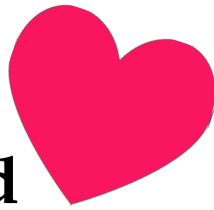


# Freehold Public Library



## February 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Freehold Public Library

\*for digital distribution; not maximized for print

Type this into your browser if links don't work:

<https://tinyurl.com/FPL-FEB2023>

📞 Library phone number: 732-462-5135

✉ Email: [help@freeholdpubliclibrary.org](mailto:help@freeholdpubliclibrary.org)

📞📧 Subscribe to cancellation notices:  
<https://www.remind.com/join/fplpr>

## NEWS & UPDATES

- 🏛 **Temporary Location and Schedule:** 30 Mechanic Street (Freehold Borough Municipal Building); weekdays 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
- 🏛 **Library is closed Friday 2/17 & Monday 2/20.** SUBSCRIBE to weather or unscheduled closure/cancellation notices: <https://www.remind.com/join/fplpr>
- 🏛 **Books/Magazines Available:** Most of the Library's collection is in storage; however, we have access to material acquired since September. Please check with staff for information on specific titles

(our Catalog does not differentiate between stored and accessible items).

- 🏛 **Renovation Update.** Asbestos remediation finished on January 24. The "real work" on the interior has begun, and exterior site preparation for the ramp and elevator foyer continues.
- 📺 **Digital Products:** For an overview, see our January 2023 newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/FPL-JAN2023>
- 🏛 **Library Trustees** meet Thursday 2/9 at 8:00 a.m. at Freehold Borough Hall. Contact the library for more information.

## Dear Library Patron

I know, I know. I sound like a *broken record*.

Some of you may know I grew up in the South. I am a product of public school education from first grade through high school, with most of that time in Florida. In 1983 I graduated from Manatee High School (go, *Hurricanes!*), Manatee County, in Bradenton, Florida.

As a student, even working as an assistant in the school library, censorship wasn't on my mind. It was not something my classmates and I believed we had to worry about. In truth, it was the work of professionals in the schools and libraries of my youth, and the many advocates before them, that allowed me the *luxury of presuming* I could access any material I wanted or needed.

Don't get me wrong; *I get it*. Schools play a special role in our children's lives. In an education environment, book selection has always been a challenging task. "Age appropriate content," reading level/difficulty, overall



material quality issues, curriculum requirements, representation of populations and ideas, accessibility, and importance of a work in the larger literary world are just some of the factors educators must consider. There's just no way to please everybody.

But education is not about *pleasing*. It's about *educating*. It's about teaching students not just facts and rules, but how to critically evaluate information. To lead them as they negotiate their relationship with the greater world and ideas they encounter. It's about *learning*.

As a parent, I remember being a little surprised and vaguely uncomfortable with some of the titles on my children's reading list, especially as they made the big jump from intermediate to high school. However, I trusted their teachers and education professionals to guide my children's formal education. Being confident in my role as a parent in teaching my children discernment (and imparting whatever wisdom upon them they would grudgingly accept), I was not afraid that my children would grow beyond what I myself could teach them.

Now I see news stories about my old stomping ground of Florida, with its "anti-woke" legislation. With my high school featured front-and-center as a battleground between educators and vague rules which could possibly see them charged as *criminals*. And I am reminded that it is, as it has long been for those before me, my duty as a librarian, my privilege as a parent, and my obligation as an American with the freedoms that America says it stands for, to advocate for all our children's right to read.

Be well; be well informed.



Kathy Mulholland, MLIS

Library Director

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Follow our [Facebook page](#) for updates and subscribe to our [program notification service](#) for last-minute adjustments to our hours and offerings.

## NEW BOOKS in January (Available at out temporary location)

Category	Title/Author
Adult	Essential Hawaii/Fodor's From scratch/Locke The light we carry/Obama Year of the tiger/Wong Devil's delight/Beaton Tom Clancy red winter/Cameron Code 6/Grippando The villa/Hawkins Age of vice/Kapoor W.E.B. Griffin the devil's weapons/Kirsanow Sleep no more/Krentz Stella Maris/McCarthy Without a trace/Steel J.K Lasser's your income tax I am the storm/Dean The January 6th Report/United States Myth America/Kruse The house of wolves/Patterson

	The cabinet of Dr. Leng/Preston
YA	Nine liars/Johnson You are the universe/Buetens
Children's	I don't care/Fogliano Little Rodney the librarian/Freeman Little owl's love/Srinivasan How to catch a reindeer/Walstead The broken mirror/De la Cruz

### Construction Update from the Library Trustees

The Library Trustees are thrilled that our vision for a new and improved library facility is finally happening. Planning for this renovation project started nearly 7 years ago in 2016.

The library was built in 1904 and has served the community for more than a century. As many of you know, the building had fallen into disrepair and was in violation of modern building codes. The Trustees were faced with the decision to recommend a major renovation, or close the library building.

The decision became clear when the New Jersey taxpayers authorized the state to fund a library renovation grant program in 2017. **We applied through a competitive process, and were awarded more than \$850,000 in grant funding from the State of New Jersey.** You read that right - this *grant* is free to the Borough! Who would say no to free money?

The Borough also funded \$1.4 million in construction bonds to pay our share of the renovation costs. Construction bonds are like a mortgage: the Borough borrows money and makes principal and interest payments over a 20-year period to pay the money back. The Borough did not spend \$1.4 million upfront.

How are we paying for this borrowing? The Trustees eliminated a full-time library position, which allowed us to save both salary and benefits costs. These savings were enough to fund the original construction budget at **no additional cost to the taxpayers.**

The renovation will move the library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where libraries are so much more than books. They are community assets where the public can gather in meeting spaces. They offer electronic access points with public Wi-Fi and public computers. They are foundational to an intimate and walkable downtown. Can you imagine Freehold Borough without our Carnegie Library?

What will this renovation get us?

- The entire ground floor will be fully renovated and available for public use!
- The building will be in compliance with all ADA requirements. It will be stroller and wheelchair friendly!
- Totally new electrical systems to power all our 21<sup>st</sup> century library experience!
- Totally new HVAC systems to make your library experience comfortable!

During construction you'll be able to find our librarians in Borough Hall, where you'll be able to access computers, and new books will be available for circulation. And of course all electronic books, videos and other content will remain available during construction.

We look forward to the end of 2023 when we can celebrate completion of the renovation project together. Thank you for supporting our wonderful Freehold Public Library!

## Library Information

- 🏠 **Library Hours @ 30 Mechanic Street (temporary location):**  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **Information that doesn't change often:**  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g8sa1tvLCYlcbj7C1RAY4tWxbTvnIQceq5lYmINbxjs/edit?usp=sharing>



**Freehold  
Public  
Library**

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[www.freeholdpubliclibrary.org](http://www.freeholdpubliclibrary.org)

