

# ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Spring 2023 LIBRARY GUIDE



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**YOUR NEW  
LIBRARY  
CATALOG  
IS HERE!**



**STAY CONNECTED**



## Message from the Executive Director

**H**appy New Year and welcome to our Spring 2023 Library Guide! We hope that 2023 brings you and your family good health and happiness! The library staff and I are still enjoying making new friends and welcoming returning friends as we continue to celebrate the reopening of the LaVale Library. We all have our favorite spot in the LaVale Library and we are learning something new every day as we watch our visitors explore and enjoy the new library.



Our children's story times have resumed for the year as well as our many events for adults and teens. Be sure to stretch your mind or your body at one of our Board Game Nights in partnership with The Clatter Cafe, a library book discussion, or try one of our popular Yoga events in partnership with UPMC.

As we get ready for National Library Week at the end of April, we are so grateful for all of our library patrons and friends. This year's theme is "There's more to the story..." and we couldn't agree more. We start celebrating National Library Week on April 23, 2023 with activities to share stories and build community. Don't forget our popular Food for Fines Day comes back that week too, on April 27, 2023.

Library staff from our six (6) locations are also busy lining up activities for our summer reading events and programs. We are working to ensure that the success of the LaVale Library reopening is shared at all our branches and we hope you will continue to visit in person or online and share your ideas and suggestions to make sure that the library remains your partner in achieving your goals.

Best regards,  
**John Taube**  
Executive Director



OUR LIBRARY  
OUR LIBRARY  
**OUR LIBRARY**  
OUR LIBRARY  
OUR LIBRARY

## LaVale Library Grand Reopening

The LaVale Library reopened on September 24, 2022 with a ribbon cutting held on the evening of September 23. Over 800 members of the community joined us in welcoming the LaVale Library back into service that weekend, with incredible memories and stories to share about their experience!

**“Such an incredible day”**

**“As a neighbor of the library, I’m so so excited to keep visiting and participating in the different activities. The library renovation looks so good and I love the schedule.”**

**“We stopped by with the kids yesterday after school and I have to say, we will be library “regulars” from now on!”**

The reopening celebration featured presentations and performances by local and NYT Bestselling author, Russell Shorto, local children’s author and illustrator, Jamison Odone, local musicians Gilbert Lee, Hanna Livingston, and Sam DeMartino.

Couldn’t make it to celebrate at the reopening? Check out the recording on YouTube of the LaVale Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with remarks from former President of the County Commissioners, Jake Shade and Maryland State Librarian, Irene Padilla.

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## National Library Week 2023: There's More to the Story

**"There's More to the Story"** is the theme for National Library Week 2023, April 23-29. Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures.

### FOOD FOR FINES DAY on Thursday, APRIL 27

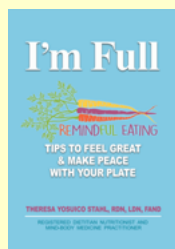
During National Library Week Food For Fines Day will be held at all branches of the Allegany County Library System. Celebrating this generous day as part of the Month of Civility, patrons can reduce their fines by turning in cans or boxes of non-perishable food. Each can or box given will reduce a fine by \$1.00. A maximum of \$15.00 can be reduced off each library patron's card. The food is given to the

**Western Maryland Food Bank!**



## Eat, Learn, Teach - FSU's Communication Leadership Lab

Choose Civility: Allegany County is celebrating National Library Week with a **"Eat, Learn, Teach,"** a discussion & demonstration on Wed., April 26 at 10 a.m. in FSU's Chesapeake Hall's teaching kitchen. A snack-based demonstration will be led by local author & dietician **Theresa Stahl**, author of **"I'm Full"**. The Eat, Learn discussion series began in 2016 to



put food at the center of civil conversations about mindful food choices, sustainable food processes, and diverse food partnerships. **Co-sponsored by the Department of Communication and Wholesome Harvest Co-op** that supports the Center for Teaching Excellence's Be Well, Learn Well Campaign. The discussion will be hosted and facilitated by FSU's Communication Leadership Lab and

the Communication Leadership Lab and the Civic Communication class. For more information, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, chairperson of the Department of Communication and Communication Leadership Lab coordinator, at [elruminski@frostburg.edu](mailto:elruminski@frostburg.edu).

**COMMUNICATION  
LEADERSHIP LAB**

Frostburg State University



**Choose  
Civility**  
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



## ACLS HITS THE ROAD!

Most people know about the wealth of stories available at the library, from picture books and large print to audiobooks and eBooks. But there's so much more to the story of our libraries. And the next chapter for the Allegany County Library System includes four wheels...

We are excited to announce that we will soon add an additional way to serve the community with a new **Events and Outreach Van**. Through Cares Act funding in 2021, we started the journey to develop a mobile vehicle that could further the presence of the library in the community and at partner events and further contribute to being a true community hub.

According to the 2020 Census data, Allegany County has one of the highest rates of households without a vehicle, over 26% in



some areas. We want to focus on these communities that may not have the opportunity to visit a brick and mortar library. Because public transportation in Allegany County is extremely limited, the need is evident to take library services out of the buildings and into neighborhoods and parks.

Plans for the Events and Outreach van include services such as lifelong learning activities, knowledge & skill development classes, workforce development opportunities, and pop-up libraries.



In addition to reaching portions of the county that are currently underserved due to geographical distance, the goals of the Events and Outreach Van are to continue to close the digital divide in Allegany County as well as build the capacity to strengthen partnerships with community organizations.

**The Events and Outreach Van is expected to launch during Summer with Your Library!**

## Did you know?

The Allegany County Library System provides free access to the Washington Post? Unlimited access is available at the library and unlimited 7-day passes available on-the-go!

# The Washington Post



To enjoy unlimited access, visit the site while connected to the library's internet. Outside of the library, users will receive unlimited access, but will need to register for a new trial every 7 days.

## Wowbrary

### The Newest Stuff at your Library

**Wowbrary Newsletters –  
Be the first to get the latest new releases!**

Welcome to an exciting new way to enjoy the libraries of Western Maryland! The Allegany County Library System as well as the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County and Washington County Free Library add many new books, movies and CDs each month. We're proud to now offer you weekly email alerts showing you the newest materials added to our collection each week.



Be among the first to know about our new arrivals and when you see something of interest, you'll be able to click instantly and place a hold on your favorite(s). Of course, like everything else in the library, this service is free!

We hope you'll enjoy hearing about the many exciting bestsellers, movies, music and audio books almost the moment they are ordered or arrive at the library. In the unlikely event that you do not wish to receive weekly email alerts, you can cancel your subscription.

**Sign up at [www.alleganycountylibrary.info/wowbrary/](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/wowbrary/)**

## Fun & Healthy Things to Do!



### **Body and Band Resistance with Mike Browning of UPMC:**

Class is suited for all levels and resistance bands are provided. Bring a mat and water. LaVale Library on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm.



### **Blood Pressure Testing and Vaccine Awareness with Potomac Valley Hospital:**

A representative from Potomac Valley Hospital will do free blood pressure screenings. Westernport Library on Wednesdays from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: March 1, April 5, May 3



### **Yoga with Christina Collins-Smith:**

Class is suitable for all levels. Bring a mat and water. South Cumberland Library on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. LaVale Library on Fridays from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.



**Game on Main at Westernport:** Come play board games at the Westernport Library! For kids 8 years and up. Parents and families welcome. Every Monday at 6:00 pm.



**Gosh Yarn It:** Bring your current fiber art project and connect with other fiber artists! LaVale Library every third Thursday at 5:30 pm.



Coming soon! **Young Artists' Studio @ your library:** Look for a series of art programs instructed by local artist Lita Havens. First program will happen during Story Time in March. More programs intended for different ages will follow. Sponsored by the Allegany Arts Council and Choose Civility.



## Rent a Librarian



**Rent A Librarian @ LaVale:** Sign up to get one-on-one assistance from a service specialist for 30 minutes. Get help with computer, library, internet, e-reader, legal resources, and many other questions! When you sign up, include what you want to learn.

Be sure to bring any technology you need assistance with for the session. Registration is required.



**Scrabble Lovers Group at LaVale Library:** Learn new words and challenge your B-R-A-I-N (7 points). Meet others in the community and have fun while doing so. Beginners welcome. 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1:00 pm.



## Meet Kathy Murphy

**Favorite genre to read:** Amish, Inspirational, Cozy Reads, Mysteries

**Number of books read in 2022:** 25

**What was your favorite read of 2022?**

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

**Have you ever started a book and not finished?**

Yes

**Do you read more than one book at a time?** Yes, mostly audio

**What are you currently using as a bookmark?** Library book receipt

**What projects are you currently working on at the library?** I love to use the Cricut machine to create books displays each month. Most recently, I made a wall display “Read Your (Heart symbol) Out!” Also, Valentine romance theme displays for adult and for children: Groundhog’s Day.

**What is your favorite thing about working at the library?** I’m a people person! I love interacting with my hometown patrons. Helping to find their next good read and sharing my suggestions with them.

## Library of Things

The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional items that are available for checkout at LaVale Library.

This collection contains items like uniquely shaped baking pans, seasonal cookie cutters and cake decorating kits, as well as crochet hooks and knitting needles, and tools, like a drill, Allen wrench set and bike repair kit.

These items are free to check out for patrons 18 and older with your Allegany County Library System Card. They circulate for one week and must be checked out and returned to the LaVale Library.



The purpose of our Library of Things is to provide our community with the opportunity to discover new hobbies and repair things without having to purchase the items to do so! Patrons can also check out our instructional Craftsby DVDs. These DVDs correspond to the items and activities associated with our Library of Things.



## Choose Civility News - Month of Civility in April

During April, The "Day of Civility" will now be known as the "Month of Civility" due to the numerous events taking place throughout the month!

Please join a facilitated discussion about “**Mental Health Civility: Navigating Bias and Inclusion**” on Thursday, April 6 at 6 p.m. in 397 Gira CCIT. This [Choose Civility: Allegany County](#) sponsored event will be facilitated by the Communication Leadership Lab and students from the CMST 310 Civic Communication class as part of [FSU's #BobcatsAgainstBias week](#). For more information about this event, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, chairperson of the Department of Communication and Communication Leadership Lab coordinator, at [elruminski@frostburg.edu](mailto:elruminski@frostburg.edu).



Choose Civility: Allegany County encourages everyone to participate in **Chalk It Up to Civility: A Community Collaboration**. Participants are encouraged to use sidewalk chalk to create messages and works of art to express shared positive values. Join us at the Frostburg First's Spring Arts Walk on Saturday, April 29 from 11 am to 5 pm. Search [#chalkituptocivility](#) online to view chalk art.

The Western Maryland Watercolor Society and Choose Civility: Allegany County are proud to announce the unveiling of their quilt for the **COVID-19 HOPE Quilt project**. The project is a national memorial to honor frontline workers who have faced extraordinary challenges and to commemorate others who have been affected by or lost to the pandemic. The quilt features original artwork created by local residents. It will travel with the national COVID-19 HOPE Quilt collection to QuiltFest in Greenville South Carolina and the Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza and will eventually be on exhibit in Allegany County. To see the online gallery of the quilt collection go to [www.hopequilt.org/gallery](http://www.hopequilt.org/gallery). For more information about the COVID-19 Hope Quilt Project call 701-725-2495 or email [information@HopeQuilt.org](mailto:information@HopeQuilt.org).

*Antoinette Royster, Lita Havens, and Debbie Fornwalt*



## Story Time in the Branches

- Suitable for families with kids of all ages
- Take home a free craft!
- 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

LaVale Library  
on Tuesdays  
Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28;  
Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25;  
May 2, 9, 16

Frostburg Library  
George's Creek Library  
Washington Street Library  
on Wednesdays  
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22; 29  
Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26;  
May 3, 10, 17

South Cumberland Library  
Westernport Library  
on Thursdays  
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23; 30  
Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27;  
May 4, 18

**Schedule subject to change**

## Food Bank Mini Market

### MY MINI MARKET

Hey Kids! Now's your chance to shop for the food you want and the food you love! The Western Maryland Food Bank helps guide kids in choosing foods that are right for them at our library branches. The shopping experience is about 15 minutes long per kid and registration is required. Check the Allegany County Library System's website for all dates and registration.



## Story Time with MLMC



Join Mountain Laurel Medical Center for a story time about a dragon named Diggery-Doo and his owner Drew. After each story is read, we will have a healthy snack and an arts and crafts activity related to the story.

## For Planet-Loving Kids!



Gale's [National Geographic Kids](#) is designed to take children on amazing adventures in science, nature, wildlife, culture, geography, archaeology, and space. Users can access videos, pictures, and eBooks from National Geographic Kids, as well as every page of National Geographic Kids magazine. Best for children aged 6–14.

## Read to Mika and Opie!



Mika

Reading to a dog, or any pet, gives children a safe environment to practice their reading, make mistakes, and grow as a reader. All are welcome. Mika recently joined our Read to Pets program. Opie was adopted from the Allegany County Animal Shelter.



Opie

## MOVIE NIGHTS

Join us each month for free movie showings for all age groups!

Movies are free to attend but seats are first come, first serve.

All children must have a parent present.

Scan the QR Code for upcoming showings!  
[bit.ly/ACLSUpcomingShowings](http://bit.ly/ACLSUpcomingShowings)



## Meal In A Mug



Learn easy meals to make on your own! Supplies and directions are provided. Please let staff know ahead of time if there are any allergy concerns. Meals are made in microwaves and may be hot to handle. While staff will be helping and potholders provided, please keep that risk in mind when registering. Registration is required for each event. For ages 11-16. South Cumberland on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 3 pm -5 pm.

Grow your reading skills or simply enjoy a good story with our

## CHAPTER A DAY

You can currently binge readalong with the following books on our YouTube channel:



[youtube.com/alleganycountylibrary](https://youtube.com/alleganycountylibrary)

**Maryland WIC**

Better Nutrition Brighter Future

To schedule an appointment, please contact WIC at: 301-759-5020. Dates are available at the Frostburg Library, George's Creek Library and Westernport Library.

# Cozy Reader's Book Group

SATURDAYS  
at 1:30 PM



March 11



April 8



May 13



June 10

For more information, contact the South Cumberland Library at 301-724-1607.



Ghosts, Crooks, and Murder Books

at Westernport Library

Check the Library Event Calendar or the

*Ghosts, Crooks, and Murder Books* Facebook page for dates or call 301-359-0455 for more information



Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club

at South Cumberland Library

Join us on the third Monday of the month from

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM



Books on the Bricks

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM at The Book Center in Cumberland

March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

For more information, call 301-722-2284 or visit their website [www.thebookcenteronline.com](http://www.thebookcenteronline.com)

**YOUR NEW  
LIBRARY  
CATALOG  
IS HERE!**

## We Have Upgraded Our Online Catalog!

Searching for a book or movie at the library is much easier with the new catalog, called Vega Discover. The simple and intuitive design makes it easier for you to explore the library's collection and "discover" your next great read!

It includes convenient features such as: formats displayed together, predictive search suggestions, reading levels on children's items. It can also browse other items in a series, similar authors, and read-a-likes, all from within the item details page!

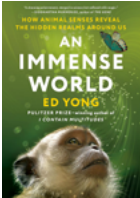
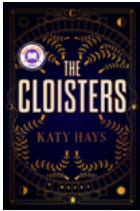
"Personally, my favorite feature is when looking at an item there is a section for "You May Also Like" so I can find material similar to the ones I know I love," says ACLS Service Specialist and Vega Trainer, Shannon Solomon.





See what BOOKS staff are suggesting!

BOOK GROUPS & BOOK SUGGESTIONS!



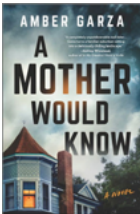
*An Immense World* by Ed Yong - An interesting look at studying how animal senses work and how they might perceive the world. - Maureen

*Beneath the Wide Silk Sky* by Emily Inouye Hays - Japanese American family lose their land and home during WWII. Age 12 and up. - Regina



*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver - Inspired by David Copperfield, this novel gives a voice and personality to the opioid crisis, through a main character you can't help loving, and won't quit rooting for. - Kate

*A Mother Would Know* by Amber Garza - A thriller about a mother with early onset Alzheimer's and her son being a murder suspect. Lots of twists! - Kathy



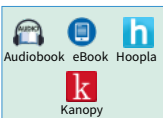
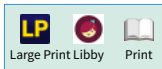
*Nora Goes Off Script* by Annabelle Monaghan - This was a light, funny romantic comedy that was a joy to read. - Caitlin

*Legends and Lattes* by Travis Baldree - A very cozy fantasy read- Andrea S.

*Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse - An action packed dystopian filled with Native gods and monsters that come to life. - Ali



*Twice as Hard* by Raphael and Opeyemi Sofoluke - This sounds really interesting. Nonfiction. Looking to discover the black female doctors in American History who don't show up in history. - Maureen





## New Resources at Your Library

GALE PRESENTS

On Demand Learning with

**udemy**

**Similar to LinkedIn Learning**



Gale Presents: Udemy is an online learning platform for adults & teens who want to improve work-related skills or further develop a personal interest. Users can search through more than 4,000 continuously updated, on-demand video courses across 75 categories in business, technology, design, and more. All courses are taught by world-class instructors and offer a tailor-made learning experience for those who want to learn new technologies and skills to stay competitive in a changing workforce.

## Comics Plus - New to Our Library!



Enjoy unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels, and manga – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

No holds, no wait lists, no borrowing limits.

This resource provided by our Western Maryland Regional Library Consortium and will display as the library name on Comics Plus (Library Pass).

Use your library card number and PIN to sign in.

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

## Comic Book Day

Celebrate Free Comic Book Day on May 6, 2023!  
Get your free comics that day at the local shop,  
Calling All Heroes, at 50 Stately Street, Wiley Ford,  
WV. Questions? Call 301-697-1909

**FREE  
COMIC  
BOOK  
-DAY-**

**1st SATURDAY  
IN MAY!**

**May 6, 2023**

# Allegany County Library System

## Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report



### Financials

**Total Operating Budget**  
**\$2,102,997**

**Revenue by Source:**

State Appropriations.....	\$868,206
County Appropriations.....	\$999,000
Investment earnings/(loss).....	(\$4,885)
Estates, gifts, & memorials.....	\$60,718
Miscellaneous income.....	\$6,665
Fees for service.....	\$22,243
Operating grants.....	\$151,050

**Total Operating Expenditures**  
**\$1,976,108**

**Expenditures by Source:**

Salaries and Payroll Taxes.....	\$1,156,343
Health Insurance.....	\$211,867
Circulating Material.....	\$175,221
Utilities.....	\$92,510
Repairs & maintenance.....	\$141,700
Library supplies & postage.....	\$91,318
Liability & other insurance.....	\$44,049
Accounting & audit.....	\$25,382
Miscellaneous.....	\$37,718
Pension.....	\$3,479

Capital Revenue.....\$2,518,226

Capital Expenditures.....\$2,588,889

### Services



**Total Circulation & Use**  
**427,138**



**Material Owned**  
**1,485,395**



**Number of Programs**  
**357**

**Program Attendance**  
**11,100**



**Books Read**

Adult.....	204,874
Children's and Teen.....	79,042
Electronic Material.....	55,081

**Movies Watched.....51,175**

**Other Statistics**

Registered Borrowers.....	75,449
Number of Library Visits.....	37,353
Internet Access Sessions.....	17,200

### **Frostburg Library**

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

Mon., Tues., 1 pm-8 pm  
Wed. thru Sat., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Sun.

### **George's Creek Library**

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

Mon., Tues., 1 pm-8 pm  
Wed. & Thurs., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Fri. - Sun.

### **LaVale Library**

815 National Highway  
LaVale, MD 21502  
301 – 729 – 0855

Mon. thru Thurs., 10 am-8 pm  
Fri. & Sat., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Sun.

### **South Cumberland Library**

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

Mon., Tues., 1 pm-8 pm  
Wed. thru Sat., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Sun.

### **Washington Street Library**

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

Mon., Tues., 1 pm-8 pm  
Wed. & Thurs., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Fri. - Sun.

### **Westernport Library**

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

Mon., Tues., 1 pm-8 pm  
Wed. & Thurs., 10 am-5 pm  
Closed Fri. - Sun.

## **Support Your Library**



Make a  
monetary donation



Join a  
friends group



Join the  
conversation

**[alleganycountylibrary.info/support-us/](http://alleganycountylibrary.info/support-us/)**

## **Library Board of Trustees**

Terry Michels–President  
Deborah Hendrickson–Treasurer  
William Bingman–Secretary  
Renee Kniseley  
Gary Leasure  
Juli McCoy  
Sue Rudd



Meetings are open to the public.

Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.:

April 11 at South Cumberland Library

May 9 at LaVale Library

The Library Guide is published three  
times a year by the Allegany County  
Library System © 2023

John Taube, Executive Director  
Renee Mason, Arts & Graphics Coordinator  
Ashley Swinford, Director of Marketing

All the library branches will be closed on  
Thursday, May 11 for staff training  
Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day

***“Our Library, Our Story”***