



# LANCASTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

16 Town Centre Dr. ~ PO Box 850, Kilmarnock, VA 22482 November 2024  
 Ph: 804-435-1729 ~ Fax: 804-435-0255

## Lancaster Community Library Board Members

The Lancaster Community Library Board looks forward to a wonderful 2024-25 fiscal year. Front row L-R: Library Director Alice Cooper, Secretary Tina Radigan, First Vice President and Education Committee Chair Allener Baker-Rogers, President Anne Muse, Treasurer Paul Maguire, and Second Vice President and Nominating Committee Chair Khrystal Butler. Second row L-R: Missy Mullins, Philanthropy Committee Co-Chair Lisa Shultz, Ebony Lynch, Amy Goodwin, Loraine Trollip, Governance Committee Chair Pat Julian, Dick Wilson, and Philanthropy Committee Co-Chair William Smith.



## Tonya Carter Receives the Knull Award

Each year, the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck presents the Knull Award to community members who have distinguished themselves by unselfish service to God, country and community, while providing services for the betterment of youth.



"We are so proud that Tonya Carter received this award at BGCNN's annual Reach for the Stars Event on October 17th. I cannot think of anyone else who has provided such amazing services to our youth," said Library Director Alice Cooper.

"It is truly a privilege to work with her and witness her devotion to the youngest members of our community." Babygarten, Storytimes, Summer Reading Programs, and school visits are just a few examples of the many ways that literacy and love of reading have been instilled amongst our children. Her 28 year tenure with the Lancaster Community Library started with the Storymobile and after several years she accepted the position of Youth Services Manager. "Miss Tonya" has established a welcoming, positive, friendly environment in our Children's Department. This is where so many families first obtain library cards and then continue as library patrons for many years to come.

Alice Cooper  
Director

## Annual Fund Campaign!

We are thrilled to announce every online credit card donation you make will be matched by the incredibly generous Jessie Ball duPont Fund during November and December.

### Here are the rules for your credit card donation match:

- There is a per-donation cap of \$500.
- Funds must be received from individual donors, not grants or corporations.
- Donations must be made online (no cash or checks) to qualify for the match.

Checks and cash donations are always welcome and appreciated.

## Annual Lottery Campaign!

We're excited to announce that our Annual Lottery will be returning! We anticipate kicking off this beloved campaign in the first quarter of 2025. Stay tuned for further details!



# A Message from the Library President!

Dear Friends of the Lancaster Community Library,

Borrowing a quote I shared at the Volunteer Luncheon on Halloween, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change **OUR** world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” Yes, I am sure most don’t think that a donation to the Library is changing the world; but **EACH OF YOU** have made a huge difference in what **OUR** Lancaster Community Library is able to provide our community.

The Lancaster Community Library (LCL) Strategic Plan is now at the end of its second full year of implementation. The four goals for the five-year plan include: 1) **ENGAGE** through outreach and communication; 2) **ENSURE** print and digital collections and resources are relevant, varied, accessible to all users; 3) **EXCEL** in delivering programs and services for diverse target audiences that support growth and learning and 4) **EXPAND** innovative resources and knowledge of technology tools to facilitate access to information for individuals and staff. The LCL staff and volunteers have been working diligently to ensure the achievement of these goals.

Two areas from our plan deserve special attention: Building the love of books and reading in our younger generation and ensuring access to our collections for young and old members of the community.

**Literacy:** Throughout the United States, proficiency in reading has decreased significantly with children of all ages, yet a recent Pew Research Center study found that the importance parents assign to reading and access to knowledge shapes their enthusiasm for libraries and their reading programs. In fact, Lancaster parents and their young children flock to LCL’s weekly Storytime and Babygarten programs. In addition, LCL’s newly adopted Dolly Parton Imagination Library, with over 150 children from birth to five years of age currently registered, receive a book a month. Donations support the distribution and mailing of these books.

**Access:** Generous donations in the past have facilitated the purchase and design of the new Mobile Library. A recent LCL Board report indicates that the new Mobile Library Manager has visited schools, preschools, senior centers, farmers’markets, marinas, festivals, food banks at local places of worship, the Northern Neck-Middlesex Free Clinic, and Lancaster County Social Services. Young and old, ages 3 to 90+ have benefitted from the LCL book “giveaway” program. Wi-Fi service and the Mobile Library route plan will soon be available; providing patrons with the ability to plan for checkouts and drop-offs, and use the bookmobile for “hotspot” and internet access. Future donations will support the expansion of collections and the “care and feeding” of the Mobile Library.

As you can see, the Lancaster Community Library is truly realizing our **VISION** to be a place to learn, share, create, and grow.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Anne Muse  
President, Board of Directors

# ***A Message from the Director!***

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In this newsletter, we are excited to share with you the wonderful year we've experienced at the Lancaster Community Library. Enjoy reading about the past year's activities and plans for the future. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of the library board, staff, and volunteers, and their unwavering commitment to represent the library throughout our community. Our library is a haven of knowledge and a vibrant community hub, and the heart of our efforts is to promote the library in every way possible so that everyone may take advantage of our tremendous services.



The Mobile Library Celebration and debut of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library on June 12, 2024 was a highlight of our year. This event was a testament to the library's spirit of vibrancy and community engagement, literally providing a vehicle for library services for everyone in our area, and enabling books to be delivered to all of our children up to the age of five, free of charge.

Our dedicated library staff and volunteers work diligently to enhance the library's offerings, in order to reflect our community's diverse needs and interests. LCL Book Group and Changemakers Book Group are opportunities for library patrons to discuss books and ideas ranging from general fiction and mysteries to biographies, great ideas, and history. Your feedback is always welcome for library book requests as well as other ideas to improve our collection and services.

The October 18 Speaking Our Minds event led by the Library Board's Education Committee shone as it brought together several community members who inspired us with their stories of people who made a difference in their lives. This meaningful engagement amongst our citizens is a testament to the library's power as a platform for dialogue, celebration, and empowerment.

We continued our journey of community engagement on November 8 with the Midway to Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser. This evening of intrigue and camaraderie was not only great fun but also an example of our commitment to engaging with the wider community and advocating for the Lancaster Community Library's mission. It was heartening to see everyone come together to support our cause.

Lancaster Community Library's vision is to "learn, share, create and grow." To all our patrons, supporters, and advocates, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for making this vision possible. Your continuing support will make the library not just a place but a thriving ecosystem of ideas, connections, and inspiration.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with knowledge, growth, and boundless possibilities.

Warm regards,

Alice Cooper  
Director



# NEWS FROM OUR STAFF!

## *Adventure Begins at Your Library!*



Our Summer Reading Program, themed "Adventure Begins at Your Library," brought in a turnout of 19,368 attendees in-person and virtual events. Over 400 youth participated in the program, which included activities like puppet shows, storytelling sessions, and a memorable visit from illustrator Jessica Walker. A special evening with Sherlock Holmes added a unique twist to the summer lineup. Our collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club, through the "Check Me Out" initiative, was especially impactful. Additionally, partners like 4-H Extension and the Northern Neck Master Gardeners enriched the program with valuable learning experiences.

Our outreach initiatives reached 774 attendees, extending our programs to more community members. The new school year opened doors for weekly visits to the preschool, elementary school, private schools, and daycares around the area.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to all our partners who helped make our summer reading programs a success. We look forward to continuing to bring quality learning and fun experiences to our littlest patrons!



## ***Dolly Parton Imagination Library Updated!***

Lancaster Community Library is now an official sponsor of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! Children from birth to age five receive a new, age-appropriate book each month, delivered directly to their homes at no cost to their families. As of November 150, children have enrolled!





## Mobile Library Update!



Since September, the mobile library has brought books, DVDs, and joy to all corners of the county, with 229 “giveaways” provided to community members of all ages—from 3 to over 90.

We have visited preschools, schools, senior centers, local food banks at churches, Lancaster County Social Services, farmers’ markets, and marinas to make our library resources available and accessible to everyone.

Recently, we updated our mobile library to provide internet usage for us to manage the library’s checkout of books; and provide internet services to the public in places where Wi-Fi is not available.

Look for the Mobile Library coming soon to a location near you!

## Speaking Our Minds!

On October 18, the Lancaster Community Library’s Education Committee led by First VP, Allener Baker-Rogers hosted “Speaking Our Minds-Open Mic Night.” The communities young and old shared their personal stories, reflections, and poems around the theme of, “Someone who made a difference in my life.” Participants shared heartfelt tributes to mentors, family members and friends. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this program.

## A Special Evening With...



This summer, we hosted a series called: **A Special Evening With...**, featuring eminent and inspiring speakers in the community.

### Guest speakers were:

- Emily Adams** - Instructor in the practice of mindfulness
- Harold Hinson** -Local author
- Margaret Forrester** - Genealogy
- John Cann** - Sherlock Holmes
- Robert Hundley** - Specialist in Historical Costuming
- Jessica Walker** - Author, Illustrator and Keynote Speaker at the Author Expo.





## Dee's Attic Bookstore!



Dee's Attic bookstore receives and processes hundreds of generously donated books, CDs, DVDs, and record albums every week. Donated items are sold in Dee's Attic, stored for the summer or fall sales, or shared with the community in little free libraries and the mobile library. Notable donations have included collectible vinyl records from Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, and Aretha Franklin, beautiful hardbound classic literature, many new cookbooks, and a broad selection of bestsellers.

Around 20 volunteers currently staff the bookstore, help with sales, and contribute upwards of 40 hours a week of their time to this community effort.

The summer and fall book sales are the biggest events of the year, with 3,000 to 4,000 books displayed in the library lobby.

This summer's sales, combined with regular Dee's Attic sales, have raised over \$9,000 in July and August.

The fall book sale started November 9 and will end regular priced sales November 27. Bag sales will begin November 30.

## Murder Mystery!

On November 8, our Philanthropy Committee hosted its third Murder Mystery event, A Midway to Murder Fundraiser. This year's theme, "A Homage to a Carnival Midway," transported guests back to the 1950s. Attendees, dressed in period attire, enjoyed an evening filled with mystery, intrigue, clues, carnival games, prizes, delicious food, and beverages. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

## Library Card Month!

This past September, we celebrated Library Card Signup Month by welcoming 80 new members to our library! Throughout the month, we highlighted the wide range of resources and services available to library cardholders, from books and digital media to educational programs and community events. A library card opens access to so many opportunities whether you are interested in reading, learning, or connecting with others in our community. If you have not yet signed up, we would love to have you join our library! Stop by the library to sign up for your card and start enjoying everything the library has to offer.

## Adventure Begins at Your Library!

