



Butler Area Public Library
218 N. McKean St., Butler, PA 16001
724-287-1715
www.butlerlibrary.info



Press Release

Editor: PLA asks that you please consider not editing out PLA or AT&T sections at the end.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10/10/2022

Butler Area Public Library among 160 libraries nationwide to conduct digital literacy trainings funded by PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T

BUTLER, PA — Butler Area Public Library is among over 160 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) to conduct digital literacy workshops using Digitallearn.org resources. [The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive](#), supported by AT&T, provides support to libraries of all sizes to conduct digital literacy training in their communities and help close the digital divide.

“We’re very grateful for this opportunity to expand our digital instruction services,” said Butler Area Public Library Director Lori Hinderliter. “Library visitors ask for help with basic computer and internet tasks almost daily. In the past, group instruction hasn’t been practical and lessons have been limited to one-on-one sessions when staff are available. With the Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, we’ll be able to hold small classes both in and outside of the library.”

Butler Area Public Library will announce workshops through social media. All sessions are free of cost and will appeal to those with little or no experience with technology. Library membership is not required to participate. Classes will include instruction in email basics, cybersecurity basics, internet basics and computer basics.

“The mission of libraries has always been about equitable access to information, literacy, learning, and culture. In the age of COVID-19, this mission has only become vital as libraries have played a critical role in keeping communities connected and online,” said PLA President Maria McCauley. “A [2020 PLA survey](#) found that about 88% of public libraries provide some form of digital literacy support, but only 42% offer formal classes. Staffing and funding were the top barriers to providing technology training. AT&T’s investment with PLA and public libraries nationwide will boost access to digital literacy skills for the most vulnerable in our communities.”

PLA’s free training site, Digitallearn.org, helps community members build skills and confidence using technology. Butler Area Public Library will help patrons utilize these resources in an upcoming workshop that will be conducted in person at the Grapevine Center in November. More details will be announced this fall.

About Butler Area Public Library

Butler Area Public Library is a PA Forward® Gold Star Library serving the Butler community since 1894. Located at 218 North McKean St., the library can be reached at 724-287-1715. For more on library services, operating hours and programs, visit the library on Facebook and Instagram or at www.butlerlibrary.info.

About the Public Library Association

The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. For more information about PLA, contact the PLA office at 1 (800) 545-2433, ext. 5PLA, or pla@ala.org.

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

We're committed to advancing education, creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and improving lives. As part of our companywide \$2 billion commitment from 2021–2023 to address the digital divide, we launched AT&T Connected Learning to invest in connectivity and technology, digital literacy, and education solutions. We aim to help today's learners succeed inside and outside of the classroom. Since 2008, we've committed more than \$600 million to programs that help millions of students across all 50 states and around the world, particularly those in underserved communities.

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