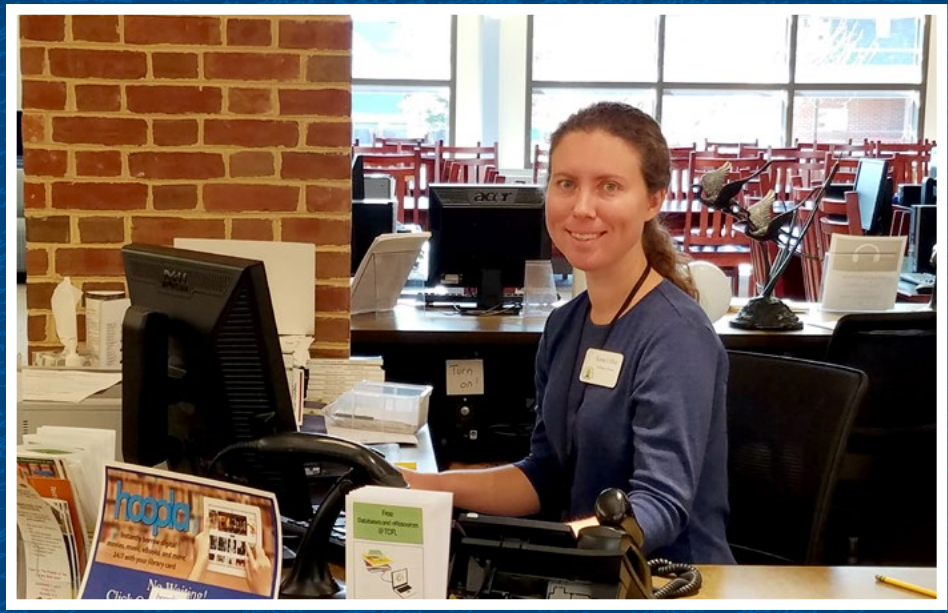




ANNUAL REPORT 2017





Barbara Lane
PRESIDENT

Lizette Hannegan
VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Heatly
TREASURER

Michael Silver
ASSISTANT TREASURER

James Dawson
SECRETARY

Dirck Bartlett
TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL
LIAISON

Seth Beatty
FOUNDATION LIAISON

Elizabeth Beggins

Linda DePrima

Gloria Farrare

Donna Matthews

Jean Wortman

Robert Forloney

Dana Newman
DIRECTOR

www.tcfl.org

TOTAL CARDHOLDERS 30,087

CIRCULATION 302,877

Easton 207,709

St. Michaels 36,645

Database Use and Downloads 58,533

COLLECTION SIZE

Physical Collection at TCFL 121,590

Ebooks and Audiobooks on Overdrive. 71,977

Movies, TV, Ebooks, Audiobooks, Music on HOOPLA 571,784

Physical Collection available from the Eastern Shore Library Consortium . 2,100,000

INFORMATION QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND PEOPLE INSTRUCTED 23,459

Easton 5,868

Maryland Room 16,169

St. Michaels 1,422

PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET COMPUTERS 42

TWO LAPTOP LABS - # OF LAPTOPS 24

CHILDREN'S COMPUTERS 5

PUBLIC COMPUTER AND WIRELESS USERS 70,311

VISITORS 189,601

WEBSITE VISITS 287,183

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Children and Teens. 262 Programs with 8,118 Attendees

Adults and Family. 396 Programs with 8,794 Attendees

Total 658 Programs with 16,912 Attendees

TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF (FTE) 23

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS 71

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS 7,548

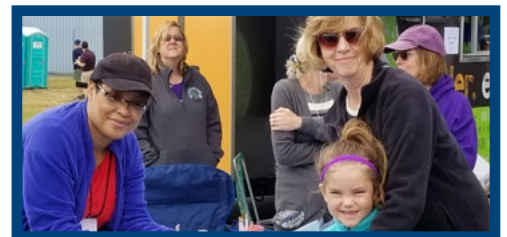
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS ROI (Valued at \$26.79/hr*) \$202,211

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



MAIN LIBRARY
100 West Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601

ST. MICHAELS BRANCH
106 Fremont Street
St. Michaels, MD 21663



HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Eastern Shore Library Consortium

Under the leadership of the Eastern Shore Regional Library, the Talbot County Free Library (TCFL) is now part of an Eastern Shore-wide shared library automation system. We have joined seven other county library systems, linked by 25 locations, serving 243,000 borrowers, with a collection of more than 2.1 million library materials. This shared system covers more than 4,400 miles, making more materials available and easier to access for all cardholders in the region.

St. Michaels Branch Expansion/Renovation

Work has begun on the planned 2020 expansion/renovation of the St. Michaels Branch Library. We received a facilities planning matching grant for \$12,310 from the Maryland State Library, which will enable the library to engage an architect to complete a feasibility study of the options available to expand on the current site.

New TCFL Website

TCFL has a new face to the world; the library's updated website at www.tcfl.org. The website is easy to use and gives patrons instant access to a multitude of library services and resources—all free—including downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, movies, television programs, and music; borrowing from all the other Maryland public libraries; access to all the library's databases and catalog. New features include "How to Get a Library Card," "How to Volunteer," a way to suggest a new title for the collection, and a carousel of images on the homepage that features library programming and services.

Seed Library

A seed library has sprouted at the Easton branch of TCFL. The Talbot County Free Seed Library is a collaboration between TCFL, University of Maryland Extension, and the Talbot County Master Gardeners. The seed library provides fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower seeds for patrons to take home and plant. Organizers hope patrons will try growing their own food, and plant flowers that attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. At the end of the growing season, patrons are encouraged to collect seeds from the plants they've grown and donate some to the library. Seeds have been donated by Seed Savers Coalition, Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, High Mowing Organic Seeds, Burpee, and members of the Master Gardener program. The description and photos on Facebook generated more than 7,000 hits—a milestone.

Second Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival

On June 17, 2017, TCFL hosted the Second Annual CCBF with more than 30 authors and illustrators attending. There were author readings, music, crafts, make-a-book, and fun for all ages. CCBF is a collaborative initiative of TCFL, our Friends of TCFL, and Eventful Giving. Eventful Giving raised more than \$6,000 toward providing each child who signed up for TCFL's Summer Reading program with a free book by one of the festival's authors. More than 700 children signed up for the program. Total attendance for the day was more than 1,500. Other community partners included Habitat for Humanity, Judy Center, Imagination Library, and Talbot County Public Schools, Riverkeepers, Boy Scouts Del-Mar-Va Council, Country School, Easton Business Alliance, Shore United Bank, Target, and the University of Maryland Extension Service. Special thanks to all our community

partners who helped make this event such a success. Total Summer Reading attendance of preschoolers, children and teens was 2,426. This year's Summer Reading Program featured a grand prize of a \$529 Maryland College Investment Plan account (thanks to a generous gift from Maryland College Savings Plan).

Frederick Douglass Day 2017

On September 23, Talbot County once again celebrated Frederick Douglass Day. TCFL partnered with the Frederick Douglass Honor Society, the Town of Easton, and others to stage this event. The Easton branch hosted many of the day's activities. Events included the Children's Village in the library's front garden, the Amazing Race scavenger hunt, music, parades, lectures, and an exhibit from the National Park Service and the University of Maryland on the slave quarters at Wye House, along with items that belonged to Frederick Douglass. The inspirational speaker and direct descendant of Frederick Douglass, Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., gave the keynote address in the Easton library's main meeting room. Following that, Artworks for Freedom hosted a panel discussion on modern human trafficking. More than 1,500 attended the events.

Strategic Plan

At their October 2017 meeting, the Library Board of Trustees approved the new 2018-2022 Strategic Plan for the Library. Thanks to in-depth community feedback, the hard work of the strategic planning committee, and the leadership and contributions of the library's community partners and staff, TCFL has a plan for the library's future that will respond to the needs of TCFL patrons trying to learn, thrive, and grow by nurturing and supporting community engagement, and revitalizing the library's physical and virtual spaces. This is a plan that really gets to the heart of what our community would like to see from the library and was only accomplished with the community's help.

STEAM Festival at TCFL

November 9-11, 2017. Part of a statewide festival that celebrates science, technology, engineering, art, and math, TCFL's event began with an exhibit of paintings and a lecture by Robert T. Horvath on his World War One aviation art. The exhibit has been shown throughout the state and comes from the collection of the Air Force Museum. The second event on November 10, was at Easton Middle School. TCFL and the Waterfowl Festival partnered with Environmental Concern to present "Wonders of Wetland Waterfowl," testing attendees' knowledge of local waterfowl and their relationship to the wetlands. Kids built their own wetland habitats and explored the adaptations that make waterfowl unique. The St. Michaels Branch had an expert give a duck-calling demonstration. The final and main event was the STEAM Festival on November 11 at TCFL Easton. It included the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources' Scales and Tales exhibit, featuring live birds of prey, miniature steam engines from Tuckahoe Steam and Gas, FutureMakers Light Painting Lab, virtual reality with Google Expeditions, Robot Rodeo, drone demonstrations and hands-on crafts, legos, a pop-up book display, and exhibits from Talbot County Public Schools Career and Technology Education program. Light refreshments and the "smoothie bike" from Talbot Mentors added to the day's celebration. Total for all programs was 721 attendees.



PUBLIC SERVICES 2017

- Audiobooks
- Bilingual Children's Collection
- Book Discussions
- Business and Marketing Research
- Community Art Exhibits
- Concerts
- Craft Programs for All Ages
- Early Literacy Materials
- Ebooks
- Homework Help
- Instruction
- Job Search Assistance
- Large Print Book Collection
- Law and Government Information
- Loans from Public and Academic Libraries
- Maryland Room
- Meeting Room Space for Community Organizations
- Outreach to Schools and Childcare Centers
- Outreach to Senior Centers
- Printing, Photocopying, Scanning to email
- Programming for All Ages
- Public Computers and Wi-Fi
- Quiet Study Rooms
- Referral to Other Agencies
- Research Assistance
- Science Displays
- Spanish Language Collection
- Teacher Cards
- 24/7 Online Classes, Research and Tutoring Services

FROM DANA NEWMAN, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our patrons and community are special to the staff and volunteers of the Talbot County Free Library (TCFL). As you come into the library seeking enrichment and renewal, we encourage you to take advantage of the resources, services and opportunities that abound for deep learning, enjoyable reading, quiet reflection, and fun entertainment.

2017 was a transformative year for the library, ushering in a five-year strategic plan, "Discovering Opportunity, Expanding Horizons," which reflects the wonderful community input we received, and provides a blueprint for meeting the future needs of Talbot County residents. During the next five years, the library will be focusing on three areas: lifelong learning, community engagement, and creating welcoming facilities. We will continue to extend services beyond our walls and into the community, and respond to the evolving role of libraries and the needs of our patrons. We look forward to your feedback as we move forward.

This report highlights the effect that library programs, resources, technologies, and services have on our patrons' lives. We are incredibly proud of our staff and volunteers, our expansive collection of more than 120,000 items, the welcoming facilities, and a new and engaging website. Additional support comes from our wonderful volunteers who gave 7,548 hours of their time serving our patrons. Our Library Board of Trustees supports and guides the library. We receive financial and volunteer support from the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, which provided funding this past year for materials, programming, and new furniture for our St. Michaels branch. Thank you to our partners, organizations, and individuals that generously gave their time and supported the library through their donations.

Another part of the library's transformation this past year has been staying current with new technologies and initiatives. The library was awarded a grant that allowed us to expand our programming options to include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). The grant allowed us to purchase twelve laptops that will support STEAM programming and other public technology classes. The library has also begun to offer virtual reality programming and continues to offer one-on-one technology training for our patrons.

This report shares only a fraction of the library's activities that contribute to the economic, educational, and social needs of the community. We encourage you to join us! Come read, meet, create, or go a step further and become one of our volunteers. The library will continue to move our community forward, ensuring our residents are prepared for the future. We are committed to providing a place where all are welcome, respected, and valued.

With warm wishes,

Dana Newman, Director

