Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Thomas A. Arnone - Director
Susan M. Kiley - Deputy Director
Lillian G. Burry
Patrick Impreveduto
Nick DiRocco

Monmouth County Library Commissioners

Frank A. Wells - Chairperson
Nancy A. Grbelja - Vice-Chairperson
Mary Ann Musich - Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Boms
Barbara J. McMorrow

Freeholder Lillian G. Burry - Library Liaison
Judith G. Tolchin - County Library Director

Monmouth County Library Management Team

Judith G. Tolchin - County Library Director
Heidi Amici - Assistant Director
Pat Findra - Children’s Coordinator
Kim Avagliano - Supervising Librarian - Eastern Branch
Robyn Miller - Supervising Librarian - Headquarters
Rachael Yost Scalise - Branch Services Librarian
Laura Migliore - Programming Coordinator
Veronica Stevens - Young Adult Programming Coordinator
Kelly Tubridy - Processing
Val Pasko - Art & Display
Accolades and Thanks to Renee B. Swartz, Monmouth County Library’s Champion

Renee B. Swartz began serving on the Monmouth County Library Commission in 1966, was elected chair in 1976, and served continuously as Library Commission Chair through 2019. She left her indelible mark on the Library System as a tireless advocate who took on many roles during her time with the Library. We were privileged to have someone who so completely believed in the core values of libraries and librarianship.

Even before Mrs. Swartz was asked to join the Library Commission, she was a Library Champion. As a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Mrs. Swartz volunteered to gather information on the educational needs of the County. She spoke at town meetings, collected information from train commuters, and mailed out surveys. The information collected noted that residents of Eastern Monmouth needed additional resources. From this effort, the Friends of the Monmouth County Library were formed with Mrs. Swartz as one of its first presidents. This effort led to the identification of the need for what became the Eastern Branch Library in Shrewsbury.

Mrs. Swartz served 54 years on the Monmouth County Library Commission and 44 years as Chair. Her collaboration with Monmouth County Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, liaison to the Library, along with the entire Library Commission, brought forth innovation and a standard of excellence, marked by notable accomplishments and a legacy of unprecedented growth for the system.

During her tenure:

- The Monmouth County Library grew to 13 branches and 14 members.
- In 2001, Swartz was named as Coordinator of the NJ Center for the Book which is affiliated with The Library of Congress Center for the Book.
- She was a Presidential Appointee to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, where she served five years.
- In conjunction with the NJ Center for the Book, the Monmouth County Library held several system-wide programs, including “Food for Thought” and “Science is FUNdamental.”
- The Library held other large programs including “A Salute to the Olympians” which brought together Monmouth County athletes who participated in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.
- She led the Library to a robust online presence of electronic books and magazines which made library resources available to patrons, in the palm of their hands, via mobile devices.
- In 2018 the Children’s Library at Eastern Branch was renamed the Renee Becker Swartz Children’s Library in her honor, and in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the branch.

Mrs. Swartz has always placed the needs of Monmouth County residents first in her leadership of the Library Commission, ensuring that our residents have one of the best library systems in the State of New Jersey. She led the Monmouth County Library toward the vision of the library as a community center, a place for people to gather, learn, read, discuss books, and enjoy programs.
A MESSAGE FROM

Freeholder Lillian G. Burry - Library Liaison

Serving as the liaison from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the Monmouth County Library Commission is one of the joys of my tenure, given the outstanding team of library employees under Director Judith Tolchin, the enthusiastic support of the Friends of the Library, Master Gardeners, and all other volunteers who make so many programs available for our patrons. I am looking forward to 2020 with even more innovations and exciting ideas, completion of the installation of the Franco Minervini sculpture at Eastern Branch, and new and exciting technology and programs that continue to keep our libraries the popular destinations they are. My deepest thanks and appreciation to former Chair Renee B. Swartz and Commissioner Grace Abramov for their years of dedicated service and contributions to one of Monmouth County's most outstanding assets.

Frank A. Wells - Chairperson

Picking up the reins of Chair of the Monmouth County Library Commission after half a century of outstanding leadership under former Chair Renee B. Swartz was a daunting task, one I knew I could accept because of my two decades of working on the commission with Renee, learning from her, and contributing towards the outstanding innovations she designed and led throughout her tenure. Working with a dedicated team of commissioners, that also included the indomitable Grace Abramov, gave me the assurance to follow Renee and continue the Monmouth County Library’s leading role as one of the finest library systems in the nation. I would also like to acknowledge the loss and tremendous contributions of the late James S. Gray, who served as a Library Commissioner from 2011 through 2018. Jim’s dedication left an enduring mark on the Library System.

Looking back at 2019 depicts a vision of excellence from a staff working together under the capable leadership of Director Judith Tolchin, offering innovation and hard work in their goal to improve and expand the programs offered to the Monmouth County residents. Each of the Library’s 13 branch facilities offer programs geared to specific audiences and are made available, not only within the walls of each library, but also through the advances of technology that library staff continue to design. Patrons have a wide spectrum of education, recreation, and entertainment, simply with a Monmouth County Library card, at their fingertips.

Every day the staff shows its commitment to keeping children and young adults aware of the exciting role the library plays in their lives with the variety of reading materials, both print and electronic, and also programs and activities aimed at piquing their interests to delve further into subjects or talents. Teen programs and partnerships on events as diverse as GEMS, Girls Empowered in the Medical Sciences, writing workshops, and CPR certification were offered in several different locations. The Holmdel Branch took advantage of its proximity and partnership with iCIMS technology at Bell Works to offer the Girls Who Code Series, a testament to how critical and appreciated volunteers are to the Library System in making countless resources available.

Staff continued to meet the challenges of working around the renovations and improvements at the Headquarters Library, continuing into 2020.

Through the generous bequest of the late Charles Raffetto, plans were finalized for the 2020 installation of Franco Minervini’s sculpture, *Endless Possibilities through Reading*, which will be showcased on the front lawn of the Eastern Branch Library as a reminder to passersby that magic and wonder are within the doors of every library in the Monmouth County Library System.
Consistent with its mission to support the development of a lifelong interest in the pursuit of knowledge through reading and learning for all, the Monmouth County Library continued to provide both traditional and highly technological services in 2019 to ensure patrons have every educational, recreational, and cultural resource available through a broad variety of techniques, programs, and services.

One of the most visible, immediately popular, and most used projects for 2019 was a new library website. The website, designed and implemented under the direction, guidance, and knowledge of Assistant Director Heidi Amici, increased accessibility, visibility, usability, and created quicker access to information, eBooks, and audiobooks as popular out-of-building attractions among patrons.

The Monmouth County Library partnered with the New Jersey State Library to bring the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) to the Headquarters Library, with the State Library providing devices, iPads, and computers, as well as a trainer to work directly with 55 and older residents with visual impairments.

Ethernet Virtual Private Line (EVPL) Service was introduced at the Headquarters Library, reducing the cost of providing internet services. Work continued to increase the bandwidth for Wi-Fi service at Eastern Branch, as well.

Team efforts and coordination have always played important roles in the Library’s purchasing needs, and our Assistant Director worked with the County Purchasing Department and Fleet Services to finalize the purchase of a new van to transport materials and equipment between the Headquarters Library and each of its 12 branches.

Participation in activities and programs for the Children’s Department increased during 2019, as the Library continued to emphasize its role in the education, cultural awareness, and recreational activities of our young patrons. Programs for children, including crafts, art, magic shows, author visits, and puppet shows were offered at all branches and member libraries. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) projects, which include reading to therapy dogs and movement and dance activities, continued to be popular with children. More than 1,600 patrons attended the 2019 annual NJ Makers Day. More than 1,500 children participated in the Summer Reading Program with the theme A Universe of Stories.

The Library continues to partner with many different community groups and is grateful for the Friends of the Library who make it possible to offer additional program diversification.

Book clubs have always been an integral part of the Library and international language book clubs have proven popular with specialties in Russian, Italian, Hebrew, Chinese, and Arabic.

During the year, more than 1,000 programs, concerts, and meetings were attended by more than 44,600 patrons, and increased interest was dramatically shown in the areas of history, health, and technology classes. Tech Tuesdays were implemented under jurisdiction of the Teen Advisory Board, with high school students offering one-on-one technology assistance to patrons.

With a total of 97 personnel actions, including new hires, retirements, resignations, promotions, and location changes in 2019, the goal for the upcoming year is the addition of new staff to meet the changing needs of the Library System while looking inward for staff training and development opportunities.
Music

Headquarters in Manalapan continues a 46 year tradition of Jazz, led by Director Emeritus Jack Livingstone. The Library has been an important stop for many jazz musicians over the years, from classic to contemporary. In 2019, the Jazz Series featured vocalist Giacomo Gates and Trio, Brazilian jazz with Abelita Mateus and Friends, big-band Spirit of Life Ensemble, and ground-breaking vibraphonist Warren Chiasson Trio.

Many of Monmouth County’s most talented musicians played tribute to the music of Carly Simon, James Taylor, Carole King, Billy Joel, and Bruce Springsteen. Tim McLoone & The Shirleys with the Atlantic Coast Band shared holiday favorites and original sounds. The 50th Anniversary of Woodstock was also commemorated.

Friday afternoon concerts were introduced at Headquarters to provide another opportunity for great entertainment. The audience was treated to music by The Strictly 60s Band, Charlie’s Band, Peas and Carrots Music, and Bob Kulik.

History

Lectures at the Headquarters Library included commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of World War II with historian Paul Zigo, the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission, Revolutionary Monmouth with Dr. David Martin, and the Trail of Tears with historian Craig Uplinger. World War I was showcased by historical film screenings and discussions.
**Book Club Festival**

Stories bring us together and we love talking about books! Book clubs throughout the Library System were celebrated at our first Book Club Festival, held at the Headquarters Library, which featured best-selling authors Diane Chamberlain and Lisa See live on Skype, an in-person presentation by author and television journalist Mary Calvi, as well as one by author and editor Rosalind Reisner. Members of our various book clubs were on hand to share their club particulars, including the History Book Club, the Outlander Series group, and Literature of World Languages, which has been active for almost two decades, discussing in Hebrew, Russian, Italian, Chinese, and Arabic.

The Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury offers a Next Chapter Book Club, a community-based book club that encourages readers with intellectual and developmental disabilities to socialize and share their love of stories and reading. Teens met to discuss manga and anime books, and sometimes created their own. Children at all branches had the opportunity to share their love of learning with therapy-trained dogs. Each child selected a book to read to a furry pal.

The Library has compiled over 800 titles into book discussion kits, which are used for library book clubs, as well as at-home personal book clubs.

**Other Events**

This year, Headquarters introduced a new series of cultural movies and documentaries to highlight special events such as Women’s Suffrage, Pride Month, and National Hispanic Heritage Month. We also celebrated the 80th Anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz* with a showing of the film, followed by a radio play performance by Raconteur Radio.

The Library offered 10 new lectures on wellness and continued Yoga and T’ai Chi Chih classes for the community.

**Branches**

Branches provided lectures on the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission, the 75th Anniversary of World War II, and a variety of music, including Irish bands, lectures-in-song, classical flutes, and holiday performances.

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**A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers**

Thanks and appreciation for those who give so generously of their time and talent. Each and every day, Friends and volunteers continue to support their local libraries. On average, 134 volunteers help weekly, volunteering an average of 211 hours per week, to help the Library in so many ways.

- AARP Tax Aide Volunteers
- Chess and Play “Go”
- Chinese Collection Volunteers
- Citizenship Classes
- English Conversation
- Friends of The Monmouth County Library
- Intermediate English Conversation
- Learn to Play Bridge
- Literature of World Language Book Discussion Moderators
- Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County
- SHIP - State Health Insurance Assistance Program
- Teen Volunteers
Teen Programming had a stellar year with a dramatic three-fold increase in attendance. Programs included a planetarium, with an opportunity to try on a NASA mechanic uniform to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first walk on the moon, as well as many technology-driven programs such as the monthly Girls Who Code Series and learning to use the fun, programmable Finch robot.

Life-saving certified CPR classes were offered, as were Math SAT prep, a pre-calculus class, and a lecture on finding the right college. The ManalaPANS, a steel drum band comprised of Manalapan-area middle and high school students, played for a multi-generational audience.

Teens gave back to the community by working with staff to sponsor a Prom Dress give-away at the Ocean Township Branch and a Halloween Costume Swap at Headquarters.

Teens also helped at several large events such as NJ Makers Day and the Book Club Festival.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continued to meet at Headquarters in Manalapan which provided volunteer opportunities within the Library and for community outreach, including collecting school supplies, requesting pet supplies for the Monmouth County SPCA, and instituting a bi-weekly Tech Tuesday program.
The Children’s Department provides services to all 13 branches and 12 members with storytimes, crafts, special programs, and reference, encouraging our youngest patrons to become lifetime readers.

There were nearly 3,700 programs with an attendance of 63,781 people throughout the Library System, enjoyed by children of all ages.

Weekly storytimes are held for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Each session is an opportunity to learn about new books, practice songs, or create fun and educational crafts, while giving children an opportunity to socialize. Parents and caregivers learn about the newest books and revisit timeless classics.

In March, working in conjunction with community groups and other library staff, the library hosted a NJ Makers Day celebration of creative culture featuring games, crafting, stories, quilting, science, electronic music, and coding, with over 1,600 attendees. 2019’s theme paid particular tribute to New Jersey’s own contribution to inventions.

The summer reading theme was *A Universe of Stories*. Families logged their reading accomplishments on the Beanstack software and/or mobile app, where 70,000 books were recorded. The Library featured a planetarium visit, stargazing, Starwars cosplay, and bubble rocket making.

The Children’s Department also participated in a national library initiative, DIA (Diversity in Action) which featured a Chinese Dance program, bilingual storytimes, and a Japanese learning exercise. Youth and Teen Services partnered to bring noted author Jacqueline Woodson to the Library via Skype, coordinated by the NJ Center for the Book.
**MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

With a collection of **over 1.8 million items and over 110,000 electronic books**, Monmouth County Library offers one of the largest state-wide collections to our patrons.

**Over 3.1 million items were circulated in 2019**, including print and electronic media.

The collection includes **over 34,000 international language books**, making it one of the largest collections in NJ. Chinese books are the most circulated with close to 20,000 checkouts. Other languages included French, Italian, Hindi, Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, German, and Spanish.

Fourteen percent of the Library’s circulation is electronic, including eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, and streaming video, accessible 24/7 from our website and apps.

**Attendance at Monmouth County Library-sponsored programs exceeded 136,000.** These events included concerts, films, lectures, book discussions, and storytimes.

In 2019, **1,330,116 people visited the 13 branches** of the Monmouth County Library System.

**Over 78,000 uses of the internet** were recorded on **113 public computers** throughout our 13 branches.

**13,897 people attended community-sponsored events.**

Patrons enjoyed library access seven days a week at Headquarters in Manalapan and Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury, which are open Sundays during the traditional school year. **The 13 branches were open a total of 33,974 hours in 2019.**

A **Universe of Stories** was the 2019 Summer Reading Theme. **Over 2000 people, from pre-readers through adults, logged nearly 70,000 books online.**

Over 5,000 people followed @MonCoLibrary to stay current on the latest events at the Library. Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube connected the community to what was happening. Instagram was used to publicize teen events, which resulted in a three-fold increase in attendance.
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<tr>
<th>TOP CHOICES</th>
<th>ADULT FICTION</th>
<th>DVDs</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WHERE THE CROWDADS SING by Delia Owens</td>
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<td>Liane Moriarty</td>
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<td>THE SILENT PATIENT by Alex Michaelides</td>
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<td>The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris</td>
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<td>Elin Hilderbrand</td>
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<td>THE SUMMER OF '69 by Summer Strawser</td>
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<td>A STAR IS BORN by Shailene Woodley</td>
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<td>ROMANIAN ASCENSION by Robert Goolrick</td>
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<td>MULE by David Vann</td>
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<tr>
<th>ADULT NON-FICTION</th>
<th>YOUTH FICTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>BECOMING by Michelle Obama</td>
<td>DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE MEDIATION by Jeff Kinney</td>
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<td>GIRL, WASH YOUR FACE by TD Jakes</td>
<td>FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD</td>
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<td>THE DAILY FRAGMENTS by Doreen Y. Wang</td>
<td>SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE</td>
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<td>MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE by Shonda Rhimes</td>
<td>HARRY POTTER AND THE BUCKBEAK</td>
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<td>THE INNOCENCE PROJECT by Lisa See</td>
<td>HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD</td>
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<td>THE HUNGER GAMES by Suzanne Collins</td>
<td>HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS</td>
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<td>THE FAINT IN OUR STARS by John Green</td>
<td>The Meltdown by Karen McManus</td>
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<td>SMILE by Sarahokie Mcleod</td>
<td>SISTERS by Ann Packer</td>
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<td>Guts by Alex London</td>
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<tr>
<th>YA FICTION</th>
<th>YOUTH NON-FICTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>THE HATE U GIVE by Angie Thomas</td>
<td>ROB DAD: POOR DAD FOR TEENS by Robert T. Kiyosaki</td>
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<td>TO THE ONE OF US IS LYING by Suzanne Collins</td>
<td>THE 5-11 BUS by Kate Quinn</td>
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<td>THE ALICE NETWORK by Kate Quinn</td>
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<th>YA NON-FICTION</th>
<th>BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION KITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>HOW TO ALWAYS WRITE BACK by Robert T. Kiyosaki</td>
<td>TEACH YOUR KIDS TO CODE</td>
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2019 Library Budget

- Salaries: $6,320,000 (37.2%)
- Fringe Benefits: $3,248,500 (19.1%)
- Indirect Costs: $3,500,000 (20.6%)
- Library Materials: $3,000,000 (17.7%)
- All Other: $916,500 (5.4%)

2019 Library Revenue

- Dedicated Tax: $15,300,000 (90.1%)
- Added & Omitted Taxes: $88,206 (0.5%)
- Fund Balance: $1,276,794 (7.5%)
- Fines & Photocopies: $250,000 (1.5%)
- State Aid: $70,000 (0.4%)
2019 LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By partnering in a Monmouth County initiative, Monmouth County Libraries collected 2.8 tons of food for Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean, who provide the resources people need to become self-sufficient. Fulfill also offered a program to assist patrons with signing up for health insurance.

Planning continues on a multi-year renovation at Monmouth County Library Headquarters to improve the Library’s technological and electrical infrastructure, which will enable patrons to use electronic devices more comfortably in a modern facility.

Monmouth County Library Headquarters was voted “Best of the Best” by the Asbury Park Press Readers’ Choice Awards.

The Howell Township Branch was voted “One of the Best” by the Asbury Park Press Readers’ Choice Awards.

A new Library website launched in September 2019, allowing easier access managing library accounts, selecting items to reserve, and highlighting online services such as streaming video, downloadable magazines, and electronic books.

Monmouth County Libraries were proud to co-sponsor several New Jersey Library Association programs throughout the year.

AARP Tax Aide volunteers provided tax help at three branches: Headquarters in Manalapan, Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury, and Wall Township.

The Library held its first Book Club Festival featuring authors Lisa See and Diane Chamberlain via Skype, as well as in-person presentations from Mary Calvi and Rosalind Reisner.

Youth and Teen Services participated in a Skype presentation by noted author Jacqueline Woodson, which was sponsored by the NJ Center for the Book.

MEMBER LIBRARIES

Brielle  Little Silver  Sea Bright
Eatontown  Manasquan  Sea Girt
Fair Haven  Monmouth Beach  Tinton Falls
Interlaken  Neptune City  Union Beach
Keansburg  Oceanic (Rumson)

Congratulations to the Sea Bright Library, one of our 14 member libraries, on the reopening of their new building after being closed due to Superstorm Sandy.
MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY
HEADQUARTERS
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, NJ 07726-3249
732-431-7220 www.monmouthcountylib.org

MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY - EASTERN BRANCH
1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4398
1-866-941-8188; 732-683-8980

ALLENTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY
16 S. Main Street, Allentown, NJ 08501-1610
609-259-7565

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS BRANCH LIBRARY
100 1st Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-2914
732-291-1956

COLTS NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
1 Winthrop Drive, Colts Neck, NJ 07722-2225
732-431-5656

HAZLET TOWNSHIP BRANCH LIBRARY
251 Middle Road, Hazlet, NJ 07730-1942
732-264-7164

HOLMDEL BRANCH LIBRARY
101 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733-1908
732-946-4118

HOWELL BRANCH LIBRARY
318 Old Tavern Road, Howell, NJ 07731-8812
732-938-2300

MARLBORO BRANCH LIBRARY
1 Library Court, Marlboro, NJ 07746-1184
732-536-9406

OCEAN TOWNSHIP BRANCH LIBRARY
701 Deal Road, Ocean, NJ 07712-3507
732-531-5092

OCEANPORT BRANCH LIBRARY
8 Iroquois Avenue, Oceanport, NJ 07757-1530
732-229-2626

WALL TOWNSHIP BRANCH LIBRARY
2700 Allaire Road, Wall, NJ 07719-9570
732-449-8877

WEST LONG BRANCH LIBRARY
95 Poplar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1653
732-222-5993

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES
Allenhurst, Allentown, Atlantic Highlands, Brielle, Colts Neck, Deal, Eatontown, Englishtown, Fair Haven, Farmingdale, Freehold Township, Hazlet, Highlands, Holmdel, Howell, Interlaken, Kaysburg, Lake Como, Little Silver, Loch Arbour, Manalapan, Manasquan, Marlboro, Millstone, Monmouth Beach, Neptune City, Ocean Township, Oceanport, Roosevelt, Rumson, Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Shrewsbury Borough, Shrewsbury Township, Spring Lake Heights, Tinton Falls, Union Beach, Upper Freehold Township, Wall Township, West Long Branch