



History of the Glencoe Public Library

The Glencoe Public Library was organized in 1909 with a nucleus of books from the Woman's Library Club, the Glencoe School, and the Congregational Church. It opened in one room of the old Central School with one of the teachers, Miss Sarah Hammond, daughter of a Glencoe founder, acting as the first librarian. Miss Hammond served as Librarian until 1935, and the mezzanine floor assembly room in the present building is named for her.

In 1912, the Library was housed on the second floor of the Old Village Hall on Vernon Avenue.

In 1929, the Library moved to the Hawthorne School at the corner of Greenleaf and Hazel Avenues and remained there until 1941 when it was moved to its present location. The Hawthorne School building had been built originally for the Woman's Library Club and is now a private residence.

The site of the present building and Village Hall was purchased in 1917 from William H. Johnson for \$54,900.00 which was borrowed upon the personal guarantee of 169 Glencoe residents. A tax had been approved by the Village in 1917, serving to pay back the loan and to provide other library facilities.

The Library Board in 1938 began the task of planning the present building and having it constructed on the Johnson property. Funds from the original 1917 levy plus an additional \$35,500.00 bond issue were used for the building and furnishings. William H. Johnson gave an additional bequest, which was used for furnishings in the main reading room named in his honor.

On July 13, 1941, the new building was opened to the public.

The south portion of the Johnson property was held in trust by the Library board until a determination was made of how this property could be used best for the community. In 1954, it was given to the Village as a site for the present Village Hall.

In 1962, the Friends of the Glencoe Public Library was formed by a group of dedicated Village residents. The Friends cooperate with the Library Board in encouraging the use of the Library and its services. Contributions given to the Friends are administered by a Friends Board and given to the Library as gifts for special projects such as the remodeling and refurbishing of the Children's Room, the Hammond Room and the Friends Room, the purchase of audiovisual equipment as well as funding various library programs.

In 1966, the Glencoe Public Library became a charter member of the North Suburban Library System (NSLS), one of 18 such systems in Illinois. There were 44 member public libraries in NSLS along with numerous academic, school and special libraries which enjoyed affiliated status. NSLS served as a facilitator of cooperative library services and development, maintained a library of professional materials and provided daily van delivery and pick-up service.

On March 12, 1973, Thomas A. Forte, assumed the administrative duties of the Library and was hired as the Executive Director. Mr. Forte was preceded by Miss Sarah Hammond, Librarian from 1909 to 1935; Miss Helen Beckwith, 1935 to 1960; Mr. Milimir Drazic, 1960 to 1966; Miss Lotta Stern, 1966 to 1973.

In July 1975, the Library initiated its computerized circulation system as a charter member of the Cooperative Computer Circulation System (CCCS) of NSLS. This cooperative group has grown and expanded throughout its history and now comprises 25 member libraries known as the Cooperative Computer Services (CCS) which owns and shares the mainframe hardware of the computer system and administers its operation.

In 1986, the Library initiated a newsletter, EXCERPTS, which is published and mailed to Glencoe households six times a year.

In 1989, the Library Board began to plan for a major renovation to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In the fall of 1991, the trustees engaged the services of R. Scott Javore & Associates, Ltd. of Glencoe for the architectural design. Construction began in March 1993. The renovation project was completed in April 1994. A Grand Opening concert was held on Sunday, April 10, 1994 featuring the Chicago Symphony Chamber Players.

On December 15, 1994, Ms. Peggy Hamil was hired as the Executive Director of the Glencoe Public Library. Mr. Forte informed the Library Board in April 1994 of his intention to retire.

In the summer of 1996, using Federal and State grant funds, the Library installed a Local Area Network (LAN) to provide electronic resources directly to patrons. In January 1997, the Library introduced Internet access for the public.

On March 11, 2001, the Library hosted an Open House to introduce patrons to the new preschool area on the second floor; the new Young Adult/Media Room on the main floor; and the Friends' Used Book Sale room on the lower level. A new service point was added with the Reader Services desk on the first floor. Three years earlier, the Friends of the Glencoe Public Library had encouraged the Library Board to undertake an expansion of the building, which resulted in the new accommodations by added approximately 1,000 square feet to each floor of the building.

In April 2001, the Library held a reception to name the Ralph and Lois Silver Business Information Center resulting from their \$50,000.00 contribution, and to name the Thomas A. Forte Reference Room in honor of the 21 years of service by the former library director.

In April 2009, the David Morton Stein Computer Center opened and provided additional computer workstations.

In November 2009, the Susan Alona Aspen Garden, donated by the Takiff Family, was dedicated in memory of the former library trustee.

In October 2010, a rose garden was funded by an anonymous donor and planted in honor of Muriel Fulton.

On June 3, 2013, Ms. Juliann Janovicz officially became the Executive Director of the Glencoe Public Library. Ms. Hamil announced her retirement in the fall of 2012.

In the summer of 2015, the Library debuted an updated website and monthly electronic newsletter.

On March 14, 2016, Mr. Andrew Kim officially became the Executive Director of the Glencoe Public Library. Ms. Janovicz retired in the fall of 2015.

In April 2017, the Library began a facility-wide project designed to upgrade the building's HVAC system.