

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



"The Talbot County Free Library's resources has broadened my knowledge in many ways. Even in lock down, the library found a way to allow me to keep reading by creating "books to go." The Talbot County Free Library is staffed by dedicated professionals who benefit our county citizens in many varied ways, truly a great example of my tax dollars at work!" - TCFL Patron, March 2022

# Fiscal Year 2022

DANA NEWMAN  
DIRECTOR

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### Main Library:

100 W. Dover Street  
Easton, MD 21601

### St. Michaels Branch:

106 Fremont Street  
St. Michaels, MD 21663

WWW.TCFL.ORG

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**"A library is a miracle. A place where you can learn just about anything, for free. A place where your mind can come alive,"-Josh Hanagarne author of the World's Strongest Librarian.**

The Talbot County Free Library (TCFL) is the one place where individuals in the community can come to work together, communicate, learn, and explore. TCFL recently adopted a new vision statement as a part of its new strategic plan which reads that the library "is an integral part of the community, fostering a spirit of exploration and discovery. We cultivate lifelong learning, creativity, and enrichment." As a part of the strategic planning process this past year, TCFL listened to our patrons, staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders to develop a new strategic plan for 2023-2025. The plan focuses on creating inviting facilities, building strong community connections, cultivating an inclusive environment where individual feels welcome, and promoting the joy of reading and learning for all ages.

As a part of creating an inviting library for all residents and visitors, TCFL will start the design process for the new St. Michaels Library renovation and expansion set to be completed in time for TCFL's 100th anniversary in late 2025. To meet future service needs, the 2019 Feasibility Study recommended that the library be expanded by 40% to include a larger community meeting room, added space for more books, two study rooms, and enlarging the children's and teen areas to allow for interactive learning and additional public computers.

The Talbot County Free Library Foundation has started a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase furniture and library materials for the new St. Michaels Library. The Friends of the Library are also seeking donations for funds to purchase books. Please consider giving a gift to either organization at [tcfl.org](http://tcfl.org) to ensure that the newly renovated library is inviting and is able to provide programs and materials to enrich the intellectual, educational, recreational, business, and cultural life of our community.

We are proud that TCFL bustles with patrons who find resources and programs that are free and accessible to all. Our many successes, along with our robust community engagement, reflects the library's vision and commitment to deliver exceptional resources and services to our patrons. We want to thank all of our patrons for their support and hope to see you soon at the library.

**Yours in Service,**

**Dana K. Newman**

*Dana K. Newman*

**Talbot County Free Library Director**

# FY 2022 | BY THE NUMBERS

## Services

- Library Card Holders | 23,528
- Physical Visits | 84,608 (about 15.4 people per hour)
- Reference questions answered | 14,179
- Total Public Service Hours | 5,494
- Number of Public Computers | 39
- Count of Computer Users | 7,701
- Wi-Fi Users | 13,982
- Virtual Library Visits | 383,411
- Meeting & Study Room Use by Outside Organizations | 970

## Library Collections

- Physical Collection Size | 125,172
- Virtual Collection Size | 1,000,000+ (includes e-books, audiobooks, magazines)
- Number of Circulating Wi-Fi Hotspots | 91
- Total of Circulation of Materials | 285,971 (includes downloads and e-resources)
- Number of Seed packets distributed | 3,000
- Number of COVID-19 Tests distributed | 2,500

## Library Programs

- Adult, Teen and Children's Programs | 405
- Total Attendance at Programs | 16,831

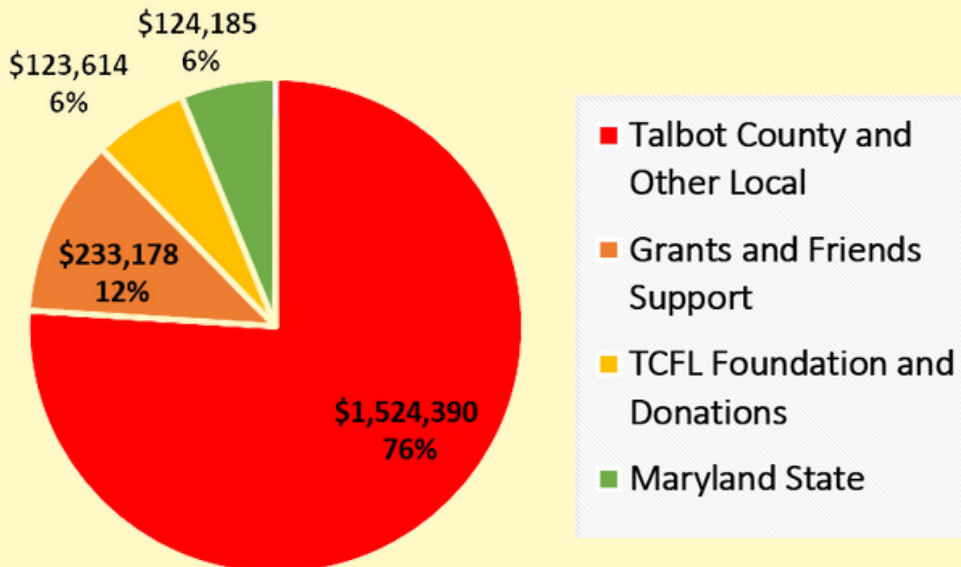
## Volunteer Hours:

- Total Number of Volunteer Hours | 3,506
- Number of Volunteers | 61
- \$29.95/hr\*
- Total amount saved based on Volunteer Hours | \$105,005

\*Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time for Maryland 2022



## TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY FUNDING SOURCES



# 2022 TCFL HIGHLIGHTS

## Frederick Douglass Day 2022

Talbot County Free Library joined forces with the Frederick Douglass Honor Society, and other partners, in saluting Frederick Douglass who was born into slavery in 1818. Against all odds, Douglass became one of the most brilliant orators and influential abolitionists in history. The distinguished professor, Dr. Robert Levine, author of "The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson," did a presentation on Frederick Douglass's heated struggle with President Andrew Johnson over the rights of Black Americans. The celebration of Frederick Douglass' legacy also included a parade, children's village, book talk, geocaching, and musical performances.

## 7th Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival and Summer Reading Program

The theme of this year's Book Festival and Summer Reading Program was Oceans of Possibility. The 7th Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival had over 1,000 attendees. The keynote speakers were award-winning authors Carole Boston Weatherford and Bryan Collier. It was the kickoff event for our Summer Reading Program. Thanks to Flying Cloud Booksellers and Bluepoint Hospitality, over 350 book vouchers valued at \$20.00 a piece for books at Flying Cloud Booksellers were distributed to children signing up for the Summer Reading Program.

## Maryland STEM Festival 2022

The mission of the Maryland STEM Festival is to encourage all students to take a greater interest in STEM that will eventually lead to a related/focused career. Talbot County Free Library had several events including a successful STEM Blood Drive where over 59 units of blood were collected, which helps up to 177 people. It was all made possible with the help of The Blood Bank of Delmarva. The Community STEM Festival brought in over 1,000 people and partner organizations including Pickering Creek, Easton Utilities, Oxford Museum/Crossroads, MY Tech, Easton Robotics, ShoreRivers, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, and the University of Maryland Extension. Andrew Thaler, Blackbeard Biologic CEO, did hands-on aquatic robots demonstrations.

## Raising A Reader

In May, over 600 students in Talbot County at 5 public elementary schools celebrated Raising a Reader which aims to increase the number of families who regularly share picture books and stories with their children. Every week, young readers take home red bags that include 4 high-quality diverse books, and a library card (often their first). This year, the number of families included in the program doubled as a result of COVID, extending the opportunity to all Preschool and Kindergarten students in the public schools. Laura Powell, Children's Librarian, noted that when the children visited the library "they were so excited to complete the scavenger hunt, choose a prize, register for our summer reading program, and most importantly, check out books." This is an important ongoing partnership program with Talbot County Public Schools.

## Scott Cohen: Reflections on Life, Art, and my time in Ukraine

Scott Cohen is the creator of the Life Cube Project, an interactive public art installation that has expanded to multiple large scale installations around the world. At the St. Michaels Library, Cohen shared his experience from his recent trip to Ukraine where he worked as chief cook and bottle washer. He fed the refugees from the war zones in that region. He reflected on his level of engagement with trying to serve the public creatively. He fed the refugees from the war zones in that region. He reflected on his level of engagement with trying to serve the public creatively at the St. Michaels Branch this fall.



# TCFL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Programs

The Talbot County Free Library and Talbot Family Network joined forces to create the Talbot County Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion book club in January 2022. This new book club was designed for those who seek to engage in conversations that focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Issues. Talbot Family Network has also hosted several Conversations on Race at the Easton Library about the impact of race in the community with a new theme each session.

## Mayor Robert C. Willey's State of the Town Address

Mayor Willey delivered his State of the Town Address in August at the Easton Library. During his address, Mayor Willey discussed affordable housing, infrastructure, parks and recreational activities, public safety and the status of town projects. Mayor Willey stressed the need to be transparent on each topic discussed during his presentation.

## COVID-19 Oral History Project

Everybody has a COVID-19 pandemic story to tell. The Talbot County Free Library started hearing and recording those stories in March at the Easton Library and the St. Michaels Branch in July. All participants recorded stories will be uploaded to Enoch Pratt Free Library's Digital Maryland and Maryland State Archives for anyone to be able to listen to online. The Global Z Recording Project has partnered with the Talbot County Free Library as well as 14 other libraries across the state to record Marylanders COVID-19 experiences. Volunteer Dick Peskin who interviews participants characterized the stories as very moving.

## "Lost & Found" Talk & Book Signing with Kathryn Schulz

Talbot County Free Library and the Academy Art Museum hosted author Kathryn Schulz's "Lost & Found" Talk and Book Signing. The full-capacity free event took place at the Academy Art Museum in March. The evening was moderated by Casey Cep, Talbot County native and acclaimed author of "Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee." "Lost & Found" examines the period before and after the death of Schulz's beloved father, and how she met the woman she would marry. Schulz weaves the stories of those relationships into a meditation upon the experiences of loss and discovery.

## Bridging a Digital Divide

It has been Talbot County Free Library's mission to give patrons access to the digital world inside and outside of library grounds. Talbot County Public School students now have a virtual eResource Access Card (SEA Card) which gives them access to library eResources for free. TCFL has also circulated Wi-Fi hotspots, shared online classes, given one on one technology help, partnered with MYTech to give classes, and more. We had over 1,000 people taking Gale courses in FY 2022.



# PARTNERSHIPS

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteers  
Academy Art Museum  
Alzheimer's Association-Greater  
Maryland Chapter  
American Job Center  
Blackbeard Biologic  
Bluepoint Hospitality  
Blue Crab Coffee  
Building African American Minds  
Cal Jackson Photography  
Carpe Diem  
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
Chesapeake Children's Book Festival  
Chesapeake College  
Chesapeake Multicultural Resource  
Center  
Christmas in St. Michaels  
Citizens for Maryland Libraries  
Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers  
Delmarva Blood Bank  
Easton Airport  
Easton Economic Development  
Commission  
Easton Farmers Market  
Easton Police Department  
Easton Rotary  
Eastern Shore Library Consortium  
Eastern Shore Regional Library  
Eastern Shore Quilters  
Easton Utilities  
For All Seasons  
Flying Cloud Booksellers  
Frederick Douglass Honor Society  
Friends of the Talbot County Free  
Library  
Global Z Recording Project  
Habitat for Humanity Choptank  
Imagination Library of Talbot County  
Judy Center- Talbot County Public  
Schools  
Maryland Humanities  
Maryland Legal Aid  
Maryland Library Association  
Maryland Library For the Blind and  
Print Disabled  
Maryland Public Television

Maryland State Library Agency  
Maryland STEM Festival  
Master Gardeners-University of Maryland  
Extension  
Mid-Shore Pro Bono  
MY Tech Clinics  
Neighborhood Service Center  
Oxford Community Center  
Project Purple  
ShoreRivers  
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  
SEEDCO Maryland Health Connection  
Shore United Bank  
Talbot County Arts Council  
Talbot County Chamber of Commerce  
Talbot County Circuit Court  
Talbot County Council  
Talbot County Department of Emergency Services  
Talbot County Detention Center  
Talbot County Economic Development & Tourism  
Talbot County Free Library Foundation  
Talbot County Garden Club  
Talbot County Government  
Talbot County Health Department  
Talbot County Public Schools  
Talbot County Senior Center  
Talbot County Sheriff's Department  
Talbot Early Childhood Advisory Board  
Talbot Family Network  
The Talbot Spy  
The Star Democrat  
Town of Easton  
Town of St. Michaels  
Town of Trappe  
Toys for Tots  
Upper Shore Aging  
Waterfowl Festival  
Working Artists Forum  
What's Up? Media  
YMCA of the Chesapeake



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

In 2022, the Friends of the Library strengthened their support for the Talbot County Free Library (TCFL) with fundraising events, program support, and book sales. It was due in part to the success of their annual Membership Drive in May.

The Friends are active sponsors of the Library's many community events and are looking to assist them in strengthening the connection with public and private schools. One successful event is Teen Night and a middle school level reading program is in the works. The current Friends Council has three members in the Talbot County school system, providing a direct pathway for students to learn to use the Library.

The Friends also brought more fun to their fundraising this year. Local Improvisation group, Breakfast Conundrum, provided the entertainment for a summer evening of "Laughs at the Library." In October, the Council asked the St. Michaels Town Commission to declare October 6 "St. Michaels Library Day," encouraging town businesses to donate discounts. Then, 75 guests boarded the tourist ship, the "Patriot," for a private sunset cruise with drinks, appetizers and live entertainment by the local musical group Ampersand. The events raised over \$10,000 which is dedicated to support the St. Michaels Library expansion and renovation. They anticipate to repeat their successes in 2023.

Finally, the Council of Friends is proud to support TCFL in all major events such as the STEM Festival, Frederick Douglass Day, and the Chesapeake Children's Book Festival held each June. The festival not only attracts thousands of children and their families to meet the authors who create their favorite books, but it is the official start of the Library's Summer Reading Program, which provides incentives to read for all ages. The Council of Friends looks forward to an exciting new year!



## TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

For 27 years, the Talbot County Free Library Foundation (TCFLF) has provided key funding to help ensure that the library continues to provide crucial services and resources to our community. As the capital campaign for the renovation and expansion of the St. Michaels Library gathers steam, we ask that you consider giving a gift in the coming year. Your gifts ensure that the St. Michaels Library can meet the future needs of its patrons.

This past fiscal year we provided over \$75,000 to support library programs that bridge the digital divide and keep children excited about reading in the summer. In addition to funding vital programming, funds raised through gifts and pledges in FY22 allowed the library to purchase books and other resources for:

- Maryland Room patrons looking for information on local history and genealogy
- Children and teens excited about reading the next book in a series or on a subject that they are curious about
- Patrons learning a new language or needing timely health or technology information

Individuals in our community learn to read, get jobs, discover their passions, find answers and much more at the library because of your generous support. To all of our donors, we are very grateful to you for supporting the library so that it can provide the robust resources needed to deliver outstanding services, facilities, and programs that meet the community's needs. Please consider making a one-time or ongoing donation. Remember your QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) is a wonderful, tax-efficient way to provide the support for the ongoing programs and community engagement the library provides. Your generosity makes all the difference!



# ST. MICHAELS BRANCH EXPANSION UPDATE



In May of 2022, the Talbot County Free Library applied for a second year of matching funding from the Maryland Library Capital grant program. The second year of grant funding, if awarded, would be used to complete design planning and start construction for the expansion and renovation of the St. Michaels Library.



Earlier this year, the library also applied for federal earmark funding for design through Senator Ben Cardin's office. If these grants are awarded and matching funding is provided by the County, the library plans to start design work in early 2023 and start construction in 2024.



The new design will preserve the beautiful park-like setting that is so loved by the community. The new library will feature an 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](http://tcfl.org).



Thank you to everyone who has written support letters so far for this project. We will need your continued support as we move forward with this project.

Please send any ideas that you have for the newly expanded St. Michaels Library to the Library Director, Dana Newman, at [dnewman@tcfl.org](mailto:dnewman@tcfl.org). The library will be holding information sessions for the public to gather ideas for design of the new library early next year. A timeline for the project is included below:

The next steps are:

- Schematic design (2023)
- Meet with potential donors (2023 & 2024)
- Capital campaign begins (2022)
- Full design (2023)
- Design meetings and presentations (2023)
- Capital campaign--public phase (2023)
- Construction begins (2024)
- 100th anniversary of the Talbot County Free Library (2025)
- Ribbon cutting for renovated and expanded St. Michaels Library (2025)