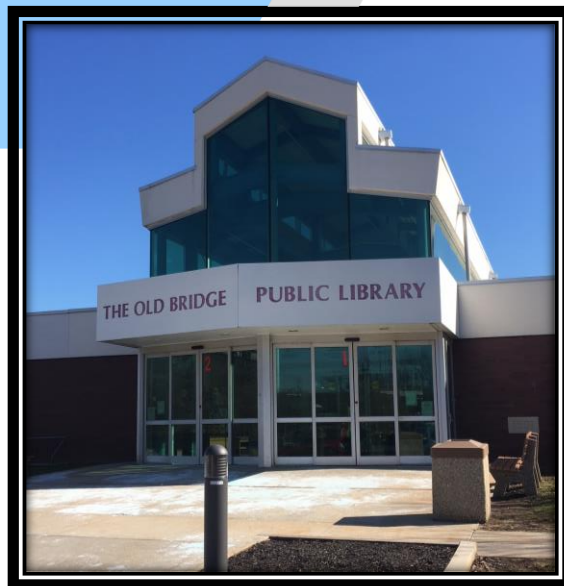


Old Bridge Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT



2018



CONTENTS

History 2
 Mission Statement..... 2
 Old Bridge Demographics 3
 Library Statistics 3
 Passport Applications 4
 Online Resources 5-7
 Programming.....8-9
 Cultural Programs9
 Idea Farm10
 Outreach Initiatives11
 Public Services11
 Technology11

The Old Bridge Public Library

www.oldbridgelibrary.org

1 Old Bridge Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
732-721-5600 x5033

277 Shoreland Circle
Laurence Harbor, NJ 08879
732-566-2227

Board of Trustees:

President
Frank R. Weber

Vice President
Steven Goldman

Superintendent of Schools
David Cittadino

Secretary
Barbara Cannon

Treasurer
Dr. Joan George

Mayor
Owen Henry

Library Director
Nancy Cohen

Trustees
Kevin Borsilli
Annette Maxwell

Paul Lawrence

Superintendent of Schools Alternate
Rocco Celentano

Mayor’s Alternate
Zainab Syed

History

The Old Bridge Public Library had its start in 1958, when a group of interested residents realized a need for library services and formed the Madison Township Public Library Association of Old Bridge. In 1961, fundraising efforts allowed the Library to be housed in the Municipal Complex on route 516. The current incarnation of the library – then known as the Madison Township Public Library of Old Bridge -- first opened to the public on July 23, 1966 and was governed by a private association of township residents. In 1970, a public referendum was passed to municipalize the libraries, ensuring that the facilities were funded through municipal appropriations and state aid.

In 1991, construction began on the new 43,800 square foot library, built on a 1.5 acre tract across from the Old Bridge Ice Rink. Designed by James Goldstein & Partners of Millburn, the Library opened on May 25, 1993, at a cost of \$6.2 million. At the opening ceremony, Mayor Barbara Cannon referred to the building as “a shining star;” Gaile Grele served as Library Director.



Mission Statement

The Old Bridge Public Library provides a dynamic, professional environment to meet the cultural, educational and recreational needs of all members of the community. As a testament to our initiatives, the Library has consistently been voted the Best, or One of The Best Three, Public Libraries in Middlesex County, NJ, by readers of the *Home News Tribune* newspaper. In addition to its main Central Branch, the Library also operates a smaller satellite branch in the Laurence Harbor section of

OVERVIEW

town, and has recently installed a Book Drop in South Old Bridge, allowing patrons to return books 24/7.

To achieve the goals expressed in our mission statement, the Library engages in consistent and multi-faceted outreach initiatives with a wide variety of audiences, including the media, school district, senior center, youth groups and local businesses. As a result, the Library has significant community involvement as demonstrated by foot traffic, program attendance and volunteer participation.

Old Bridge Demographics

According to the 2010 United States Census, Old Bridge had a total population of 65,375, reflecting an increase of 4,919 (+8.1%) from the 2000 Census. As of the 2010 Census, the township was the state's 18th largest municipality, after being the state's 21st most-populous municipality in 2000. Old Bridge is located across the Raritan Bay from Staten Island, and is approximately 25 miles (40 km) from Manhattan. The Census found 4,700 of residents designated as "non-US citizens." What is now Old Bridge Township was originally incorporated as Madison Township by an act of the New Jersey Legislature on March 2, 1869, from portions of South Amboy Township (now City of South Amboy). In a referendum held on November 5, 1975, voters approved changing the township's name to Old Bridge Township to avoid confusion with the town of Madison, NJ.

Library Statistics

Circulation:

2015: 294,887

2016: 306,687

2017: 315,434

Collections:

Books: 161,412

Periodicals subscribed: 159

DVDs: 10,734

CDs: 3,570

Audiobooks: 4,879

OVERVIEW

Foot traffic statistics:

2015: 291,620

2016: 304,327

2017: 315,434

Staffing: Full-time: 15 Part-time: 40

Physical Building: 43,800 interior square feet

Passport Applications

The Old Bridge Public Library has been a designated Passport Acceptance Center since November, 2000. Passports are processed 7-days a week and no appointments are necessary. Photo service is also available and complete information can be found on the Library's website. On average, the Library accepts applications for over 8,000 passports annually.



Tutor.com

The world's largest online tutoring company with more than 3,000 expert tutors, this company provides 24/7 online resources such as worksheets and quizzes, and live professional tutors are available from 4-11pm seven days a week. Help is available for elementary school level classes through advanced high school courses, as well as SAT and ACT preparation.



Lynda.com

A leading learning platform that offers instruction in business, software, technology and creative skills through a library of over 130,000 engaging, high-quality videos and 4,500 courses taught by recognized industry experts. Students can easily access classes in web design, photography, animation, audio/visual, computer programming, marketing, project management, software development and applications.



Qello Concerts

This is the only online resource available to access over 1,700 great live moments in music. It features the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries streamed on-demand to just about any digital device. Qello Concerts spans over 30 genres, from classical to rock, reggae to country.



Ancestry.com

genealogical resource allows patrons to access birth, census and immigration records from more than one billion names worldwide and is available for in-Library use only.

Heritage Quest

is available to be downloaded remotely to personal devices, and contains genealogical and historical sources for more than 60 countries, dating back to the 1700s. There are also local and family histories, convenient research guides, and interactive census maps.

UniversalOnline

learning program offers over 500 continuing education courses taught by instructors with remote, 24/7 access. Each course has a live instructor whom students may communicate with through email. Courses are available in a wide variety of areas including bookkeeping, real estate, web development, home schooling, crafts, beauty, cooking and nutrition. These are non-credit courses which are offered for personal enrichment.

Lumos provides a collaborative learning platform for students in grades 3-8, with hundreds of grade-appropriate language arts and math questions based on the new Common Core State Standards. The interactive online workshop allows students to improve their writing skills, reading and language standards, as well as math proficiency.

Kanopy offers over 30,000 documentaries, art house and independent films available for downloading. Additionally, over 600 lectures from The Great Courses are also available, in subjects ranging from history to math to religion and many others. This service is exclusive to select colleges and public libraries.

hoopla is a comprehensive digital download service with thousands of movies, music albums, audiobooks and more. Selections include Hollywood blockbusters and best-selling artists, as well as niche and hard-to-find selections.

eLibraryNJ allows patrons to have 24/7 free access to a digital collection of eBooks and audiobooks, from a vast catalog. These selections can be read or listened to on a variety of devices including computers, mobile phones and tablets.

Language Learning

Pronunciator offers instruction for over 80 languages for English and non-English speakers. Its photos and pictograms make it appropriate and easy to use for toddlers and up.

Rosetta Stone Inc.

is dedicated to changing people's lives through the power of language and literacy education. Rosetta Stone's innovative, personalized language and reading programs drive positive learning outcomes in thousands of schools, businesses and government organizations. Online classes are available in 30 languages, including Arabic, Mandarin, Dari and Swedish.

Muzzy Language learning is effective for children of all ages, and is modeled on the way people learn their first language — without memorization and drills. It emphasizes functional language and features repetition and escalation. Muzzy offers lessons in Spanish, French, German, English, Italian and Mandarin.



PROGRAMMING

The Library hosts a wide array of classes and programming each month appealing to children, teens and adults. Along with **regular technology classes** that provide helpful tips on how to best use emerging apps, software and websites, there are many sessions focusing on history, art, and business issues. There is also a strong emphasis on **healthcare programming**, with one-time sessions on wellness topics as well as multi-session program series, which meet weekly to offer in-depth information, often dealing with chronic diseases such as diabetes.



To meet the needs of the large number of residents for which English is not their primary language, the Library offers **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses several times throughout the year. The sessions generally last 13 weeks and at the conclusion, there is a graduation ceremony featuring a pot-luck meal with foods from the students' native countries.



In addition, the Library offers comprehensive 12-week **citizenship courses**, which cover practice questions from the US Citizenship Test, instructs attendees on how to complete the N-400 application, and teaches key words and phrases used on the test and in the oral interview.

The Library also hosts a wide array of programs for children. In addition to multiple story times, there are "Maker Mondays" craft sessions, weekly LEGO Labs, monthly anime and gaming clubs, a regular "Read to the Dogs" early literacy program, as well as home school book clubs. Teen programming features robotics, computer coding, "Teen Lock-Ins," Random Fandom, craft and sewing sessions and special events such as Comic Con. There are also opportunities for teens to volunteer for things such as the Teen Advisory Board and at yearly events like the Winter Carnival.

Cultural Programs

In an effort to offer high quality arts programming to patrons, the Library is committed to hosting regular live performances throughout the year. The regular *Second Saturday Concert Series* features free, live performances of a wide array of music genres, including classical, pop, country, jazz and American Standards. These concerts are very popular with patrons and often draw over 100 attendees. Additionally, the Library has recently begun hosting *live theatrical performances* and literary adaptations, with respected groups such as the Hudson Shakespeare Company performing classics including *Macbeth* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The Library also hosts *weekly film screenings* in both branches, featuring popular recent releases as well as children’s favorites and classic films. In addition, thanks to the Kanopy video-streaming resource, the Library regularly screens independent films, documentaries and video selections from The Great Courses. And through its Qello resource, it screens full-length concerts and music documentaries on its state-of-the-art audio-visual system.

Another valuable resource the Library offers is a *Museum Pass* program, providing free or reduced admission to ten popular area museums, including the **Intrepid** in NYC, the **Grounds for Sculpture** in Hamilton, **Insectropolis** in Toms River, the **Academy of Natural Sciences** in Philadelphia, PA, the **Morris Museum** in Morristown, NJ and the **Battleship NJ** in Cherry Hill, NJ. Patrons are now able to reserve passes to all museums included in the program online, and can print passes from home for the Grounds for Sculpture and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Museum Passes



IDEA FARM

In 2014, the Library created the Idea Farm as a creative space for the community to share knowledge. It is a “makerspace” where members of the community can tinker, experiment and explore at their own pace. It consists of a workshop space and garden while also incorporating sewing, kitchen arts and robotics. The Library supports this project with technical classes, informational sessions, book collections and open work hours for the public. Each month, approximately 30 classes are offered in topics including 3D Printing, Soldering, Makey Makey technology, vinyl cutter/decals and crocheting and sewing. Each year, over 1500 patrons participate in these sessions and the feedback has been very positive. Some classes, particularly sewing and gardening, provide students with practical life skills that truly make a difference in their lives. Additionally, the Library has partnered with local boy and girl scout troops to undertake various landscaping and gardening projects on the Library’s property.



The Library also participates in New Jersey’s annual Makers Day, a celebration of maker culture across the state. The event connects individuals with libraries, museums, schools, businesses, and independent makerspaces that support making, tinkering, crafting, manufacturing,

and STEM-based learning. On Makers Day, the Library offers hands-on activities for makers and creators of all ages, with robotics demonstrations, tech take-apart sessions, 3D printer and electronic demonstrations and giveaways.

Outreach Van



The Library’s outreach van brings a part of the Library to various groups around town. We visit area preschools, and deliver new books for students to enjoy for several weeks before picking them up and dropping off a new collection. We also drop by senior living centers and other housing developments to allow residents to select books and sign up for a library card. Additionally, for homebound

residents and those not able to come to the Library, we offer a [Books by Mail](#) program where books are sent directly to a patron’s home and can then be easily returned via a postage-paid envelope.

Public Services

Both Library branches offer public computers with Internet access and free WiFi throughout the buildings. Copying, faxing, scanning and notary services are also available for a small fee. In addition, there are also charging stations for electronic devices, and private study rooms and meeting rooms are available to be reserved.

Technology

The Library has free WiFi and 26 computers for public use, and loans out Launch Pads (pre-loaded learning tablets) as well as mobile hot spots for specific lending periods. Additionally, the Library offers “Tech Buddies” one-on-one technical support assistance twice a week, staffed by volunteers, as well as free one-on-one technical assistance by appointment from the Digital Services Manager.