

1943-2018

explore the opportunities

Arts

Community

Service

Technology



75 Years - Reflections of 2018

Thank you for joining us during our 75th Anniversary celebration!

Our 75th Anniversary Art Exhibit in February was a huge success with more than 1,600 people viewing the artwork, adding stickers to the mosaic poster, and even creating their own art. We could not have had such a successful show without the hard work of local school art teachers and principals. Art from District 59 students was sent to the South Branch for display the week following the show to ensure that their families had the opportunity to view them as well. A time lapse video of the sticker mosaic, featuring Monty the Duck, was posted online on our 75th Anniversary web page and on Facebook.

In March, to capture the excitement of the movie version of *Ready Player One*, we created a fun online and in-house scavenger hunt and hosted a program to introduce patrons to the wonders of virtual reality, an event that attracted all ages. Patrons enjoyed playing games on the Library's Web site and searching for three 3-D printed keys that took our hunters throughout several sections of the Library and the South Branch to locate clues.

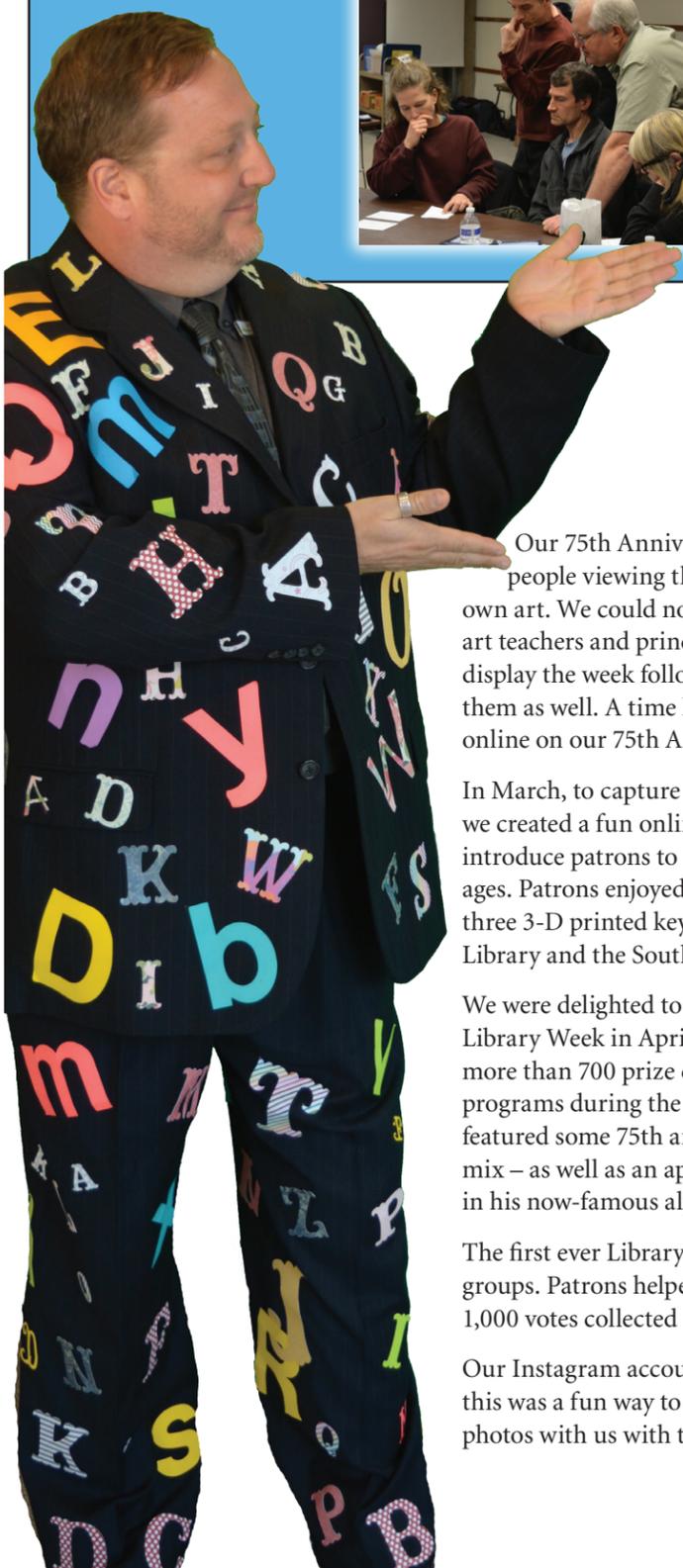
We were delighted to see so many enthusiastic patrons celebrate National Library Week in April, with more than 1,000 visits to the lobby display, more than 700 prize drawing entries, and more than 700 attendees at 28 programs during the week. The annual National Library Week Trivia Contest featured some 75th anniversary questions sprinkled into the mix – as well as an appearance by the inimitable Joe Collier, Business Librarian, in his now-famous alphabet suit as the emcee.

The first ever Library Card Design contest drew nearly 50 entries from all age groups. Patrons helped us choose the adult, teen, and kid winners with about 1,000 votes collected in the Library and on Instagram.

Our Instagram account @MPPLib debuted during our anniversary year, this was a fun way to capture photos of our events and to have patrons share their photos with us with the hashtag #MPPL75.



SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION
Save for Future Reference



We asked former and current residents to share their thoughts on the Library's vital role in the community. This year's American Library Association's presidential initiative is Libraries=Strong Communities.

William Sannwald, Former Mount Prospect Resident, Librarian, and Professor at San Diego State University

Mount Prospect, "Where Town and Country Meet." That was the first sign I saw when my parents moved to this little town of 4,000 people in the 50s that would shape me for life. The town was a "Leave it to Beaver" experience and I enjoyed playing sports at Central School, cowboys and Indians in the neighboring houses undergoing construction, and going pheasant hunting in the fields on the other side of Central Road just a couple of blocks from our house on George Street. It was Mount Prospect and the wonderful friends, mentors, and people I so much enjoyed who helped make me the person I am today.

One very important influence was the Mount Prospect Public Library, and especially the director, Irma Schlemmer. In retrospect, the library building was probably small, but the treasures and experiences inside were gigantic to me. All those books and magazines that I could read whenever I wanted to. I remember when Ms. Schlemmer "graduated" me from the children's room and gave me access to the entire collection.

I spent hours going from shelf to shelf anticipating all the reading explorations I would have now that I could read any book in the library. History and historical fiction were my favorites because they took me to exciting places and times. I used the library not only for recreational reading but also to help me write papers and prepare projects for school.

When I graduated from college I looked into different careers and was unsure of what I would do. I was in the library and Ms. Schlemmer could tell that I was not my usually enthusiastic self and asked me what was wrong. When I told her that I was confused about my career plans she asked me if I ever thought about becoming a librarian. I said no, and she told me about librarianship as a profession. Because of her influence and encouragement, I was able to secure a Wilson Scholarship to obtain my master's degree in library science.

I went on to have a career in libraries and information science, and today am in my "second career" as a full-time professor in the business school at San Diego State University. But it was Mount Prospect, and especially the public library, that helped me prepare for all the wonderful adventures I would have in my life. Thank you, Mount Prospect, thank you the MPPL, and thank you Irma Schlemmer. Congratulations to the wonderful people in Mount Prospect. I know that the library will continue to inspire residents for at least the next 75 years.

"In retrospect, the library building was probably small, but the treasures and experiences inside were gigantic to me."



Library staff, circa 1950: (left to right) Ruth Carlson, Irma Schlemmer (head librarian), Meta Bittner, Bertha Ehard, and Dorothy Kester (library board president). From Illinois Digital Archives.

Loida A. Garcia-Febo, President, American Library Association

On behalf of the American Library Association, I extend my congratulations to the Mount Prospect Public Library for 75 years of dedicated service to the residents of Mount Prospect. Libraries are at the heart of our communities—a resource for people of any age to find what they need to help improve their quality of life. This is reflected in my presidential initiative, Libraries=Strong Communities.

"Libraries are at the heart of our communities—a resource for people of any age to find what they need to help improve their quality of life."

Libraries provide more than just books. They support community engagement and the delivery of new services that connect closely with patrons' needs.

In Mount Prospect, the library works to meet community need with a wide array of programs. Summer reading programs that help students overcome the "summer slide," free movies for patrons of all ages, a presentation by an award-winning health care professional on how to navigate the complexities of our modern healthcare system, and an opportunity to learn about everything from Social Security to veterans' benefits from their local congresspersons office.

Residents have an opportunity, thanks to their library, to enhance the skills they need to keep pace with our digital age through the library's tech classes, where they receive assistance with everything from Word, PowerPoint and Excel to e-mail and downloading ebooks.

Mount Prospect Public Library partnered with the Village of Mount Prospect to create the Community Connections Center to serve residents on the south side of the Village. The Library established the South Branch in the Center to provide collections, classes and programs.

Our nation's libraries play an invaluable role in providing resources and expertise that foster community engagement and transform lives through education and lifelong learning. The Mount Prospect Public Library, during three-quarters of the Village's existence, has proven how a strong library is the foundation of a strong community.

Bill Blaine, former 30-year resident who served on the MPPL Library Board for 15 years and District 214 School Board for 14 years. He is now in his 7th year on the school board of Spotsylvania County Public Schools in Virginia.

Over the course of 75 years Mount Prospect Public Library has provided library services that expanded and adapted to the population's changing interests and needs. This impressive partial list of services includes reference, fiction and nonfiction books, maps, magazines, quiet space to sit and read, services for seniors and teens, rooms for community group meetings and activities, story time for parents and young children, seasonal activities, the annual Teddy Bear Walk . . . all attesting to MPPL's contribution to the Village of Mount Prospect's reputation as a great place to raise children.

MPPL's most important resource is its staff of professionals. They are trained to assist in research, to assist patrons in thinking through their informational needs, and to provide help in locating appropriate materials in the library and to help obtain items not in the MPPL collection.

What are the demands of the future that will impact MPPL?

Society's rate of change is accelerating. Work skill sets required today are soon replaced with new demands. Society's challenge is to provide a public educational system from preschool through career, technical training, and college that produces adults with the necessary current skills to enter the work force and trained to consistently acquire and implement new skills. These adults must be capable of competing, cooperating, and partnering with other societies on a global basis.

Our public library system plays a vital role in supporting and augmenting public education. MPPL and other public libraries, starting with child-oriented programs, play a vital role addressing learning needs from preschool through lifelong learning. These programs develop essential listening, speaking, and social skills. They prepare preschoolers to start kindergarten and boost kindergarteners who lack this preparedness. These skills constitute a critical learning foundation for each child. The "library habit," a parental responsibility,

continued on page 3

"Over the course of 75 years Mount Prospect Public Library has provided library services that expanded and adapted to the population's changing interests and needs."



Front entrance of Library, circa 1950s. From Illinois Digital Archives.

connects children with this necessary foundation undergirding their learning and recreational needs as adults.

MPPL addresses the “lifelong learning” aspect of its service with a collection tailored to meet the adult needs for recreational reading and research as well as work or study-related needs.

MPPL is a gem available to us all. Its challenge is to continuously train and expand its staff to guide patrons to requested and understandable information and services. This training is especially needed in order to know how to address the challenges developing in the new “cyber” world rapidly expanding its impact on our lives.

Mount Prospect and I know that the library will continue to inspire residents for at least the next 75 years.



Library staff, including director Mary Jo Hutchings, second from left, circa 1960s. From Illinois Digital Archives.

Diane McNulty, Mount Prospect Resident and Director of the Cary Area Public Library

The Library is the hub of a community and a place of lifelong learning. Whether you attend a Library program, find materials on the shelves or through one of the Library’s databases, you can learn about a myriad of topics. This community space is where children can begin their journey with early literacy opportunities through storytime and Play and Learn. They continue their journey of learning as they grow older through STEAM programming and Friday Fundays.

Studies say that continuous learning stimulates the brain. Is there a better way to master a skill than visiting the Library? Whether you are studying a new craft technique, updating computer skills, or discussing a book, your brain will be stimulated by lively conversation and learning. Librarians can even help you research family genealogy and find out more about your great grandparents.

Libraries are a place for people to find a good book to read, and music to soothe the soul, or an event to rev up their dancing feet. They are the place to get that movie you did not see in the theater, or that TV show your friend recommends. They have free Wi-Fi, computers to use and are still a place to get help with a job search or a quiet place to study.

Libraries are a welcoming place for everyone. If you have not been to the Library lately, maybe it is time to check out what the Library has to offer. Join a vibrant part of the Mount Prospect community and visit the Library. After 75 years, they are still a thriving part of our community.



Children’s Room, mid-1960s. From Illinois Digital Archives.

JP Karlov, longtime resident, library user, and volunteer

My children and I have been coming to the Mount Prospect Public Library from the early years of storytime to studying for finals in high school. Libraries are a source of knowledge and guidance, and the Mount Prospect Public Library treats everyone with dignity and kindness. This is one reason I have been a volunteer with them for over fifteen years. I volunteer at MPPL with the homebound program which is very rewarding. What a great service to be able to bring the Library to those who are unable to visit in person. I have always felt appreciated and happy to help.

Unlike 75 years ago, in the year 2018, the Library is no longer just a place to check out books. Libraries have become a place for community members to come together to learn, share, and celebrate. Libraries are one of the important “third places,” after home and work spaces, which connect individuals with an array of services and assistance.

By offering educational resources, financial guidance to consumers and entrepreneurs, an inclusive environment for ESL learners, diverse programs for children, teens and adults, and access to a wide variety of advances in technology, Libraries are playing an increasingly vital role in communities.

Our own Mount Prospect Public Library is celebrating a 75 years long history in our community. The welcoming, organized, well-prepared staff consistently maintains a friendly, warm environment, whose structure fits a diverse population of individuals and their varied needs. MPPL has managed to adapt to the needs of our fast-changing society while generating a hospitable environment that is the heart of our community.

Libraries are vital to communities now more than ever. They provide a structure that fits each person by offering a neutral social surrounding, and a plethora of knowledge that anchors community life.

“**P**eople may go to the library mainly looking for information, but they find each other there.” -Robert D. Putman

Karla Menze, resident, library user, and teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School

I love Libraries. I always have. To me they are a magical place. My love affair with the MPPL began in the fall of 2004 shortly after the Library moved back into their renovated facility. My daughter and I were part of those who came on opening day. I still have the pin somewhere. I discovered the Library was offering a fall storytime and, no, it was not crazy to bring a four-month old to storytime. That program once a week became a lifeline for this new mom. The librarian, Beth, was so welcoming and reassuring.

The other moms were just as eager to make connections and offer support. The moms from those storytimes became my support group through those early years of raising a child. I am forever grateful. I recently ran into Beth again at the library and was surprised at the emotion I felt seeing this person from my past. Since Beth, there has been a long line of wonderful librarians welcoming both my daughters and myself through each new storytime and age group. MPPL has always been a go-to destination for my family to enjoy programs, services, and a variety of media.

A few years ago, I returned to full time teaching at St. Paul Lutheran School in Mount Prospect which has given me a reason to use the Library in many new ways. The Library is my first stop for materials when we research a new topic or start an author study. School liaison, Carol Capra, comes to my classroom armed with bags of books as she engages the students in STEAM activities or book talks. We can easily walk as

continued on page 4



An impromptu puppet show in Youth Services, 2016.

a class to the Library to take a tour, enjoy the Discovery Zone, notice the amazing artwork, and become interested in new books and authors. I am excited that to many of my students also, MPPL is a welcoming and familiar place to them.

I honestly cannot imagine our community without the Mount Prospect Public Library. It connects us to each other and to the world. To the generous staff who make the Library much more than a place- Thank You! And on behalf of the community, Happy 75th Birthday, and may you have many more wonderful years to come!



What Inspires Our Speakers?

GEROULD KERN

MPPL: What is your favorite fiction?

GERRY: *I like Ray Bradbury and Kurt Vonnegut, whose explorations of the absurdities of human thinking resonate in today's world. In contrast, I really like historians like Walter Isaacson and David McCullough, who offer great optimism in their portrayals of people who represent noble examples human thinking and achievement, such as Einstein, Steve Jobs, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams.*

MPPL: Which historical figure would you like to spend time with?

GERRY: *I think spending time with Leonardo DaVinci would be enormously entertaining and enlightening. I'd like to know what he sees in today's world, particularly about the seeds that he planted that since have come to fruition, such as flight.*

DAWN FLETCHER COLLINS

MPPL: What is your favorite movie?

DAWN: *Too many to have one, but I have two genres I enjoy equally: happy movies and crime and suspense. Strange but true. Also, I love documentaries.*

MPPL: Where do you hope to visit someday?

DAWN: *I have been to a few other countries and certainly enjoy travel. I hope to visit some places in the United States where I have never been, particularly places my Dad always wanted to go and didn't have the chance.*



Gerould Kern

**Join the Celebration!
Our 75th Anniversary Ends
With A Look to the Future -
and Lots of Fun**

We hope you have enjoyed sharing memories and having a great time during our 75th Anniversary year. You have one more chance to be a part of history when we open the Library for an open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, September 23.

Before the event, at 1 p.m., we welcome two speakers who will give us food for thought as we mark three-quarters of a century and look forward to the future.

The keynote speaker will be former Senior Vice President for Chicago Tribune Media Group and Editor of the *Chicago Tribune* Gerould Kern. His remarks will center on the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals and knowledge institutions like libraries in the digital age.

“While news publishers and libraries perform different roles, they share a kinship relating to the dissemination of information that permits people to govern themselves and navigate the world,” he says. In particular, Kern will focus on how individuals search for factual knowledge and how they search for community.

“Libraries,” he says, “play essential roles in both.”

Dawn Fletcher Collins, the Executive Director of the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce, will then talk about the connection between libraries and their communities, and especially how MPPL has been a vital part of Mount Prospect. Collins grew up in Mount Prospect, and recalls that the staff at MPPL was always helpful and friendly, and that they created a “happy and comfortable vibe.”

“My love for words, authors, and books is forever and always,” she says. “Our library has always been known for being one of best, current resource centers and I appreciate the commitment to stay current and be ahead of the needs and wants for both the residents and the business community.”

Collins says partnerships between local governments, businesses, and organizations are critical. If these entities are not partnering, she says, they are simply not flourishing.

“They may experience success or have perceived success, but they are missing the collaboration and connectivity which is vital to growth and, when needed, resiliency in the community as a whole,” she says.”

A short video called *Touching Lives, Enriching Our Community* created by *Library Life* host Cathy Cushing will highlight patron Library memories and favorites. Finally, an individual crucial to the Library's success will be honored with the Founders Award.

At 2 p.m. everyone is invited into the Library for an open house featuring musical and other performances, demonstrations of Library services, a scavenger hunt, and a one-of-a-kind sweet treat.

Dawn Fletcher Collins



Open House
September 23, 2018

- 1:00 p.m.**
- Keynote
 - Remarks
 - Founders' Award Presentation
 - Celebration Video

- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
- Musical Entertainment
 - Prospect High School Jazz Band & John Hersey High School Choir
 - Refreshments ■ Magic Show ■ Balloon Twisters
 - Book Fortune Telling ■ Virtual Reality Experience
 - Technology Demonstration ■ Crafts

