

Vineland Public Library Welcomes New Director Brandi Grosso!

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Vineland Public Library

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Hello, Vineland!

As the newly appointed Library Director, I want to say how excited I am to be a part of this team of library professionals and customer service specialists.

A little background - I resigned my position as Library Director of the Media-Upper Providence Free Library in Media, PA, to accept this opportunity in Vineland. I have 14 years of public library experience including over five years as director. I have a Master's Degree in Library Science from Clarion University and a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Rowan University.

I grew up in Gloucester County and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Vineland. This was before personal computers and home internet were really obtainable, and I spent a great deal of time in the Vineland Library doing schoolwork and checking out books for entertainment. When I stumbled upon the announcement for a library director vacancy due to Gloria Urban's retirement last fall, I knew that I had to pursue the chance to lessen the gap between myself and my family. My parents, brother, nieces, cousins, etc., mostly live in Cumberland and Gloucester Counties. While the decision to leave my previous job and relocate was not something I took lightly, I feel that it was the right decision.

I can see that the residents of Vineland truly value this library as a community hub providing learning opportunities, all-ages

programming, culture, entertainment, computer access, and study spaces. The staff and volunteers are welcoming, ready to lend a hand, well-informed, and committed to providing a quality library experience to those wanting to take full advantage of what our library has to offer. These two things combined – enthusiastic customers and dedicated employees – make my new position an easy one in which to transition.

While I can see that the previous director made a significant impact, I am bringing a new vision with me. I am a people watcher and this allows me a chance to view how people are using the library, what they want to see offered, and then set my sights on creating a plan to make good and important changes for this organization.

I hope to see you in the library.

Sincerely,

Brandi Grosso



Thank You Library Volunteers!



April 12 – 18, 2015 is National Volunteer Week. During this time, the staff at the Vineland Public Library would like to thank its outstanding group of dedicated adult and teen volunteers. Volunteers at the library work in a number of areas, including ESL tutoring, computer tutoring, shelving books, maintaining the library's Butterfly Garden, as members of the "Adopt a Shelf" program, as Friends of the Library, as Foundation members, on the Board of Trustees, and in general grounds maintenance. Last year, 88 volunteers donated 2,062 hours of their time to the library. Over 250 hours have been donated so far in 2015. These devoted individuals help keep the library running smoothly and looking its best. For their enthusiasm and commitment, the Vineland Public Library staff is truly grateful.

Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn Knego

What does it take to make a difference in the community? Just ask library and hospital volunteer Marilyn Knego. Marilyn, a retired teacher, has been volunteering at Vineland Public Library for over a decade. At VPL, Marilyn works in the Children's Department two days each week shelving books and DVDs. To date, Marilyn has donated over 2,050 hours to the library! Her dedication and enthusiasm are truly inspirational.

When asked about becoming a volunteer, Marilyn explains, "Vineland Public Library is a wonderful place with wonderful people". She especially enjoys working in the Children's Department because, as a retired teacher, she "knows kids and books". Marilyn appreciates "being able to interact with nice people" – patrons and staff members alike. Also, Marilyn notes, "the library is one of the best uses of [her] tax dollars". Clearly, Vineland Public Library is a very special place for this volunteer!

During National Volunteer Appreciation Week, others may find they are interested in volunteering. For those of you who are not sure if volunteering is right for you, Marilyn offers these words of wisdom:

- "There are untold rewards that you cannot imagine before you become a volunteer."
- "Being able to socialize with others is fun and adds something to your life."
- "It is nice to know that you are helping to keep costs low."

So, if you have spare time and want to make a difference, ask Vineland Public Library what volunteer opportunities are available for you!



(Marilyn shelving in the Children's Department)

Children and Teens

Fido and Friends

Children ages 6 to 12 years old are invited to sharpen their reading skills at the Vineland Public Library by reading to a dog. Teams from Fido and Friends Assisted Therapy Group are returning to the Children's Department on **Thursday, April 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Registration will begin at 6 p.m. the evening of the program and children will take turns being paired with dogs that they can read to one-on-one for short periods of time. All Fido and Friends dogs are insured Certified Therapy Dogs.

For more information, please call the Children's Department at 856-794-4244, ext. 4246.



Scenes from
2014's
Fido & Friends



Vineland Library Celebrates National Library Week with Read-a-Thon

Children ages 10 and younger are invited to the Vineland Public Library for a Read-A-Thon to celebrate National Library Week.

The Read-A-Thon will be held **Saturday, April 18, from 10:30 a.m. to noon** in the Children's Department. Enjoy an extended story time for children ages 10 and younger (come and go as you please), as well as random prize drawings – **you must be present to win!** Each child who attends a story session will receive at least one free book. Funding for the prizes and book giveaways is provided by The Friends of the Vineland Public Library. The library's Teen Club will be assisting with this event.

Children ages 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the library.

National Library Week is the American Library Association's national holiday—a special time to celebrate the contributions of all types of libraries and librarians. The 2015 event will be observed April 12-18, 2015 with the theme "Unlimited possibilities @ your library®." Come see what your library has to offer during National Library Week!

For more information, please call the Children's Department at 856-794-4244, ext. 4246.

Photography Exhibit by Nathan Farbman



During the month of April, Vineland Public Library, 1058 E. Landis Avenue, is featuring a photography exhibit called *Travels – Photography on the Go* by Nathan Farbman in the Doris Tripp Room of the library.

Farbman was born and raised in Philadelphia, and he holds a BA in Political Science. Before returning to his hometown in 2005, Farbman resided in Vineland for many years where he worked for the State of New Jersey.

Farbman bought his first camera while serving with the US Army in Vietnam. He was in a reconnaissance unit where he earned air miles for frequent missions in the Central Highlands and was awarded an Air Medal. After his discharge in 1967, Farbman traveled through the Soviet Union, Scandinavia and Western Europe, and that is when the seed for future travel was planted. *“I wanted to see the world, its art, its architecture and meet its people.”*

The photographs for *Travels* were taken between 2008 and 2014. They are available for purchase along with photos from Farbman’s 2004 exhibit. An art reception will be held on **Saturday, April 11 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.** in the Doris Tripp Memorial Room of the library.



May 2015 – Free Events



- **Monday, May 4:** Business Class with Bob Marino, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)*
- **Tuesday, May 6:** Business Class with Bob Marino, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)*
- **Thursday, May 7:** Long Term Care Program, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)
- **Monday, May 11:** Business Class with Bob Marino, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)*
- **Monday, May 18:** Bay-Atlantic Symphony Music Lecture, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)
- **Thursday, May 21:** Vineland High School Art Reception, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Community Event Room)
Writers Society Gathering, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Children’s Event Room)
- **Monday, May 25:** Memorial Day - Library Closed
- **Wednesday, May 27:** Adult Book Club Discussion of *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
(Community Event Room)

*This program requires registration. For more information, please contact the Information Desk at (856) 794-4244 ext. 4243.

All programs and times are subject to change. For a full list of programs, visit Vineland Public Library’s website at www.vinelandlibrary.org. You can also check out VPL on these social media outlets:

