



Friends' Footnotes

East Geauga Friends
of the Library

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July 2017

"If I Were an Eagle" sculpture by Tim King donated to Middlefield Library by EGFL on May 15, 2009"

Bond issue 2017: Why do I have to pay for this?

We're reaching out to voters this November with a bond issue for capital improvements. Although it's never easy to approach voters for tax dollars, it's always a pleasure to share how we are able to better serve our patrons as we provide much needed services to all our citizens.

You may say "I paid for Middlefield Library 15/20/25/30 years ago. Why do I have to pay for a county-wide bond issue now?"

This is a question I get from time to time and it deserves a substantive answer without glossing over details. Indeed, it is true that in the past, the model for building new facilities was what we call "targeted bond issues" or neighborhood targeting. The logic of this is that if a community wants a new library building, they will pony up the resources to make that happen. And that is how things happened, with a few exceptions, for the Geauga County Public Library system.

But, the model has been changing and exceptions have been occurring with increasing frequency. One such exception is the Administrative Center on Ravenwood Drive which was completed using a countywide bond issue similar to what we are proposing now. Other exceptions include more recent facilities improvements to Chardon, Newbury and the Mobile Services portion of the Middlefield Branch. All these improvements were funded from the library's general fund. We had money that we allocated to facilities improvements that came out of our PLF and levy funds and used that for the recent improvements, in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million.

The answer to the question is because we are a county district library and there are needs at all of our facilities. Everyone in the county library district will benefit from the improvements we are planning, so it is fair to expect everyone to

contribute. Someone recently asked, "Does this mean we are all in this together?" and the answer is "yes." We can no longer work through the schools and ask them to run our bond issues as all of the area schools have needs of their own and are facing state funding decreases. The Geauga County Public Library Board of Trustees and the administration team have explored every reasonable option to solve our facilities issues. One person asked me why we don't just set aside money every year and bank it until we have enough to pay for the facilities. In fact, with interest rates being what they are, it's cheaper to borrow money now and pay back at the lower rate than to save and earn a lower interest yield on the sum. Labor will never be cheaper than it is right now. At the recent Geauga Growth Partnership Annual Meeting, we heard that post RNC construction for 2016 labor

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Ed Warso

GCPL Director

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What's Happening in Middlefield...



Rachael Hartman, Manager

“There is so much going on at the Middlefield Library this fall.”

There is so much going on at the Middlefield Library this fall! We have dramatically increased the number of programs for adults—there is something every week! Here are a few of the noteworthy offerings, generously sponsored by the Friends:

On Saturday, September 23rd at 2 p.m., join Ohio author Johnny Ray Miller for Singin’ with the Partridge Family. Learn the behind the scenes story of the television show and take an in-depth look at their music. Miller’s book, *When We’re Singin’: the Partridge Family and their Music*, will be for sale.

On Wednesday, Octo-

ber 18th at 7 p.m., learn about cost effective ways to Cut the Cable. Explore Roku, Amazon Fire, Netflix, Hulu, and other options.

On Wednesday, November 8th at 7 p.m., Peter Booth will portray a member of the Fifth Rangers and give a first person account of their actions on D-Day in WWII Normandy Invasion. Memorabilia and other WWII artifacts will be on display.

If you enjoy music, join us on November 29th for the Lake Erie Brass Ensemble, and December 6th for the Cardinals. Both concerts will feature holiday music for your enjoyment.

There are so many more events planned—from tai chi to yoga classes, programs on dealing with telemarketers, and making a fall floral arrangement. System wide, there are great offerings, as well, including a talk on September 16th at the Newbury Auditorium by author Michael Hingson, who escaped the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, with the help of his seeing-eye dog. Watch for the Lines & Links newsletter, arriving in Geauga County mailboxes in mid-August, for more information.

We hope to see you here.

Bond Issue 2017 continued

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and materials are at an all-time low. All of these factors point to our conclusion that this is the best model available right now.

We feel this bond issue is important to support

a solid future for Geauga County Public Library patrons. Sound, energy-efficient buildings with ample community space are a valuable resource for everyone. We are in a position to help Geauga County citizens find

what drives their dreams.





Middlefield Library Has "Hot" New Books



Summer is for kicking back and relaxing with a good book and Middlefield Library has some hot new reads just for you. Here's what's new!

In the Valley of the Sun by Andy Davidson

Wicked & the Divine 5 by Kieron Gillen
A Honey Jar of Faith by Christopher M. Woods
Tom Dooley: An American Tragedy by Bill Brooks
Part of the Silence by Debbie Howells
In the Days of Rain: a Daughter, a Father, a Cult by Rebecca Scott
The Good Widow by Liz Fenton
The Late Show by Mi-

chael Connelly
The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes by Leonard S. Goldberg
Rediscovering Americanism: and the Penhale Wood Mystery by Julia Thomas
Artisanal Preserves: Small-Batch Jams, Jellies... by Madelaine Bullwinkel
Angels to the Rescue by Robert D. Lesslie
The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry



Carol Johnson, Head of Adult Services

Friends' News...

All of us in the Book Sale Room are missing the steady presence and wit of Dorothy Allen.

We are looking for volunteers. If you would like to sell books in the evening or on a Saturday, please stop in from

12-3 weekdays or leave your name and number at the circulation desk.

The money we receive from the book sales goes directly to the library. We have funded many programs this spring and summer, for

adults and children, and purchased a new educational toy for the children's area.

Stop by and browse our large selection. Every week there is something new.

Linda Smallwood

"The money we receive from the book sales goes directly to the library."

Literacy Boxes and Early Reader Back Packs @ the Library

When I was a new parent, I was spending hours looking for new toys for my baby and searching books and other activities to pair with each toy. I quickly realized that the toys I wanted were costly considering how quickly babies and toddlers

grow. The toys and books that parents buy in one season may be completely irrelevant to their youngsters a month or two later. We want our children to benefit from these types of toys but it is just not economical for most families, mine included,

to purchase all of them. As a librarian, I know that linking literacy and play is effective in building a lifelong love of learning. As a mom, I realized that not all parents have access to the necessary resources. This was a perfect op-

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Kara Fennell Walker, Head of Youth Services



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Kathy Moss, Editor

"If I Were An Eagle"



The Circulation Desk...

For anyone who doesn't know, the desk that you check out your library items is called the Circulation Desk. At the Middlefield Library the Circulation Desk is a very busy spot. We have many patrons who take advantage of the 100 item per card limit. You can always find a cheerful, happy face ready to help patrons with all their library needs. Our dedicated clerks make sure that patrons leave our building having a great experience each time they come in. Patrons can ask our clerks for book recommendations, hold information, voter registration forms, or directions to Mary Yoder's Restaurant. Middlefield Library circulates over 600,000 items each year. With the change to Clevnet, our clerks have on average 10 – 20 large bins of materials to check in daily. Patrons have access to many more materials from all over Northeast Ohio libraries. The clerks have done a fantastic job learning the new system and adapting to the increased workload. The Circulation Desk is also the place patrons can bring their gently used items for sale in the beautiful Friends Book Sale Room. Our Circulation Desk is backed up by our "Super Shelves". Our team of shelvees are wonderful at pulling items for holds and getting items shelved in their proper place again so our patrons can browse to their hearts' content. I could talk for hours about the great work the staff at the Middlefield Library does, but I think that our library speaks for itself.

Amy Yamamoto, Head of Circulation

Literacy Boxes and Early Reader Back Packs @ the Library continued

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portunity for the library to provide parents with more tools to encourage literacy and play. We've done this in two ways: Literacy Boxes and Early Reader Back-packs.

Literacy Boxes are designed for children ages birth to age 5 and their parents. Each box's book and toy pairs together either by theme or skill, and the activity card gives ideas on how to share the book with

your child, linking the book and toy together, and different ways to enjoy the toy. There are boxes appropriate for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Early Reader Backpacks are designed for children from kindergarten through the second grade. They contain early reader and nonfiction books that have been paired with a toy or game that reinforces the book's theme. Many of the Early Reader Backpacks have a sci-

ence, logic or math component, complementing the Common Core and STEM curriculum in our schools. More than that, they're fun!

We have an excellent selection of both Literacy Boxes and Backpacks available at the Middlefield Library, with the ability to place holds on dozens more. If you haven't yet checked out this great resource, I encourage you to do so!

