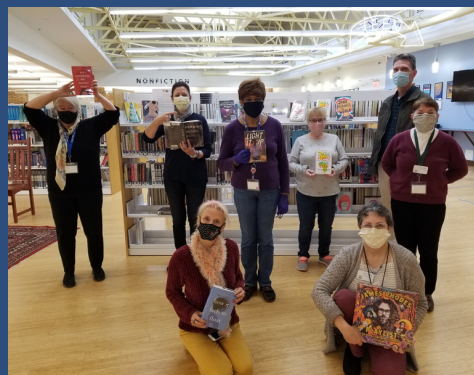




2021 Annual Report





From The Director's Desk

To our community,

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and escape into our story which is one of hope and goodwill; of the library, our partners and the community pulling together to help neighbors during this tough time. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was a time of inspiration and renewal for the Talbot County Free Library (TCFL). While the library building was closed at times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff were busy behind the scenes as over 270,000 items were borrowed; 1,100 craft bags were taken home by eager families; over 5,000 books-to-go bags were circulated to patrons; and over 400 in-person and virtual programs enriched the lives of over 16,000 adults and children. Even during periods of closure or limited in-person services, the Library remained a busy community hub with patrons coming to pick up books and crafts through our to-go service, participate in several outside Community Days, and attend many outside and virtual programs. Staff reintroduced our youngest customers to the library through outside story times and story walks. Our teams have continued to provide essential services and resources to our community during the pandemic and have never stopped working.

We've written and rewritten the library's story in FY21, changing service levels, adding new technology, getting all TCPS students virtual library cards, and supporting the community through many different outreach events. Through the Maryland State Library (MSL), TCFL received Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funding to extend safe, secure public internet access to patrons outside of our branches and to purchase more Wi-Fi hotspots for our patrons to borrow. The availability of these hotspots created opportunity and equity for those in our community who did not have good access to high-speed Internet. This past year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the St. Michaels Library. I want to personally thank all of you who wrote letters of advocacy in support of expanding and renovating the St. Michaels Library. The library will learn early next year if we will receive grant funding for design work to begin in FY23. If grant funding is received for all phases of the project, construction should be completed in 2025 in time for TCFL's 100th anniversary. Moving into the New Year the library will continue to reflect the changing needs of our community with both innovative services and the basics. We are here for you no matter what happens. The library staff look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Yours in service,

DANA K. NEWMAN

Talbot County Free Library Director



FISCAL YEAR 2021

DIRECTOR:
DANA NEWMAN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

PRESIDENT:
SUSAN SHERMAN

VICE PRESIDENT:
ROBERT FORLONEY

TREASURER:
BARBARA HEATLY

SECRETARY:
CHARLES E. YONKERS

**TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL
LIAISON:**
PETE LESHER

**TOWN OF EASTON COUNCIL
LIAISON:**
RON ENGLE

FRIENDS COUNCIL LIAISON:
TYSON LUBIN

HUDSON BERRY

HEENA PARACHA

ESTELA RAMIREZ

JOHN STUMPF

ANDREW THALER

MARLENE THOMAS



MAIN LIBRARY:
100 W. DOVER STREET
EASTON, MD 21601

ST. MICHAELS BRANCH:
106 FREMONT STREET
ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663

WWW.TCFL.ORG

FY 2021 | By The Numbers

Services

- Number of Library Card Holders | 27,926
- Total Circulation of Materials | 270,959
- Annual Physical Library Visits | 32,223
- Patrons Using Books-To-Go | 3,895
- E-Resources Use | 86,005
- Seed Packets Given Out | 2,000

Library Programs:

- Adult, Teen and Children's Programs | 401
- Total Program Attendance | 16,048
- Wireless Sessions & Website Visits | 488,441

Library Collections

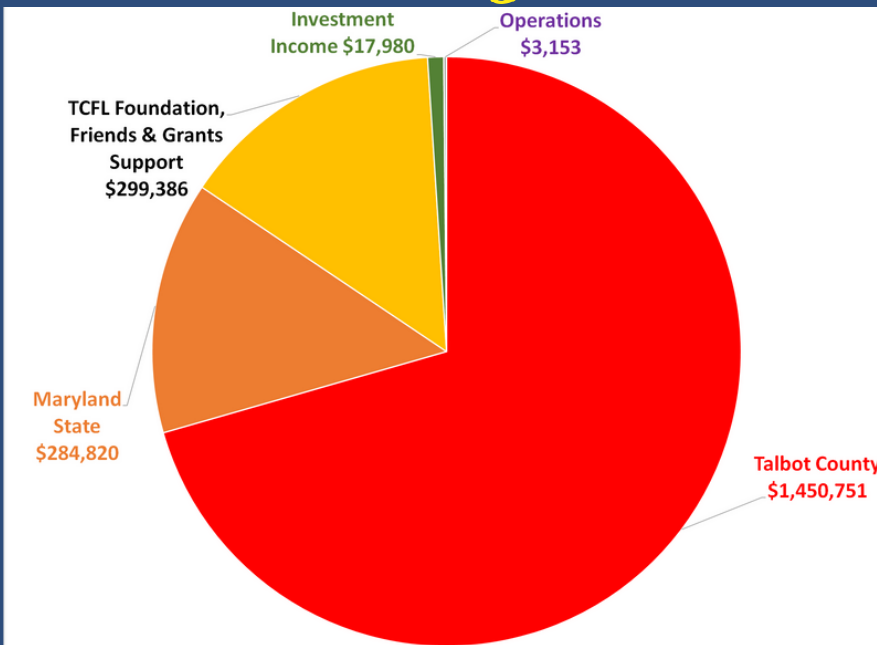
- Print Materials | 111,789
- Movies, TV, E-books, Audiobooks, music on Hoopla | 700,000+
- Collection available from Eastern Shore Library Consortium | 858,146

Volunteer Hours

- Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 2,409
- Number of Volunteers: 69
- \$31.29/hr.*
- Total amount saved based on Volunteer Hours: \$75,378

*Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time for Maryland 2020

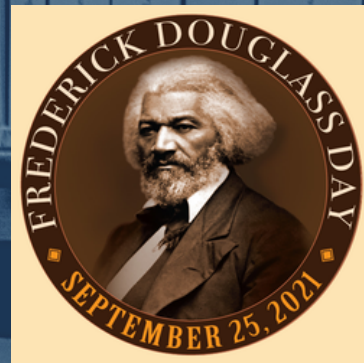
TCFL Funding Sources



Community Program Highlights

Frederick Douglass Day 2021

Every year, The Talbot County Free Library joins The Frederick Douglass Honor Society, to celebrate the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass. The celebration took place virtually due to COVID-19. John Stauffer, Professor of English and of African American Studies at Harvard University was the keynote speaker. Other activities throughout the day included a children's virtual village and discussions of Frederick Douglass statues around the world.



The 6th Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival

Headlining the hybrid festival was awarding winning children's author and illustrator Bryan Collier, a Pocomoke, Maryland native. Books authored and/or illustrated by Collier include "We Shall Overcome" and "Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington". During the week before the Festival, a different author read each night via Facebook Live. Others read via Facebook Live during the festival including David LaRoche, Carole Boston Weatherford, Ann Brashares, and Thrity Umrigar.



Latinx KidLit Book Festival

The Latinx Kid Book Festival was a virtual celebration of Latinx KidLit authors, illustrators, and books. The virtual festival presented two free days of keynote sessions, Q&A events, and panels with Latinx authors and illustrators of picture books, middle grade, young adult, graphic novels, and poetry.



The Library Guy Interviews Alice McDermott

Bill Peak, Talbot County's "Library Guy," interviewed National Book Award Winner Alice McDermott, who has been called, "The Virginia Woolf of American Letters." Peak's interview took place in the fall of 2020 as part of a partnership with *The Talbot Spy* to introduce area readers to the poets and writers behind some of our country's best literature.

COVID-19 Update with Fredia Wadley

During the Fall of 2020, the number of COVID-19 cases was rising in Talbot County. Talbot County Health Officer Fredia Wadley talked to "Library Guy" Bill Peak about the latest information on COVID-19 and the progress of the vaccine development.



Cabin Fever Film Festival

During the winter months, the Talbot County Free Library offered the community two free films to stream: Rob Reiner's *The Magic of Belle Isle* and *This Beautiful Fantastic*. In *The Magic Of the Belle*, Morgan Freeman moves to a remote village to regain his strength and rediscover his passion for writing. *The Beautiful Fantastic*, is a contemporary fairy tale that centers on the unlikely friendship between a reclusive young woman who dreams of writing children's books and a cranky widower. Both films also offered a Zoom discussion.

Community Program Highlights (Continued)

Book Discussion: *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* by Casey Cep

The Easton Book Group discussed "Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee" via Zoom. Author Casey Cep was on hand to join the discussion, which received positive feedback from book discussion members.

2021 Summer Reading: Tales and Tails

Over 1,300 people participated in the program that took place from June 1 through July 31. During both summer programs, children and adults logged in books or audiobooks into the Beanstack website/app, and received badges in the process. There was also an online memoir writing class. Children also had the opportunity to enjoy Outdoor Pre-School Story Time, Ukulele Series, It's Alive! Story Book Comes to Life (via Zoom), Turtles and Snakes! (via Zoom), and more! Over 500,000 Maryland residents participated in library summer programming in 2019.

Virtual Heritage Concert Series

This Zoom and Facebook Live program was a partnership with Carpe Diem Arts and Brookletts Place. The first concert took place in late March and featured two astounding groups. The first was duo Rakish, with violinist Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Connor Hearn, who put on a performance that celebrated Irish American Heritage Month. The second performer was jazz, blues, and gospel singer Lea Gilmore, who offered songs to honor Women's History Month. The series was offered every fourth Friday through June.

Dr. Erika Lee: *The Making of Asian America*

In the spring of 2021, Dr. Erika Lee held a virtual discussion of her book. This book shows how generations of Asian immigrants and their American-born descendants have made and remade Asian American life in the United States.

Learn to play the Ukulele!

Children between the ages of six through sixteen were encouraged to learn to play the Ukulele! Once registered, they picked up their ukulele kit, which included the instrument, songbook, and more. They also received links to the video lessons via email.

SEED: The Untold Story

A Talbot Master Gardener Program, volunteer Mikaela Boley provided a free virtual screening to explore the importance of seeds, preservation of biodiversity, and the impacts on the environment. The film was followed by a discussion and participant Q&A discussing highlights from the film. Boley also answered questions regarding the Talbot County Free Library Seed Program.



Thank you to our Partners- 2021

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteers
 Academy Art Museum
 American Job Center
 Blackbeard Biologic
 Bluepoint Hospitality
 Blue Crab Coffee
 Building African American Minds (BAAM)
 Cal Jackson Photography
 Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
 Chesapeake Children's Book Festival
 Chesapeake College
 Chesapeake Film Festival
 Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
 Christmas in St. Michaels
 Citizens for Maryland Libraries
 Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers
 Eastern Shore Library Consortium
 Eastern Shore Regional Library
 Easton Airport
 Easton Farmers Market
 Easton Utilities
 Easton Police Department
 Flying Cloud Booksellers
 Frederick Douglass Honor Society
 Friends of the Talbot County Free Library
 GSK Science in the Summer
 Horn Point Laboratory- University of Maryland
 Imagination Library of Talbot County
 Judy Center- Talbot County Public Schools
 Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing
 Maryland Humanities
 Maryland Legal Aid
 Maryland Library For the Blind and Print Disabled
 Maryland Public Television
 Maryland STEM Festival
 Maryland State Library Agency
 Master Gardeners-University of Maryland Extension
 Mystery Loves Company Bookstore

MY Tech Clinics
 Neighborhood Service Center
 Pickering Creek Audubon Center
 Plein Air Painters of the Chesapeake
 Project Purple
 Salisbury University
 St. Michaels Art League
 St. Michaels Business Association
 St. Michaels Community Center
 St. Michaels Farmers Market
 St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square
 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 Habitat For Humanity
 Talbot County Health Department
 Talbot County Free Library Foundation
 Talbot Early Childhood Advisory Board
 Talbot Family Network
 Talbot County Garden Club
 Talbot County Historical Society
 Talbot County Master Gardeners
 Talbot County Public Schools
 Talbot County Senior Center
 Talbot County Sheriff's Department
 The Star Democrat
 Town of Easton
 Town of St. Michaels
 Town of Trappe
 U.S. Census
 Waterfowl Festival
 Working Artists Forum

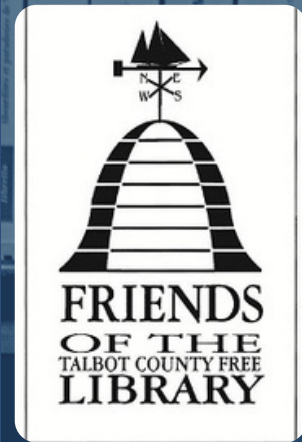


Friends of the Talbot County Free Library

The Council of Friends of the Talbot County Free Library represents more than 200 individuals and businesses dedicated to promoting the Library through fundraising events, programs, and participation in many community events. The past two years were challenging but even with nearly 100% virtual programming, memberships held steady in 2020 and dropped just slightly in 2021. The Friends entered 2021 with new energy to sponsor in-person and virtual events such as the STEAM program, the 6th annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival, monthly topical programs and the highly successful annual Book Sale, which was turned into a scaled-down "Bare Book Sale" in August, and inspired smaller book sales on the five Mondays in November. Based on the success of these "Pop Up Book Sales", the Friends plan to have several book sales in 2022. Unable to host any in-person fundraising events, the Friends held an online auction in May 2021 that attracted over 100 donations and several hundred bidders. Thanks to our proud sponsor Shore United Bank proceeds exceeded \$5,000! Our Annual Membership Drive in May also surpassed expectations with funds earmarked for the Saint Michaels branch renovation and expansion. Members who would like to increase their involvement are invited to join the Council of the FOL which coordinates programs and events. For more information, email tcflfriends@gmail.com.

Talbot County Free Library Foundation

This year, marked the 40th anniversary of the St. Michaels Library's service to the Bay Hundred community. We invite you to celebrate this milestone throughout the coming year with us as we fundraise for the expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels Library. 2021 was an incredibly challenging year for all Talbot County, but the Library continued to provide crucial resources to those who depend upon its services. This past year, the Library Foundation funded virtual children's storytimes and special programs for patrons of all ages, books that were circulated through the library books-to-go program, e-books, and new technology. The Library Foundation contributes key funding to the Talbot County Free Library to help it to provide resources and programs that bridge educational, digital, economic, and cultural divides. Families, students, job seekers, and many other patrons need the Library's resources more than ever before. Your generous donations help us keep library resources widely available to those that urgently need them and will also help with the future expansion of the St. Michaels Library to a modern facility that can meet the future needs of its patrons. We thank all of our donors for helping us to serve others.



St. Michaels Expansion & Renovation Update

In May of 2021, the Talbot County Free Library applied for matching funding from the Maryland Library Capital grant program to begin design planning for the expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels Library. If the grant is awarded and matching funding is provided by the County, the library plans to start design work in fiscal year 2023. The new design will preserve the beautiful park-like setting that is so loved by the community. The new library will feature expanded teen and children's areas, a larger meeting room, the addition of two study rooms, and added space for new library materials and computers. The project will also remedy current facility problems, including a deteriorating infrastructure and outdated mechanical and lighting systems. The Friends of the Talbot County Free Library and the Talbot County Free Library Foundation are both currently raising funds for new library materials, furnishings, and technology upgrades for the expansion of the St. Michaels Library. To donate to the building expansion campaign, please go to tcfl.org. Thank you to all of you who wrote letters of advocacy to support the expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels Library.

