



## Director's Report to the Library Board of Trustees August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

### Operations

We made it! The library's summer reading programming over! Our staff is officially planning for the fourth quarter of the year.

Our new security cameras are live. We are getting close to the end of our new security system project as well. All part-time staff have been assigned a fob to get into doors, and select part-time (more than 20 hours/week) and all full-time staff will get photo card access to the doors. Valley Forge Security has been great to work with and has been a wonderful upgrade from the Protection Bureau. The front door is going to be the biggest issue, since that is our biggest problem right now (locks/unlocks at its leisure, hence, chain). They are coming back to finish the work soon, but have been waiting on the county to get them certain information they need in order to continue the job.

We lost a library window behind the reference desk sometime between close on Saturday, 8/17 and 2pm on Sunday, 8/18. The township was very quick to come out and take a look to help decide how to handle it. A glass company was eventually called out due to the height of the window from the outside. It is boarded up until it can safely be replaced.





# TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES

TREDYFFRIN PUBLIC LIBRARY & PAOLI LIBRARY

Abby started at Paoli on Monday! We are so excited to have her on our team, and Paoli is lucky to have her lead them.

We've been working on getting me and Valerie added to the Paoli Wells Fargo account, and getting Beverly removed. This is proving to be a more difficult process than we had anticipated for numerous reasons. Joe DiRocco is suggesting closing out both libraries' Wells Fargo accounts and having our Square accounts funnel into PLIGT accounts that he would open for us.

I am registered for and excited to attend the Pennsylvania Library Association's Annual Conference in Harrisburg October 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We have very exciting times ahead for the library with a renovation or expansion project. I will keep everyone in the loop with a monthly update on the agenda.

Please use the below Google Form for inputting your thoughts about our renovation project. I would love if you would take some time to fill it out when you have a free moment (no due date).

<https://forms.gle/219wNhSA1n7r6Rbw7>

## Building Access

For the month of July 2024, 15,851 library visits were recorded. Compared to July 2023, the visitor count increased by 3,889! This is the direction I love to see.

Libraries Combined						
Month to date						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	17,125	18,169	2,308	7,148	10,713	10,755
February	16,619	17,560	2,095	7,303	11,281	11,963
March	19,471	7,721	4,054	8,817	13,573	14,095
April	18,458	47	4,764	9,386	11,666	12,691
May	16,740	154	5,611	8,767	12,940	12,045
June	20,593	1,451	7,184	11,108	13,418	14,412
July	21,000	3,542	8,345	12,621	11,962	15,851
August	22,354	4,899	8,447	12,609	12,889	
September	19,778	5,167	5,959	10,576	9,937	
October	19,870	5,007	7,380	10,575	11,117	
November	18,930	4,719	8,230	11,661	11,051	
December	14,732	2,262	7,286	9,722	10,093	



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TREDYFFRIN PUBLIC LIBRARY & PAOLI LIBRARY

Monthly 2024 to 2023					
	July 2024	July 2023	Difference	% increase or decrease	
Paoli	3,565	2,678	887	33%	
Tredyffrin	12,286	9,284	3,002	32%	
Libraries Combined	15,851	11,962	3,889	33%	

Yearly 2024 to 2019				
	Tredyffrin	Paoli	Libraries Combined	
2024 (YTD)	71,248	20,564	91,812	
2023	110,408	30,232	140,640	
2022	92,061	28,232	120,293	
2021	52,365	19,298	71,663	
2020	52,166	18,532	70,698	
2019	170,248	55,422	225,670	

## Circulation

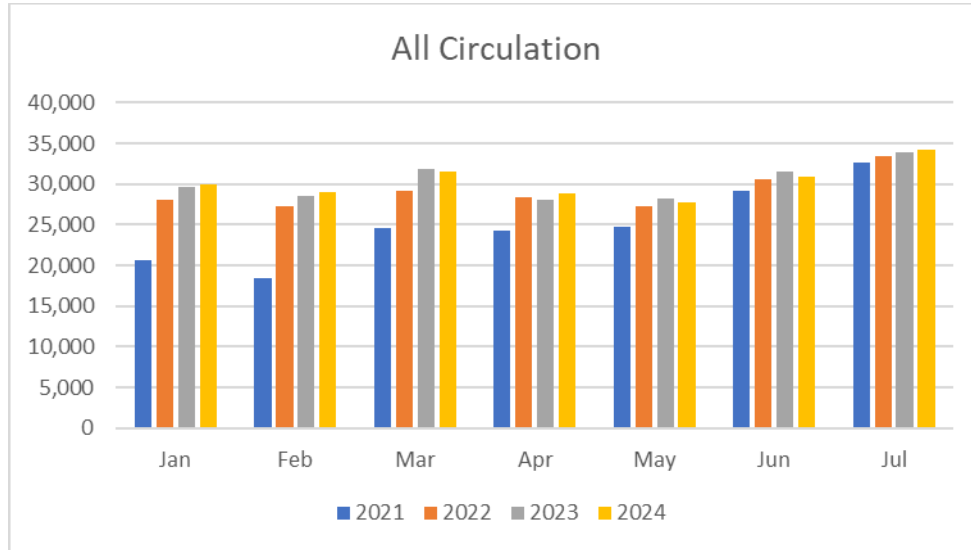
July 2024 circulation totaled 34,294. Overall circulation continues to improve but remains slightly lower than pre-pandemic totals. E-materials circulation remains high and accounts for approximately 28% of total circulation for 2024, so far.

All Circulation													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2019	32,444	30,670	33,220	31,318	29,629	32,899	36,563	35,057	31,093	31,583	29,979	29,330	<b>383,785</b>
2020	32,884	33,602	20,374	8,202	8,923	13,557	22,464	25,791	25,925	25,290	22,762	19,922	<b>259,696</b>
2021	20,659	18,421	24,680	24,230	24,718	29,178	32,707	31,704	24,807	26,929	26,285	26,682	<b>311,000</b>
2022	28,040	27,215	29,181	28,411	27,226	30,653	33,428	33,568	27,421	27,976	27,783	27,674	<b>348,576</b>
2023	29,657	28,481	31,813	28,150	28,181	31,593	33,983	34,308	27,822	28,048	27,995	27,771	<b>357,802</b>
2024	29,948	29,070	31,479	28,936	27,825	30,893	34,294						<b>212,445</b>



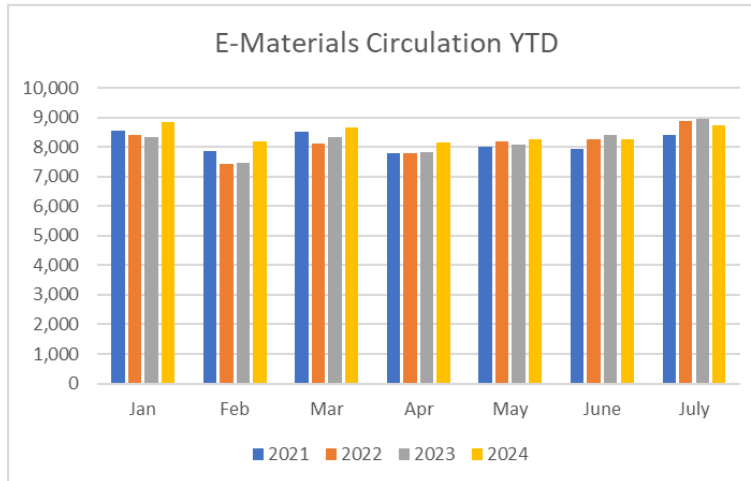
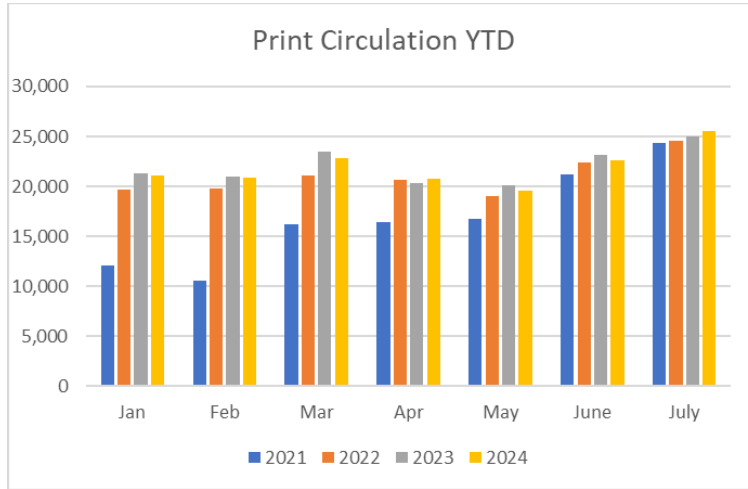
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TREDYFFRIN PUBLIC LIBRARY & PAOLI LIBRARY



Print Circulation													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2019	27,621	26,233	28,369	26,674	24,765	27,772	31,099	29,708	26,151	26,602	25,246	24,304	<b>324,544</b>
2020	26,609	27,657	13,783	87	52	4,946	13,865	17,494	18,665	18,077	15,774	12,413	<b>169,422</b>
2021	12,104	10,567	16,157	16,448	16,723	21,244	24,308	23,325	17,254	18,744	18,744	18,829	<b>214,447</b>
2022	19,633	19,789	21,069	20,636	19,036	22,377	24,545	24,638	19,450	20,033	19,957	19,679	<b>250,842</b>
2023	21,318	21,028	23,467	20,317	20,090	23,191	25,042	25,355	19,583	19,848	19,951	19,304	<b>258,494</b>
2024	21,109	20,887	22,833	20,771	19,579	22,637	25,575						<b>153,391</b>

E-Materials Circulation														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
2019	4,823	4,437	4,851	4,644	4,864	5,127	5,464	5,349	4,942	4,981	4,741	5,026	<b>59,249</b>	15.44%
2020	6,275	5,945	6,591	8,115	8,871	8,611	8,599	8,297	7,260	7,213	6,988	7,509	<b>90,274</b>	34.76%
2021	8,555	7,854	8,523	7,782	7,995	7,934	8,399	8,379	7,553	7,657	7,541	7,853	<b>96,025</b>	30.9%
2022	8,407	7,426	8,112	7,775	8,190	8,276	8,883	8,930	7,971	7,943	7,826	7,995	<b>97,734</b>	28.0%
2023	8,339	7,453	8,346	7,833	8,091	8,402	8,941	8,953	8,239	8,200	8,044	8,467	<b>99,308</b>	27.8%
2024	8,839	8,183	8,646	8,165	8,246	8,256	8,719						<b>59,054</b>	27.80%



**Programming Notes**

July 2024 programming numbers are listed here. The charts show updated totals for numbers of programs offered and program attendance.



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Programs Offered	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	126	178	221	84	98	115
February	136	183	212	90	93	128
March	131	86	153	93	120	135
April	169	64	101	82	108	136
May	157	99	140	69	121	139
June	153	135	165	76	119	136
July	137	162	241	80	124	142
August	165	130	122	74	122	
September	154	99	57	132	127	
October	171	107	126	81	116	
November	122	88	94	62	123	
December	142	76	70	52	78	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>931</b>

Programs Attendance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	2,084	3,474	2,997	756	1,641	2,606
February	1,973	3,822	2,966	867	1,545	2,198
March	2,020	1,156	2,107	1,005	2,220	2,604
April	2,197	1,418	1,915	841	2,082	2,405
May	2,420	2,282	2,363	943	1,886	2,460
June	5,786	1,928	2,254	1,086	2,335	3,211
July	2,518	2,144	2,966	941	2,502	2,932
August	3,230	1,925	2,324	1,192	2,162	
September	2,334	2,897	816	2,095	2,218	
October	3,335	1,491	1,445	1,218	2,104	
November	2,005	1,494	1,635	806	1,964	
December	1,930	1,278	852	890	1,230	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,832</b>	<b>25,309</b>	<b>24,640</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>23,889</b>	<b>18,416</b>

## Adult Services (submitted by Jonathan Trice):

In July, Sam and I continued to build out aspects of the website before its official launch on August 1. We worked with Yikes to fix any functional errors that surfaced while using the site, such as reconfiguring the staff contact page and squashing a bug in the homepage alert box feature. Stephanie Bragg created



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the first page for the Library of Things, which will be completed by September 1. Sam developed a survey that will be available for the month of August to gather data about patrons' experiences using the new website.

## **Adult Programming (submitted by Sam Sorensen):**

July was a busy month, despite the heat, with quite a few highly attended programs. Our big hits included the author talk for Arbo-READ-um, which had 88 attendees, and our Valley Forge Park Alliance Lunch & Learn on naturalistic design and plant selections, which had 30 attendees. Our adult Makerspace programs continue to be popular; Amy Moscia and I have come to know a core group of adult makers, and we welcome all the new folks who try new skills with us. Adult summer reading is going strong, and in July, an additional 15 adults signed up to read with us. Finally, we hosted a new Chair Yoga class on July 17. We are offering another on August 14, and ultimately, these two test runs will help Eileen and I determine if patrons are interested in a weekly class.

I curated the display for *Somewhere Over the Border* at People's Light, and their staff continue to express gratitude for our partnership. I am currently collaborating with People's Light and other local organizations on a November workshop designed to support queer and trans youth. The July Arbo-READ-um events—author talk, guided bird walk, needle felted birds workshop, and flapping birds drop-in craft—have been very successful. We anticipate more of the same as we conclude next month!

A lot of good things are coming! I am working on solidifying programming for October, November, and December now, which include new programs, such as a Civil War discussion group, additional English language learning offerings, and another book club. The fall will also signal the return of a lot of live music: Camerata Philadelphia, Munier Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra, and Blackbird Society Orchestra. I'm also working on two fall/winter reading/crafting challenges for patrons as we look forward to being cozy indoors soon.

## **Makerspace (submitted by Amy Moscia):**

The Makerspace has been busy this summer! Classes for all ages are still in high demand, many with long waitlists. 3D Printing has been the most in-demand service in July with 20 submitted files, which is in addition to all of the pieces from the 3D Printing classes! Family events have been highly requested, and we have planned three to add to September's offerings. We will also be starting Makerspace classes for homeschool groups and a "Tour the Makerspace" class in September.

I reworked Open Makerspace Hours to better serve patrons. Patrons can now sign up for limited one-hour time slots to work on independent projects and ask questions. Currently, I run Open Hours on Saturday afternoons when no programs are scheduled. We also tightened up our 3D Printing Policy; we are no longer offering a free print every three months since we kept receiving questions about patrons using spouse, sibling, child, etc. cards for prints. We reworked this so that more patrons would be able to utilize the service. In July, print costs averaged between \$0.50-\$2.00.



Individual appointments are still going strong. Many patrons attend a Makerspace program and then make appointments to create more using the skills they learned.

### **Children's Programming (Submitted by Stephanie Bragg):**

July was the height of Summer Reading events! We had many children's events in the department and the makerspace. There were 55 events with 1618 attendees. These events range from active to passive, including scavenger hunts and weekly guessing jars. In the middle of the month we hosted S.T.E.A.M. Week, each day's class representing a letter. For Science we studied different ways to use paper. For Technology, the class coded, drove, and built attachments with VinciBots. For Engineering, the class made roller coasters out of Strawbees. For Art, the participants studied geometric shapes in art then created colorful designs of their own with rulers and traceable objects. For Math, lastly, the children played multiplication games with dice and markers which also created art in the process.

Throughout the month we continued to have sign ups for the reading club. Every day children stop by the reading club table to show their accomplishments and receive raffle tickets. Some even collected their reading challenge prize for reading 1000 minutes, a custom designed cup.

### **Teen Programming (Submitted by Laurie Doan)**

Teens in July held our monthly events including: board game and cards night, Nintendo Switch on the big screen, chess, teen book groups, crochet and our Roundtable Discussion Dinner.

Special events included an Open Mic Night with Bach to Rock. This exciting night featuring solo acts, duets, trios and more. Bach to Rock set up the sound system on the terrace and did a wonderful job of keeping the show going and encouraging the performers. The music attracted fans that were passing through the park, including some of the animals.

We hosted a free College Essay Night with award-winning tutor and writing specialist Carrie Waldron-Brown, MA. This enthusiastic educator holds a Master of Arts in English Literature from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School via Oxford University (UK), and an undergraduate degree in English Literature magna cum laude from Barnard College/Columbia University. Carrie is a seasoned/former English teacher and writing center director with a particular passion for helping students gain confidence with the writing process.

Hundreds of students have benefitted from Carrie's guidance. In this workshop she gave us an overview of the essay process, advice on how to nail down a superior topic, and guidelines to effectively develop a precise and eloquent essay. Also, Carrie covered "pro tips" to magnify student's "WOW" factor, helping their essays radiantly stand out for admissions officers.





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We introduced a new 2-week academic review camp, “School Away from School” where rising 7th through rising 9th grade students explored new interests and expanded their knowledge in an engaging and enjoyable “summer school.” Subjects were taught by rising college frosh Tanisha Agrawal (UPenn) and Chris Marcil (Dickinson) and included reading, writing, poetry, word problems and mental math. We shared ideas and opinions in our Roundtable Discussions. We welcomed Bach to Rock in to teach songwriting and Chris Swisher for photography. This was a “No Fee! No Electronics! Just fun, learning & snacks!” class.

On the first day of class, students seemed skeptical and it was pretty clear that parents had pushed them into the class. A few days, and an ice-cream social later, students began to enjoy the program. On the last day of class, students were exchanging contact information and telling us how much fun they had and that they’d be back next summer!

Our annual Performance Arts camp kicked off July 29. Eleven summers ago, we set out to create a performing arts camp that emphasized community and ensemble rather than competition—something affordable, flexible and accessible to all families and schedules. This year we welcomed back teaching artists Haley Phares and Maria Dell’Orefice and choreographer Sarah Vogan.

Haley Phares is an actress and singer who performed onstage at Conestoga High School. Her favorite role was working in the ensemble for “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” She practiced voice with the Kate Mallon-Day Voice Studio for all four years of high school and is currently pursuing a BA from West Chester University. She believes in the promise of music to improve emotional and physical well-being and is passionate about the inclusivity of music and theatre.

Maria Dell’Orefice, a classical pianist and avid violinist, has shared the stage with a multitude of performers including Alexander Markov, Francesca DePasquale and Chris Botti. Maria has also performed solo piano in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall as a result of winning the Semper Pro Musica Competition, Elite International Music Competition, and Crescendo International Piano Competition. Maria performed for an opera program in Mondavio, Italy in which she accompanied Mozart’s Don Giovanni. She is a musical director for the Delaware Valley Opera Company and has music directed and performed piano reductions for the productions of Goyescas, Abu Hassan, and Il matrimonio segreto. She is also the pianist for the Haverford and Bryn Mawr College choirs, Staff Pianist Artist in Residence at Temple University, and Staff Pianist for the Philadelphia Young Pianists’ Academy (PYPA) Piano Festival. Maria frequently performs new music and is the pianist of Ensō New Music, a chamber ensemble that plays new music composed by living composers.

Sarah Vogan holds a BA in dance from Mount Holyoke College and the Five College Dance Department, she choreographed an adjudicated piece for ACDF. In 2007, Ms. Vogan traveled to Ireland to exhibit and teach American tap dance to the students of various schools, while also studying Irish step dance with international champions, Jim Hickey and Justin Walsh. Since graduating from college, she began her



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teaching career and continues to teach at many dance studios in the greater Philadelphia area. She was recognized with a choreography award in the 2013-2014 competition season for one of her tap numbers. Ms. Vogan has also been choreographing musicals for local schools and community theaters, including the Barn Playhouse and Forge Theater.

The performance arts program continued in August.

*Respectfully submitted by Mallory Hoffman (with statistics and pivot table help from Valerie Green) 😊*