Money Savings
By Laura Whitehead

Your library offers a warm and comfortable place to relax, study, work, read, or use the computer. As you settle in to enjoy the pleasant atmosphere, have you ever considered how much cold, hard cash your library allows you to keep in your pocket?

There are a wide variety of ways the library saves you money. Even taking advantage of a small percentage of what we have to offer, your family can (and probably does) save thousands of dollars a year.

First, we will start with the obvious. Any item that you check out from the library is one item that you did not need to purchase in order to enjoy. The cost of books, ebooks, magazines, DVDs, audio books and newspapers adds up fast. Depending upon the type of items that you borrow and how often you do so, this alone could save your family thousands of dollars a year.

The library offers a variety of programs for all ages and interests—all for free. Every program that you or your children attend for educational or entertainment purposes would cost between $10 and $50 per person if they were offered by a for profit organization.

The library has an impressive array of technology. Almost everyone is aware of our computers, iPads, wireless internet, and early education learning centers.

However, we also have an exciting assortment of technology in our Maker Space that you can use. We have a LulzBot Taz 6—3D Printer, a Trotec Rayjet 50 Laser Engraver/Cutter, a Graphtec 24" Vinyl Cutter, an iMac with software to record and mix audio, an Oculus Rift and Touch Virtual Reality System, and an Epson Expression 11000 XL flatbed scanner with an 11" X 17" scan base.

Even to rent one of these items would be remarkably expensive in a commercial setting. But they are at your library and ready for you to use. (Please note that the Maker Space has its own hours and will be open from 10 to 3 on April 9, from 1 to 4 on April 21, and from 10 to 3 on April 23.)

In addition to the technology itself, we have knowledgeable staff who can assist you and teach you to be a proficient user of that technology. They can also answer your questions on topics other than technology, help you conduct research, or find the perfect book to read for pleasure. Hiring someone to complete these tasks for you would not take long to become prohibitively expensive.

We also offer high-quality databases to assist you in everything from fixing your car, to learning a foreign language, to writing a will, to acing your driving test. Using these databases alone has the potential to save you a substantial amount of money, but we also have databases specifically for saving and managing your money. "Value Line" makes it easy to research companies, markets, and economies so that you can make the best possible investment choices. "Weiss Ratings Consumer Guides" assists you in evaluating insurance and financial products.

Not only does your library save you money personally, but your library is an excellent investment for your community. For every dollar that is invested in a library, the community gains an economic return on that investment many times over.

Frequent use of your library is good for you, your pocketbook, and your community.