

April 12, 2010

## **Martins Ferry Public Library Celebrates National Library Week, April 11-17, 2010**

Come together @ the Martins Ferry Public Library during National Library Week, April 11-17, 2010. The theme this year is “Communities thrive @your library.” Everyday, people come together @ the library. At our library, people of all backgrounds can research information, search for employment, receive assistance with their census forms, find homework help, read newspapers, attend baby time, toddler time, or preschool story time, teen time, reading groups and more. Check out books, magazines, videos, DVDs, cds, books on tape and cd, mp3-cd, eBooks, and much more.

We have installed new computers through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at all locations, and you can now use your library card to sign yourself on at the Main Library in Martins Ferry, Bridgeport and Shadyside locations. You still need to check at the circulation desk for use at Powhatan Point, Flushing and Bethesda. All locations now have wireless available if you bring your own computer.

The Main Library is having a huge book sale starting April 17-24. Used computers will be available in addition to fiction, non-fiction, magazines, videos, large print, children's and other items for sale so be sure to stop by to see what is available. Since the economy is down economically, our funding is still decreasing, so our book sale is more important than ever. We have reduced hours and cut spending drastically to cope with the shortage but value our customers as much as ever.

If you think libraries are not used as much, we want you to know that we have remained busy. Over 389,300 items were checked out last year from the Martins Ferry Public Library system and branches. Books are still the most popular item. Nationally over 2 billion items were checked out, with nearly 1.8 billion visitors annually. The age of technology has complemented our services and expanded our reach to everyone who has access to a computer. People order our items 24 hours a day with our on-line service. Go to [mfpl.org](http://mfpl.org) to check out our electronic library. We also offer on-line tests for people of all ages and databases on various topics.

Libraries are about our community. More than eight million American children, grades 4-12 struggle to read and comprehend basic information. Our library is committed to helping children access reading and books through our programming for children aged six months until they begin school. Libraries are part of the literacy solution. Research has found that students who read consistently score 10-18% higher on reading and other tests.

Librarians know that libraries are more relevant than ever and the best part is that admission is free. It's democracy in action and there is nothing obsolete about that. The library director encourages all residents to visit the library this week to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available to Ohio libraries and thank the librarians and library staff for their assistance. We thank all of you for visiting the library year round.

Library cards are free to Ohio residents. Drawings will be held for prizes this week at all locations so visit one today! Hours are posted on [mfpl.org](http://mfpl.org).

Please call the library at 633-0314 for additional information.