

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Caroline County Public Library had another busy and successful year in FY2017. My tireless and multi-talented staff provided a great variety of materials, programs, and services to our residents.

Our Board of Library Trustees, who volunteer many hours throughout the year, provided expertise and oversight. A special thank you goes to Library Board member Gale Nashold, who completed his second term in June. We welcome new Library Board member Tomas Davila, who joined the board in July.

Volunteers continue to be essential to our work at the library: 123 volunteers gave 1,821 hours of their time to the library this year. 63 teen volunteers earned 871 hours towards their school service-learning requirement.

By June 30, 2017 we had two retirements and one manager leave to take a position in a neighboring library system. We anticipate two part-time staff will leave early FY2018. While we were able to hire two new part-time staff in June, rebuilding our team will be a high priority in FY2018.

Our partners are key to helping us accomplish our goals. I would like to extend sincere thanks to our major partners.

We also appreciate the ongoing support from our state legislators of Districts 36 and 37B. A special thanks to Governor Hogan for his continued support of all Maryland public libraries. Hats off to our Caroline County Sheriff's Department and the Greensboro, Denton, and Federalsburg Police Departments for their commitment to safe communities.

We are looking forward an exciting FY2018!

Debby Bennett, Executive Director

FY2017 HIGHLIGHTS

We had an extra special One Maryland One Book event this year. The book was All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Local playwright and director Keith Shaffer wrote and directed a play based on the book. Community members were recruited to perform, many who had never acted in a play before. Performances, followed by discussions with the audience about the book and performance were held at both high schools.

Our Makerspace area at our Central Library continues to grow in size, variety and use. We now have regular users of the music equipment and graphic design equipment. We are creating custom 3D prints, and hope to include 3D printing in some of our STEM programs in FY2018.

We have continued to scan local historical documents and hope to make more available from our website in the next year, with the assistance of Digital Maryland staff.

Our Friends of the Caroline County Public Library held their second annual "Mini Golf in the Library!" Fundraiser in February. Friends' annual donations help us purchase books and pay for programs. This year they also provided funds to help us with a mini-renovation at our Federalsburg Branch. The Damon Bee bequest to the Federalsburg Branch was another major funding source for the mini-renovation, along with a smaller amount from the Carlton Gooden bequest to the library.

We ended the year with 1,126 children enrolled in Imagination Library and 338 graduated at the age of five. Funding for this program has remained stable, thanks to the tireless fundraising work of our partners and the support of our county commissioners.

Our new Community Calendar was completed late FY2017. We expect to see it quickly grow in popularity and use in FY2018.

Thank you to the Division of Library Development and Services and the Maryland State Department of Education for providing staff development grant funding this year through their Library Services and Technology Act funds. These funds are made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.