

# Greendale Public Library

## THROUGH THE DECADES

1938

Greendale's first school building (which includes the Community Building) opens equipped with a library for students which also serves as a community library, housing approximately 3,000 books.

1969

The school building that houses the Community Building is remodeled after 30 years, with a design that only accommodates the school's needs.

The school district elects to open the high school library for some public services.

1970

Greendale's League of Women Voters conducts an extensive study of library services and needs in the Village.

1971

The Friends of the Library group forms as a result of the study conducted by The League of Women Voters.

A new state law dictates that school districts can no longer operate libraries for municipalities.

1972

Wisconsin State Law (Chapter 43) requires municipalities to form Library Boards to operate their public libraries.

The Village Board approves the formation of a Library Board.

1973

The "Official" Greendale Public Library (GPL) opens for 7 hours a week at the high school while temporary quarters are secured and a plan is put into place to construct a public library building.

Darlene Blakely becomes the first Library Director, working 10 hours a week.

1974

Cecilia Chapple is named the new, full-time Library Director.

The first non-school site for the Public Library opens to the public. Located at 5666 Broad Street in the Village Center, it is a 4,000 square foot facility housing approx. 35,000 volumes.

1976

GPL becomes a member of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS), which increases services to include reciprocal borrowing of materials between communities, access to all libraries in the system, and daily delivery of materials among other services.

1979

The library is remodeled to include an office for the Library Director and an enclosed entryway for the public.

Cecilia Chapple announces her resignation as Library Director. Darlene Blakely serves as the acting director.

1980

Gary Warren Niebuhr becomes the new Library Director.

A children's librarian is added to the library staff and a reference/children's services desk is added to the library.

1987

The Library Board establishes a Building Committee charged with planning for the future location of the library along with the organization of a fund raising campaign.

1989

The Village Board purchases the Drews Dime Store Building and begins renovation for the development of the Municipal Building which will house the Public Library, the Health Department, the Historical Society and a community meeting room.

The Greendale Public Library Foundation, Inc. is established with the goal of raising non-tax revenue for the Library and forms the official Friends of the Greendale Public Library.

1990

The storefront library serves its last customer after 16 years of service in the rented space at 5666 Broad St.

A formal dedication ceremony is held on Sunday, December 16th to officially open the new Municipal Building at 5647 Broad St.

1993

The Library Board accepts the gift of three mobile art pieces by Oconomowoc-based artist, Jim Treutelaar which were received through the Greendale Public Library Foundation as a donation from the Greendale Woman's Club.

1995

Through the Milwaukee County Federated Library System, the library computerizes all circulation related activities, providing online public access catalog of materials, remote dial-in access to the catalog, and a wide-area network connecting the library to many electronic information sources.

1998

The Library makes five public access PCs available to patrons to access the world wide web and to do email at the library. One PC is dedicated to word processing, spreadsheet and database creation.

2007

Thanks to a generous donation from the Boszhardt family, the youth area receives a total refresh including new furniture. The Maxie Boszhardt Youth Area is unveiled in a dedication ceremony.

The computer and reference material area is named the Luke Sikorski Resource Center in a dedication ceremony honoring a young, dedicated staff member who passed away in 2000.

2011

Storytime chair donated to the youth area in honor of Betty Grypp for 22 years of service to the youth of Greendale.

The Library Board, Village Board, and School District begin planning to transform the Municipal Building into the newly branded Community Learning Center, adding the Park and Recreation Department to the existing offerings.

2013

After two years of remodeling, the Community Learning Center (CLC) is fully operational as the envisioned one-stop-shop for collaboration, cost savings and enhanced public service.

An RFID tagging project of the entire library collection begins to enable self-checkout for patrons.

2014

The collection of Norman Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post cover illustrations acquired by Greendale resident Roy Reiman become a permanent art installation at the Library along with the life-size wax figure display of Rockwell at his easel commissioned by Reiman.

2016

Library Director, Gary Warren Niebuhr retires after 35 years of service to GPL.

New director implements modernizations and updates to furniture, community room, staff work areas, computers, and more.

2018

Directorship changes again with Brian Van Klooster maintaining the library's forward momentum.

2020

After a short closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the library staff pivots to continue providing services to patrons, offering virtual programs and adding curbside pick up.

2023

The Greendale Public Library celebrates its (official) 50th year!

The collection of approximately 60,000 items now includes popular non-traditional items such as Explorer Passes and STEM Kits. With in-demand youth, teen, and adult programs, GPL continues to support and enrich the Village and community.