

Looking Back on 30 years of Library Service in Cambridge

The very first library attempt in Cambridge happened in 1955. Genore Bernhard, Eddie Jensen, Clarice Neupert, James Knoblauch and Lester Jarlsberg were the Trustees. Ethel May Curits was the first Librarian. It was located next to the Village Hall, operating 10 hours per week. After a couple of years, the obstacles faced by the library proved to be too much and the library closed. That was the end to the first attempt to form an ongoing Cambridge Library.

What was the first step in establishing our current library? A letter to Village residents in February 1978 identified the community's need to grow from being served by a Bookmobile to establishing a library.

What was the official document that established the Library structure? Ordinance No. 73, signed by President

Ed Swain in May 1978, established a Village library, library fund and Library Board.

Who served on the first Library Board in 1978? Laurie Hagberg, Genora Bernhardt, Betty Stoffel, Dona Merg, John Jeffries, Jeanne Patterson and Harold Dahlen.

What was the date of the Library's grand opening? September 2, 1978 in what is presently e.serv Technical Solutions at 201 Water Street. The building owner at the time, Jim Lee, donated one free month of rent to help get things started.

Who was the first librarian? Mary Burton who started in July of 1978. The present librarian is Joan Behm who began working in 1988 and became director in 1993. Other past librarians were Mary Gjeramo, Mary

Pope, Sharon Olson, Ann Bowles, Pam Brandel, Judy Doan-Brassington, Debra Bird, and Judy Baker.

When did the Library get its first computer? Between 1984 and 1989, the Library first got one computer for cataloging books and later, one Apple II for patrons' use.

Stats: In 1984, total circulation of materials was 14,548; total number of items owned by the Library was 4,515. 2007 Total Circulation - 55,096 - Approx. total items owned 37,000 2008 - circulation through June of 2008 - 30,089 plus 500 new items added to our collection.

Our present library has 6 part-time assistants plus many devoted volunteers to complete all the services offered.

Friends

From the Friends of the Cambridge Community Library
www.cambridgelibraryfriends.org

Heading into Our 31st Year

submitted by Dave Wilcox, president, Cambridge Community Library Board of Trustees

While the drive for a new library building remains an important goal of the Cambridge Community Library Board of Trustees, we continue to explore other facility options as we head into our 31st year of service to the community.

The most interesting option to me is the potential relocation to space in the middle school. The School Board and District Administration are actively considering the idea of moving middle school grade students to the other two district campuses, thus making a significant amount of space available for other civic purposes. In July, the Library Board toured Nikolay Middle School with a specific interest in the areas currently housing the cafeteria, kitchen and adjacent classroom and office space. Use of this space for a new library facility offers many benefits, such as a solid and readily available infrastructure, the chance to be an anchor for a collection of many community organizations and services, and the thing we need most of all: additional space. Of course, this scenario is very much dependent upon the School District's future plans, as well as input from the Village and the residents within the school district. The District Administration has set December 2008 as a time when a decision regarding the future of the middle school must be made if redistribution of classes is to happen for the 2009/2010 school year. The Library Board feels it is important to wait for the District's decision, provided it is made before this year is out, before we continue to pursue the option of building an addition on to the Amundson Center.

The Library Board and staff recognize that plans for day-to-day library services can't be set aside while the community waits for the School Board to make a decision. To address near-term needs, the library staff is working with board members to develop a plan to update existing library facilities, refine the ongoing criteria for growing and managing the library's current collection, and address opportunities to optimize our very limited space in the current facility. We look forward to implementing some of these refurbishments early next year. With the assistance of the School District, we'll explore off-site storage options that will allow retention of little-used but still valuable material, making more room for current acquisitions.

The Friends of the Library and the Library Board – and, of course, the Library itself --would not exist without the help we receive from volunteers who help out in a myriad of ways. One person who has made a tremendous contribution the Cambridge Community Library is Marianne Hauser. Marianne, who has represented the School District on the Library Board for several years, is leaving the board following her retirement as the head of library services for the Cambridge Community Schools. I want to take this opportunity to thank Marianne for her years of dedication, valuable input, and generous spirit.

I hope to see you at the open house we'll hold on September 13, as we celebrate the Cambridge Community Library's three decades of service.

September 2008

Celebrating 30 Years of the Cambridge Community Library

Saturday, September 13
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Free Entertainment - Food
Socializing - Prizes
Something for everyone!

Schedule of events:

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Stop in for some coffee and morning refreshments as you check-out what's new at the library

10:00 a.m. – Noon
Professional face painters

11:00 a.m. - Noon
Frisbee Throwing Demonstrations

Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Join the Friends for an old-fashioned ice cream social

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Enjoy extended library hours

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Musical entertainment by local musicians and special drawings.

Library Meetings

Library Board
First Thurs. of every month,
Amundson Center - 7p.m.

Friends of the Library
Second Mon. of every month
Amundson Center - 9a.m.

Postal Customer
Cambridge, WI 53523

Cambridge, WI 53523

P.O. Box 490

Community Library



Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Cambridge, WI
Permit No. 1