Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted thank FDA for approval of use of Battelle technology

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted thanked President Donald Trump and Commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D. of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Sunday for the full approval of the use of new technology to sterilize desperately-needed surgical masks in Ohio and other parts of the United States.

The FDA has authorized Columbus-based Battelle to deploy its groundbreaking technology to sterilize surgical masks without a daily limit, which will allow Battelle to operate at its desired capacity. The Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System is capable of decontaminating up to 80,000 respirator masks per system each day.

"I want to thank President Trump for his leadership and Dr. Hahn of the FDA for approving the use of this life-saving technology that Battelle has developed," said Governor DeWine. "This will not only help Ohio's

healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, but Battelle will also be helping health care workers in hot spots throughout the country including New York and Washington state."

Lt. Governor Jon Husted said, "We're grateful the President and the FDA moved quickly to help us get this solution back up and running. This Ohio-driven solution has the potential to save lives now and in the future across the United States."

In addition to offering this technology in Ohio, Battelle intends to send one machine to New York City and one to Stony Brook, New York, which will provide for the sterilization of up to 160,000 surgical masks for New York's healthcare workers each day. Machines also will be dispatched to the state of Washington.

Battelle plans to ship four more units elsewhere in the United States next week and 15 additional machines in the coming weeks.
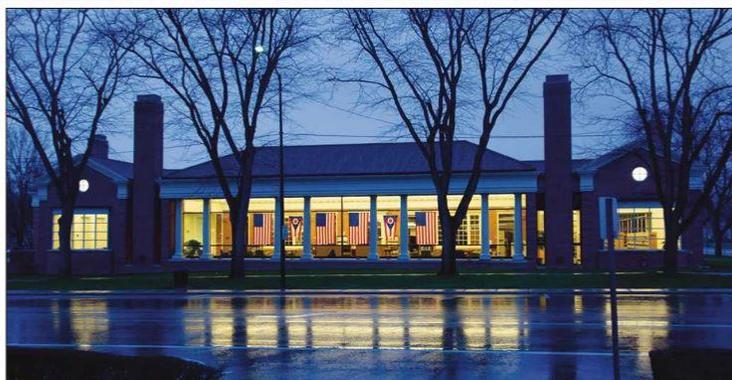
Way Public Library, a symbol of hope

In the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, Way Public Library stands as a beacon of hope and optimism in an uncertain time.

"All of us are being significantly affected by the worldwide pandemic," said Director Janel Haas. "But how can we bring a community together when being together in person is not an option? The beautiful flags in our windows are our way of symbolizing the strength and determination of all Ohioans. We are strong. We are resilient. We will get through this together. May they be a beacon of hope and optimism to all who see them. We thank the Perrysburg American Legion Post #28 for loaning us the flags."

Ensuring continuity of government
HB 197 to help Ohioans with challenges of COVID-19 pandemic

A bill approved March 25 in the Ohio House of Representatives offers a solutions to many problems caused by the COVID-19 shut down of most of daily life.

"We passed strong, bipartisan legislation that will help all Ohioans as we continue to work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic," said State Representative Haraz Ghanbari, who serves Wood County.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, who signed the bill on March 27, explained that House Bill 197 "will ensure continuity of government, extended mail-in voting for our primary, clarity for schools and students, relief to workers impacted by COVID-19, and measures to make sure we are prepared to help Ohioans get back to work when this pandemic subsides."

Rep. Ghanbari provided a summary of the issues addressed by the bill:

K to 12 Education
• Testing and accountability–eliminates state-mandated K to 12 student assessments

for the 2019-20 school year. It eliminates Ohio's school district report cards for 2019-20, prohibits ODE from assigning letter grades to buildings or districts, prohibits rankings based on report card data and creates "safe harbor" for schools and districts to ensure data from this year will have no effect in determining sanctions or penalties. The proposal directs ODE to seek a waiver from federal testing requirements.

• EdChoice scholarships–freezes the 2019-20 performance-based Ed-Choice building eligibility list at 517 buildings for the 2020-21 school year. The language allows siblings of current voucher students to participate. Under continuing law, the EdChoice application portal will open for 60 days beginning April 1, to process income-based EdChoice vouchers, renewals of existing performance-based vouchers, and new students attending the 517 buildings already on the

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Public libraries are vitally important to their communities in times of calm and in times of crisis. We ask you to recognize our essential role in communities by preserving the Public Library Fund at 1.7% of the GRF.

In its highly visible location at the corner of the busiest intersection in downtown Perrysburg, Way Public Library stands proudly. When we describe ourselves as the "hub" of the community, we mean it. We pride ourselves on being the place where each and every citizen is welcome and can find equitable access to information. Our community trusts its public library, and looks to us for an incredible variety of important services and counts on us to be available.

Here in Wood County, Way Public Library serves a legal population of approximately 25,000 in the city and an additional populace of nearly 30,000. We have over 30,000 registered borrowers and circulate roughly 770,000 items per year. Our budget is approximately $2.4 million with **nearly half** of that coming from the Public Library Fund.

Like other public libraries across Ohio, when the pandemic arrived one year ago we sprang into action to develop a plan for serving our patrons while our doors were closed. Our first decision was to immediately boost our WiFi signal to cover most of our parking lot, allowing patrons 24/7 access to internet connectivity, an act met with widespread appreciation and heavy use. Because it was primary voting season, we made absentee ballot request forms available to the public on our front doors—another heavily used service. Neither of these services were readily available to residents elsewhere in our community at the time.

With the Health Department's issuance of a "stay at home" directive, we developed a comprehensive strategy for providing as many remote services to our patrons as possible. It included increasing inventories of our digital resources; purchasing additional mobile hot spots for checkout; staff availability seven days a week for answering questions and providing assistance via phone, social media, and the Ask-A-Librarian email service; filming story time sessions for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers;

recording Dial-a-Story tales for children who lacked internet at home; launching online book discussion groups; one-on-one technology assistance via phone; digital writing camp for teens; STEM challenges for young students at home; and much, much more.

> *A retired patron was especially grateful for the step-by-step instructional videos produced by our technology staff to demonstrate how to use our most popular digital services. She had never taken advantage of ereading, as she was intimidated by the software and apps required. During the pandemic, however, she happily reported that she watched our videos and set up her library Overdrive account at home "all by herself." What a proud moment!*

Amidst all the other service innovations taking place at Way Library during early summer 2020, our technology staff was responding to the critical PPE shortage by 3D printing hundreds of face shield visors for donation to health care workers in our area.

To help community members who needed a means to meet virtually, we began offering library-hosted Zoom Rooms. Once the stay-at-home order was lifted, we were ready to implement Curbside Pickup Service, a well-received service which we expect to make permanent. We also purchased daily access to the Tutor.com database to help parents and students navigate online school and to provide live resume assistance and career coaching to adults. Our virtual programming continues to expand as we offer educational and enriching content to our patrons, many of whom tell us they are boosted by a chance to feel connected while they are at home.

> *We were particularly gripped by the story from a patron who had the misfortune to contract COVID-19. One of her symptoms was an occasional racing heart. She told us that she had recently attended one of our virtual mindfulness programs and found that by utilizing the breathing exercises she had learned, she was able to reduce her heart rate to a less stressful level. We often get testimonials from patrons, but this one was out of the ordinary!*

On July 1, our doors reopened to the public and have remained open ever since. We are currently operating 54 of our normal 67 hours per week. Patrons have been ecstatic to be able to come and have their needs met in person. Many have sent notes and gifts expressing their gratitude to us for our services and for being open.

> *An email writer just this week expressed her appreciation for the library by saying that it is such a "fabulous community resource" that it makes her "happy to live in Perrysburg".*

We have recently begun assisting patrons with setting COVID-19 vaccination appointments, and we are now distributing At-Home Rapid Tests through the Ohio Department of Health.

Without the funding through the Public Library Fund, we would not be able to offer these and other valuable, much-needed services to our citizens. The PLF represents nearly one half of our funding. Losing it would be a heavy blow to the library, and, more importantly, to our patrons. We feel a great responsibility to be here for our patrons in times of calm and in times of crisis, providing the outstanding services that are core to our profession and a hallmark of Ohio libraries.