

Recognizing **MARGARET E. HEGGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS: In 1965, Margaret Coupland, a teacher, and nine civic minded women, known as the Whitman Square Women's Club, thought there was a need for a Library in Washington Township. At the time, Washington Township was a community of 2,100 homes and a population of 10,000; and

WHEREAS: One year after the initial idea, with donations from the Lions Club, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, developers Phil Seltzer, Harry Katz and Joseph Esposito, individuals and many fundraising campaigns, the Washington Township Public Library held a Dedication and Open House on February 27, 1966; and

WHEREAS: In 1971, the need for further expansion became apparent when the State Library Committee informed the Library they would lose their state aid of \$2,500 because of failure to meet state requirements. In early 1973, Joseph Esposito announced plans to construct a new building for the Library Association. He donated a one-acre site on Chapel Heights Road and dedicated this new building to the memory of David Iervollino, his 10 year old nephew who had been killed in a car accident in 1970; and

WHEREAS: Linda Snyder was hired in 1973 as the first Librarian; and

WHEREAS: By 1975, the Library was again feeling growing pains. The population of Washington Township had climbed to 22,000 residents. In 1976, 1,500 square feet were added to the Library; and

WHEREAS: In 1983, Margaret (Peg) Heggan was honored by the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce as their "Person of the Year". She was also informed that because of her dedication and support of the Library, the Library was renamed The Margaret E. Heggan Library; and

WHEREAS: As a result of a public referendum, the Library left the County system in 1988 and in 1991 became a Municipal Library and the Board of Trustees was formed. The Library then became the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library.

WHEREAS: In 2015, with a population of 50,000, there were 140,959 visitors to the Library; a total of 255,027 items were checked out from the Library; Librarians answered 18,337 reference questions; and there were a total of 23,687 residents with library cards.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this 5th day of March 2016, it is hereby proclaimed that I, Barbara A. Wallace, Mayor of Washington Township and representing its people, recognize with pride **MARGARET E. HEGGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY** and extend wishes for continued success for years to come.