



## TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **St. Michaels Library Branch Celebrates Grand Opening**

#### **Following Major Renovation**

**Easton, MD** – The Talbot County Free Library (TCFL) is proud to announce the grand opening of the newly renovated and expanded St. Michaels Branch on March 21, 2026, marking the completion of a transformative project designed to enhance library services and better meet the needs of our community.

Closed since fall 2024, the branch is reopening with major upgrades that modernize the building while preserving its role as a community hub. The renovation and expansion added three single-story additions totaling approximately 3,100 square feet to the existing 7,880-square-foot structure. The project also introduced new and expanded spaces, new technology, and updated building systems—all designed to create a more accessible, flexible, and technology-forward environment.

The renovation was designed by Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., a Salisbury-based architecture firm known for its work on community-focused projects throughout the Delmarva Peninsula and Mid-Atlantic region. Construction was completed by Keller Brothers Inc., a Maryland based general contractor with extensive experience managing public infrastructure and capital improvement projects.

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The updated branch now offers expanded shelving with comfortable seating and improved browsing, along with expanded youth areas, two new private study rooms, a quiet reading room, a Makerspace, and a welcoming café-style area—sponsored by the Friends of the Talbot County Free Library—where visitors are invited to enjoy their own refreshments. The Makerspace features a 3D printer, sewing machine, button maker, sticker maker, cardboard cutter, soldering iron, Cricut machine, and laminator, providing hands-on creative tools for all ages. The enlarged Jane Lowe Meeting Room and new study spaces create additional opportunities for library programming, collaboration, tutoring, and community gatherings. Added technology enhancements include an updated computer bay and high-speed Wi-Fi to ensure reliable access to the internet and TCFL's digital resources, along with laptops that can be checked out and used anywhere in the library. Patrons will also be able to find new technology outside of the library, including a new holds pick-up locker which allows patrons to access library materials on hold after hours, and two new EV car chargers. The renovation also introduces a memorial garden and green space honoring staff member John Jelich, who passed away in August 2024, with the Talbot County Garden Club contributing to its design and planting.

“The reopening of the St. Michaels Branch represents an exciting new chapter for our community” said Dana Newman, TCFL Director. “This renovated space reflects our dedication to lifelong learning, equitable access, and meaningful connection.”

Community members are invited to celebrate the grand opening on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 106 Fremont St., St. Michaels MD 21663. The celebration will begin with a ribbon-cutting at 10:00 a.m., followed by brief remarks by local officials and library leadership. Guests will enjoy light refreshments and family-fun activities throughout the day, including live music performed by the St. Michaels Middle-High School Band, STEM demonstrations in the Makerspace, performances by Cascading Carlos, and more. Guided tours of the facility will be held throughout the day. This event is free and open to the public.

“We are excited to welcome residents back into a library designed for today and tomorrow” said Shauna Beulah, retiring St. Michaels Branch Manager. “Our reopening celebration is not just about unveiling a renovated building, it’s about honoring a community that made it possible and reaffirming our commitment to learning, connection, and opportunity for all.”

The renovation of the St. Michaels Library Branch was made possible through funding provided by the County Library Capital Grant Program, the Maryland State Library Agency, Talbot County, and donors.

“We are deeply grateful to our funding partners and donors” added Newman. “Their investment ensures that the library remains a vibrant, welcoming resource for generations to come.”

For more information about the grand opening or to donate to the St. Michaels library, please visit [tcfl.org](http://tcfl.org) or call (410) 822-1626.