

# ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

SPRING 2021 LIBRARY GUIDE



**Welcome to your Library**

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**STAY CONNECTED**



## Message from the Executive Director

**W**elcome to our debut issue of our new Library Guide! The Allegany County Library System exists to improve and enrich the lives of the people in our community. We do that by providing books, movies, databases, other tools, and events so we can be your partner in reaching your goals.

The pandemic has added challenges to all our daily lives and caused each of us to evaluate how we can safely go about getting things done. For the library, we have removed limits on using our eBook and digital audiobook collections, moved our story times into local parks and online, and adopted a temporary Sidewalk Service model of service to get materials into your hands.

We appreciate your patience and support during these unprecedented times. The Library's Board of Trustees and I, along with all our staff, remain dedicated to providing top notch service for everyone in our community.

One of the things I hear most often from our users is that they miss browsing our New Books and Displays for reading suggestions. That is where they get to pick out what to read or watch next. So for our premier issue of the Library Guide we will feature lots of recommendations of what to read and watch and what is coming out soon so you can continue to build your TBR (to be read) list.

Future issues will also include reading and viewing recommendations but also feature more updates about the LaVale Library expansion, new resources and services, upcoming events and opportunities as well as tips and tricks to take advantage of all your library has to offer.

We hope you enjoy the Library Guide and we look forward to seeing you soon and continuing to be your partner in reaching you and your family's goals and aspirations.

Best regards,

**John Taube**

Executive Director

Regina Spiker, Service Leader at George's Creek Regional Library, helps load donated books which will go to the residents of Egle Nursing Home & Rehab Center. Their Activities Coordinator, Wendy Moomau, is on the right.



## Welcome to your Library! 21st Century – style

Almost twice as many Allegany County Library users checked out materials digitally in 2020 than two years ago, following a nationwide trend fueled partly by the COVID pandemic and partly by ever-present technology.

**Welcome to your Library -- 21st Century-style -- where you don't have to go to a building to have a library experience.**

In this virtual new world, you can:

- Download e-books, audiobooks, and movies from apps like Overdrive, Hoopla, and Kanopy.
- Participate in a lively virtual book discussion via Zoom, just as scores of area residents did for last fall's five-part "Stamped from the Beginning" event.
- Attend other virtual library programs from the comfort of your own home -- programs such as January's 50th anniversary celebration for the Westernport Library, or February's presentation about the Buzz One Four B-52 crash of 1964.
- Do yoga with Courtney every week during Wellness Wednesdays, available on the library's Facebook page and YouTube channel.
- Go online to browse the library's offerings of books, movies, programs, and databases, including tutoring for students and tools for job seekers.
- Heck, you can even register for a library card online -- you'll get a temporary code for immediate access and later receive a card in the mail.

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## Meet the cast of Let's Get Lit

What do you get when you put four bright, witty librarians in a room full of books and turn on a video camera?

You get "Let's Get Lit!" -- a smart, funny, 20-minute podcast about favorite reads that starts like this:

**"I'm Ali."**

**"I'm Shane."**

**"I'm Laura."**

**"I'm Liz."**

"And today's episode is our New Year's episode.... What was the best read or movie of 2020 for you?"

The Allegany County Library System's first-ever podcast, Let's Get Lit!, premiered in October and airs on the second and fourth Fridays of every month. It's available on Apple, Google, and Spotify, as well as on the ACLS YouTube channel.

A mix of off-the-cuff and prepared remarks, the podcast is structured, yet informal; serious, yet amusing -- full of easy, water-cooler-style repartee.

It features four of ACLS's finest, well-read employees -- Ali Cline, Shane Drake, Liz Sell, and Laura Deneen.



So without any further ado, let's meet the cast of Let's Get Lit!

### Ali Cline

Job title: Coordinator of Events and Programming

Number of books read in 2020: 98

Favorite genres: Fantasy and Thriller

Best read of 2020: "The Weight of Lies," by Emily Carpenter

Ever start a book and not finish it: Yes. I'm a mood reader.

Ever read more than one book at a time: I normally have at least seven going at one time.

Years with  
ACLS: 4

### Shane Drake

Job title: Service Specialist at Frostburg branch

Number of books read in 2020: About 60; more than 200 movies

Favorite genres: Fantasy and Non-fiction

Best read of 2020: "The Big Goodbye: Chinatown and the Last Years of Hollywood," by Sam Wasson

Ever start a book and not finish it? Yes. I have ADHD. So if I start reading something and I'm not feeling it, I will just put it down. Sometimes I'll come back to it. Sometimes not. I need to work on that.

Ever read more than one book at a time: Yes. I tend to have one graphic novel and one book going at one time.

Years with  
ACLS: 7

### Liz Sell

Job title: Service Leader at Washington Street branch

Number of books read in 2020: 58

Favorite genres: Historical fiction and Non-fiction

Best read of 2020: "Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland," by Patrick Radden Keefe

Ever start a book and not finish it: Yes. If it's slow and I can't get into it.

Ever read more than one book at a time: Yes.

Years with  
ACLS: 20

### Laura Deneen

Job title: Coordinator of Branch Services

Number of books read in 2020: About 5 to 10 a month (60 to 120 a year).

Favorite genres: Horror and Thriller

Best read of 2020: "Wolf Hall" trilogy by Hilary Mantel

Ever start a book and not finish it: Yes. I used to not do that, but there's so much good stuff out there that if I'm at page 80 and I'm having to force myself to read, I move on to the next. I gave myself permission to do that.

Ever read more than one book at a time: Absolutely not. That is a travesty. An abomination.

Years with  
ACLS: 3



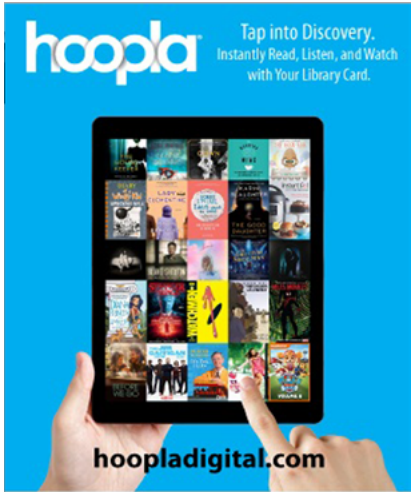
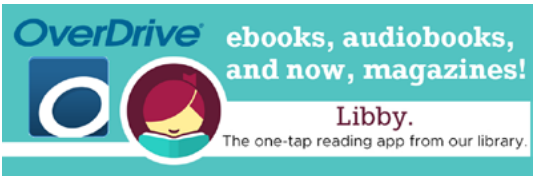
During National Library Week April 4-10, the American Library Association is encouraging people to explore their libraries' virtual options, which have dominated for the past year during pandemic-related closures.

Nationally, there was a more than 30 percent increase in digital ebook and audiobook circulation last year, according to data from OverDrive. In Allegany County, digital circulation was 42,213 in 2020, compared to 28,442 in 2018, an increase of almost 50 percent.

"When I first started working at the library system, I was truly amazed at the resources available for free with your library card, many of which you can download or stream instantly to your smartphone, tablet, or smart TV. I love to listen to audiobooks while I work around the house, it's like carrying the library around in your pocket!" shares Ashley Swinford, Director of Marketing and Outreach at the Allegany County Library System.

*continued from page 3*

## Did you know we have all these digital resources?



## 3-Step Sign-Up

- 1 Download the app or go to [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com).
- 2 Log in with your library card.
- 3 Instantly read, listen, and watch with your library card.

## Book Suggestions for Pre-Teens & Teens



**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak – A young girl who has a deep love for reading and writing while living through WWII. A MUST read. – Ali

**Strange the Dreamer** by Lani Taylor – A fantasy following a librarian who unlocks the secret to finding a hidden city. A mesmerizing story. – Ali

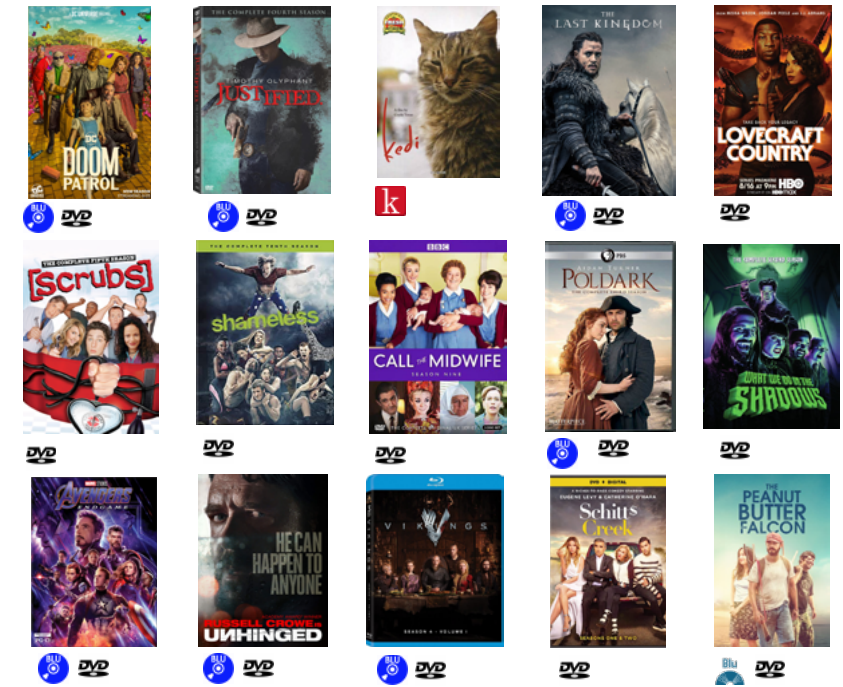


**Harry Potter series** by J.K. Rowling – Listen to it on audio! Make sure it's Jim Dale who is the reader, it's wonderful. I even recommended it to a mom in line for the Harry Potter ride in Universal Studios – Sarah



Middle Grade books I loved that didn't win an award this year:  
**Chirp** by Kate Messner  
**Echo Mountain** by Lauren Wolk  
**The List of Things That Will Not Change** by Rebecca Stead – Kate

## Staff favorites to binge on!





## AWARD WINNING STAFF HERE IN ALLEGANY COUNTY!



Maryland Library Association

The Maryland Library Association is honoring two of Allegany County's own with a statewide award for their work in arranging and moderating the wildly successful "Stamped from the Beginning" virtual book discussion last fall. Ali Cline and Courtney McKay-Jensen will receive the MLA's 2021 **Outstanding Paraprofessional Award** during the organization's annual conference May 3-7.

The two worked together to promote and host five online discussions of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's, "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America," which took place via Zoom in September and October.

McKay-Jensen came up with the idea after reading Kendi's book last summer. "I wanted to discuss the book with friends during the pandemic so we could continue to educate ourselves about the history of racism," said McKay-Jensen, a service specialist at the South Cumberland branch.

Plans for ACLS to host a small online book discussion grew into a large Choose Civility event that included partnerships with the local chapter of the NAACP, Allegany College of Maryland, and Frostburg State University.

Attendance averaged around 50 participants at each of the five sessions, with post-session views receiving 100-plus hits, said Cline, Coordinator of Events and Programming. "With the Black Lives Matter movement being a large topic last summer, I think there was a growing interest and need to have important, but hard, conversations about racism in our country and in our own communities," Cline said.



"It was amazing to see where everyone came from," McKay-Jensen said. "We had several people come from outside the area, and (Zoom) was a great platform to hear everyone's thoughts."

Cline, 27, who has worked for ACLS for four years, has a bachelor's degree in English from Frostburg State University. McKay-Jensen, 26, has an Arts Business degree from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pa. She has worked at ACLS for two years.



Courtney

"We are so proud of the work that Courtney and Ali did," said ACLS Director John Taube. "While the topics and questions raised in the book and in our discussions may have been eye opening and uncomfortable for some, Courtney and Ali kept us all engaged and open to new perspectives with their friendly and inquisitive moderation. The Library system is proud of our role in connecting people with our materials and resources and this award exemplifies that our library staff are our most vital resource to our community."

Brought to you by the same award-winning staff, join the spring book discussion, happening now!

## book & movie discussions

Wednesdays from  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM



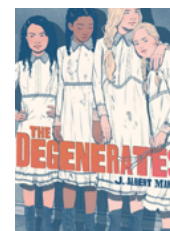
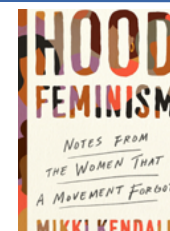
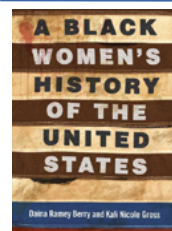
March 3: Up to Chapter 4  
March 17: Chapter 5-8  
March 31: Chapter 9 - 12  
April 14: Chapter 13 - End  
April 28: Just Mercy movie



LEADERSHIP  
in Allegany!  
ALUMNI



## What to read for Women's History Month



## Story Time Live!

Grow your child's early literacy skills with a fun-filled time of book reading, singing, rhyming, moving, and creating with one of our amazing Program Specialists! Your favorite Story Time librarians are broadcasting Story Time LIVE for you on Zoom.



Each event has a unique URL that is posted on the Allegany County Library System's [Facebook page](#) 10 minutes before each LIVE event! The live Story Times use Zoom Webinar, which will only show the friendly faces of Miss Kate, Miss Stacy, and Miss Misty — that means pajama attire and bad hair days are welcome!

**March 2  
through  
May 27**

**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM  
Wednesdays at 2:00 PM  
Thursdays at 10:00 AM**



Did you miss a Story Time? Watch Story Times on-demand plus browse our virtual Story Time bookcase with titles read and recommended by your favorite Story Time librarians!

Visit [www.alleganycountylibrary.info/storytime](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/storytime)

# Chapter A Day

Read-a-long with Miss Kate!

Every weekday in March!  
Look for the videos on Facebook and YouTube.

Perfect for elementary readers to read along  
and for anyone that wants to listen  
to a great story!

A Boy Called  
**BAT**

WRITTEN BY  
Elana K. Arnold

WITH PICTURES BY  
Charles Santoso

## Miss Kate's Picks for Kids: 2021 Award Winners!



**Me & Mama by Cozbi Cabrera** In this beautifully illustrated book, what may be a totally normal day to an adult, is actually an extraordinarily detailed and heartwarming day when observed through the eyes of a child.  
*Caldecott Honor*



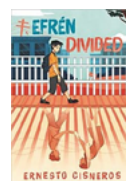
**What About Worms!? by Ryan T. Higgins** This picture book is an amusing lesson in how easy it is to be afraid of something you don't understand.  
*Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor*



**Fighting Words by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** The story is told through the point of view of 10-year-old Della, and should be required reading for anyone who works with children. Don't let the heavy subject content scare you away, though, because this book is truly about hope, and contains humor and happiness. This is appropriate for ages 10+.  
*Newbery Honor*



**Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park** This is a MUST READ for fans of the Little House series! A realistic look at not just the struggles of pioneer life, but the added difficulty of being Asian American during this time period.  
*Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature, Children's Literature Honor*



**Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros** An incredibly timely middle grade book that offers a meaningful, relatable, and humanizing look at issues surrounding social justice, immigration, and the general struggle to make ends meet.  
*Pura Belpré Award, Children's Author Winner*



Award winners that Miss Kate is looking forward to reading:



**When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller** – *Newbery Medal, and Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature Children's Winner*



**We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly** – *Newbery Honor*





## Renovation of the LaVale Library



When it opens in the fall of 2022 the new LaVale Library will be almost twice as big as the old one. It will be the largest branch of the Allegany County Library System and house its largest collection of materials.

“In the heart of Allegany County, we hope for the LaVale Library to become the heart of the system with expanded hours, materials, and events, said John Taube, Executive Director of the library system.

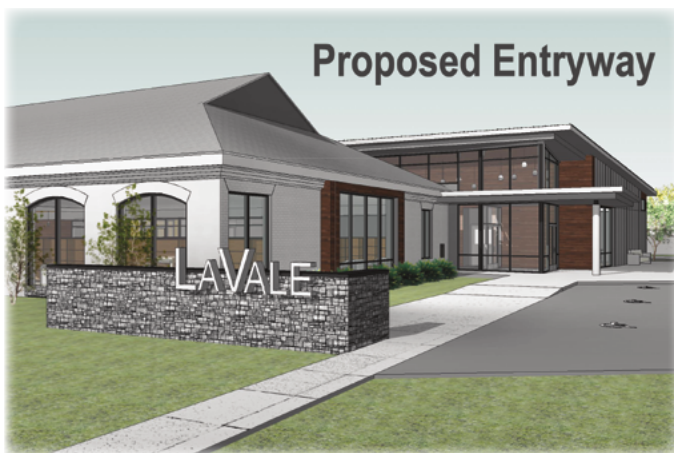
Work began last summer on the project, which includes renovations of the original 9,300-square-foot building -- built in 1975 -- and the addition of nearly 8,000 square feet of space. Additions include a Community Room with a 100-person capacity, small study rooms, a patio, a new entrance, and 30 additional parking spots.

And (drumroll, please)...saving the best for last: The new library will have a reading room full of soft chairs and a breathtaking view.

Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects, of York, Pa., designed a glass curtain wall system that will open to an outdoor rain garden immediately outside the reading room.

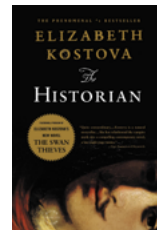
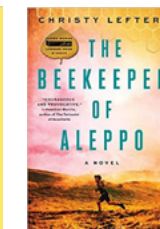
“The room itself will be experiential,” said Patrick Ness, associate at M&D, which also designed the recently renovated South Cumberland Library. “It’s one of those designs I’m really excited about because it celebrates the surrounding natural elements while functioning as a unique space.”

Library patrons who usually use the LaVale Library are encouraged to use any of ACLS’s other five branches while construction continues.



Funding for the project was made possible by the Maryland State Library and the Maryland Public Library Capital Grants Program and the Allegany County Commissioners. The Project is being managed by the Allegany County Health Department of Public Works and Daystar Builders of Grantsville, Maryland is the contractor.

## See what library staff are reading!



***Crossing into the promised land: an Appalachian African-American History*** by local professor, Lynn Bowman, explores the nearly forgotten history of African Americans in antebellum Appalachia, particularly Allegany County. – Tuere

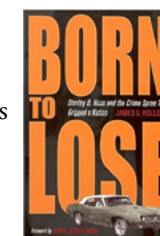
***The Beekeeper of Aleppo*** by Christy Lefteri is heartbreaking and disturbing at times but beautifully written. An important read that puts a face to individuals impacted by the war in Syria and the refugee crisis. – Maureen

***The Handmaid's Tale*** by Margaret Atwood is a not so hard to picture twisted future. It's a morbid, scary, twisted tale you must read, and it really makes you think. – Sarah

***Nanaville*** by Anna Quindlen is a bighearted book of wisdom, wit, and insight, celebrating the love and joy of being a grandmother. – Connie

***The Historian*** by Elizabeth Kostova: A search for Vlad the Impaler as a vampire involving a lot of ancient libraries and research. My librarian heart was happy! – Ali

***The Library Book*** by Susan Orlean: Part mystery, part history, part love story. Orleans recounts the 1986 fire that destroyed the Los Angeles Public Library, chronicles the history of libraries in the U.S., and waxes eloquent about her love of books and reading. –Kristin



## Choose Civility: Allegany County Celebrates Day of Civility



The annual Day of Civility focuses on spreading kindness, building understanding, and strengthening civility throughout the community.

Check out the Choose Civility: Allegany County Facebook page for information regarding Day of Civility events happening on Thursday, April 8, including a virtual session on *Communication Leadership* that will focus on civil discourse across differences and how we can best define “civility.” We will explore what communication leadership will look like for us locally, to increase cooperation and collaboration in order to solve our community’s challenges.



On April 8 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., join us in a virtual community dialogue, titled *Eat. Learn. Council: A Day of Civility*. As part of Western Maryland Food Council’s three-day conference dedicated to growing a health food system in a pandemic world, this free session will be guided by Allegany College of Maryland’s Democracy Commitment

Committee and Frostburg State University’s Communication Leadership Lab and will focus the discussion of food systems in relation to Choose Civility principals.

Information about how to attend this session will be posted to the Choose Civility: Allegany County Facebook page and website, [www.alleganycountylibrary.info/choosecivility](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/choosecivility). For more information on the Western Maryland Food Council and the annual conference, please visit [www.wmdfoodcouncil.com/conference.html](http://www.wmdfoodcouncil.com/conference.html).

On April 8 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., join us in a virtual Braver Angels college debate, organized and moderated by students in the Frostburg State University’s Debate Team and LEAD 401 Citizen Leadership class. Allegany College of Maryland’s Democracy Commitment Committee and Frostburg State University’s Communication Leadership Lab will co-sponsor the event, guided by Choose Civility principals. Information about how to attend this session will be posted to the Choose Civility: Allegany County Facebook page and website, [www.alleganycountylibrary.info/choosecivilitypartners/](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/choosecivilitypartners/)

**Racial Justice Essay Contest** - The Equal Justice Initiative in partnership with the Allegany County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Committee announces an upcoming scholarship contest open to 9th – 12th grade students attending public high school in Allegany County, MD where prizes totaling at least \$5,000 will be awarded. Deadline is April 30. Students are asked to examine the history of a topic of racial injustice and to discuss its legacy today. Essays should explain the chosen topic using a specific historical event(s), explore how the injustice persists, and imagine solutions for a future free from racial injustice. Students are encouraged to reflect on how the topic impacts their own lives and communities. <https://sites.google.com/eji.org/eji-allegany-essaycontest/eligibility-and-guidelines>

## Get Connected: Chromebooks & Hotspots

Need a computer and internet access?

Find out how to borrow Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots!

Get FREE ACCESS!



Get Connected to:

- Schedule a doctor’s appointment
- Research & apply for jobs
- Research COVID 19 & vaccinations
- Use library digital resources
- Read newspapers and magazines available online through library

**NEW SERVICE!**

For more information or to borrow Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots, call South Cumberland Library at 301-724-1607

## COVID Collection @ WHILBR



Western Maryland Regional Library, through its history website at [digital.whibr.org](http://digital.whibr.org) is documenting experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now is the time to record the effect of the pandemic in Allegany county. Visual images capture documentary details and creative responses that are not easily conveyed through words. Please help create a diverse collection that can assist future generations in understanding the impacts of COVID-19.

Possible topics could be masks, social distancing, thanks for the emergency and hospital workers among others. You could include photos of caring for others, distance learning, new kinds of jobs and daily routines that have changed. We are looking for pictures that capture how COVID 19 has impacted your community in all of its uncertainty, grief, hope and gratitude.

For information and to submit images go to <https://sites.google.com/view/thePandemicinWesternMaryland/home>



## Hours Open

**Monday – Thursday:**  
**2:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

## Locations:

### Frostburg

65 E. Main Street  
Frostburg, MD 21532  
301 – 687 – 0790

### George's Creek

76 Main Street  
Lonaconing, MD 21539  
301 – 463 – 2629

### South Cumberland

100 Seymour Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
301 – 724 – 1607

### Washington Street

31 Washington Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
301 – 777 – 1200

### Westernport

66 Main Street  
Westernport, MD 21562  
301 – 359 – 0455

***The LaVale Library  
is closed for renovation.***

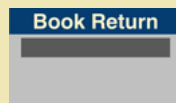
## Enhanced Safety Measures



Masks required  
at all times



Practice social  
distancing



All returns go to  
the bookdrop



One Hour Limit



15 Patron Limit



Restrooms Closed

## Learn more at

[www.alleganycountylibrary.info/coronavirus](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/coronavirus)

## Library Board of Trustees

Terry Michels–President  
Deborah Hendrickson–Treasurer  
Thomas Finan Jr.–Secretary  
Stephanie Marchbank  
John Persons  
William Bingman  
Sue Rudd



4:00 p.m. meetings are open to the public.  
March 9, April 13, May 11

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times a year by the Allegany County  
Library System © 2021

John Taube, Executive Director  
Renee Mason, Coeditor and Layout Designer  
Ashley Swinford, Coeditor  
Kristin Barkley, Writer

All the library branches will be closed on  
Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

***“Enhanced safety, exceptional service”***