

Our Story

2020-2021

Year in Review

2020-2021 has been yet another extraordinary year. When we started the fiscal year on July 1, 2020, we had only been open to the public for a couple weeks following a 13-week shutdown in response to the pandemic. Though our service model looked very different when we reopened, we were able to reintroduce services over the course of the year while keeping health and safety our top priority.



To reach our community members in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, we needed to rethink our service model. Our excellent staff were quick to offer creative solutions that prioritized health and safety. This included take-home craft kits, virtual programs, home delivery for all residents, online Library card registration, website chat service, a customized list of community resources for those in need, and enhanced remote access to online resources. Our staff also curated lists of recommended books, podcasts, movies, and music using digital book displays, Letterboxd, and Spotify. Many of these services proved to be very popular and still remain available today.

Library administration developed and finalized the 2021–2024 Strategic Plan during this time. Over the next few years, we hope to achieve a diverse Library through initiatives that are representative of our community, an enhanced presence from stronger marketing and outreach efforts, and an expansion of services that foster inclusiveness, innovation, and lifelong learning. We encourage you to follow along with our progress.



Following the Strategic Plan's release in early 2021, it wasn't long before we were able to accomplish one of our goals. The growing trend of public libraries going fine free reached our Library when the Board unanimously voted to approve a fine free policy in February. Not only does this help eliminate barriers that keep community members from utilizing Library services, it establishes consistency of policies and improves the overall user experience.

The Library also saw some changes to its governance this past fiscal year. A long-serving Trustee, Rick Kelleher, retired from the Board after 15 years of dedicated service. In April, existing Trustee Thomas Hanes was reelected to the Library Board, and we welcomed newly elected Trustee Kathleen Groark. The Board also appointed new Trustee Ian Chafee in June to fill a vacancy.



As we wrapped up the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we knew one thing was certain: we have evolved. And as we enter the next year, we will continue to embrace changes and make every effort to serve the needs of our wonderful community. We thank our community members and the Library Board of Trustees for their continued support.

Jane Jenkins, Jane Jenkins, Library Director



ECRWSS

Residential Customer Palos Hills, IL 60465



5. The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

find something new to watch, the Library's Letterboxd page is filled with recommendations and themed selections.

- 4. The Office: The Untold Story of the Greatest Sitcom of the 2000s by Andy Greene
- 5. Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your *Voice* by Michelle Obama