REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FY 2017-2018
MAHOPAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
YOUR HOME. YOUR TOWN. YOUR LIBRARY.

Library Transformation
BY MICHELE CAPOZZELLA
LIBRARY DIRECTOR AND CEO

The installation of exterior lighting and identifying lettering on the building facade emphasizes pride in our Library and our community. This project, supported with a grant from the Lake Mahopac Rotary Foundation and funds from the Sylvia B. Henschel Trust, was completed in March 2018.

An architectural plan to transform the Library’s 1st floor was prepared; the renovation project, which received support from Assemblyman Kevin Byrne’s office, is underway and will incorporate: a new seating area for socialization and informal programs, updated and energy-efficient lighting, additional outlets to accommodate a variety of devices, and, more colorful walls and carpeting to define the space and create a warm and welcoming environment.

Mahopac Public Library has become the focal point of a robust and desirable community in which to live and work. Under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, and with the support of the Friends of Mahopac Public Library, our staff members continually strive to meet the needs of our community through innovative programming, cultural enrichment, literacy workshops, technology training, and reading readiness activities.

As we adapt our programs and services to keep pace with the needs of Putnam County residents, we endeavor to ensure that no one is left behind in enjoying the benefits of literacy, information, and communication technology.

“Mahopac Library... is really a community center. There is something for everybody... from toddlers to seniors.”

One of our goals this year was to enhance the safety and security of the building. A newly designed exterior gate, with a crash bar, was installed in the adult garden to enable staff and patrons to evacuate the first floor through the garden in an emergency situation.

Nighttime view of the new exterior lettering.

Mahopac Public Library
668 Route 6 Mahopac, NY
www.mahopaclibrary.org

Installation of lettering on the facade.

Children display their dream catchers in the Library garden.

Enjoying delicious treats at the End of Summer Reading Ice Cream Party.
Library and Information Resources
BY HILARY ALBERT
HEAD OF REFERENCE

As a new member of the Rotary Club of Lake Mahopac, I represented the Library at weekly meetings, and participated in several volunteer events.

This year, Reference Department staff members offered Foundation Center classes to assist individuals and organizations with grant research and preparation.

Our quiet study rooms and computers, always in high demand on the 2nd floor, provided space for individuals and groups including MISP, ACCESS-VR, MVP HealthCare, the League of Women Voters, Catholic Charities, and Mahopac High School.

The Library subscribed to MergentIntelect, an online resource that provides comprehensive worldwide business information.

Seasonal assistance was offered by AARP volunteers who prepared and filed taxes for many local residents.

Library and Community
BY RITA COVELLI
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Library tours for BOCES ESL students and Lincoln Hall’s Refugee Resettlement minors were offered to explain the function of a library and highlight the many free services we offer to the community.

Teens took to the streets! Traveling Teen Reporters visited and interviewed many local businesses; the Balloon Club made balloon animals at various community events and street fairs; MPL Teen Players participated at Tilly Foster Farm’s Tea with Alice and performed at Sycamore Park.

The Library sponsored both a Middle School and High School Battle of the Books Team that competed in a tournament against other libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Our popular Star Wars Reads Day programs included authors Helen Keier and Jason Fry, the Hudson Valley Squad 501st Legion, the Rebel Legion, and R2D2!

National Pet Day was celebrated at the Library with goody bags of dog biscuits and cat toys.

In preparation for the Total Solar Eclipse, the library distributed protective viewing glasses to our patrons.

Library and Technology
BY LAURA CRISCI
HEAD OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Our department is responsible for the library website and remaining current with digital services and tools that enhance the patron experience.

The Library subscribed to Lynda Library, an online resource offering more than 6,000 skill building courses.

Portable AC/USB chargers were made available for patron use in the Library.

Patrons seeking information about the Library can take a virtual tour of many of our meeting rooms via 360 degree photographs available on the website.

The Learning Lab, under the direction of Amy Schapiro, was relocated to the 2nd floor and offered expanded hours for technical and resume help, and classes for all ages. Other additions included:

Adaptive technologies that provide accessibility for the visual, motor, and hearing impaired. (support provided by Senator Terrence Murphy’s office).

Virtual and Augmented Reality technologies which were featured in programs for ages 8 through adult.

A 3D printer, assembled by Amy and Louis Crisci in the Lab, that can produce 3D prints in eco-friendly plastic. Patrons were able to create their own 3D designs.

Plus, children and teens explored Storybird.com, Scratch, Makey Makeys, Ozobots, and Circuit Scribe in the Lab’s STEAM workshops.


Mahopac Fire-Breathing Ducks with coach Paul Murphy – Middle School Battle of the Books Team.

Youth Services staff members, Joan, Gal & Cindy, view the eclipse.

The Traveling Teen Reporters are excited to visit Dr. Sean Rooney.
Library and Your Stories
BY CHERYL HARLEN
HEAD OF READER’S SERVICES

The Large Print collection was relocated to a more spacious, sunny area with a view of Lake Mahopac.

Our DVD collection was re-organized by genre.

An online library card application form was added to our website.

The Horror Story Book Group was initiated this year; the items read by all 4 adult books groups are available at the Circulation Desk.

A New York State Empire Pass was added to the Library’s Museum Pass Program (sponsored by the Friends of Mahopac Library).

MPL Book Buzz, our staff blog, highlighted new fiction & DVD releases, staff reviews, and book club discussion summaries.

A partnership project was developed with Friends of MPL to provide books for the William Koehler Center’s Meals on Wheels program.

Our 1st floor staff continues to be a resource for reading, viewing, and listening recommendations. Bookmarks, brochures, and rotating displays provide additional suggestions.

Library and Leadership
BY KRISTINE BUNYEA, PAST PRESIDENT, MAHOPAC PUBLIC LIBRARY (2015-2018)

Last year the Library initiated a series of Community Conversations with Mahopac residents and local leadership. The result was a community-focused FY 2018-2020 Long Range Plan that shapes our vision for the future.

Board information sessions were held to engage and cultivate new Trustees.

We achieved a successful budget vote and the election of two new Board members: John Battista and Eugene Boesch. We also bid farewell to Tom Honohan, acknowledging his 25 years of service as a Trustee.

Support from the Friends, Town of Carmel, Putnam County, and offices of the New York State Senate and Assembly enhance the innovative services and programs that we provide.

Finally, we are grateful for the Lake Mahopac Garden Club members who generously give their time to maintain the adult and children’s gardens.

Library Adventures
BY JOAN ROSE
HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES

Last year our exciting programs for children, and enhancements in the Youth Services area, included:

Story Time on the Road • The Feed Barn, Dunkin Donuts, eneSHe Fitness, and the Putnam Hospital Kid’s Day Fair.

The Children’s Enchanted Garden: a tactile and sensory exploration designed by Kathy Tuttle.

Bi-lingual story times: songs and stories in Spanish and English.

New furniture and equipment: puppet theater and more in the children’s play area.

Family math fun: skill-building through puzzles, games, and hands-on activities.

Children’s Summer Reading Program: live animals, STEAM programs, movies, and magic!

Homework help: high school student volunteers assisted children in grades K-8.

Elementary school tours: youngsters from local schools visited our Library, listened to a story, and checked out items.

Gingerbread House Making: families and friends worked together to build spectacular constructions!

Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees with Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, and Putnam County Legislators Neal Sullivan and Amy Sayegh.
Mahopac Public Library endeavors to inspire creativity, encourage life-long learning, and strengthen our community by providing access to information, education, culture, and recreation.

Annual Report to the Community
July 2017-June 2018

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library

BY CAROLE GARCIA
PAST PRESIDENT (2017-2018)

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library, a not-for-profit organization, maintains the Book Barn at the Library, and provides support for library activities, museum passes, collection items, furniture and equipment.

The past year’s highlights include: Sponsored awards for high school seniors who served as volunteers at the Library;

Supported the Putnam County Libraries Spelling Bee;

Hosted a Floral Arranging Workshop in cooperation with the Lake Mahopac Garden Club;

Initiated a funding stream through AmazonSmile;

Participated in the Handcrafted: Mahopac Craft Sale in cooperation with the Community Crafters and Butterfly Quilters;

Provided free books at the 2017 Mahopac Street Fair, and through the Koehler Center Meals on Wheels project.

“...The pleasant staff and the Book Barn create a perfect place to start a library of your own...”

The Book Barn is staffed by volunteers and managed by the Friends of Mahopac Public Library.