

PRESS RELEASE

January 26, 2017

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE LIVINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold (right center) presents the Board's Commendation to members of the Livingston Public Library's Board of Trustees and Director Amy Babcock Landry (center). District 4 Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano (rear left) and Livingston Mayor Shawn R. Klein (rear right) were also present for the presentation

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, January 25th meeting, The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored The Livingston Public Library for its 100th anniversary. The Commendation was sponsored and presented by At-Large Freeholder Patricia Sebold of Livingston.

Freeholder Sebold shared remarks stating, “As a retired teacher with over 30 years of experience in the field of education, I can appreciate all that the Library has to offer the community. Being a former teacher, I recognize that the library is at the center of learning, literacy, and engagement, for not only students, but also the community at large.”

The Livingston Public Library was incorporated in 1916 as a result of the forward thinking ideas of six local women (Minnie Collins Ashby, Edith DeCamp, Gertrude Halsey, Ada Vincent, Mrs. Robert DeCamp and Emily Ashby), who formed a social and literary club known as the "Alpha Club". The members took turns entertaining, reading, and discussing books and papers at their homes. They also planned cultural events and undertook civic projects and soon started a lending Library, working from a closet in the Junior Order Hall. Their materials formed the original collection of the Livingston Public Library. The Alpha Club then presented the Library to the town, and the citizens passed a referendum accepting the Library in 1931.

The Library's mission is to serve as a place where reading, learning, and ideas converge to transform lives. Its mission guides everyday activities and the impact the Library has on those who use it, the services it provides, the choices made, and interactions with patrons.

It is home to more than 3.5 miles of books, videos, DVDs and other materials and checks out more than 450,000 items a year. It fosters learning, literacy, and community engagement to support an active democracy. The Livingston Public Library is supported and used by thousands of residents who value the role it plays in the community. It offers an extraordinary experience for the community through a combination of great resources, friendly, knowledgeable staff, and exceptional customer service.

The long-term vision of the Library is to build on 100 years of achievements and focus on a future where it is at the heart of community life. The Library will continue to foster community engagement, connect people with ideas and each other, and make Livingston a better place to live and work.

The Livingston Public Library is overseen by its Board of Trustees, 9 members who are appointed by the Mayor of Livingston. The Trustees are dedicated volunteers and thoughtful stewards of public funds.

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Director of the Library, Amy Babcock Landry, were present to accept the Board's Commendations. Director Babcock Landry shared remarks, thanking the Board for recognizing the Library, the Township, and the Board of Trustees.

Livingston Mayor Shawn R. Klein was also present during the presentation.

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