We are open!

After months of being closed to the public, preparing a Pandemic Response Plan, a Continuation of Service Plan, and facilitating staff PPE training, Mahopac Public Library re-opened to the public with limited access on September 8, 2020. We continued our Curbside pickup service, and in November we eliminated late fees on Mahopac Library owned material.

While our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2021, the pandemic did not. New challenges persist, yet we continue to shift our priorities and services in response to our community’s needs. We remain actively engaged in keeping our constituents safe and connected through onsite activities and virtual programs that bring our Library directly to you.

Protecting Your Investment

Over the past several years, we have been combatting significant facility issues that have caused disruptions in Library services. The Mahopac Library Board of Trustees engaged the services of architects and engineers to diagnose the problems and provide solutions in order to resolve them in a fiscally responsible way.

It has been determined that the deficiencies are related to the mechanical systems for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and the “building envelope” (including the components that make up the shell of the building: walls, roofing, foundation, windows, and doors).

The shell helps to regulate the indoor climate, and protect against the outdoor environment.

These are substantial problems that will be costly to address. The Board and members of the Library administration are working on a diversified financial plan to remediate these long-standing issues to create a more energy-efficient and sustainable building, and to protect the health and safety of our staff, patrons, volunteers, and community members.

Michele Capozzella
Library Director and CEO
**Mahopac Library by the numbers FY2020-2021**

- **Mahopac Library greeted** 72,780 visitors this year when we safely reopened to the public in September 2020.

- Our free Wi-Fi was accessed **4,931 times**, often from our parking lot or adult garden.

- **52,068** is the number of times our public computers were used.

- **264,989** visits were counted on the Mahopac Public Library Facebook page!

- The Library’s website was accessed **93,622** times via computer and digital devices.

- **395** programs for adults, teens, and children were held onsite and virtually this year.

- **2,202** is the number of times Mahopac Library provided quiet study space for students, job seekers, and individuals working virtually.

- **134,697** items were loaned by Mahopac Library.

- **42,690** items were downloaded from Overdrive, hoopla, RBDigital, and kanopy.

- **3,364** Curbside pickup appointments were scheduled.

- **34,354** holds were filled from other libraries.

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“So glad you guys finally opened back up. For a book lover like myself, nothing beats browsing through books in a library for an hour or so.” - Douglas

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“Thank you for an enthralling evening of music... we need these diversions right now (Carlos Pavan virtual concert). Gracias verdad.” - Anita
MPL welcomes new staff members

Dayna Shea joined the Youth Services department in May 2021 - just in time to get ready for the children’s summer reading programs!

She enjoys meeting our young patrons in the Rhythm & Reading and Stories & More programs!

Ben Enkler joined the Teen Services staff in May; he has a background in film and theatre, and has been assisting Paul M., Head of Teen Services, to coordinate the Battle of the Books team, the Teen Library Council, and, currently, the Feast of Films Club.

Gail Perillo officially retired in May 2021. Miss Kitty, Gail’s puppet companion, was heartbroken when she heard the news that her dearest story time friend would be leaving the Library. Gail had been a Library staff member since 2001, working part-time and then full-time in the Youth Services Department. She inspired generations of children, and their family members, to make reading and learning fun.

Community Spirit

Our community is the heart of our Library. Therefore, we strive to be a library that is integral to the lives of all residents, and responsive to the community’s changing needs through excellence in collections, programs, and services.

- Mahopac Public Library Vision Statement

Members of The Community Crafters and The Butterfly Quilters donated blankets and quilts to the local chapters of Project Linus, a national, non-profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children and teens who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of security, warmth, and comfort.

Pictured: Dottie Buick, Eileen Iezzi, Barbara Herroder, and Cathy Cavanaugh.

Left: Phyllis Hoenig and Joseph Montuori host a Voter Registration event, September 2020, in the Library parking lot.

Right & below: The Great Give Back: October 2020. Local Girl and Boy Scout Troops participated in a non-perishable food collection; all of the food was donated to the St. John’s Food Pantry in Mahopac. Special thanks to Girl Scout Troops 1410, 1140, 2660, 1139, 1286, 1578, Boy Scout Troop 571, and Cub Scout Pack 271.

Above: The Teen Library Council did a fantastic job cleaning up the Putnam Trailway/Bike Trail with Paul Murphy and Gail Perillo.

Mahopac Library was honored to host an exhibit of hand-painted face masks created by individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury.

This exhibit was presented in partnership with the Brain Injury Association of New York State, a non-profit membership organization serving people and families impacted by brain injury.
Annual Report to the Community
July 2020-June 2021

Mahopac Public Library
Board of Trustees

Frank Del Campo, President
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Irene Cassetta, Secretary
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Stephen Baranowski
John Battista
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Joseph Montuori
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Michele Capozzella
Library Director and CEO

Friends of Mahopac Public Library
Executive Board
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Karyn Reichbach, Vice President
Kim Doyle, Treasurer
Susan Grant, Recording Secretary
Sandra Kamelgam, Corresponding Secretary

The Friends of Mahopac Public Library

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

During the time that the Book Barn was closed to the public, volunteers continued to stock the shelves in the Library lobby with gently-used adult and children’s items for sale. The Barn re-opened to the public on May 4, 2021, to the delight of our community members.