



Our Story

Year in Review

2019–2020

This is the fourth consecutive year that we've sent out Our Story: Year in Review, and while we've seen many transformations in Library service over the years, this past year proved to be more unique than ever before.

We started the fiscal year in July 2019, when the Summer Reading Program was in full swing. The Program finished strong with 1,376 participants of all ages. At the tail end of the summer, SWAN launched its mobile app, making access to Library materials more convenient than ever. We also celebrated National Night Out in both Hickory Hills and Palos Hills.

As we moved into fall, the Library hosted a wildly successful Haunted Library Tour with over 600 patrons in attendance. During this time, we were contacted by ComEd to begin an energy-saving LED lighting project. More than 240 energy-efficient lightbulbs were installed, and when the project was completed in December 2019, the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program provided the Library with \$10,047.50 in incentives. As we moved towards the holiday season, we started a Giving Tree Campaign to collect items for local families in need, which were later donated to BEDS Plus.

Once 2020 rolled around, the Library ventured into our annual Winter Reading Program and completed the season with 374 participants. We also began ramping up our efforts in anticipation of the once-a-decade population count, the Census.

Our plans for the year suddenly came to a halt when the Library closed its doors on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19. During such unique circumstances in a time of uncertainty, libraries and library workers have demonstrated resourcefulness, originality, and adaptability. As a transformative organization, this was no time to shut down all of our services. We asked ourselves, what can we do to reach our community? Our services have expanded significantly with the advancement of technology over the last few decades, and we knew we could use that to our advantage.

Our services go beyond the walls of the Library building – our patrons can access ebook platforms, research databases, language learning resources, homework help, and so much more. We wanted to make sure that our community members could still access Library services even with our doors closed. For those who didn't have a Library card but needed one, we offered them the opportunity to apply for and immediately receive an Instant Library Card so that they can access all of the Library's online resources. We also implemented a new service called Doorside Delivery, bringing materials directly to the homes of our community members, free of charge.

After a 13-week closure, we opened our doors to the public on June 15, 2020 with limited hours and services so that we can continue serving our community, but in a way that maintains the health and safety of all. This may not have been what we anticipated this past year, but our staff members have been instrumental in continuing to achieve the Library's mission of inspiring lifelong learning and exploration.



As we embark on the next year, we hope to be a beacon of support during these uncertain times, and we will continue to work hard to demonstrate the value of your Library. We thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Jane Jenkins

Jane Jenkins, Library Director

ECRWSS

Residential Customer
Palos Hills, IL 60465

» HOURS

Library hours may be affected by COVID-19. Please call 708-598-8446 or visit us online at greenhillslibrary.org for the most accurate and up-to-date hours of operation.

» LIBRARY BOARD

Rick Kelleher, President
Stephen Culen, Vice President
Tom Hanes, Treasurer
Noula Angelos, Secretary
Patricia Parise
Steve Stratakos
Azmi Mohammad
Jane Jenkins, Library Director

Upcoming Board Meetings:
Monday, November 16 • 5:30pm
Monday, February 15 • 5:30pm

» GET A LIBRARY CARD

It's never too late to get the smartest card of all, a Library card!

How To Apply:

- Visit us in-person with one document establishing residency in the District and a photo ID. Applicants under 18 require a parent/guardian to be present.
- Register online at greenhillslibrary.org for an instant digital access card. Must be 13 or older.

» BOOK MATCH

Do you feel like you've read it all? Want to watch something new? Let our professional title matchmakers provide you with personalized selections! Within a week, a staff member will find you five titles that fit your reading or watching preferences. This service is for all ages! Get started at greenhillslibrary.org.



» 24/7 LIBRARY

- Download ebooks, music, movies, and more on your computer or mobile device.
- Get live one-on-one homework help with Tutor.com.
- Access full-text articles for research and homework with MasterFILE Premier.
- Kickstart or maintain your business with Small Business Reference Center.
- Peruse auto repair manuals with AutoMate.
- Search full-text newspaper articles with Newspaper Source Plus.
- Learn a new language with Mango Languages.
- Exercise your brain with brainHQ.
- Conduct research on legal matters with Legal Information Reference Center.
- Browse ratings and buying guides with ConsumerReports.org.