



MPL NEWS

August 2021

Library CLOSED
Monday
August 9th in
observance of
Victory Day



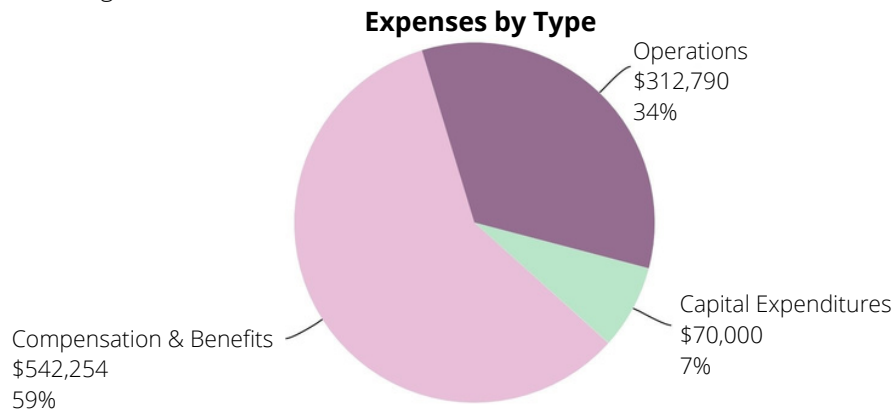
Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

From the Director's Laptop

I just caught up on the spring issue of Public Libraries and read that most people, including staff other than the director, don't know how the library is funded -- are you one of those people? If yes, I'm here to change that.

The MPL's FY22 budget is \$925,044 of which \$126,831 comes from RI Library Grant in Aid (GIA). These GIA funds are mandated to first pay the annual Ocean State Libraries (OSL) membership fee of \$31,699. The remainder is used to partially fund personnel and collection expenses. Each year as the membership fee goes up the amount available for staff and book purchases goes down. The remaining \$798,213 (budget-GIA) is funded by Middletown tax payers.

The budget is comprised of three categories: employee costs, library operations and capital expenditures (mostly major repairs such as last year when the air conditioning condenser failed).



The amount for each category is determined by the Library Board of Trustees and the Town Finance Department. Specifically the Finance Department calculates the amount needed for the employees' collective bargaining agreement, all other personnel costs, liability insurance, and utilities. The Trustees decide how much is needed to fund library operations. Often this process is a moving target so making it all work can be a shell game.

The Friends of the MPL (FMPL) have historically helped financially with wish list items and children's programming costs. Right now our wish list is in temporary storage because COVID has put a limit on everything. By the way, did you know that during the pandemic, 25% of RI library workers were laid off? No one was laid off in Middletown. Rather, staff completed a full inventory of the collection; provided curbside pickup; provided services virtually, by phone/email; and initiated the Middletown Reads project whereby Middletown families received free books provided by the FMPL Bookstore.

You've probably figured out by now that the services of the public library are free but making it all work for you is not free. It depends upon:

- your tax dollar
- the skill of the Library Board of Trustees to develop a sustainable budget
- the generosity of the FMPL

The biggest takeaway is: This year especially, the Middletown Town Council showed steadfast support for library services in approving the library's budget request as it was submitted. The Trustees, staff, FMPL and I are so grateful. Therefore, I'd like to ask you for two favors:

1. Call, email or drop a note of thanks to the Middletown Town Council
2. Join the Friends of Middletown Public Library

Believe me -- your support makes all the difference.
Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library.
She is currently reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Children's Spotlight

Astronomy
Coding
Virtual Reality
Marble Run



Microscopes
RI Outdoors
Engineering K'Nex
Anatomy

The STEM Kits offer a wide range of STEM activities that cater to different ages and interests. Hands-on learning is central to these kits and most are complemented by additional books or literacy that are related to the theme of the kit.

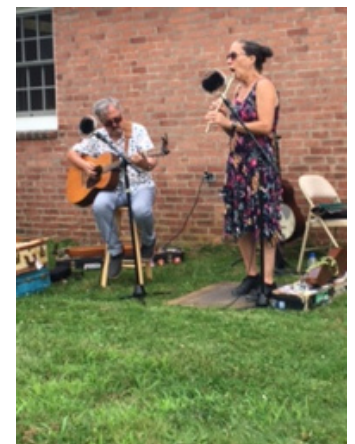
21 day loaning period for each kit, 1 kit per family at a time.



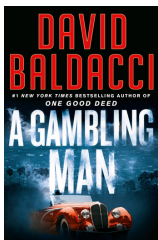
We've been enjoying the smiles of our summer reading challenge weekly raffle winners! CONGRATULATIONS and keep up the great work - just a few more weeks to go until the grand prize drawings!



A great time was had by many at last month's Atwood-Donnelly evening folk concert!



What's New at the Library



[New Adult Books](#)

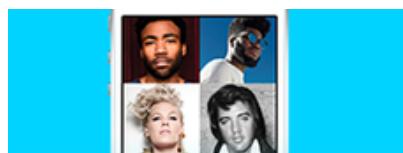


[New Children's Books](#)



[New Teen Books](#)

Tech Talk



FREE MUSIC
with library card



LISTEN NOW
ON MOBILE & WEB

3 hours live streaming per day free with
Freegal Music and your MPL library card!

AND you still get to
KEEP your
downloads forever!

(up to 5 songs per week)

Apps available for IOS,
Windows, and
Android devices

SIGN ME UP!

FREE!

TEEN TECH CAMP

**for
Grades
6-12**

July 27th - August 26th

Interested in learning how to program your very own app for your phone?
Code and complete a maze with robots? Create art with technology like a 3D pen
or Spheros? If so, then this FREE Teen Technology Camp is the place for you!

Registration is required and space is limited.

CLICK HERE to check out the full program details and to register today!

Would you like to receive Text Messages for:

- Requested items ready for pickup?
- Renewal/Courtesy alerts?
- Overdue alerts?
- Library card expiration alerts?



SIGN UP

is free
and easy!



Do you know that MPL partners with the RI DEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide **Fishing Poles** for you to borrow with your OSL Library Card?

**Fresh and Salt Water rods and reels,
21 day loan, and up to 3 poles per
valid Library Card!**

Click here and Cast Away to the full details!



**A new and updated print magazine
collection is coming to MPL!**

Let us know if there's a magazine title you're interested in and would like to suggest that we subscribe to it. [Email us](#), call 846-1573 or come in and stop by the circulation desk!

And, while on the topic of magazines, do you know about the **200+ digital titles** available to you for free with your MPL library card?



**Take me
there!**

The Friends Corner

National Book Lovers Day



Did you know that Book Lovers Day is August 9th? For all of you who love books, you can purchase fiction and non-fiction at the Middletown Library Bookstore.

For others who order items on Amazon, select AmazonSmile for your purchases, and Amazon will donate .5% of your order to your favorite charity at no cost to you. For the direct link to follow for a donation to the library click [here](#). This is one way to support the Middletown Library.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

The FRIENDS BOOKSTORE is open Monday-Thursday 10:30am to 4:30pm, and Friday and Saturday 10:30am -2:30pm.

For information about the FRIENDS or a FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP application, email **FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com** or pick up an application at the library.

Connect with us!



Middletown Public Library
700 West Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
401-846-1573

middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com
middletownpubliclibraryri.org

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 7 pm
Friday - 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday - 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday* - 10 am - 5 pm

*Sunday hours begin on the Sunday following Labor Day
and end on the Sunday before Memorial Day
Library closed on Sundays preceding Monday Holidays