



16 Town Centre Drive
Kilmarnock, VA 22482
(804)435-1729
www.lancasterlibrary.org

Dear Friends of the Lancaster Community Library,

Since 1961, library patrons have been culturally enriched, attended literacy and education based programs, and have made new friends and gathered with old friends at the Lancaster Community Library. In fiscal year 2025, 59,849 people visited the Lancaster Community Library, a 20% increase over the previous year. Programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Babygarten, Storytime, Teen Craft Night, Sundays at Two, Scam Alert, and book groups, are just a few examples of how our community engages with the library.

In the past 30 years or so, technology and the internet have played increasingly important roles in our lives, and the library has expanded its services to include free ebooks, computers, and WiFi. As staff and volunteers not only check out books but also help with technology including ebooks and faxes, they offer friendly and helpful service to everyone in the community. Numerous community organizations take advantage of our streaming and video conferencing opportunities in our meeting rooms, where more than 700 community meetings are conducted annually.

It is true that most public libraries provide the essential services summarized above; however, the Lancaster Community Library is exceptional in its funding structure. Since the 1980s, 60% of our income has come from the private sector, while nationally, the public library average is only 2%. Our ~ **Community** ~ is literally an essential investor of the Lancaster Community Library!

In the enclosed newsletter, please enjoy reading about the many ways in which the Lancaster Community Library continues to help us all 'learn, share, create, and grow.' With your financial assistance, you will help to realize the library's vision to build a stronger, healthier, more educated community.

Sincerely,

Anne Muse
President, Board of Directors

Lisa Shultz
Chair, Philanthropy Committee



September 14 fundraiser at CAMP with the Band from Misfit Beach.

L-R: Board Members Tracy Polkowske, President Anne Muse, and Lisa Shultz



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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.

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. Dee's Attic Bookstore contact information 804-435-1729 ext. 28 or email deesatticbookstore@lanasterlibrary.org.

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 see where we'll be out in the community, visit LancasterLibrary.org/lcl-mobile-library. If you'd like the Mobile Library to visit your event or location, contact Pete Teagle at 804-435-1729 ext. 24 or mobilelibrary@lancasterlibrary.org

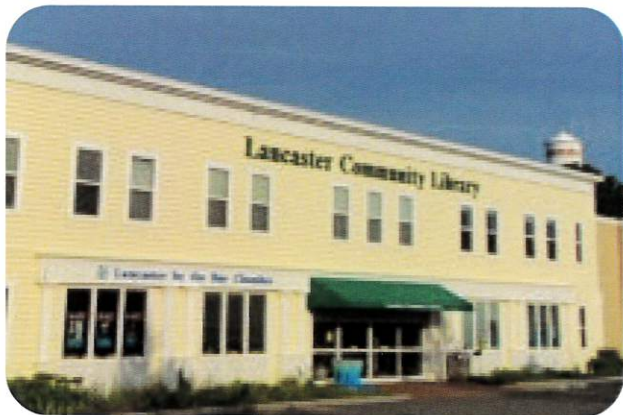
Teen Center

From the desk of Catherine Long, Teen Center 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. Contact Catherine Long for Teen Center information 804-435-1729 ext. 13 or email clong@lancasterlibrary.org.



Lancaster Community Library has much to celebrate in 2026!

Next year marks 60 years of Great Decisions, 30 years of Sundays at Two, 20 years of Babygarten, and 10 years in our current facility.

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

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. Contact Kate Coburn at 804-435-1729 ext. 14 or kcoburn@lancasterlibrary.org for sign up information.



LCL Creative Writing Group



LCL Art Display - Artist

Dungeons & Dragons Guild

From the desk of Kate Coburn, Cataloger

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! Contact Kate Coburn at 804-435-1729 ext. 14 or kcoburn@lancasterlibrary.org for sign up information.



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, YouTube, and at www.lancasterlibrary.org.