

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

what will you *discover*?



ABOUT LIVINGSTON PARISH LIBRARY

Board of Control: Ronnie Bencaz (President), Kathy deGeneres (Vice-President), Stephen Link, Ivy Graham, Roy Miller, Debbie Henson, Lindsay Varnado, Layton Ricks (Ex-Officio Member)

The Board of Trustees serves as the governing body for the LPL system. Board members are appointed by the parish council and are residents from across the parish. Board members are appointed to five-year terms and may serve more than one term.

Director: Giovanni Tairov

Assistant Director: Jennifer Seneca

Vision Statement

Livingston Parish Library will be our community's primary resource for information and learning opportunities, as well as be a leader for innovative library services that spark curiosity and inspire new ideas.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Livingston Parish Library is to provide all members of the Livingston Parish community with resources and programs to fulfill their informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs.

Highlights from Library Card Sign-Up Month in September 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



In this often noisy, highly polarized world, libraries remain the center of accurate and unbiased information. Libraries are places where communities come together and enjoy open access to knowledge -- in whatever format it may come. Libraries inspire self-betterment, civil discourse and offer great opportunities for learning and growth.

The past year has demonstrated our Library's pivotal role in strengthening our community through building partnerships and providing greater access to learning resources. The five branches of the Livingston Parish Library were visited 313,000 times, and the number of library cardholders increased by 13 percent. The Library continued to expand its reach into underserved areas of Livingston Parish by conducting over 400 hundred outreach programs, with 12,444 people visiting our bookmobile.

There is no other public institution that is as highly valued and supported by so many diverse groups of citizens. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of our patrons for playing such an important role in ensuring that the Library can continue to pursue its mission. We will continue to work hard to make sure that the Library meets your expectations every time you use it.

Giovanni Tairov
Director

TAIROV NAMED LLA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

During the Louisiana Library Association's (LLA) annual award ceremony on Thursday, March 14, LPL Director Giovanni Tairov was honored as the recipient of the association's Public Library Director of the Year award.

The prestigious award is presented to a current library director whose outstanding contributions are exemplified in the growth, leadership, and development of their library system according to the LLA.

The award was presented by LPL Assistant Director Jennifer Seneca during the LLA's award ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.

(Photo courtesy of Livingston Parish News)



LAST YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

137,065

TOTAL LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS

14,277

NEW LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UPS



TOTAL ITEMS IN COLLECTION

1.167 M

ITEMS ADDED TO COLLECTION

34,883

312,894

TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS

2,955

MEETING & STUDY ROOM RESERVATIONS





2,846

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF PROGRAMS**

57,158

**TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE**

LAST YEAR BY THE NUMBERS



40,664

**TOTAL
COMPUTER
LAB SESSIONS**

40,368

**TOTAL
WIRELESS
SESSIONS**



**2019 WEBSITE
VISITS**

164,977

**2019 WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS**

342,381

Statistics tracked through October 31, 2019.



3,743

**TOTAL
FACEBOOK
PAGE LIKES**

22.28%

**AUDIENCE
GROWTH
VS. 2018**



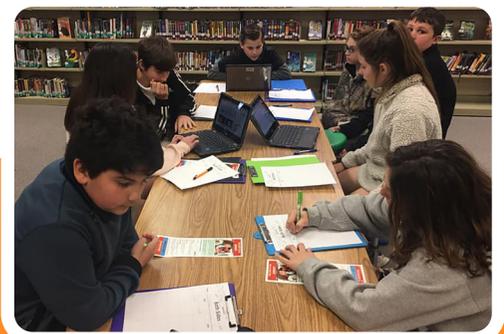
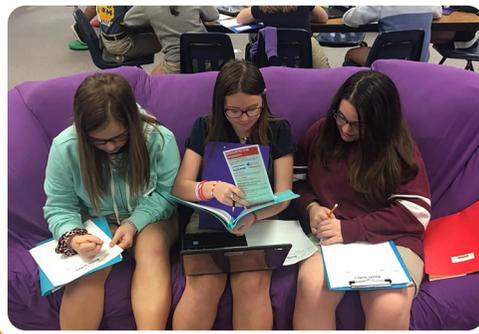
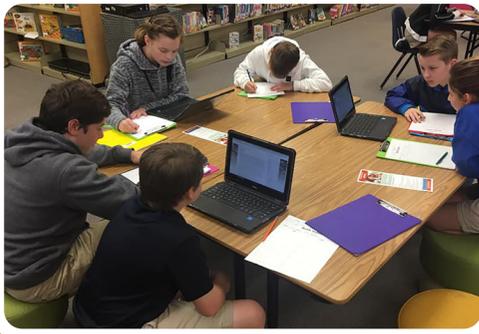
ACHEIVMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS



LPL ENROLLS 26,000+ STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN NEW eCARD PROGRAM

On February 26, the Library announced a new partnership with Livingston Parish Public Schools (LPPS) to provide all Livingston Parish students, teachers, and educators with immediate access to the library's digital resources and services through its new eCard program.

The new LPL eCard grants students access to all electronic resources provided by the library, ranging from Scholastic databases that offer homework help, to resources offering downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, movies, and magazines. Additionally, the eCard allows students and teachers to visit their local branch to convert their eCard into a full-fledged library card that allows them to check out physical items.



LPL ANNOUNCES ELIMINATION OF OVERDUE FINES TO INCREASE LIBRARY ACCESS

After announcing the elimination of fines on all teen and youth accounts in 2018, Livingston Parish Library took another leap in removing barriers to basic library services and resources by eliminating overdue fines and outstanding debt for all library patrons. The policy change was approved by the Library's Board of Trustees at their board meeting on November 25.

With this announcement, the Library became one of the first public library systems in Louisiana to become fine free, joining a growing movement among libraries across the country.

Recent studies show that avoiding overdue fines does not serve as an incentive for returning items in a timely manner. Such fines have increasingly been found to often become a barrier that prevents patrons from utilizing library services. In fact, libraries across the country that have eliminated overdue fines have reported an increase in the return of long-overdue materials and an uptick in library usage.

A graphic announcement for Livingston Parish Library's "FINE FREE!" policy. It features a cartoon owl mascot wearing glasses and a bow tie, giving a thumbs-up. To the right, the text reads "BIG NEWS! Livingston Parish Library is now FINE FREE!" in large, bold letters. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text "Learn more at www.mylpl.info/FineFree."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

DISCOVER “ A UNIVERSE OF STORIES!” SUMMER READING PROGRAM KICKS OFF

Livingston Parish Library kicked off its annual summer reading program on Tuesday, May 28 with a celebration kickoff party at all five branches of the LPL. Patrons of all ages were invited to register for summer reading, play games, earn prizes, and get a preview of the entire summer reading program activities and performances.

The annual summer reading program for children, teens and adults ran between May 28 and July 31. The program aimed to promote literacy and engage school-aged youth throughout the summer by offering fun and educational activities as well as reading challenges to complete and earn prizes.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

3,819 Total Participants

2,158 Children
(Ages 0-11)

415 Teens (Ages 12-18)

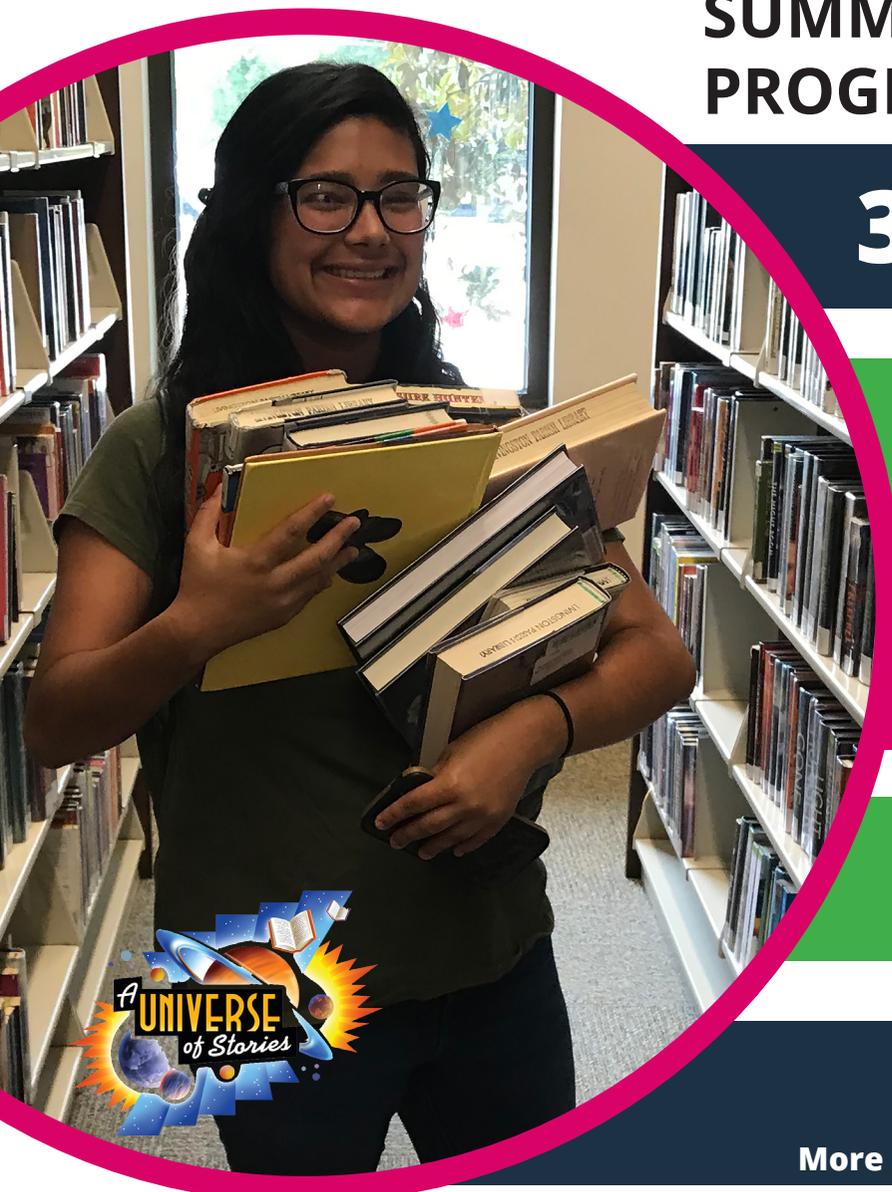
1,246 Adults (Ages 18+)

186

More Participants vs. 2018

64%

Completion Rate



“A UNIVERSE OF STORIES” SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENTS RECAP



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

PATRONS CELEBRATE FANDOMS AT THE ANNUAL COMIC CON EVENT

Patrons gathered at the Denham Springs-Walker Branch on Saturday, February 2 for the 2019 LPL Comic Con.

Inspired by the annual mega-event in San Diego, the LPL Comic Con is a celebration of all things comic book, movie, television, video games, and pop culture. Attendees were invited to participate in games and activities, interact with local authors and illustrators, or cosplay as their favorite characters.

The 2019 LPL Comic Con featured a series of events and activities for all ages. Teen and tween fans of the *Harry Potter* books and films participated in the library's version of the TriWizard Tournament. After being "sorted" into different houses, participants competed in a series of challenges similar to those presented in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." Following the competition, teams also competed in games of Quidditch and attended wand making classes.

The 2019 event also featured an interactive superhero play for children ages three and older. The original play was created by the Library's youth staff and pitted the Super Librarian against The Story Eraser.

Between scheduled events, comic con attendees were able to participate in on-going activities including tabletop gaming, face painting, superhero crafts, author meet-and-greets, and more. Representatives from STARFLEET Region3, the Louisiana Chapter of the International Star Trek Fan Association, were also in attendance.



780 Total Attendees



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL AUTHORS AND LIVE PERFORMANCES HEADLINE SIXTH ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Livingston Parish Library presented its annual book festival celebrating books, literacy, and Livingston Parish at the Main Branch in Livingston on Saturday, October 26.

Normally hosted outside on the library branch's open field, the sixth annual festival was moved inside the branch due to inclement weather impacting the area. Despite the weather conditions, more than 1,100 patrons attended the event to enjoy the (indoor) festivities.

The 2019 book fest featured nearly 30 adult, young adult, and children's authors; including Pulitzer Prize finalist Stanley Nelson who served as the festival's featured author. Nelson, who serves as the editor for the *Concordia Sentinel* in Ferriday, LA, spent 10 years investigating a string of Civil Rights-era murders in southwest Mississippi and northeastern Louisiana. Nelson's investigative work led to the identification of members of the most secretive Klan cell known in America - the Silver Dollar Group. His work became the basis of a blockbuster trilogy by *New York Times* bestselling author Greg Iles.

Attendees were also treated to a special Elvis experience as Louisiana native and Elvis Presley tribute artist Jayson Alfano performed popular songs from the "The King's" collection. Jazz enthusiasts were also delighted by members of the West Baton Rouge "Oasis" Jazz Band.





1,121 Total Attendees



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

LPL UNVEILS NEW DISCOVERY MOBILE

On Thursday, April 25, the Library officially unveiled its new mobile library during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Main Branch in Livingston. Officially called the Discovery Mobile, the new vehicle serves as a mobile branch of the library system, offering access to many services and resources that are available in all five of the LPL traditional branches.

The Discovery Mobile is operated by the Outreach Department, which routinely visits multiple daycares and nursing homes throughout the community. With the launch of the Discovery Mobile, the library's list of community stops expanded to increase the department's reach. Additionally, the outreach staff uses the Discovery Mobile to provide library access to rural areas of the parish.



FIRST RESPONDERS CELEBRATED AT COMMUNITY HEROES DAY PROGRAM

On Saturday, September 7, the Library hosted its first-ever Community Heroes Day at the Denham Springs-Walker Branch. The event celebrated local first responders and everyday heroes who work tirelessly to protect the parish.

More than 600 community members braved high temperatures to attend the inaugural event to personally meet and celebrate local firefighters, policemen, and emergency medical technicians. Attendees enjoyed games, face painting, and more while exploring first responder vehicles.

Attendees were also treated to free food and drinks provided by event sponsors: Denham Patty, Walk-On's Bistreaux & Bar, Chick-Fil-A, Texas Road House, and Papi's Mexican Cuisine.



