

Richland County Public Library **2005 Annual Report**



it's wild
@your library™


Residents Wild About RCPL

Richland County residents of all ages are wild about their library! Nearly 70 percent of the county's residents have library cards, and circulation last year topped 3.1 million. On an average day, more than 3,000 people visit the Main Library in downtown Columbia and another 5,000 people use the nine branch libraries.

In 2005, your library:

- Introduced a new Wild Things library card, drawing on a close relationship with renowned author Maurice Sendak;
- Ranked eighth in the *Hennen's American Public Library Ratings*, 2005; two libraries in the Southeast made the top 10—RCPL and a Florida library.
- Received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts, the highest honor the state of South Carolina gives in this area. RCPL is the only public library to receive the prestigious award since it was first given in 1972.
- Provided Summer Reading Clubs for *all* ages for the first time, encouraging more than 25,000 children, teens and adults to enjoy books and reading during the summer.
- Committed to green building and sustainable design for new and expanded library facilities.

Your library staff continues to work hard to provide access to the resources and materials you need. Thanks for being wild about your library!


C. David Warren, Executive Director



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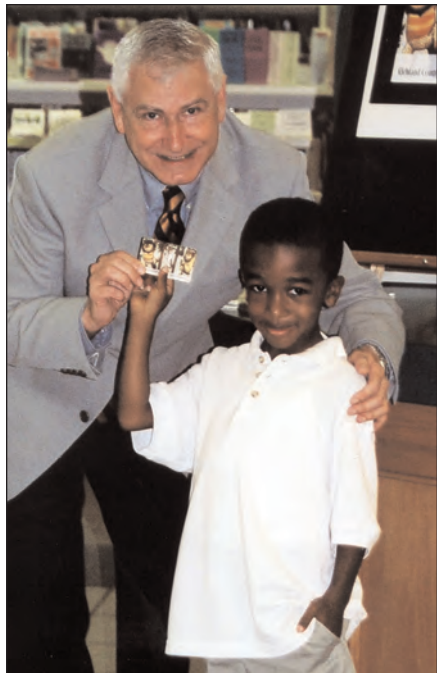
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Katherine Paterson
Maurice Sendak

**Meeting our citizens' needs
for reading, learning and information.**

January 06

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RCPL's David Warren presented the first Wild Things library card to six-year-old DaShon Nelson, who regularly visits the North Main Branch of RCPL with his mother.



Wild about reading...

Six-year-old DaShon Nelson was presented with the first Wild Things library card in September 2005. The unique, new library card features artwork from Maurice Sendak's popular book *Where the Wild Things Are*.

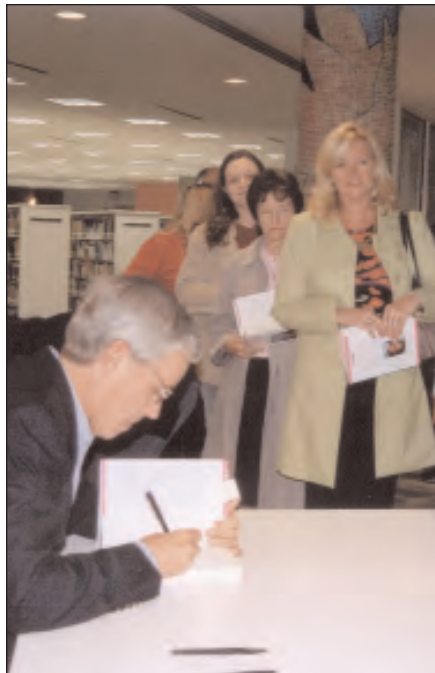
RCPL enjoys a close relationship to Maurice Sendak. The Main Library's Children's Room features two individual Wild Things at its entrance and a 46-foot mural, accented with live trees. RCPL is the only location where Maurice Sendak has allowed his artwork to be used as public art; Michael Hagen, an internationally recognized scenic painter, produced the artwork.

The Wild Things library cards are given to anyone who applies for a new card; current cardholders can get the card for a small replacement fee of \$5.

February 06

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About 200 people came to the Main Library to hear from best-selling author Carl Hiaasen, who also signed books for most who attended. The event was sponsored by the Friends of RCPL.



Among Friends...

Through the contributions and support of the Friends of RCPL, your library is able to thrive and grow. Funds raised by the Friends provide for programming, staff training and special projects such as the self checkout system.

In 2005, the Friends hosted several special events to boost support for the library, including A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket, book sales and author events with Carl Hiaasen, Andrew Carroll, Dr. Janette Turner Hospital and John Shelton Reed.

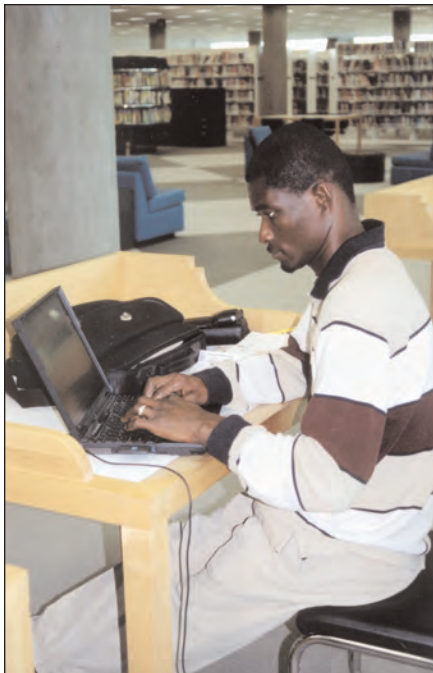
There are many ways to be a friend to your world-class library. Join the Friends of RCPL for as little as \$25, buy a Wild Things T-shirt or canvas book bag, or donate unwanted books to the Friends for future book sales. To find out more, visit <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/friends.htm> or call (803) 929-3475.

March 06

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RCPL gives residents access to more than 1 million books and nonprint resources such as databases and DVDs. Wireless Internet access is also available on the Third Level of the Main Library.



In the top ten...

RCPL ranked eighth in the *HAPLR Ratings, 2005 (Hennen's American Public Library Ratings)*, of urban libraries across the country serving populations of 250,000-499,999.

Among more than 9,000 public libraries in the United States, only two libraries in the Southeast ranked in the top 100—RCPL and the library in Sarasota, Fla. (RCPL scored 742; Sarasota County Library scored 727 and was ranked tenth.) Scores are based on 15 factors, with the focus on circulation, staffing, materials and reference service.

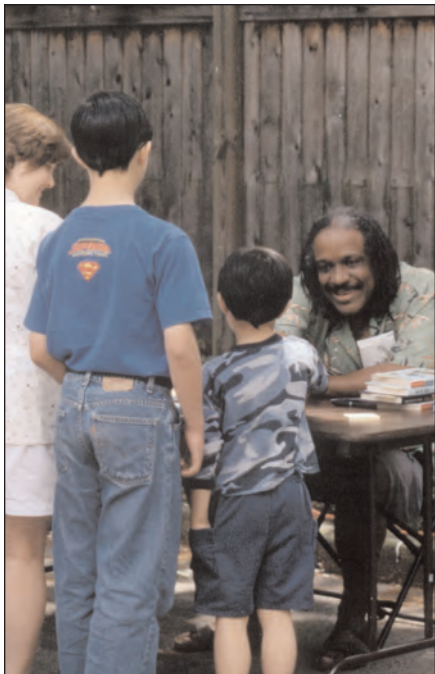
Thomas J. Hennen Jr. outlines the survey in the October 2005 issue of *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association. RCPL has been ranked nationally each year since 1999 when the HAPLR Ratings were introduced. In 2004, RCPL ranked ninth; two libraries in the Southeast made the top 10—RCPL and a Virginia library.

April 06

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Best-selling author Christopher Paul Curtis took time to talk with young fans while signing books at the Saturday Storytelling for Families, a part of A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories.



Celebrating stories...

More than 3,500 people attended the 19th annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories in April 2005. Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* and *Bud, Not Buddy*, shared the story of his own journey from an assembly line worker to an award-winning author during the Friday evening lecture.

The annual event, cosponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, brings to life the world of storytelling and children's literature. The festival honors the works and achievements of nationally-known author and storyteller Augusta Baker, who moved to Columbia in 1980 and was appointed the Storyteller-in-Residence at USC.

Ms. Baker's reputation and influence in the fields of storytelling and literature are unparalleled. This festival continues her mission of opening the world of other cultures to children, crossing racial, social and geographical boundaries.

May 06

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David Warren, RCPL Vice Chair Rox Pollard (third from left) and members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation accepted the Verner Award for RCPL in May 2005 at the State House.



And the winner is...

In May 2005, RCPL received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts, the highest honor the state of South Carolina gives in the arts. The library was selected for its unique Literary Residency program that draws on the talents of area actors and scholars to bring a multicultural focus to library programs. In 2005, more than 28,000 people from across South Carolina attended free programs, plays and literary readings at the library.

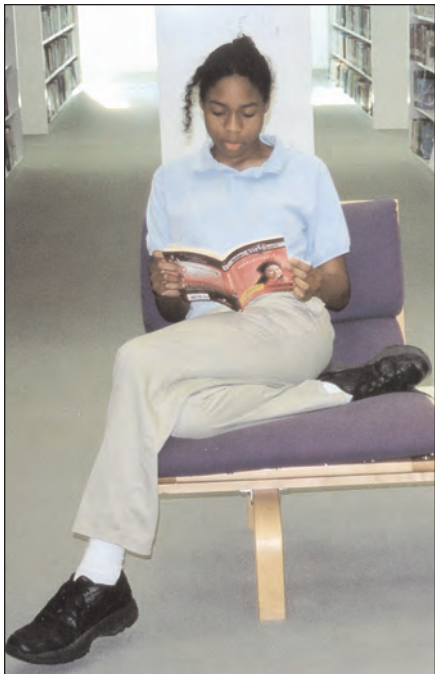
RCPL is the only public library to receive the prestigious state award since it was first given in 1972 and the only county organization to be recognized with both the Verner Award and the Governor's Awards in the Humanities from the South Carolina Humanities Council.

June 06

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RCPL offers Summer Reading Clubs for all ages. Children, teens and adults are rewarded for enjoying good books!



Reading is rewarding...

In 2005, RCPL offered systemwide Summer Reading Clubs for *all* ages—children, teens and adults—for the first time.

More than 18,000 children under 12 participated again, and more than 5,000 adults joined “Read & Relax,” RCPL’s Adult Summer Reading Club. “Get Real, Get Reading (Get Stuff),” the first Summer Reading Club for teens, registered more than 2,000 participants.

Thanks to the Friends of RCPL, The Happy Bookseller, Geiger O’Cain Advertising and Recorded Books, L.L.C., 22 lucky teens and adults received special prizes such as gift certificates, book bags and CD cases. Two really lucky readers won a Rio Nitrus Mp3 player.

Don’t miss your chance to get rewarded for reading this summer. Visit any RCPL location from May through August for details!

July 06

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Wilhelm Elliott, who has attended the Pigskin Poets program each year, poses for a photo with USC Gamecock Cody Wells.



Reading is the goal...

USC's Gamecocks and RCPL teamed up for the eighth year in 2005 on Pigskin Poets, a special Summer Reading Club celebration that demonstrates that reading is fun and exciting!

A capacity crowd of more than 300 children of all ages huddled at the Main Library to read stories, play games and get autographs from the Gamecock football players and Cocky.

"This partnership with the Gamecocks helps emphasize the importance of reading to young people," said Padgett Lewis, RCPL's public relations manager. "They see firsthand that reading is fun, and that books are available on any subject that interests them."

Watch for details on a repeat performance in the summer of 2006!

August 06

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RCPL's Teen Advisory Board has helped staff implement changes to the Teen Central Web site and provided input on programs just for teens.



Fun for teens too . . .

Teens typically go to the library if they need help with a school project, but the library has much more for teens! Everything from DVDs and videos to the latest books and graphic novels, as well as special programs, are all available free at RCPL.

Since October 2004, the library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has met each month to share with staff their ideas for programs and library services. TAB input has resulted in a new and improved Teen Central Web site and the first-ever teen Summer Reading Club, which enrolled more than 2,000 participants in 2005. When TAB members reported that e-mail is their preferred method of learning about library events and services, RCPL's Public Relations Department created an e-mail newsletter just for teens.

In addition to these special efforts, the library is continuing successful programs for teens such as book discussion groups, financial aid workshops, job skills training programs and activities related to different types of music.

September 06

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Participants of the Sew Divine program at the Southeast Regional Branch knitted hats for cancer patients. Sew Divine, a Gathering of Crafters is now held at six branch libraries.



A gathering place...

The library is open to everyone in the community, and about 70 percent of those who live in Richland County have discovered the value of a library card. But the library offers much more than the latest best-sellers.

Two special RCPL programs—Let's Speak English and Sew Divine—have brought together residents from different backgrounds and given them a meaningful outlet to learn about others and show their creativity.

Let's Speak English is an 8- to 10-week program, now held at six branch locations, that pairs international adults with local volunteers for one-hour conversation sessions. Internationals practice speaking English in a relaxed environment, and everyone involved learns more about other languages and cultures.

Sew Divine, also held at six branch locations now, allows adults to share craft projects, tips and ideas and browse the related books. Participants at several locations have initiated group projects that help those in need, including knitting hats for cancer patients and making afghans for local shelters.

October 06

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Works by local and regional artists are on display in the Main Library's Wachovia Gallery throughout the year. Pictured here are library visitors exploring a special national exhibit on Frankenstein.



On display...

The Main Library's Wachovia Gallery hosts a variety of exhibits throughout the year, from works by regional artists and local children to national exhibits.

RCPL was one of 82 libraries across the country selected to host a national exhibit on Frankenstein in the fall of 2005. "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature" examined Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*, and its evolution in literature, popular culture and scientific research. Special programs and performances were held in conjunction with the exhibit.

Developed by the National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association, the exhibit was funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Library of Medicine.

November 06

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RCPL's Homebound Program allows residents over 60 to have regular access to books, even though they can no longer visit the library.



Opening doors...

RCPL has more than 1.1 million books available to residents, but what happens when you can no longer travel to the library?

For homebound patrons over 60, a special program is available that allows library materials to be delivered to their doors, giving them regular access to books. One full-time staff person and several volunteers make monthly visits to more than 80 seniors each year.

To find out more about RCPL's Homebound Service, call 929-3416. To volunteer to deliver materials, contact the library's volunteer coordinator at 929-3436.

December 06

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Children of all ages can feed their imaginations and enhance their futures through the books, special programs and numerous other free resources available at the Richland County Public Library.



Stories and more...

Last year, more than 28,000 people of all ages attended the library's free programs and events, including storytimes, literary readings and more.

The Richland County Public Library, a facility open to *all* people, is a perfect place to discover, observe and establish an appreciation of the arts and literature. Special programs, exhibits, theatrical performances and literary readings for all age groups—as well as RCPL's collection, resources and services—helped attract more than 1.8 million visitors to the library in 2005.

Based on the artist-in-residence concept, the library's Literary Residency program draws on the talents of area writers, actors and scholars to provide creative literary and historical presentations, lectures and workshops. The programs span many arts and humanities disciplines, always with a multicultural focus.

An investment that pays...

For every \$1 spent on public libraries in South Carolina, the return is \$4.48, according to a survey conducted by the University of South Carolina. Results of the survey, released in early 2005, indicate the economic impact of public libraries in South Carolina is \$347 million, almost a 350 percent return on the actual \$77.5 million spent.

In addition, 92 percent of the people surveyed said libraries improve the overall quality of life, and 47 percent said libraries improve property values. Libraries saved 100 percent of the respondents money in their job search and 76 percent saved \$500 or more by using their public library.

By the numbers...

LIBRARY USE

total units of service	13,884,129
visitors to the library system	1,896,034
new registered borrowers	18,627
total registered borrowers	229,627
total patron information requests	1,680,144
in-house	991,280
phone/mail	688,864
holds placed	140,182
materials borrowed from other libraries	842
materials lent to other libraries	1,164
electronic online database searches	331,552
web site access	795,759
in-house programming attendance	28,135
outreach programming attendance	7,099
class visits/tours	9,985
a(ugusta) baker's dozen attendance	3,500
summer reading club enrollment	
Children	18,337
Teen	2,025
Adult	5,217

CIRCULATION

main library	981,283
bookmobile	21,939
community services/outreach	56,680
OPAC renewals	360,396

CIRCULATION AT BRANCHES

blythewood	87,099
john hughes cooper	272,082
eastover	11,647
north main	86,245
northeast regional	238,772
sandhills	323,198
southeast regional	317,298
st. andrews regional	314,701
wheatley	106,071
systemwide use	3,177,411
in-house patron use systemwide	5,863,047

*population served, Richland County 334,609

*population served, Greater Columbia 583,000

The future is green...

RCPL is emphasizing environmental responsibility as it plans for new and expanded facilities. While adopting an initial 10-year capital needs plan, the Board of Trustees also committed to green building and sustainable design for future library development.

“In the wake of recent national disasters and soaring energy costs, the library is committed to using environmentally sensitive approaches as it plans for the future,” said RCPL Executive Director David Warren. “We continuously work to maximize funding and be the best possible stewards of the public and private moneys entrusted to the library. Now, it is critical that we also acknowledge the impact our growth has on the environment.”

The 10-year plan includes expansion and upgrades to existing facilities and adding a new branch location in a fast growing suburban area currently served only by the bookmobile. RCPL's last major building projects took place between 1989 and 1993, when a new 242,000-square-foot Main Library opened in downtown Columbia along with the completion of seven new or upgraded branch libraries.

Resources

books	1,109,461	audiocassettes/tapes	23,574
magazine titles in print	908	video/DVDs	35,303
magazine titles online, full text	10,694	compact discs	22,346
newspaper titles	166	CD ROM titles	1,266
maps	1,235	cataloged photographs	453
microforms	70,523	electronic databases	44

Operating Budget as of June 30, 2005

RECEIPTS

county appropriation	\$ 13,568,942
state aid	\$ 308,165
miscellaneous	\$ 2,822,905
designated funds, FY04	\$ 4,753,240
total	\$ 21,453,252

DISBURSEMENTS

personnel & related expenses	\$ 9,630,198
materials	\$ 2,583,113
operations	\$ 3,803,042
operations reserve	\$ 5,436,899
total	\$ 21,453,252

Libraries make a difference . . . so can You!

Libraries enrich the lives of everyone in our community. Regardless of age or background, all library users have access to books, research materials and many other resources at their public library.

Public funding allows your library to operate, but private gifts and individual donations have enabled RCPL to enhance its services and facilities. Strong community support has helped RCPL become a leader among libraries in the Southeast and across the country.

There are many ways to support your library and help ensure access to quality library services for years to come. Special funds have been established to foster growth within specific areas of the library system, including the Book Endowment, the Programming Fund and the Peg Beard Continuing Education Endowment.

To make a financial contribution to your library, please call (803) 929-3475.

Main Library and Branch Locations

Main Library 799-9084
Children's Room 929-3434
1431 Assembly St., Columbia 29201
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Blythewood Branch 691-9806
218 McNulty Rd., Blythewood 29016
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

John Hughes Cooper Branch 787-3462
5317 North Trenholm Rd., Columbia 29206
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Eastover Branch 353-8584
608 Main St., Eastover 29044
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

North Main Branch 754-7734
5306 North Main St., Columbia 29203
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Northeast Regional Branch 736-6575
7490 Parklane Rd., Columbia 29223
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sandhills Branch 699-9230
1 Summit Parkway
at Clemson Rd., Columbia 29229
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Southeast Regional Branch 776-0855
7421 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia 29209
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

St. Andrews Regional Branch 772-6675
2916 Broad River Rd., Columbia 29210
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wheatley Branch 799-5873
931 Woodrow St., Columbia 29205
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

We Can Never Have Too Many Friends!

Many of the programs featured in this annual report would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of RCPL.

Your membership in and support of the Friends helps RCPL provide nationally recognized programs and services. Memberships start at only \$25. To join or for more information, call (803) 929-3475 or visit <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/friends.htm>.

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Protecting and Preserving Our Environment



Richland County Public Library

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