

Kent County Public Library System Annual Report: 2024

Required Information

System Name:

Kent County Public Library (K.C.P.L.) System

Address and Contact Information:

408 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
Primary Telephone: (410) 778-3636

Website: www.kentcountylibrary.org

Names of Board Members, Director, Elected Officials:

K.C.P.L. Board of Trustees

Jay Silcox, Board President (term expiration: December 2024)
Dr. John Murphy, Board Vice President
Amy Sine, Board Treasurer (term expiration: December 2024)
Erin Counihan, Board Secretary
Rachel Durso
Peggy McKee
Melissa Walters

K.C.P.L. Executive Director

Robert Bell (from October 1, 2024)

Kent County Commissioners

Ronald H. Fithian, President
Albert H. Nickerson
John F. Price

Annual Statistics for the Fiscal Year

Total Budget: \$1,138,564.00

Total Budget by Source:

Appropriations: \$758,662.00
State & Other Grants: \$367,456.00
Fees: \$5,840.00
Restricted Donations: \$2,498.00
Donations: \$1,547.00
Misc.: \$2,561.00

Operating Budget (Local, State and Federal):

State of Maryland: \$214,521.00
Local: \$758,662.00
Federal: \$24,600.00

Capital Budget: \$43,803.00

Grants Budget: \$128,335.00

Total Expenditures (personnel, materials, equipment, other): \$1,139,504.00

Materials Circulated – total and breakdown by Adult/Children's:

Total: 158,713
Adult: 128,836
Children: 28,175

Information (Reference) Questions Answered: 826

Registered Borrowers (Card Holders): 11,167

Number of Library Visits: 75,465

Number of Programs and Attendance:

Programs: 396
Attendance: 4,437

Materials owned:

Total: 33,573

Adult: 22,483

Children: 11,095

ILL (received and loaned):

ILL Received: 23,928

ILL Loaned: 15,422

Personnel (Total FTE): 17.25**Optional Information**

(Primarily covers the period July 2023 – June 2024, with noteworthy exceptions that have occurred or in progress since the arrival of the new Executive Director in October 2024)

New Library system branding and updated Website launched: October 1, 2024

Website Visits: 45,455 (FY2024)

New or Updated Facilities: Rock Hall Branch remodeled and re-opened October 2024

Volunteers: Due to the COVID pandemic, volunteers have not been allowed in the K.C.P.L. system; the Executive Director has been working with the Library Board and relevant staff to update documents and procedures to allow volunteers to return effective early 2025.

FY24 Partnerships

- Animal Care Shelter for Kent County
- Amy Lynn Ferris Center
- Choptank Health
- The Eastern Shore Permaculture Institute (STEM Fest)
- Kent County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Kent County Judy Centers
- Kent Cultural Alliance
- Local Management Board
- Lockbriar Farm (Apple Fest)
- Chestertown RiverArts
- Shore Community Outreach Team, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health
- Shore Legal Access
- Star Center at Washington College

- Sumner Hall
- University of Maryland Extension
- Kent County 4-H
- Master Gardeners
- Upper Shore Job Center
- Washington College Black Studies Department
- Washington College Department of Education

FY24 Featured Community Initiatives & Outreach Events

- Chestertown Branch Patio Garden rejuvenation project (ongoing)
- Choptank Health telehealth project partnership (ongoing)
- IT Study Group with Town of Chestertown (March – October 2024)
- Worton Park StoryWalk (ongoing)
- Mid-Shore Goes Purples Outreach Event (September 2023)
- Kent County Free Laptop Program distribution (September 2023)
- Kent County Food Council (ongoing)
- Partnership Meeting (October 2023)
- Partner Site Visit: Rock Hall Blessing Bag Distribution (January 2023)
- Partner Site Visit: Kent County Community Food Pantry (February 2024)
- Trunk-or-Treat Outreach Events (October 2023)
- Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company (ongoing)
- Kent County Department of Social Services (ongoing)
- Dickens of a Christmas Festival: Storytime Activity (December 2023)
- Kent County High School – KAP Program presentation (February 2024)
- Kent County Commission on Aging presentation (March 2024)
- Amy Lynn Ferris Center: Tech Help for Seniors (March 2024)
- Kent County High School Mental Health Fair (May 2024)
- Kent County Community Baby Shower (May 2024)
- Chestertown Tea Party Festival: Craft Activity (May 2024)

FY24 Featured Programs

- Snack Around the World: Kids and Teens (ongoing)
- Shore Community Outreach Team health workshops: Adults (ongoing)
- Ask a Master Gardener: Adults (ongoing)
- Half Day Fun Day: Kids and Teens (ongoing)
- Pizza and Make a Thing: Teens (ongoing)
- STEAM Lab: Kids (ongoing)

- Ice Cream Social & Recipe Swap (July 2023)
- Foraging for Flavor: Adults (August 2023)
- Talewise Liquid Nitrogen Station (August 2023)
- Apple Fest (October 2023)
- One Maryland One Book: Nause-Waiwash: Past, Present, and Future: Adults (October 2023)
- Technology Guts: Teens (October 2023)
- STEM Fest (November 2023)
- Revealing the Commodore Collection: Adults (November 2023)
- Holiday Gingerbread Houses (December 2023)
- Art Supply Swap (January 2024)
- African-American Read-In (February 2024)
- Seed Swap (March 2024)
- SKYWARN Weather Spotter Training (March 2024)
- Explore Eclipses: Kids and Teens (April 2024)
- How-to-Fest: Adults (April 2024)
- Shakespeare Garden: Adults (April 2024)