A Year of Transformation

Welcome to the Library

New color, light, comfort

This was a year of innovation and exciting changes at Mahopac Public Library. Guided by the Library’s Long-Range plan, which incorporated the needs and aspirations of our patrons, residents, and community leaders, we initiated a renovation project on the first and second floors of the Library. Visitors to the Library have welcomed these improvements which include:

- Colorful and functional furniture placed in the teen area & Library cafe;
- LED lighting installed in the space adjacent to the DVD collection, in the Cafe area, and above the center stairwell leading to the second floor;
- An acoustic ceiling waffle cloud that acts as a sound barrier mounted above the Information Desk;
- Outlet stands and laptop tables added to the 1st floor seating areas for convenience and flexibility;
- New industrial carpeting installed on the central staircase and in the Cafe area.

Reducing waste, reducing costs

- Glass/aluminum recycling bins have been placed in our large meeting rooms;
- Multiple paper copies of all program flyers have been eliminated to boost our sustainability;
- Energy-efficient lighting has been installed on the first and second floors, and solar-powered light fixtures illuminate the exterior building signage and flagpole;
- Attic insulation has been added to reduce heating costs.

Patron services, servicios de mecenas

In addition to the recent physical renovations, we enhanced our accessibility, inclusiveness, and ease-of-access to online resources.

- Amnesty Week/November 2018 – we waived your fines and welcomed many of you back to the Library;
- Online Library card registration – Mahopac residents are able to sign up for a Library card from home and access our online services 24/7;
- A “Recursos en Espanol” button was added to our website, providing helpful information to our Spanish-speaking patrons;
- Auto renewal! Patrons are alerted via email that eligible circulating items on their cards are automatically renewed. If an item is not eligible for renewal, a courtesy notice is sent with a reminder that the item is due.
Supporting Our Children & Students

Engaging young readers

The enthusiasm and excitement of our younger patrons is so rewarding! We continue to support their desire to learn and grow through a wide range of programs and services.

- Copies of the Mahopac Central School District summer reading list books are stocked for our local students; titles are also downloaded onto e-readers, and added to the Overdrive audiobook and ebook collections;
- The Youth Services staff initiated a monthly Toddler Sensory Playtime program for children ages 9 months - 2 years;
- New professional quality musical instruments were purchased for the Youth Services department with assistance from Putnam Music Center;
- Large print children's and Young Adult books were added to the collection to assist struggling readers & English language learners;
- The Children's Enchanted Garden, designed by Kathy Tuttle, continues to be a favorite place to go on a scavenger hunt;
- The juvenile foreign language collection was relocated to a more prominent space in the Youth Services department for greater visibility and access.

Family Fun

Adventures abound here!

- Maker Faire
- Space Fair
- Virtual Reality Day
- LEGO Family Events
- Illusionist Scott Jameson
- Animals Rock
- Mad Science
- Gingerbread House Making
- Jester Jim

Reference, Innovation, Technology

Research, Tech Help, Job Information, Grant Writing

The Reference and Emerging Technologies departments engaged patrons with assistive technology training, hands-on learning activities, and Foundation Center workshops. Remote access to our online databases is becoming more popular than ever!

- Learning Lab staff members provided computer classes to groups of individuals from PARC and the Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Foundation;
- Staff members built a 3D Jelly Box Printer and offered 3D printing workshops for all ages;
- Adaptive technologies, purchased with grant funding, were added to the Learning Lab for visually impaired patrons including ZoomText Fusion, Dragon Text to Speech, a Duxbury Braille Translator, and large print keyboards for the PC and MAC computers;
- A Sorenson Relay Service VideoPhone & Webcam was installed in the Lab for hearing impaired patrons;
- Additional enhancements include a new trackball, joystick, and camera mice for users with diminished coordination and strength;
- A Microfilm machine was installed in the Land Use Room;
- A WiFi Hotspot service was initiated with support from a Mid-Hudson Library System grant;
- Reference Librarian Emily Wierzbowski introduced a Foundation Center/Grant Writing Series for those seeking project & organizational support;
- The Local History Collection, including Mahopac High School yearbooks, is now accessible in the Land Use Room.

Our Exhibition Program

Third Floor Gallery and Young Arts Gallery

- The Third Floor Gallery displays artwork created by local and regional professional artists.
- The Young Arts Gallery hosts exhibits of artwork produced by students from the Mahopac Central School District and from other local alternative schools.
Engaging Our Community

Outreach and Partnership Projects

Partnerships with local scout groups, not-for-profit organizations, and community leaders create positive experiences for our residents, neighbors, and visitors to this area.

- **Brownie Troop 1806** earned their computer expert badge in the Library’s Learning Lab;
- **MPL’s Teens Who Care** made chocolates to include in holiday treat bags for the Putnam Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center;
- AARP volunteers provided **tax preparation assistance** for more than 100 patrons;
- The Library was a site for **Overdose Prevention/Narcan training** provided by representatives from Arms Acres and from Drug Crisis in Our Backyard;
- Library staff members participated in the **Putnam County Children’s Expo and Safety Fair**, the Putnam Hospital Kid’s Day, the Putnam County 4H Fair, and the Carmel and Mahopac Street Fairs;
- The Library is the site of **toy drives** conducted by Toys for Tots, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, and CoveCare Center;
- The **New York Blood Center** and the **Red Cross** ran several successful blood drives at our Library;
- The **Teen Balloon Club** entertained all ages at local street fairs, the 4H Fair, and at Sycamore Park;
- You shared **your Library stories** during “Love Your Library” month;
- The Library provides space for many community-oriented groups including AARP Tax Assistance program, ACCES-VR, American Cancer Society/Relay for Life, Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, Careers Support Solutions, Inc., Dispute Resolution Center, Girl Scout & Boy Scout Troops, Lake Mahopac Rotary, Lake Mahopac Garden Club, Mahopac Central School District, Mental Health Association in Putnam County (MHA), Putnam ARC, Putnam Independent Living Services, and many more.

Staff and Board news

**We Welcomed new Board & Staff Members**

- Mary Ann Kohan joined the Youth Services staff this year;
- Two new Board members were elected to fill seats on the Board: Stephen Baranowski and Joseph Montuori;
- Hilary Albert, Head of the Reference Department, joined the Lake Mahopac Rotary Club and was recently installed as their 2019 Vice-President;
- Library Director Michele Capozzella hosted the annual breakfast for the Mahopac Central School District administrators. Michele was joined by several staff and Board members;
- Staff members were trained to provide a supportive environment for those on the Autism Spectrum.
Annual Report to the Community
July 2018-June 2019

Mahopac Public Library
Board of Trustees
Joseph Tock, President
Elizabeth Costello, Vice President
Alice Walsh, Secretary
Scott Weiss, Financial Director
Stephen Baranowski
John Battista
Eugene Boesch
Frank Del Campo
Joseph Montuori

Michele Capozzella
Library Director and CEO

Friends of Mahopac Public Library
Executive Board
Karen Kellogg, President
William Stein, Vice-President
Susan Grant, Treasurer
Kim Doyle, Recording Secretary
Sandra Kamelgarn, Corresponding Secretary

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library
A valued source of support and advocacy

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library manage and maintain the Book Barn, an outstanding community resource for gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks for all ages. Staffed by a dedicated group of welcoming volunteers, the monies raised in the Book Barn, and by the Friends of Mahopac Library at other events, support many worthwhile Library activities and resources. These include:

- Summer reading programs for all ages;
- Halloween event performers;
- The Battle of the Books, Middle & High School Teams;
- LEGO Robotics;
- Virtual Reality technology equipment;
- High School Senior Volunteer Awards;
- Museum passes;
- and much more!

Mahopac Public Library endeavors to inspire creativity, encourage life-long learning, and strengthen our community by providing access to information, education, culture, and recreation.

The Book Barn is stocked with an extensive collection of gently-used items including fiction, classics, non-fiction, cookbooks, history, crafting, pet care, health and wellness, religion, art, interior design, psychology, gardening, and more.

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library