Dear Merrick Neighbors,

Life at the Library—and throughout Merrick—is more vibrant than ever. A recent Newsday article highlighted our community as one of the few in Nassau attracting new homebuyers. We all understand why: the great people, location, schools, businesses, and the culture. The Merrick Library, as a center of that culture, serves as the local hub for literacy, personal growth, entertainment, and community building.

In the past year we finally saw the return of crowds, and we love it. The building has been buzzing with life each day of the week, with rooms full of playing toddlers, studying students, working adults, socializing seniors, and folks of all ages reading, reading, reading. The Community Room has been full of performances, author visits, lectures, and workshops. Bands are drawing capacity crowds, our Noon Year’s Eve kids’ celebration drew hundreds of families, and the Children’s Room is full of stories, music, and art. As the weather improves, we look forward to fun days and nights in the garden, including the return of our popular summer evening outdoor concerts and the introduction of community gardening activities.

We’ve been making improvements: the “Welcome Desk” now provides one-stop service right in the lobby—reserve a book, sign up for an event, grab a museum or park pass, whatever you need all in one place. We’re also excited about our upcoming makeover, with comfy new seating options for quiet and group study, reading, and collaboration. We’ll have an improved layout, new flooring, and better signage. We’re using funds that went unspent during the pandemic, assigned capital funds, and interest from investments; there will be no additional burden to you as a taxpayer.

The Library is investing in staff with unique skill sets and exciting ideas to expand our services, programming, and partnerships in the community. We are planning more collaboration with the schools, more instructional and entertainment opportunities for seniors, more evening discussion groups for working adults, and growing collections of shared resources—everything from circulating musical instruments to a seed library!

We invite you to explore our 2023-24 budget proposal. Our commitment to responsible, fiscally prudent, and transparent budgeting remains strong; our goal is to provide top-notch service without unnecessary burdens. We hope you agree that the requested 1.75% levy increase—well below the 2% allowed under the state tax cap—meets that goal.

Please come out to vote on Tuesday, May 16. We will again join the school district vote at Levy Lakeside School—there will not be a separate vote at the library. This allows us to decrease administrative costs and make voting more convenient.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you and your families soon!

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Donna Rosenblum, President; Miriam Wanderman; Femy Aziz; Rachel Mathieu-Leo; Joan Sculli
Dan Chuzmir, Library Director; Diane Bondi, Assistant Director
## Proposed Budget 2023-24

### Collection
- Adult Books: $50,000
- Children/Teen Books: $30,000
- Audiobooks on CD: $2,000
- Print Periodicals: $7,000
- Movies, TV, Music, Video Games: $12,000
- OverDrive/Libby: $50,000
- Hoopla: $7,000
- Kanopy: $3,000
- Digital Research and Services: $22,000
**Total Collection:** $183,000

### Community Engagement
- Adult Programming: $40,000
- Children/Teen Programming: $60,000
- Museum & Park Passes: $14,000
- Library of Things: $3,000
- Marketing and Communications: $15,000
- Home Delivery: $13,000
**Total Community Engagement:** $145,000

### General Operations
- General Library and Office Supplies: $25,000
- Nassau ILS Consortium: $30,000
- Nassau Library System: $17,000
- Payroll Management: $7,000
- Professional Fees: $30,000
- Insurance: $33,000
- Security Contract: $120,000
- Professional Memberships: $3,500
- Staff Parking Lease: $7,800
**Total General Operations:** $273,300

### Personnel
- Salaries: $2,043,419
- Health Insurance: $520,000
- NYS Retirement: $235,000
- Social Security/Medicare: $160,000
- Long Term Disability: $3,500
- Unemployment: $2,000
- Workers Comp: $15,000
- Short Term Disability: $2,500
- Conferences, Travel, and Continuing Ed.: $3,000
**Total Personnel:** $2,984,419

### Technology & Building Operations
- Technology: $20,000
- Electronics and Software: $15,000
- Phone System: $10,000
- Internet: $10,000
- Equipment Service Contracts: $10,000
- Electric: $90,000
- Gas: $10,000
- Water: $5,000
- Building Repairs: $20,000
- Custodial Supplies: $8,000
- Landscaping and Snow Removal: $10,000
- Cleaning and Pest Control: $4,000
- Building Systems Contracts: $13,000
- Aquarium: $7,000
**Total Technology & Operations:** $232,000

### Total Operating Budget
**Total Operating Budget:** $3,817,719

### Income & Revenue
- Late Fees: $200
- Material Replacement: $2,000
- Miscellaneous: $2,000
- Copying and Printing: $3,000
- Book Sales: $1,500
- Tax Levy: $3,913,483
- Interest: $55,000
- Fund Transfer: $462,536
- State Aid: $6,000
- Donations: $500
- Programming Income: $10,000
- NEW CD Interest: $40,000
- Vending: $1,500
- E-Rate: $5,000
**Total Income & Revenue:** $4,502,719

### Total Expenditures
**Total Expenditures:** $4,502,719

### Estimated Income
**Estimated Income:** $126,700

### Appropriated Fund Balance
**Appropriated Fund Balance:** $462,536

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The budget vote is Tuesday, May 16 from 7am to 9pm at Levy Lakeside School.