



Imagine
Yourself
Here!





“I have been delighted by every topic so far, and consider this a ‘night out’ of fun as I learn about local ingredients and recipes. I was tickled tonight to reminisce about tuna salad on toasted cheese bread at the counter with my Mom and sister at the downtown Hutzler’s!”

-A Chesapeake Farm & Bay to Table Attendee



“Please accept this basket of treats as a small token of our appreciation for your support to our students, families, and the entire community. We look forward to our continued collaboration. Can’t wait for the new building!!”

-Alberta P., Darlington Elementary

“There are some great courses on the GALE database. Several years ago, I was able to use 2 of them toward achieving my Master’s +30 in Education! Such a gift at no cost, thanks to my HCPL library card!”

-Kay B.



“Such a cool opportunity you provide for our community. My girl loves the 3D printer!!!! Thank you!”

-Dianne S.

Financial Statement

for Harford County Public Library

Operating Revenue

\$22,530,290

County - 83.9%	\$18,890,693
State - 13.1%	2,950,391
Library - 1.4%	318,950
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 0.8%	187,302
Other Grants - 0.8%	182,954

Operating Expenditures

\$21,715,720

Personnel - 74.7%	\$16,217,218
Materials - 11.5%	2,498,314
Equipment - 1.8%	399,758
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 0.9%	187,302
Other - 11.1%	2,413,128

Capital Budget

\$250,000



Executive Summary

from Mary Hastler, Library CEO

This Annual Report Executive Summary for fiscal year 2022 provides an overview of the Harford County Public Library's financial and statistical information along with programming and other highlights.

It was an exciting year for the Library from beautiful updates to our spaces, to memorable in-person events, to innovative programming, and more.

In October 2021, construction began on the NEW Darlington Library, now located at 3535 Conowingo Road. Originally constructed as a Wawa in 1996 and later home to several different banks, this repurposed, upcycled building retains the original building's footprint, as requested by the community when planning started. The NEW Darlington Library is scheduled to be completed in fall 2022 and this agriculturally themed branch will have unique services and resources including a 24/7 exterior locker pickup system; a tablet tower for reading periodicals; an exterior patio with fireplace for community gatherings; and more.

The Aberdeen Library Children's Outdoor Story Garden and Department renovation was completed, creating an environment that fosters and nourishes preschool learning through STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math) curriculum.

In the city environment, the Aberdeen Library is opening the walls of the library to the outdoors by providing access and opportunity for preschoolers and their families to learn and explore. Our library educators are creating classes that spark the imagination and creativity for preschoolers in a learning

space that also promotes the protection of a clean environment for all. The Story Garden is designed as an interactive learning space for children to explore concepts such as protecting natural resources; creating a clean environment; exploring our local, state and national parks; recycling; learning the importance of clean water; and much more.

Adjacent to the Story Garden is the newly renovated Children's Department that features STREAM activities for birth through elementary-age children. The updated layout includes an indoor early learning activity area; STREAM activity section with 3D printing; along with ample space for coding activities and artistic creations. Children and their families enter through a whimsical tree-lined *NatureMaker*, *Artisan Crafted Steel Art Trees* archway into a magical learning space full of exciting activities; adventures in reading; and more. As part of this renovation project, the Adult Department also received a refresh that included new furnishings, a fresh layout, and technology upgrades. The ribbon cutting for this newly enhanced space was held in the summer of 2022.

In response to the continuance of the worldwide pandemic, the Library maintained up-to-date Covid resources and services to the Harford County community. Curated information resources were created along with the expansion of new partnerships to provide the distribution of Covid test kits and onsite testing opportunities.

Our outreach services continued their strong presence by providing mobile library materials and services to seniors through the Silver Reader, students and educators through the Rolling Reader, and preschoolers through the Preschool Traveling Library.



*“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers,
a librarian can bring you back the right one.”*

Neil Gaiman

Aimed at narrowing the digital divide, the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots continued to students, educators, and their families to ensure that our community remained engaged and informed.

The *HCPS ID Project Initiative* was launched at the start of the 2021-22 school year, enabling all students in Harford County Public Schools to use their Student IDs to access Harford County Public Library resources online and remotely, anytime, anywhere. In addition, the Library was honored to once again sponsor the HCPS Teacher of the Year program.

The Harford County Public Library Foundation hosted its first post-covid in-person gala in April with the theme *VEGAS Baby!* This was the 17th Annual Library Gala, originally postponed from 2020, and it was a memorable evening catching up with friends, both old and new.

Programming throughout the system transitioned from a completely virtual schedule to a gradual blend of in-person outdoor and in-person indoor programs. A selection of popular virtual programs remains in place. Our branch hours are almost back to pre-pandemic level with all library locations offering full-services.

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Weiner launched her in-person book tour for her newest release, *The Summer Place*, at the Water's Edge Events Center in May 2021. More than 400 attended our first large-scale, in-person author event since 2020 and it was a magical evening for all. The event was also live-streamed, offering the option to attend virtually.

Chesapeake Farm & Bay to Table: Season 2 ended in May and *Season 3* launched in June. This popular series featuring Master Chef and author John Shields is aired on Zoom as well as streamed on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Viewers from as far away as Ireland have enjoyed episodes that focused on Maryland resources, such as local agricultural communities, the Chesapeake Bay seafood industry, area farmers markets, and more. With the aim to keep our community engaged, each show also touched upon the science of cooking (STEM) and workforce development for careers in the culinary arts and the farming community.

The Library's partnerships and collaborations continued to grow, expanding our ability to provide critical resources and services to our customers. To name just a few...Lawyer in the Library, Harford Community Action Agency, Harford County Health Department, Harford County Department of Community Services, Harford County Public Schools, Harford Community College, Harford Family House, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, SARC, Baltimore Metropolitan Council Bike to Work Week, Eden Mill Nature Center, Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, and more.

The Harford County Cultural Arts Board provided \$175,000 through 58 grants, awarded through four programs. Funds were directed towards community arts development; arts experiences presented by nonprofits serving underserved communities and schools; independent artists; and Covid recovery support for arts organizations.

Looking to the future, we are proud that the Library is experiencing a time of unique opportunity to explore new and innovative delivery models to adapt to our ever-changing environment. We are extremely appreciative of our Library staff who work diligently to provide exceptional service and resources to our customers. We are fortunate to be supported by the incredible work carried out by the Harford County Public Library Foundation members and our very generous sponsors. The Library Friends Groups hold book sales and other fundraisers to support their local library branch and provide fun programming for each branch during our Summer Reading Adventure.

By listening to our customers, staff, and stakeholders, the Library continues its commitment to prioritizing quality and value while bringing innovation to Harford County. We are proud of our efforts to excel in problem solving and expanding our capacity.

Our many successes, along with our robust community engagement, reflects the Library's leadership, vision, and forward focus as a Star Library, as designated by *Library Journal*. We are committed to continuing to deliver exceptional resources and services to our community.

Mary Hastler, CEO



“I enjoyed the ‘Blind Date with a Book’ program and read a book that I would not usually have chosen.”

-Helen N.

“Thanks for your book ordering and drive-by pick up services during the pandemic.”

-Kenneth E.

“My son benefited from Aberdeen Library a lot. I would love to express my deepest thanks to all librarians. They all do a great job in helping my son grow emotionally and educationally.”

-Tizeta Y.



“Pulling history into the present day is fascinating and inspiring!”

-A Virtual Genealogy Attendee



Annual Statistics

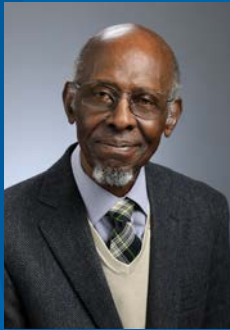
for Harford County Public Library



Visits to Local Branches	749,576
Circulation	2,877,491
Subtotal - Adult Circulation	1,728,123
Subtotal - Children Circulation	1,149,368
Website & Catalog Visits	6,618,322
Questions Answered by Staff	367,628
Programs Offered	7,211
Program Attendance	414,812
Online Classes	102,537
Collection Size	1,009,119
Digital Collection Circulation	688,364
Volunteer hours	4,189
Interlibrary Loan - Borrowed	21,568
Interlibrary Loan - Loaned	20,122
Meeting Room Groups	86
WiFi Users	344,304
Personnel - FTE	210.18
Registered Borrowers	223,448
Branches	11
Outreach Vehicles	2
Headquarters	1



Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees FY22



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Jonas Vogelhut,
US Army, Retired



Mary L. Hastler
Library CEO



Joshua C. Oguh
Student
Representative



Chad R. Shrodes,
Harford County
Council Liaison

Not pictured Nancy A. Brown.

HCPL Locations

ADMINISTRATION 1221-A Brass Mill Rd | 410-273-5600

Facebook: @hcplonline Instagram: hcplmd Twitter: @hcplonline
YouTube: Harford County Public Library LinkedIn: Harford County Public Library

ABERDEEN 21 Franklin St | 410-273-5608

Facebook: @aberdeenlibrary Instagram: aberdeenhcplmd

ABINGDON 2510 Tollgate Rd | 410-638-3990

Facebook: @HCPLAbingdon Instagram: abingdonhcplmd

BEL AIR 100 E. Pennsylvania Ave | 410-638-3151

Facebook: @belairbranch Instagram: belairhcplmd

DARLINGTON 3535 Conowingo Rd | 410-638-3750

Facebook: @DarlingtonLibrary Instagram: darlingtonhcplmd

EDGEWOOD 629 Edgewood Rd | 410-612-1600

Facebook: @edgewoodlibrarymd Instagram: edgewoodhcplmd

FALLSTON 1461 Fallston Rd | 410-638-3003

Facebook: @fallstonbranchHCPL Instagram: fallstonhcplmd

HAVRE DE GRACE 120 N. Union Ave | 410-939-6700

Facebook: @HdGLibrary Instagram: havredegracehcplmd

JARRETTSVILLE 3722 Norrisville Rd | 410-692-7887

Facebook: @JarrettsvilleLibrary Instagram: jarrettsvillehcplmd

JOPPA 655 Towne Center Dr | 410-612-1660

Facebook: @joppabranh Instagram: joppahcplmd

NORRISVILLE 5310 Norrisville Rd | 410-692-7850

Facebook: @norrisvillelibrary Instagram: norrisvillehcplmd

WHITEFORD 2407 Whiteford Rd | 410-638-3608

Facebook: @WhitefordLibrary Instagram: whitefordhcplmd

ROLLING READER Mobile Unit | 410-612-1600

Facebook: @rollingreader Instagram: hcplrollingreader

SILVER READER Mobile Unit | 410-638-3151

Facebook: @silverreaderhcpl Instagram: silverreaderhcplmd



Harford County
Public Library

Celebrating Over 75 Years | 1946-2022

Director of Marketing and Communications: Leslie Greenly Smith

Annual Report Design: Stephanie Detorie Young

Professional photography courtesy of MidAtlantic Photographic LLC and M. N. Miller Photography