



PO Box 850 ~ 16 Town Centre Dr. , Kilmarnock, VA 22482
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FALL NEWSLETTER

Library Director's Message

-Alice Cooper

It's been a busy year and a half at LCL, with many new staff and volunteers. We are now in a capacity-building zone with a fully staffed library including new employees and many new volunteers!

Key positions have been filled including Pete Teagle as Mobile Library Manager, Liza Frye as Youth Services Assistant, and Cherie Carl as Circulation Services Manager. Catherine Long came onboard last spring and is presently wearing two hats as Teen Center Coordinator and Dee's Attic Manager. Most recently, Chelsea Wiggins and Pixie E. Curry have joined the Circulation Desk.

Building community is an essential component of LCL and we are reminded daily with the word being in our library name. This year, many community members have joined LCL as volunteers, including more than five new volunteers since September. Providing excellent customer service is top priority. Networking, seeing old friends and making new ones is standard operating practice as an LCL volunteer.

Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." I hope that you will enjoy reading about the many ways that LCL continues to grow and strengthen our community.

JESSIE BALL
DU PONT
FUND

Together, We Turn the Page on What's Possible

Every dollar you give supports free programs, books, and technology that keep Lancaster Community Library thriving.

From **November 1 to December 31**, your donation helps our community grow through literacy, creativity, and connection. Online gifts may be matched through the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to increase your impact.

Give today at www.lancasterlibrary.org/give, in person at the library or scan the QR Code below to make your gift. For electronic transfer donations contact Chandra Johnson, Fund Development Coordinator at 804-435-1729.

Scan the QR Code
to Donate!



LCL at KUMC Mission Dinner
Alice, Anne, Lisa, Dolly, Vera, and Cherie

Board of Directors



The Lancaster Community Library Board looks forward to a wonderful FY2025-26 year.

Front row L-R: Richard Wilson, President Anne Muse, First Vice President and Governance Committee Chair Amy Goodwin, Second Vice President Missy Mullins, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Paul Maguire, Library Director Alice Cooper. Second row: Nominating Committee Chair Khrystal Butler, Tracy Pulkowski, Philanthropy Committee Chair Lisa Shultz, Claudette Henderson, Diane Forwood, and Vera Lee.

Circulation Services

From the desk of Cherie Carl, Circulation Manager

The Circulation Desk continues to serve as the welcoming hub for all who visit or contact Lancaster Community Library. From reader's advisory and technology help to room reservations and notary services, this team connects patrons with every resource the library offers. Between July and October 2025, the numbers tell a story of steady engagement and community growth:

- Members: 11,150
- New Members: 166
- Circulation: 12,334
- Electronic Resources (Libby, Hoopla, Databases): 7,803
- Computer Sessions: 1,180
- Study Room Usage: 237
- Meeting Room Usage: 112

And for art lovers! Did you know LCL offers a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts membership pass? Patrons can check it out for one week and enjoy free access to special exhibitions.

Every interaction at the Circulation Desk reflects the heart of our library. Connecting people, resources, and ideas that enrich our entire community.



Pixie E. Curry and Burton B.

Mobile Library

From the desk of Pete Teagle, Mobile Library Manager

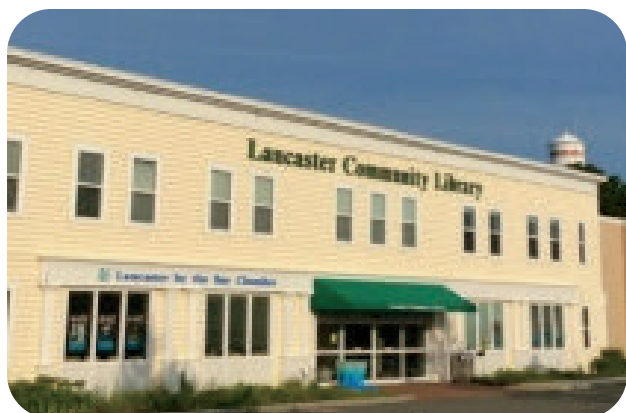


Dolly and Fan of the Library

Since June, the Mobile Library has made 76 stops across Lancaster County. From senior living centers to community events. The Mobile Library brings books and resources directly to readers of all ages. During this time, we've given away 761 books, mostly to readers under 16, helping to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

In October alone, we attended two fall events and distributed over 400 books to children. At special events like Brookvale Day, we shared free works by Ralph Ellison, Langston Hughes, and James Baldwin, promoting adult literacy and cultural appreciation. Every mile traveled reflects Lancaster Community Library's mission to expand access and encourage reading throughout our community.

To always find where we are out and about in the community, visit LancasterLibrary.org/lcl-mobile-library.



Lancaster Community Library has much to celebrate in 2026! This year marks 60 years of Great Decisions, 30 years of Sundays at Two, 20 years of Babygarten, and 10 years in our current facility.

This summer Dee's Attic Book Store was voted the Best Bookstore in the Eastern Region by Virginia Living Magazine!

We're proud to honor these milestones as we continue shaping the future of learning and connection.

Children's Library

From the desk of Miss Tonya, Youth Services Manager



Babygarten with Miss Tonya!



Storytime Special Guest
Rappahannock River Railroaders



The Science Heroes

Shhhh..... Not anymore! The library isn't the quiet place it used to be-it's now the center of laughter, learning and family fun. Our motto is: "Every day is Fun Day at the library." I hope you haven't been missing out on the fun.

Our incredible summer at the library was filled with magic shows, a visit from Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, science experiments, STEAM programs, guest presentations from 4-H, Belle Isle and unforgettable Babygartens and Storytimes. One of our signature programs even offered the opportunity for patrons to "Check Out" a person instead of a book! Check out 10 year old Levi's experience: "Thank you for doing this. It was an amazing experience. At first, I didn't want to come because I thought it was going to be boring, but I went anyway. I realized that it was actually fun and educational. I can't wait for next year's "Check me out" check out a person not a book."

From the park to community summer camps, the library's outreach efforts were felt beyond its walls-inspiring learning and connection throughout our neighborhoods.

Did you know through the library, 291 children under the age of 5, have received books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL). Monthly, 1,491 children's items are checked out and on average 192 children attend Babygarten or Storytime and almost all our programs are now offered as a combination of in-person and virtual live viewing. Giving parents the option to watch programs they missed on replay. The library also offers an interactive storytime experience where participants can engage as part of a virtual audience. Both programs promote early literacy and strengthen family connections (near or far) through storytelling, flannel boards, rhymes and play. To continue this fun, parents get to take home a "Blue Bag" filled with additional theme related activities. The Children's team makes over 650 bags monthly and they are distributed to daycares, schools and The Little Free Library.

If you see a familiar face wandering the halls at the school, (Public and Private) it could be Ms. Liza or myself. We visit most preschoolers, kindergarteners and some 1st and 2nd graders. It's our mission to share books, stories and smiles into the heart of our community.

LCL Teen Center

From the desk of Catherine Long, Teen Coordinator

The LCL Teen Center has expanded its offerings to create a more engaging and welcoming space for local teens. In August, we were excited to welcome our new Teen Center Coordinator, Catherine Long, who has already brought great energy and fresh ideas to our programming.

We've implemented two weekly programs: Craft Night on Wednesdays and Game Night on Fridays. Both programs have quickly become favorites among our regular attendees. This fall, we also launched the Book Worms Teen Book Club, meeting on the first Monday of each month to discuss popular and thought-provoking reads. In partnership with the Lions Club, we hosted 10 aspiring teen artists for their annual Peace Poster Contest, providing space and support for students to create and showcase their artwork. We're also thrilled to introduce our first annual Teen Center Raffle Reading Challenge. High school students (grades 9-12) earn raffle tickets for every book checked out from the Teen Center, with a chance to win cash prizes during our December 17th drawing. These initiatives continue to foster creativity, literacy, and community among our teen patrons.



Teen Craft Night

Career Day at LES

From the desk of Alice Cooper, Library Director

Each October, Lancaster Elementary School invites adults in our community to share stories about their professions so the students can learn about many of their future career options. For the past couple of years, I have enjoyed visiting the kindergarten classes and talking with them about all the fun things we do while working at the library. Reading *All the Books*, by Hayley Rocco and John Rocco is an especial treat as it tells the story of a little girl who jealously guards all of the books she owns, until one day she visits the library and realizes the importance of sharing.

This year for the first time, I visited the kindergarten through second grade special needs regional class. This is a class of about 12 students with 4 adult teachers and aides. The children have a wide range of disabilities, and most are nonverbal. As I read *All the Books*, one little girl ran up to me and stared at the book for a few moments, then went back to her seat. Afterwards, the teacher said they were all speechless. A curriculum goal is to have the students interact with books, and this girl has completely refused to have anything to do with them.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, “emergent literacy begins at birth. It is not restricted by age or disability and develops as a result of opportunity and experience.” LCL’s dedication to literacy for all ages is a beneficial and necessary component to creating an educated, productive society.

Poetry Class

From the desk of Catherine Long, Dee’s Attic Bookstore Manager

The LCL Poetry Class was a wonderful success in its debut six-week session! With 11 enthusiastic participants, 3 inspiring guest teachers, and a special online call with Marilyn Brodhurst, author of *Come, Write a Poem with Me!*, the class offered a rich and creative space for beginner poets to explore their voices. The energy, talent, and community that grew from this first series have us eager to continue the journey.

The journey for our new graduates will continue in January (Date TBD), in the form of a "Next Chapter" Poetry Class. In February and March we will begin a NEW Beginner’s Poetry Class so be on the lookout for the dates.

Stay tuned for our next Poetry Class coming in early 2026!



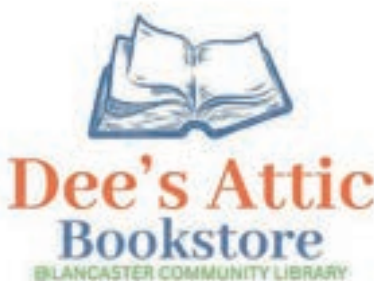
Poetry Graduates

Dee’s Attic Bookstore

From the desk of Catherine Long, Dee’s Attic Bookstore Manager



Best of Virginia



Our wonderful volunteers!

Since June, Dee’s Attic Bookstore has continued to thrive as a vibrant hub for book lovers and community engagement. One of our key highlights was the Summer Book Sale, which was a great success! Drawing in record foot traffic, selling 4,722 books, and raising more than \$7,200 for our programs. Following the sale, we proudly donated the remaining books to four local community organizations, helping to spread the love of reading throughout our community. We’ve also introduced monthly themed pop-up sales featuring curated collections such as science fiction, leather-bound classics, children’s books, geography titles, and brand-new fiction. In October, we launched a special “Trick or Treat” sale featuring like-new paperback fiction, which was a hit with both new and returning customers.

In addition to in-store activity, we’ve expanded our online reach with 22 successful sales on eBay, raising additional funds to support the bookstore’s mission. We’re also proud to share our weekly blog, *All About Books*, written by our wonderful Dee’s Attic volunteers. The blog highlights book recommendations, literary news, and behind-the-scenes stories, helping us connect with readers both in-store and online.

Tech Triumph and Community

From the desk of Shelli Robertson, Technology Manager



LCL Mah-Jongg Maniacs Players



LCL In Stitches



Scam Seminar

It's been an incredible few months for technology, outreach, and community engagement!

Digital Growth and Expanding Reach

Our efforts to connect with you online have been hugely successful. During our June and July Summer Reading Program, our social media views and interactions exceeded 78,752 across both kids and adult programs! Our overall social media engagement continues its steady growth, now averaging 15,000 to 20,000 views and interactions per month.

Our YouTube channel has also truly taken off. From June through October 2025, we've accumulated over 8,922 views for approximately 233.5 hours of viewership and gained 20 new subscribers. This growth highlights how much our community appreciates having the option to catch programs later on replay, as almost all of our LCL programs are now offered as a combination of in-person and virtual live viewing.

Empowering Patrons and Fighting Scams

The best part of my job is helping our patrons with all of their technological needs and questions. In July, the technology department was proud to host another Scam Seminar, "Don't Click That Link," as part of the successful adult summer program, "A Special Evening With..."

The seminar had a great turnout, with 35 people attending in person and 6 viewing live virtually from home. Even more impressive, over 186 people have viewed the replay! I had the pleasure of speaking with several attendees who were so excited to share how they have since recognized and blocked scam attempts via email and text. They told me they laughed as they thwarted the attempts, thinking, "Shelli would be so proud of me right now!" Stories like that are why I love what I do—it shows the real-world impact of our educational programs.

Leading Groups and Building Community

Beyond the tech department, I enjoy being involved with several of the library's dynamic community groups:

- LCL Book Group: I'm fortunate to lead this group, which has grown to average around 15 members each month. In July, we were honored to host a very special author talk with Kurt Muse, who spoke about his book *Six Minutes To Freedom*, recounting his time as a hostage in Panama. The event drew a wonderful crowd of over 80 people!
- LCL In Stitches: I serve as the staff member in charge of this amazing Monday evening crafting group, which has grown to about 15 members weekly. Not only is it great for fun and friendship, but the group is also focused on philanthropic outreach. In September, they crocheted or knitted over 25 pieces to be donated to various cancer centers, and they plan to donate even more of their creations to the Rappahannock Relayers cancer support group in November.
- LCL Mahjong Maniacs: I am the staff liaison for this dedicated group that meets weekly on Friday afternoons. It continues to grow, averaging between 24 to 30 players weekly. Each year, this wonderful group demonstrates its appreciation by making a generous donation to our library's programming fund!

I'm excited to see where all of these areas—from our digital presence to our thriving in-person groups—will continue to grow in 2026!

Art Display & Creative Writing Group

From the desk of Kate Coburn, Cataloger

The Creative Writing Group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6–7 p.m. in the Children’s Library. Writers gather to respond to prompts, share their work, and discuss projects and ideas in a welcoming, creative space. With a steady group of 2–4 participants, the program continues to grow and invites new members to join—no experience required.

The Artist Display Program offers local artists and groups the chance to showcase their work in the hallway leading to the Children’s Library. Hundreds of visitors pass through weekly, giving artists valuable exposure. Participants can also host a mid-month reception to meet patrons and share their artistic stories. Together, these programs highlight Lancaster Community Library’s dedication to creativity and community engagement.



LCL Creative Writing Group



LCL Art Display - Artist

Dungeons & Dragons Guild

From the desk of Kate Coburn, Cataloger

Most recently, the Lancaster Community Library has established its own D&D group. We meet weekly, on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7pm. Player skill level ranges from beginner to veteran, allowing for a wide range of experiences regarding the game. There are presently a total of 5 members of the group, including myself (a noob). Meetings revolve around gameplay, proceeding through our quest, solving puzzles and trying (and often failing) to identify parts of the fantastical world of the Forgotten Realms. Due to the nature of Dungeons & Dragons, potential members must register to join; currently, registration is closed but will open up again near the end of the group’s campaign, likely after Thanksgiving. Keep an eye out on our social media to know when registration opens up again!



Dungeon & Dragons Guild Members

Your generosity keeps Lancaster Community Library thriving. Every gift, visit, and shared story strengthens our mission and helps us grow together. By investing in the library, you make it possible to offer free programs, new resources, and opportunities for readers of all ages. Because of you, our library remains a place where learning, connection, and community flourish.

Thank you for believing in the power of your library.

Stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, and at www.lancasterlibrary.org.