

State of the Library 2020-2021

What a year it has been! Beginning March 15th, 2020, the Library closed its doors due to COVID-19. During the closure, the Library staff prepared for the implementation of safety measures, which included PPE and social distancing. The Library received \$5,500 from the CARES ACT to purchase PPE and Digital Inclusion items. The Digital Inclusion allowed the Library to purchase two hot spots, a Chromebook, and an iPad for patrons to check out for a week at a time.

The Library was able to re-open gradually in June, starting first with curbside, then with limited capacity and hours, and the removal of all hands-on activities. Eventually, we returned to regular hours and our computers were once again available for patron use. With all the changes going on around us, we had to react quickly. New programs were put in place, such as online Book Clubs for both adults and juveniles, make and take crafting programs for all ages, Facebook live crafts, and snack time while adults learned how to crochet.

In August, residents approved an additional Library millage. We would like to thank the residents of Ray Township for their continuing support of the Library. With the increased funds, the Library is looking to provide the community with additional resources, increased hours, new programming, and advanced technology.

The Library has also had many positive changes this year. Our new website was redesigned. Make sure to check it out at www.raylibrary.org. Our new Library of Things also keeps growing. The Library of Things consists of unique items that patrons can check out, such as a Wii Game Station, body positivity cards, games, preschool prep, and a blood pressure monitor set.

Mary Barnes, our Library Assistant, applied for the American Library Association's, Libraries Transforming Libraries grant, and was awarded \$3,000. With these grant funds, the Library was able to send out a mass mailer to the residents of Ray Township informing them about all the services the Library provides and asking for feedback about technology. This feedback will allow the Library to hold classes geared towards the seniors of Ray Township to assist them with their basic technology needs,

such as, how to set up an email, download coupons, use social media, Zoom, and more.

The Ray Township Public Library would like to thank the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society for their continuing support. Over the past year, the Library has received a baby changing table, bathroom hooks, plastic bags for curbside pickup, book stands, and a sandwich sign from the group.

We would like to again thank the Ray Township residents for their continued support. We encourage everyone to share any suggestions and feedback with us as the Library is always looking to grow and provide the needed resources to the community.

Respectfully,

Christy DeMeulenaere

Library Director