



Welcome a New Year Full of Reading Fun!  
January 2025

Welcome to Imagination Library RVA's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy. We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers! You can also visit us at [www.ImaginationLibraryRVA.org](http://www.ImaginationLibraryRVA.org)

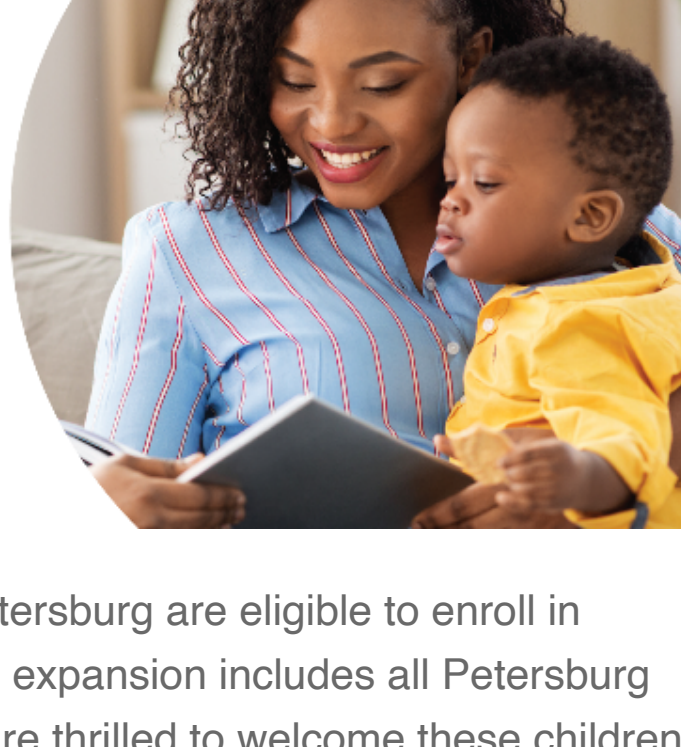
In the News  
Imagination Library RVA Expands Into Petersburg!

# Welcome, Petersburg readers!

Children age 0-5 living in Petersburg are eligible to receive one free book each month.

As of now, children aged 0-5 who live in Petersburg are eligible to enroll in Imagination Library RVA. This long-awaited expansion includes all Petersburg zip codes. We at Imagination Library RVA are thrilled to welcome these children and their families into our ever-expanding throng of readers – and are happy to share that almost 100 children have been registered so far.

If you or someone you know has a child under the age of five living in Petersburg, please direct them to this page so they can get registered and begin receiving their books as soon as possible. Happy reading!



## Read in Your Native Language

Your January 2025 reading tip



The ability to speak more than one language is a wonderful gift to give a child. One way to support emerging bilingual children is to read aloud in your native language. All the benefits of reading aloud happen, regardless of the language used. The next time you go to the library, try looking for bilingual picture books that present the story in both English and another language in the same book.

Remember: fluency in English is not a requirement for sharing stories together.

### Upcoming Community Partner Events

**January 7**

- Preschool Storytime** - Ginter Park Library, 10:30 - 11:00am, ages 3-5 with an adult, free

**January 8**

- Family Story Time**, East End Library, 10:00 - 11:00am, ages 0-5 with an adult, free

**January 13**

- Make It Monday**, Ginter Park Library, 4:30 - 5:30pm, ages K-5 with an adult, free

**January 14**

- Stuffed Animal Tea Party**, Ginter Park Library, 12:00 - 1:00pm, free
- Baby Artplay!** with RPAA, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 3:30 - 4:00pm, free

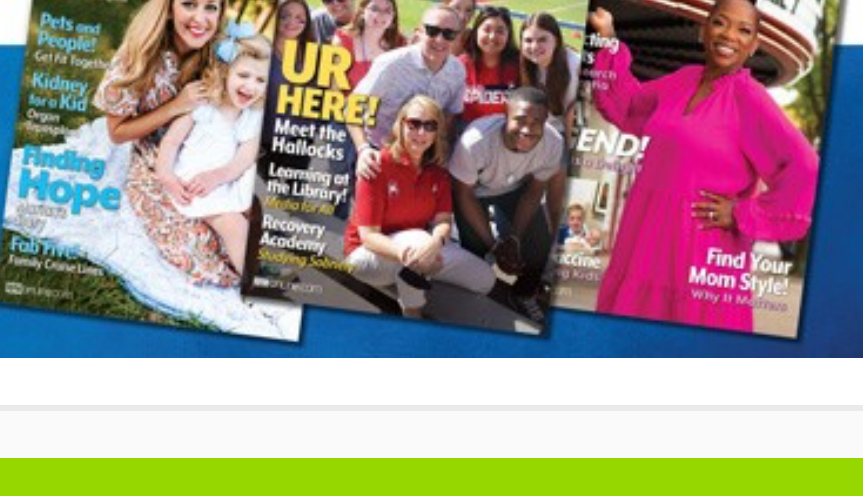
Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](#)

For even more community events for the whole family, be sure to pick up a free copy of [Richmond Family Magazine](#), available at over 850 spots all over RVA, including [these locations](#).

Be an RFM Insider!

Get the **RFM** ENWS  
News • Events • Contests

**SIGN ME UP!**



# Seymour Moves!



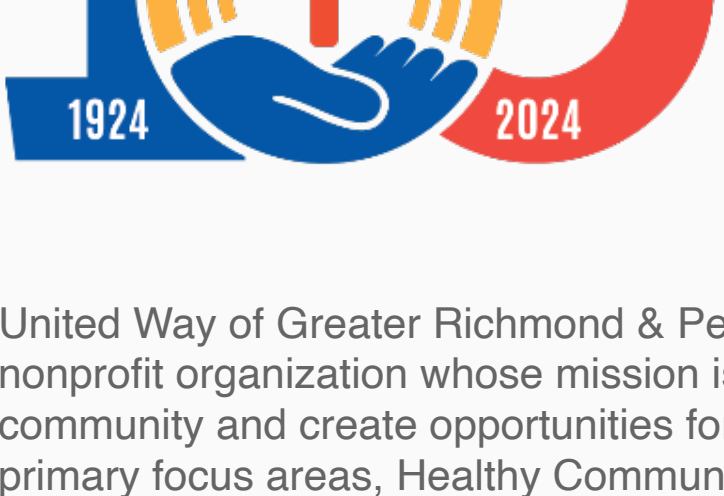
**Movement enhances learning and promotes brain growth!**

Walk *The Green* with us every Tuesday morning from 10 AM to 10:30 AM.

Then come to the Children's Museum and learn through play!

**Children's Museum OF RICHMOND**

## Community Partner Spotlight



# UNITED WAY

of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg (UWGRP) is a human services nonprofit organization whose mission is to mobilize the caring power of community and create opportunities for those in need. UWGRP has three primary focus areas, Healthy Community, Financial Security and Youth Opportunity. There are many ways to get involved with UWGRP and tons of volunteer opportunities.

Most recently, UWGRP was thrilled to partner with Read to Them for a corporate event where employees created 40 Literacy Kits focused on financial literacy. United Way distributes more than 2,000 Literacy Kits to local elementary schools and youth-serving organizations annually. They have also installed more than 25 Little Free Libraries across the Greater Richmond area, ensuring that youth have access to quality reading materials, improving the availability of these books and advancing literacy rates for school-aged children. UWGRP also manages the upkeep of these libraries, ensuring they are maintained and stocked with great books throughout the year! Check out the locations here: <https://www.yourunitedway.org/volunteer/little-free-libraries/>

UWGRP is excited to continue deepening the partnership with Read to Them and support the organization's critical work to use the power of reading aloud together to build connections across families, schools, and communities to cultivate students' learning and success.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can get involved, visit: <https://www.yourunitedway.org/volunteer/> or reach out to [volunteer@yourunitedway.org](mailto:volunteer@yourunitedway.org).



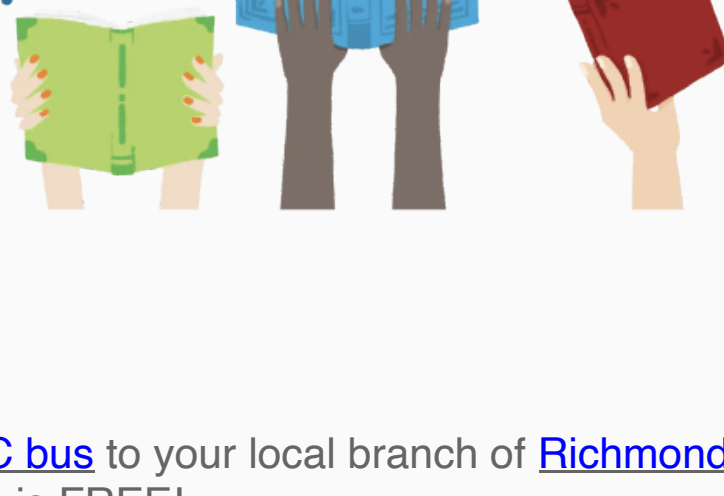
Volunteers from TowneBank show off their personally designed and decorated literacy kit boxes.



Every volunteer from Atlantic Union Bank took the opportunity to design a message of hope and encouragement.

### We Love Our Local Libraries!

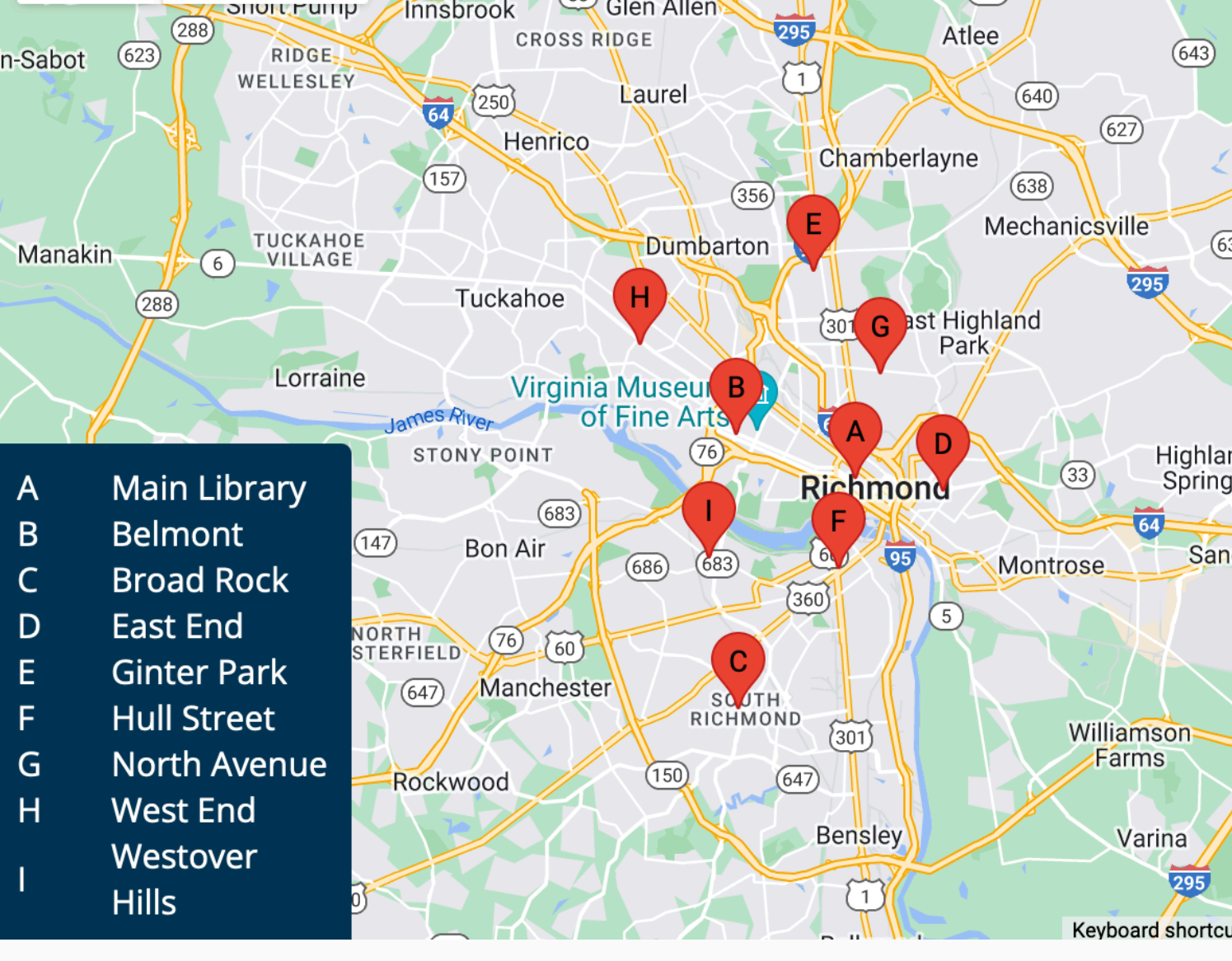
Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books?  
**Visit your local library!**  
Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!



Take the GRTC Bus to the Library!

Did you know that you can ride the **GRTC bus** to your local branch of [Richmond Public Library](#)? And, just like the library, it is **FREE!**

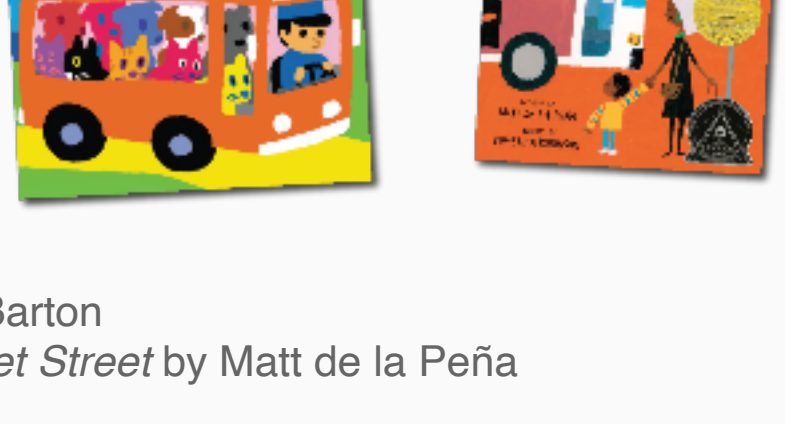
First, find your closest branch library with this handy [map](#).



Then use GRTC's handy [Trip Planner](#) to help you find your way from your home to your branch. A friendly librarian will be waiting for you with books – and so much more.



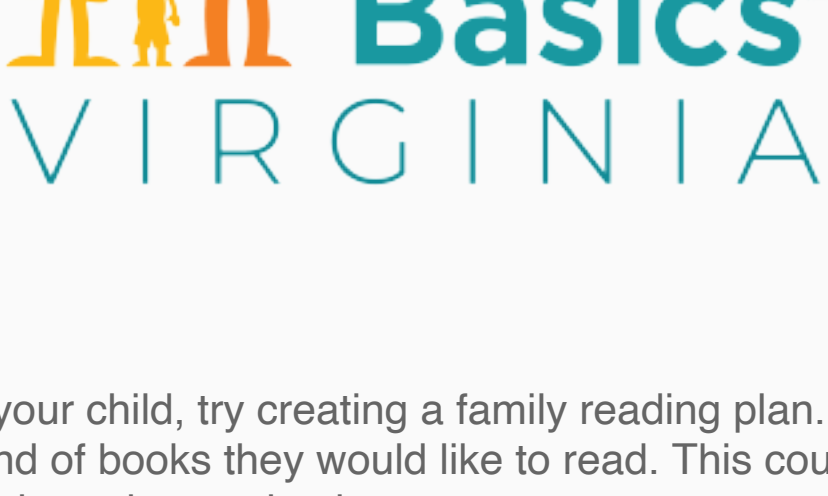
Interested in the bus books featured by Heather from Main Library? Here are the titles and authors – you can look for them when you go to your branch!



My Bus by Byron Barton  
Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña

### Make a Plan with Your Child This Month!

Your January 2025 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



**Make a Plan**

As you read with your child, try creating a family reading plan. Start by asking your child what kind of books they would like to read. This could be books about a certain topic such as animals, space, sports, or transportation or even delve into other titles by an author your child admires. Aim for four titles... with room to grow! Making a plan allows you to not only flesh out your reading list, but to read on your own schedule, at your own pace.

Visit this principle from the Basics [here](#).

To learn more about how you can Explore Through Movement and Play, click [here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around the City of Richmond have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each month Read to Them will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens.

Visit [theBasicsVirginia.org](http://theBasicsVirginia.org) for more information.

### Current Number of RVA Readers...

# Celebrating

# 3,963 Sign-ups!

Sign up your child ages 0-5 living in the City of Richmond for FREE BOOKS through the mail today!



As Dolly says, **"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children!"**

Brought to you by



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



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