MARCH 2024 EVENTS
Carroll County Public Library

LOCATIONS

ELDERSBURG BRANCH
6400 W. Hemlock Drive, Eldersburg
410-386-4460

FINKSBURG BRANCH
2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg
410-386-4505

MOUNT AIRY BRANCH
705 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy
410-386-4470

NORTH CARROLL BRANCH
2255 Hanover Pike, Hampstead
410-386-4480

TANEYTOWN BRANCH
10 Grand Drive, Taneytown
410-386-4510

WESTMINSTER BRANCH
50 E. Main Street, Westminster
410-386-4490

EXPLORATION COMMONS AT 50 EAST
50 E. Main Street, Westminster
443-293-3000

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BACK COVER
Battle of the Books 2024 Schedule

CCPL HOURS & HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday & Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

CCPL will be closed on Saturday, March 30 for Easter

Check library.carr.org for weather-related closings and program updates.

The library is committed to making programs available to everyone. Persons requiring assistance are encouraged to discuss needs with a librarian. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

We often take photos and videos at the library activities and share with our community. If you or your child do not wish to be in a photo or video, please tell a librarian.
Cabin Fever Book Sale
Friday, 3/1 and Saturday, 3/2 during library hours
All Ages. Shop a large selection of items at special prices.

Teen Lock-In: Mario Day Party ● R
Friday, 3/1 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/16
Ages 11 - 17. Join us after hours for a Super Mario Day celebration! All attendees need to register.

Storytimes for Kids
Alphabet Train
Mondays at 9:30 AM • 3/4 - 3/25
Ages 3 - 6. Explore a different letter of the alphabet through books, songs, and activities. All adult caregivers are welcome.

Read and Play
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM • 3/5 - 3/28
Ages Birth - 24 Months. A storytime featuring interactive books, rhymes, music, and movement, followed by playgroup activities.

Family Storytime
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 AM • 3/5 - 3/28
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Pajama Party Storytime
Tuesday, 3/5 at 6:30 PM
Ages Birth - 8. Wear your pajamas, bring a stuffed animal, and listen to stories before bed.

Move & Groove Storytime
Wednesdays at 10 and 11 AM • 3/6 - 3/27
Ages Birth - 8. Explore children’s books through song, dance, and creative movement!

Saturday Adventures
Saturdays at 10 AM • 3/9 - 3/23
Ages Birth - 8. Come to the library every Saturday morning for a new adventure! Stories, songs, dancing, crafts, there will be something new and different each week.

Peter Rabbit Party and Book Giveaway
Saturday, 3/2 at 10 AM
Ages Birth - 5. Foster a love of reading by enjoying what your library branch has to offer and take home a copy of The Tale of Peter Rabbit courtesy of CCPL’s Innovative Programming Grant and Rudolph Girls Books. One book per family while supplies last.

Paint-In with Sykesville Painting Club
Saturday, 3/2 at 1 PM
Ages 3 - 6. Explore the parachute through singing, reading, talking, playing, and writing, while having fun!

Open Mah Jongg
Monday, 3/11 at 6 PM
Adults. Join us for a friendly game of American Mah Jongg. All are welcome for casual play.

Parachute Fun
Tuesday, 3/12 at 2 PM
Ages 3 - 6. Explore the parachute through singing, reading, talking, playing, and writing, while having fun!

Senior Living Community Options
Wednesday, 3/13 at 2 PM
Adults. Acts Fairhaven welcomes you to an educational presentation on retirement options. Refreshments will be served.

Simply Books Book Club
Thursday, 3/14 at 4:30 PM • 5:30 PM
Ages 5 - 8. Let’s get excited about reading! Come along on our journey as we explore amazing stories together!

Coffee with the Classics: The Quiet Man
Friday, 3/15 at 10 AM
Adults. This movie runs 2 hours and 9 minutes. Refreshments will be served.

Peaceful Melodies with Lydia Bandy ● ● ●
Saturday, 3/16 at 12 PM
All Ages. Enjoy the soothing sounds of piano or harp as Lydia Bandy fills the library with beautiful music.

Mix and Mingle Mondays
Mondays at 11 AM • 3/4 - 3/25
Ages Birth - 8. This will be a dedicated time and space for a playtime for kids while the grown-ups socialize.

Homebuyer/Home Seller Seminar ● R
Saturday, 3/16 at 2 PM • Registration opens 3/2
Adults. Receive an overview of the home buying process with time to answer questions.

Starting Seeds for Your Garden ● ● ●
Monday, 3/18 at 3:30 PM • Registration opens 3/4
Ages 10 - Adults. Join us for a hands-on program to start seeds for your garden. All attendees need to register.

Eldersburg Teen Advisory Board ● ● ●
Thursday, 3/21 at 6 PM
Ages 13 - Adults. Let’s talk about what we like to read at school and in the community. Refreshments will be served.

Real Estate Strategies for the Special Needs Community ● R
Saturday, 3/23 at 2 PM • Registration opens 3/9
Adults. Explore housing options for the special needs community. Refreshments will be served.

Yoga with Meditation ● ● R
Monday, 3/25 at 6:30 PM • Registration opens 3/11
Ages 13 - Adults. This class welcomes all levels of students. All attendees need to register.
Peter Rabbit Party and Book Giveaway  R
Friday, 3/1 at 10 AM • Registration opens 2/16
Ages Birth - 5. Foster a love of reading by enjoying what the library offers and take home a copy of The Tale of Peter Rabbit courtesy of CCPL’s Innovative Programming Grant and Rudolph Girls Books. One book per family while supplies last. Only kids need to register.

Pigs in the Library?  R R R
Saturday, 3/2 at 11 AM • Registration opens 2/17
All Ages. Eddie the pig is visiting the library with his human, Mr. Dave. All attendees need to register.

Mario Day: Level Up! Take Home Craft Kit  R
Kit Pickup: Monday, 3/4 - Saturday, 3/9
Registration opens 2/19
Ages 11 - 17. Celebrate Mario’s 43rd birthday this Mario Day (3/10) and level up with a take-home craft kit!

Cuentos Bilingües/Bilingual Storytime
Saturday, 3/9 at 10 AM
Ages 2 - 10. There will be singing, dancing, activities, stories, and rhymes in Spanish and English.

Edades 2 - 10. Habrá cantos, bailes, actividades, cuentos y rimas en español e inglés.

Carroll County Writers Group
Saturday, 3/9 at 12:30 PM
Adults. Join the Carroll County Chapter of the Maryland Writers Association as we meet to discuss our writing.

Carroll County Critique Group
Saturday, 3/9 at 3:30 PM
Adults. Join the Carroll County Critique Group as we meet to discuss our writing achievements.

Senior Planet: MyChart  R
Monday, 3/11 at 1:30 PM • Registration opens 2/26
Adults. Learn about this electronic health-record portal that works in a web browser and app. All attendees need to register.

Senior Planet programs are provided in cooperation with the Carroll Tech Council.

Knitting Nights
Wednesday, 3/13 at 6 PM
Ages 16 - Adults. New and experienced knitters are welcome to join us

Sensory Sensitive Storytime  R R R
Friday, 3/15 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/1
All Ages. Children of all abilities and their caregivers are welcome to this supportive, judgment-free storytime.

PAWS to Read  R R R
Saturday, 3/16 at 2 PM • Registration opens 3/2
Ages 4 - Adults. Come to the library to visit with or read to a book-loving dog. Only kids need to register.

Searching, Not Asking: Mastering Online Genealogy
Monday, 3/18 at 6:30 PM
Adults. We will discuss how to make the most of the online genealogical sources.

This program is sponsored by the Carroll County Genealogical Society.

Third Thursday:
Libraries Are for Everyone
Thursday, 3/21 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/7
Ages 13 - Adults. We welcome teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers to join us for games, crafts, music, and more! All attendees need to register.

Card Kit Crafty Box
Kit Pickup: Starting Friday, 3/22
Registration opens 3/21
Adults. Register to pick up a box containing library materials for crafty inspiration to help unleash your creativity. All attendees need to register.

Carroll County Health Department’s Health on Wheels Mobile Services
Friday, 3/22 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM
All Ages. Health on Wheels will offer a range of services. This program may occur inside the library while the vehicle is being winterized.

Native Container Gardens:
Make a Meadow on Your Deck
Friday, 3/22 at 2 PM
Adults. Join us as we discuss how you can incorporate containers of Maryland native plants in the space you have while also supporting local pollinators and insects that regenerate our ecosystem.

Rascally Rabbit Storytime
Saturday, 3/23 at 10:30 AM
Ages Birth - 6. Hop on in for stories and songs featuring bunnies getting up to mischief!

Eggstravaganza!
Saturday, 3/23 at 11 AM
Ages Birth - 9. The Roaring Run Lions Club and CCPL’s Finksburg Branch invite you to this annual egg-tastic outdoor event. The egg hunt starts promptly at 11 AM. In case of rain or snow, the hunt will be held indoors.

Computer Essentials
Mondays at 1:30 PM • 3/25 - 4/22
Registration opens 3/11
Adults. This 5-week course covers the essentials of how to use the basic functions of a personal computer. All attendees need to register.

Chess at the Library
Wednesday, 3/27 at 4 PM
Ages 7 - Adults. Experienced and novice chess players are welcome.

Storytimes for Kids

Alphabet Train
Mondays at 11 AM • 3/4 - 3/25
Ages 3 - 6. Explore a different letter of the alphabet through books, songs, and activities. All adult caregivers are welcome.

Read and Play
Tuesdays at 9:45 AM • Thursdays at 11 AM
3/5 - 3/28
Ages Birth - 24 Months. Join your little one at a storytime followed by playgroup activities.

Twos and Threes Together
Tuesdays at 11 AM • Thursdays at 9:45 AM
3/5 - 3/28
Ages 2 - 3. This storytime for children includes books, songs, fingerplays, and movement.

Pajama Party Storytime
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM • 3/5 - 3/26
Ages Birth - 8. Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and listen to stories before bed.

Family Storytime
Wednesdays at 9:45 AM • 3/6 - 3/27
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Ready, Set, School!
Wednesdays at 11 AM • 3/6 - 3/27
Ages 3 - 6. An independent storytime that prepares children for school.

Veterans Book Club
Monday, 3/11 at 6 PM
Adults. This month’s selection is Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership by Edward J. Larson. A Celebrating America program.

Finksburg Book Club
Wednesday, 3/20 at 6:30 PM
Adults. This month’s selection is Everyone Here is Lying by Shari Lapena.

Offsite Event
at Bistro 91, 3000 Gamber Rd.

TRIVIA NIGHT at Bistro 91
Tuesday, 3/12 at 7 PM
Registration opens 2/27
Adults. Prizes are provided by Bistro 91. Only one person per team needs to register.
Building Blocks Playtime
Friday, 3/1 at 10 AM
Ages Birth - 5. Lay the foundation to succeed in school. Siblings are welcome to attend this program.

Crafty Creations:
Stampeded Alcohol Ink Coasters
Saturday, 3/2 at 2 PM • Registration opens 2/17
Ages 16 - Adults. Make a beautiful tile coaster. All supplies will be provided. All attendees need to register.

Club Friendship
Monday, 3/4 at 2 PM • Registration opens 2/19
Ages 12 - 17. This month we will be discussing The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict.

Anime Club
Tuesday, 3/5 at 5:30 PM
Ages 11 - 18. We’ll have anime screenings, anime and manga discussions, crafts, coloring pages, and more!

Writing Group: Tea & Poetry
Friday, 3/8 at 2 PM • Registration opens 2/23
Ages 16 - Adults. Join our informal monthly poetry writing group where we’ll share a cup of tea, discuss poetry topics, and write poetry.

Super Mario Day Lock-In Celebration
Friday, 3/8 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/23
Ages 11 - 17. Join us after hours for a Super Mario Day celebration! All attendees need to register.

Easy Crafting Afternoon:
Maryland Crab Shells
Saturday, 3/9 at 1 PM • Registration opens 2/24
Adults. Join us for an easy and fun crafting afternoon. We will celebrate Maryland Day by painting Maryland flag colors on a crab shell. All attendees need to register.

Unwind Your Mind:
Adult Coloring Book Group
Tuesday, 3/12 at 12 PM
Adults. Join us for a monthly social gathering as we color along with relaxing music.

Grown-Up Gaming
Wednesday, 3/13 at 5:30 PM
Adults. Join Maria as she provides us with some topics, both contemporary and remembrance, that we can write about and relax.

Dungeons and Dragons Club
Saturday, 3/16 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/2
Ages 11 - 18. Welcome adventurers! Join our table as we embark on a fun-filled campaign! Our game is friendly to both new and returning players. All attendees need to register.

Read with a Furry Friend
Saturday, 3/16 at 2 PM
Ages 3 - Adults. Trained reading dogs will provide a relaxed atmosphere for kids to practice reading.

Death Café: Conversations about Death ... with Cake!
Tuesday, 3/19 at 6 PM
Adults. Our goal is to destigmatize discussions about death and dying. Please note this is not a grief support or counseling session. Refreshments will be served.

Teen Crafternoon: Pulled String Art
Wednesday, 3/20 at 5 PM • Registration opens 3/6
Ages 11 - 17. Join us to experiment with the fun of pulled string art and create unique designs! All attendees need to register.

Classic TV Trivia LIVE!
Thursday, 3/21 at 1:30 PM • Registration opens 3/7
Adults. Join us for a fun afternoon of classic TV trivia. Refreshments will be served. All attendees need to register.

My Rage
Tuesday, 3/26 at 12 PM
Ages 12 - 17. This month we will be discussing The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict.

The Shoulders We Stand On:
Saturday, 3/23 at 1 PM
Ages 15 - Adults. The Shoulders We Stand On documents the efforts to achieve the right to vote for women in Maryland and the United States. This program shows the teamwork, strategy, and conflicts within the movement to gain popular support for voter rights. The relevance of the suffragists’ efforts and the right to vote—for both women and men—throughout our history will be explored using the unique artifacts and photographs from the Pratt Library Special Collections Woman Suffrage Collection.

Mount Airy Teen Advisory Board
Tuesday, 3/26 at 6:30 PM
Ages 12 - 17. Help us plan teen programming and influence our teen collections.

Storytimes for Kids

Saturday Storytime
Saturday at 11 AM • 3/2 - 3/23
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Family Storytime
Mondays and Thursdays at 10 AM
3/4 - 3/21
Ages Birth - 8. Come talk, sing, read, write, and play in a format appropriate for young children.

Read and Play
Tuesdays at 10 AM • 3/5 - 3/19
Ages Birth - 24 Months. Join your little one at a storytime followed by playgroup activities. Siblings are welcome to attend this program.

Ready, Set, School!
Wednesdays at 10 AM • 3/6 - 3/20
Ages 3 - 6. Hands-on activities will teach listening, pre-reading, math, movement, music, and art skills. Siblings are welcome to attend this program.

Pajama Party Storytime
Wednesday, 3/6 at 6:30 PM
Ages Birth - 8. Wear pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and listen to stories before bed.

Anime Club
Tuesday, 3/12 at 5 PM
Ages 11 - 18. This month we will be discussing All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir.

Mount Airy Book Discussion Group
Wednesday, 3/20 at 1 PM
Adults. This month we will be discussing The Genius of Women by Janice Kaplan.

Mount Airy Senior Book Discussion Group
Thursday, 3/28 at 12 PM
Adults. This month we will discuss The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict.
Be Kind: Community of Kindness Workshop  ● ● R
Monday, 3/4 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/19
Ages 13 - Adults. Participants will be enveloped by a positive atmosphere to create art that inspires kindness. Join Eric and Tina from Action for Kindness to create your own hand-painted BE KIND sign. All supplies will be provided. All attendees need to register.

Longevity and the New Journey of Retirement ● R
Tuesday, 3/5 at 6:30 PM • Registration opens 2/20
Adults. Longevity and the New Journey of Retirement will explore how the journey of retirement unfolds, the patterns of people's experience in retirement, and the keys to thriving along the way. All attendees need to register.

Read to a Dog ●
Thursday, 3/7 at 6 PM
Ages 4 - 12. Read to a puppy from the Seeing Eye Puppy Raising Program! Reading to a dog can increase a child's self-esteem and confidence levels in reading, especially for struggling readers.

Make a Resin Charm, Magnet or Pin ● R
Monday, 3/11 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/26
Ages 11 - 17. Make a resin-poured charm, magnet, or pin. All materials will be provided for you.

Preschool Vision Screening ●
Tuesday, 3/12 from 9:30 AM - 12 PM

Irish Dance Workshop ● R
Tuesday, 3/12 at 6:30 PM • Registration opens 2/26
Adults. Join Cierra O'Keefe, a world championship-level Irish dancer, for a beginner "Shamrock Session" which will include Irish dance basics and traditional celi practice. Cierra loves spreading her passion for Irish dance, culture, and music with audiences worldwide! All attendees need to register.

North Carroll Ask a Master Gardener ●
Tuesday, 3/19 at 9:30 AM
Adults. Bring your questions about spring gardening to a Carroll County Master Gardener and pick up tips, handouts, and more.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group ●
Thursday, 3/21 at 6 PM
Adults. Speaking with other people who have multiple sclerosis can be one of the most empowering and helpful things for someone with MS. Sharing stories, feelings, and experiences with people in similar situations is not only therapeutic, but also enlightening, and can often improve emotional health. This group is part of the MS Focus Independent Support Group Network. Please email Nadine Rosendale (nadiner@carr.org) with questions.

Spring Healthy Cooking Series: Quick and Convenient Meals ● R
Tuesday, 3/26 at 6 PM • Registration opens 3/12
Adults. Life gets busy and there isn’t always time to prepare dinner or meal prep for lunches during the week. Join Weis Dietitian Christina Pelletier, MS, RDN, LDN, to discuss quick and convenient meals and some ideas for meal prepping! The presentation will be followed by a Lemony Chicken Orzo Soup recipe demonstration that participants will be able to sample. Come each month this spring for more healthy and delicious ideas to taste, and receive a $5.00 coupon to Weis Markets. All attendees need to register. Refreshments will be served.

VITA Tax Preparation ●
Wednesday, 3/27 from 12 PM - 5 PM
Adults. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is an IRS Program offering free tax preparation services to low and moderate-income households. Human Services Programs of Carroll County will be offering a VITA Tax Preparation Day at CCPL's North Carroll Branch. Please call 410-386-4480, ext. 5525 to see if you qualify and register for an available time slot. All attendees need to register.

Senior Planet: Mobile Health Apps ● R
Wednesday, 3/27 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/13
Adults. Learn how your phone can count your steps, check your heart rate, and more! You’ll also learn the benefits of saving your medical ID. Senior Planet programs are targeted at the 60+ community, but all are welcome!
Senior Planet programs are provided in cooperation with the Carroll Tech Council.

The Tortoise or the Hare ● R
Thursday, 3/28 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/14
Ages 6 - 12. The tortoise or the hare? Who would win the race and the subject of a painting project? Art teacher Nicole Osborne will introduce you to her animals and lead you in a painting session to help you capture their image.

Carroll County Health Department’s Health on Wheels Mobile Services ● ● ●
Friday, 3/29 at 1 PM
All Ages. Health on Wheels will offer a range of services, including reproductive health services, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, blood pressure screening, smoking cessation, Narcan training, peer support services, birth certificates, assistance with vaccines, WIC services by appointment, and health education. Not all services will be available at all locations. The schedule for locations and service information will be posted when available at https://cchd.maryland.gov/healthonwheels/. This program may occur inside the library while the vehicle is being winterized.

Storytimes for Kids

Read and Play
Mondays and Fridays at 10 AM
Ages Birth - 24 Months. Join your little one at a storytime followed by playgroup activities.

Move and Learn
Tuesdays at 10 and 11 AM • 3/5 - 3/12, 3/26
Ages Birth - 8. A storytime featuring an age-appropriate story, songs, and learning activities, with a concentration on creative movement.

Family Storytime
Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM
Ages Birth - 8. Come talk, sing, read, write, and play together in a format appropriate for young children.

Family Fun Night
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM • 3/6 - 3/13, 3/27
Ages Birth - 8. Wear pajamas and listen to stories before bed. Enjoy stories, music, crafts, play, and being together with friends.

Book Clubs

North Carroll Book Discussion Group
Monday, 3/25 at 6 PM
Adults. This month's selection is The Trees by Percival Everett.

Offsite Events

at the North Carroll Senior Center, 2328 Hanover Pike
North Carroll Senior Center
Wednesday Book Club
Wednesday, 3/13 at 11 AM
Adults. This month's selection is The Perfect Horse by Elizabeth Letts.

North Carroll Senior Center
Thursday Book Club
Thursday, 3/14 at 1 PM
Adults. This month's selection is The Girl You Left Behind by Jojo Moyes.
Storytimes for Kids

Twos and Threes Together
Tuesdays at 10 AM • 3/5 - 3/26
Ages 2 - 3. This lively, fast-paced storytime for young children includes books, songs, fingerplays, and movement. Siblings are welcome to attend this program.

Read and Play
Wednesdays at 10 AM • 3/6 - 3/20
Ages Birth - 24 Months. Join your little one at a storytime featuring interactive books, rhymes, music, and movement followed by playgroup activities that allow children to practice skills and socialize.

Ready, Set, School!
Wednesdays at 11 AM • 3/6 - 3/27
Ages 3 - 6. An independent storytime that prepares children for school. Fun, hands-on activities will teach listening, pre-reading, math, movement, music, and art skills.

Family Storytime
Thursdays at 10 AM • 3/7 - 3/21
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement. Come talk, sing, read, write, and play together in a format appropriate for young children.

Evening Family Storytime
Thursdays at 6:30 PM • 3/7 - 3/28
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement. Come talk, sing, read, write, and play together in a format appropriate for young children.

ABCs & 123s
Fridays at 10 AM
All About Me
3/1 Registration opens 2/16
Spring
3/29 Registration opens 3/15
Ages 2 - 6. Join the fun as we explore letters and numbers. We’ll offer lots of engaging, hands-on activities to make learning fun!

Book Chat
Fridays at 1 PM • 3/1, 3/29
Adults. Come and share what you are reading and get ideas from others about what to read next!

Writer’s Circle
Fridays at 3 PM • 3/1, 3/29
Adults. Join this fun group as we share what we are working on and listen to feedback from others.

Spring Cleanout Crafternoon
Monday, 3/4 at 3 PM
Ages 11 - Adults. A variety of craft supplies will be provided so participants can complete their very own masterpieces.

Irish Dance Workshop
Tuesday, 3/5 at 6:30 PM • Registration opens 2/20
Adults. Join Cierra O’Keefe, a world championship-level Irish dancer, for a beginner “Shamrock Session”.

Leaping Leprechauns
Friday, 3/8 at 10 AM • Registration opens 2/23
Ages 2 - 6. We’ll share traditional stories, songs, and crafts - plus some fun STEAM activities that may help us find the leprechaun’s gold! Only kids need to register.

Mario Party
Saturday, 3/9 at 2:30 PM
Ages 11 - 18. Celebrate Mar.10, or Mario Day, with all things Mario! Refreshments will be served.

Come Create
Monday, 3/11 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/26
Adults. Explore your inner artist. All supplies will be provided. All attendees need to register.

Taneytown Anime Club
Wednesday, 3/13 at 6 PM • Registration opens 2/28
Ages 11 - 17. Join us to watch the latest and greatest anime! Refreshments will be served.

Rainbow Magic
Friday, 3/15 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/1
Ages Birth - 6. We will hear stories, sing songs, and create beautiful art and science using rainbow magic.

Carroll County Health Department’s Health on Wheels Mobile Services
Friday, 3/15 at 1 PM
All Ages. Health on Wheels will offer a range of services. Not all services will be available at all locations.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament for Kids
Saturday, 3/16 at 11 AM • Registration opens 3/2
Ages 6 - 10. Join us to show you’re the best Super Smash Bros. player your age in town! No prizes, just glory to the winner!

Super Smash Bros. Tournament for Teens
Saturday, 3/16 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/2
Ages 11 - 17. Join us to show you’re the best Super Smash Bros. player in town! No prizes, just glory to the winner!

Diamond Painting
Tuesday, 3/19 at 6 PM • Registration opens 3/5
Adults. Join us for a monthly session of diamond painting! All attendees need to register.

Taneytown Teen Advisory Board
Monday, 3/25 at 3:30 PM
Ages 12 - 18. Help us plan teen programming and influence our teen collections. Need service hours? We’ve got those too!

Let’s Get Crafty
Tuesday, 3/26 at 6 PM • Registration opens 3/12
Adults. Come craft with us! We will have a fun and EASY craft project each month. All attendees need to register.

ABCs & 123s
Fridays at 10 AM
All About Me
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Saturday, 3/16 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/2
Ages 11 - 17. Join us to show you’re the best Super Smash Bros. player in town! No prizes, just glory to the winner!

Diamond Painting
Tuesday, 3/19 at 6 PM • Registration opens 3/5
Adults. Join us for a monthly session of diamond painting! All attendees need to register.

Carroll County Workforce Development Day
Thursday, 3/21 from 10 AM - 2 PM
Adults. Learn about free career opportunities, opportunities for free training, updating your resume, and getting connected to employers.

VITA Tax Preparation
Thursday, 3/21 from 1 PM - 6 PM
Adults. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is an IRS Program offering free tax preparation services to low and moderate-income households.

Spanish Language Practice Circle
Friday, 3/22 at 10:30 AM
Adults. This is a friendly, informal group gathering monthly to practice speaking Spanish together.

Carroll County Teen Advisory Board
Monday, 3/25 at 3:30 PM
Ages 12 - 18. Help us plan teen programming and influence our teen collections. Need service hours? We’ve got those too!

Let’s Get Crafty
Tuesday, 3/26 at 6 PM • Registration opens 3/12
Adults. Come craft with us! We will have a fun and EASY craft project each month. All attendees need to register.

Tiny Tots Gym Time
Wednesday, 3/27 at 10 AM
Ages Birth - 5. We’ll have an obstacle course, tunnels, balance beams, bean bags, balls, and more!

Bunny Fun
Thursday, 3/28 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/14
Ages Birth - 8. We’ll make fun spring crafts, share stories, and have an egg hunt.

Flower Power
Thursday, 3/28 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/14
Ages 6 - 11. There is no school today, so join the STEM fun as we explore the parts of flowers with a dissection activity and then analyze the importance of the water cycle in helping plants grow. Only kids need to register.
**Read with a Furry Friend**

Saturday, 3/2 at 12 PM

Ages 4 - Adults. Every dog enjoys a good story! Trained ‘reading dogs’ provide a relaxed, informal atmosphere for kids to practice reading. Research shows that reading to animals can boost reading skills in children and help with emotional and social skills.

**Teens After Hours: MAR10 Game Night**

Saturday, 3/9 at 6:30 PM - Registration opens 2/24

Ages 11 - 17. Celebrate Mario Day at our teen after-hours video games night. We will have a variety of games and consoles, including Wii and Switch, with new and classic games. All attendees need to register. Refreshments will be served.

**Transitioning to Medicare Part 1**

Wednesday, 3/20 at 5 PM - Registration opens 3/6

Adults. Are you or someone you care about eligible for Medicare? Come and find out how to maximize your Medicare health benefits. There are many decisions to make when you are transitioning to Medicare. This seminar will cover the four parts of Medicare (Parts A, B, C, and D), Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plans, available preventive services, and how to protect yourself from healthcare fraud. We will also cover Medicare Savings Programs, which help pay for Medicare beneficiary out-of-pocket costs. These are not all low-income programs. All attendees need to register.

**Demystifying Continuous Care Retirement**

Thursday, 3/21 at 2 PM - Registration opens 3/7

Adults. Join Kevin Jones, Community Outreach Coordinator of Acts Fairhaven, as he answers your questions on continuing care retirement and demystifies some common misconceptions concerning CCRC living. All attendees need to register. Refreshments will be served.

**Movie and Munch: The Little Mermaid**

Saturday, 3/23 at 11 AM

All Ages. Join us for a snack and a movie: The Little Mermaid (2023). Popcorn will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. The film is rated PG with a runtime of 2 hours and 15 minutes.

**Teen Advisory Board**

Monday, 3/25 at 3:30 PM - Registration opens 3/11

Ages 12 - 17. Calling all teens looking for leadership roles in planning library programs. We want you for our Teen Advisory Board! Need service hours? We’ve got those too! Participants can join us in person or log in virtually through Zoom by registering here.

**Transitioning to Medicare Part 2**

Wednesday, 3/27 at 5 PM - Registration opens 3/13

Adults. Are you or someone you care about eligible for Medicare? Come and find out how to maximize your Medicare health benefits. This seminar focuses on Medicare Supplement/Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans. Learn about the different Medigap plans and your period of guaranteed issue rights under original Medicare. These secondary/supplemental plans can cover some or all of Medicare’s out-of-pocket costs. We will also discuss a different way to obtain all services covered by Medicare and more: Medicare Advantage Plans. All attendees need to register.

**Bluey Party**

Friday, 3/29 at 10 AM

Ages 2 - 10. Join us for fun, games, and crafts as we celebrate our favorite Australian dog family. For real life!

**Storytimes for Kids**

**Family Storytime**

Mondays at 10 AM - Thursdays at 11 AM

3/18 - 3/28

Ages Birth - 8. We’ll share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement. Come talk, sing, read, write, and play together in a format appropriate for young children.

**Read and Play**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 AM

3/19 - 3/27

Ages Birth - 24 Months. Join your little one at a storyline featuring interactive books, rhymes, music, and movement, followed by playgroup activities.

**Twos and Threes Together**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11 AM

3/19 - 3/28

Ages 2 - 3. This lively, fast-paced storyline for young children includes books, songs, fingerplays, and movement.

**Pajama Party Storytime**

Tuesdays at 7 PM - 3/19 - 3/26

Ages Birth - 8. Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and listen to stories before bed.

**Book Clubs**

**Diverse Voices Book Club**

Tuesday, 3/26 at 5 PM

Registration opens 3/12

Ages 16 - Adults. Join us for a monthly book discussion focusing on a diverse author’s work. Each month, we will select a young adult or adult title written by an author from a diverse background so we can learn from others’ perspectives. Our March selection is How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water by Angie Cruz. Attendees are welcome to attend in person at CCPL’s or virtually through Zoom.
Baking Basics: Shortbread  ● R $8.00
Friday, 3/1 at 10 AM - Registration opens 2/16
Adults. Learn the secrets to baking a variety of traditional and stamped shortbreads. $15.00

Intro to 3D Printing and Design  ● R $15.00
Saturday, 3/2 at 3 PM - Registration opens 2/17
Ages 12 - Adults. Learn the basics of using Tinkercad to design for 3D printing! We’ll walk through basic 3D design using Tinkercad software and create a simple project to be 3D printed. No previous design experience is necessary!

Cooking for Wellness: Gluten-Free, Vegan Mac and Cheese  ● R $10.00
Monday, 3/4 at 1:30 PM - Registration opens 2/19
Ages 15 - Adults. Gluten-free foods are everywhere! But is this a diet you need to be on? What’s the difference between celiac disease and gluten intolerance? Join Registered Dietitian Dana Mealing in this class to discuss these things and more while enjoying lentil-based pasta with the best vegan cheese sauce! This class is provided through The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County and Carroll Hospital. $5.00

Unity Game Design: Customize the Platformer Microgame  ● R $25.00
Monday, 3/4 and Tuesday, 3/5 at 5:30 PM - Registration opens 2/19
Ages 12 - Adults. In this two-day program, you will learn the basics of the Unity Game Design Engine by customizing Unity’s Platformer Microgame. We’ll use a variety of mods to modify the game level, add a custom start screen, and more. All attendees need to register.

Intro to Basic Sewing Skills  ● R $5.00
Tuesday, 3/5 at 10 AM - Registration opens 2/20
Ages 14 - Adults. Learn the necessary basics to feel comfortable using a sewing machine. This is a beginner-level class; you will leave feeling confident about the next steps to take toward sewing your projects. This program includes Exploration Commons Sewing Machine Certification for independent use.

Soft Pretzels  ● R $8.00
Tuesday, 3/5 at 1 PM - Registration opens 2/20
Ages 16 - Adults. Join us for a hands-on baking class! We’ll learn how to make delicious soft pretzels and a dipping sauce to go with them. $10.00

Korean-Flavor Rice Bowl  ● R $8.00
Wednesday, 3/6 at 5 PM - Registration opens 2/21
Ages 15 - Adults. Explore tasty Korean flavors in this hands-on class, where we’ll prepare a warm rice bowl topped with sautéed vegetables and seasoned ground beef. $8.00

Intro to Laser Cutting  ● R $10.00
Thursday, 3/7 at 9:30 AM - Registration opens 2/22
Thursday, 3/28 at 5 PM - Registration opens 3/14
Ages 12 - Adults. This beginner-level laser cutter class will walk you through design basics, machine use, and safety procedures.

Bread Pudding with Bourbon Butter Sauce  ● R $25.00
Thursday, 3/7 at 5 PM - Registration opens 2/22
Adults. Create a classic New Orleans-style bread pudding made with French bread, raisins, eggs, cream, and sweet spices. While the bread pudding bakes, we’ll make a traditional bourbon butter sauce to go on top.

Advanced Ethnic Cooking: Moroccan Chicken Bastilla  ● R $25.00
Friday, 3/8 from 10 AM - 2 PM
Registration opens 2/23
Adults. Join Westminster Royal Sweets to make authentic Moroccan Chicken Bastilla, Morocco’s famous chicken pie. A light, crispy pastry shell conceals savory saffron chicken, spicy omelet stuffing, and a crunchy topping of fried almonds sweetened with orange flower water. A sprinkling of powdered sugar and cinnamon adds to the unique blend of flavors.

Intro to CNC Routing  ● R $25.00
Saturday, 3/9 from 10 AM - 4 PM - Registration opens 2/24
Ages 12 - Adults. This one-day CNC certification class will introduce you to the design basics, machine use, and safety procedures for our Iconic i2015 CNC router. We will focus on project design and the VCarve software in the morning session. We will cover machine use in the afternoon, including hands-on time with the CNC machine. There will be a break from 12 - 1 PM between the morning and afternoon sessions. At the instructor’s discretion, customers who successfully complete both sessions of this program will be certified to use Exploration Commons’ CNC machine. Customers aged 12 to 15 who complete their certification are required to have a certified adult with them to use the CNC router independently.

Making for Seniors: Create a Simple Slate Laser Cutter Project  ● R $25.00
Tuesday, 3/12 at 10 AM - Registration opens 2/27
Adults. Learning new technology should be fun, not intimidating! Join us for a basic hands-on session where we’ll create a simple slate laser cutter project and watch your project made on our Fusion Pro laser cutter. Previous basic computer experience is required. No previous experience with laser cutting or design software is needed. This class does not result in independent laser user certification.

Kids Baking Class: Hamburger Cupcakes  ● R $10.00
Tuesday, 3/12 at 3:30 PM - Registration opens 2/27
Ages 8 - 12. Participants will make “hamburger” cupcakes and learn basic baking skills.

Seniors Cook: Cooking for One  ● R $10.00
Wednesday, 3/13 at 10:30 AM - Registration opens 2/28
Adults. A demo class and tasting of delicious meals for one. Recipes will include Shrimp Pasta Bowls, Mediterranean Chicken, One-Pan Salmon with Veggies, and Apple Muffin Cups. There is no fee for this class.

CAD for Cosplay: Lightsabers & Fusion 360  ● R $25.00
Wednesday, 3/13 at 5:30 PM - Registration opens 2/28
Ages 14 - Adults. Learn the ways of Fusion 360 and become a design Jedi! This project-based tutorial will teach the fundamentals of cosplay prop design using Fusion 360, a professional CAD software suite with a free hobbyist license. We’ll examine the art and technique of crafting props and explore the process by designing your own custom saber shape in Fusion 360. No previous CAD experience is required, although participants should be comfortable using a Windows PC and mouse. All attendees need to register.

Intro to Reverse Engineering  ● R $25.00
Friday, 3/15 at 2 PM - Registration opens 3/1
Ages 12 - Adults. Welcome to the exciting world of reverse engineering! Learn how to reconstrcut and modify existing parts using basic measuring tools and Onshape, a powerful cloud-based 3D modeling software.

Family Baking Class: Bagels  ● R $10.00
Saturday, 3/16 at 1 PM - Registration opens 3/2
Ages 6 - Adults. Join us for a hands-on family baking class! We’ll learn how to make delicious, chewy bagels. One registration per group, up to four participants. For groups with children ages six and up, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Intro to Canva  ● R $5.00
Monday, 3/18 at 6 PM - Registration opens 3/4
Ages 12 - Adults. Canva is a free web-based digital design program. Attendees will learn how to navigate the homepage, create new projects, and edit various templates to create projects for digital and print use.
Making Movies: Intro to Premiere Rush ● ● R
Tuesday, 3/19 at 1 PM • Registration opens 3/5
Ages 15 - Adults. See what’s behind the silver screen in this introductory course to Adobe’s high-end video editing software, Premiere Rush! We will cover everything from basic editing tips and tricks to some of the cool tucked-away features in the program. So, if you have ever wanted to start getting into video editing, this is the class for you!

Kids Intro to Basic Sewing Skills ● ● R
Tuesday, 3/19 at 5 PM • Registration opens 3/5
Ages 10 - 16. Learn the necessary basics to feel comfortable using a sewing machine. This is a beginner-level class; you will leave feeling confident about the next steps to take toward sewing your projects.

Cosplay Electronics: Arduinos & Lightsabers ● ● R
Wednesday, 3/20 at 5:30 PM • Registration opens 3/6
Ages 13 - Adults. In this introductory seminar, we’ll examine the design and coding of an Arduino-based solution to lighting up a lightsaber prop and giving it the iconic sound effects we know and love (or some custom sounds of your own). We’ll also cover available resources for learning electronics and programming microcontrollers using the Arduino platform.

Intro to Audio Recording and Editing ● ● R
Thursday, 3/21 at 9:30 AM • Registration opens 3/7
Ages 12 - Adults. Whether you are an aspiring podcaster, voice actor, musician, or simply curious about producing audio, this introductory session will give you a solid start on your journey.

Traditional Scotch Eggs ● ● R
Thursday, 3/21 at 5:30 PM • Registration opens 3/7
Ages 14 - Adults. Make this popular pub fare found in Ireland and England. Scotch Eggs are made by coating a hard-boiled egg in sausage meat and breadcrumbs before frying it all to a perfect crisp. We’ll make a flavorful mustard as an accompaniment.

Demo: Dinner Under Pressure ● ● R
Friday, 3/22 at 1:30 PM • Registration opens 3/8
Ages 15 - Adults. Learn how to use the electronic pressure cooker to prepare easy weeknight dinners. This demo class will highlight different recipes and cooking methods to help you utilize this versatile cooking appliance.

Maryland Day Crab Dip and Engraved Dish ● ● R $
Saturday, 3/23 at 12:30 PM • Registration opens 3/9
Ages 14 - Adults. In this hybrid makerspace/kitchen program, we’ll engrave a glass baking dish and learn to make crab dip and baked pita chips. We’ll start by using Adobe Illustrator and our Fusion Pro laser to personalize a glass baking dish. Then, we’ll head to the kitchen to make tasty baked pita chips and a savory crab dip in our newly engraved dish!

Machine Magic ● ● R $
Monday, 3/25 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/11
Ages 15 - Adults. Learn to use decorative stitches by decorating flowers for a pillow front. This class will use techniques recommended in Machine Magic by Deborah Louie. Learn how to use decorative stitches on computerized machines. Although the class will use Bernina machines, these techniques can be applied to other computerized brands. All participants are required to be Exploration Commons Sewing Machine Certified before attending this class. $10.00

Pavlovas ● ● R $
Monday, 3/25 at 3 PM • Registration opens 3/11
Ages 14 - Adults. Named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, this dessert takes patience but results in a treat with a meringue base, Chantilly cream layer, and berries on top. All attendees need to register. $5.00

All About Asparagus ● ● R $
Tuesday, 3/26 at 1:30 PM • Registration opens 3/12
Ages 16 - Adults. In this hands-on class, participants will learn different and delicious ways to prepare asparagus. $10.00

Blending Modes in Photoshop ● ● R
Wednesday, 3/27 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/13
Ages 16 - Adults. If it’s been a while since you passed your Exploration Commons laser certification and could use a refresher on the process, this class is for you! Get a reintroduction to the basics of using our Epilog Fusion Pro and Edge lasers. This class is for customers who have already been certified for Exploration Commons independent laser use. This class does not result in independent laser cutter use certification. Previous Laser Certification is required.

Dinner’s on Me: Korean-Flavor Rice Bowl ● ● R $
Wednesday, 3/27 at 5 PM • Registration opens 3/13
Ages 15 - Adults. Join us in the kitchen to learn to prepare a delicious Korean-flavored rice bowl, which is similar to bibimbap. Enhance your culinary skills, gain confidence in the kitchen, and impress your loved ones with your cooking ability. $8.00

Drafting a Bodice Block Pattern ● ● R
Thursday, 3/28 at 10 AM • Registration opens 3/14
Ages 14 - Adults. Learn how to use decorative stitches on computerized machines. Although the class will use Bernina machines, these techniques can be applied to other computerized brands. All participants are required to be Exploration Commons Sewing Machine Certified before attending this class. $10.00

Tea Sandwiches ● ● R $
Thursday, 3/28 at 2 PM • Registration opens 3/14
Ages 14 - Adults. High tea at two! Tiny and delicious - make several different recipes featuring tips, tricks, and presentation ideas for lovely tea sandwiches. $10.00

Laser Cutting Refresher ● ● R
Friday, 3/29 at 2 PM • Registration opens 3/15
Ages 12 - Adults. This class will present an overview of laser cutting and engraving techniques. Learn how to use our Epilog Fusion Pro laser to personalize a glass baking dish. Then, we’ll head to the kitchen to make tasty baked pita chips and a savory crab dip in our newly engraved dish!

Note: Registration verifies your acceptance of Exploration Commons’ program cancellation and kitchen safety procedures. The Exploration Commons kitchen is not an allergen-free facility.
Adults. Join us for an evening with Jonna Mendez, author of *In True Face: A Woman’s Life in the CIA, Unmasked*. The bestselling co-author of *The Moscow Rules* and *Argo* tells her riveting, courageous story of being a female spy at the CIA and battling against the prevailing culture of sexism at the time, all while undertaking dangerous missions for America’s safety during the height of the Cold War. Jonna Mendez is a former Chief of Disguise with over twenty-five years of experience as a CIA officer working in Moscow and other sensitive areas. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Presented by A Likely Story Bookstore and Carroll County Public Library.

Price: Free
Registration now open at: ccpl.librarymarket.com/event/true-face

Wednesday, 3/6 at 6:30 PM
Exploration Commons
50 East Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Adults. Elle Cosimano is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, an International Thriller Award winner, a Bram Stoker Award finalist, and an Edgar® Award nominee. Her acclaimed young adult novels include *Nearly Gone* and *Holding Smoke*. Elle’s debut novel for adults, *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It*, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series, which was a *PEOPLE* Magazine Pick and was named one of New York Public Library’s Best Books of 2021. Presented by A Likely Story Bookstore and Carroll County Public Library.

If event sells out and you would like to be added to a waitlist, please email greatreads@carl.org. Refund Policy: Refund requests will be considered up until 14 days before the event. If you are unable to attend after the refund request window and we are unable to accommodate your request, you will receive a signed copy of the book after the event.

Price: $26 includes signed copy of *Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice*
Purchase tickets at: tinyurl.com/ccplfinlay

Tuesday, 3/12 at 6:30 PM
Mount Airy Branch
705 Ridge Avenue
Mount Airy, MD 21771
Health on Wheels will offer a range of services, including reproductive health services, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, blood pressure screening, smoking cessation, Naloxone training, peer support services, birth certificates, assistance with vaccines, WIC services by appointment, and health education. Not all services will be available at all locations.

For a list of locations and services, scan the QR code or go to cchd.maryland.gov/healthonwheels/

For a list of library visits, scan the QR code or go to tinyurl.com/ccplhealthonwheels

Price: $32
includes signed copy of Still See You Everywhere
Purchase tickets at: tinyurl.com/ccplgardner

LISA GARDNER
Saturday, 3/16
at 3 PM
Carroll Arts Center
91 W. Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Adults. From #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisa Gardner comes a harrowing new thriller; Frankie Elkin is an expert at finding the missing persons that the rest of the world has forgotten, but even she couldn’t have anticipated this latest request—to locate the long-lost sister of a female serial killer facing execution in three weeks’ time. Lisa Gardner will be in conversation with Alex Finlay. Alex Finlay is the author of several critically acclaimed novels, including the 2021 breakout Every Last Fear.

Presented by A Likely Story Bookstore and Carroll County Public Library.
Special thanks to Carroll Arts Center.

Refund Policy: Requests for refunds will be considered until two weeks before the event date. If you are unable to attend after that date, please contact greatreads@carr.org and we will get your signed copy of the book to you after the event.

Price: $32
includes signed copy of Still See You Everywhere
Purchase tickets at: tinyurl.com/ccplgardner
Yes, Carroll County Public Library is a free library that is supported largely by government funding. However, the generous private support of our community goes a long way in helping us as well. Private funding is used to:

**ENHANCE LIBRARY SERVICES**
Our collection of materials that guide learning and inspire curiosity.

**PROVIDE INNOVATING PROGRAMMING**
Our incredible educational activities support literacy and provide enriching experiences for all ages.

**EXPAND OUR COLLECTION TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY**

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**2024 Schedule**

**COUNTYWIDE PRIVATE AND HOME SCHOOL BATTLES**

- **Friday, March 22 at 6:30 PM**
  - Middle School Battle: North Carroll Community School

- **Friday, April 19 at 6:30 PM**
  - Elementary School Battle: Montessori School of Westminster

**PUBLIC SCHOOL BATTLES**

- **Friday, March 22 at 6:30 PM**
  - Public Middle School Battle: Century High School

- **Friday, April 5 at 6:30 PM**
  - Eldersburg Area Elementary Battle: Century High School

- **Friday, April 5 at 6:30 PM**
  - North Carroll Area Elementary Battle: Manchester Valley High School

- **Friday, April 12 at 6:30 PM**
  - Finksburg Area Elementary Battle: Westminster High School

- **Friday, April 12 at 6:30 PM**
  - Mount Airy Area Elementary Battle: South Carroll High School

- **Friday, April 19 at 6:30 PM**
  - Westminster Area Elementary Battle: Westminster High School

- **Friday, May 3 at 6:30 PM**
  - Taneytown Area Elementary Battle: Francis Scott Key High School

**HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE LIBRARY?**

**BECOME A FRIEND**
Members of the Friends of Carroll County Public Library support the library in its mission to deliver lifelong learning for all ages through advocating for public funding for libraries, promoting awareness of public library services and needs, and by enhancing library program resources in partnership with staff and board of trustees.

**MAKE A DONATION**
The library welcomes financial gifts, in-kind support, and material gifts. Donations may also be mailed to Carroll County Public Library, 1100 Green Valley Road, New Windsor, MD 21776.

If you would like to donate books, music, or movies to the library, please call your local branch to ensure donations are currently being accepted.