Library Vision
The Dorchester County Public Library transforms lives and empowers the community through literacy, information, and collaboration.

CENTRAL BRANCH
303 Gay Street
Cambridge MD 21613
(410) 228-7331
(410) 228-6313 (fax)

HURLOCK BRANCH
222 South Main Street
Hurlock MD 21643
(410) 943-4331
(410) 943-0293 (fax)

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Fiscal year 2021 began in a time of uncertainty. Libraries were beginning to reopen and welcome returning patrons, while still providing virtual programming, curbside services, and developing new ways to reach their communities. We held our first virtual Summer Reading Program and increased social media engagement. Behind the scenes, we installed plexiglass and implemented protocols to keep the staff and public safe.

Patrons returned to the building in early October for printing and computer usage, but State mandates pushed us back to curbside services until late February. Everyone was weary and the staff and community missed each other immensely, but we did not give up. Instead, we took the library beyond the physical buildings. Staff members attended events, distributed crafts kits, began circulating mobile hot spots, participated in Story Times, disseminated health information to the public, created a TikTok account, and even celebrated the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflod by gifting books to patrons.

We persevered, and by May the Central Branch was opened to the public again with normal hours restored by June. The Hurlock Branch followed closely behind and hopes to return to normal hours soon. I have never been more proud of the staff and community than I am now. We showed resiliency, creativity, and dedication like never before and changed librarianship forever.

Crystal Henningsen
crystalh@dorchesterlibrary.org

You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.

- Maya Angelou
Total Budget by Source

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

- **Local:** $200
- **County:** $553,520
- **State:** $317,233
- **Federal/State/Other Grants:** $112,743
- **Interest:** $2,104
- **Other:** $48,621

**Total Budget:** $1,034,421

**Total Expenditures:** $954,413

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**OUR COLLECTIONS**

- **Card Holders:** 12,880
- **Total Items Circulated:** 80,418
  - **Adult:** 26,020
  - **Children's:** 14,628
- **Digital Circulation:** 13,215
- **Items Loaned to Other Libraries:** 19,976

**Total Items in Collection:** 103,681

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**REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED:** 2,820

**LIBRARY VISITS:** 1,532

**CURBSIDE APPOINTMENTS:** 3,509

**WIFI USAGE:** 12,912

**COMPUTER USAGE:** 717
PARTNERSHIPS

Cambridge Judy Center Steering Committee
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Initiative
Dorchester County Early Childhood Advisory Council
Dorchester County Public Schools
Dorchester County Dept. of Social Services
Dorchester County UMD Extension of 4-H
Dorchester County Health Department
Dorchester County Health Education Center
Kindermusik International
Eastern Shore Regional Libraries
Maryland Workforce Exchange
Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs
Dorchester County Health Department
Empowerment Center
Salvation Army/Shelter
YMCA of the Chesapeake

PROGRAMS

Adult Programs:
- Department of Natural Resources Fishing Poles Program
- Virtual Cooking Classes w/SNAP-Ed
- Virtual Performers & Presenters in Partnership with MD Public Libraries - AACPL, PGCML, CCPL, HCPL, PRAT, BCPL
- Weekly Virtual Book Chats (#SundayNightBookChat)

Family Programs:
- Monthly Craft Kits to Go
- #UnitedByBooks Virtual Campaign with Patrons (Mar.-Dec. 2020)
- Summer Reading Goodie Bags
- Summer Reading Weekly Virtual Trivia
- Read Aloud Videos
- In-Person Story Times (Began June, 2021)

Tech/STEM based events:
- Virtual Lego Challenges
- Virtual Cartooning Program with Rick Stromoski

Program Attendance

Adults: 8
Children: 1,957

Programs Offered

Adults: 2
Children: 28
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Free Meeting Room space for non-profits and community groups
MD DLLR (receive/post all job ads)
Mid-Shore Pro Bono
Mid-Shore Mediation
MD Legal Aid
AARP Tax-Aide Service
Eastern Shore Network for Change
Dorchester Student & Family Support Services
MD WIC

Outreach
Story Times: Daycares, schools, Farmers' Market, YMCA
Community Events: Family Day at the Meadows Apartment Complex, Community Resource Fair with Mid-Shore Mediation
Book Donations - Given to local community organizations

Outreach
Events: 13
Attendees: 165
LET’S GET DIGITAL!

INSTAGRAM
Posts: 305
Likes: 3,499
Followers: 452

YOUTUBE
Videos: 88
Views: 2,300
Subscribers: 37

TIKTOK
Videos: 11
Likes: 100
Views: 1,322
Followers: 17

FACEBOOK
Posts: 584
Engagement: 8,979
Followers: 1,887

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OUR STRATEGY FOR FY22

FINANCIAL GOALS

- State/County Funding: $887,580
- Local Grants/Community Support: $89,200
- LSTA Grants: $12,500
- ARPA Grant: ADA Initiative: $19,610
- Hurlock Building Fund: $5,000

PLANS FOR SERVICE EXPANSION

- Increased Outreach
- Renewed Adult/Youth Programming
- Meeting Room Renovation
- Maryland Organizational Project
- Increased Partnerships/Initiatives
- ADA Initiative - Consultation/Evaluation, Assistive Technology, Collection Development & Signage
- Increased Community Participation
- Hybrid Programming to increase accessibility
- Reevaluating Services - Beyond the Walls
- New Hurlock Building Stage - Survey & Assessment
The most important asset of any library goes home at night - the library staff.
- Timothy Healy
(President of the New York Public Library 1989-1992)