



MPL NEWS

October 2022

Library will be CLOSED on
Sunday, October 9, 2022 and
Monday, October 10, 2022
in observance of Columbus Day

Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

From the Director's Laptop

Did you know that October 16th -22nd is National Friends of Libraries Week? Our Friends of the MPL are a dedicated group of volunteers who make a huge, positive impact on the library. For example, they run the bookstore, and support special projects. Twenty years ago, the Friends oversaw the fundraising for the renovation project that enlarged the current building, making it accessible for the physically challenged.

If you are a member of the MPL Friends, I salute you. If you aren't, I strongly encourage you to join. An annual membership is very affordable. You can also become a life member. I'm one at both my hometown library and in Middletown. It's a wise investment that I'm glad I made because I believe that public libraries matter. We all need the public library.

The public library also needs you and your ideas on library services. The online community survey and forums that we promoted resulted in lots of good conversation. Soon we'll post the information you gave us on our website. All this input will result in a written library building program that will guide decision making over the next 20 years.

One of the topics we talked about a lot was how to engage teens with the public library. It is common knowledge that teens don't use the library as much as they did in elementary and middle school. That's just a fact of life but it got me thinking. I remembered that one of our former trustees, Alex Ellerman, once suggested that the Middletown High School Library and the Middletown Public Library join forces as one library. He had visited such a library in his travels and was impressed by the economic benefit provided to both the school and the community. Plus when the public library is combined with the high school library, teens are automatically drawn in as part of their studies. It makes sense to me.

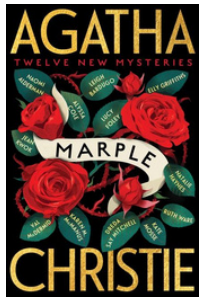
I researched this and learned that there are several success stories about combined public/school libraries. [Two Libraries in One: When Schools and Public Libraries Share Space, All Users Benefit](#) (no subscription needed, just scroll down). I also learned that the city of Woonsocket, South Dakota (not Rhode Island!), combined the high school, public library and fitness center in 2004. [WOONSOCKET SCHOOL DISTRICT- "Dare to Believe and Achieve" - Library](#) By all accounts, these collaborations are working.

I want to emphasize that this is solely my own opinion. The MPL Board of Trustees has not discussed this and I'm not speaking on their behalf. It's an idea that has worked and is worth looking into, especially now that Middletown is considering school regionalization, a bond for new school buildings, and a new public library building. [REGIONALIZATION SAVINGS CONVERSATION ON TAP](#)

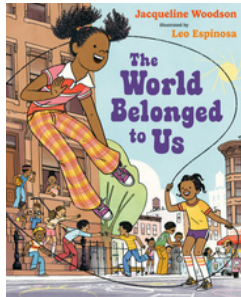
See you at the MPL.
Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library
She is currently reading, *Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space, 3rd edition*, published by the American Library Association.

What's New at the Library



New Adult Books



New Children's Books



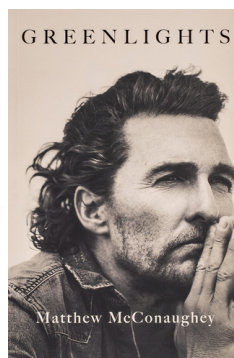
New Teen Books

MPL'S Adult Book Club

3:30pm in our
community meeting room

Monday,
October 17th

*We'll be
discussing*

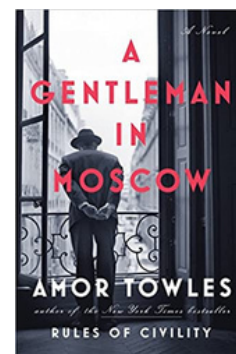


Greenlights



Get your
copies
today!

A Gentleman
in Moscow



Monday,
November 14th

*We'll be
discussing*



We hope you can join us! Click [HERE](#) to register.

VOTING in the November 8th GENERAL ELECTION

- How to Vote from home - October 18th deadline
- How to Vote early - October 19th-November 7th
- How to Vote on Election Day - November 8th

Learn more
about local
Ballot Questions
#4 and #5



School Regionalization

School Bond



*Voter Application Station
located in MPL's lobby*



To view your voter record, check your polling place and more:

GO TO your RI Voter Information Center

New Youth Services Team = New Fun Programming!

A successful library environment for youth and their families means creating library spaces and programs that address their needs and engage their developing and ever-curious minds.

Our new team is providing programming that includes interactive areas for active gaming, “I wonder” STEM problem-solving station activities, community voice board, art through literature, and fun programming. These are just a few!

Children



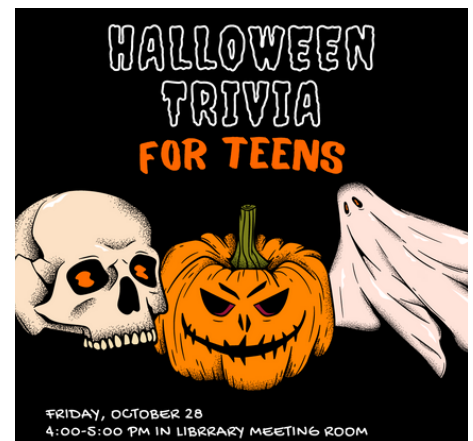
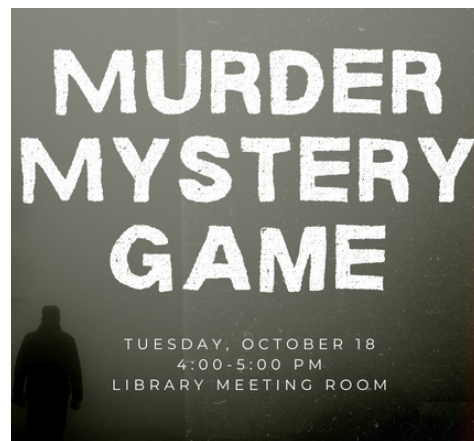
PAJAMA READING PARTY



Tweens



Teens



Check out our full calendar of events [HERE](#)

A CALL TO ACTION:

Youth services is evolving. We are designing a new space and need your assistance. It is crucial that we hear from you, because it is your family which will decide what is important. We would encourage you to think about what you want in your library experience. Some things to think about are listed below:

- Spaces for group project collaboration areas.
- Soft seating at each of development, from toddler to teen.
- Easily accessible books organized to locate their next favorite read.
- Creation space, what they call a maker space where youth can invent and design.
- Floor plan that considers the needs of people with special needs.
- Safe play spaces that encourage curiosity.
- Interactive elements throughout the area such as a fine motor discovery wall, smartboard, Lego block building area, and revolving art gallery.
- Educational technology that provides digital creativity resources, and audio and video production.
- Quiet spaces to read alone or with a loved one.
- Tutoring rooms for success in school.
- Family areas, opposite of quiet areas, in order to socialize with other families.
- Program room to have large educational events.
- Digital Information; interactive screens to access community programs that enhance child development like Head Start.

Please call, email or visit the library to share your ideas!

We are excited to announce the *MPL Adult* *Writing Club* **starts November 10th!**

5:00pm-6:00pm in our community meeting room

Short stories, essays, poetry, novel outlines, memoirs . . . ALL writing styles are welcome to join us! Registration is required.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING MONTH



Personal Finance 101

This finance course will help you understand how to generate wealth and control spending, make sound investments in stocks and bonds, and even begin starting and growing retirement accounts. You'll learn the ins and outs of your individual financial journey in a fun and unique way-- as a travel itinerary!



Debt Reduction

This course teaches the concept of debt reduction and shows you how to wisely manage credit and personal debt. By the end of the course, you should be able to: manage credit and debt effectively, increase income, control expenditure, save early for retirement, debt-proof your future, and attain financial freedom.



Retirement Planning 101

Retirement for many of us can already be a fact of life. For others, it is looming on the horizon and the closer we get the more uneasy we feel about that next step. We are filled with questions about how to proceed. What will it cost? When should we retire? How do we do it? This course will help answer all these questions and more.

Universal Class – FREE with your MPL library card!

The Friends Corner

National Friends of Libraries Week is celebrated the week of October 16–22 this year. During this week, libraries celebrate the contributions that the Friends make to their public libraries. We celebrate the Friends of the Middletown Public Library for their continued help and support. Those interested in joining can get a membership form in the library or email FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS to Reese Gabrielle who won the Bookstore Sign Design Contest, and to runner-up Jane Galin.



Reese and her winning design

Join the Friends
in October and
receive a print by
Joseph Matose

Connect with us!



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Middletown, RI 02842
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middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com
middletownpubliclibraryri.org

Library Hours:
Monday – Thursday 10 am – 7 pm
Friday – 10 am – 5 pm
Saturday – 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday* – 12 pm – 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