



Our Story

Year in Review

2021–2022

As I reflect on our previous year, many words come to mind, but one in particular stands out: growth.

With the release of 2020 Census data, we learned that our District population increased by more than 5%, from 31,533 to 33,210 residents. It's wonderful to see our community expanding, and that's not all that has grown over the past year. Our Library began the fiscal year on July 1, 2021 with lots of new ideas to continue making strides in our Strategic Plan.

In the first half of the year, our community saw the return of popular, in-person programming for adults and children of all ages, while we continued offering virtual options and take-home activities. Over the course of the year, we reached 7,219 patrons through our programming efforts!

Following a space analysis and proposal, the Library Board of Trustees approved a construction project to improve staff workspaces. This project involved a reorganization of existing spaces, renovation of a storage room, and a building addition on the north side of the building. With the completion of this project, you can expect to see sustained, enhanced, and new services as we grow along with our community.

As we started 2022, the Library launched a digital archive with local historical information. While the Library maintained this collection in print for decades, there was a growing demand for digital access. Complete with photographs, newspaper articles, maps, and other historical documents, this archive will teach you about the rich histories of the Library District, Hickory Hills, and Palos Hills. We also plan to upload additional information as we obtain it.



What is a Fine Free Library?

Instead of being charged for overdue fines, an alert is placed on library cards when an item is overdue for 14 days or longer. This alert prevents future use of the card, but once the overdue item is returned, no fines are assessed and the card is free to be used again. The Library will continue to assess charges for lost or damaged materials.

In March, we celebrated our one-year anniversary of being a fine free Library. And moving forward into spring, we made progress in improving the patron experience. Our online catalog took on a new look, providing for better discovery of materials available at the Library, both digital and in print. We also upgraded our scan/fax station, remote printing service, and wifi hotspots. Lastly, we added new furniture to the Screened Porch Room to provide a comfortable and practical space for patrons to study or work, while enjoying the beautiful view.

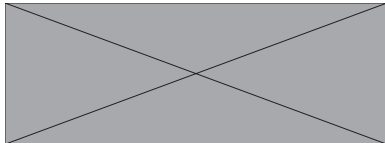
We ended the fiscal year on a high note, bringing back the ever-popular Summer Reading Kickoff with Rainbow Cone. This event, held at Bennett Park, reached hundreds of community members who enjoyed ice cream on a very hot day and showed excitement to read over the summer. With better weather upon us, we joined the Hills Farmer's Market to connect with our community members and promote our services, and we hope to participate again next year.

What's next for the Library? As of this writing, we are about two months into our current fiscal year, and have some exciting initiatives on the horizon; most notably, the Library will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this December! Our Library has grown so much over the past 60 years, and we expect to see continual improvements to meet the needs of our community. We thank our community members, staff, and Board of Trustees for their ongoing support. I hope to see you in the Library soon!



Jane Jenkins

Jane Jenkins, Library Director



Palos Hills, IL 60465

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HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-9pm
Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: 12-4pm

Special Hours:

Thanksgiving Day • Closed
December 2 • Closing at 5pm
for Staff Training
Christmas Eve • 10am-3pm
Christmas Day • Closed
New Year's Eve • 10am-3pm
New Year's Day • Closed

LIBRARY BOARD

Noula Angelos, President
Azmi Mohammad, Vice President
Steve Stratakos, Treasurer
Kathleen Groark, Secretary
Ian Chafee
Stephen Culen
Thomas Hanes
Jane Jenkins, Library Director

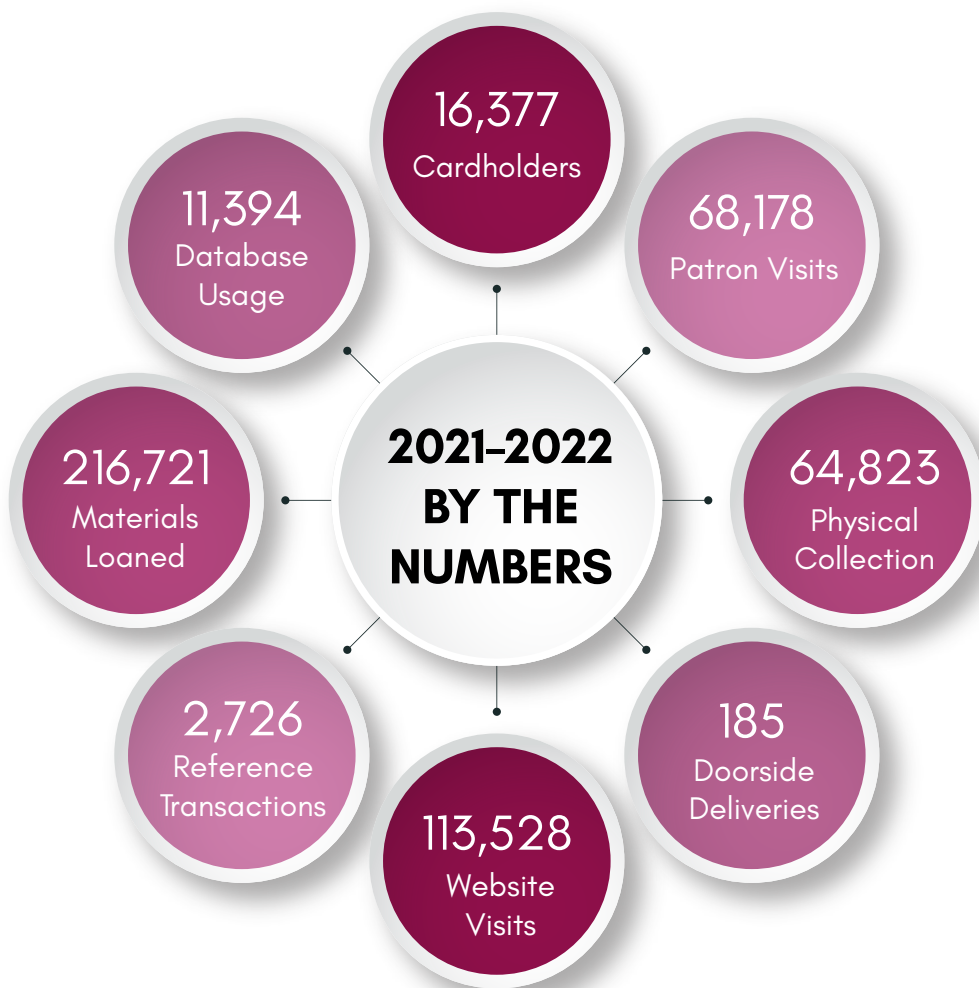
Next Board Meeting:

Monday, November 21 • 6pm

LIBRARY CARDS

How Do I Get a Library Card?

- 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. Online registrants must be 13 or older.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS SAYING ABOUT GHPLD:

"They have plenty of books and an inviting place to read."

"THE KIDS AREA IS SO COOL."

"My favorite thing about GHPLD is being able to have all the books, movies, and video games I love accessible to me!"

"We look forward to every new issue of the Library Link; which offers so many splendid programs and insight to community events."

"I have been coming to GHPLD for 30 years and everyone has been so pleasant and helpful to me."

"Every book is a new world to explore."