



START YOUR STORY

2022 COMMUNITY REPORT

LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES



LIVE OAK
Public Libraries

MARCH 2023

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LIBRARIES CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

For Live Oak Public Libraries, 2022 was a year of growth – and a year of hope. Libraries and communities continued learning together as we shared new post-pandemic experiences.

Libraries found a renewed sense of purpose by being fully open to the public. Children, teens, adults, and families reconnected with the Library, finding resources to help them pursue their interests and reach their goals.

Thank you to all of our library patrons and community partners for allowing us to be a part of your story.

Our communities are increasing their engagement with libraries.

More people visited libraries to check out more books and museum passes.
More people of all ages attended more programs – and returned in person.
More people signed up for library cards online and at the library.

Our neighbors are improving their lives with the help of libraries.

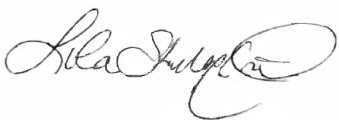
More people used library computers and internet to successfully apply for jobs.
More people borrowed laptops and hotspots to complete courses at home.
More people used digital resources for education and entertainment.

Libraries offer so many opportunities and we plan to do even more!
As the coastal Georgia region continues to develop, we are confident that library services will expand to meet the growing needs of our neighbors.

Live Oak Public Libraries will ensure that everyone continues to have free access to information, available at the library and online.

We are grateful to communities in Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties for their ongoing support of Live Oak Public Libraries, and we look forward to building an even brighter future together.

We invite you to start your story, explore your world, discover your voice, and create your future!



Lola Shelton-Council
Library Executive Director



Dr. Gordon Baker
Regional Library Board Chair

COUNTY LIBRARY BOARDS

Thank you to these community volunteers for their service.

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Ambria Berksteiner
Erin Lovejoy
Laura Nottingham
Jere Williams

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LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD

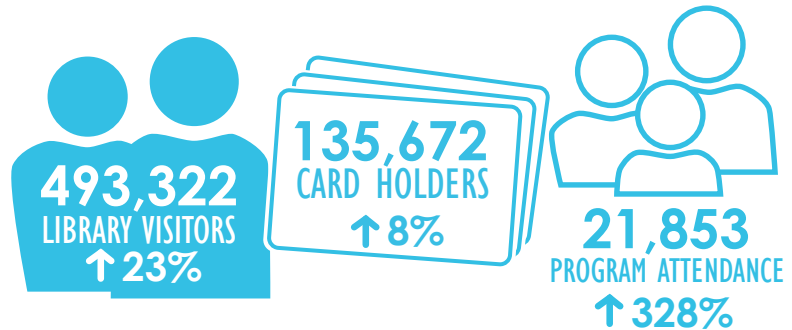
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Krystal Hart, Vice Chair
Doris Barrett, Secretary
Pearl Axson
Rose Mary Brown
Jack Graves, Sr.
Demmentrice Jefferson
Aminata Traore-Morris

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Laura Nottingham, Treasurer
Ambria Berksteiner
Hank Heller
Erin Lovejoy
James Odum
Marie Rozman
Aminata Traore-Morris
Brienne Walsh
Jere Williams

ONE YEAR MILLIONS OF STORIES

Libraries create opportunities for all ages to meet new friends,
read great books, access technology, and enjoy lifelong learning!



CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY



BORROW BOOKS & MORE



ACCESS RESOURCES



FIND INFORMATION



START YOUR STORY

Your local library is here for you – no matter what chapter of life you are in!

Live Oak Public Libraries promotes early literacy, success in school, and lifelong learning.

Your library encourages youth and families with storytimes and after-school programs, homework help and tutoring, and fine-free accounts for public school students.

And you can find support for continuing education with financial workshops, genealogy classes, tech help, and more.



I'm a first time mom to an active, curious, and rambunctious one-year-old boy. I decided to do some research about our library system and found storytime, play time, and more at many locations!

We go at least once a week and every librarian has gone out of their way to welcome us, even on fussy days. We have read 150 books and are on our way to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

The library has been such a joy for our little family!

~ Rachel
Oglethorpe Mall Library Customer

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Your local library is here for you – no matter where you are going!

Live Oak Public Libraries provides inspiration with special events and exhibits featuring locally and nationally recognized authors, artists, and activists.

Your library gives you access to entertainment to expand your horizons. You can watch movies, stream TV shows, and visit a museum or Georgia State Park – all for free!

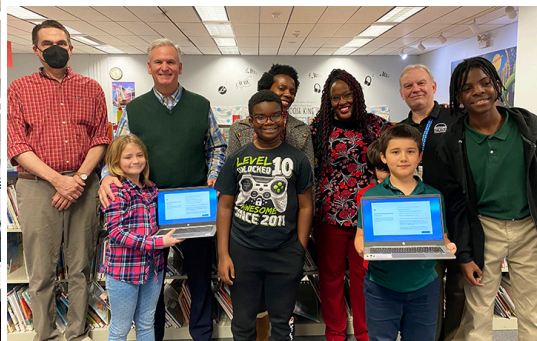
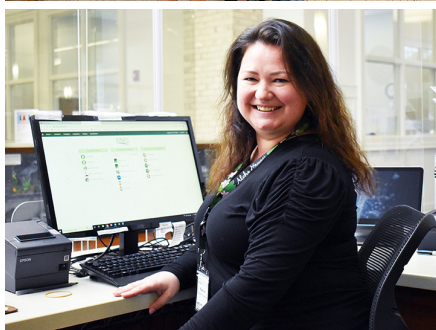
You can even check out seed packets from the Seed Library and start a garden at home.



I am a frequent member of the Teen Book Club. I love being able to talk to a group of like-minded people who possess the same love for literature as I do.

This program has encouraged me to read books from all genres and cultures. I'm so excited for this club to continue. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

~ Emma
Southwest Chatham Library Customer



DISCOVER YOUR VOICE

Your local library is here for you – no matter where your imagination takes you!

Live Oak Public Libraries engages youth with STEM programs that facilitate critical thinking and art and music programs that encourage creative expression.

Your library can help you stay connected, especially with the latest technology. You can use computers and internet at the library or borrow a laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot for access on-the-go.



My child attended Ms. Madson's Music Ukulele Workshop. I just wanted to let you know how much we loved the program. It was the highlight of my son's summer!

It's hard for the middle school age group to find things to do. They are "too old" for the younger story and craft programs and "too young" for the teens activities. This was the perfect workshop.

~ Lisa
Pooler Library Customer

CREATE YOUR FUTURE

Your local library is here for you – no matter where your journey leads you!

Live Oak Public Libraries assists students and adults in achieving their goals, whether learning new skills or finding a new favorite book.

Your library offers a variety of resources for job seekers, entrepreneurs, and small business owners. You can build your resume prepare for an exam, or study a new language.



Since 2020, my regular occupation has been hurt. Like many folks, I'm having to do things to make ends meet.

Being able to make copies at the library is a big help and I've also used the library internet to put in job applications.

I'm there at least three times a week... All the librarians are very cheerful and friendly.

~ David
Rincon Library Customer

CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Your local library is here for you – no matter where you may find us!

Live Oak Public Libraries reaches out to the community to meet you at events and activities across Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties.

Community engagement also includes innovative programs: Community Bookshelf donations for schools and nonprofits, Books on the Go for homebound and senior citizens, and Student PLAY fine-free library accounts for public schools. And all ages have fun with Summer Reading Challenge!

We are grateful for our community partners for their collaboration to help make these initiatives possible.



My mom loves to read, and during the pandemic she read her way through the in-house library of her assisted living facility.

Now, as part of Books on the Go, not only is Mama regularly receiving books she requests, so are several other readers at her facility.

This service has truly enriched my mom's life, as well as many others. Thank you!

~ Tammy
Family Member of Homebound Customer



30,000
COMMUNITY
BOOKSHELF
DONATIONS



60 OUTREACH
EVENTS
4,000
ATTENDEES



100
BOOKS ON THE GO
HOMEBOUND PATRONS



51,000
STUDENT PLAY
ACCOUNTS



5,191
SUMMER PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



10,829
SUMMER LUNCHEES



20,775
HOURS READ
IN SUMMER
↑ 9%



3,739
SUMMER READING
REGISTRATIONS
↑ 32%

Thank you to Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation for their generous support of the 2022 Summer Reading Challenge.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION – FY2023

Thank you to Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties for their support of the Library’s mission to promote lifelong learning.

Special thanks also to federal, state, and local sources who provided \$1,311,303 in grant funding.

REVENUES

Chatham County	\$8,176,600
Liberty County	\$1,166,848
Effingham County	\$748,049
State Funding	\$1,149,791
Rent Income	\$ -
Fines & Fees	\$289,900
Interest / Earnings on Investments	\$5,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$94,329

Total Revenues **\$11,630,517**

EXPENDITURES

Wages & Benefits	\$8,034,545
Library Materials	\$692,714
Facilities Related Expenses	\$1,814,117
Professional & Technical Services	\$280,688
Technology & Equipment	\$383,790
Library Programs	\$85,479
Misc. General Operating	\$339,184

Total Expenditures **\$11,630,517**

VALUE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

From books and online resources to programs for all ages, the total value of library services represents a significant return on community investment.

This represents the estimated retail value of library services, if purchased. Visit liveoakpl.org/value for more details.

\$18,549,212
TOTAL VALUE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

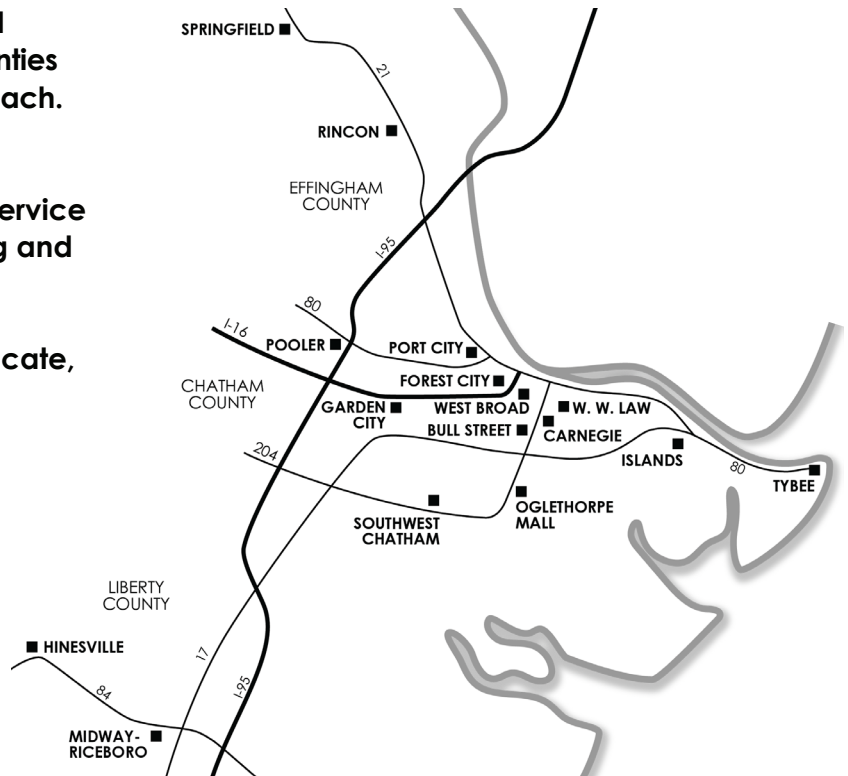




Live Oak Public Libraries provides programs and services in Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties through 16 library locations and community outreach. We are always open online at liveoakpl.org.

Our mission is to provide excellent, responsive service to enrich people's lives, support lifelong learning and build and enhance our communities.

We are creating tomorrow's library today to educate, inform, entertain and enrich our community.



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