



MANASSAS PARK
CITY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

manassasparkcitylibrary.org

9701 Manassas Drive Manassas Park, VA 20111

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Letter from the Library Director

The Manassas Park City Library's (MCPL) first year was an eventful one. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library is off to a strong start and is forging a place as a trusted and valued community resource.

Opening mid-pandemic brought difficulties and silver linings. The Library opened with an appointment-based system allowing a limited number of people in the building at one time to ensure that patrons and staff were protected. This created a safe atmosphere and removed uncertainty for our growing patron base. All touch points were wiped down immediately after use, and masks were always required. Materials were quarantined for up to a week upon return and library programs began virtually. As everyone's world became virtual this year, staff used the time to grow our virtual presence, create a solid base for the future and begin to connect closely with those patrons who visited in person.



Library staff creatively and energetically met patron needs for assistance with distance learning, homeschooling, and providing all types of information. Staff answered questions and assisted with access to digital resources. They worked with patrons to create library cards, find their next read, print and electronically submit documents and – importantly – provided a safe and comfortable space during an unsettling time.



As things return to some semblance of normal, MPCL patrons have been incredibly responsive to added services and programs. We are now open to all, with no capacity limits and no quarantining of materials. We are still wiping down touch points and encouraging those who are not fully vaccinated to wear a mask while in the library. Programming has been expanded with some delivered virtually and many in-person programs added including story times, crafting, game



nights, and our end of summer event. Moving forward, some programs will be offered in a hybrid model such as a virtual author talk paired with an in-person coffee event.

Thank you to everyone for making MPCL'S first year one to remember. I am grateful to the Manassas Park community for embracing their library. Thank you also to Library and City leadership, staff and patrons for their support. We are proud to serve the City of Manassas Park!

Holly Ritchie | Library Director



Numbers at a Glance



In the first year of operation during a time of limited service due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MPCL posted impressive statistics.



7,788

PHYSICAL ITEMS
BORROWED



1,023

DIGITAL ITEMS
BORROWED



871

CARD HOLDERS



2,198

OPEN HOURS



174

WIRELESS SESSIONS



38,836

WEBSITE VIEWS



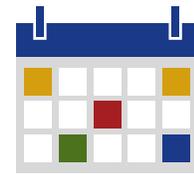
478

LIVE PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE (VIRTUAL
OR IN-PERSON)



7,658

LIBRARY VISITS
8/4/2020 - 6/30/2021



85

LIVE PROGRAMS
(VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON)



377

PUBLIC COMPUTER
USAGE



103

RECORDED
PROGRAMS



2,000

RECORDED
PROGRAM VIEWS



1,146

FACEBOOK PAGE
FOLLOWERS/LIKES



96

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



13

YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS



Collection Development

MPCL started with a strong opening day collection consisting of over 2,200 physical items, 37,750 digital items and access to 17 databases. From the start, the Manassas Park community's embrace of its library was evident in community donations to the collection. The majority of these donations were high quality books that supplemented MPCL's opening day collection with many classics and past bestsellers. In addition, the library purchased ongoing materials throughout the year, such as expanding the Spanish language collections.



Electronic Resources

MPCL was able to quickly meet patron needs for books and services even when building access was limited. Circulation of electronic resources started strong. Patrons have already sought out MPCL to access valuable resources such as the Hoopla streaming service (e-books, e-audiobooks, e-movies, e-comics, e-TV shows, and e-music), Libby/Overdrive (e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines), Tumblebooks (interactive children's e-books), and Brainfuse HelpNow (a 24/7 online tutoring resources). Patron use of eResources was high in the first year and staff are working hard to increase awareness of MPCL's databases.

DOWNLOAD eBooks & MORE!



- AXIS 360
- HOOPLA
- LIBBY/OVERDRIVE
- TUMBLEBOOKS
- TUMBLEMATH
- CRICKET MEDIA
- EBSCO EBOOKS

DIGITAL LEARNING & RESEARCH RESOURCES



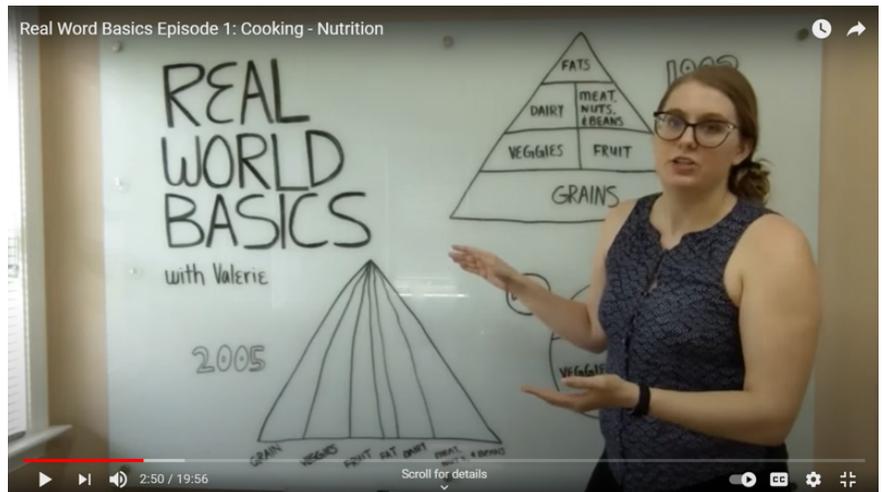
- BRAINFUSE HELP NOW
- LEARNING EXPRESS LIBRARY
- LYNDIA.COM
- SCHOLASTIC GO
- READIT
- MASTERFILE COMPLETE
- GALE LEGAL FORMS
- UNIVERSAL CLASS
- WORLDBOOK
- EBSCO EBOOKS

Programs



The year started with virtual programming, building early literacy skills through much-needed storytimes for children through Facebook Live.

Basic life skills, or “adulting”, programs were popular with teens and young adults. These recorded programs covering topics ranging from cooking to budgets and remain on MPCL’s Facebook page, website and YouTube channel allowing them to be referenced easily at any time.



In an effort to safely reach and serve as many children as possible, MPCL provided monthly grab and go activity bags for children. The themed bags include a craft, coloring page and worksheet. Response from the community has been wonderful. The bags are often all claimed the day they are available – encouraging fun and learning at home.



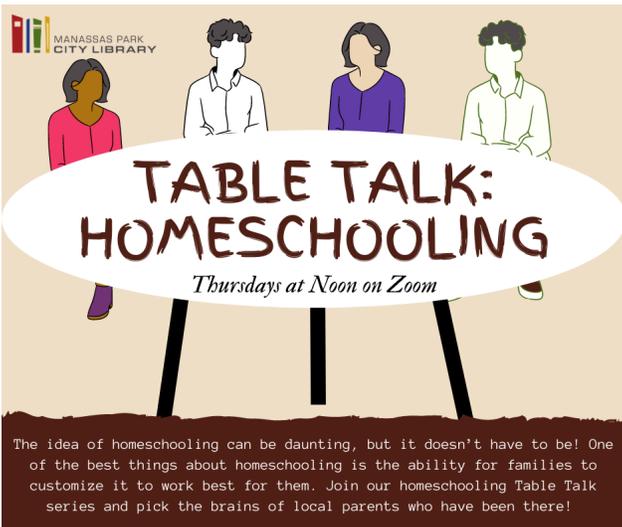
Staff created grab and go trick or treat bags for Halloween in partnership with the Manassas Park Community Center. Community Center and MPCL staff collaborated to direct those waiting for their Trunk or Treat turn to the Library. The result was many residents learning about MPCL programs and services while taking home a Library treat bag.



Another successful partnership is the Seed Exchange Library. Created with a local Girl Scout, the Seed Exchange box provides residents an opportunity to grow a variety of plants, some heirloom or hard to find. To support the project, gardening education was offered through an Online Gardening Workshop. The Exchange is highly popular with the community. As the Exchange grows, it will become self-sustaining and community driven and will need minimal maintenance.



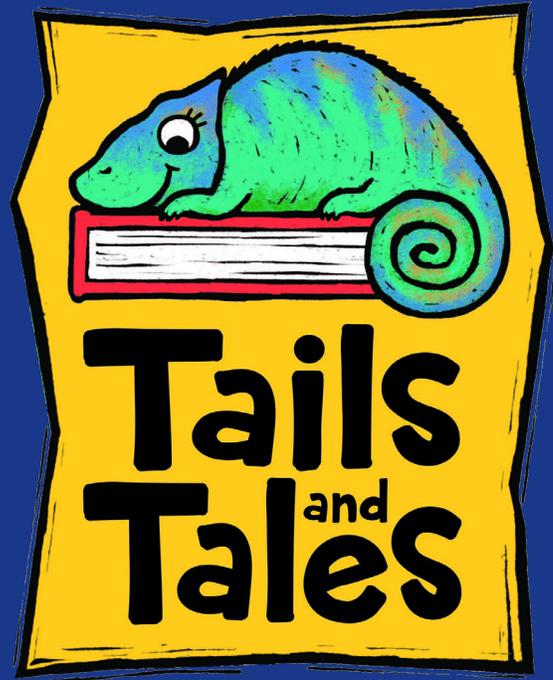
ECO-FRIENDLY GARDENING WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE!



MPCL is a key resource for the homeschooling community. The Library brought current and former homeschool parents together to share experiences in a successful virtual program. Statewide homeschooling organization HEAV also participated and shared resources and information about how to get started in homeschooling. The program was met with strong enthusiasm and the recordings of the program continue to be viewed heavily on the MPCL website and YouTube.



The Library's Summer Reading Program, themed "Tails and Tales", was a big hit in the Manassas Park community. Nearly 100 people registered online and many more patrons participated in themed events. For many Manassas Park children, the program prevented summer learning loss and kindled a true love of reading.



A MPCL patron shared her appreciation for the Library's Summer Reading Program. Prior to participating in Summer Reading, the patron's five-year-old daughter didn't show much interest in reading. The Library's treasure chest prizes, awarded for time spent reading, were a game-changer, sparking the child's competitive spirit. Eventually the child stopped reading for points and began to read for enjoyment. Her mom says that because of MPCL's Summer Reading, her daughter is now like "Belle from Beauty and the Beast" as she walks around with her nose in a book, sometimes forgetting she's in the middle of something else in her effort to continue her story. The young reader enters kindergarten this fall and reads at a first grade level.

Community Partners

As MPCL takes root and expands its presence in the community, partnerships with people and organizations around the community will continue to grow. The Manassas Park Community Center is a valued partner, providing assistance with marketing, program planning, and space for outreach. Successful partnerships are also in place with local co-ed scout troops (formerly BSA), various local and national homeschooling groups, the local Girl Scout troop, and local schools.

As MPCL builds on the success of the last year and plans a new library facility, the Library hopes to engage volunteers to form a Friends of the Library group. Friends of the Library are support and advocacy groups that build awareness in the community about Library services and resources. If you are interested, please contact the Library.



Advisory Board Members:

- Chair – Michele Herd
- Current Vice-Chair – Lillian Zhu
- Former Vice-Chair (from open until 6/10) – Robin Hatcher
- Ann-Marie Stewart
- Andrea Barbuzza

Partners:

- Manassas Park Community Center
- Manassas Park City Schools
- Homeschooling Organizations
 - Local – currently unnamed – Homeschooling 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