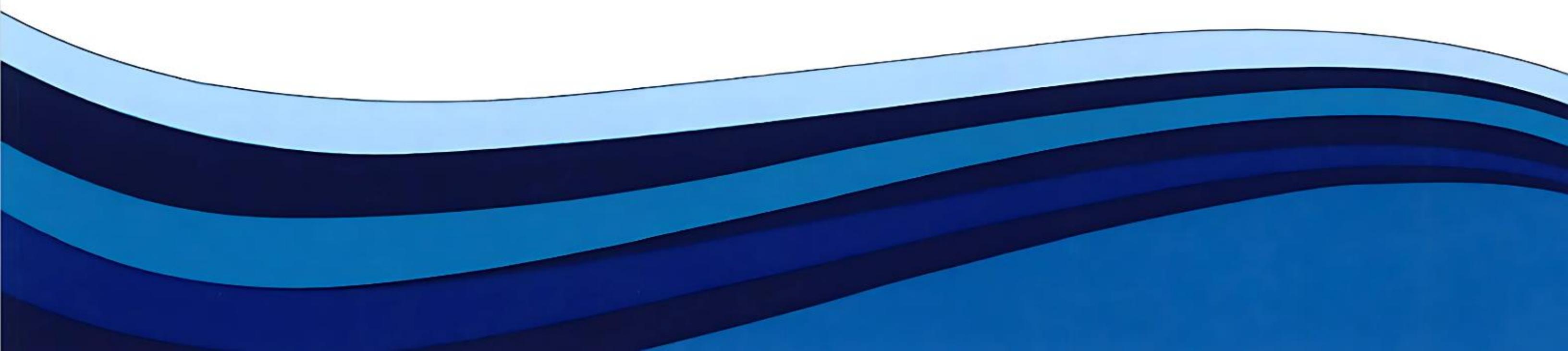


The History of Waterford Township Public Library's Main Library



The C.A.I. Building

- 1948 - The Waterford Community Library opens a private library in the new C.A.I. Building. It is maintained by volunteers and donations. This is after the Old Horse Barn (the old C.A.I. Building) burns to the ground in 1947, destroying the 2,845 volumes of books in the library.

The Old Horse Barn Burns Down

The C.A.I. Building



Proposals Voted Down

- 1959 - 2 ballot proposals to construct a new public library building are defeated.



All 3 Proposals Fail in Heavy Vote

A total of 3,704 Waterford Township voters turned out Tuesday to reject the proposed library issue two to one. Proposal one, the construction tax proposition asking a one mill tax increase, was defeated 2394 to 1212. Proposal two, asking a half mill increase for operating a library, was rejected 2386 to 1189. Proposal three, asking permission to bond for \$300,000, went down 2361 to 1221. The vote was considered heavy for a special election. Only 3012 votes were cast in the February primary.

Watching returns come in at the township hall, Township Board and Library Committee members conjectured that workers, laid off because of the steel strike, voted against the issue because of uncertain futures. But precinct workers reported that the majority of voters were in the upper age bracket—in late middle age or retired. The ratio ran about two to one, they said.

Public Library

- July 22, 1963 - The Waterford Township Board by resolution declares the Waterford Community Library housed in the C.A.I. Building a public library known as the Waterford Township Public Library.
- Volunteers continue to operate the library until January 1, 1964, when tax money is made available.
- January 13, 1964 - The Waterford Community Library officially opens as the Waterford Township Public Library.

Funding

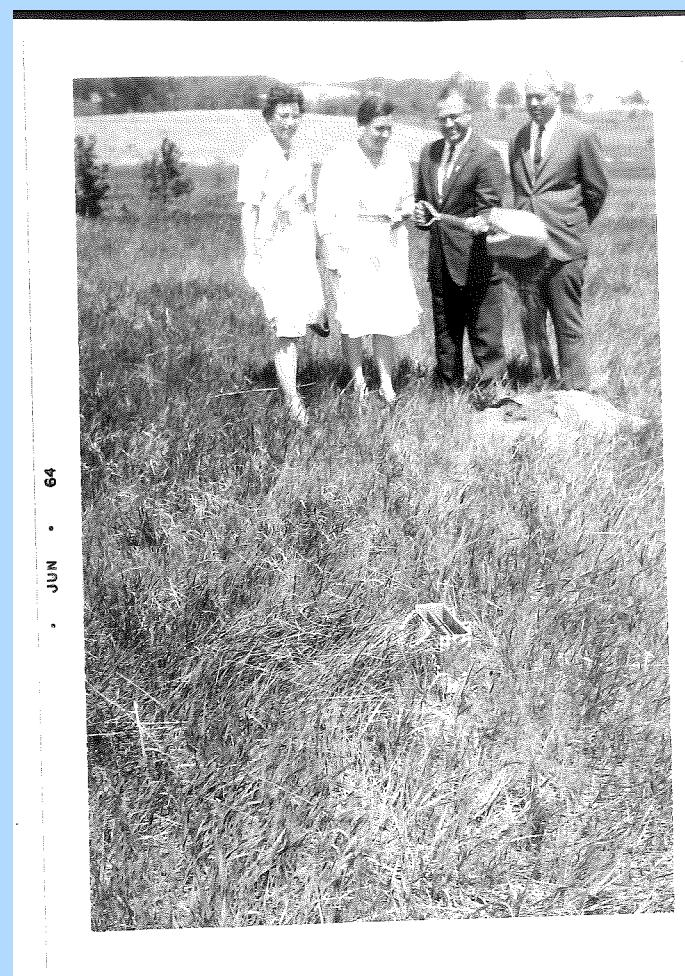
- On January 30, 1964, the Waterford Township Board accepts a grant from the Federal government in the amount of \$31,000 to build a public library facility at an estimated cost of \$62,000 with the Township share being \$31,000.
 - Actual Cost \$70,735
 - Cost per sq. ft. \$18.92
 - Equipment \$9,881.75
 - Federal Funds \$31,000
 - Appropriation \$19,000 (Township Funds)
 - \$12,000 surplus sales taxes (Township Funds)

C.A.I. Open House Jan. 13th, 1964

Pictured: Polly Lee,
Librarian

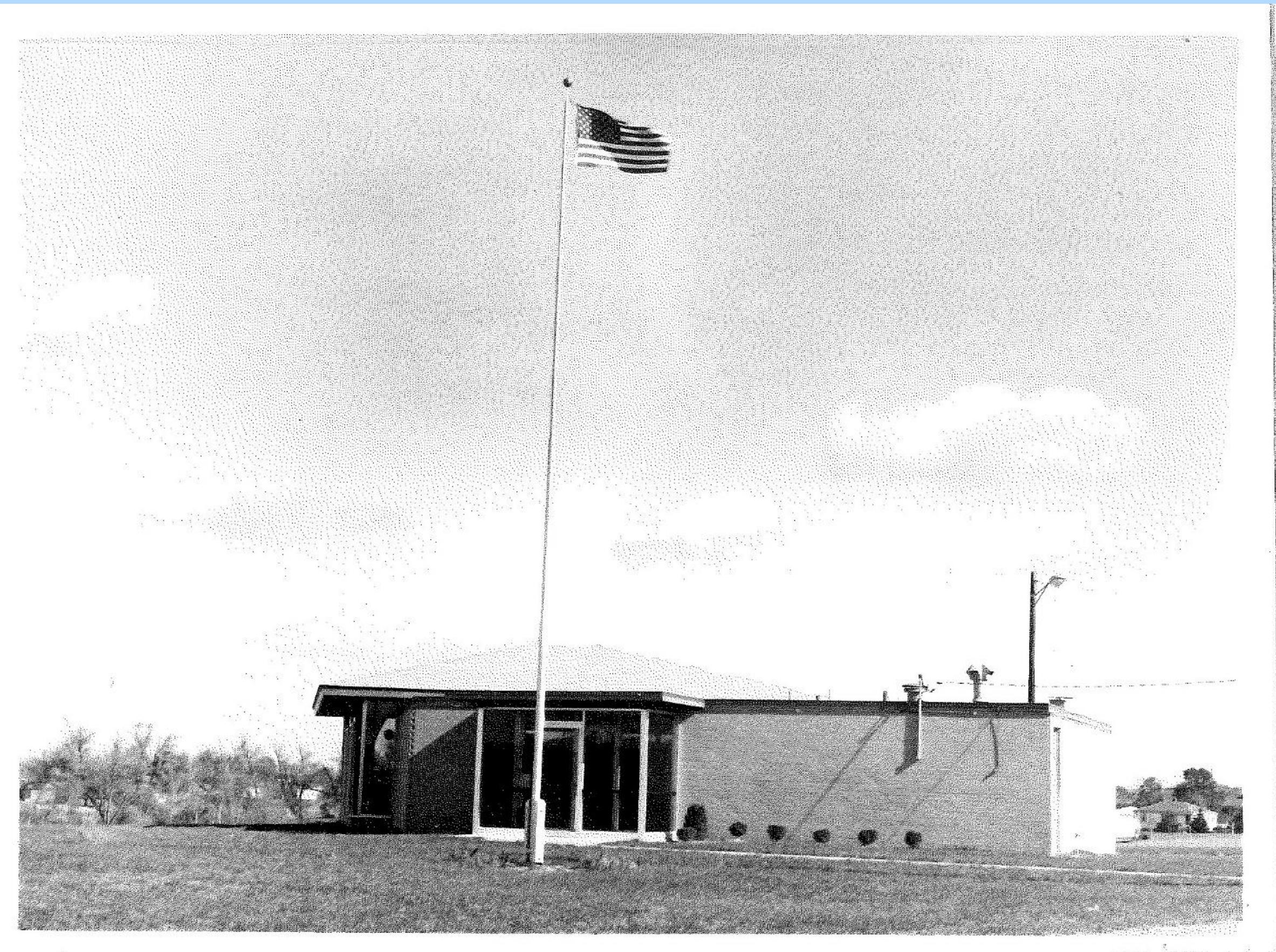


Breaking Ground June 1964



The new main library building in the Civic Center Complex opens with 15,000 volumes on March 15, 1965. The library in the C.A.I. Building remains open as the branch library.

New Main Library 1965



New Township Library Opens



The new Waterford Township library offers 24,000 volumes to the citizens of the township, 14,000 of these through affiliation with the North Oakland Library Contract System.

Library Branch Reopens

The Waterford Township Library re-opened its branch library, located in the Community Activities Building last Saturday, May 15.

The branch library offers a complete children's section, fiction for the teen-agers, adult fiction and non-fiction, biographies, a pocket-book corner, a basic reference shelf of encyclopedias, an atlas and a dictionary, and over 120 periodicals which are furnished free to public libraries under a state grant.

Book donations are still needed for the library, according to information received from library personnel, who add that if they can't be used on the shelves, they are sold at the annual Friends of the Library book sale in June and the money used to purchase current material.

Donors are asked to include a slip of paper with their names and addresses when they leave books at the library.

LIBRARY PROGRESS

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1965

The Waterford Township Library was opened as a Public Library on January 13, 1964. Through membership in the North Oakland Library Cooperative System more than 12,000 volumes were added to the existing book collection. In addition, many new books were purchased to develop a more adequate reference section. The library was open to the public for 40 hours each week and circulated a total of 61,496 volumes during the year. Throughout 1964 it remained housed in the C.A.I. Building. Construction on the new library facility was begun in the Spring of 1964 and completed in January of 1965. Located on Tubbs Road, just west of Crescent Lake Road. The new facility opened its doors to the public on March 15, 1965, and circulated more than 9,000 volumes during its first six weeks of operation. Since the Library's beginning, the small staff has been aided and augmented by many volunteers from the community. The Friends of the Library, the Lakeland Opti-Mrs., the Waterford Jaycettes and the Dirt Gardeners are a few of the organizations devoting time, talent and monies to further aid library services in the community. The C.A.I. facility will remain opened, as a branch library and will be open 24 hours per week.

New Public Library Is Opened

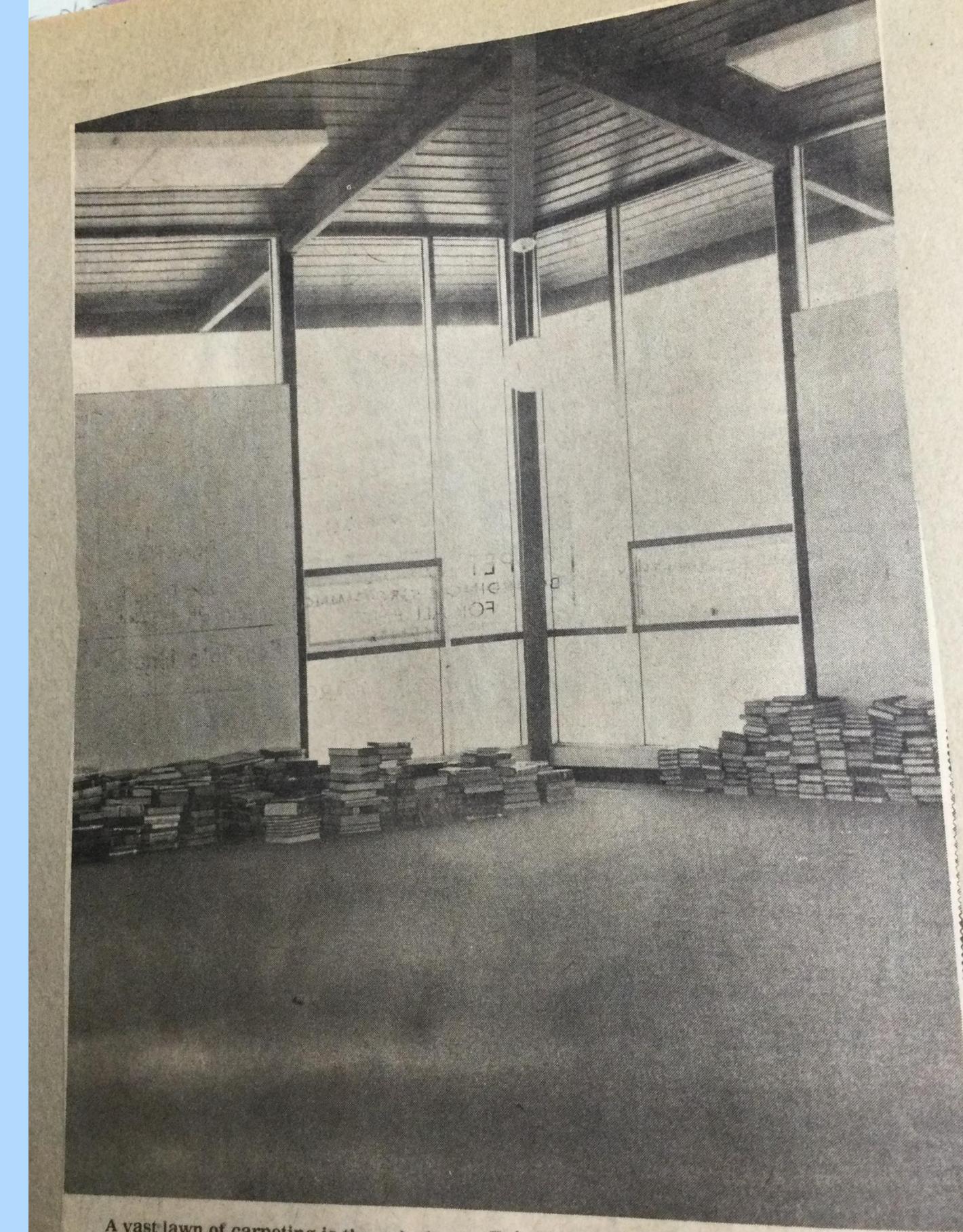
The doors of the new Waterford Township Public Library, located at 5168 Tubbs Road, opened Monday at 2 p.m. Situated in the center of the township, it can be easily reached. Tubbs Road is adjacent to Crescent Lake Road.

The CAI library will be closed until April 15 and will then be re-opened as a branch library with a well rounded selection of children's and adult fiction and non-fiction. There will be no reference material carried at the branch at this time.

Hours at the new library are Monday, 2 to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 12 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 2 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 12 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 to 5 p.m. There are no Friday hours.

The library is free to all residents of Waterford Township.

Non-residents are welcome to use reference facilities, and for a three dollar fee per year per family, may enjoy all other library privileges.



A vast lawn of carpeting is the only furniture in sight in the new Waterford Township library on Tubbs and Crescent Lake Roads. The carpeting was furnished by

Friends of the Library who are conducting a fund raising campaign to pay for it and to purchase furniture. Bookstacks, checkout desks and card catalogs are the only items furnished by the township funds.

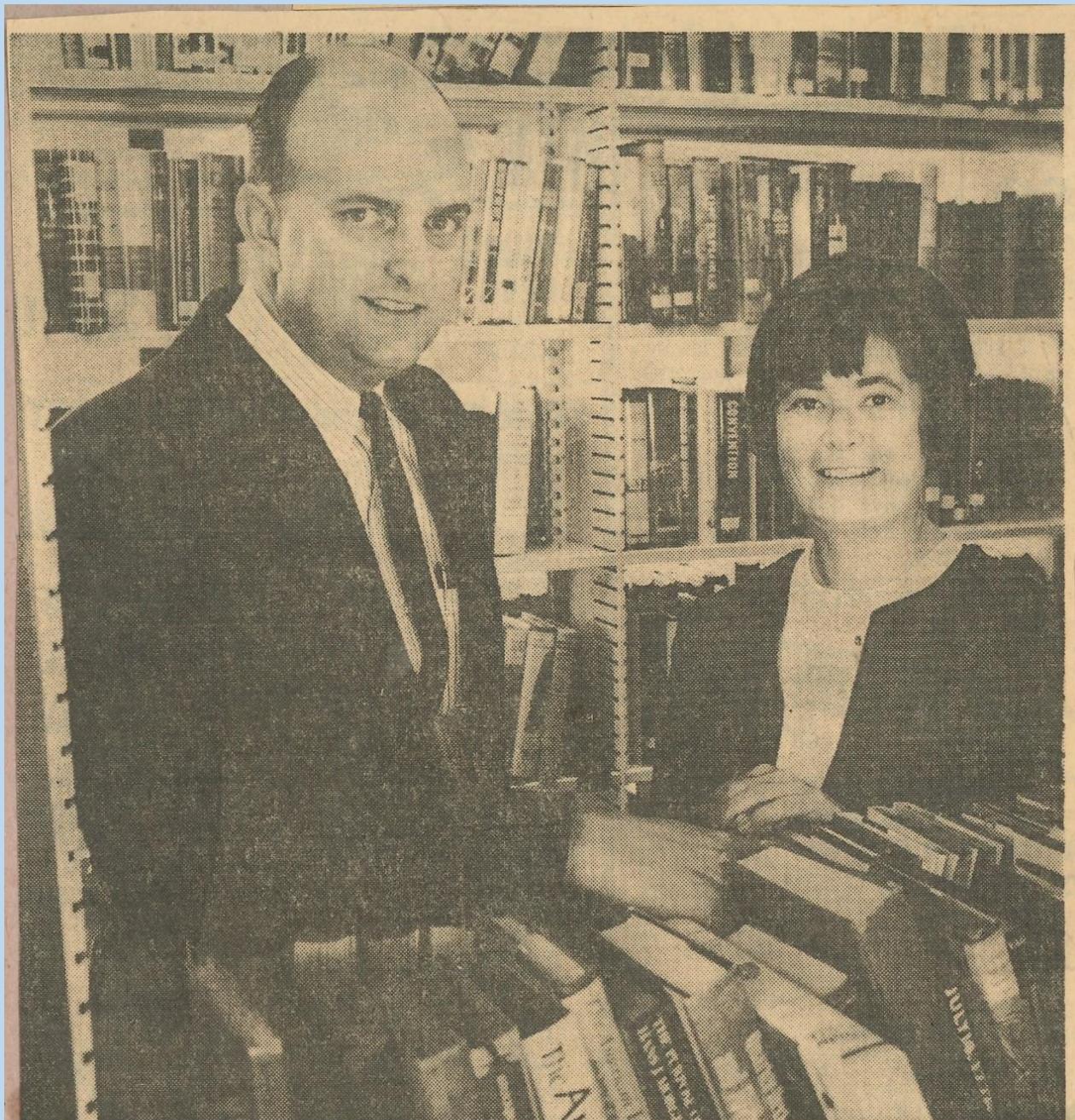
Card Catalog Circa 1965



Front Desk 1965



Jean Andrews, First Library Director



On Saturday an open house will be held at Waterford Township Public Library in honor of Jean Andrews, the new librarian. With her is Robert Dieball of

Motorway Drive, chairman of the library advisory board. All area residents are invited to the day-long open house. Library service will continue as usual.

Pontiac Press Photo

Professional Librarian Is Hired

3/17/66
Jean Andrews of 100 West Hickory Grove, Bloomfield Hills, has been hired by the Waterford Township Board as head librarian for the township's two public libraries.

She will take up her duties here May 1, becoming successor to Mrs. Joseph (Nedra) Franz, who, according to Township Clerk Elmer Fangboner, has been doing a "wonderful job" as acting librarian.

Miss Andrews, who will be the township's first professional librarian and has a background of 26 years experience, comes here from a position as librarian for Pontiac's Main Library. Her salary will be \$8,154.

The township opened its first public library in the CAI Building in 1963 and now has another on Tubbs Road that serves as the main library.



The Friends of the Waterford Township Library did more about the summer heat than mopping their brows and checking the thermometer. They donated this ice chest so that the librarian, Miss Jean Andrews

Lakota 1966 Staff Photo.

Pictured: Jean Andrews (left) and her assistant, Nedra Franz (right)

C.A.I. Branch 1972



Parade Entry 1974



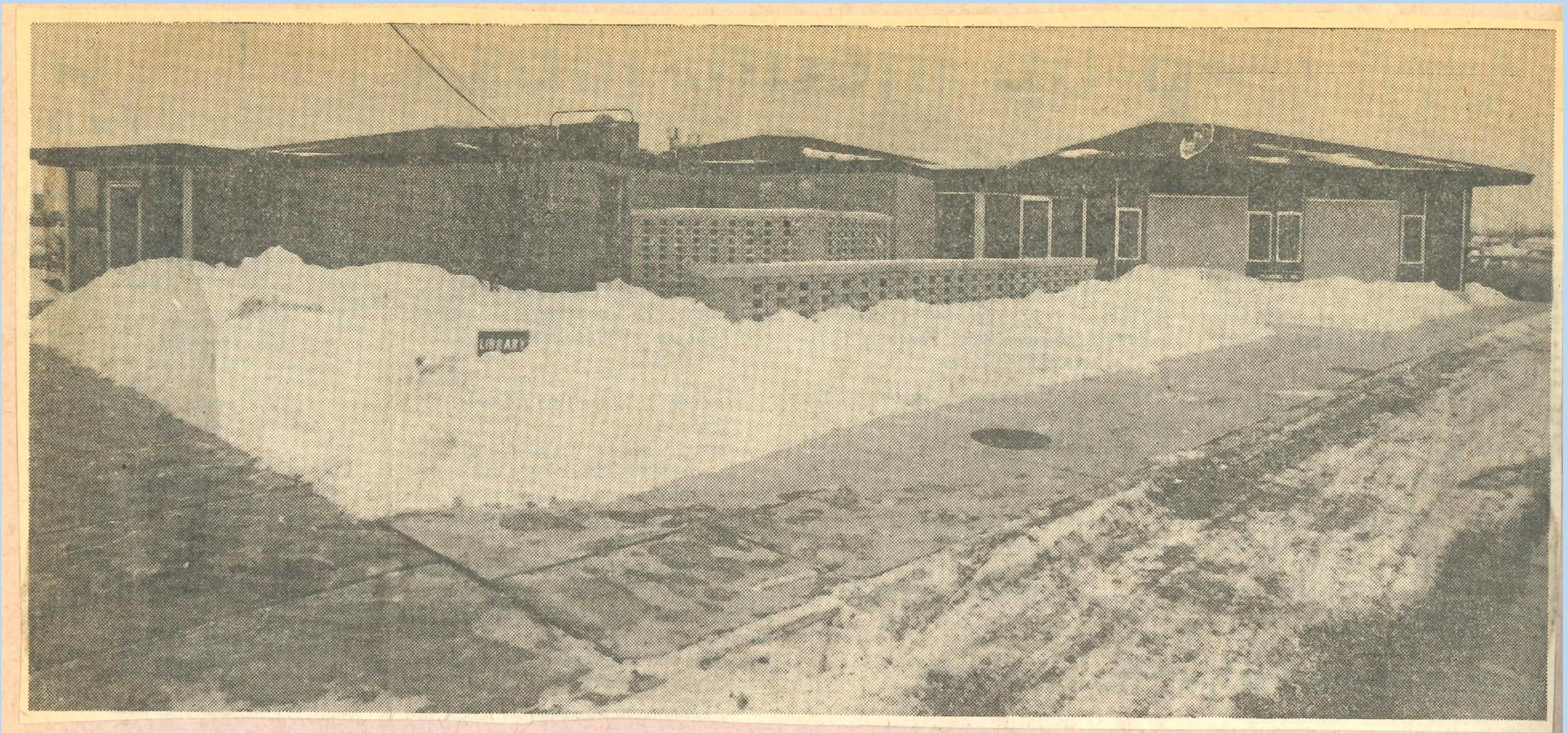
Expanding

- 1975 - The main library is expanded, doubling the floor space to 4,000 square feet. It holds 33,355 volumes and 106 periodicals. The expansion also brings carpeting, air conditioning, new furniture, and new shelving.

1975 Addition



Library Building Feb. 1976



Dewey Decimal, Library Cat

1983

Don't blame all on library's cat

To C.M. Smith's complaint on conditions at the Waterford Library: These are almost entirely due to the number of patrons who use the facilities. January 1983 circulation of books is up almost 4,000 from January 1982. When that many people are checking out and returning that many books, the door is opening and closing many more times and many more bodies and many more feet (especially those thousands of muddy feet!) are going in and out.

Dewey Decimal is a lovely, short-haired cat and I refuse to believe that his fur is to blame! It could just as easily be a patron in a fur coat who's leaving all those hairs. Senior citizens and children look forward to seeing him. We've even had one little girl who came up to the desk with Dewey draped contentedly across her arms, who asked the desk clerk, "Can I check him out?"

No mouse or furry creature has been seen in the library since he appeared as a tiny little waif on the library's doorstep a year and a half ago.

If C.M. Smith's friend with the allergy would only ask, Dewey could be placed in the furnace room until his or her departure, or the branch library in the CAI Building is available.

JEAN ATKINS, Chairman
Waterford Township Library
Advisory Board

Cat brings me pleasure

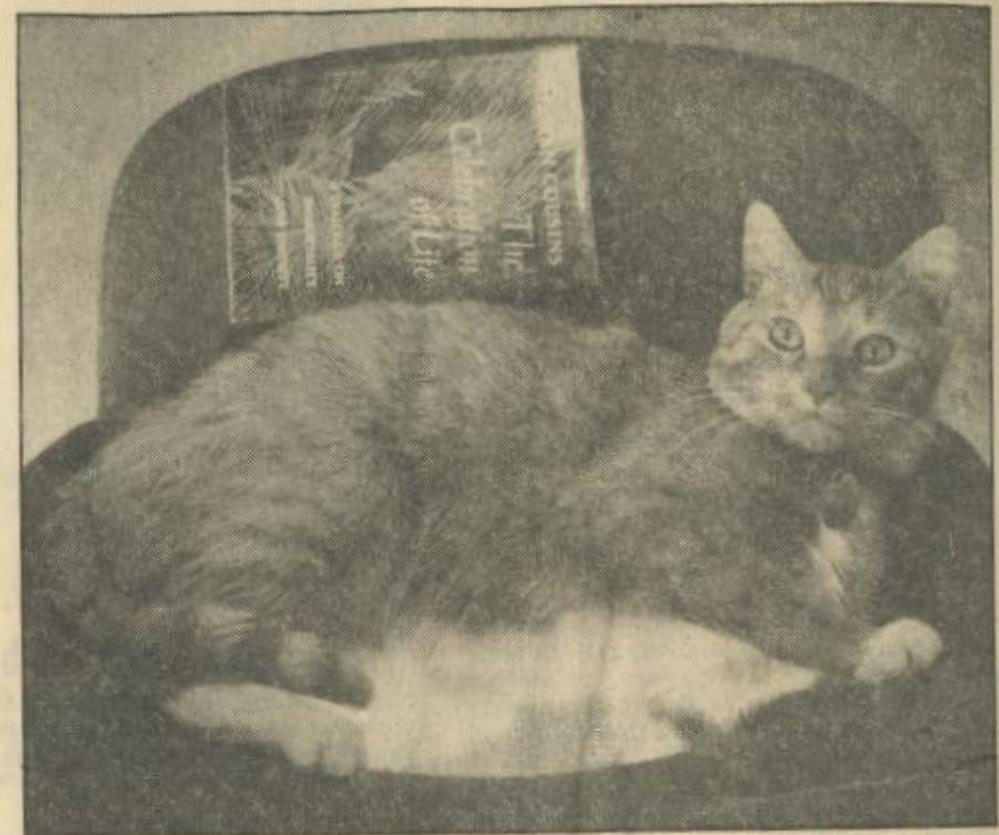
In answer to C.M. Smith's letter, I have gone to the library many times after school for homework, and the cat has brought great pleasure and delight to me and many others. I know the cat doesn't sharpen his claws on the furniture and spends most of his time in his room in the back. He does not go all over, and never in the children's section. I am sure you and your friend can find a nice, quiet place to sit down. Just remember, don't always think of yourself. Remember what others feel about the cute, cuddly cat.

LISA REBHAN, 12
Pontiac

The cat is only 'human'

I'm replying in response to a letter that appeared in this column March 23. The letter was from a reader who attacked the Waterford Township Library about its cat and facilities. I am a regular patron of the Waterford Library, visiting there up

Voice of the People



The Oakland Press/Edward R. Noble

Waterford library's cat Dewey Decimal is oblivious to the controversy

to two or three times a week. It seems this person is upset because of the filthy condition of the library. True the carpeting is soiled, but I didn't realize a library had to be sterile; I go there for books, which the Waterford Library is very sufficient in producing.

The writer states concern with where money is spent. Look on the shelves. Waterford has a very up-to-date selection of the latest books available. Isn't this what is really important in a library?

Furthermore, by your letter you don't actually seem to be upset about the dirty carpet as you do the presence of Dewey Decimal, our beloved library cat. It appears you have a bias against animals. In my opinion the cat is not at fault, but the people who set foot in there are to blame. Even I myself have ignorantly walked into the library after work with oily work shoes and left behind my footprints on the carpet, realizing too late what I had done. I bet Dewey never did anything that stupid.

You state your friend cannot visit because of her allergies, but has she ever tried? The librarians will kindly put the cat in a back room if your friend tells them of her allergies. It has been done before. In regard to the janitorial service, yes, there is a janitor, but his work load is such (three libraries) that he cannot walk behind everyone and clean up after them.

You stated there were cat hairs on the chairs, so after I read your letter I personally inspected the magazine-area lounge chairs on which I found one cat hair and one human hair. You must excuse Dewey, because he is only human.

TIMOTHY HOLMES
Waterford

Front Entrance 1980s



Circulation Desk 1980s

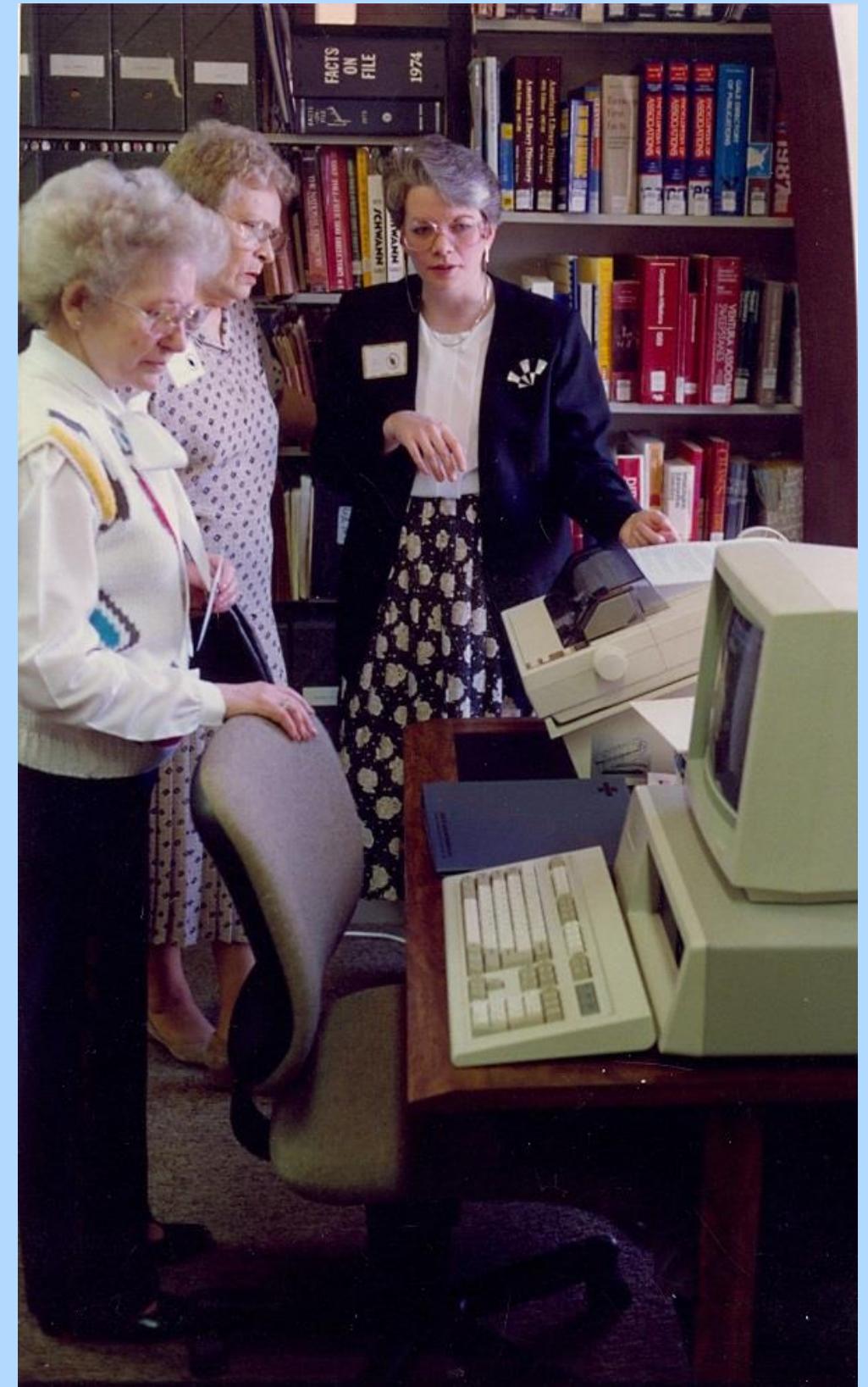


National Library Week 1989



WATERFORD LIBRARY WEEK - Waterford Library is celebrating National Library Week this week with high technology on display. Joe Hamilton of Waterford gives the computer a test run.

Catalog 1990



Public Computer
1992

Children's Dept. 1990



Adult Dept. 1991



All Booked Up 1992



Expanding

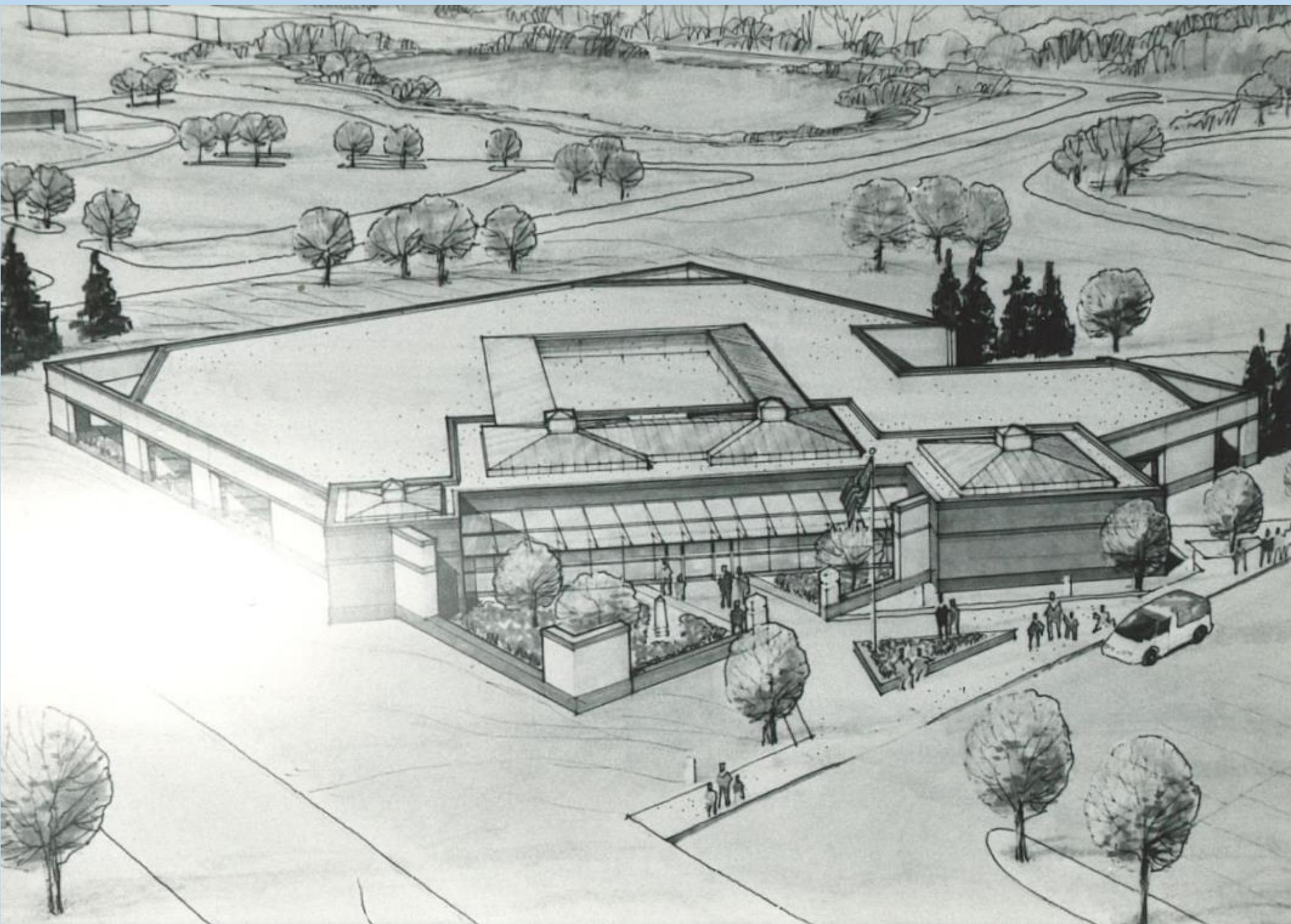
- 1992 - Voters approve \$1 million for construction and operation of an expanded and renovated main library.

Groundbreaking Oct. 1993



Pictured: Director Nancy Smith

1994 Expansion Sketch



1994 Expansion



Front Entrance 1994



Expanding

- 1994 - The new main library, at 21,000 square feet, has shelving capacity for 100,000 volumes and the potential for internet access. It serves a population of approximately 67,000.

Ribbon Cutting Dec. 1994



Children's Services 1990s



Adult Services 1990s



Slyboots

- 1995 - Sculptor Sharon Sommers creates a bronze fox sculpture, later to be named Slyboots, for the Children's Department. Funds for the sculpture were collected by Waterford schoolchildren.

Slyboots Mar. 1995



Expanding

- 2004 - The newly expanded and renovated main library opens with 27,300 square feet:
 - Larger Children's Department with its own story time and craft room
 - Larger Periodicals Browsing Room, Group Study Room, Assisted Study Room and Quiet Study Room
 - Larger collection of approximately 113,000 volumes serves a population of approximately 72,000

Expansion and Renovation 2003

OAKLAND

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 2003

www.theoaklandpress.com

Library closing for renovations

By KORIE WILKINS
Of The Daily Oakland Press

The Waterford Township Library will be getting a face-lift that will bring wireless Internet access and an expanded children's room to patrons.

"We're doing this at no additional cost to the taxpayer," said Nancy Smith, director of the library.

The library will be closed starting Monday for the renovations, Smith said, and will reopen Jan. 13. All materials checked out through Monday will be due after Jan. 13, she said.

"We're hoping people hang onto the materials while we're closed," Smith said. "It'll be hard to put things back on shelves during the renovations."

The renovations will be

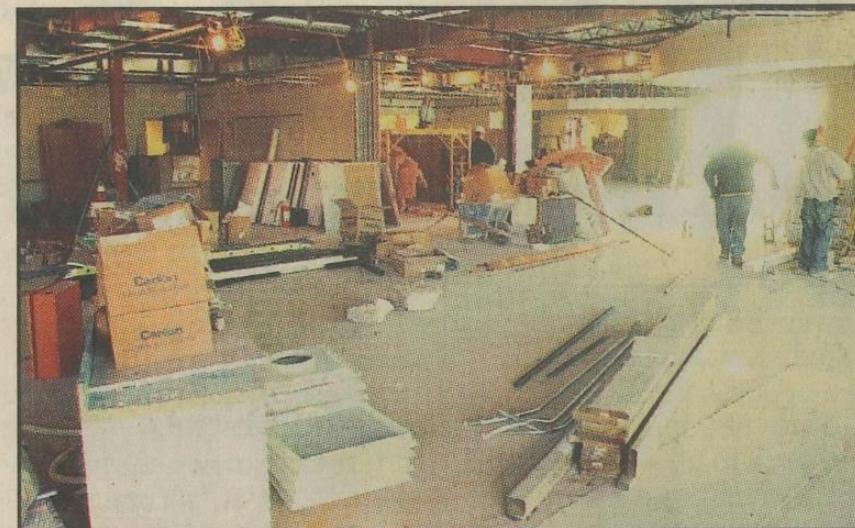
■ WATERFORD TWP.

funded from an existing fund balance and will cost about \$1.9 million. About 40 percent of the township's population have library cards and about 360,000 items are checked out every year.

Smith said the children's area will be in the former Parks and Recreation space. Other updates will include a new heating and cooling system, a quiet study area and new carpeting.

"We're also renovating the rest of the library," she said. "But the main reason we have to close is because the heat will be off and it is December."

Tom Newcombe, director



The Daily Oakland Press/TIM THOMPSON

Workers are converting the old Parks and Recreation offices at the Waterford Township Library into a new children's section.

of the Parks and Recreation department, said his staff is enjoying its new home in the former police station on Crescent Lake Road. The department moved out of the library 20 months ago.

"It's a lot more comfortable here," Newcombe said. "We always wanted to do programming where we worked, because you can go down the hall and check out the classes. It's great."

The library will operate with reduced hours for about a month after it reopens in January, Smith said.

The hours will be 2:30-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; 2:30-5 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. She said the library operates a branch at the CAI building, which will be open during the renovations.

And while Smith said the closing of the library will bring many benefits to patrons, she acknowledged it will be an inconvenience.

"I would have liked to do this without closing, but the scope of this project requires it," Smith said. "I think people will be really pleased with the results. It'll be a big benefit to residents. We're really excited."

Expansion and Renovation 2003



New Director

- June 2004 - Joan Rogers becomes director of the Waterford Township Public Library, replacing longtime director Nancy Smith, who held the position since 1987.

PEOPLE NEXT DOOR

Director recalls days of card files

By ERIC CZARNIK
Special to The Daily Oakland Press

Joan Rogers remembers the days when libraries had card catalogues — and didn't have access to electronic media.

"It really changed in the 20 years I've been in them," she said.

In early June, Rogers, 48, became director of the Waterford Township Public Library.

She had been the library's assistant director for 10 years, and had worked as the head of adult services.

Rogers said the opportunity to be director came when Nancy Smith, the library's previous director, recommended her for the post. Smith retired in mid-April.

"She asked me if I was interested, and we worked together for about 17 years."

Rogers said one of the job requirements was a master's degree in library science, which she earned from Wayne State University in 1985.

"I think I just always enjoyed being in that environment, and like many people, just sort of wandered into library school," she said.

She mostly does the administrative work behind the scenes.

Her job includes ensuring the library has heating, air conditioning and proper maintenance, she said.

WATERFORD TWP.

The Daily Oakland Press/DOUG BAUMAN
Waterford Township Library Director Joan Rogers.

As the library director, she also is a township department head, which mostly involves managerial duties, she said. "I am responsible for the staff and the budget and paying the bills."

She said her other responsibilities include being the coordinator of library services for the Waterford School District and overseeing a small branch library nearby.

Rogers said the township library is in a transition period that began when a renovation project launched last September.

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY/B-2



Leggett Branch

- 2007 - In February, the branch library is relocated from the C.A.I. Building to the Leggett Campus (formerly Leggett Elementary). The new location, at 2,000 square feet, is about 4 times larger than the previous location.

C.A.I. Branch (1948 – 2007)



Leggett Branch (2007-2010)



Budget Constraints

- 2010 - The Leggett Branch closes due to budget constraints.
- Dec. 2011 - The library closes on Fridays due to staff reduction and the budget. After property values plummeted during the recession in 2008-2010, the library's operating budget was greatly reduced, and staff layoffs occurred.

Children's Sensory Garden

- 2015 - The Children's Sensory Garden is created at the library entrance by members of the Library Garden Club.

Children's Sensory Garden



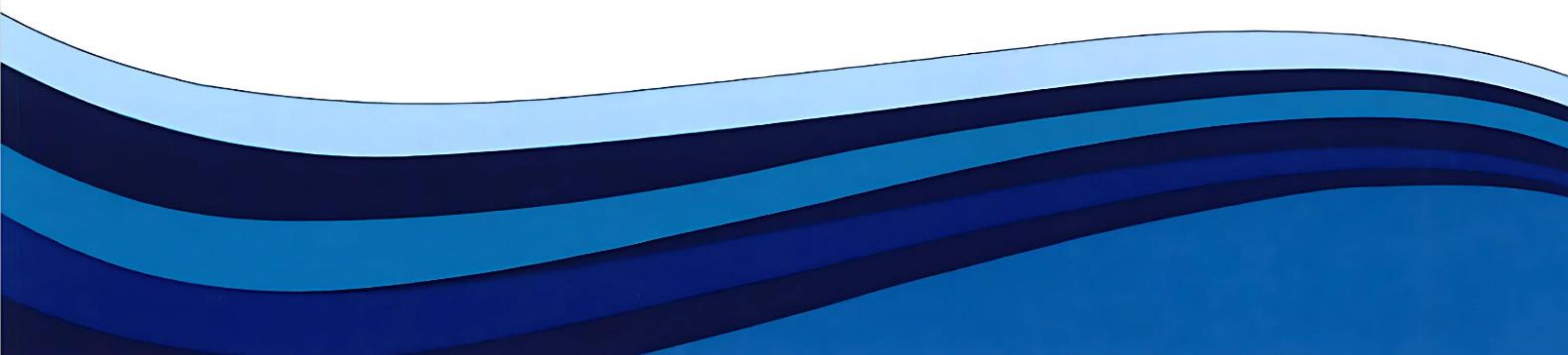
Classic Car Show

- 2016 - The Classic Car Show Fundraiser meets one of its goals: replacing outdoor benches at the library's entrance.



Pandemic

- 2020 & 2021 - The library navigates the COVID-19 pandemic with curbside pickup, virtual programs, social distancing, quarantining of materials, and other precautions.



COVID-19 Pandemic



Millage Renewal

- 2022 - Waterford voters approve a millage renewal and increase. The proposal on the August 2022 ballot asks to restore funding to 1 mill.
- 2024 - Friday hours resume Sept. 1st after nearly 13 years.

2023 Renovations



Timber walls replaced with blocks on garden beds



New walkway lights



Children's Dept. new carpet

Friends' Donations

- In 2023, the Friends of the Library raise funds and donate a total of \$10,000 to the library. In 2024, they donate another \$15,000.

Friends' Donations



(Left to right) Cynthia Walker, head of the Children's Dept.; Joyce Wefel, president of the Friends; Joan Rogers, library director; Mary Rice, teen librarian; and Dan Ludwig, Friends treasurer



(Left to right) Friends President Joyce Wefel, Library Director Julie Schaefer, and Friends Treasurer Dan Ludwig

New Director

- Dec. 2023 - After 19 years, Joan Rogers retires as director of the Waterford Township Public Library. Jean Hansen, head of the Adult Services Department, acts as interim director.
- April 2024 - Julie Schaefer, former deputy director at the Dearborn Public Library, becomes the new library director.

Pictured:
Library Director
Julie Schaefer



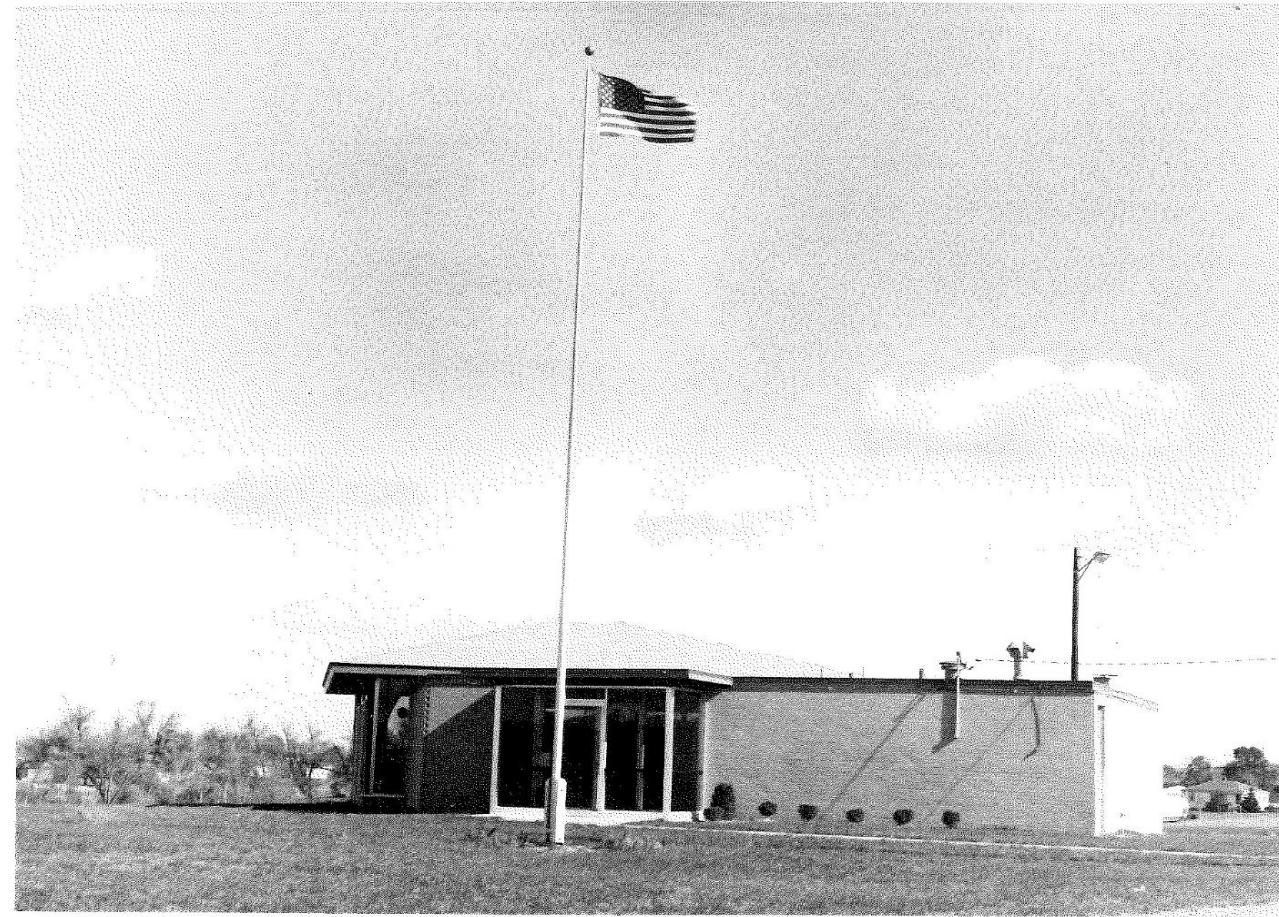
Fall 2024

New Pavers Installed at Front Entrance



On Saturday, March 15th, 2025, from 2 – 4pm,
please join us for the Library's 60th
Anniversary Open House.

Thank you to our patrons for a wonderful 60
years!



Stats at a Glance

As of the end of 2024:

- Our collection holds 111,786 physical items.
- Our cardholders are over 17,000.
- Our circulation for 2024 was 334,110 (236,172 physical + 97,938 digital checkouts).

