

## New Castle Public Library

207 East North Street  
New Castle, Pa. 16101

“Knowledge Is For Life”

Here are some FAQs you will want to know.

As of August 9, 2024

1. How can I donate to the library?

You are able to donate to the library by going to [www.ncdlc.org/support-your-library](http://www.ncdlc.org/support-your-library) by donating at the desk, or by sending a check to “New Castle Public Library” at 207 East North Street, New Castle, PA 16101 with “Donation” in the memo line. If you are looking to donate to a specific fund ie. “Inspire” please place this in the memo line.
2. What is “Inspire”?

“Inspire” is our 2024-25 Capital Campaign for the library with the sole purpose of upgrading the Youth Services Department. We are currently requesting funds for renovations to the Youth Services areas of our building.
3. How much is the library looking to raise through “Inspire”?

The goal for the fundraising is \$100,000.00.
4. What happened to “Elevate”?

“Elevate” was the 2023-24 Capital Campaign for the library to help with fixing the elevator and addressing additional renovations and improvements to the building. The “Elevate” campaign has been closed out; however, the library does have pending requests to local organizations to reach the goal of \$750,000.00.
5. How much did “Elevate” raise?

Over \$561,000 was raised through “Elevate”. There are a few pending requests for the campaign which will get the library closer to the \$750,000.00 goal.
6. What does matching donation mean?

A matching donation means that the library will receive double of what you donate.
7. When will the elevator be open to the public?

The elevator, even after being maintained for almost 43 years, has reached the end of its useful life in 2022. The elevator has been regularly maintained and inspected by the library. The elevator will be open to the public on September 13, 2024, at the Grand Opening of the Youth Services Department. There will be a ribbon cutting at 4 PM followed by a youth hour from 4 to 5 PM. Adults are invited to an after-hours celebration on September 13, 2024, from 6 to 7:30.

8. How much longer is the library going to be located on the first floor? The elevator will be open to the public on September 13, 2024, with the Grand Opening of the Youth Services Department. There will be a ribbon cutting at 4 PM followed by a youth hour from 4 to 5 PM. Adults are invited to an after-hours celebration on September 13, 2024, from 6 to 7:30 PM.
9. What does the Grand Opening of the Youth Services Department entail? The elevator will be open to the public on September 13, 2024. There will be a ribbon cutting at 4 PM followed by a youth hour from 4 to 5 PM. Adults are invited to an after-hours celebration on September 13, 2024, from 6 to 7:30. The youth's Grand Opening will have light refreshments and opportunities to explore and interact with the newly refined space. The adults-only portion of the evening will provide light refreshments and cocktails and thus only individuals above the age of 21 will be permitted. A private viewing of the PBS "City Centric" episode will begin at 7 PM on the first floor.
10. Who is to pay for these improvements? The New Castle Public Library will assume the cost of the maintenance and capital improvements to the building, as the new owners, through the help of grants and donors.
11. Why not look into grants? The library has lined up possible grant opportunities. Grantors and the Keystone Grant (State Library grant) which the Development Division is actively applying for. The New Castle Public Library plans to make this application before October 2024. Applications for additional grants are also being written to make these necessary improvements.
12. Why didn't the Library ask the commissioners for money? The County of Lawrence Commissioners set forth a resolution to provide the New Castle Public Library with \$200,000.00. These funds were received in the Spring of 2024.
13. Where did previous surpluses in your budget go? The New Castle Public Library is not required to have a balanced budget. Surpluses go toward rebuilding emergency reserves.
14. Are there any funds available at this point to repair areas in need? How much money has been retained for replacement? The New Castle Public Library has grant funding available to address the next steps and projects within the desired renovation. Additional grant options are available and we are currently pursuing these opportunities.

15. Will the Library be making improvements to the current building? Yes, with newly acquired ownership, the library has the ability to proceed with capital improvements on the property.
16. How are the finances given by the City of New Castle? Following a City of New Castle referendum in the 1970s, property owners provide a fraction of a mill of their real estate tax to the library. The City of New Castle collects these funds and transmits the full amount to the New Castle Public Library. Money received from the City of New Castle has significantly decreased from when the building was constructed in 1979–80 because of a drop in the tax base.
17. How are finances given by Lawrence County? Lawrence County provides a budgetary allocation each year to the Lawrence County Federated Library System, which was formed in 1998. Through this system, a formula is used to distribute money to the three libraries in Lawrence County.
18. Why is the City of New Castle not doing anything about the building/repairs? The City has no financial obligation, but we are hoping to partner with them to find streams of funding to provide quality facilities and services.
19. Am I giving the City of New Castle money in my will/estate? No, the New Castle Public Library is now separate from the City of New Castle and operates as a separate non-profit entity. However, should you desire to restrict your donation to the New Castle Public Library, monies can be designated for exclusive purposes. We recommend that potential donors speak with their attorneys in consultation with the library.
20. Who owns the current building? Who owned the previous buildings? The current ownership (2023–) of the property on the corner of North and Mill Streets is held by the New Castle Public Library, Inc., which is a separate non-profit organization.
- The most recent ownership (1980–2023) of the property on the corner of North and Mill Streets was owned by the City of New Castle.
- The previous (1938–1980) property, located on the corner of North and Mercer Streets also was owned by the City of New Castle.
- However, the 1925–1938 property, at the corner of North and Jefferson Streets was owned by the New Castle Public Library. The Library still owns this property.

21. How is the second floor being monitored with the Youth Services Department being reopened? The second floor will be staffed and monitored to ensure the safety of all children. Adults without kids or visiting the Youth Services Department will be asked to leave and proceed to utilize the library's services located on the first floor. Special exceptions are provided to genealogical researchers.
22. How has children's programming been impacted by the relocation to the first floor? The amount of programming for children has increased. This has resulted in us serving more children more often. However, the Copernicus Room has been constantly booked, restricting the number of program offerings the library can have. While some children's programming may continue in the Copernicus Room, the Junior Auditorium will be used as well.
23. How long will the Friends have a designated space on the first floor? A space on the first floor will be provided until the Friends can return to their previous space downstairs. The basement renovations are next in our phases.
24. How has this impacted the Friends' finances? Being upstairs has provided more awareness of our Friends of New Castle Public Library's Book Cellar. While book sales have slightly decreased, non-book sales have increased. The Friends are doing everything possible to accommodate customers.
25. Why are the restrooms on the first floor marked differently? These restrooms are now single-use restrooms and a locking mechanism is installed for interior locks. This allows patrons to have shorter waiting times.
26. Who can utilize the bathrooms on the second floor? The bathrooms on the second floor are available for children and caregivers only.
27. Why can't the Friends return to the basement since the elevator now works? Additional repairs are required in order to have the Friends return to the basement operation. These repairs include the bathroom, the flooring, and other contractor work. Upon the completion of these improvements, we will re-home the Friends to the cellar.
28. Why aren't the bathrooms on the first floor being renovated yet? In order to renovate the bathrooms on the first floor, we must have functional restrooms in the basement and the second floor before taking the first floor restrooms offline. This process is scheduled to begin following the basement renovations.