

# ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## Summer 2024 LIBRARY GUIDE



## SUMMER WITH OUR LIBRARY 2024

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STAY CONNECTED



## Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to our Summer 2024 Library Guide! We have a lot of great events and programs coming this summer for you and your family around the county. We hope you can visit a library or attend an event as part of your summer “Adventures!”

Our summer kicks off on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Hoffman Park in Frostburg. This event is a great place to learn about all kinds of summer activities. We will be joined by our many partners in kicking off another summer of fun in Allegany County! The next day we will continue our Story Time in the Park series on the George’s Creek Library lawn at 10 a.m.



As you travel to story times in the park this summer, don’t forget to stop in at one of *Our Libraries*. If you want some activities in the air conditioning, we will still have our Yoga events, Book Clubs, gaming nights, and other special events at all our libraries this summer. While you are in the library, ask for a demo of how you can print from your own phone to library printers.

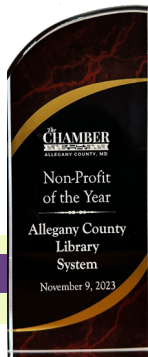
Let me close by saying thank you! In November, the library system was honored to receive Allegany County Chamber of Commerce’s First ever Non-Profit of the Year award. This recognition was due to the hard work and dedication of our library staff and I thank them immensely.

Best wishes for your Summer of Adventures!

**John Taube**

Executive Director

**ADVENTURE**  
— BEGINS AT —  
**YOUR LIBRARY.**





Ask your library staff  
what Game Night fun  
happens at your library!



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# Adventure Begins at Our Library



Stop by at any ACLS Library to pick up your Passport to Adventure!

Inside you'll find several ways to participate and win with Summer with Our Library.

- Visit the Library
- Come to an event
- Read
- and more!



Prizes include:

- Tote bags
- Local gift certificates
- Recreation rentals
- Science Center and Zoo tickets
- and more!



**ADVENTURE**  
— BEGINS AT —  
**YOUR LIBRARY.**



Thank you to all our Summer 2024 sponsors and our Adventure Advocate level sponsor: American Woodmark



**AMERICAN WOODMARK**

## 2024 Summer Schedule

- Summer with Our Library begins June 10
- Summer Kick-off at Hoffman Park on June 12 at 4:00 PM
- Read to Farm Animals at the Fair on July 17 at 3:00 PM
- End of Summer Bash at Creekside Park on August 7 at 4:00 PM
- Last Day to return Passports is August 10

## Story Time in the Park

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM  
Suitable for families and all ages

6/11 Constitution Park Amphitheater  
6/13 George's Creek Library Lawn  
6/18 Cresaptown Sports Complex  
6/20 Rocky Gap Campground Beach  
6/25 Glendening Park Lion's Pavilion  
6/26 Indoors at LaVale Library, 10:30 AM  
6/27 Creekside Park in Westernport  
7/2 Canal Place in Cumberland  
7/9 Constitution Park Amphitheater  
7/10 Indoors at LaVale Library, 10:30 AM  
7/11 George's Creek Library Lawn  
7/16 Cresaptown Sports Complex  
7/17 Read to Animals at the Fair, 3 PM  
7/18 Rocky Gap Campground Beach  
7/23 Glendening Park Lion's Pavilion  
7/25 Creekside Park in Westernport  
7/30 Canal Place in Cumberland  
7/31 Indoors at LaVale Library, 10:30 AM  
8/1 Constitution Park Amphitheater  
8/6 Rocky Gap Campground Beach  
8/8 George's Creek Library Lawn

### Story Time at the LaVale Library

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM on  
June 26, July 10, and July 31



**Schedule subject  
to change**

Scan QR Code to visit  
the Story Time page



**SUMMER  
WITH OUR  
LIBRARY  
2024**



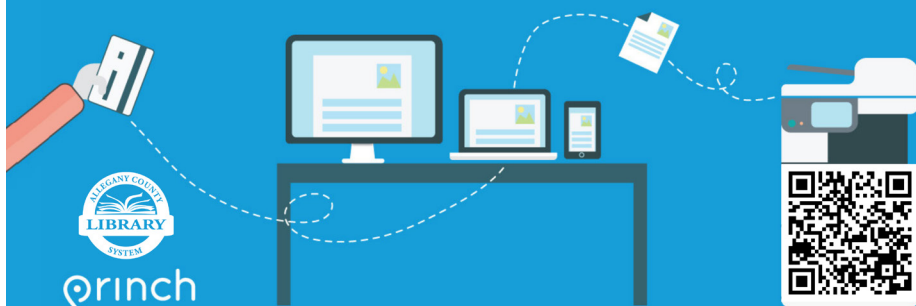
**SUMMER WITH OUR LIBRARY & STORY TIME IN THE PARK**

## New Resources and Services

### We have a new printing solution – **Mobile Printing!**

25¢ for B&W and 50¢ for color prints per side

*Print Anywhere, Anytime! Introducing Mobile Printing for Phones, Tablets, Laptops, and more!*



### Library of Things and Maker's Loft

#### LIBRARY OF THINGS



L A V A L E L I B R A R Y

#### MAKER'S LOFT COLLECTION



L A V A L E L I B R A R Y

Our Library of Things and Maker's Loft offers endless possibilities for borrowing and sharing items, making it a valuable resource for anyone looking to save money, reduce waste, and learn new skills.

**Available at the LaVale Library**

### Desktop Video Magnifier Improves Legibility



The Optelec ClearView machine, available for use at the LaVale Library, is a cutting-edge technology designed to enable those with visual challenges to access printed material, documents, and other written content with advanced magnification and audio capabilities.

Generously donated by the Frostburg, LaVale, and Mount Savage Mason Dixon Lions Clubs.

# Playaway and Wonderbook



## Playaway

Listening without limits. Everyone can listen to audiobooks on Playaway. Playaway is the pre-loaded audiobook that gives library patrons the portability and freedom to take audiobooks everywhere. No connectivity or downloads needed.

### Auxiliary cables available for checkout with Playaways



- **IN THE CAR:** Listen to Playaways through a car stereo using the Auxiliary Audio In jack
- **AT HOME:** Connect Playaways through a home entertainment center's Auxiliary Audio In jack.
- **ON A COMPUTER:** Use a stereo or powered speaker system for computer sound; connect to a sound system's Audio In jack via a computer's Headphone or Audio Out jack.



Scan to see our Playaway Collection!

## Wonderbook

THE READ-ALONG BY PLAYAWAY™



### Books that read out loud!



Wonderbooks read to children, ask questions, and make learning fun. Discover the ready-to-play audiobook inside every Wonderbook.

## Our Library, Our Story, Our Community:

### Celebrating Empowering Stories with Allegany County Library System

In the past year, Allegany County Library System has received recognition and awards for its success in enriching and improving the lives of people in our communities.



Last August saw ACLS's Kate Metzger accepting the "We Care" Let's Beautify Cumberland Award, which recognized Kate and her family's dedication to cultivating the diverse garden outside the Washington Street Library.

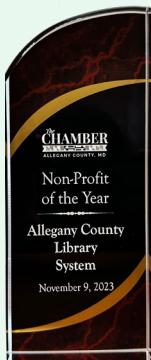


In October, the LaVale Library's renovation was featured in the Library Journal article "Design Trend: Home in the Community | Year in Architecture 2023." The article highlighted the pitched roof and wraparound curtain wall that connect the Community Living Room to the outdoor patio: showcasing how libraries have begun incorporating accessible and welcoming design elements that remind patrons of the coziness of home.

Shortly following, ACLS was awarded the inaugural Non-Profit of the Year at the November 2023 Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Business Recognition Reception. The Chamber of Commerce established this award to recognize organizations that "demonstrate community service, as indicated in their defined mission and vision." ACLS was nominated for numerous efforts, including its diverse collection of materials, dedication to inclusivity, community engagement through programs and events, and for being a transformative force in our community. "The staff are to be commended for all their hard work to make the library system the success it is. I am very proud to be a part of the board," said Renee Kniseley, President of the library's Board of Trustees.

While ACLS is happy to receive these recognitions, what really shines are the lived experiences of patrons of its libraries.

Vanessa Lease has been a patron of the library for a little over 20 years. She first started coming with her eldest daughter who is now in college. "When I came to America from Guatemala, I didn't know any English, I learned with kids books from the library," said Vanessa.







Now, her son Jackson is the top reader at his elementary school, and he received the Accelerated Reader Award for the 2023 school year. Jackson shattered the record for the highest Accelerated Reader score that his school had ever seen, averaging four times higher than his classmates.

Vanessa says that he couldn't have done it without the library. Jackson's younger sister Brooklyn is also following close behind, being first in her class this year.

Brian Michael was also inspired by the stories found at the library. Brian is a local author and the newest member of the Friends of the Frostburg Community Library. Brian credits the library for nurturing his passion for writing, and he joined with the hope of making the Frostburg Library the best it can be: a place for inspiring children in the same way that the Washington Street Library was for him in his youth. Brian is passionate about the richness that libraries can provide, especially to low-income families. "The library was an amazing palace of my youth," said Brian, "a magical place I could go to as a kid." He was always amazed by the wide variety of things he could read, like sports books and children's biographies. "I don't think I could express a million times over how much the library means to me."

Our Library provides resources, spaces, and activities, but it's the people who transform the library into an indispensable cornerstone of the community. At ACLS, we see ourselves not only as stewards of information, but as catalysts for inspiration and empowerment. The library can be the starting point of a journey or a place to return to; and it's people like Brian, like Vanessa and her family, who become the heroes of their own narratives, that make the library their guide and an essential part of their lives. In its mission to enrich and improve the lives of those in the community, ACLS will continue to be a starting point to inspire countless more community members to find success and discover their passions.

By Leah Perrin, Service Specialist

## Meet ACLS Staff: Andrea Shaffer



**Service Specialist 1 at South Cumberland Library**

**Favorite genre to read:** Sci-Fi and Fantasy

**Number of books read in 2023:** 17? I lost count.

**What was your favorite read of 2023?** *A Day of Fallen Night* by Samantha Shannon! Extremely long read, but the payoff is worth it. Interesting worldbuilding, too. If you like dragons, stories rooted in myths, and strong women characters, add it to your TBR (To Be Read) list.

**Have you ever started a book and not finished?** Absolutely. Sometimes I'm not in the right mindset for certain books, and some books really slow down their pacing and it's hard to get through.

**Do you read more than one book at a time?** I do, but I really should just pick one and stick with it before I grab another. I get too caught up in reading book previews and then skip the line on others that have been in my TBR for longer.

**What are you currently using as a bookmark?** A wire dragon bookmark and a gummy worm shaped bookmark I "rescued" from the Lost & Found.

**What projects are you currently working on at the library?** We're trying to get more stuff for people to do at the branch, like more interesting boardgames or other more spontaneous activities.

**What is your favorite thing about working at the library?** I do get more of an emotional payoff of actually assisting people with their problems, and that's really fulfilling. People's lives are enriched for the better when we help them, even if it's just helping them find something new to read.



Recently, Andrea visited the HRDC to help patrons use their new library cards to access digital resources provided by our library.

**OUR LIBRARY**  
**OUR LIBRARY**

## What Should We Do?

There's always something happening at the library.



Gardening and Plant Swaps



Game Nights



Special Events



Scan QR Code to see our Calendar



Meal-In-A-Mug



Craft Nights



Health & Exercise Programs



Read to Mika

# Cozy Reader's Book Group

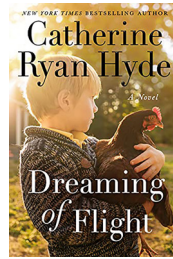
SATURDAYS  
at 1:30 PM



June 8



July 13

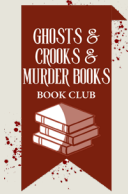


August 10



September 14

For more information, contact the South Cumberland Library at 301-724-1607.



Ghosts, Crooks, and Murder Books  
at Westernport Library

Check the Library Event Calendar or the  
Ghosts, Crooks, and Murder Books Facebook page for  
dates or call 301-359-0455 for more information



Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club  
at South Cumberland Library

Join us on the third Monday of the month from  
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

## BOOKS ON THE BRICKS

Books on the Bricks

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM at The Book Center in Cumberland

For more information, call 301-722-2284 or visit their website  
[www.thebookcenteronline.com](http://www.thebookcenteronline.com)

## Chilton Library



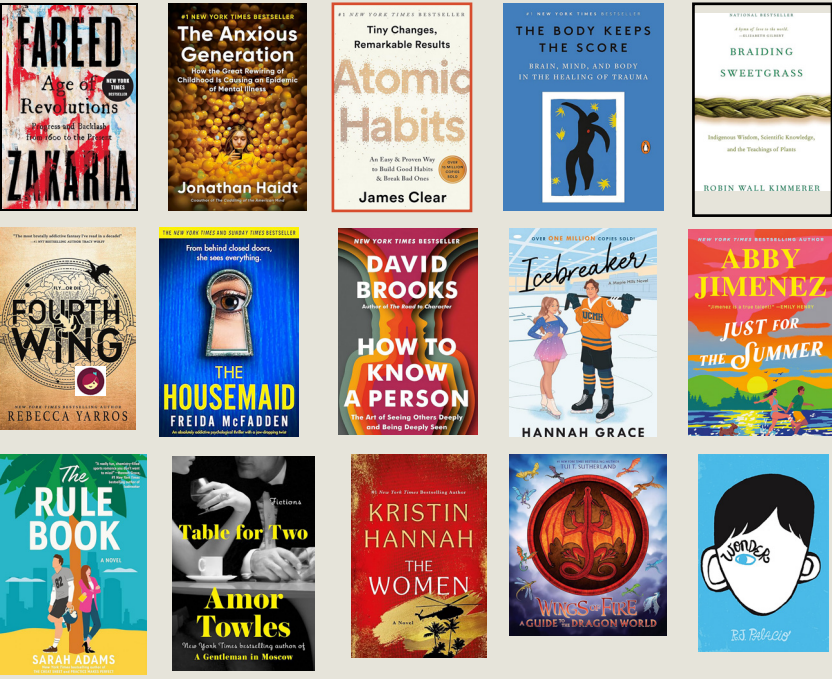
# TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAR CARE

**CHILTON**LIBRARY

Get maintenance, service, and  
repair guidance for your vehicle.

ACCESS NOW

Book Suggestions



Have you seen our Virtual Displays on our website?



Scan the QR Code to see our Virtual Displays! Then you can click on a book cover to enter the library catalog and place a hold. Use the arrows at the bottom or on the sides to click through each display to see more themes! Browse adult, young adult, and children's material curated especially for you by our staff!

## ACLS: Instrumental in Chromebook Distribution

In a landmark initiative, the Maryland State Government administration announced the allocation of over 133,000 Chromebook devices to over 27 local governments across Maryland. This \$27.2 million investment, facilitated through the Office of Statewide Broadband's Connected Devices Program, aims to bridge the digital divide by providing essential technology to underserved households.



The Allegany County Library System served as the Allegany County Government's main distribution partner, with our existing infrastructure and community reach. Our libraries are instrumental in ensuring equitable access to technology and information. Together, with other key partnerships with agencies like the Department of Social Services, Allegany County HRDC, the Allegany County Public Schools, Allegany College of Maryland, and Leadership Allegany through the Chamber of Commerce, the libraries helped to distribute over 3,500 Chromebook devices to eligible residents.

Governor Moore highlighted the significance of this initiative, emphasizing its role in enabling Marylanders to access reliable, high-speed internet—a necessity for education, employment, and civic engagement in today's digital age.

Through collaborative efforts between government agencies, local governments, and libraries, this program promises to empower communities, fostering digital inclusion and opportunity for all Maryland residents.

# Resource Managers in the Library



I need help finding...  
Where can I find...  
A friend is looking for....

Provided by Allegany County  
Department of Social Services



## Get the answers you need

- ON-SITE Advice
- Information
- Referrals
- No appointment necessary



- Food Access (SNAP Benefits)
- Emergency Services
- Community Services Referrals
- Senior Resources
- Health Care & Insurance
- and more...

Scan QR Code to see the  
schedule or call  
301-687-0790



GALE PRESENTS: NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC KIDS



# ADVENTURE AWAITS

Immersive digital  
content lets kids  
explore the world  
around them.

**ACCESS NOW**

## Support

### Summer with Our Library



**Inquire about  
Business  
Sponsorships**

<https://givebutter.com/MBVviE>

### Library Board of Trustees

Renee Kniseley - President  
Deborah Hendrickson - Treasurer  
William Bingman - Secretary  
Gary Leasure  
Juli McCoy  
Sue Rudd  
Artie Travis



Meetings are open  
to the public.  
Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.:  
June 11 at LaVale Library  
August 13 at TBD

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John Taube, Executive Director  
Renee Mason, Arts & Graphics Coordinator  
Ashley Swinford, Director of Marketing

All the library branches will be closed on  
Wednesday, June 19 for Juneteenth  
Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day

**“Our Library, Our Story”**