



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

GERALD W. TAMBURRO
Mayor

Administrative Offices:
Municipal Complex
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2017

Monroe Library's "Makerfest" Celebrates Creative Community

MONROE – In today's ever-expanding frontier of hobbies and interests, inventors, crafters, artists and the like have taken on a more universal label: makers.

The Monroe Township Public Library will celebrate this creative community during its third annual "Makerfest" March 25.

Library staff is inviting the public to the Saturday event, which will cater to a myriad of pursuits from woodshop to 3D printing to sewing to an outdoor catapulting demonstration and more.

"Our engineering challenge table is always popular and a way for us to promote science, technology, engineering and math, also known as STEM education," said Steve Hrubes, a Monroe librarian and Makerfest organizer. "In the past, we've challenged visitors to build the tallest tower possible out of drinking straws or a chair from paper that can support five books. We'll also have retro-technology table where we show off items like rotary phones, typewriters and record players."

In all, 20 exhibitors will pepper the library's sprawling layout during the five-hour fest, which kicks off at 11 a.m. Among them will be vendors like The Grape Escape, Varsity Summer Academy, Home Depot, Wine & Design and Color Me Mine, peddling everything from stained glass to edibles to jewelry and other goods and collectibles. Local groups will also be on hand, including students from South Brunswick and Monroe Township high schools, who will debut some of the latest innovations in the robotics fields. They will be joined by members of the Stonebridge Photography Club and a slew of talented rug-hookers and woodworkers from the Rossmoor adult community.

"Last year, we had anywhere between 400 to 500 attendees," said Monroe Township Library Director Irene Goldberg. "This is an event with mass appeal because there's a little something for everyone. This also gives us an opportunity to introduce the public to some of our nuances, like movie and music editing software, 3D printing and our button maker."

Monroe Township Library is part of a statewide initiative recognizing makers' contributions to industry, society and quality of life.

"This just goes to show you that libraries are more than just books these days," said Monroe Township Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider. "Our library has become as much of a social hub as it is a place for learning. By thinking out of the box, our staff here is really giving people the opportunity to explore activities they may have otherwise overlooked."

For more information on Makerfest, which is open to any member of the public, contact staff at the Monroe Township Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, at 732-521-5000.

For further details, contact Monroe Township's Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.