

Behind Every Great Community



Is a Great Library!

We **are** a great community and we **have** a great library. For more than 145 years, **The Ashaway Free Library (AFL)** has been enriching the community by providing resources, services and programming for personal skills, self-improvement, career advancement, cultural enjoyment, entertainment, and creative activities. We are a vital center of culture and information for our community.

We:

- serve 16,000 visitors a year
- circulate 20,000 books and media
- are financially stable
- had more than 2,300 computer log-ons in the past 6 months

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.” Sidney Sheldon

In 2013 the Library completed a Community Study and Five Year Plan. We have accomplished all of the goals we set out to accomplish with the exception of the final goal: **A community room that will enhance the Library’s public service orientation and better involve and engage the community.** Because of a lack of space, most programs and meetings are restricted to when the Library is not open to the public. Furniture has to be rearranged for the events and only about a dozen people can be accommodated comfortably. Our new 700 square foot addition will create space:

- to give patrons more room to work individually and in groups
- to allow patrons more space to use personal devices to log onto WiFi
- to host library book groups, craft groups, homework clubs
- to hold lectures, films and performances
- to allow for community group use
- to make AFL accessible to all with an ADA-compliant ramp
- to add additional storage space

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 for the community addition and begin construction in 2018. For more information on our future plans or to volunteer your ideas or services, please contact Fran Cohen, President of the Board of Trustees at 401 377-3055.