



Allegany County Library System
31 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
(P) 301-777-1200 (F) 301-777-7299

OUR LIBRARY
OUR LIBRARY

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Ashley Swinford
Director of Marketing and Outreach
301-777-1200 Ext 1051
aswinford@alleganycountylibrary.info

November 4, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title: **Westernport Library Reopens in Temporary Location After Flood Damage**

Westernport, MD — Almost six months after the flood that devastated the Westernport Library, a temporary library location opened this week at 121 Main Street, known to many residents as the former Reeves Clinic. The new location will operate on the following schedule: Mondays from 1–8 PM, Wednesdays from 10 AM–5 PM, and Fridays from 10 AM–5 PM.

Throughout the summer and early fall, the library continued to serve patrons outdoors, using a vehicle in the parking lot to check out materials. “We were searching for an indoor location to set up operations pretty immediately, knowing we would need to move indoors as the weather turns colder,” said Lisa McKenney, Executive Director of the Allegany County Library System. “I like to call Westernport Library @ 121 Main a ‘boutique library.’ It’s a smaller space, but we’re able to keep a steady stream of books in stock and hold fun library programs here. Most importantly, we can stay connected to the community while next steps are figured out.”

“It’s such a good feeling to be open again and ready to serve our community,” said Kathy Murphy, Service Leader of the Westernport Library, “The library staff are excited to see familiar faces and reconnect with patrons, we have missed you dearly! Thank you for being patient, and we hope to see you soon at our temporary location!”

The damage sustained by the original library building in May was not merely cosmetic. The foundation suffered structural impacts when floodwaters crossed the street and struck the front of the building. There is now an approximate six-inch height difference between the outside walls and the inner dividing wall, and a hollow sound beneath parts of the concrete floor suggests that the material underneath has washed away. In simple terms, sections of the foundation are sinking while others are heaving upward.

Although the library carried flood insurance, the policy did not cover foundation damage of this nature. The Library System and Allegany County Public Works are working together to assess repair costs and





Allegany County Library System
31 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
(P) 301-777-1200 (F) 301-777-7299

OUR LIBRARY
OUR LIBRARY

determine the best path forward. Because the building sits in a flood plain, future repairs and reconstruction must take into account the potential for similar flooding.

“Despite the challenges, we are committed to providing library services in the Westernport community in this new space,” McKenney added. “Our fabulous library staff and our cleaning and facilities colleagues at Perfect Reflections have been working extremely hard to get this space ready for you. Everyone is welcome here.”

For many residents, reopening the library—even in a smaller space—represents a return to something deeply familiar. One of the first patrons to visit, Carey DeMichele, shared, “It feels kind of like coming home—a short visit, comforting and welcoming. I’m so glad to have [the library] back!”

The Allegany County Library System invites the community to stop by, browse the shelves, and celebrate the return of library services to Westernport.

###

