A year of resilience
-Michele Capozzella, Library Director

It was a memorable year at Mahopac Library. Five new staff members joined our team, two librarians left to pursue other opportunities, and one of our long-time staff members retired after 21+ years of service to the community.

We hosted a Harry Potter birthday party, participated in the Carmel Parks and Recreation Harvestfest and the Carmel Street Fair, and collected pet food to donate to the Putnam Humane Society.

Our partnership with the Mahopac schools included exhibiting student artwork in the Young Arts and Third Floor galleries (Art Hop), attending English as a New Language (ENL) events, and providing summer reading items for all grade levels.

Books were selected from the Book Barn to donate to the Putnam County Office of Corrections; teens made earrings to donate to local shelters for women and families, and Teen Green Team collected litter found along a section of the Putnam County Bike Trail.

NARCAN boxes were installed on each floor of the Library, a Chat option became available on our website in January, and a show entitled "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" was presented in the Third Floor Gallery in partnership with Sustainable Putnam.

A local history digital archive was established with plans to collect oral histories from community members in the future. And staff member Kivanc Batirbek created a Mahopacteens Tik Tok which now has over 4100 followers.

Our year concluded with a budget vote and bond referendum on June 7, both of which were approved by the residents of Mahopac - thank you. Our bond initiative followed two years of investigation to determine the most cost effective way to create a more comfortable and sustainable building that will serve our community for years to come. Upgrades to the building insulation and HVAC system were foremost in the Scope of Work that was prepared by Tetra Tech Consulting & Engineering Firm.

The Library Trustees and Director are monitoring the work to ensure the successful completion of the renovation project. In addition, the library staff will continue to provide all of the programs and services that you have come to expect and enjoy. As we move forward in response to your needs and goals, we strive to remain an integral part of what you value in our community.
MPL welcomes new staff members

Katie Ryan: A reference librarian, Katie’s area of expertise is history. She and co-worker, Emily Wierzbowski, have partnered with the Carmel Historical Society to create a digital archive of local history resources.

Allison McGourty joined the Reference Department in August 2021. She assists patrons with our non-fiction collection, and co-hosts the Strictly History podcast with Katie Ryan.

Emma Burke-Covitz is a member of the Youth Services staff. With an interest in Elementary education, Emma runs several children’s book clubs, Book Buddies, & the Escape Room, and is always developing new projects and ideas for our young patrons.

Joseph Lorenzo, a MHS alumni, manages video production (podcasts, story time programs) at the library in addition to working with technology and keeping the website updated.

Athalia Brito is a Circulation & Information staff member and problem solver! She reserves and checks out items, renews library cards, and provides Spanish translation services for staff and patrons.

Justin Leftwich started at the Library as a Page where he learned about the collection and resources. Currently a Circulation staff member, he enjoys working on various projects including shelving items, answering phones, and assisting patrons at the Main desk.

Creativity and Imagination

Far left: Blue Bird by Giovanni Santucci (MMS); Left: Botanical Triptych by Sophia Lombardi (MHS); Below: Mexican Amate Folk Art by Lia Moser (Lakeview Elementary).

Above: Halloween display created by Amanda Stalcup with collection items selected by Kivanc Batirkbe; Rights: Alchemy #2, ethically sourced skull & mixed media, by Alana Green; Right: The Caffeinated Librarians start a new year of podcasts; Below: Vijigante Mask, paper maché by José Gonzalez-Soto.

Below: Mahopac Library participated in MCSD’s Art Hop, an exhibit of student artwork from grades K-12. The work created by elementary school students was displayed in the Third Floor and Young Arts galleries at the Library.
Connecting to the Community

**Mahopac Library by the numbers FY2021-2022**

Mahopac Library greeted

**114,849 visitors this year**

Most frequently checked out adult fiction title

**The Four Winds**

by Kristin Hannah

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35,790 items were loaned by Mahopac Library.

307,910 podcasts were produced by The Caffeinated Librarians.

32,084 items were downloaded from Overdrive & hoopla.

156,072 items were loaned by Mahopac Library.

45 podcasts were produced by The Caffeinated Librarians.

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30 inquiries were responded to via MPL’s Chat service.

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35,790 is the number of times our public computers were used.

307,910 visits were counted on the Mahopac Public Library Facebook page!

The Library’s website was accessed 92,239 times via computer and digital devices.

396 programs for adults, teens, and children were held onsite and virtually this year.

865,500 is the number of Mahopacteen Tik Tok views since its start in December 2021.

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Above: Cast of the teen summer theater production of “10 Ways to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse”, directed by Chris Wilson.

Left: Holiday Food and Toy Drive boxes set up in the Library lobby. Right: MPL’s Annual Gingerbread house building for the whole family!

Below: Paul Murphy, Head of Teen Services, with Austin & Jason, members of the MPL Balloon Club, at the Austin Road PTA Carnival.

Above: Prepping for MCSD’s Art Hop are art teachers MaryAnn Lynch, Brooke O’Neill, Melissa Lindsay, and Kaitlin O’Brien, art department chair.

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Connecting to the Community
Annual Report to the Community
July 2021-June 2022

Mahopac Public Library
Board of Trustees
Frank Del Campo, President
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Irene Cassetta, Secretary
Stephen Baranowski, Financial Director
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Nancy Di Maggio
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Michele Capozzella
Library Director and CEO
Friends of Mahopac Public Library: Karyn Reichbach, President; Karen Kellogg, Vice-President; Kim Doyle, Treasurer; Susan Grant, Recording Secretary; Jeanne Rehberg, Corresponding Secretary

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

2198 hours were contributed by Book Barn volunteers from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library
The Friends of the 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 Public Library at other events, support many worthwhile Library activities and resources.

The proceeds allow the Friends to provide financial awards to several graduating high school students who volunteer at the library, as well as support summer reading programs, museum passes, Battle of the Books supplies for middle and high school teams and much more! The Friends would like to thank the community for their generous book donations and continued patronage.