



Bernardsville Public Library

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

- * 218,299 items were checked out in 2011—the equivalent of 28 items per Bernardsville resident.
- * 200,046 visits to the library were recorded—an average of 25 visits per Bernardsville resident.
- * 161,949 people used our website.
- * 73,870 people used our public access computers.
- * 61,083 reference questions were asked and answered.
- * 1,153 programs were attended by 9,241 adults and 14,384 children.
- * 1,305 items were borrowed through Interlibrary Loans.
- * 4,765 items were added to our collection, many *thanks to gifts and donations*.



STAR LIBRARY RANKING

The Library Journal's 2011 Star Libraries Survey ranked Bernardsville Library as the highest ranked New Jersey library in our budget category (\$400,000-\$999,999). Overall, it ranked second among New Jersey libraries, even against libraries with much larger budgets. Nationally, Bernardsville placed sixth among libraries in our budget category.

Once again, Bernardsville Library proved to be a cornerstone resource to residents, with wonderful support coming from the Bernardsville Borough Council, the Friends of the Bernardsville Library, the Bernardsville Library Foundation, and the community.

C O M P U T E R A C C E S S

- The library provided 41 public access computers—all donated by the Friends of the Library.
- We offered computer classes on basic Office programs and higher level classes to enable job seekers to improve their job search skills.
- One-on-one computer training by volunteers assisted individuals with their specific computer needs.

C A R E E R A S S I S T A N C E

- Thanks to funding from NJ State Library, we continued providing access to the online resource Learning Express Job & Career Accelerator. We offered résumé and interviewing workshops. We also worked with NJ State Library to offer four popular job-readiness training sessions.

I N F O R M A T I O N & P R O G R A M S

- Cultural programs, always free at the library, included Met Museum lectures, author visits, Indian dance, poetry readings and concerts. The Museum Pass program, funded by the Friends, also continued to be very popular.
- The Community Assistance Resource & Educational Services (CARES) program hosted seminars at the library on a variety of topics dealing with local, state and federal programs such as Medicare.
- Three book discussion groups continued to flourish.
- We ran four ESL classes per week in two long sessions. The program is coordinated by a volunteer, and materials and supplies are funded through grants and donations. We helped students from 23 countries, including a growing contingent from China.
- Hundreds of children's activities were offered ranging from story times to science experiments, and seasonal craft programs. Pre-Teen and Teen Advisory Councils were very popular.

E X P A N D E D A C C E S S & C O L L E C T I O N S

- Due to increasing demands for e-Books and DVDs, the Friends funded the purchase of eReaders for lending to patrons as well as many of the new, popular movies on DVD.
- VFW Post 7858 presented the library with an iPad for public use, and an "Outspoken Library" kiosk was installed by NJ State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center. This enables veterans and residents with impaired vision or a physical or learning disability to download 3,000 audiobooks to a free digital talking book player.
- Interlibrary loans permitted library users to borrow books from other libraries. This has the effect of greatly expanding our collection with little additional cost.

C O M M U N I T Y A C T I V I T Y & S U P P O R T

- We continued to partner with local businesses, including members of the Chamber of Commerce, for both programming and fundraising efforts.
- We hosted a moving ceremony commemorating the tenth anniversary of 9/11.
- We honored our Volunteer of the Year with a reception and champagne toast.
- The Friends recognized the many adult volunteers who serve the library with a luncheon in May.
- Local students donated hundreds of hours of community service, showing a dedicated involvement in the success of library programs.

- We served as a meeting place for all kinds of community groups including bridge players, condo associations, seniors' groups, writers' groups, and the Chamber of Commerce.
- The Bernardsville Library Foundation held a successful fundraiser to raise funds to ensure that the library can continue to function at its current high level, even if there are leaner budget years ahead.

P L A N N I N G F O R T H E F U T U R E

- The Board of Trustees worked on a long-range strategic plan, developing a series of goals and objectives to help the library evolve in this age of mobile technologies while at the same time continuing to provide traditional library services and preserve unique community collections.
- Methodology: The Strategic Plan was developed using a research-based approach. Data was obtained from direct community input and library staff observation of community needs demonstrated in the library. Members of the Strategic Planning Team obtained input from various demographic classes of community members including local officials, business owners, community group stakeholders, parents and school-children, and people who do not currently use the library. Surveys were widely distributed to seek input. Statistics on use of the library over a ten-year period and an in-depth analysis of recent circulation trends were also incorporated into the plan.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Bernardsville Public Library is one of the many wonderful aspects of Bernardsville. Through dedication and hard work, the staff and volunteers have worked together to build a strong institution to serve the community. There are two ways in which you can support the library.

Support the Friends

The Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (FBPL) raises funds for programs and services that cannot be funded through the library's annual operating budget from the Borough, including funding for computers, books, materials, and cultural programs.

Support the Foundation

The Bernardsville Library Foundation was established to build an endowment fund to help meet public needs by maintaining hours and staffing.

To Donate:

Go to <http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org/support>.

Bernardsville Public Library
1 Anderson Hill Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Phone: 908-766-0118
Fax: 908-766-2464
www.bernardsvillelibrary.org