them already uh very light reading but very interesting uh reading it talks about the variety of things that people can uh enjoy our library community so look for that excellent very good and

we have copies of that we'll we'll distribute uh if there's no additional business to come before the committee our meeting of october 15th 2024 is adjourned thank you