



East Brunswick Public Library continues to be the heart of the community. In the 3,139 hours that the library was open to the public in 2018, over 336,000 customers walked through the front doors to check out library items, attend programs and classes, use the library's computers, get a passport, or just spend their time outside of their home. Our staff were able to assist 107 customers each hour. Our customers were extremely busy at the library; they checked out over 624,000 items throughout the year, including books, movies, music, lendable kits and more, both physically and through our downloadable library offerings.

On September 25, East Brunswick Public Library made one of the biggest changes to how customers check out their books. The library switched to a RFID (radio-frequency identification) circulation system which makes checking out items more efficient. To get ready for this, every item in the library's collection had to be tagged. The entire library staff--and even a few Library Board members--spent the summer tagging over 120,000 books, CDs and DVDs throughout the library. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the project was finished six weeks ahead of schedule. Once the new circulation stations, self-checkouts and security gates were installed, library customers immediately started enjoying the new system. When compared to the previous self-checkout stations, use of the new stations has doubled!

As a member of the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium, our customers were able to borrow 36,000 items from the thirty other libraries in the group. Conversely, we were able to lend 23,000 items from our collection to cardholders at other consortium libraries. As part of LMxAC, we are participating in a new program that automatically renews a customer's checked out items, saving them time. This has been a feature that our customers have been asking for, and we were excited to offer them.

The library hosted 522 adult programs with 6,995 participants; the teen department hosted 142 programs with 2,671 teen participants. Some of our most popular programs include book discussion groups, teen karaoke nights and lifestyle programs focusing on saving money, managing health and home organization. The Adult and Teen Services department focused several programs promoting diversity and inclusivity in our community. The highlight was the second annual "Coming to America Stories" event, where East Brunswick residents shared their immigration experiences in a panel discussion. Their stories touched on common threads that bond community members together such



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The EBPL Foundation sponsored an author visit with Arthur creator Marc Brown. The library regularly visited Brunswick Square Mall to connect with patrons outside of the library. Library staff retagged the entire collection in preparation for a new RFID powered circulation system.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The library's "Just For The Health Of It" wellness and health literacy librarians participated in several community events. The EB Create makerspace has become the creative and tech center of the community, offering library customers lendable equipment kits to bring home. Families continue to enjoy animal programs at the library.

as cuisine, sports, education and popular culture.

The library partnered with the New Jersey chapter of the League of Women Voters to host a voter registration. Representatives from the United States Citizenship and Information Services also spoke at the library's English as a Second Language class. This session helped permanent residents, and others interested in naturalization, learn about eligibility, testing and citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Through a partnership with the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, the EB Grow seed library was launched. Housed at the library, it allows the community to learn more about gardening, provide education on seed-saving and encourage everyone to be more plant friendly. In its first year, 97 library cardholders became active contributors to EB Grow, bringing home over 500 different types of seeds!

The Youth Services department continued to provide creative educational programs and entertaining events to over 23,000 children, along with their parents and caretakers. One of the more popular program series was "Maker Wednesdays," a weekly meeting in our EB Create makerspace which gave children a hands-on opportunity to create and learn through different projects, including origami, LEGO robotics, sewing and gardening. The department also hosted its first Ramadan storytime and event, drawing over 100 children and parents to learn more about this holiday and to enjoy a special craft project.

The library continues to partner with the schools in our community. 2018's Summer Reading Program was coordinated with both the schools and the library with a theme of "Building A Better World." Several programs were coordinated, focusing on both STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) as well as those encouraging kindness and community building. Through the TLC (Teen Library Connection), 830 volunteer opportunities were created for teens looking to volunteer at the library to help with the Summer Reading Program.

It was another busy year for our Information Services department and the "Just For The Health Of It" consumer health and wellness information initiative. The year ended with a bang when the library was awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$100,000 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to mobilize our "Just for the Health of It" throughout Middlesex County. The library was one of 12 awardees from a pool of 73 applicants throughout New Jersey, and received

**624,000
items were checked
out by library users.**

the grant due to being recognized as a national model that demonstrates the potential of public libraries to influence the health of their communities. The library also continued its sixth year of partnering with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, promoting health literacy through weekly visits to health and wellness facilities in Old Bridge and New Brunswick, and by attending community health events including Parkinson's support groups, breast cancer breakfasts, and wellness fairs. "Just For The Health



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: East Brunswick Public Library hosted a wedding photo shoot for two library users. Through a partnership with the Small Business Administration, the library offered a program series for local entrepreneurs. The Library Lounge/ Periodicals section went through a dramatic renovation.

Of It" expanded to offer more programs for children and families. Health care educators spoke on topics such as childhood emotional well being, nutrition and health habits.

Our Consumer Health Librarians interacted with 1136 patrons who stopped by our health literacy tables, sharing wellness materials and information about our health research services. In 2018, librarians answered 392 questions about medical conditions, drugs and wellness topics; conducted 107.25 research hours; and attended 84 outreach events. The online health portal received over 12,000 searches. The library continues its membership in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine; our librarians participate in webinars offered by NNLM in all facets of consumer health.

The library continues to partner with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to support the Career Connections program. The library has promoted Career Connections services at outreach events, one-on-one training sessions with librarians, and monthly Path to Employment workshops. Online database usage continues to reflect the community's passion for lifelong learning and the need for a strong educational foundation for their children. In 2018, residents searched our databases over 316,000 times. A hallmark of our database suite is Tutor.com, a real-time tutoring database that links students to subject expert tutors using their East Brunswick library card. Due to the library's impressive usage, we were invited to be the featured guest of a nationwide webinar that was viewed by over 200 libraries.

The library continues to have a close working relationship with the business community by hosting quarterly business networking breakfasts featuring speakers and demonstrations of business-oriented services the library offers. We were selected to host a specialized workshop by the NJ Department of Taxation called Taxation University --Business Registration and Reporting Business Income.

The EB Create makerspace expanded with a new service, circulating lendable kits of makerspace items to cardholders. These kits include a variety of items, ranging from a ukulele to a telescope to even a GoPro video camera, as well as a specially curated selection of corresponding library materials. EB Create has

24 different kits available for library cardholders to check out or use at the library. Through the lendable kit program, the library now circulates iPads and Chromebooks to children as well.

The library's renovation project continued

throughout 2018, highlighted by a makeover of our popular cafe space that features new shelving for magazines, a bulletin board for community events, a laptop bar, and new tables and seating. Other projects included much-needed new shelving in the New Books area, and a complete makeover of the meeting rooms, complete with new flooring, wallpaper, and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment.

Signage throughout the building was also updated. Previously signage had been mismatched and in some cases missing

336,000
visitors came to
East Brunswick
Public Library in
2018.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: To better serve our customers, several new self check out stations were installed. Throughout 2018, the library developed several new technology training classes. East Brunswick Public Library partnered with several outside groups to launch a Little Free Library program throughout the community.

completely. New signs were installed at the Circulation Desk, Information Desk, Children's Library, Administration office, Meeting Rooms, and Passports. Directional signs were also set up in key areas of the building, helping to point users in the right direction, whether they are looking for the Information Desk, Computer Lab or Quiet Study Rooms.

The Information Technology department found new ways to both better the user experience of our customers and simplify processes for our staff. They installed digital signage throughout the building, deployed new computers for public use, made improvements to the public announcement system, and continue to update our website. Behind the scenes, there were several improvements to the computer network, e-mail services, and equipment management.

Our technology trainers extensively surveyed our customers to create new classes that go beyond our usual basic computer, Internet and Microsoft Office topics. New courses that were developed in the year include Social Media For Parents, Internet Safety, Adobe Photoshop, QuickBooks for Accounting, and Basic Podcast and Movie Recording.

EBTV--East Brunswick's municipal television station--had another busy year, producing 243

original programs and 194 segments for their popular "This Week in East Brunswick" series. To better serve the community, EBTV upgraded its equipment in the East Brunswick Courtroom with 3 high definition cameras and switcher. The

station can now record and live stream town council meetings in high definition. Residents can regularly watch programming on EBTV's website and on YouTube, which broadcast 14,540 hours of video in 2018.

East Brunswick Public Library continues to be highly visible in the community. Library staff regularly connected with East Brunswick residents at back-to-school nights, ESL Classes, township wide events like East Brunswick Day and the East Brunswick Arts Festival, Brunswick Square Mall, Rutgers Gardens Farmers Market and the East Brunswick Transportation Center. At community events like these, library staff are able to share information about programs and services to residents that have not had any other contact with the library.

In total, 2,280 people came to East Brunswick Public Library to get their first library card in 2018. EBPL continues to be a leader in the library world, having been nationally recognized for "Just For The Health Of It" by Library Journal, and by winning awards at the New Jersey Library Association conference and Jersey Access Group Awards.

33,836
people of all ages
attended East
Brunswick Public
Library programs.

East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees

Dr. Deborah Cornavaca, President • Mary Pan, Vice President • Dinesh Behal, Treasurer • Patricia Palumbo, Secretary
Kelli Velez, Alt. Superintendent of Schools • Mayor Brad Cohen • Dr. Kenneth Freeman • Aarti Punjabi • Barbara Wendell
Jennifer Podolsky, Library Director