



MANASSAS PARK
CITY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

manassasparkcitylibrary.org

9701 Manassas Drive Manassas Park, VA 20111

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Letter from the Library Director

The Manassas Park City Library's (MPCL) second year was one of growth, service and the warm embrace of the community.

We started the year with a full schedule of programs with limited restrictions. Several in-person Library programs resumed in June 2021 with some safety precautions. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive as we were one of the first libraries in the area to open our doors for programming.

Library staff continued to build relationships with patrons, getting to know them and their hobbies. Patrons often note how the little things the MPCL team remembers make them feel welcome every time they visit our safe and comfortable space. We listen carefully to the community, recognize what programs and services would be helpful and interesting and then put those programs into place. This connection with the community resulted in expanded offerings including author talks, English as a Second Language classes and conversation clubs, Spanish Storytimes, Tech Help appointments and so much more.

I could not be more excited about MPCL's bright future and the beautiful new library space created by City leadership. As I write, I am busy arranging pop-up service at the newly created community center Book Nook, planning for a big move and creating a robust Fall programming schedule. We can't wait to see you all at our new location in the heart of Manassas Park at Park Central.

Thank you for making this year a resounding success. I am grateful to the Manassas Park community for your time, ideas, and support with us as we grow and expand to fit your needs. Thank you also to the Library Advisory Board and City leadership, staff, and patrons. We are proud to serve the City of Manassas Park!

Holly Ritchie | Library Director



Numbers at a Glance



10,185

PHYSICAL ITEMS
BORROWED



2,532

DIGITAL ITEMS
BORROWED



1,576

CARD HOLDERS



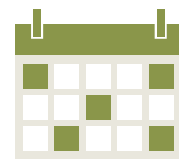
2,358

OPEN HOURS



12,199

LIBRARY VISITS



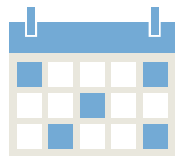
68

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMS



920

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMS ATTENDANCE



90

TEEN AND ADULT
PROGRAMS



184

TEEN AND ADULT
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



276

PUBLIC COMPUTER
USAGE



270

WIRELESS SESSIONS



51,631

WEBSITE VIEWS



808

FACEBOOK PAGE
FOLLOWERS



183

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



300

YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS

Diverse Programming and Collections



MPCL provides the community with timely and interesting resources, programs, and materials. Staff offered diverse programs and expanded collections throughout the year. The Spanish collection has grown and circulation of Spanish items is rising rapidly. Library patrons expressed appreciation as they watched the collection develop. Many parents commented that having popular books in both English and Spanish enables them to teach their children Spanish and provides an opportunity for others to share their native language.

Digital collections and resources include a wide variety of Japanese, French, and Korean materials. The collection continues to grow to match the needs of the Manassas Park community.

The Library offered a new set of programs this year – English as a Second Language (ESL) class and conversation hour. With a local ESL teacher as host, the sessions provided a safe place for patrons to practice English and ask questions. Many attendees of the popular program were studying for their citizenship exam and the class was hugely beneficial to them. Many participants passed the exam and several found new jobs.

The most popular program this year was Spanish Storytime. Hosted by local professional Spanish storyteller, Ms. Roxana, the events brought in a great crowd of kids and parents. The program is entirely in Spanish, and Ms. Roxana encourages attendees to read, create, learn, and play. Attendees check out books and are enthusiastic about the expanded Spanish collection.



Ms. Roxana also hosted a Hispanic Heritage program in Spanish, celebrating a variety of cultures around the world.

Grants

MPCL received a sub-grant through the Library of Virginia's Institute of Museum and Library Services American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding for \$8,833.

Grant-funded projects included:

- ESL classes with a paid presenter.
- A projector, green screen, and video camera. The grant also funded library enhancements such as a Lego bench and puppet theatre. These resources have been well received by the community and helped increase program attendance and overall foot traffic.
- Mobile printing, which allows patrons to upload and print documents directly from their own phone or laptop. Since activating this service, over half of the printing in the Library is from mobile devices.
- Physical and digital materials.
- Design, market and outfit the new "Book Nook" pop-up location at the Manassas Park Community Center.



Programs



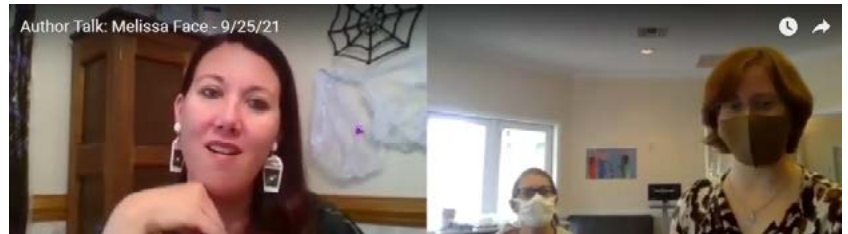
Window Designs made by staff to promote Summer Reading 2021 - Tails and Tales

SUMMER READING

Last year, children and families across the community participated in MPCL's summer reading program. The theme, "Tails and Tales," encouraged kids to read and learn over the critical summer months. This year's theme, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," speaks to the curiosity of young minds and will be held in the Manassas Park Community Center.

"AUTHORTALK"

The popular AuthorTalk series highlighted one local author each month. Each program included a reading, question-and-answer session and activities ranging from a coffee appreciation event with coffee tasting and bean art to music and serial trivia to a dog festival. Many of the authors offered to return and host programs including writing workshops for future AuthorTalks.



Author Morgan Vega presents her book, *Sleeping Around*, on Zoom.

Melissa Face, author of *I Love You More than Coffee*, answers questions in this hybrid Author Talk.





Maya Miernik shares her book, *Karina's Cozy Corner*, for Black History Month.



Author Andre Gatling presents his book, *Penelope's Bully*, and signs copies for attendees.



Christian Cantrell speaking about his book, *Scorpion*.

CRAFT & CREATE

From decorating pumpkins to creating gingerbread houses and encouraging fitness through crafts, the monthly Craft & Create family programs and their corresponding grab-and-go bags continued to be popular.



One young patron said "making this snowflake made me happy," with the biggest smile on her face as she shared her snowflake craft with staff.



Patron caterpillar pictures found on the Butterfly Waystations from a Craft & Create Program.



Grab & Go craft bags based on our windsock Craft & Create program. All bags are decorated by teen volunteers.



Staff expanded these monthly programs to include an "Adult Only" coloring program. Adults have responded positively to this time to relax, listen to music, and create their coloring masterpieces.

SPOOK FEST

A Halloween Program, Spook Fest invited attendees to learn and explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) related activities at different stations.

Geared towards school age children, 42 attendees mixed various chemical reactions from baking soda and vinegar in our Expanding Ghosts activity, experienced Newton's Laws of Motion through our Ghost Buster bowling, learned arachnology with our Spider Web Toss game, calculated the number of candies in a jar, and made art with our spooky coloring pages, ghost crafts, and costume contest.



At Spook Fest's most popular station, Expanding Ghosts, kids explore chemical reactions made from mixing baking soda with vinegar, lifting up a 'ghost' balloon through carbon dioxide.

Outreach & Partnerships

Monthly outreach at the Manassas Park Community Center brings vital services into the community and increases awareness of the Library. Community members signed up for a library card, returned books, checked out items, and learned about programs and digital resources.

Library staff built relationships with local schools, speaking directly to students about library services and handing out library card applications. Many students completed applications and later brought their families to the library. Students are eager to visit the new library location and use the 3D printer and Virtual Reality stations.

The Manassas Park Community Center continued to be a valued partner, aiding with marketing, program planning, and space for pop-up services and programs.

Staff expanded partnerships with a local homeschool group and scout troops; their volunteer assistance was highly valuable. Projects included collecting donations for Ukraine, sorting through book donations during a community event, creating StoryWalks® for summer reading 2021 and much more.

Partnership with the local Girl Scout troop continued to grow as they provided patrons with nature resources expanding on the existing Seed Exchange Library. A new partnership was formed with local Mental Health Coordinator Sally Starr, who provided many mental health-related programs in-person and online.

During the height of the COVID-19 test kit shortage, the Library partnered with the Virginia Department of Health to provide at-home test kits to seniors. As ever, MPCL was at the heart of the community and ready to assist in a time of need.

In partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the library became a donation drop-off point for Ukraine Refugees. More than 60 bags of useful items were sent to Ukraine.



Advisory Board Members:

- Michele Herd | Chair
- Ann-Marie Stewart
- Lillian Zhu
- Robin Hatcher
- Donald Shuemaker

Partners:

- Manassas Park Community Center
- Manassas Park City Schools
- Virginia Department of Health
- Homeschooling Organizations
 - Lifelong Learners – Homeschooling co-op group located in Manassas Park & Manassas
 - [HEAV \(Home Educators Association of Virginia\)](#)
 - [CHESS](#)
 - [MySchoolatHome](#)
- BSA Scout Troops
 - Manassas Park Troop 1372b
 - Manassas Park Troop 1372g
- Casey Hummeldorf – Girl Scout
- Library of Virginia
- Mental Health Coordinator, Sally Starr
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission





May 21, 2022, was the first joint MPCC/MPCL Chalk Festival held on Kids to Parks Day. Over 100 attendees participated in the event, covering Blooms Park with unique designs and creating their own masterpieces to take home.



2021 Summer Reading StoryWalk®. Beak & Ally: Unlikely Friends by Norm Feuti



MPCL visits the Manassas Park Middle School and discusses library services with the students.