



Caroline County  
*Public Library*

# ANNUAL REPORT

- FY 2024 -

CAROLINE COUNTY  
Public Library






# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

FY2024 was a year focusing on the completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the Central Library renovation. Phase 1 of the renovation, which began on January 1, 2023, was completed on December 18, 2023 when the first floor of the Central Library was reopened to the public. We received an FY2023 state library capital grant of \$917,000 that funded 79% of Phase 1. The Board of Library Trustees provided the local 21% match of \$244,000 with money from their John Hargreaves fund. Phase 1 included replacing HVAC units at the end of their useful life, improving lighting, upgrading the emergency fire alarm system, enhancing electrical capacity for increased technology, providing a family bathroom adjacent to the children's areas, increasing seating capacity, improving sight lines, creating quiet areas, and bringing the library into compliance with ADA requirements. Funding for furniture and fixtures is not included in the state capital grant. The Friends of the Caroline County Public Library ran a two-year Capital Campaign, raising \$78,000 which paid for new shelving for the adult and teen areas of the Library.

Phase 2 of the renovation, which included the replacement of the slate roof facing the parking lot and a major upgrade of the Central Library elevator, was completed on March 27, 2024. The library received a \$467,000 state library capital grant that funded 78% of Phase 2 of the Central Library renovations, with the Caroline County Commissioners providing the \$132,000 for the local match of 22%. During the second half of the fiscal year, the library also deployed a new VoIP phone system and automated traffic counters at all three locations, as well as a new camera system for the Central Library.

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# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

## Renovation



In preparation of reopening the first floor of the Central Library to the public, staff spent weeks unboxing and reshelving the vast majority of our Central Library collection.

The Library officially completed Phase 1 of the Central Library Renovation and reopened the first floor to the public on December 18, 2023.

Reactions and first impressions from the community have been overwhelmingly positive. People love how open, clean and inviting the new space looks.



# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

## Renovation



### Highlights of the renovation:

- A new family bathroom
- New carpet and flooring
- New lighting
- New furniture and fixtures
- 2 new small study rooms
- 3 new service points
- A new quiet seating area
- Redesigned Maryland Room
- Beautiful new white shelving paid for by the Friends of the Caroline County Public Library!

On May 18, with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, the Caroline County Public Library held an official renovation celebration and ribbon cutting.



# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



Our Take & Make kits continued to be a big hit with our youth, families and adults.

In August, staff presented Play-Doh Storytime in Greensboro that featured stories, music and of course Play-Doh. The kids had a great time getting messy!



In January, Library staff held a Petite Picassos program in our newly renovated space with the theme of "Winter Fun." Children experimented with bingo daubers, felt boards, and making and playing with "snow" in this process art program.

Our Storytime at the North County Branch in Greensboro averaged over 30 participants each week.



CCPL partnered with To the Pointe Dance Studio for the 6th year to present Nutcracker Storytime in December. Typically, this program is held at the Central Library but due to renovations To the Pointe Dance Studio graciously offered to host.

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



In November, the Caroline County Public Library partnered with the Caroline County Council of Arts to present their 10th annual literary event, titled “A Literary Visit with Sophie Kerr.” Held at the Country Club, this event featured several notable works by Sophie Kerr, a native of Denton, a Reader’s theatre performance, and a presentation from guest speaker Brooke Schultz.



Also in November, staff partnered with the Frederick Douglass Honor Society and the Caroline County Historical Society to host a presentation from renown scholar Celeste-Marie Bernier at the Museum of Rural Life in Denton. Dr. Bernier gave a presentation about Anna Murray Douglass and the Douglass children and grandchildren.

# CAROLINE COUNTY RESIDENTS...

## Love to Read



**9,587**  
Card Holders

**97,241**  
Checkouts

**122,463**  
Library Visits

**55,853**  
Items in Collection

**8,539**  
Items Loaned to  
MD Libraries

**900+**  
Books By Mail

**1017**  
ILL's Borrowed

**796**  
New Library Cards



## Love to Work



**418**  
Job Support

## Love to Learn

**17,373**  
Reference Questions

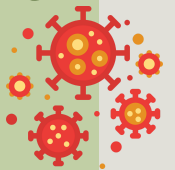
**15**  
Staff FTE



## Love to be Safe

**600+**  
Covid Test Kits

**3,000+**  
KN95 Face Masks



# AND...

## Love Technology

**7,206**  
Public Computer Sessions

**45,162**  
Wi-Fi Uses



**30,232**  
E-Books & Audiobooks  
Checkouts

**383**  
Laptops & Hotspots  
Checkouts

**61,499**  
Web Page Visits



## Love to Participate

**119**  
Library Programs

**4,862**  
Program Attendees

**102**  
Book a Librarian  
Appointments

**358**  
Meeting Room Bookings



## Love to Save

AARP completed 193 Federal & State Tax Returns  
and saved Caroline Residents nearly \$30,000

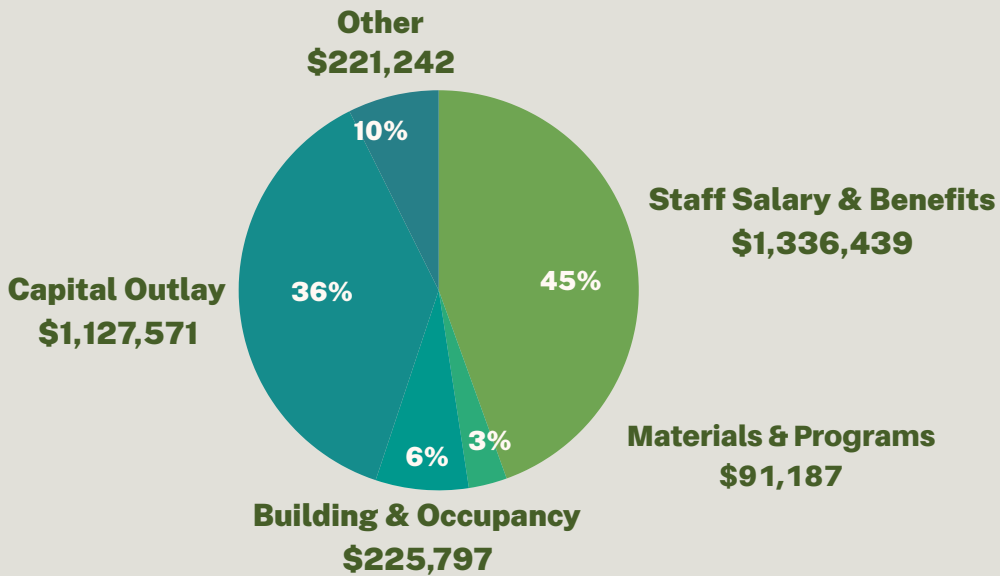




# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

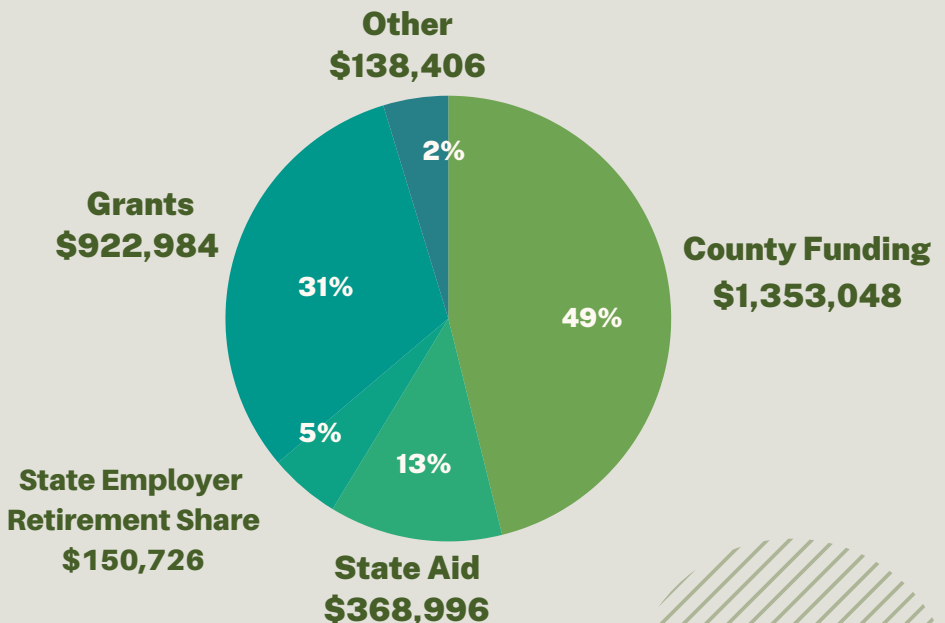


## FY2024 Expenses \$3,004,219



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## FY2024 Revenues \$2,934,160



# GRANTS & DONATIONS

Eastern Shore Regional Library – programs, collection development, service enhancement, programs, printing, e-rate funds consultant	<b>\$85,225.62</b>
Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) LSTA grant funds for staff development & MLA conference	<b>\$14,500</b>
FY2023 Maryland State Library Capital Grant for Central Library first floor renovation Phase I	<b>\$220,326</b>
FY2024 Maryland State Library Capital Grant for Central Library first floor renovation Phase II	<b>\$589,785</b>
Caroline Co Health Dept Resource Directory Disparities Grant	<b>\$6,194.50</b>
Caroline Co Health Dept Tobacco grant	<b>\$4,900</b>
Friends of the Caroline County Public Library Contributions	<b>\$81,963.16</b>
Other Donations	<b>\$4,791.53</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,007,686</b>





# BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR CAROLINE COUNTY

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James B. “Bart” Johnson, President

Melissa Leonard, Vice President

Kaleb Hignutt, Treasurer

Sarah Dahl, Secretary

Tamara Kelly-Molock

Holly Trice

Tomas Davila

## FRIENDS OF THE CAROLINE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Visintainer, President

Donna Carson, Vice President

Lauren Muto, Treasurer

Lindy Lewis, Secretary

Dr. Joseph H McCarthy

Stacy Seward

Michelle Wiley

Ann Wilson

Margaret Shaffer

Carol Zinser

Volunteers provide a great service to the Library. Members of our Board of Library Trustees give their valuable time to attend board meetings and county budget hearings, and are in constant communication with the Library’s Executive Director. A huge thank you goes to our Friends of the Caroline County Library, who also volunteer their time meeting and planning ways to fundraise to help the library, in addition to attending budget hearings to support the Library. They have worked diligently on their Capital Campaign this year holding several fundraisers, including special appeal mailings, BBQ sales, and their annual “Stay Home and Read” fundraiser in April. They raised \$78,000 for new shelving in the Central Library’s adult and teen areas as part of the Central Library first floor renovation. If you want to volunteer to help the Library, the Friends are always looking for new members! Go to <https://www.carolib.org/friends-of-the-library/>

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# OPEN HOURS OF SERVICE

## December 18 - June 30, 2024 Hours

### **CENTRAL LIBRARY**

*100 Market Street*

*Denton, MD 21629*

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Thurs 12:00PM- 8:00PM

Sat 10:00AM - 2:00PM

**Telephone: 410-479-1343**

### **FEDERALSBURG BRANCH**

*123 Morris Avenue*

*Federalsburg, MD 21632*

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10:00AM - 2:00PM, 3:00 PM - 6:00PM

Tues 12:00PM - 2:00PM, 3:00 PM - 8:00PM

**Telephone: 410-754-8397**

### **NORTH COUNTY BRANCH**

*Greensboro Community Center*

*101 Cedar Lane, PO Box 336*

*Greensboro, Maryland 21639*

Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00AM - 2:00PM, 3:00 PM - 6:00PM

Wed 12:00PM - 2:00PM, 3:00 PM - 8:00PM

**Telephone: 410-482-2173**

### **E-Branch**

[www.carolib.org](http://www.carolib.org)

[info@carolib.org](mailto:info@carolib.org)

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# OPEN HOURS OF SERVICE

## July 1 - December 17, 2023 Hours

Note changes to Thursdays at Central and additions of Friday to North County Branch and Federalsburg Branch on Jan 1, 2023 to provide as many hours as possible while the Central Library's first floor undergoes renovations.

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Angela Faggio, Branch Services Manager

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[www.carolib.org](http://www.carolib.org)

[info@carolib.org](mailto:info@carolib.org)

[www.myfamilyneeds.info](http://www.myfamilyneeds.info)

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# A FOND FAREWELL



Photo Credit: Mickey Pullen

After an extraordinary 41 years of dedicated service, Caroline County Public Library's Executive Director, Debby Bennett, has embarked on a well deserved retirement as of June 30, 2024. Her unwavering commitment to fostering a love of learning, and free access to exceptional library services has left an indelible mark on our community. Debby's visionary leadership has guided the library through countless challenges and triumphs, ensuring that it remains a vital resource for residents of all ages. As we bid farewell to Debby, we express our deepest gratitude for her tireless efforts and unwavering dedication. We wish her a long and fulfilling retirement, filled with joy, peace, and endless possibilities.

Left: Caroll Visintainer, former Board President  
Center: Debby Bennett, Executive Director  
Right: Sarah Dahl, current Board President