

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2016, 8:00 P.M.
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

1. **Call to order.** President Wendee Greene called the meeting to order at 8:18 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. Absent: None.

Also present: Director Julie Milavec, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, PR Manager Melissa Doornbos, Circulation Clerk Sharon Downer, Friends of the Library President Joanne Hansen, Resident Ed Pawlak, Resident Marge Earl, Resident Jonathan Graber, Resident Genevieve Murphy, and Resident Laurel Bowen.

3. **Welcome to visitors.** President Greene welcomed the visitors and thanked them for their interest in the library.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - a. July 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the July 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved as amended. Earl requested that the minutes be amended to show that the resident Earl spoke to at the Farmer's Market who asked about fundraising activities didn't decline to leave her name, but declined to volunteer her services. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: None. Abstentions: Humphreys.
5. **Financial Matters.**
 - a. July 2016 Financial Report. Milavec presented the report. Jaros suggested it would be useful for the Board to have a list of items that are paid annually, along with their budget lines and month paid, so the Board could better follow the expenditures reports.
 - b. Approval of August 2016 Invoices. It was moved by Read and seconded by Jaros THAT August 2016 invoices totaling \$151,956.19 and July payrolls totaling \$207,381.64 be recognized. 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 Ed Pawlak said since circulation has gone up 5% and property values have gone up 5%, these facts should be factored into the budget. He also said he would like to continue to see any funds not spent at the end of the budget year be put into the reserve fund.
8. **New Business.**
 - a. Liability Insurance Renewal. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Humphreys TO renew with CNA, for one-year package liability, workers' compensation and umbrella policies, effective October 1, 2016, at a total premium of \$37,635.00. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: None.
 - b. Strategic Plan Process Expectations. Milavec invited comments from Trustees on the desired process and deliverables for Strategic Planning. In addition to including values and broad goals in the new strategic plan, the Board would also like to see a specific, measurable action plan that ties back to the strategic plan. Milavec plans to have the strategic plan in place by the March 2017 Library Board meeting. By the end of 2017, Milavec plans to have a strategic plan, facilities sustainability plan, and a long range budget in place.
 - c. Meeting Packet Reports and Statistics. Milavec requested Trustee feedback on Board packet reports and statistics. As suggested by Milavec, Board members would like very brief reports from department managers included in the Board packet. The statistics report is in the process of being tweaked. Milavec offered Board members a choice between an electronic version of the Board packet or a hard copy of the Board packet. Jaros suggested Board members email Milavec with any further suggestions.
9. **Report of the Director.** Milavec presented her written report (attached). Milavec reminded Trustees of the upcoming Super Retreat on September 14 and 125th Birthday Bash on October 16. She also reported that Teen Services Coordinator Lynette Pitrak had a visit from Niara Briggs, a participant in both the View from the Director's Chair and View from Behind the Lens programs. Niara is now a Downers Grove South graduate and will be attending DePaul University. She has been in touch with Jasmine Smith, another View from the Director's Chair student who graduated from Downers Grove North last year. Jasmine had an internship with a production house that took her to the Cannes and Berlinale Film Festivals. She started her own film production company. Jasmine and Niara are working on a project together, creating a documentary about a chef who hired them to tell his story. These two hardworking young ladies started their friendship and partnership at one of our Teen workshops.
10. **Board Member Comments and Requests for Information.** Eblen cancelled the Downers Grove Library Foundation Board meeting in September. It will be rescheduled, date and time to be determined.

Earl asked Milavec to speak about her answer to Laurel Bowen's questions about the Adult Coloring Meetup, and Milavec spoke about the purpose of this program in particular and library programs in general.

Humphreys shared information about his visits to libraries on his trip to South Africa.

As Read's Library Board term is expiring, Greene thanked him for his many years of service as a trustee; a successor has been identified.

The Board thanked O'Brien and Reid for their outstanding work as interim co-directors.

11. **Adjournment.** President Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 24, 2016**

AGENDA ITEM 9

Report of the Director

a. Circulation Statistics

Circulation for 2016 is on track to reach 1 million! Ebook circulation from June and July saw significant decreases. Students from District 58 can check out library ebooks directly on their school-issued iPads – but the iPads were returned to the District this summer. September statistics are expected to jump when the students are issued their iPads for the school year.

b. IT Manager search

Applications have closed for the position. Dave Kenny, IT Manager of the Village of Downers Grove, met with Library IT staff to review the technical skills and qualifications needed to perform the job duties. He will be conducting pre-screening telephone interviews with selected candidates to confirm their technical qualifications. Any candidates not meeting the technical qualifications will not continue to in-person interviews with Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien and me.

c. Super Retreat – September 14, 2016

The Super Retreat, your opportunity to learn more about the plans and goals of the other government entities in Downers Grove, is scheduled for 6:30pm to 9:45pm at the Downers Grove South Cafetorium. Each entity will make a brief presentation, including an overview, Top Priorities and Key Issues. I will focus on the upcoming planning at the Library: Strategic Planning, Facilities Sustainability and Long Range Budget. Each entity will have a display table of information and staff available to answer questions in an open networking session following the presentations. The meeting will be posted by the Village and all participating units of government, according to the Open Meetings Act. Trustees are strongly encouraged to attend.

d. Requests for Information and Suggestions

An unnamed resident emailed an article from the New York Times online edition about a group of London bookstores that have banned cell phone use and blocked Wi-Fi with the suggestion that the Library do the same. I responded with information about 21st century library services, our Library Environment policy and an offer for staff to help identify quiet locations for reading and study. Included in your meeting packet is the response to resident Laurel Bowen's questions and request for information about the Adult Coloring Meetup program series, hosted by Ballydoyle.

e. Training for Illinois Library Trustees

See attached.

f. Recent media coverage

See attached.

RAILS and United for Libraries Present:
Training for Illinois Library Trustees

Short Takes for Trustees

Series of 10 short videos (8-10 minutes each):

- ◆ What it Means to be a Trustee
- ◆ Board Meetings
- ◆ Board Ethics
- ◆ Library Advocacy
- ◆ Library Policies
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Working with Friends
- ◆ Evaluating the Library Director
- ◆ Board Self-Evaluation
- ◆ Succession Planning and New Board Orientation

Trustee Academy

Series of 30 – 60 minute online courses:

- ◆ Trustee Competencies
- ◆ Trustee Basics, Part 1
- ◆ Trustee Basics, Part 2
- ◆ Working Effectively with Your Library Director
- ◆ The Library's Budget
- ◆ Advocating for Your Library
- ◆ Evaluating the Library Director
- ◆ Working Effectively with Your Trustees

All videos/online courses are offered without cost to system member library staff and trustees.

RAILS members: log into the RAILS website and visit www.railslibraries.info/ce/trustees. To create a website (L2) account, visit www.railslibraries.info/L2help/account.

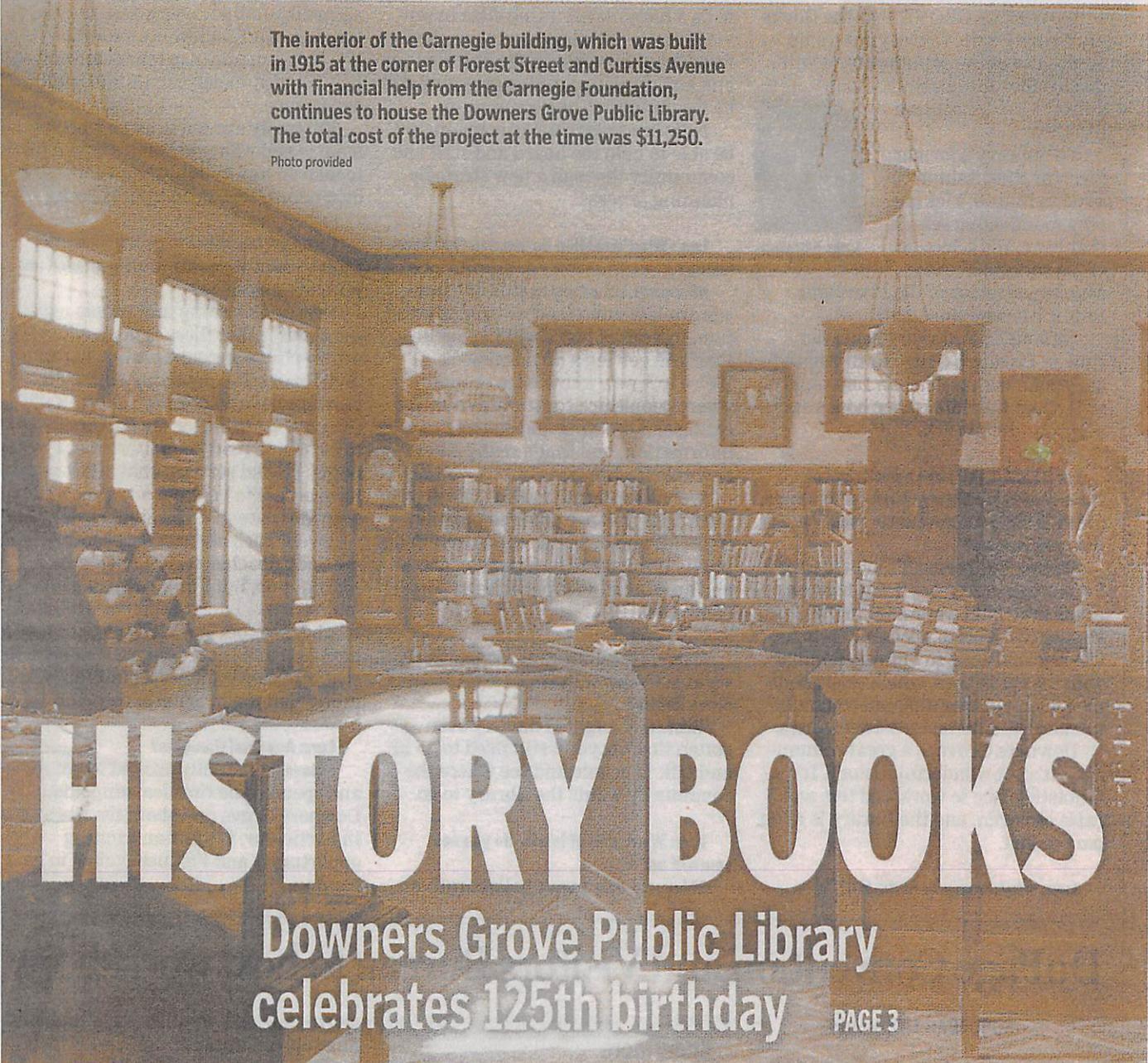
Questions? Contact Joe Filapek, RAILS Consulting and Continuing Education Manager, at joseph.filapek@railslibraries.info.

Suburban Life

YOUR NEW DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

The interior of the Carnegie building, which was built in 1915 at the corner of Forest Street and Curtiss Avenue with financial help from the Carnegie Foundation, continues to house the Downers Grove Public Library. The total cost of the project at the time was \$11,250.

Photo provided



HISTORY BOOKS

Downers Grove Public Library
celebrates 125th birthday

PAGE 3

Downers Grove library celebrates long history

Special 125th birthday party in October part of monthly events

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

DOWNERS GROVE – For 125 years, the Downers Grove Public Library has been loaning books and providing knowledge to the residents of the village, and it will be celebrating that long history throughout 2016.

The library is planning a mix of activities for those of all ages, culminating in a special 125th birthday party Oct. 16. Here are some of the offerings during the next few months – and beyond. For more about the celebrations, visit dglibrary.org/125th.

American Beauty

Time and date: 2 to 3:30 p.m. July 31

Audience: Adults

Details: A presentation on the history of the beauty industry and the cultural meanings of American beauty ideals.

See **LIBRARY**, page 4



Photo provided

The Mouse Cafe on the first floor of the Downers Grove Public Library was one of the areas that underwent renovations in 2014.

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NEWS

SD • Wednesday, July 20, 2016 • mysuburbanlife.com • Suburban Life

• LIBRARY

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Magic: The Last 125 Years

Time and date: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 15
Audience: Adults
Details: Magician Tony Noice presents a history of magic for all to enjoy.

Downers Grove Streets From A-Z

Time and date: 2 to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 9
Audience: Adults
Details: Find out the history of streets across the village in a presentation from the Downers Grove Historical Society.

125th Birthday Party

Time and date: 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 16
Audience: All
Details: A celebration of the library's birthday with games, music, snacks and prizes throughout the building.

Little Schoolhouse on the Prairie, Circa 1912

Time and date: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 9
Audience: All
Details: An actress brings the experience of school in the early 1900s to attendees.

Historic Fashion 1910 to 1930

Time and date: 11 a.m. to noon Nov. 17
Audience: All
Details: A presentation on fashion styles from the era of the early library.

Downers Grove Public Library history

A brief timeline of the Downers Grove Public Library's history, provided by the library:

- **1891:** The Ladies Library Association begins a small reading room above the Farmers and Merchants Bank on the northeast corner of Main and Curtiss streets. It eventually holds more than 600 volumes.
- **1911:** A small building on Main and Curtiss is constructed following a successful referendum for a tax-supported library.
- **1915:** A new building on the corner of Curtiss Street and Forest Avenue is constructed with financial help from the Carnegie Foundation to the tune of \$11,250.
- **1956:** A new expansion is built to accommodate growing usage.
- **1977:** A 1975 referendum leads to the razing of the old library building, with a new 40,000-square-foot building taking its place.
- **1999:** The new, reconstructed and updated library opens in February 1999 after an \$8.2 million referendum in 1996 funded work on the structure.



ABOVE: The AV and computer help desk on the second floor of the Downers Grove Public Library underwent renovations in 2015. **LEFT:** The Carnegie building, pictured in 1937, housed the Downers Grove Public Library until it was razed to construct a new facility in 1977.

Photos provided

■ **2014:** Construction is completed on a \$2.4 million renovation as part of the library's strategic plan.

■ **2015:** The AV and computer help desk on the second floor of the library undergo renovations.

New Downers Grove Public Library executive director eager to learn about community

Published: Monday, July 25, 2016 1:30 p.m. CDT

DOWNERS GROVE – As the Downers Grove Public Library enters its 125th year in the community, it will do so under the leadership of a new executive director.

The library's former director Rick Ashton retired in March, kicking off a monthslong search that led to the selection of his successor, Julie Milavec, director of the Plainfield Public Library since 2000.

Although she doesn't begin her time in Downers Grove until Aug. 1, she spoke with Suburban Life reporter Nathan Lurz about her hopes and plans for the library.

Lurz: I know you have a good deal of experience in the library world – what should people in Downers Grove know about you and what you've done?

Milavec: I've been a library director for more than 20 years. I was born an Army brat, but I was raised in the Chicago suburbs. Most of my family is in the Chicagoland area, so I'm very familiar with the entire area, which really helps me understand the different communities and the differences between them.

Downers Grove is a great community, it's got wonderful history. It's a fantastic place to work and live and raise children, and the library is a big part of that.

Lurz: What drew you to the job?

Milavec: In Plainfield, I feel like I had taken it as far as I could at this time, so I was looking for a new challenge and to be a little more cutting-edge in services and really start to explore the differences of libraries in the 21st century and how we can continue to evolve and be meaningful to our community.

Now is a great time to come in and be able to help the board and staff and community through a new strategic planning process.

Lurz: What direction do you see the library taking?

Milavec: Libraries in this day and age are more about access and instruction, instead of just checking out an item and getting a physical book. ... We're in a new knowledge economy where people are constantly collaborating and creating and sharing new information, and that's really a key new role for libraries.

We've got digital media ... those are the things that are going to position libraries and continue the tradition of public libraries to be a point of access and an educational resource to people of all ages.

Lurz: Are there any areas you specifically see as a strength or weakness in the Downers Grove library?

Milavec: (Laughs) I haven't even gotten that far yet. I still need to go in and talk to people and see

where the community wants the library to go.

Lurz: What kind of leader do you see yourself as?

Milavec: I am a very collaborative leader, and I like to put together a team and lead a team where everybody has the opportunity to contribute according to their own strengths and interests. [A time] where everybody has an opportunity to try something new ... every experience is a learning experience.

I'm really excited to learn who my team is and what challenges they'd like to take on and helping them meet their own personal goals in their careers.

Lurz: Last question I think is a pretty simple one – what do you like reading or what are you reading right now?

Milavec: One thing that people tease me about is that there is no music on my phone and mp3 player, it's all audiobooks. I'm an audiobook addict. I always have a book on. ... I think it's the greatest thing for me personally to be able to read no matter what I'm doing. Digital services that allow us to have access to books at any time and anywhere are just amazing.

I went back and started reading the Jack Reacher series. I had never picked it up, but I think I'm on book four or five – I don't even pay attention to what number it is, I just look at the next title and get it (laughs). I'm also reading [an Alexander] Hamilton biography that the musical is based on.

Lurz: Any final thoughts?

Milavec: I'm really excited to get in and spend some time learning about Downers Grove and about the library in particular. It's just an exciting opportunity and I'm just excited to be coming.

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New Director Julie Milavec Joins DGPL Staff

Milavec will create and carry out a plan for 21st century library services, replenishing capital funds and maintaining the building.

By Morgan Searles (Patch Staff) - August 11, 2016 5:34 pm ET



DOWNERS GROVE, IL — After a national search, the Downers Grove Public Library Board of Trustees recently announced the appointment of Julie M. Milavec as library director.

As director, Milavec is responsible for creating and carrying out a plan that provides 21st century library services, replenishes capital funds, and maintains the physical building.

“My first responsibility will be creating this plan. I’ll help the Board of Trustees, residents, and staff determine what their vision is. And then I will help make this vision a reality,” she says.

Julie is excited to get the process started.

“There will be opportunities for input. We will have lots of conversations. Talking, learning, asking questions. I can’t wait to meet everyone!”

Libraries have always been a part of Julie’s life. Inspired by her father’s and grandfather’s long, successful library careers, she started volunteering in libraries as soon as she was able to shelves books. She went on to receive her Master of Library Science degree from Florida State University and has worked in many towns since then, including Lemont, Plainfield, West Chicago, and Worth.

At each stop she’s immersed herself in that community, and found that the library is one of the greatest things about it.

She goes on to explain, “Everyone is welcome at a library, and we literally have something for everyone.”

One of her goals in Downers Grove is to help each and every resident be more aware of this: “We have something for you.” You’re invited to welcome Julie to Downers Grove at the library’s 125th birthday party on Sunday, October 16.

She’ll be in the lobby from 1 - 4:30 p.m. excited to meet you. You can also swing by the first floor Administration Office anytime or send an email to Jmilavec@dglibrary.org to say hello.

Submitted by the Downers Grove Public Library.

<http://patch.com/illinois/downersgrove/new-director-julie-milavec-joins-dgpl-staff>

DOWNERS GROVE ■ WESTMONT

Suburban Life

FALL 2016

MAGAZINE



A literary life

Julie Milavec follows family footsteps to the front door of the Downers Grove Public Library **PAGE 7**



Celebrity Dance marks decade in Downers Grove

PAGE 14

Editor's Note

Imagine all of the stories about your community – the shops, restaurants and your neighbors – beautifully presented in a magazine worthy of a sunny morning with a cup of coffee.

Now you have it.

Suburban Life Magazine presents its Downers Grove/Westmont edition, filled with everything you need to know about the people, places and events happening in your hometown.

Every season, you'll get a magazine focused on you, with an expanded local calendar of events, community artisans, and stories about outstanding volunteers and interesting city businesses.

In this fall edition, we get ready for school with the help of local educators and pediatricians, explore school days gone by at the Downers Grove Museum and celebrate 125 years with the Downers Grove Public Library.

We get to know the newest library director, Julie Milavec, local running enthusiasts. Downers Grove business owners Ken and Nell Posmer, and learn a few steps from the team at Celebrity Dance Studio.

We honor anti-bullying advocate Mary Ellen Young, one of our 2016 Women of Distinction honorees. And we're showcasing Fannie Moy of Westmont as our featured artist of the month.

Speaking of art, it's nearly time for the Downers Grove Fine Arts Festival, a great local summer event, and the Westmont-based Progressive Village Performance Network is gearing up for its next production. We preview them both and get you ready to end the summer in style, right here, in your hometown!

Thanks for reading-



Sherri Dauskurdas
Editor



on the COVER

The Downers Grove Public Library welcomed its new director, Julie Milavec, to town this month, and continues its 125th anniversary celebration through the fall. Read more on page 7.

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Suburban Life

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Published by Shaw Media
1101 W. 31st Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 630-368-1100
suburbanlifemagazine@shawmedia.com

General Manager

Laura Burke
lburke@shawmedia.com

Advertising

Bill Korbelt
630-427-6230
bkorbelt@shawmedia.com

Editor

Sherri Dauskurdas
630-427-6209
sdauskurdas@shawmedia.com

Designer

Carol Manderfield
630-427-6253
cmanderfield@shawmedia.com

Correspondents

Wendy Foster, Melissa Riske, Shonda Dudlicek,
Kara Silva

Photographers

Aldo Risolvo, Joe Perez, Greg Wilkelmann,
Bill Ackerman

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Racking up memories

Library marks 125 years with nostalgic programs and celebratory events

By SHONDA DUDLICEK | Photos by ALDO RISOLVO



In 1891, the Ladies Library Association opened a small reading room above the Farmers Market and Merchants Bank on the northeast corner of Main and Curtiss in Downers Grove. By 1895, the library held about 700 volumes.

Fast-forward 125 years to 2016, and the Downers Grove Public Library, at 1050 Curtiss St., now holds 321,709 total items in its collection, which includes books, CDs, DVDs, e-readers, e-magazines, video games and more.

Melissa Doornbos has been public relations manager of the Downers Grove Public Library since 2010 and says that she's seen many changes in her six years.

"We've introduced Blu-Ray, videogames, e-books and e-magazines and even so many more items and equipment. You can use a laptop and bring it around the library instead of looking up information on our database on our computers. We have cameras to check out; we provide training on how to use them. Since 2015 we've added VHS-to-DVD recorders that you can check out and take home and convert your tapes to DVD. More music equipment, like software, for your computer. You can also check out a keyboard or guitar. That might be expensive for one person to buy, but when you can check it out at the library – and lots of people can do this – it's a great value."

She added that adult fiction and nonfiction books in Chinese, Polish and Spanish were introduced earlier this year as part of the new World Languages Collection.

"We added more study rooms and Downers Grove Grade School District 58 and Community High School District 99 have tutors here and host events here. They all need workspaces," Doornbos says.

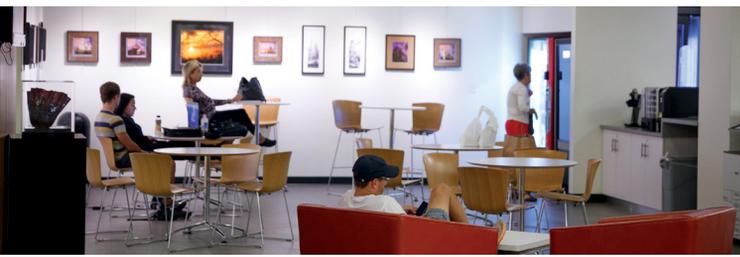
Back in 2012, a strategic plan included a \$2.4 million renovation plan for more study spaces, upgraded technology, improved Wi-Fi, enhanced displays of items and a cafe space. Construction was completed two years later.

This, of course, was not the first round of renovations for the 67,738-square-foot library.

It began in 1911, following a successful referendum for a tax-supported library, when a small building on the southwest corner of Main and Curtiss became the library's second home. Circulation had jumped to 1,520 by November 1912 – nearly doubling the collection housed in the reading room above the bank.

-Continued on page 8





Save the Date!

DOWNERS GROVE LIBRARY 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Sunday, Oct. 16

1 to 5 p.m. (during normal library hours)

-Continued from page 7

Three years later, in 1915, money from the Carnegie Foundation helped construct a new brick building on the corner of Forest and Curtiss. The new library cost \$11,250.

In 1956, a wrap-around addition expanded the Carnegie Building from 1915. This was done to accommodate a booming local population and, again, usage grew.

Nearly 20 years later, a 1975 referendum called for the old library building to be razed and the collection was moved to temporary housing just east of the library. In fall 1977, a new 40,000-square foot building opened. In 1983, the second floor was redesigned and the reference department moved upstairs.

In 1996, Downers Grove residents approved an \$8.2 million referendum to reconstruct and update the library with an addition. The new 67,738 square-foot building opened in February 1999.

Marking 125 years is a milestone, and the library has been celebrating since January

with a variety of historic portrayals, gallery displays, activities, musical performances, story times, trivia and it will host a birthday party in the fall. The party will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16 (during normal library hours).

Residents also have shared their memories of the library in the bimonthly newsletter. And the library has added historical photos on its Facebook page, facebook.com/DGLibrary.

"We're celebrating the library being part of the community for 125 years," Doornbos says. "So, we're taking a history-related approach. We're looking at what was popular in music, activities, food and historical events."

► Visit dglibrary.org/125 for upcoming 125th anniversary-related events.



Get to know Julie Milavec

Downers Grove Public Library Director

By SHONDA DUDLICEK | Photos by ALDO RISOLVO

Julie Milavec is a third generation librarian, and the newest member of the Downers Grove community, taking the helm as Downers Grove Public Library director. Suburban Life Magazine writer Shonda Dudlicek took a few minutes to chat with Milavec about the job, her experience as director for the Plainfield Public Library, and her hopes for the future.

SHONDA DUDLICEK: How does it feel to take over a library in the midst of its 125th year?

JULIE MILAVEC: The Downers Grove Library has a long history of service to this community. This anniversary year is the perfect time to celebrate that history and plan for the library's future. I'm eager to begin talking to residents about their needs and to the board and staff about how the library can best meet those needs.

DUDLICEK: What have you learned as director of the Plainfield Public Library?

MILAVEC: The way people access information changed significantly during my tenure there. Public libraries had to evolve to keep pace. In 2000, cellphones were not common. Now they have more power than home computers from that time. How libraries provide access to information and recreational reading material shifted from focusing on physical to encompassing a variety of virtual access points. It's paramount for libraries to keep up with technology and the way people access and use information.

DUDLICEK: Many of us have fond memories of the visiting the library as children. What notable memories do you have?

MILAVEC: My father was the director of the Joliet Public Library when I was growing up, so I have lots of memories of the library! I was always asking my dad to bring me something new, one of those kids who checked out stacks and stacks of books at a time. One vivid memory is testing the very

first computer catalog for the library. To prove it would be easy for kids to use, my dad had my brother and I come in and try it, without any instructions. We were about 9 and 10 at the time. We loved it – and the skeptical staff was sold!

DUDLICEK: Why did you decide on a career in library science?

MILAVEC: Did I mention my dad? Also, my grandfather was the director of the Illinois State Library in the 1970s. Public libraries were a logical choice for me. I wanted a career that would help people and give back to the community. I believe in public libraries for providing education, information, entertainment, inspiration and opportunity.

DUDLICEK: What is your favorite genre to read?

MILAVEC: Depends on what I am doing. I like light romances and historical fiction at the end of a long day. On the non-fiction side, I tend to pick up biographies and humor. I prefer mysteries and suspense while walking the dog or gardening – and yes, I am an audiobook fan!

DUDLICEK: Do you have a favorite book?

MILAVEC: I have a favorite book for just about any occasion – they depend on mood and genre. Overall, my favorite book usually winds up being the one I am reading now! At the moment, I've got the Hamilton biography that inspired the musical – it's fascinating!

DUDLICEK: What was your favorite book as a child?

MILAVEC: I was a voracious reader as a child. I rarely re-read anything, but was constantly moving on to the next topic or genre. L.M. Montgomery was one of the few exceptions – I re-read her series, "Anne of Green Gables," and the lesser-known "Emily" trilogy several times.

DUDLICEK: What was your favorite book as a young adult?

MILAVEC: "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle got me started in the science fiction and fantasy genres.

DUDLICEK: What is the library's place in the community and how should it serve the public?

MILAVEC: By definition, it provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination for all, regardless of age, beliefs, ability to pay, etc. But exactly what that means is as individual as the community served. A rural library may be one of the few places available to residents for free Internet access while suburban libraries may focus more on things like downloadable materials, helping people learn to use the latest gadgets or demonstrating useful apps. Engaging residents and understanding their needs is the most important thing a library can do to ensure its services are responsive to those needs. That's exactly what the Downers Grove Public Library will be doing while creating a new strategic plan to guide us into the next 125 years.

DUDLICEK: What plans do you have to help lead the Downers Grove Public Library into the next 125 years?

MILAVEC: First and foremost, I want to get out and meet people, talk to them about the community and their thoughts on issues and needs in the community as a whole and the library specifically. The better the board, staff and I understand what our residents value and need, the better we can ensure that the library is responding with services that fit the community.

DUDLICEK: If someone tells you they don't have a library card, what is your response?

MILAVEC: That they should get one to make the most of their investment in their community! There really is something for everyone. You don't even have to physically go to the library anymore to be an avid library user. From access to databases that require subscriptions to books and magazines that can be downloaded instantly, public libraries give a great return on investment – if you use them.