

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 September 13, 2023

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| 1. How can I donate to the elevator repairs? | You are able to donate to the library by going to www.ncdlc.org/elevate , 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 “Elevate Campaign” in the memo line. |
| 2. What is “Elevate the New Castle Public Library”? | “Elevate the New Castle Public Library” is our Capital Campaign for the library. We are currently requesting funds for renovations to our building through this campaign. |
| 3. What does matching donation mean? | A matching donation means that the library will receive double of what you donate. The Friends of the New Castle Public Library have agreed to match up to \$15,000.00 and an anonymous donor has agreed to match up to an additional \$50,000.00. |
| 4. How much is the library looking to raise? | The goal for the first phase of fundraising is \$200,000.00. |
| 5. Why is the elevator broken? Was it maintained? Can the elevator be fixed or switched out? | The elevator, even after being maintained for almost 43 years, has reached the end of its useful life. The elevator has been regularly maintained and inspected by the library. The needed repairs make it more cost effective to replace the elevator. |
| 6. When will the elevator be replaced? How much longer is the library going to be located on the first floor? | The installation period will be 4–8 months once the contract for the elevator is executed. |
| 7. How much does it cost to replace the elevator? Are bids currently being solicited? | The cost of the elevator and its associated electrical components is around \$150,000. The bid by Schindler has been accepted. |
| 8. Why can we not go upstairs/downstairs? | Without the elevator, we cannot provide access to either the basement or the 2nd floor for the public because of ADA-compliance requirements and liability. |

9. 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.
10. Are there any fundraising efforts for the elevator?	The New Castle Public Library has launched a new phase-based capital campaign, "Elevate the New Castle Public Library", for more information, visit www.ncdlc.org/elevate
11. Why not look into grants?	The library has lined up possible grant opportunities. Grantors and the Keystone Grant (State Library grant) required ownership or a lease agreement. The New Castle Public Library plans to make this application before October 2023.
12. Why didn't the Library ask the commissioners for money?	The New Castle Public Library and the Lawrence County Commissioners met on August 24, 2023 to discuss possible funding streams required for the Keystone Grant.
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? How much money has been retained for replacement?	Donors have come forward to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$65,000.00 towards the elevator. Additional grant options are available and we are currently pursuing these opportunities.
15. Will the Library be making improvements on 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.

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| 18. Is the City of New Castle moving into the library building? | The City of New Castle is not moving into the public library building. |
| 19. 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. |
| 20. 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. |
| 21. Who owns the current building?
Who owned the previous buildings? | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The previous (1938–1980) property, located on the corner of North and Mercer Streets also was owned by the City of New Castle.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 22. Why would you put the safety of our children at risk on the first floor? Is the library safe? | Since we have more of a concentration on the first floor, we believe children have more security than before. Our staff is particularly attentive to our youngest patrons. The safety of all of our patrons is the most important thing to the Library. |
| 23. Why isn't there a separate restroom for the children? Where is there a place to change my child? | There is a process in place to modify the current restrooms as family restrooms to accommodate our situation. A children's restroom will be available on the second floor upon the completion of the elevator. |

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| 24. 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. |
| 25. 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. |
| 26. 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. |
| 27. Why are the restrooms marked differently? | Due to high demands on the restroom, we have modified them to provide immediate use. They are now single-use restrooms and a locking mechanism is being installed for interior locks. |