



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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OUR PURPOSE: EDUCATION FOR ALL

Avon Grove Library is a vital educational institution, providing equal opportunity for self-directed learning, research assistance and instruction, and enriching experiences for over 33,000 people of all ages in southern Chester County, Pennsylvania.

We deliver high-quality teaching and educational resources for all. Our mission is critical, because the public library is the only American institution that provides free-at-point-of-service lifelong education to people of all backgrounds, developing the workforce, advancing the economy, and improving the quality of life for everyone.

PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND LEARNING RESOURCES

In 2015, Avon Grove Library served 126,297 people – a number amounting to over 25% of the total population of Chester County.

In 2015, Avon Grove Library offered 2,571 hours of open access to all residents of the seven municipalities making up the Avon Grove school district: Avondale Borough, Franklin Township, London Britain Township, London Grove Township, New London Township, Penn Township, and West Grove Borough.

119,059 people were counted in the library in 2015, up 5.3% from the 2014 total of 113,370. A large 2015 increase in children's programming accounts for much of this increase.

With attendance at programs outside the library figured in, the total customer count was 126,297 in 2015, up 5.5% from 119,688 in 2014.

FACILITATING SELF-DIRECTED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Library specialists processed 3,547 new items while weeding 5,231 old, outdated items from the collections, creating an ever more current and useful accumulation of resources for education and enrichment. At the end of 2015, Avon Grove Library held a total of 52,522 print books, audio books, DVDs, CDs, periodicals, kits, large print books, and other items.

The library loaned 154,606 books, DVDs, periodicals, and other materials throughout the year, down 4.1% from 2014's total of 161,065. A smaller total spent on materials in 2015, coupled with erratic collection spending for a large part of the year while leadership was turning over, probably accounts for a good part of the difference.

The quality of our collections is demonstrated by the fact that customer requests for titles from outside libraries were few: only 114 items were received for Avon Grove customers from libraries outside the Chester County system, while we sent 56 items to non-member libraries who requested them.

5,598 people used the library's 12 Internet-accessible computers in 2015, about 18 uses daily.

OFFERING RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION

Avon Grove Library's knowledge experts assisted customers with research questions 3,489 times in 2015. Outreach and other classes, as well as presentations to groups such as visiting students from the local Catholic school, taught library and research skills to children and teens.

DELIVERING ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

In 2015 our youth educators organized 958 classes and events for children and young adults with a combined attendance of 23,103. Library instructors also offered 82 classes and events for adults, with 913 attending.

The statistics for children's and teen programming were especially impressive this past year. The number of programs rose 28.4% from 2014's total of 746 classes and events, while attendance was up 4.6% from the 2014 total of 22,086. Storytimes geared to specific age groups were offered Monday through Saturday each week.

New activities were added, such as PAWS for Reading (a literacy development program in which children read aloud to therapy dogs) and GeoTrax Build and Play (hands-on construction using the popular toy railroad components), as well as several new teen programs.



Figure 1: PAWS for Reading at Avon Grove Library

Summer Reading Program statistics were a good deal higher than the previous year. In 2015, 981 children and teens participated, an impressive 88.3% increase from the 521 who took part the summer before. Children's staff held 330 separate Summer Reading events this summer, up 14.9% from 287 events held in 2014, and 4.5% more children and teens took part in 2015 – 8,849 compared to 8,467 the year before. Children and teens read 24,055 books in 2015, up 14.4% from 2014's total of 21,036.

At the end of the year, the Children’s Department also won a grant from the PA Office of Commonwealth Libraries that supplied the library with “Wee Build” materials – nine sets of manipulatives and toy construction materials that will be used to increase STEM learning in our younger population.

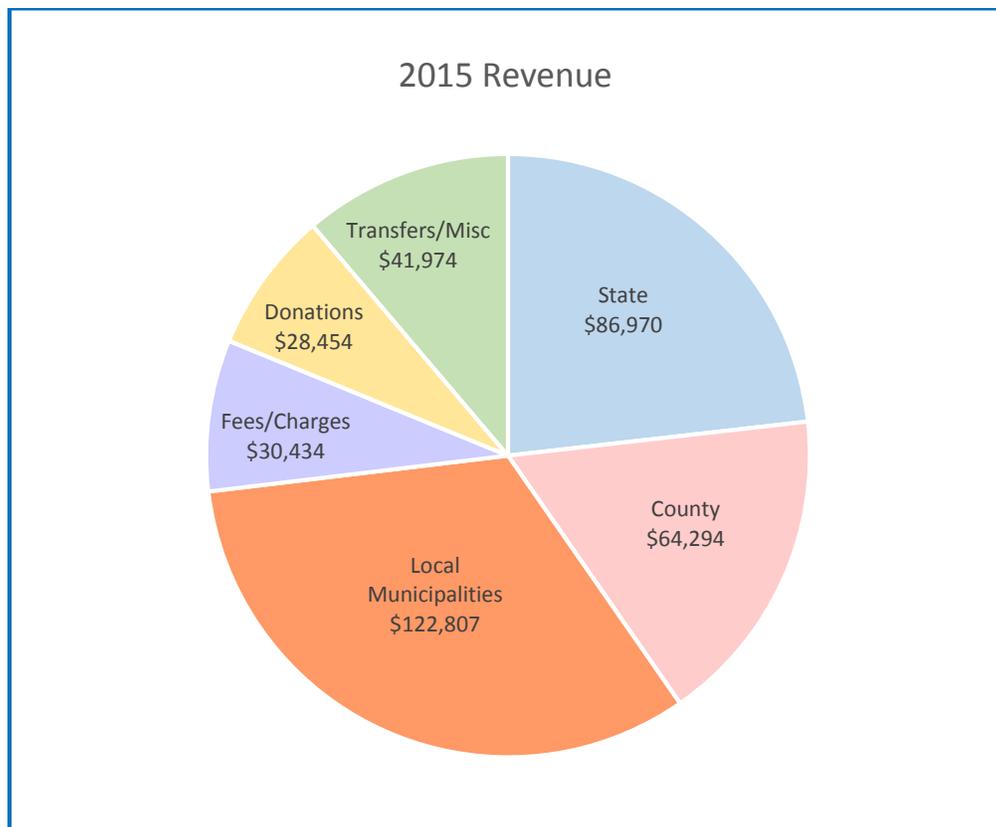
Outreach programming also increased greatly over 2014. Library staff conducted 311 outreach programs in 2015, a 21% increase over 2014’s total of 257. The total 2015 attendance of 7,238 represented a 9.9% increase over 2014’s figure of 6,585.

Avon Grove Library, as always, was also served by an excellent group of adult and teen volunteers. Twenty adults and 81 teens gave a total of 1,683 hours to the library in 2015, up an impressive 21.6% from 2014’s total of 1,384 hours.

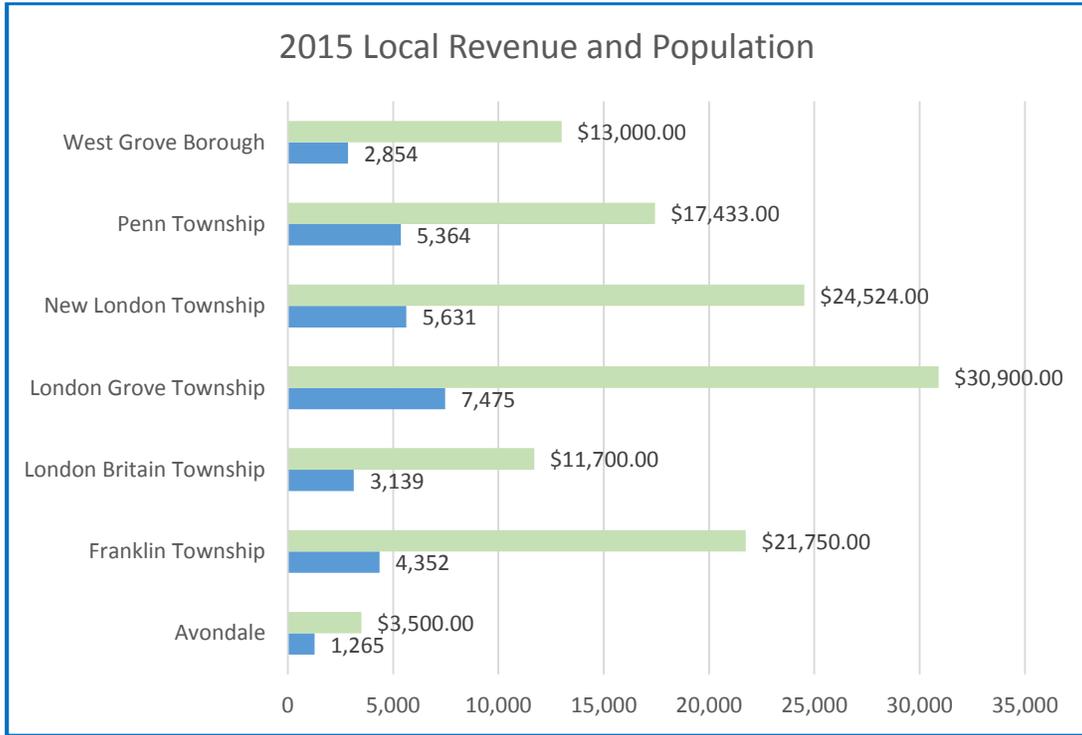
FUNDING: OUR VITAL SUPPORT

Avon Grove Library receives no federal funding directly. Our funding comes from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania via the Chester County Library System, from the local municipalities we support, and from customers and donors.

In 2015, the library received a total of \$374,933 in revenue:



Local municipalities gave their support in varying amounts:



Municipality support ranged from \$2.77 to \$5.00 per capita:



RENOVATIONS: CREATING MORE FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SPACES

The past year saw many changes and improvements to our public and working spaces. Last spring, new furniture was installed in the Director's Office; following that, a major renovation of the Processing Room took place, adding working space and storage.



Figure 2: Renovated Processing Room

Wall cabinets were moved from the Circulation Desk to the Processing back wall; much-needed bookshelves were installed behind the Circulation Desk in place of the cabinets. A new worktop was built beneath the newly moved cabinets, while more shelves were added to the Processing front and side walls. A row of coathooks was added to one wall, and the back of the neon sign was covered with a colorful art print. The result was a more attractive and functional space for staff, even adding space for work breaks.

The Computer Lab was repainted and a new artwork hanging system was installed, allowing the lab to also serve as an art gallery. Some library materials were moved to make the front area of the library more efficient and attractive. A new collection of graphic novels was placed on shelving close to the front.



Figure 3: Renovated Computer Lab/Art Gallery

Out front and in the Director's office, new and brighter LED lights replaced the old bulbs to brighten the Circulation Desk and surrounding areas while offering energy savings. The travel brochure carousel by the front door was replaced with a bulletin board and brochure racks for community information, allowing the tops of the back bookcases to be cleared.

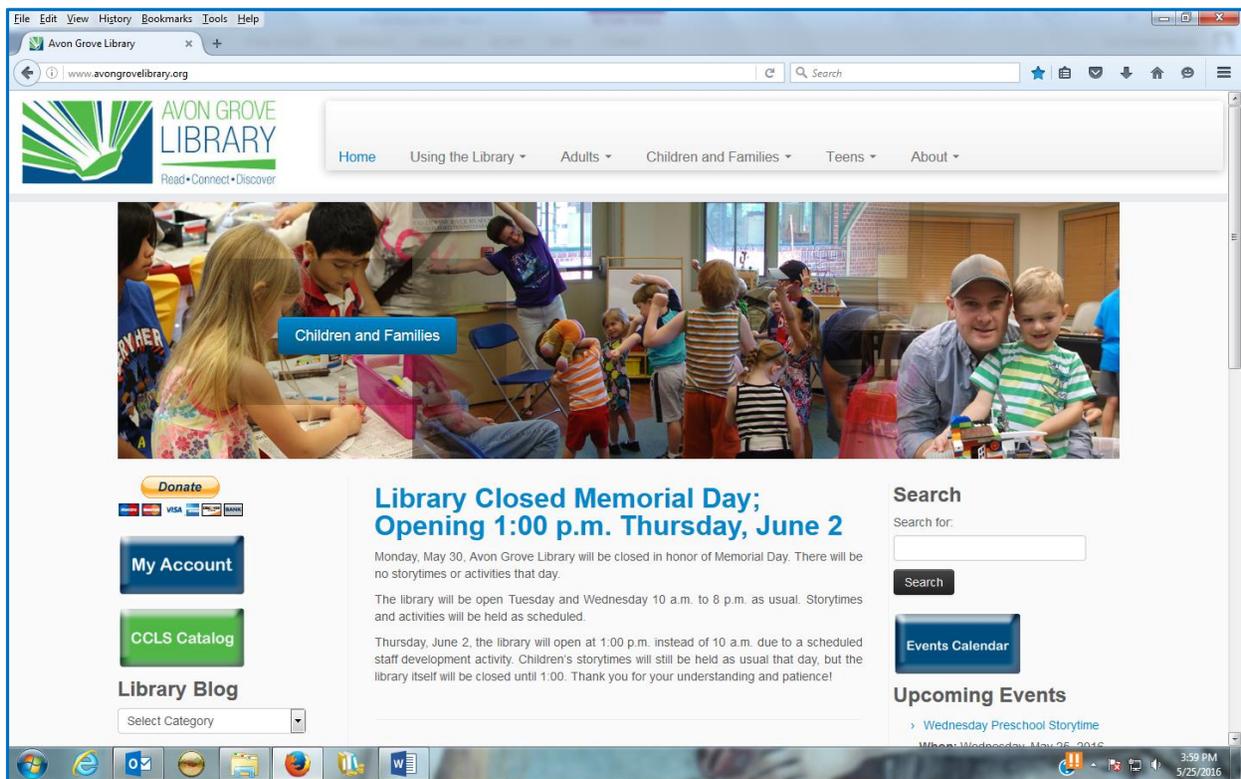
FRIENDS OF AVON GROVE LIBRARY

Our dedicated Friends group funded several items for the Children's Department in 2015, including new stacking chairs for adults in the Children's Activity Room, T-shirts for the Summer Reading Program, a Windows laptop for use with the library's projector, and other items. The

Friends also purchased new customized canvas bags to sell to library visitors. We greatly appreciate the Friends, their devotion to the Library, and all their hard work.

THE LIBRARY WEBSITE: OUR ELECTRONIC FACE

Our website manager researched website development and graphics this past year, making many improvements to the library website. She added scrolling photos to the front page, while placing news posts front and center. More informational pages were added, such as a page with links to Board minutes.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT: EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS

August 28 saw the library's first collective Staff Development Day, attended by a majority of staff members. Workshops on database and catalog searching tips, a staff meeting, and a class on the "DiSC Profile" for working-style analysis, were well received by staff.

Avon Grove staff members earned a total of 97 hours of continuing education credit in 2015.

THE ROAD AHEAD

2015 brought many challenges and opportunities for Avon Grove Library: changes in personnel and leadership, the disruption of renovations, and the need to keep developing current and attractive library collections and programs, among others. I am very proud of our hard-working and accomplished library staff for doing all that they did to make the past year so successful.

In 2016, our team of dedicated library instructors and specialists looks forward to advancing the library's mission ever further, promoting equal access to learning resources and curricula, providing opportunities for self-directed education as well as enjoyment, delivering research assistance and instruction, and offering enriching experiences to people of all ages, who are our students and customers for life.

*Respectfully submitted March 23, 2016,
Lori A. Schwabenbauer, MSLS, Director*

2015 LIBRARY STATISTICS

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Change</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Change</i>	
In-House Door Count	2014	113,103			Total Circulation	2014	161,141	
	2015	119,059	↑ 5.3%			2015	154,606	↓ 4.1%
Outreach Program Attendance	2014	6,585			Computer Use	2014		
	2015	7,238	↑ 9.9%			2015	5,598	
Total Customer Count	2014	119,688			Reference Questions	2014		
	2015	126,297	↑ 5.5%			2015	3,489	
Juvenile Book/Magazine Circulation	2014	74,817			Number of Children's Programs	2014	746	
	2015	74,603	↓ 0.3%			2015	958	↑ 28.4%
Adult Circulation (includes books on CD)	2014	57,744			Attendance @ Children's Programs	2014	22,086	
	2015	52,577	↓ 8.9%			2015	23,103	↑ 4.6%
Overdrive (ebooks, eaudiobooks)	2014	12,283			Number of Adult Programs	2014	92	
	2015	14,119	↑ 14.9%			2015	83	↓ 8.9%
Magazine Circulation (Adults)	2014	2,403			Attendance @ Adult Programs	2014	1,339	
	2015	2,266	↓ 5.7%			2015	949	↓ 29.6%
Audio-Visual Circulation	2014	13,894			Volunteer Hours	2014	1,384	
	2015	11,041	↓ 20.5%		2015	1,683	↑ 21.6%	