

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2016, 7:30 P.M.  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to order.** President Wendee Greene called the meeting to order at 7: 39 p.m.

2. **Roll call.** Members present: Trustee Ed Earl, Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Art Jaros, Trustee Thomas Read, President Wendee Greene.

Also present: Director Rick Ashton, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, Downers Grove Resident Violet Lalicon-Radwill.

3. **Welcome to visitors.** President Greene welcomed Ms. Radwill and thanked her for her interest in the work of the Library.

4. **Approval of Minutes.**

a. December 16, 2015, Regular Monthly Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the December 16, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved as distributed. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: Earl.

b. January 13, 2016, Special Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the January 13, 2016, Special Meeting be approved as distributed. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

c. January 19, 2016, Special Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the January 19, 2016, Special Meeting be approved as distributed. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

d. January 20, 2016 Special Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the minutes of the January 20, 2016, Special Meeting be approved as distributed. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

5. **Financial Matters.**

a. December 2015 Financial Report. Ashton reported the year-end figures. He also directed the Board's attention to the monthly budget information for 2016, under development.

In addition, Ashton presented additional documents entitled Supplemental Financial Information. These included “Some Notes on Property Taxes and State Funds” and “2016 Fund Balance.”

- b. Approval of December 2015 Invoices. It was moved by Read and seconded by Jaros THAT December 2015 invoices totaling \$60,373.53 and December 2015 credit memos totaling \$877.04 be approved and December payrolls totaling \$207,608.78 be recognized. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
- c. Approval of January 2016 Invoices. It was moved by Read and seconded by Jaros THAT January 2016 invoices totaling \$26,098.08 be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

6. **Public Comment on Agenda items.** President Greene invited comment. There was none.

7. **Public comment on other Library business.** President Greene invited comment.

Resident Violet Lalicon-Radwill addressed the Board. She stated that she was still willing to pay for a surveillance camera in the public computer area and requested that the Board express its opinion on her offer.

President Greene requested that Library staff prepare and report an analysis of security needs and options for the public computer area of the Library building.

8. **Unfinished Business.**

- a. Approval of Revised Director Search Timetable. The Board reviewed the revised timetable received from Bradbury Associates after the Board Packet had been distributed.

It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the revised timetable (attached) be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

- b. Approval of advertisement for Library Director. The Board reviewed the revised advertisement received from Bradbury Associates after the Board Packet had been distributed.

It was moved by Humphreys and seconded by Eblen THAT the revised advertisement (attached) be approved, with the proviso that the upper end of the hiring salary range be set at \$136,500. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: None. Abstentions: none.

- c. Building projects. Report on lighting and acoustical panels progress. Approval of color selection. O’Brien and Reid presented the recommended fabric and color for the acoustical panels, selected in consultation with Product Architecture. It was

moved by Eblen and seconded by Humphreys THAT the recommended fabric and color be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

In addition, Ashton reminded the Board of the project schedule. Advertising, pre-bid activities, and the formal bid opening will be completed February 15. Shales McNutt Construction will review the bids and make recommendations to the Board on awarding of contracts by February 19. Board approval of awarding of contracts can be accomplished on February 24. If all is satisfactory up to that point, successful bidders will receive notice to proceed on February 25, enabling them to order materials and submit necessary documentation. This step is expected to take until May 5. Actual construction will begin May 6 and conclude May 26.

After further discussion, it was moved by Jaros and seconded by Humphreys THAT the Board's motion passed on December 16, 2015, authorizing Shales McNutt Construction to take the projects out to bid, be amended to remove mention of the provision of window shades for Conference Room A. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

- d. Personnel Policy. Approval of Revised Policy, except Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.7, and 3.1.17. It was moved by Read and seconded by Eblen THAT the Revised Policy be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

- e. Personnel Policy. Approval of Revised Policy, Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.7, and 3.1.17. The Board considered the two versions of the revised proposed policy as submitted by staff. In addition, the Board discussed the versions as proposed by Trustee Jaros. The Board commended Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien and thanked her for her editorial work in assembling the revised policy with many changes.

It was moved by Humphreys and seconded by Read THAT the proposed Version B of Policy Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.7, and 3.1.17 (attached) be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: none

## 9. **New Business.**

- a. Posting of Employee Compensation. Ashton reported on the detailed posting required by Illinois statute and referred the Board to the Library's web site for the information. He reported that information would be updated annually.

- 10. **Report of the Director.** Ashton presented his written report (attached). In addition, he reported that the Library had received a check for \$21,058.92, its share of the proceeds of the liquidation of the Joint Self Insurance Program fund balance from the Library

Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination (LIMRiCC). The funds have been deposited in the Library's operating fund as miscellaneous revenue.

**11. Board Member comments and requests for information.**

Trustee Earl requested an update on the staff's response to his earlier inquiry about the Library's practices and procedures for providing clean public restrooms. Ashton, O'Brien, and Reid discussed the challenges of clean restrooms in a busy public building. In addition to scheduled nightly cleaning, and several checks by assigned staff during open hours, the Library relies on other staff members and members of the public to report any observed problems. These receive a quick response. Earl requested that more attention and more effort be devoted to this.

Earl inquired about the Girls Who Code program. Reid explained that it is a national volunteer-based program in which women with skills in computer coding teach coding to middle school and high school girls. The Library's current 16-week session includes 15 participants selected from about 40 applicants. Earl asked if he might observe a class. Reid agreed to inquire with the instructor.

Earl inquired about the Library's practice regarding the blocking of accounts of patrons who have unpaid fines or fees. Reid explained that blocking occurs when a patron has accumulated more than \$20 in unpaid fines and fees.

Jaros inquired about a complaint in the Sound Off column of the Suburban Life newspaper. This complaint, recorded from an anonymous telephone call, stated that homeless people were occupying the Library's public computers to the exclusion of other persons. Ashton, Reid, and O'Brien responded that the Library does not inquire about the housing arrangements of people who come in. In the area with 24 public computers, there are usually a few machines available for use. When all machines are in use, time limits are imposed.

Jaros inquired about the Library's system for control of laptop computers and other electronic equipment made available for public use. O'Brien replied that the Library maintains detailed inventory records for laptop computers, tablets, and Media Lab equipment. The Library stores the items in staff-only areas and requires users to provide appropriate identification. For work-related equipment such as laptop computers and tablet devices issued to staff, controls are maintained to insure that these items are managed and returned to the Library as appropriate.

**12. Adjournment.** President Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

**APPROVED SEARCH SCHEDULE TIMELINE  
DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Activity	Target Date:
Consultants make first visit to Downers Grove; meet with Search Committee and staff; establish definitive work schedule and marketing plan	January 19 & 20 2016
Advertisement is approved by Search Committee	January 27 2016
Post ads, actively recruit candidate pool	Jan. 28- Mar. 27 2016
Applications Close	March 27 2016
All candidate documents sent to Search Committee	March 28 2016
All pre-screening interviews (by consultants) completed	March 31 2016
Meet with Search Committee and present the pool of candidates; select 6-8 semifinalists-2 hour meeting (consultants present in Downers Grove)	April 5 2016 7pm-9pm
Semi-final Interviews on Site or via Skype w/search committee- (consultants present in Downers Grove)	April 20 & 21 2016 5pm-9pm
Reference Reports to Board	May 2 2016
Final Interviews on Site (consultants present in Downers Grove) Board Interviews-May 5, 5pm-10pm	May 4 & 5 2016
Negotiations Completed	May 10 2016
New Director Start Date	TBD



## **Downers Grove (IL) Public Library – Library Director**

**Learn, grow and thrive as Library Director** for the Downers Grove Public Library. The Board of Trustees seeks its next leader to build on the success of this superb Illinois library. The successful candidate must have excellent communication skills that inspire and motivate; experience as budget officer developing the annual budget proposal linked to Board policies and priorities; foster a team environment; and have the ability to create and implement a shared vision of stellar library services for the Downers Grove community. With a committed, customer focused staff, a newly renovated 67,000 square foot facility, an annual \$5.2 million operating budget, and significant support from an active Friends organization and Foundation, the Downers Grove Library serves 48,000 Village residents circulating 990,000 items in 2015 to 30,000 card holders. The Library is an independent library governed by a six-member appointed library Board with a permanent tax rate exclusively dedicated to public library services.

The Village of Downers Grove is a comfortable western Chicago suburb that combines residential suburban living balanced with economic growth. Located in the heart of DuPage County, Downers Grove is a family friendly and business friendly destination. Residents, small businesses and large corporations thrive in the small town “feel” of Downers Grove. With commuter rail service to Chicago and access to two major airports, the Village has 49 parks, two award winning public school districts and is home to the main campus of Midwestern University. Forbes Magazine named Downers Grove as the 8<sup>th</sup> friendliest town in the United States and Liveability.com selected it as one of the “Top 10 Best Cities for Kids.” Additional information on the Downers Grove Public Library and the Village of Downers Grove can be found at Downers Grove Links.

**Responsibilities and requirements.** Minimum requirements include an MLS from an ALA-accredited program with a broad knowledge of the principles and practices of librarianship; eight years of public library experience in increasingly responsible positions with a minimum of four years at the management level. (Or equivalent background and experience that will enable the candidate to effectively perform the work required.) Essential skills include excellent administrative, financial planning, communication, and personnel management skills; ability to speak to diverse groups concerning library affairs; ability to handle critical incidents and resolve conflicts involving patrons, staff, materials, and facilities; ability to participate in meetings and conferences outside of normal working hours; ability to inspire and lead staff; initiative, awareness and vision in developing library services; and skill in building and maintaining effective relationships with the Library Board, staff and with community leaders. Successful experience reporting to a governing board, developing a strategic plan and experience in library technology are preferred. For the complete position description, please visit Downers Grove Director.

**Compensation:** The starting salary range is \$115,000-\$134,500 dependent on qualifications with a competitive benefits package.

**For further information**, please visit Bradbury Associates/Gossage Sager Associates. Apply via email with a meaningful cover letter and resume as Word or PDF attachments to Dan Bradbury. **This position will close March 27, 2016.**

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 27, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 8E  
REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTIONS 3.1.3, 3.1.7, AND 3.1.17**

**3.1.3 Equal Opportunity Employer**

The Board has not reached agreement on the text of the first sentence of this section.

**VERSION A**

It is the policy of the Downers Grove Public Library to afford equal employment opportunities regardless of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, religion, marital status, disability, sex, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or veteran status, order of protection status, genetic information, or any other category protected by applicable law.

**VERSION B**

It is the policy of the Downers Grove Public Library to afford equal employment opportunities as required by applicable law.

**3.1.7 Staff Obligations**

The Board has not reached agreement on the text of the final sentence in the first paragraph of this section.

**VERSION A**

Library service will be given to all patrons regardless of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, sex, gender, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or veteran status, order of protection status, or any other category protected by applicable law.

**VERSION B**

Library service will be given to all patrons as required by applicable law.

**3.1.17 Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment**

The Library Board has not reached agreement on the text of the first sentence of the second paragraph of this section.

## **VERSION A**

### **A. Definition of Discrimination**

Discrimination consists of employment actions taken against an individual based on a characteristic protected by law, such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other category protected by law.

## **VERSION B**

### **A. Definition of Discrimination**

Discrimination consists of employment actions taken against an individual based on a characteristic protected by law.

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approval of Version A or Version B of each section.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 27, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 10  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- a. 2015 Circulation Statistics. 2015 showed a healthy increase over 2014. It was the third-highest DGPL circulation year out of the first 125 years.
- b. Top Circulating eBooks. The interconnected account with District 58 supported increased use of eBooks.
- c. Staff In Service Day, January 15, 2016. About 100 staff attended for a full day of development and training work. This included individual recognition for the eleven employees who had celebrated milestone work anniversaries in 2015, fire evacuation practice under the supervision of the Downers Grove Fire Department, small group discussions of the desired attributes and skills of the next Library Director, and a presentation by David Seleb, Director of the Oak Park Public Library, on OPPL's experience with the Community Conversations model developed by the Harwood Institute. Staff evaluations are being tabulated.
- d. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff Events. The announcement of DGPL's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations has prompted much positive community response. While this has often been a general affirmation of the Library, it has also included numerous comments evoking particular personal memories.
- e. Recent media coverage. Attached.

<b>DGPL Circulation - 3 year comparison</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>
January	80,325	77,991	80,087
February	73,463	74,445	71,939
March	84,090	83,743	82,916
April	64,746	76,184	77,111
May	81,607	73,155	75,229
June	95,691	83,639	89,502
July	97,084	92,735	100,281
August	89,399	82,432	88,877
September	80,881	76,939	76,977
October	84,001	78,427	79,101
November	81,721	76,598	77,662
December	77,974	73,746	69,509
	<b>990,982</b>	<b>950,034</b>	<b>969,191</b>

Circulation Statistics -- December

	DEC 15	%	DEC. 14	%	DEC. 13	%
<b>Circulation Statistics</b>						
<b>Checkouts</b>						
Selfchecks	43,996	78%	45,378	79%	36,037	63%
Staff desk	12,672	22%	12,096	21%	20,890	37%
<b>Total checkouts</b>	<b>56,668</b>		<b>57,474</b>		<b>56,927</b>	
<b>Renewals</b>						
Selfchecks	1,665		548		208	
Staff desk (incl. phone)	3,087		3,500		2,937	
Patron online renewals	9,760		6,892		4,646	
<b>Total renewals</b>	<b>14,512</b>		<b>10,940</b>		<b>7,791</b>	
<b>Total item checkout and renewals</b>	<b>71,180</b>		<b>68,414</b>		<b>64,718</b>	
Ebooks - Overdrive	3,640		3,752		3,097	
Ebooks - 3M	2,159		819		710	
Emagazines - Zinio	576		761		984	
Hoopla	419					
<b>Total circulation</b>	<b>77,974</b>		<b>73,746</b>		<b>69,509</b>	
<b>Reference Questions - Information Desk</b>	111		201			
<b>Reserves Processed</b>						
Received from ILL	7,526		6,686		5,615	
ILL sent	4,172		5,186		4,917	
OCLC requests processed	696		694		715	
<b>Gate count</b>						
North	24,770		23,331		20,685	
South	13,085		12,597		12,015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,855</b>		<b>35,928</b>		<b>32,700</b>	
<b>Registrations</b>						
New resident cards	132		136		117	
New fee cards	16		4		6	
Current borrowers	30,069		29,575		29,212	
Active fee cards	131		127		150	
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Fines</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>Fee Cards</b>	<b>Meeting Room</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cash	\$2,902.20	\$1,663.24	\$978.35	\$1,120.00	\$320.00	\$6,983.79
Online payments (ecommerce - beg. 12/27)	\$82.75					\$82.75
Credit cards at service desks	\$1,621.70	\$459.00	\$45.50	\$1,400.00	\$100.00	\$3,626.20
Credit cards at selfchecks	\$2,704.64	\$42.00				\$2,746.64
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$7,311.29</b>	<b>\$2,164.24</b>	<b>\$1,023.85</b>	<b>\$2,520.00</b>	<b>\$420.00</b>	<b>\$13,439.38</b>



Rick Ashton &lt;rashton@dglibrary.org&gt;

## Top Circulating Ebooks

4 messages

**Nicole Wilhelms** <nwilhelms@dglibrary.org>

Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 3:07 PM

To: All Staff <staff@dglibrary.org>

Hello!

Looking back at 2015, here were our top performers!

### eMediaLibrary

Title	Checkouts
The Girl on the Train: A Novel	357
All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel	236
Gray Mountain: A Novel	154
Big Little Lies	135
Gone Girl: A Novel	117
Leaving Time (with bonus novella Larger Than Life): A Novel	110
Dark Places: A Novel	104
Eyes on You: A Novel of Suspense	103
The Girl on the Train: A Novel (unabridged)	99
The Goldfinch: A Novel (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction)	99
The Rosie Project: Don Tillman Series, Book 1	98
Still Alice	97
The Nightingale	96
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	90
Go Set a Watchman: To Kill a Mockingbird Series, Book 2	89
Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania	87
The Husband's Secret	85
Defending Jacob: A Novel	82
Outlander: Outlander Series, Book 1	81

### 3M Cloud Library

Title	Checkouts
The Girl on the Train	107
The Julian Chapter: A Wonder Story	75
Wonder	70
365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Book of Precepts	64
Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin	62
All the Light We Cannot See	60

Big Nate	53
The Maze Runner (Maze Runner, Book One)	49
Big Nate and Friends	45
Out of My Mind	45
Dead Wake	44
Catching Fire (The Second Book of the Hunger Games)	43
Pluto: A Wonder Story	43
The Hunger Games	43
The Donut Chef	42
Big Little Lies	40
Big Nate Makes a Splash	40
The Unwanteds	40

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**Sharon Hrycewicz** <shrycewicz@dglibrary.org>  
 To: Nicole Wilhelms <nwilhelms@dglibrary.org>  
 Cc: All Staff <staff@dglibrary.org>

Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 3:12 PM

the Cloud Library has 12 of 18 titles that are Kid's Room titles! I think that is a huge tribute to our collaboration with District 58...

In case you weren't aware of it, District 58 has a Cloud Library account and this allows their students to borrow the ebooks on our account! It's so great to see this partnership working!!

sh

### Sharon Hrycewicz

Children's Reference and Technology Coordinator  
 DG Library | 1050 Curtiss Street | Downers Grove, IL 60515  
 Office: 1.630.960.1200 | [SHrycewicz@DGLibrary.org](mailto:SHrycewicz@DGLibrary.org)

My last name is pronounced *rice-wits*

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Nicole Wilhelms** <nwilhelms@dglibrary.org>  
 To: Sharon Hrycewicz <shrycewicz@dglibrary.org>  
 Cc: All Staff <staff@dglibrary.org>

Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 3:15 PM

Also here's Hoopla!

Title	Format	Circs
The Girl on the Train	movie	22
The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up	audiobook	17
Wilder Mind (Deluxe)	music	16
Stages (Deluxe Version)	music	14

A Goofy Movie	movie	13
Pitch Perfect 2 (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)	music	12
NOW That's What I Call Music! Vol. 54	music	12
How To Talk To Anyone	audiobook	11
Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)	music	11
JEKYLL + HYDE	music	8
From Time To Time	movie	8
The Husband's Secret	audiobook	8
Survivor	movie	7
My Little Pony Equestria Girls: Rainbow Rocks	movie	7
Smoke + Mirrors	music	7
LEGO: The Adventures Of Clutch Powers	movie	7
The Sword In The Stone	movie	7
The Sting	movie	7
Blurryface	music	7
NPR Funniest Driveway Moments	audiobook	7

Nicole Wilhelms  
 Adult & Teen Services Manager  
 Downers Grove Public Library  
 630-960-1200 ext. 244  
 nwilhelms@dglibrary.org

What I'm Reading: **Consider the Lobster** by David Foster Wallace  
**The Big Short** by Michael Lewis

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Debra Wischmeyer** <dwischmeyer@dglibrary.org>  
 To: Nicole Wilhelms <nwilhelms@dglibrary.org>  
 Cc: Sharon Hrycewicz <shrycewicz@dglibrary.org>, All Staff <staff@dglibrary.org>

Wed, Jan 13, 2016 at 3:22 PM

I'm not surprised to see *Girl on the Train* at the top of these lists!

I'm with Sharon; it's so exciting to see all of the youth and teen books in our top circulating items in 3M! Our partnership with District 58 has been a wonderful success, and I'm happy we are able to help provide ebooks to all of our DG students and teachers.

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
 Debra Wischmeyer  
 Adult & Teen Services Librarian  
 Downers Grove Public Library  
 dwischmeyer@dglibrary.org  
 630-960-1200 ext. 237

What I'm Reading:  
***Pretty Girls*** by Karin Slaughter  
***Gravity's Rainbow*** by Thomas Pynchon



### **Homeless at library**

Recently the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released a study that showed there was a decline in homelessness in the United States, with them pointing out that there was an 8.5 percent decrease in homelessness since 2010, but it doesn't seem very evident as of late if you wander around the Downers Grove train station area. I also found out that a lot of homeless people, and it's been evident, are able to access the Downers Grove Public Library, which I was under the impression that you have to be a resident with an ID and a utility bill in order to get a library card. They are constantly using the computers all day long, viewing inappropriate material, eating, drinking and having a good old time at the expense of other residents that use the computer for other purposes.

### **Downers Grove library offering girls' computer science course**

**DOWNERS GROVE** – Girls in grades 6 to 12 who are interested in computer science can join the Girls Who Code Club at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St.

The course will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13 to June 2. Participants will learn programming fundamentals, website coding, and mobile app development. To register, call 630-960-1200 or visit [www.dglibrary.org](http://www.dglibrary.org).

– *Suburban Life Media*

# Downers Grove faces budget, preservation issues



ANNEMARIE MANNION/CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
atic Grove, is constructed in Downers  
n 48 apartments.

Leaders in both districts say they will use the test as a base line and will continue in 2016 to dig into the data to better learn what it means. District 58 plans to hold sessions with parents in January and February to discuss the results.

## Hospital addition

Work will continue on a 96-room, three-story addition at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital at Highland Avenue and 31st Street.

The \$918 million project will contain individual patient rooms. Citing a desire for privacy and comfort among today's health care consumers, hospital officials have said the addition will help it better meet the needs of patients.

Construction began in April and is expected to be complete by the end of 2016. The new tower will open in 2017. It will bring the number of patient rooms at the hospital to 284.

## Library director search planned

The Downers Grove Public Library is planning a nationwide search to find a replacement for its

director, Rich Ashton, who is retiring in March.

The board has hired a Kansas City-based search firm, Bradbury Associates, to help them conduct the search. Public input about what patrons would like to have in a new director will be sought at a public meeting in January.

Bradbury Associates helped the library board hire Ashton, who is retiring after four years with the library. During Ashton's tenure, a \$2.4 million library renovation was completed.

## Westmont Mariano's

A new Mariano's grocery store is expected to open in 2016 near 63rd Street and Cass Avenue. It is under construction on a 9.5-acre wooded lot purchased from the village of Westmont. The site was one of the last undeveloped parcels of land in the village.

Westmont officials signed off on a \$3 million incentive deal with a developer in 2013. The real estate company also will receive 50 percent of sales taxes generated by the new store.

Other incentives include help with site preparation, such as construction of an underground water detention area, road signals and wetland mitigation, according to village officials. The 71,300-square-foot grocery store will cost \$20 million.

## Westmont flooding issues on agenda

Westmont will continue to move forward with projects in 2016 to prevent flooding in the village.

Over the summer, the village became the first community in the state to resurface a roadway using pervious concrete, which is designed to absorb and drain water into the ground. The \$1.4 million resurfacing took place on Cumnor Road between 59th and 61st streets.

Village officials said it could cost \$30 million to correct flooding problems throughout the suburb. In April, Westmont residents voted for a new half-percent sales tax to help pay for stormwater projects. The tax will generate up to \$1 million annually.

amannion@tribpub.com

# Why the Post Office Makes America Great

## OPINION

BY ZEYNEP TUFEKCI

An assistant professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina and a contributing opinion writer.

I WAS transported recently to a place that is as enchanting to me as any winter wonderland: my local post office.

In line, I thought fondly of the year I came to this country from Turkey as an adult and discovered the magic of reliable mail service. Dependable infrastructure is magical not simply because it works, but also because it allows innovation to thrive, including much of the Internet-based economy that has grown in the past decade. You can't have Amazon or eBay without a reliable way to get things to people's homes.

Of course, infrastructure is also boring, so we get used to it and forget what a gift it truly is. I never do, maybe because I discovered it so late.

My first year in the United States was full of surprises. I remember trying to figure out if the 24-ounce glass of ice water the waitress placed in front of me was a pitcher, to be shared by the whole table. But where was the spout? I had expected some of what I encountered — I had seen enough movies, and came to this country expecting big cars and big houses and wide open spaces. I got used to gigantic glasses.

But I didn't expect the post office.

The first time I needed to mail something, I trekked over to my campus's post office, looking for the line to get my envelope weighed. The staff was used to befuddled international students like me, I suppose, and one clerk took my envelope without fuss, said "first class letter," and took my change.

Then I discovered some vending machines outside the office. People came and bought stamps. "So many people must be into stamp collecting," I thought to myself. Was that another weird American quirk? Otherwise, why would people waste money buying stamps in advance, without having their letters weighed?

Something I take for granted now just didn't occur to me: There were standardized rates, and you could just slap a stamp on your letter, drop it in a mailbox, and it would go to its destina-

tion.

I then encountered a visa service that asked me to mail in my passport. My precious, precious passport. With a self-addressed, stamped envelope for its return. I laughed at the audacity of the request. Despite being a broke student, I booked a plane trip. I couldn't envision putting my passport in the mail. I've since learned that this is a common practice, and I've even done it once or twice myself. But it still does not come easy to me.

I noticed that Americans were a particularly patriotic bunch: So many of them had red flags on their mailboxes.

## Mail was one of the more enchanting aspects of life in my new country.

Sometimes they would put those flags up. I presumed it was to celebrate national holidays I did not yet know about. But why did some people have their flags up while others did not? And why weren't they American flags anyway? As in Istanbul, where I grew up, I assumed patriotism had different interpretations and expressions.

The mystery was solved when I noticed a letter carrier emptying a mailbox. I was slightly unnerved: Was the mail being stolen? He then went over to another mailbox with the flag up, and emptied that box, too. I got my hint when he skipped the mailbox with the flag down.

Yes, I was told, in the United States, mail gets picked up from your house, six days a week, free of charge.

I told my friends in Turkey about all this. They shook their heads in disbelief, wondering how easily I had been recruited as a C.I.A. agent, saying implausibly flattering things about my new country. The United States in the world's imagination is a place of risk taking and ruthless competition, not one of reliable public services.

I bit my tongue and did not tell my already suspicious friends that the country was also dotted with libraries that provided books to all patrons free of charge. They wouldn't believe me, anyway since I hadn't believed it myself. My first time in a library in the United States was very brief: I walked in, looked around, and ran right back out in a panic, certain that I had accidentally used the wrong entrance. Surely, these open stacks full of books were reserved for staff only. I was used to libraries being rare, and their few books inaccessible. To this day, my heart races a bit in a library.

Over the years, I've come to appreciate the link between infrastructure, innovation — and even ruthless competition. Much of our modern economy thrives here because you can order things online and expect them to be delivered. There are major private delivery services, too, but the United States Postal Service is often better equipped to make it to certain destinations. In fact, Internet sellers, and even private carriers, often use U.S.P.S. as their delivery mechanism to addresses outside densely populated cities.

Almost every aspect of the most innovative parts of the United States, from cutting-edge medical research to its technology scene, thrives on publicly funded infrastructure. The post office is struggling these days, in some ways because of how much people rely on the web to do much of what they used to turn to the post office for. But the Internet is a testament to infrastructure, too: It exists partly because the National Science Foundation funded much of the research that makes it possible. Even some of the Internet's biggest companies, like Google, got a start from N.S.F.-funded research.

Infrastructure is often the least-appreciated part of what makes a country strong, and what makes innovation take flight. From my spot in line at the post office, I see a country that does both well; not a country that emphasizes one at the expense of the other.

LOOKING AHEAD AT 5 TOP DOWNERS GROVE STORIES

# State budget, new facilities plan headline 2016

• 2016

Continued from page 2

**4. New businesses coming to Ogden Avenue**

During the Dec. 15 village council meeting, Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation president Michael Cassa talked about several business developments on Ogden Avenue, which he expects to be able to announce soon.

A real estate company is redeveloping the site of the former Marathon gas station at 1201 Ogden Ave., with one tenant secure and negotiations close with a national restaurant tenant.

The Downers Grove Market shopping area, on Ogden Avenue between Cunnor Road and Williams Street, will construct a building in an open lot that can hold three businesses.

Cassa said a national restaurant chain that the village has long been chasing is a possible tenant.

A company has also been looking at purchasing a 9-acre property at Ogden Avenue and Lacey Road, which Cassa said is the largest vacant commercial property in the village.

He said the site could be difficult to develop but would serve as a badly needed anchor for the central part of Ogden Avenue.



**5. Fresh leadership coming to District 99, library**

District 99 superintendent Mark McDonald and Downers Grove Public Library director Rick Ashton are retiring this year.

McDonald's last day will be June 30, after which he will be replaced by Henry Thiele.

The district board hired Thiele in December, touting his background in implementing new technology.

The district will also need to replace Downers Grove North Principal Scott Kasik, who is retiring.

Ashton will retire March 31. The library has yet to name its next director but will hold a public forum on the topic at 7 p.m. Jan. 20.



Rick Ashton



Mark McDonald



Henry Thiele

# Downers Grove gives its resolutions for New Year

## SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

**DOWNERS GROVE** - The start of a new year is always a popular time to look back at the past year and identify things to do differently or better with resolutions.

The Downers Grove Suburban Life asked members of the community what they hoped to accomplish personally and professionally in 2016.



**Downers Grove Public Library director Rick Ashton**

**Rick Ashton**

"On March 31, 2016, I resolve to complete the final item on my Downers Grove Public Library To Do List: Check Out."



**Kurt Bluder**

**Downers Grove Police Chief Kurt Bluder**

"Eat less, eat better and work out more!"



**Courtney Bruhl**

**Downers Grove resident Courtney Bruhl**

"To not worry, just in general."

**Downers Grove Public Library adult programs coordinator Melissa Doornbos**

"To get back to church on Sundays."



**Melissa Doornbos**

**Downers Grove North principal Scott Kasik**

"In my last year in education, I want to make sure I take the time to be more mindful of all the wonderful moments that come with working with the students



**Scott Kasik**

and staff of North High School."

**Downers Grove resident Karen Montague**

"Accept things I can't change."



**Karen Montague**

**Downers Grove resident Laila Montague**

"Finish the Michael Vey book series."



**Laila Montague**

**Downers Grove South principal Ed Schwartz**

"I learned long ago that



**Ed Schwartz**

when you are working with kids, the goal is to model an honest attempt at becoming a better me today than I was yesterday. I will make that same resolution on Jan. 1."

**Downers Grove resident Laura West**

"My New Year's resolution is to use my new Fitbit on a regular basis."



**Laura West**

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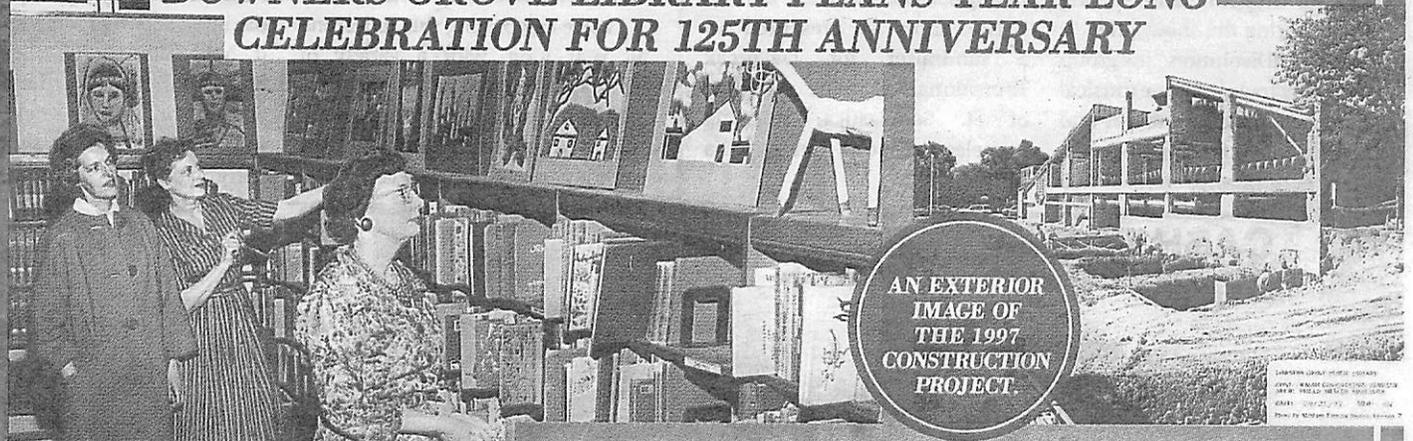
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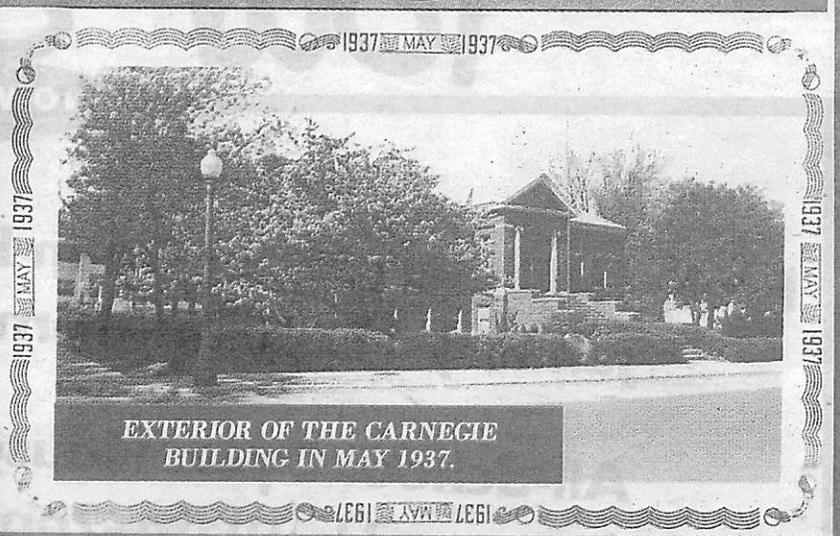
# HISTORY IN THE BOOKS

## DOWNERS GROVE LIBRARY PLANS YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION FOR 125TH ANNIVERSARY



AN EXTERIOR  
IMAGE OF  
THE 1997  
CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECT.

A SCHOOL ART EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY  
INSIDE THE LIBRARY IN THE LATE  
1950s. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)



EXTERIOR OF THE CARNEGIE  
BUILDING IN MAY 1937.

**SEE THE FULL STORY  
ON PAGE 2**

COVER STORY » DOWNERS GROVE

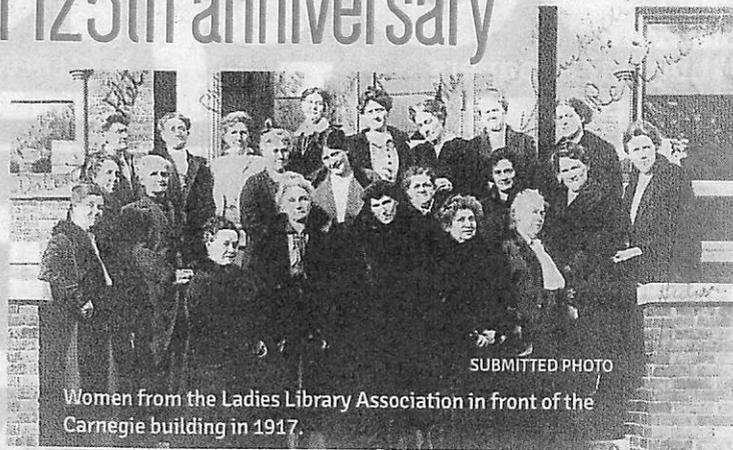
# Downers Grove Library plans year-long celebration for 125th anniversary

## Celebration will also commemorate Ladies Library Association of 1891

For 125 years, the Downers Grove Public Library has provided residents with entertainment, information and inspiration.

To commemorate a mission that started with the Ladies Library Association in 1891, the library is planning a year-long celebration – complete with activities and events designed to honor their legacy.

“We’re celebrating this milestone all year long, with a variety of historic portrayals, gallery displays, activities, musical performances, story times, trivia and even a birthday party in the fall,” said Melissa Doombos, public relations



Women from the Ladies Library Association in front of the Carnegie building in 1917.

manager for the library.

The initial small-reading room started by the Ladies Library Association was located above the Farmers and Merchants Bank at the intersection of Main and Curtis. It held almost 700 items. With financial help from the Carnegie Foundation, a new brick building was built in 1915 at the library's current location.

Including its most recent

interior renovation, that building has experienced renovation, reorganization and new construction. Despite all the change, the library said its mission remains the same – serving the Downers Grove community's informational, educational, inspirational and entertainment needs.

For a list of 125th anniversary events and activities, visit [www.dglibrary.org/125th](http://www.dglibrary.org/125th).

## CALENDAR | FROM PAGE 5

begin at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Registration is not required.

### JANUARY 23

**THE WRITING JOURNEY: GROUP MEETING.** 12 to 4 p.m. at Woodridge Public Library, 3 Plaza Drive. Woodridge area aspiring authors and writers are invited to drop in to this monthly meeting of a local writer's group. The Journey is the year-round writing group associated with the Illinois :Naperville region of National Novel Writing Month. Founded in 2006 this group offers its members a lot

of flexibility and choices as to how writers can participate. No need to register, all are welcome. For more information visit [writingjourney.org](http://writingjourney.org).

### JANUARY 26

**GREAT DECISIONS.** 7 to 9 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Join the League of Women Voters in discussion on current foreign policy issues.

### JANUARY 27

**TAXES ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.** 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Woodridge Public Library, 3 Plaza Drive. Learn about changes for the 2015 returns including new rates

and expanded credits for children, education and retirement savings with local tax expert Judi Strauss.

### JANUARY 28

**ADULT COLORING MEETUP.** 7 p.m. at Ballydoyle, 5157 Main St. Drop in for a drink and a relaxing night of coloring. Ages 21+.

### JANUARY 29

**FAMILY DANCE PARTY.** 6:30 to 7 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. If you love jamming in our storytimes then join an evening dance party and get your groove on with favorite storytime songs!

**MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS GROUP.** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Westmont Public Library, 428 N. Cass Ave. Join Michael Ribet, long-time meditator, for an engaging meditation series. Michael will demonstrate natural and effective techniques of meditation while providing useful directions for deepening and stabilizing our practices to gain inner bliss and peace. All skill levels welcome.

### JANUARY 30

**FAFSA WORKSHOP.** 1 to 5 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Receive one-on-one assistance filling out

FAFSA forms from an Illinois Student Assistance Commission representative. Registered students will be contacted prior to their appointment with their individual check in time, and information on what documents to bring.

### JANUARY 31

**MEET BERTHA PALMER.** 2 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Leslie Goddard portrays 1890s Chicago socialite, wife of real estate magnate Potter Palmer, and pace-setting arts patron. In conjunction with the library's 125th anniversary celebration.

# CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

## JANUARY 14

**READ TO THE DOGS.** 7 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Share a story with some good doggy listeners. Therapy dogs will be here to listen to children read stories to them. Reading to these dogs can improve children's reading and communication skills while also being fun! Call 630-960-1200 to schedule a 15-minute slot.

## JANUARY 16

**ADVENTURES IN BROADCASTING: WGN MEMORIES.** 2 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Former TV and radio personality Gene Doretti shares stories from working in the biz. In conjunction with the library's 125th anniversary celebration.

**SNOWMAN BUILDING CONTEST!** 10:30 a.m. at Downers Grove Museum, 831 Maple Ave. With your team, bring your props and creativity as you compete for one of three prizes for "Best Traditional Snowman", "Most Creative Theme", and "Best Dressed Snowman"! Individuals can enter, or teams of up to 5 members. Individual fees are the same as the team

fee. Building starts at 10:30 a.m. and judging will begin at noon. Enjoy hot chocolate during the awards presentation! Weather permitting. Fee: Free.

## JANUARY 17

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP.** 1 - 3 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Practice speaking English in a relaxed space. Offered monthly. Led by Literacy DuPage.

## JANUARY 18

**KARATE DEMONSTRATION.** 2 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Illustrator Terri Murphy introduces you to the art of zentangle. After looking at patterns in nature, create a unique animal from checkerboards, spirals, weaves, and geometric shapes. For school-age children. Registration is required at [www.dglibrary.org/events](http://www.dglibrary.org/events)

## JANUARY 19

**TAXES ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.** 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Find out about the most recent tax law changes. Presented by Judi Strauss.

## JANUARY 20

**CANDY FLAVORED LIP GLOSS AND SCRUBS.** 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Westmont Public Library, 428 N. Cass Ave. Look your best this winter with lip products you make yourself! Take home your own candy flavored lip gloss and scrub.

## JANUARY 21

**LEGO BUILD FOR FAMILIES.** 7 - 8 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Build your own creations with Legos. The theme is imaginary creatures. Reserve your spot at [www.dglibrary.org/events](http://www.dglibrary.org/events) beginning Jan. 7.

## JANUARY 22

**ADVENTURES IN TRAVEL.** 7 to 9 p.m. at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. Andy Orr traveled from South America to Antarctica, South Georgia Island, and finally to South Africa on a 100-year-old square-rigged sailing vessel. He'll show pictures that he took and discuss his experiences on this 6,000 mile, 52-day sailing trip across the Southern Atlantic Ocean. The presentation will

SEE CALENDAR | PAGE 15

## View from Behind the Lens: Advanced Photography for Teens, a Guest Post by Lynette Pitrak

DECEMBER 17, 2015 BY HEATHER BOOTH

[LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

**Makerspace**  
at your library

In the fall and winter of 2014, I had an amazing experience coordinating a filmmaking workshop for high school students called [View from the Director's Chair](#). To highlight a different aspect of our library's Media Lab this year, our IT Department Manager and I

created a similarly-structured workshop called View from Behind the Lens.

View from Behind the Lens began October 21st, and will continue through December 16th. We were lucky enough to hire Downers Grove-based photographer Mike Taylor, a professional photographer and college professor, as our instructor for this program series. Along with Mike, our library's IT Assistant Jason, myself, and eight teenagers in middle school and high school meet weekly to learn advanced photography skills!!



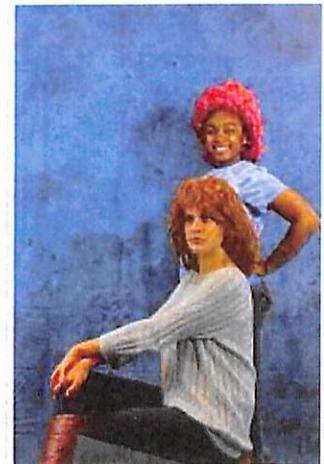
View from Behind the Lens Halloween Photo Shoot

We are now several weeks into this workshop, and have learned a lot about digital photography techniques!! The students in class are working with a combination of Canon and Nikon cameras (and everyone is VERY loyal to their chosen brand! :)). We have gone over the basic settings of the cameras, including f-stop, aperture, and white balance. Mike has also discussed various kinds of photography with the students, such as stop-action, motion-blur, infrared, and night

photography, and how to use the lenses and settings to achieve the desired effects. To put this instruction to work, the students have gone on in-class walking tours through Downers Grove. We have done daytime landscape shoots, portraiture, an architectural shoot, and a fun night shoot in the cemetery to celebrate Halloween!

In one week, we will be taking a field trip to the [Museum of Contemporary Photography](#) to take a docent-lead tour of a special photography exhibit. Because the museum is staffed by volunteers from Columbia College's photography program, the View from Behind the Lens students will have the opportunity to talk about what it is like to major in photography.

In the last weeks of class, students will learn how to edit their photographs with Lightroom and Photoshop. Then, they will have a month to shoot on their own, to prepare final photographs for a gallery show and [Meet the Artists](#) event on February 28, 2016!!!



View from Behind the Lens Portraiture Shoot

<http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2015/12/view-from-behind-the-lens-advanced-photography-for-teens-a-guest-post-by-lynette-pitrak/>

*Lynette Pitrak is the Teen Services Coordinator at the Downers Grove Public Library in Downers Grove, Illinois.*

## NEWS BRIEF

**Public library to celebrate 125th anniversary all year**

DOWNERS GROVE - This year is a major milestone for the Downers Grove Public Library as it marks 125 years since its opening.

In 1891, the Ladies Library Association created the village's first library, a small reading room holding 700 items above the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Main and Curtiss streets.

A new brick library building was constructed in 1915 at the library's current site at 1050

Curtiss Street and has been renovated and expanded several times since then.

The library will host several programs related to area history throughout the year, including historic portrayals, gallery displays, activities, musical performances, story times and trivia.

The big celebration will be a birthday party hosted Oct. 16, with more details to come. For information, visit [www.dglibrary.org/125th](http://www.dglibrary.org/125th).

- Suburban Life Media

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