



*Libraries open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve. Libraries change life for the better.*

- Sidney Sheldon



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 - 2025





## ABOUT THE KANAWHA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Kanawha County Public Library is the largest public library system in West Virginia. The Main Library in downtown Charleston and its 8 branch libraries serve approximately 68,000 card holders. Branch libraries are located in St. Albans, Cross Lanes, Sissonville, Dunbar, Elk Valley, Clendenin, Riverside High School, and Glasgow. With regular stops across Kanawha County, KCPL's Bookmobile offers library services to areas not normally serviced by a local branch.

There are nearly 500,000 items in the library collection, including books, ebooks, audio books, DVDs, and much more. The Main Library also hosts the state's first Tool Lending Library and the IDEA Lab maker space.

Patron visits to all libraries in the system total more than 325,000 per year, and approximately 750,000 library items circulate in a year's time.

Nearly all KCPL library services are FREE to the public.

## OUR VISION

We envision the Kanawha County Public Library as the people's premier source of information in a community where learning and reading are revered and being well-informed is valued.

## OUR MISSION

- Provide free and equal access to information.
- Provide citizens with job training and career development information.
- Enrich individual and family lives.
- Enable patrons to access new information technology.
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Serve as the center of community life.
- Use available resources efficiently and seek additional resources.



### Board of Directors

**President:** Ben Thomas  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Betty King  
**Library Director & Secretary/Treasurer:** Erika Connelly

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Deborah Sonis  
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Dr. Robert Wallace

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**President:** Bryan Cokeley  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** TBA  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** TBA

**Ex-Officio Officers:**  
Erika Connelly, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Ben Thomas, *KCPL Board President*

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James Becker  
Dr. D. Anne Cavalier  
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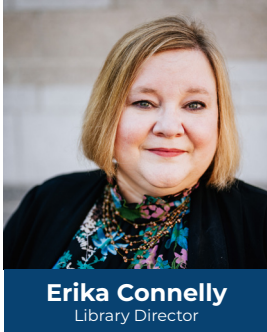
**Ex-Officio Members:**  
Erika Connelly, *Library Director*  
Ben Thomas, *KCPL Board President*  
Stan Howell, *Marketing & Development Manager*  
Lois Payne, *Development Assistant*

### Staff

**Department Managers:**  
Assistant Director ..... Sarah Mitchell  
Human Resources ..... Marsha Alford  
Information Technology ..... Teddy Claypool  
Reference Services ..... Elizabeth Fraser-Dorney  
Children's Services ..... Terri McDougal  
Main Library Public Services ..... Ben Ball  
Circulation Services ..... Julianne Yacavone  
ILS Admin ..... Susan Murphy  
Technical Services ..... Jennifer Meddings  
Facilities & Security ..... Steve Mills  
Marketing & Development ..... Stan Howell

**Branch Managers and Librarians:**  
Bookmobile ..... Gabby Cochran  
Clendenin ..... TBA  
Cross Lanes ..... TBA  
Dunbar ..... Susan Bailey  
Elk Valley ..... Ellie Teaford  
Riverside/Glasgow ..... Gabby Cochran  
Sissonville ..... Cathy Mason  
St. Albans ..... Melissa Burchett

## UPDATES FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



**Erika Connelly**  
Library Director

The Kanawha County Public Library stepped into a cautiously optimistic fiscal year 2024-2025. Services and visits to the Main Library continued to be a high point with an increase in library visitors across all county library branches. Although detrimental state bills were introduced during the legislative session that included incarceration, criminal or civil penalties, reduced funding, and book bans, legislators did not pursue action. Librarians across the state continued a quiet campaign of advocacy

and support for essential educational and informational services to West Virginia communities.

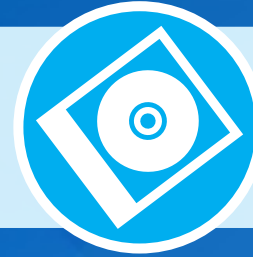
Despite these negative challenges to public libraries, the Kanawha County Public Library System continued its vast array of collection development and quality programming. The IDEA Lab and Tool Lending Library continue to be key attractions to downtown Charleston visitors. The Clendenin Kiosk is also a focal point for the community's diverse attractions with new library technologies. This lending machine provides 24/7 access to library materials including best sellers, children's books and DVDs.

The Library Foundation of Kanawha County, Inc. continues to invest in special library programming, operational support, and is the main fundraising source for directing donor support to library branches and the WV Book Festival. In addition, the Library Foundation is gearing up to support the Kanawha County Public Library's initiative to create a modern regional library to serve Eastern Kanawha County residents. Though geography and the great river pose a unique challenge, both the Library Foundation and the Kanawha County Public Library Board are focused on imagining and building a space for area communities to access the latest library technologies, access popular lending collections, and explore special spaces for organizations and groups to gather and create.

Although 2025 brought fresh challenges, like harmful legislation and the loss of essential federal funding, the Library administrative team, the Board of Directors, and the Library Foundation continue to invest in making Kanawha County Public Libraries the best in the state and region. With strong advocacy from library patrons and a solid foundation of public satisfaction, the library system and its working members and volunteers are energized and passionate about quality library service to the communities they serve.



# 2024 - 2025 COMMUNITY REPORT



**492,691**  
ITEMS IN COLLECTION



**325,259**  
VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY



**631**  
TOOLS CHECKED OUT

**12,442**  
DRIVE UP CHECK OUTS



**750,758**  
TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

CARDHOLDERS

**67,568**  
TOTAL

**6,824**  
NEW!



**32,852**  
PUBLIC COMPUTER  
SESSIONS

**1,523,633**  
WEBSITE VIEWS



**20,174**  
HOURS SPENT ON  
PUBLIC COMPUTERS

REFERENCE QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED



**152,018**

PEOPLE USING PUBLIC  
MEETING ROOMS



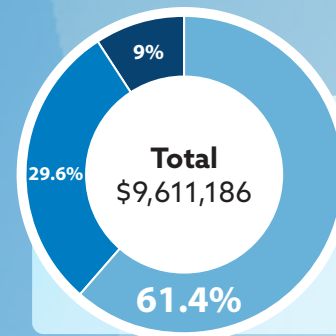
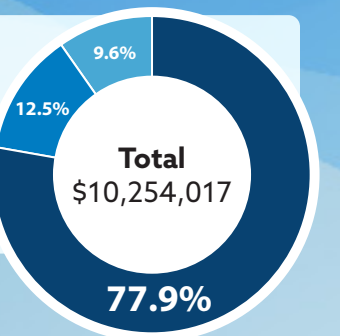
**31,021**



EVENTS & CLASSES: **1,642**  
NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: **77,482**

## INCOME

Levying Authorities	\$7,990,614
Other	\$1,280,486
State Grants	\$982,917



## EXPENDITURES

Salaries/Benefits	\$5,903,045
Operations	\$2,840,121
Materials	\$868,020



# BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS



## Clendenin

Clendenin Branch underwent a renovation to make better use of the space, and rolled out new hours in 2025 – opening on Fridays for the first time. Often, Friday was the busiest day of the week, especially during Summer Library Club. The Clendenin Library Advisory Board was instrumental in getting tutors lined up to be at the library every week with several families taking advantage of this new service. Clendenin's 24-hour Kiosk saw increased usage in 2024-25, becoming a regular place for many patrons to pick up their holds. The Branch's LEGO Wall was very popular and has been used daily by children, teens and adults.



## Cross Lanes

The Cross Lanes Branch continued working on its goal of creating a more patron-friendly environment with the purchase of new, modern furniture for our public spaces, the creation of a quiet study area, and the expansion of the Teen Zone. Thanks to another generous contribution from the John A. and Lucille S. Pianfetti Foundation, the Branch also began work to redesign the children's area. Cross Lanes offered dozens of fun programs this year, including several adult crafts, various teen taste tests, and multiple special storytime adventures. The branch also added several new pieces of makerspace equipment, including two 3D Printers, a sublimation printer, and a laser engraver and cutter.



## Dunbar

In 2025, the Dunbar Branch improved staff visibility with the introduction of a new circulation desk moved to a more efficient area. The former circulation desk space was transitioned into a Teen Area, complete with a gaming console and board games. The addition of a gardening area brightened the Library considerably and has been very popular with patrons. Branch staff also rearranged the Children's area to accommodate a larger storytime and activity area.



## Elk Valley

Elk Valley had another busy, successful year. This year the Branch held several community exchange events: a costume swap in the fall leading to Halloween, a Holiday decoration exchange in December, a very popular craft supply exchange, and a seed and plant exchange in the spring. Other programs include a year-round puzzle exchange and a series of STEM programs for families in partnership with WVSU and Arclin Chemicals. Summer Library Club was a color explosion with many fun programs. Plus, the Branch started a hydroponic garden, where the children enjoyed picking lettuce and watching plants grow.



## Sissonville

The Sissonville Branch Library is a colorful and inviting community space. Patrons who visit can look forward to interesting decorations, exciting programs, and friendly staff. This year, the library continued to bring new technologies by adding a new 3D printer, encouraged relaxation and learning by offering a variety of programs, and sought out innovative ways to share library resources with the area.



## St. Albans

Over the past year, the staff at the St. Albans Branch Library demonstrated exceptional adaptability and resilience in response to a variety of challenges and operational disruptions. In 2024, the Branch endured HVAC and internet issues and temporarily closed to the public in September for essential abatement and tile replacement. Through it all, community engagement remained a priority through initiatives such as the launch of the StoryWalk program in City Park and participation in the WV Extension Services' Grow This program. The Teen Advisory Board brought fresh enthusiasm to the library, contributing to the Veterans Day Parade, Holiday Open House, and the "Happily Never After" escape room.



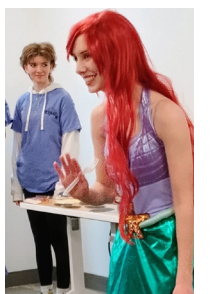
## Eastern Region - Riverside, Glasgow, Marmet

It was an eventful year for KCPL's Eastern Region Libraries. New Regional Manager Gabby Cochran joined the staff in July and immediately hit the ground running. In September, the Glasgow Branch opened its doors for the first time since 2023. The Branch had been closed due to ongoing maintenance issues at Glasgow's Town Hall. In May, after struggling with facilities issues for years, the Marmet Branch closed due to the deteriorating condition of the nearly 50-year-old building. The Riverside Branch is housed in Riverside High School and continues to serve a diverse patron base, which includes Riverside High students, young children, seniors, and other members of the local community.



## Bookmobile

In 2024, the Bookmobile welcomed new coordinators Mary Hudnall and Zach Dobson to the team. Along with specialist Lynn McCallister, the Bookmobile serves patrons of all ages across Kanawha County through regular stops at Eastern Region elementary schools, various senior centers, and by making appearances at local events, such as Kanawha County School's Exceptional Spring Games, the Charleston Christmas Parade, and the West Virginia Book Festival.





# HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED



## Circulation Services

The past year has been nonstop for the Circulation Services department! Julianne Yaconne took over the department in September, and Jonathan Forks, Haley Pickens and Stephen Hill joined the team during the year. The department focused on improving patron service while continuing to prioritize resources for patrons. The department completed trainings on De-escalation, Intro to Identifying Human Trafficking 101, ICE and Library Policy, and Navigating Conversations about Book Challenges. The staff are encouraged to use their talents and interests for the good of the library community, creating displays on the first floor, offering art classes, poetry classes, and partnering/supporting other department programs and library card sign-ups.



## Facilities

The Facilities Department underwent major changes over the past year. New manager Steve Mills took over the department in the fall and new hires Mike Bush as Dunbar janitor and Danny Stollings as facilities technician also joined the team. Facilities staff continued their strong support of library programs and events, plus completed a major project in upgrading the security system at Main. Facilities also purchased a new courier van for the system in 2024.



## Children's Services

From babies to middle schoolers, Children's Services offered quality programs and educational opportunities to the families of the Charleston metro area over the past year. Families were encouraged to explore the world around them with presentations focusing on local government, the natural world via a variety of animal programs, and the Staycation Spring Break Week. The Department strengthened its many community collaborations with organizations such as the Charleston Dirty Birds, the Charleston Ballet, Exceptional Possibilities WV, ACLU WV, and George Washington High School. Whether experiencing the library through one of our many weekly storytimes, a STEM program, or a class visit, numerous children have experienced the joy of fun & learning through the Kanawha County Public Library!



## Marketing & Development

Marketing & Development unveiled 3 new library cards as part of Library Card Sign-up month in September. Patrons can now select one of 9 total card styles when signing up! The Department continued its monthly marketing partnerships with WSAZ TV, WTSQ radio, and Optimum cable TV, plus added new episodes to KCPL's TV program, *More Than Books*, produced by the WV Library Commission. The Department also provided promotional and logistical support for KCPL programs and events, including the Summer Library Club and the West Virginia Book Festival. Development's Annual Fund Campaign generated \$97,500 in funding for KCPL branches in 2025.



## Public Services

In 2024-25, the IDEA Lab completely replaced all of its 3D printers and offered special programs throughout the year, including summer STEAM camps at four branches in partnership with the National Youth Science Academy. The Teen Zone saw more than 1,200 teen visits during the year and now has four drop-in clubs, so there is always something fun to engage in. It also launched a Little Free Library with books on relevant topics that teens can keep. Plus, visiting teens can now print up to five free pages of homework per day throughout the system.

## Reference Services

The Reference Services department had some of the highest adult reader participation in its 2024 Summer Library Club reading challenge, with over 700 registered adult readers in our community! The Main Library hosted its first High Tea Party program in February 2025, with over 30 people attending to test an assortment of teas and show off their fabulous regency attire. The department's archive of Kanawha Players photos, playbills and more was organized by staff with help from Volunteers. Kanawha Players is one of the oldest running community theatre groups in the country, making this a significant resource for KCPL.

## Information Technology

Over the past year, IT reworked the main AV system to allow better control, additional operation, and expanded audio options. Staff arranged for federal funding for KCPL's mobile hotspot program and more than doubled the number of devices for public circulation. KCPL was also awarded a half million dollars from the USAC Cybersecurity pilot program. These funds will be used by the Library for Cybersecurity initiatives over the next 3 years.

## Tech Services

The Technical Services & Collections department had a busy year, with several staffing changes, including a new department manager, Jen Meddings. Limited to 5 staff members for much of the year, the Department still added 26,724 total physical items to the KCPL catalog in FY 24-25, plus an additional 67,605 items to the e-book and e-audiobook collections. Staff also processed 1,400 items for inter-library loans! In FY 25-26, Tech Services will welcome two new staff members and will revamp workflow with the implementation of the Koha Library Management System, which will make the library's acquisition and distribution process speedier and more efficient. KCPL is proud that cataloger Lori Falin was presented with the KCPL Outstanding Service Award for Excellence in Library Service for 2024!

## Friends of the Library

The purpose of the Friends is to support the library's vision and mission through advocacy, assisting with special events, volunteerism, fundraising and public relations, and offering assistance and support to each library in the system. Over the past year, the Friends have provided funding for numerous KCPL programs, as well as volunteering for library events. The Friends also provided gift baskets to all KCPL branches on Staff Appreciation Day in April.

## WV Book Festival

The 21st annual West Virginia Book Festival was held in October at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. Sponsored by KCPL, nearly 3,000 people attended the 2024 event, which featured bestselling authors Gregg Hurwitz, Sadeqa Johnson, Joy Calaway, Gene Luen Yang, and Mia Manansala. The Festival also featured presentations and workshops from local and regional authors, a literary marketplace, family activities, and the annual Used Book Sale.



# Thank you!

In recognition to all those who contributed to the 2024/2025 Annual Fund.

## CHARLESTON

Mike and Laura Lee Albert  
Timothy C. Alderman  
Colleen Anderson  
Sunya Anderson  
Ruby M. Atkins  
Diane H. Atkinson  
Bridget Bailey and Richard Shaffer  
Margaret and Charles Bailey  
Michele Baranaskas  
Ellen Kay Bastron and Victor C. Bastron  
Ann Bradley  
Matthew W. Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Evan Buck  
David R. Bungard  
Sandra and David Campbell  
Nancy and Steven Canterbury  
Carolyn and Stan Cavendish  
Center for Community Progress  
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Mike and Nancy Chaney  
George and Annette Cipriani  
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Mary and L.L. Craddock  
Frank D'Abreo  
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Patty Dodson  
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Samme Gee  
Janet R. Gerwig  
Kathie Giltinan  
Donna Goldberg  
Wendy Creve  
Larry and Sandra Groce  
Stephanie Haden  
Ryan Hagerty  
Martha M. Hall  
Cynthia A. Harris  
Susan M. Haupt  
Thomas Heywood and Melody Simpson  
Elizabeth High  
Dave Hoge

Dr. Eric T. Huang  
Tom and Julia Hurney  
Betty S. Ireland  
Mary and Greg Jenkins  
Mary E. Johnson  
Robert A. Johnston and Margaret N. Palmer  
Angela Jones  
Sara Joseph  
Kathryn J. Kay  
Mike and Ilyse Kelly  
Virginia L. King  
Priscilla P. Lawson  
Alfreda Leef  
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Love III  
Paula McCoy  
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Betty G. Stern  
Ken and Debra Sullivan  
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Heidi Talmage

Rachel Taylor  
Margaret H. Teeter  
Francine Thalheimer  
Jennifer Thomas  
Ken Ward and Elizabeth Wehner  
Steve and Laura Wehrle  
Ann and Jim Weimer (2)  
Liz and Louis Weisberg  
Stephen Wellons  
Sue Westfall  
Shelly White  
Susan Williams  
Chris and Ann Winton  
Michael Wolfe  
Adrienne Worthy  
Beverly P. Wright  
Kenneth C. Wright  
Todd Wright  
David Zinn

## HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Tom Heywood and Melody Simpson, in memory of Marion Baer  
Ted and Shelley Kanner, in memory of Marion Baer  
Georgiana B. King, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
NTV Asset Management, LLC, in memory of Marion Baer  
Nina Ratrie Peyton, in memory of Marion Baer  
Harry Rubenstein, in memory of Marion Baer  
Marion and Richard Sinclair, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Tyler Mountain Water Company, Inc., in memory of Marion Baer  
Katherine Wellford, in memory of Marion Baer  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Armbrecht, Jr., in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
David and Jennie Ferretti, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Thomas and Patricia Gruppioni, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Susan B. Hufford, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Melissa Menefee, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Alice B. Riecks, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Anne and Rick Sherley, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Stump, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Sarah G. Sullivan, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Pamela Dawn Tarr and Gary Hart,

in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Cary Weaver, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Pamela Emch, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Cookie Glasser, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley  
Emily and Paul Papadopoulos, in memory of Virginia H. Rugeley

## THE GREATER KANAWHA VALLEY FOUNDATION

CAMB Fund  
F.M. Davis Family Fund  
Lejeune-Farley Fund  
Robert Lawson Fund  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson Fund

## THE WOMAN'S KANAWHA LITERARY CLUB

Carol A. Casto  
Melissa T. Cowden  
Kelly R. Curry  
Jennie O. Ferretti  
Sarah E. Gottlieb  
Susan B. Haddad  
Patti Hamilton  
Pamela Harvit  
Ruth K. Joseck  
Renee Margocee  
Sally F. McClaugherty  
Dina M. Mohler  
Patricia M. Moyers  
Danita Nellhaus  
Jane Beattie Shepherd  
Anne R. Silbernagel  
Jo Ellen Diehl Yeary

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jill Wilson

## OTIS LAURY NUTITIONAL LITERACY CENTER

Thomas S. Cook, in memory of Lakin Ray Cook  
Patty Dodson  
Peyton and Anna Forbes  
Cookie Glasser  
Steve and Jane Halpin, in memory of Lakin Ray Cook  
Elizabeth McClintock  
Brittain and Judith McJunkin  
Nelle Ratrie Chilton Charitable Lead Annuity Trust  
John D. Pope  
Stuart Lewis Smith

## SUMMER LIBRARY CLUB

John A. & Lucille S. Pianfetti Foundation  
Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation  
Donna McNeely  
Nelle Ratrie Chilton Charitable Trust  
Liz and Louis Weisberg

## WEST VIRGINIA BOOK FESTIVAL

Thomas Dougherty  
Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation  
Nelle Ratrie Chilton Charitable Trust  
The Spartan Foundation and Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Company

Branch libraries located in unincorporated areas of Kanawha County are asked to raise a portion of their operating expenses. We thank the following donors who directed their Annual Fund contributions to the following branches:

## CLENDENIN

Anonymous  
Andy Frokjer, in memory of Lucy (Young) Frokjer  
Tina Hall  
Betty L. Jones  
Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation  
Nelle Ratrie Chilton Charitable Trust  
Debby A. Walker  
Elaine Woods

## CROSS LANES

Gail Alford  
Suellen Bottorf  
Bill and Faith Bragg  
Jeff and Dianna Branham, in memory of Lois Douglas  
Dennis and Marilyn Byrnside  
Rose Cooley  
Melba J. Farley  
Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Fischer  
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Brenda Pritt Hoover  
John A. & Lucille S. Pianfetti Foundation  
Jack L. & Norma S. Justice  
John and Linda Lacaria  
Jane Lowen  
Kanawha City Baptist Church, in memory of Lois Douglas  
Lois A. Ludwig  
Ronald and Juanita Mallory, in memory of Lois Douglas  
Lisa A. Mazzei and Phillip C. Prince  
Mark and Teresa McCormick  
Becky McLaughlin  
Jennifer Meeks  
Walt and Hollie Mitchell  
Ann Neidlinger  
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Betty Watson  
Westgate Property Owners Maintenance Assoc., Inc.  
Karen Williams  
Brenda Witt  
Robin J. Woodson  
Sandra Yingst

## DUNBAR

Thomas S. Cook, in memory of Lakin Ray Cook  
Phyllis J. Hawes  
Moon & Stars Quilters  
Majestic Mountains Needle Arts  
Betsy Rhodes  
Douglas Smoot  
Mary C. Summey  
Bonnie G. Tinch

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Anonymous  
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Dee Cavender  
Connie J. Crede  
Charlotte J. Cummings  
Jo Ellen Dean-Wagoner  
Elk River Living  
Elkview Dairy Queen  
Richard Fauss and Debra Basham  
Geraldine Foy  
Lee and Dorothea Fuqua  
Susan Hooper  
Murrel B. Hoover  
K & N Contracting  
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Teresa Koon  
Brenda S. Mace  
Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation  
Sandra Martin  
Frank and Joyce Mash  
Mary and W.K. McMorro  
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Chuck Stodola  
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Debby Walker  
Ronald L. Warren  
Carolynn White  
Benita Y. Whitman (2)

## GLASGOW

Susan Ward

## RIVERSIDE

Dianne Allport  
American Commemoratives  
Barbara Cook  
George and Annette Cipriani  
John and Donzella Fleck  
JoAnn Harris  
Stephen Rumbaugh

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Rethia and Jack Bumgardner  
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Nancy Cunningham  
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Lucille I. McClure  
Alma Sue Parsons, in memory of Eric L. Parsons  
Ms. R.L. Taylor  
Jean Ellen and Gregory Wallace







*The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.*

- Albert Einstein

### **Main Library**

123 Capitol Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Visit our website for hours and locations of all KCPL branches.



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