DEAR FRIENDS,

As the Director of the Washington Township Public Library it is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights of the past year. 2019 proved to be a great year for library patrons, staff and volunteers.

Maria Birch, the much-loved Head of Youth Services moved into the much needed Teen Librarian position. This enabled us to hire Amanda Ort to fill that position. Miss Amanda comes to us with a wealth of children’s experience and we are thrilled that she has joined the staff.

We focused on revising the library’s floor plan this year and made several exciting and long overdue changes. The Youth Services Department gained additional floor space and the Teen area underwent a major overhaul. The result is a much more open feel which is appreciated by parents and children alike.

We would like to thank Gregg Forsbrey for serving on the Library Board. We were fortunate to be able work with him. He provided a wealth of knowledge and insight in his position as Library Trustee.
OUR MISSION & VISION

The Washington Township Public Library's mission is to enrich the lives of our residents by encouraging them to connect, discover, learn and create.

CONNECTION TO OUR LONG-RANGE PLAN

SERVICE PRIORITY : BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN: LOCAL, NATIONAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Residents will have the information they need to support and promote democracy, to fulfill their civic responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels, and to fully participate in community decision making. Activities this year have included:

- Three sessions of "Bring it to the Table" which encourages participants to "reach across ideological lines about issues that often divide us."
- A Great Decisions Foreign Policy group, "America's largest discussion program on world affairs."
- A NJ Green Amendment Talk.
- A Lifetime Learning series on the topic of Religious Pluralism in America.

SERVICE PRIORITY : KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY: COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Residents will have a central source for information about the wide variety of programs, services, and activities provided by community agencies and organizations, in addition to providing resources to help people understand the history and traditions of the Township. Activities held in order to achieve this goal included:
• An overview of the local Municipal Utilities Authority provided by the MUA Executive Director.
• Hosted a Washington Township Community Aggregation information program.
• Held the first Summer Camp Expo for residents to find about camps in Morris County.
• Provided free meeting space to many local community organizations.
• The site of a Washington Township Historic Preservation Commission information session for residents.
• The Shade Tree Commission held two information sessions on invasive pests.
• The W.T. Ad Hoc Trails Committee held a program on Township trails.

SERVICE PRIORITY: MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND GETTING FACTS FAST: HEALTH, WEALTH AND OTHER LIFE CHOICES

Residents will find answers to their questions on a wide array of topics of interest as well as the resources they need to identify and analyze risks, benefits, and alternatives before making decisions that affect their lives. This was achieved through:
• A Reference Librarian available to answer questions and provide assistance whenever the library is open.
• Held monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions in conjunction with the Senior Resource Center.
• Provided health information tote bags created by the Morristown Medical Center.
• Provide an extensive collection of up-to-date non-fiction print materials on a variety of topics, all available for circulation.
SERVICE PRIORITY : ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Through the guidance of knowledgeable library staff, an up-to-date collection of professionally selected research materials in many formats, and access to high speed Internet access, residents will be empowered to locate, evaluate and use information. Trained staff will help users develop skills to use information and technology to meet their needs; including instructional programs, one-on-one reference services, and user-friendly technology. This year the library provided:

- Held a program about Podcasts.
- Created a Gadget Garage, which added a variety of devices to assist with mobile needs in the library.
- Held a program with tips for navigating the Family Search database.
- Increased the digital collection of e-books and e-audiobooks.

SERVICE PRIORITY : CREATING YOUNG READERS: LITERACY FROM BIRTH TO AGE 18

Children and Young Adults will have materials, services, and programs designed for their age group that stimulate their imagination, encourage learning, and engage them in the world of reading, starting as infants and continuing through high school to help them succeed in school and become lifelong readers.

Some highlights included:

- Book Clubs for all ages.
- The addition of several science clubs for young children.
- Added a Teen Librarian to focus on teens and their needs in terms of materials and programming.
- Weeded the juvenile non-fiction collection, to make room for the growing juvenile fiction and graphic novel collection.
- Provided outreach to local nursery schools.
SERVICE PRIORITY: SATISFY CURIOSITY AND STIMULATE IMAGINATION: PROVIDING LIBRARY MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFE LONG LEARNING

Residents who want to enhance their leisure time, to explore topics of personal interest and to continue learning throughout their lives will find the resources and programs they want in a wide range of traditional and emerging formats. Highlights this year included:

- Several National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) programs on important historical figures.
- Seven Lifetime Learning series; a series of adult continuing education courses, sponsored by the Friend of the Library.
- Started a monthly classic movie screening.
- Began a bridge club.
- Held Friday afternoon game tournaments.
- Continued the very popular Summer Reading Club.
- Held multiple DIY programs for all ages.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Kathleen McGroarty, President
- Vincent Grayson, Vice President
- Patricia McCarty, Secretary, Superintendent of Schools Alternate
- Mary Grant, Treasurer
- Janet Ark
- Edward Carpenito
- Eileen Jankunis
- Kathleen Uber
- Gregg Forsbrey, Mayor’s Alternate

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Ginger Nathanson, President
- Dorothy Prisco, Vice President
- Marlene Franey, Secretary
- Karen Moll, Treasurer/Membership

In 2019 the Friends provided new Children’s Room furniture, prizes for the Summer Reading Club, renewed the museum passes and provided funding for several programs, including a holiday program and luncheon.

The library is grateful for their assistance and dedicated efforts.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all of the volunteers for their commitment to the library.

Thank you also to all of the community groups, organizations and individuals who have worked together with the library to provide programming enrich the library’s offerings to the community.
2019 YEAR AT A GLANCE

71,679 visits to the library

143,002 total of library items checked out

18,339 attended library programs & events

4,393 reference questions answered

97 meetings hosted for local community groups and organizations

14,370 digital items borrowed

5,535 sessions on our public computers and wi-fi network

1,077 volunteer services hours