

Middletown Public Library



20 NORTH CATHERINE STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
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Dear Resident:

As we enter into our 95th year serving the community at large, Middletown Public Library is celebrating its eighth year as a nonprofit library (501(c)(3) organization). This has been a strange year due to the COVID-19 virus, but the library has found ways to innovate during these times.

- Our physical library was shut down from March 15-June 1. In June and July, the library did curbside/lobby service. In August we were able to open our doors again. And in November we have returned to our full pre-COVID hours.
- This year the library increased its emphasis on its digital collection adding 4,000 e-books and thousands of new e-audio books.
- Our children's programs have been offered online since March. Our summer reading was offered virtually this year as well.
- This past year we received grants/funds from the George Frey Trust, TE Connectivity for our STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), The Paycheck Protection Program, Dauphin County CARES funding, a far-reaching appeal letter campaign, and we are currently having a book sale in November and December.
- We are associated with the Science Fiction Book Club on Facebook, a science fiction literature discussion group, which has almost 7,200 members from all around the world. This is an increase of 2,000 members in one year. This association, as well as a Star Trek Rewatch Group, which has attendance numbers of 150-200 a month, has increased our adult programing numbers this year when many other libraries have seen a large decrease.

We are committed to protecting your investment and providing our communities with quality library service, but we need your help. Our funding challenges are real and they are significant.

The library serves area residents in many ways. These people are your neighbors, your friends and quite possibly yourself. These are some examples from this past year.

- The library reopened and offered socially distanced seating for patrons
- Many people use our computers to work on their resumes and to apply for jobs.
- The library helps patrons evaluate the validity of online information.
- United Way's tax assistance program, held at the library, was cut short this year due to COVID-19, but in 2019 they helped to prepare 168 tax returns that resulted in almost \$170,000 in refunds for families in our community. In addition, the library is one of the few remaining locations in the area that still offers paper tax forms.

This library was started through the generosity, vision and dedication of many benefactors and volunteers. These gifts of time and money represented a sacrifice on each donor's part, and our goal is to honor that sacrifice by continuing to provide library service for many years to come. We have already taken the initial step by reaching out to you, our residents. Your support is giving us the motivation to move forward. Your help plays a BIG part in our ability to make a difference in people's lives. Take a moment to reflect on what the public library brings to your community – and help keep it going for many more years to come.

Thank you, in advance, for whatever you are able to give. Your donation to our annual fund drive is greatly appreciated and is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

I would like to support the library through a donation to "The Middletown Public Library". Please accept my donation of:

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$75 ____ \$100
____ \$150 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 \$ ____ Other (please specify amount)

**This appeal is for the sole benefit of
the Middletown Public Library
and not part of any other fundraising activity**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____