

# Lorain Public Library System

## Annual Report 2020



[LorainPublicLibrary.org](http://LorainPublicLibrary.org)

Lorain Public  
**Library!**  
System





## Letter from the Director

I wrote in my 2018 Director's Report: "As the world changes, the power of libraries continues to be in our ability to support our communities, whatever the need." I did not realize then how true those words would ring two years later.

This year started like any other year, and then in what seemed the blink of an eye, almost everything changed. I say almost everything because though we had to make the unprecedented and heart-breaking decision to temporarily close our doors to the public, the one thing that did not change - did not even falter - was our staff's commitment and dedication to the communities in which we serve. As Julius C. Jefferson Jr., president of the American Library Association, said "Alongside the cumulative losses of 2020, we saw a year of opportunity. A year when library professionals answered the call to serve amid multiple crises...Libraries connected America in ways that have brought our communities closer.....even when our buildings are not open, libraries are never closed."

It is in large part due to funds received through the state of Ohio and city of Lorain that we were able to outfit our staff and branches with the personal protection equipment necessary to safely reopen the doors to the public just months later.

Our annual report is usually broken out by branch or department, where each manager has opportunity to boast about their enhanced programs and services, new partnerships and capital improvements. This year we were not six individual branches, but a collaborative system working together to pivot on a dime and figure out how to create and post virtual programs, enhance resources and internet accessibility and offer librarian assistance remotely. Thus, the typical layout of our Annual Report needed to be altered.

We decided that the best way in which to report what happened during 2020 is to let the facts and the community members themselves do the talking. This year's Annual Report is made up of the actual headlines of many of our weekly press releases as well as quotes that were posted to our social media.

There is a motto here in the city of Lorain: "Lorain Proud." After reading this report, I hope that you can join me in being "Lorain Public Library System Proud."

Thank you for your continued support of Lorain Public Library System.

Sincerely,

*Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz*

Director, Lorain Public Library System



## Our Vision:

We are the catalyst for personal and community growth, discovery and success.

## Our Mission:

Connecting our communities to experiences that enrich, empower and inspire every day.

*Mary M.: "Our family loves the services you provide."*

## JANUARY

- 1.06 LPLS ANNOUNCES EXTENDED HOURS
- 1.11 LPLS BLOOD DRIVE



## FEBRUARY

- 2.11 LPLS CELEBRATES TONI MORRISON DAY
- 2.18 LIVE WOLF AT THE COLUMBIA LIBRARY
- 2.28 COLUMBIA BRANCH ADDS NEW STAFF MEMBER



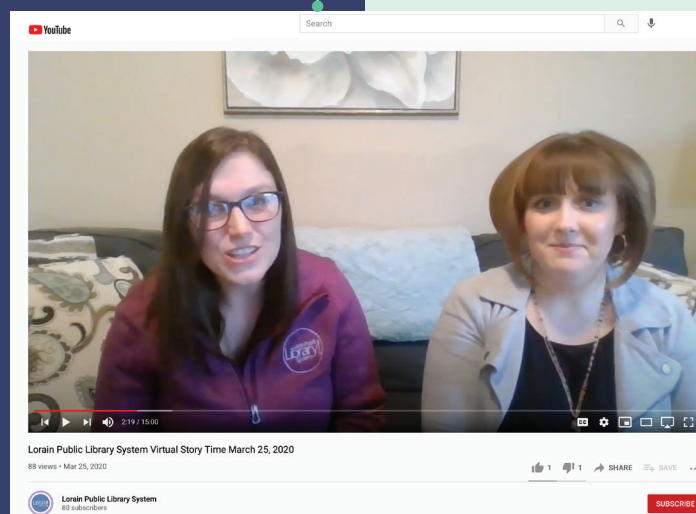
*Debra J. on the Toni Morrison Room rededication: "Great job. Beautiful room."*



*Rising Titans Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative, on WiFi being made available from the parking lots: "LPLS is always there to help!"*

## MARCH

- 3.12 LPLS SUSPENDING ALL PROGRAMMING
- 3.13 LPLS CLOSING TEMPORARILY
- 3.24 OUR e-LIBRARY IS ALWAYS OPEN  
(Added five new Tumblebooks resources and made Ancestry Library Edition available outside the library)
- 3.24 LPLS LAUNCHES AskALibrarian@lpls.info
- 3.24 LPLS BOOSTS WIFI ACCESS TO BRANCH PARKING LOTS
- 3.31 RE-OPENING POSTPONED
- 3.31 LPLS TO HOST RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- 3.31 LPLS ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL STORY TIMES, WRITER'S GROUP AND BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
- 3.31 LPLS ANNOUNCES THREE NEW RESOURCES  
(Plain Dealer, Lorain Morning Journal, America's News)



*Erin L., on a virtual story time: "Miss Kelsey! Emmett misses you! Stay safe."*

*Stephanie J. during the shutdown: "I can't wait until my library reopens!"*



## APRIL

- 4.7 e-LIBRARY VIDEO TUTORIALS NOW AVAILABLE
- 4.14 LPLS ADDS KNOWLEDGE CITY TO LIST OF RESOURCES
- 4.21 LPLS NOW OFFERS REMOTE REFERENCE
- 4.28 AVON BRANCH RENOVATION LEVY PASSES
- 4.28 LPLS PROVIDES MOBILE HOT SPOTS TO LOCAL STUDENTS
- 4.28 LPLS ADDS CANDID TO e-LIBRARY



LPLS staff member prepares mobile hot spots for distribution.

*Bianca T.: "I love Libby! Great app! We use it every day."*



*Melanie J.: "Thank you for curbside! My kids have been loving their library books. It had been too long since they had some new books to look at."*

## MAY

- 5.5 LPLS ADDS ACORN TV AND PONGALO TO e-LIBRARY
- 5.12 LPLS ANNOUNCES CURBSIDE SERVICE
- 5.19 SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM BEGINS
- 5.26 2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM BEGINS



*Sally D. during the shutdown: "This is the longest I've ever gone without going to the library in my life. I might be developing a twitch."*

## JUNE

- 6.1 HOLD LOCKERS INSTALLED AT MAIN LIBRARY AND SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH
- 6.2 FREE TAX PREPARATION AVAILABLE
- 6.9 NEW BOOK IN THE STORYWALK®
- 6.16 BRANCHES PREPARE TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- 6.23 BRANCHES NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



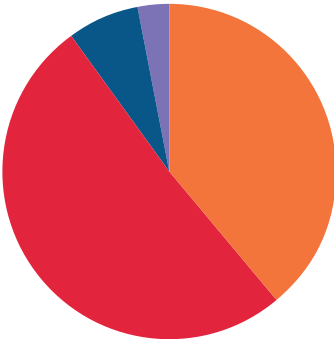
*Pam F. during the shutdown: "I miss the entire library! When it reopens, I may just walk up and down the aisles and inhale!"*



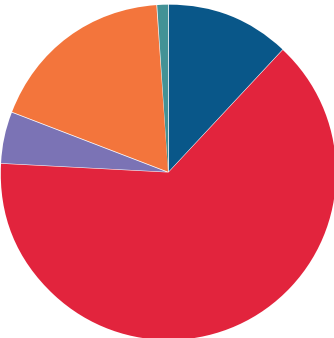
*Celena M., on curbside service beginning: "Fantastic news! I was waiting for this news to come! Thank you."*



# 2020 Financials



REVENUE SOURCE DOLLARS	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Public Library Fund	\$4,294,282	40.1%
Local Tax Levies	\$5,429,178	50.7%
State Rollbacks & Transfers	\$690,115	6.4%
Other	\$299,946	2.8%
Total Revenues	\$10,713,520	100%



EXPENDITURES	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Library Materials	\$976,049	12.2%
Personnel	\$4,927,422	61.3%
Capital	\$472,627	5.9%
Contracts	\$1,574,317	19.6%
Supplies	\$81,747	1.0%
Total Expenditures	\$8,032,161	100%

# 2020 eLibrary Statistics

225,746	ebook, Digital Audiobooks, Video Storybooks (Overdrive, Hoopla, Bookflix)
16,631	Digital Magazines (RB Digital, Overdrive, Consumer Reports)
14,586	Digital Movies and Television (Hoopla, Kanopy, Access Video on Demand, Acorn TV)
2,707	Streaming Music (Overdrive, Freegal)
509	Online Education Course Enrollment (Gale Courses)
171	Online Education Course Completed (Gale Courses)
26,182	Educational Content (Lynda.com, Artistworks)
4,029	African American Heritage and Ancestry
939	New York Times
223	Creativebug

# 2020 System Statistics

235,936	Library Visits
11,693	Open Hours
63,863	Library Cardholders
5,738	New Library Cards Issued
921	Programs Offered
10,119	Programs Attendance
335,811	Materials Owned
949,717	Materials Loaned (not including e-media)
298,760	Total Digital Circulation
35,550	New Materials
46,291	Computer Bookings
88,144	Website Users
4,017	Facebook Likes
1,812	Twitter Followers
1,045	Instagram Followers
17,702	Largest post of 2020: "Curbside service will be coming to all six LPLS branches starting May 18! Check out our website for more info and drop any questions you have below!"



*Erin K.: "This is the third craft in a bag that my kids have picked up and they love them! Thank you so much for having these available!"*



## JULY

- 7.7 CLEVNET HOLDS NOW AVAILABLE
- 7.7 LPLS OFFERING GRAB AND GO ACTIVITY KITS
- 7.28 LITTLE LIBRARY ON THE LAKE COMES TO LAKEVIEW PARK
- 7.28 NORTH RIDGEVILLE FARMERS FRESH PRODUCE PICK-UPS

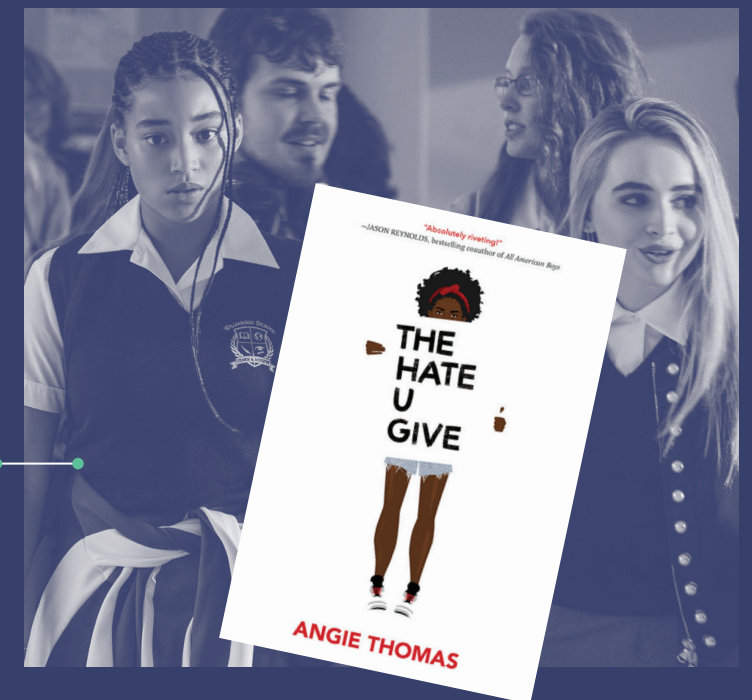


*Joanna S. on Little Library on the Lake: "We went today! It was so much fun... My family loved it. Thank you for this great idea."*

## United States™ Census Bureau

### AUGUST

- 8.4 BACK TO SCHOOL CENSUS DRIVE THRU
- 8.4 ZOOM BOOK DISCUSSION: 'THE HATE U GIVE' BY ANGIE THOMAS
- 8.11 LPLS HOSTING FREE WIFI STOPS AT LOCAL PARKS
- 8.25 CITY FRESH PRODUCE PICK UPS
- 8.28 LPLS HOSTING SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR JOB SEEKERS



*Brenda K. from PCs for People on LPLS donating used laptops: "Thank you for coming out! Helping to narrow the digital divide is more important than ever!"*



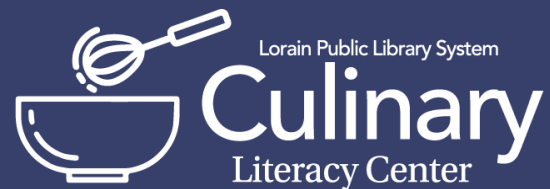
*Teresa T.: "I would love to say the Columbia Branch is doing a great job. As soon as you walk in, they have masks for you and also hand sanitizer. They also provide wipes to wipe the computers off and plastic sleeves to place over the computer keyboards. Nice job!!"*



*Melody T. on the virtual program 'Cooking with Charlie for Adults':  
"Thanks for sharing. Very informative. Sent it to my son...he will love it too!"*

## SEPTEMBER

- 9.1 LPLS LAUNCHES LIVE, ONLINE TUTORING FROM TUTOR.COM
- 9.15 LPLS TO OFFER EXPANDED HOURS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21
- 9.22 LPLS NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR THE NEW CREATE SPACE AT MAIN LIBRARY
- 9.22 WHAT'S COOKING AT LPLS? (Culinary Literacy Center at the Main Library and Charlie Carts at both the South Lorain and Domonkas Branches.)
- 9.22 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: LOCAL CHILDREN'S AUTHOR NEW BOOK SNEAK PEAK ON FACEBOOK LIVE



*Kim B. on Tutor.com: "I checked this out today and it is AWESOME!!!"*

*Elizabeth S. on a virtual story time: "Hi Miss Dawn! Aubrey and I love coming to your story time! We look forward to it and cannot wait to get back at it!"*



## OCTOBER

- 10.01 HOLD LOCKERS INSTALLED AT THE AVON BRANCH
- 10.6 ANNUAL "WINTERWEAR SHARE" CLOTHING DONATION RETURNS
- 10.6 LPLS PARTNERS WITH UNITED WAY OF GREATER LORAIN COUNTY ON COLLECT > SORT > DELIVER IMPACT INITIATIVE
- 10.27 LPLS POLL LOCATIONS OPEN TO VOTERS ONLY



POWERED BY: United Way of Greater Lorain County United Way



*Christina H. on the 'Fall Produce Guide' program:  
"Lots of great and useful information and advice!! Thanks Katie!"*



*Sally D., on the new LPLS website design:  
"Love it! Easy to navigate, great graphic!"*

## NOVEMBER

- 11.10 LPLS ANNOUNCES A SELF-SERVICE CHECK-OUT APP!
- 11.17 HELP SHAPE YOUR NEW LIBRARY! AVON BRANCH RENOVATION COMMUNITY TOWN HALL TO BE HELD ON ZOOM



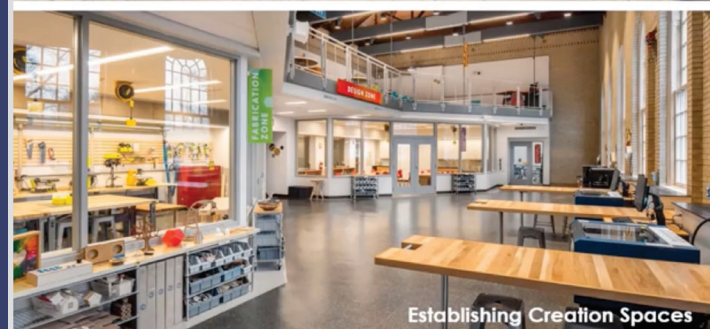
## Programming



Expanded / Dedicated Collection Spaces



Interactive Learning



Establishing Creation Spaces



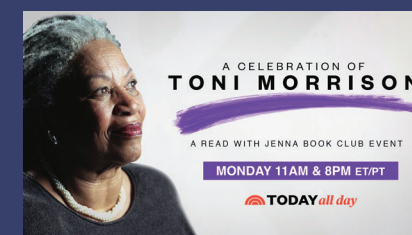
Varied Options for Gathering

*Joe M., on the virtual program 'Loving Your Leftovers':  
"This lady should be on the Food Channel. She is fantastic."*

*Joanne E. on the signing of the Toni Morrison Day bill "Congratulations!  
What a momentous occasion!"*

## DECEMBER

- 12.01 LPLS BRANCHES CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
- 12.20 SANTA CLAUS AND HIS REINDEER VISIT LPLS
- 12.21 "TODAY ALL DAY PRESENTS: A CELEBRATION OF TONI MORRISON" HOSTED BY NBC TODAY'S JENNA BUSH HAGER
- 12.21 TONI MORRISON DAY IS OFFICIAL — DEWINE SIGNS BILL PROCLAIMING FEB. 18 TO HONOR LORAIN'S OWN



*Alan S. "2020 Thank You @LorainPLSystem, its branches and associated library systems. I have enjoyed binging on the Grimm TV series, listening to the Harry Potter audiobooks & the Grapes of Wrath. Your services are super. Hoping your staff is soon vaccinated."*





#### MAIN BRANCH

351 W. Sixth Street, Lorain, OH 44052  
440-244-1192



#### AVON BRANCH

37485 Harvest Drive, Avon, OH 44011  
440-934-4743



#### COLUMBIA BRANCH

13824 W. River Road North, Columbia Station, OH 44028  
440-236-8751



#### DOMONKAS BRANCH

4125 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054  
440-949-7410



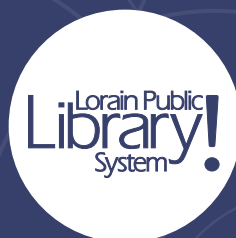
#### NORTH RIDGEVILLE BRANCH

35700 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
440-327-8326



#### SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH

2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain, OH 44055  
440-277-5672



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