



TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



2019
ANNUAL
REPORT



Fiscal Year 2019

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Dana Newman

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

Sidney Sheldon observed that “libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.” In a time when we face societal and economic challenges that can divide us, the Talbot County Free Library is the one place where we come together voluntarily to communicate, learn, explore, and support one another.

As you will find in this report, our Library bustles with resources and programs that are free and accessible to all. This past year, the library has partnered with more organizations to uplift families and reach more people in the community. Such vitality is due in no small part to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and donors like you. Your support provides the sort of engaging, responsive library services that truly empower and change lives. With your help and advocacy, the Library helps the people of Talbot County achieve their dreams.

As you turn these pages, we want you to take pride in all that we have achieved together. We are now only five years away from the library’s 100th anniversary in 2025, and we’re still working hard to make our library the very best in the land. Part of that work will soon include the long-overdue expansion and renovation of our St. Michaels Library. We ask you to join us in helping to make this essential work a reality.

We couldn’t have made this year such a success without our dedicated community of supporters, board members, volunteers, and staff. But it is you, our patrons, who make the library come alive. You turn a building full of wonderful resources into a living, breathing community connector, a place where renewal takes place every day. We thank you for helping the library to enrich the lives of those who work and live in Talbot County, as well as those who visit here. Please enjoy our 2019 Annual Report.

—Dana Newman, Director



MAIN LIBRARY

100 West Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-1626

ST. MICHAELS BRANCH

106 Fremont Street
St. Michaels, MD 21663
410-745-5877

www.tcfl.org



FISCAL YEAR 2019 | BY THE NUMBERS



REGISTERED BORROWERS

76% of Talbot County's population | 28,471
Adult | 22,181
Children | 6,290

PUBLIC SERVICE HOURS A YEAR

5,624 | Open 108 hours a week; 6 days a week

CIRCULATION

Physical and E-Resource Circulation | 359,231
Physical Circulation | 282,112
E-Resources Use: | 77,119
Circulation per Week | 6,908 / Circulation per Day | 1,151

USAGE

Number of Library Visitors | 179,361
Number of Visitors a week | 3,449
Number of Visitors a day | 575
Information Questions Answered and People Instructed | 18,920
Library Computer and Wifi Use | 61,347
Website Visits and Catalog Use | 492,873
TCFL Facebook Followers | 2,286



LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Adult, Teen & Children's Programs and Outreach Events | 781
Attendees at Library Programs/Outreach | 27,051
Number of Outside Groups Using TCFL Meeting Rooms | 1,662



COLLECTIONS

Collection Size TCFL | 124,130
Collection available from Eastern Shore Library Consortium | 848,803
Collection available from Maryland Public Libraries (FY17) | 16,049,911
Movies, TV, Ebooks, Audiobooks, Music on Hoopla | 700,953
Number of 24/7 E-Resources | 33

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Staff (Total FTE) | 23
Volunteers | 72
Total number of Volunteer Hours | 7,500
Total Volunteer Hours ROI (Valued at \$28.65/hr*) | \$214,875



*Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time for Maryland
https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/

HIGHLIGHTS - 2019

AUTHOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over a little more than a year, the Talbot County Free Library and its partners have offered programs by a number of critically-acclaimed authors. Starting in October of 2018, the library co-sponsored a talk by Talbot County native, Tim Junkin, author of *Bloodworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA*, the year's One Maryland One Book. The following month, on Nov. 10, Yale's David Blight gave a reading from his Pulitzer Prize winning biography, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

On April 9, 2019, National Book Award finalist and past chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Naomi Shihab Nye, spoke at the Easton Library about her life and work. Eastern Shore native Casey Cep gave a reading at the Easton Library on June 24 from her *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller, *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*. On Aug. 8, Earl Swift spoke about his book, *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*, which was named a best book of the year by *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *Outside*, *Smithsonian*, *Bloomberg*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Review of Books*, and *Kirkus*.

As part of Frederick Douglass Day on Sept. 28, author and scholar Celeste-Marie Bernier gave a talk at the Easton Library about her groundbreaking book: *If I Survive: Frederick Douglass and Family in the Walter O. Evans Collection*.

On October 3, Christopher Tilghman gave a reading from *Thomas and Beal in the Midi*, the third in his acclaimed Mason family saga. On October 24, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha gave a talk about her *New York Times* Notable Book and 2019's One Maryland One Book, *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*. And so our author programs began and ended with a bang: a visit from a One Maryland One Book author.

Public libraries are...essential repositories of local stories and regional histories, and in that way, they helped make my book about small-town southern life possible....And it wasn't just the small-town libraries that were remarkable; it was the librarians, too, who reliably helped me do the seemingly impossible—find a church no longer standing, say, or the full run of a tiny newspaper long since out of print.

—Casey Cep, author of *Furious Hours*





CIRCULATING CHROMEBOOKS AND WIFI HOTSPOTS

In July of 2019, our library began an exciting new service to our patrons. With funding provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Maryland State Library, the Library has been able to purchase Google Chromebooks and Wi-Fi Hotspots that are available to check out free of charge.

Library patrons who don't own a computer or don't have Wi-Fi access in their homes no longer need to feel cut off from the online world. Talbot is the first library on the Eastern Shore to offer this service.

“It has long been the mission of our library to bring the world to the people of Talbot County. Offering our patrons free access to a laptop and the internet for use at home is a logical extension of that essential service.”

—Donna Matthews, President, TCFL board of trustees

The 10 Chromebooks available for check-out are “bundled” with 10 Wi-Fi

hotspots. The remaining 20 hotspots are available for check-out to patrons who already own a computer, tablet, iPhone or other smart device, but do not currently have internet access at home. Chromebooks and hotspots are available for check-out from both the St. Michaels and Easton branches of the library.



SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND TEENS

2019 was a banner year for library services to youth. Over 6,290 children and teens have TCFL library cards. In 2019, there were 433 children and teen library programs and classes with 17,244 attendees. STEM programs were enhanced by the addition of a traveling science lab that includes 3D printers and virtual reality equipment, all made possible by a grant from the Maryland State Library. The traveling science lab has already made outreach visits to the St. Michaels Community Center and will be visiting other locations soon. *Peer Pilots: Fly into a Day in the Life of a High-Schooler* expanded in its second year of operation. The Chess Clubs at both branches are thriving. Our partnerships with Talbot County Public Schools, Judy Center, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, Building African American Minds, Talbot County Garden Club, Pets on Wheels, Horn Point Laboratory and Imagination Library of Talbot County, and other partners, produced programs like: Raising a Reader, the Fourth Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival, Summer Reading Program, Read Across America, GSK Science in the Summer, Easton High School student art shows, Peer Pilots, Get Caught Reading, STEAM Festival and many outreach visits to childcare centers, schools, and community events. TCFL continues to build on its excellent collections, programs, services and e-resources to better serve our entire community, no matter what their age.



TCFL PARTNERS – 2019

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteers
Academy Art Museum
Aging at Home Solutions
Baltimore Orioles
Better Angels Alliance
Blackbeard Biologic
Blue Crab Coffee
Building African American Minds
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
Cal Jackson Photography
Chesapeake Children's Book Festival
Chesapeake College
Chesapeake Film Festival
Chesapeake Multicultural Center
Christmas in St. Michaels
Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers
Daughters of the American Revolution
Delmarva Shorebirds
Eastern Shore Regional Library
Easton Airport
Easton Star Democrat
Easton Utilities
Easton Police Department
Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program
Frederick Douglass Honor Society
Friends of Talbot County Free Library
GSK Science in the Summer
Horn Point Laboratory – University of Maryland
Howard County Public Library – Choose Civility Initiative
Imagination Library of Talbot County
Judy Center – Talbot County Public Schools
Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing
Maryland 529 College Saving Plan
Maryland Humanities
Maryland Legal Aid
Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Maryland Public Television
Maryland Science Center
Maryland STEM Festival

Maryland State Library
Master Gardeners – University of Maryland Extension
Neighborhood Service Center
Pets on Wheels
Pickering Creek Audubon Center
Plein Air Painters of the Chesapeake
Project Purple
Royal Oak Garden Club
St. Luke's School
St Michaels Arts League
St. Michaels Business Association
St. Michaels Community Center
St. Michaels Farmers Market
St. Michaels Museum
St. Michaels Police Department

St. Michaels Running Festival
St. Michaels Women's Club
SCORE Mid-Shore
SEEDCO Maryland Health Connection
Shore United Bank
State Library Resource Center
Talbot County Arts Council
Talbot County Chamber of Commerce
Talbot County Circuit Court
Talbot County Council
Talbot County Department of Emergency Services
Talbot County Economic Development & Tourism
Talbot County Government
Talbot County Free Library Foundation
Talbot Family Network
Talbot County Garden Club
Talbot County Historical Society
Talbot County Master Gardeners
Talbot County Public Schools
Talbot County Sheriff's Department
Town of Easton
Town of St. Michaels
U.S. Census
Waterfowl Festival



“The library is uniquely located in all communities. Creating partnerships with other organizations, businesses, and other departments can yield great benefits. In using collaborative partnerships, the library demonstrates how working together makes a difference in the community.”

—Mary K. Murphy

TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Every year, more than 27,000 children and adults are reached with library programs and materials that would not exist without additional funding



provided by the Talbot County Free Library Foundation. The vast reach and impact of the library's services, programming, and resources illustrates what private funding and a small nonprofit foundation can do in partnership with a strong public library.

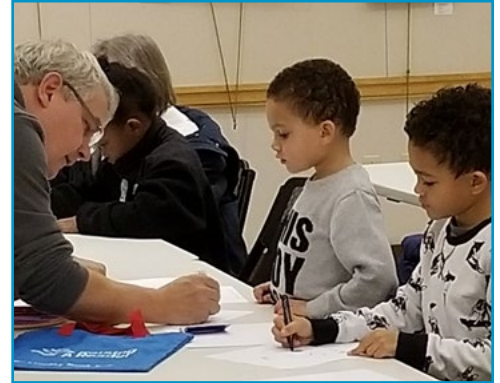
The Talbot County Free Library Foundation was established in 1996 to support the Library. The Foundation's mission is that

"through responsible fundraising, advocacy, and the prudent stewardship of gifts, the Talbot County Free Library Foundation enables the library to support a thriving community."

IN 2019 OUR LIBRARY FOUNDATION:

- Raised funds from generous donors for the St. Michael's expansion and renovation fund
- Made an annual contribution of over \$83,000 for children's and teen programming, books, equipment, and more
- Established new giving opportunities
- Gave a gift of over \$2,000 to fund materials for the Maryland Room
- Gave a gift of over \$1,100 to replace the library's door counters

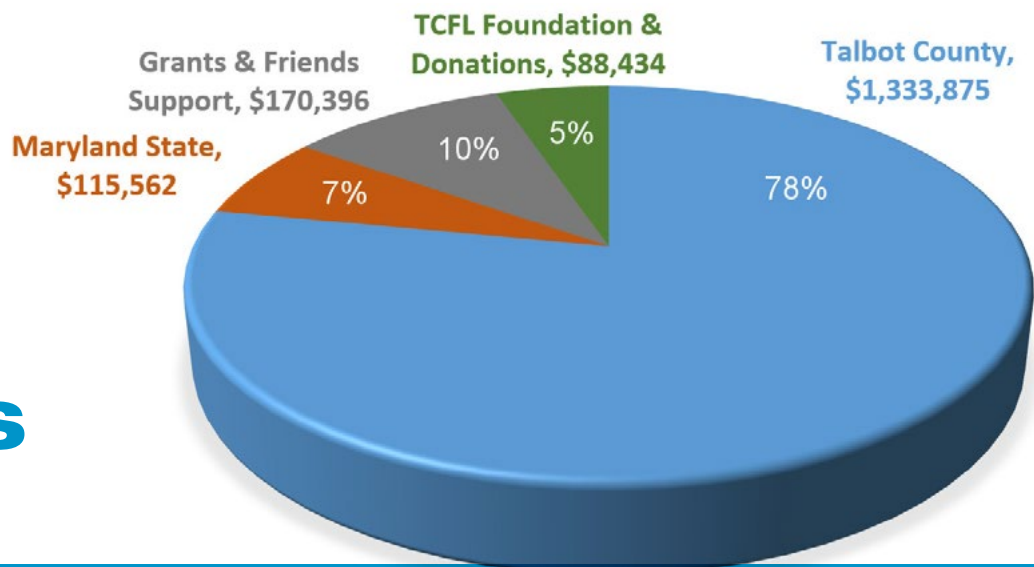
Each and every day at our library, lives are changed and amazing stories are told. We thank all our generous donors for helping the library to serve others.



Naming Opportunities @ Your Library

Create a tribute to honor your friends or family by naming a part of the library.

TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY FUNDING SOURCES



FRIENDS OF THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



Established in 1974, the Friends of the Talbot County Free Library is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as advocates for the Talbot County Free Library and promote the value and services of the Library for the enrichment of the community.

IN 2019, THE FRIENDS:

- Helped fund the Chesapeake Children's Book Festival, STEAM Festival, Summer Reading Program, Author Visits, and many other special programs for all ages
- Promoted public awareness of library services and resources through their newsletter
- Continued to build a substantial fund for opening day library books and materials for the expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels Library

- Created and sponsored the Reading Pro award which celebrates reading by recognizing a student who has demonstrated significant achievement in reading in each of the fifth-grade classes at the five county elementary schools
- Ran two very successful book sales that raised substantial funds for library programs
- Sponsored and coordinated special events, such as the "Ferry Tales" fundraiser
- Advocated for the Library with state and local governments
- Provided volunteer staff for many library programs and events
- Purchased several book carts

If you would like to become a Friend of the Talbot County Free Library, you may sign up online or pick up a membership form at any Talbot County Free Library location.



ST. MICHAELS LIBRARY EXPANSION

The Library met with the Talbot County Council on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, to discuss the planned expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels library. Using information from the 2019 feasibility study for the project, Library Director Dana Newman walked the council through the various inadequacies of the current building. These include a deteriorating infrastructure, and outdated mechanical and lighting systems. It is also too small a structure, at 7,716 square feet, to provide the population of St. Michaels and the Bay Hundred areas with 21st century library services.

To meet current library service needs, the 2019 Feasibility Study recommends a 40% (3,071 square feet) expansion of the building and the installation of energy-efficient mechanical and lighting systems. Other improvements include: a larger community meeting room, added space for new library materials, two study rooms for small groups to meet and work, and enlarging the children's and teen areas to allow for interactive learning, studying, and additional public computers.

Director Newman thanked the County Council for the funding already given for the recent repair and replacement work on the building, including replacing a failing HVAC system and installing a roof seal to stop leaks.

The estimate for the renovation and expansion of the St. Michaels Library is \$3,761,953. Ms. Newman outlined possible sources of supplemental funding for the project, including the Maryland State Library Capital Grant Program, and a fundraising campaign by the Library's Foundation and Friends group. These two sources may make up as much as one-third of the total cost of the project. The fundraising campaign is already underway.

"The St. Michaels library is an integral part of the community's intellectual, educational, recreational, business, and cultural life," Talbot County Free Library Director Dana Newman said. "It is a wonderful asset to the community of St. Michaels."