

Chester Public Library's Strategic Plan

2023-2028

Planning Summary:

Between June and October of 2022, the Chester Public Library presented a survey of questions to the Town of Chester residents. The survey was passed out at community events, posted on our webpage and Social media, printed in the local newspaper and provided to patrons that serviced the library. The greatest needs represented with the results of that survey indicated that residents want to see more partnerships between the library and other community groups. There were also requests for more variety in programming, especially for school-aged children and teens. Patrons also indicated that our hours met their needs but, it was often hard to get to the library for programming. Based on the top responses to the 2022 survey the board has adopted the following Plan of Service.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Chester Public Library is to provide materials and services to help town residents obtain information meeting their personal, educational, professional, and leisure time needs. Emphasis is placed on supporting programs to stimulate children's interest and appreciation for reading and learning. The library serves as a lifelong learning center for all residents of the Town of Chester.

Goals:

1. The Chester Public Library will become a conduit for community members to interact with community groups.
2. The Chester Public Library will seek more variety of programs, services and activities for all ages.
3. The Chester Public Library will evaluate the physical building and explore opportunities to make improvements to better serve the community.

Action Steps:

Goal 1: The Chester Public Library will become a conduit for community members to interact with other community groups.

- Identify local community groups within our service area that align with our mission statement.
- Consider bringing community groups in for informational sessions and programming.
- Identify staff that would be able to attend local meetings in order for the library to keep abreast of community activities as well as offer the library's assistance if able.

Goal 2: The Chester Public Library will seek more variety in programming, services and activities for all ages

- Consider programming requests from survey.
- Identify target underserved markets and solicit input on program and services desired.
- Continue programming that will assist Kindergarten readiness and adult lifelong learning.

Goal 3: The Chester Public Library will evaluate the physical building and explore opportunities to make improvements to better serve the community.

- Analyze existing space and develop possible layouts and ideas without limitations, which may include renovations and updates to the existing building or the need to seek a new location.
- Identify a series of action steps to achieve the space planning goals
- Develop plans with an eye on making the library the central hub of the community