

A Resource Guide to Mount Prospect Public Library

yourguide

Spring 2018



It's Our 75th Anniversary, Help Us Celebrate!!

“Every child, poor or rich loves a book and you have in your power the chance to make this possibility come true,” wrote Mount Prospect Men’s Club member E.H. Clevin in 1943. Clevin’s task was to convince Mount Prospect residents to vote for a tax-supported public library.

In 2018, we celebrate Clevin’s success in getting voters to say “yes” to bringing books and many other services to Mount Prospect, as we mark 75 years of the Mount Prospect Public Library.

**SPECIAL PULLOUT
SECTION**
Save for Future
Reference

Connecting You to Opportunity for 75 Years

“A love of reading and a habit of turning to books for information and inspiration form the soundest formations for education and continuing progress,” said Dorothy Kester of the Mount Prospect Woman’s Club in 1943. That year, the Club was joined by many other community groups in leading the charge for a tax-supported library in the village.

In 2018, we celebrate those efforts and 75 years of the Mount Prospect Public Library. MPPL is a welcoming, trusted community hub, gathering place, forum, and information source, and we look forward to many more years of connecting you to opportunity.

“This will be a year of celebrating our heritage and highlighting our services to the community,” said Executive Director Marilyn Genther. “Residents and patrons are invited to join us throughout 2018 as we acknowledge and honor important milestones and the individuals who shaped MPPL’s history and prepared the way to today.”

The commemoration will focus on four themes: the Arts, Technology, Service, and Community. These themes highlight the amazing number of opportunities MPPL has made available to residents at every stage in life for the last 75 years.

We are also searching our archives to bring you multimedia stories and photos that will have you learning and reminiscing.

Upcoming 75th Anniversary Events include:

Ready Player One Extravaganza

Monday, April 2, 7-9 p.m.

Adults 18+ can join other fans for the ultimate *Ready Player One* event. There will be an inside-the-Library scavenger hunt as well as online games and activities.

Library Card Design Contest

Get inspired and create a Library card for us. Kids, teens, and adults can submit designs, and a winner will be chosen from each of the three age categories. Deadline for entries is April 2, 2018.

National Library Week: 75th Anniversary Trivia Night

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.

Not only are we commemorating our 75th Anniversary, but also National Library Week. We invite you to assemble a team of 2-5 participants for a trivia contest featuring questions from a variety of categories, including history, pop culture, sports, and more. Get ready for some special 75th-themed questions as well. **Spectators are welcome!** If you are interested in entering a team, contact Janine Slayton or Joe Collier at 847/253-5675 by March 30.

The Best of Broadway and the Fabulous Forties

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 7:30 pm

What would a celebration be without a generous helping of fabulous music? Nothing creates a more festive event than some of your favorite Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein and Irving Berlin music. Let us entertain you with songs from 1940s era musicals like Oklahoma, South Pacific, and Carousel, as well as favorites from The Phantom of the Opera, The Sound Of Music and more. Award-winning Vocalist Maureen Christine and her talented team of musicians will provide an unforgettable evening of musical entertainment plus a little big band swingin’ saxophone.



Founders’ Award Ceremony and 75th Anniversary Open House

Sunday September 23, Time TBA

Join us to see who has been named our newest Founders’ Award winner and then stay for family activities and refreshments. The Founders’ Award honors individuals who exemplify the dedication and hard work of the Mount Prospect Woman’s Club members who worked to start the Library.



Find updated information at www.mppl.org/75 and share your thoughts and photos with the #MPPL75 hashtag on Twitter and Instagram.

75th Anniversary Timeline



1943 – A referendum enabling the creation of a tax-supported Village Library was approved. The young Library received assistance from the Chicago Public Library in the form of professional suggestions, furniture, and books. The Chicago Public Library also gave the Library 1,000 books for \$200 per year, which it then returned to enable Mount Prospect to purchase children's books.



1950 – The first Library building was built at 14 E. Busse Avenue on land purchased with money donated by organizations and from individual gifts. The building was torn down to make way for Village Hall in 2002.

1961 – A bond issue of \$198,000 authorized an addition to the Library. Between 1962 and 1965 two additions were made to the building, tripling the floor space. The collection consisted of about 20,000 books.



1943

1950

1961

1976 – A new Library opened its doors in December on the site of the old Central School. The automated circulation system also went online.



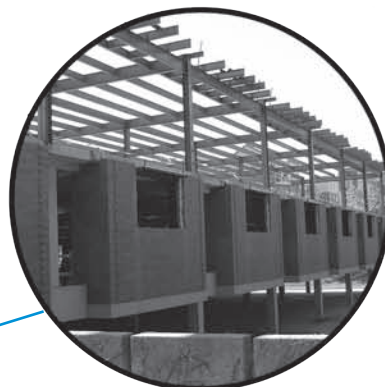
1976

1997 – The Library has two 501(c)(3) organizations. The Friends of the Library, established in the late 1970s, raises money primarily through book sales, and provides the Library with equipment, programs, services, and other materials that MPPL might not otherwise be able to purchase.



The Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation, established in 1997, provides funding for special programs, concerts, children's shows, and cultural events.

1997



2004 – Construction of the current Library building on Emerson Street was completed. The Library moved back to its permanent home in August from its temporary quarters at 852 Feehanville Drive in the Kensington Business Center. It re-opened to the public in September.

2004

2009 – Annual circulation hit one million for the first time. The Library's first permanent remote location, known as the South Branch, opened in the Community Connections Center.



2009

2011 – Jackie Hinaber was honored as Illinois Library Association Trustee of the Year and centenarian Harold Weary received the Founders' Award from the Library Board for his contribution of more than 40 years of volunteer work.



2011



2016 – After listening to patrons and observing how the Library's Second Floor was used, a reconfiguration of the space was completed in 2016 to create a Teen Space, additional study and meeting rooms, and quiet and group work zones.

2016

2017



2017 – Reflecting the broad diversity of the Mount Prospect community, the Library dedicated an adult Bulgarian language collection of approximately 50 books. The collection began after a request from the community for Bulgarian language materials, and was started with community donations.

The Web Makes Resources Available World Wide

In 1994, it was unusual for an organization like a Library to have a presence on the World Wide Web. This unfamiliar terrain was newly accessible to the general public, but still not quite user friendly. Mount Prospect Public Library eased onto the Information Superhighway with a text-only home page. Today, it's hard to remember just how amazing it was to be able to access information from your personal computer.

Soon, graphical user interfaces were available, and the Library made the necessary upgrades to allow patrons to take advantage of early Web browsers like *Netscape*. Even as early as 1996, Library staff designed a homepage that highlighted programs and services but also allowed easy access to online resources, called the *WEBrary*. By 1997, the Internet was so popular that several new terminals were added. Many of these upgrades were made possible because MPPL was part of the former North Suburban Library System, which secured discounted rates for data transmission lines. The continued development of personal computing meant that by the turn of the century, patrons were bringing their own devices to the Library. In 2005, wireless online access became available throughout the building, and staff have worked to ensure that WiFi access speeds meet patron demand, again

“Peace” Sculpture and Art Plan Created to Energize and Inspire

One of the ways MPPL works to enrich the Library experience is by offering art on permanent display. Since 2005, the Library has been implementing an art initiative to create an environment that stimulates conversation, stirs the imagination, and inspires all who experience it. The plan, developed and executed by a committee of Library staff and trustees working with Corporate Artworks, was designed to complement the building and the Library's mission. The works reflect a variety of aesthetic expressions across a range of media.

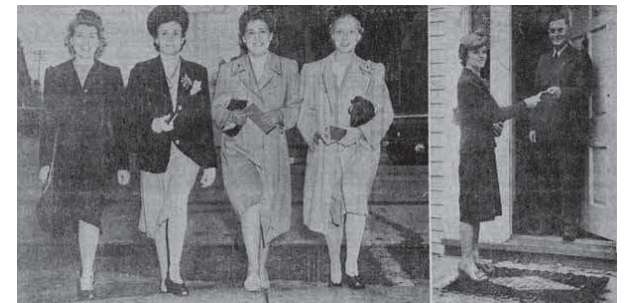
Public art has been made possible by donations from residents, community groups, the Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. The process for placing art in the building involves studying the space and gathering ideas for what impact is desired.

The first piece to be installed as part of this plan was the bronze and stainless steel “Peace” sculpture by Erik Blome on the corner of Emerson Street and Central Road. The work is also featured on the 2018 Mount Prospect vehicle sticker to commemorate the Library's anniversary. This globe surrounded by doves features the word “Peace” in 30 languages on the pages of cascading books. The sculpture honors Elizabeth J. Clough, whose generous bequest in the early 1990s allowed the Library to sponsor many special programs, including the annual Cultural Series Month.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, the Library is developing a new art plan that will continue to enhance our public spaces. In addition, we offer public tours of our art works.

with help from purchasing cooperatives available to libraries.

Today the Internet is where patrons go for information that, a few decades ago, was only available on microfilm, microfiche, and CD-ROM. While MPPL still offers legacy technologies for research and for resources not yet digitized and available online, the complete integration of the Internet into our daily lives means libraries have had to re-think their space usage. Large reference sections have been downsized to make room for more public computers.



Chicago Tribune photos from 1942

Volunteers, Book Loans, and Donations Gave MPPL its Start

At their second meeting in 1929, The Mount Prospect Woman's Club decided to establish a library for the town. The first collection, consisting of one tier of shelves holding about 300 books on loan from the Illinois State Library, was located in a one-room schoolhouse on the corner of Main Street and Central Road and was staffed by volunteers from the Woman's Club.

When the Library moved to the old Mount Prospect State Bank building on the northeast corner of Busse and Main Streets in 1932, the Club employed Mrs. Irma Schlemmer, who was permitted to keep the Library open four hours per week. A *Chicago Tribune* photo from 1942 shows four women during their annual door-to-door canvas for funds to pay for the heat and lights – and for Mrs. Schlemmer's services – at the Library. A notebook for the period of May-July 1940 lists Library expenses as \$3.12 for electric lights, \$10.91 for gas and \$32 for salary for a total of \$46.03. Residents were also encouraged to donate books, and to bring them by on Thursdays between 3 and 7 p.m., when the Library was open.

“Making sure there will be books to read in Mount Prospect since the war has brought priorities on driving, visiting, and eating, the Club women went forth last week at the beginning of the library drive,” the paper noted. The *Mount Prospect Herald*, also noting the beginning of the fund drive, reminded readers that President Franklin D. Roosevelt said “it is more important now than ever to keep reading books.”

Receipts from Drive 10/19/40	
Mrs. Fitz	\$ 40.25
" " " "	17.30
" " " "	22.40
" " " "	48.50
" " " "	3.50
" " " "	23.45
" " " "	24.25
" " " "	20.25
" " " "	15.15
Amer. Leg. Dev. (100)	
" " " "	3.00
Mrs. Hefner	13.50
Mrs. Schlegel	14.35
Mrs. Cunningham	4.00
F. J. W. Corp.	2.00
Calhoun Women's Club	25.00
Expenses build	25.90
James Club	2.00
Time donation RT	278.90

1940-Fund Drive Totals

“Be There – and Don't Forget Your Teddy Bear!”

The second Saturday in December is known for an event that attracts hundreds and signals the beginning of the holiday season. During the Teddy Bear Walk families gather at the Library to hear music, eat treats, and greet Santa Claus.

According to a 1989 article by Dolores Haugh in the *Mount Prospect Journal*, the program began in 1980 as a way to greet shoppers for the holidays.

Two years later, the event acquired its theme. The Mount Prospect Woman's Club, the Jaycees, and the Downtown Business Association have all donated refreshments, prizes, and decorations over the years. St. Paul Lutheran Church and Chase Bank (formerly First Chicago Bank) were sites for a pancake brunch, and for meet-and-greet with Santa. Santa and Mrs. Claus now arrive at the Library on a Mount Prospect Fire Department truck.



2003



2001



2005



2017

