

## **Hunterdon County Library Gaining Major Upgrades With Help Of Nearly \$1 Million State Grant**

Hunterdon County's Main Library Branch will create a digitally interactive Makerspace/Training Lab and improved lighting efficacy through facility wide LED lighting, in addition to several other major improvements, under a \$980,837 state library construction grant accepted by the County's Board of Commissioners, at the December 7th Board meeting.

Upgrades planned for the Main Library Branch, at the County's Route 12 Complex in Raritan Township, also include creating a community meeting room, two collaborative Small Group Study rooms, a Quiet Study space with high-speed Internet and a redesigned Adult Services area.

Hunterdon County Commissioner Zach Rich, the liaison to the Library Commission, stated, "Nearly 70% of the cost of the project is funded through the state grant and a dedicated library trust account. The Library Commission, Director, and staff deserve recognition for successfully gaining the state grant.

This project will provide our residents with library, community and technology resources they have told us they want and need."

Library Director James Keehbler stated, "The upgrade plan was created based on feedback from county residents through a county-wide survey and a number of focus groups with community members."

Keehbler noted, "In addition to quiet spaces, wide-ranging reading materials, and a variety of informational resources, today's library patrons are also looking for dynamic opportunities - to connect with information and people, grow their small businesses, gain hands-on experiences, and develop personal and professional skills."

The Library Administration is working with architecture firm, FVHD of Trenton, to prepare the documents needed to put the construction project out to bid.

Keehbler said, “The library hopes construction will start early in 2022. We expect the library will remain open during the renovation and the team will work to minimize the impact on library services for all residents.”