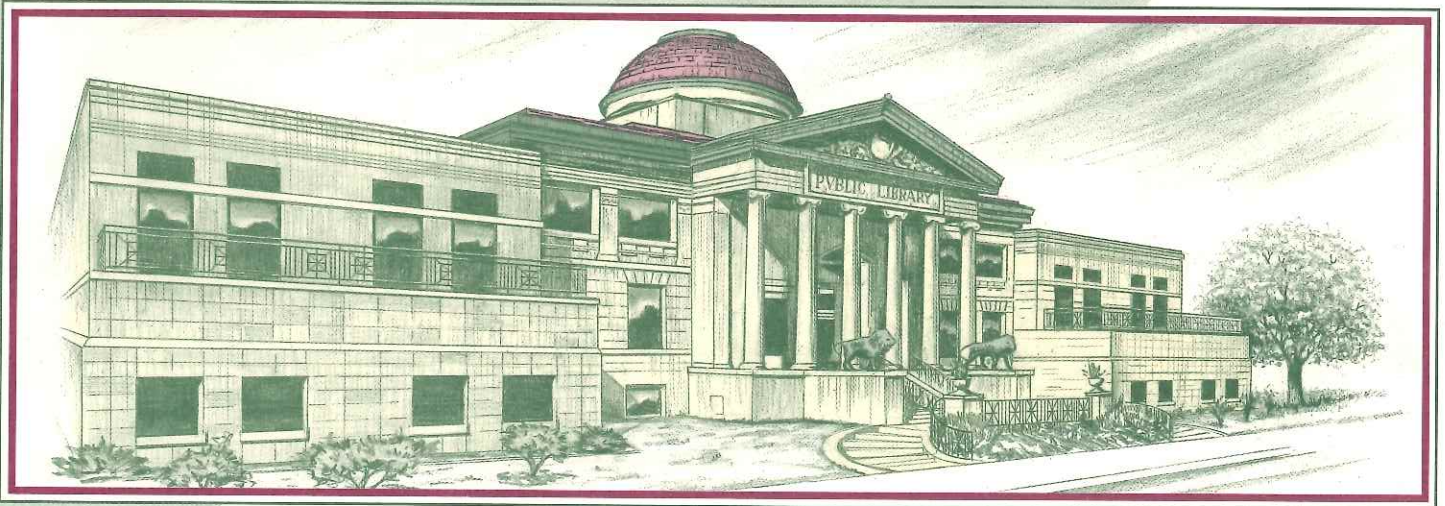


# DEDICATION





**OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
106 WASHINGTON AVENUE • OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN 54901-4985

*November 5, 1994*

*Dear Reader,*

*Today the new and renovated Oshkosh Public Library will open its doors to the residents of the City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County and surrounding areas. As you may know, patience has been the byword during the past year and a half while patrons have been asked to "bear with us" and staff have been asked to "bear with it!" But now, through the orchestrated efforts of architects and artisans, tradesmen and craftsmen, designers and dreamers, the Oshkosh Public Library is about to begin another era as our centerpiece for knowledge and information.*

*With a backdrop as large as the new Oshkosh Public Library two small words have stood out from the onset. Spoken quietly, earnestly, and sometimes anonymously they have surfaced time and again as the project has taken shape and substance. Within them is much of what has brought this project to bear and I am honored to repeat them once more to and for everyone who has helped to make this dream a reality: thank you!*

*Sincerely,*

*James N. Zitzelsberger, President  
Library Board of Trustees*



## THE DEDICATION MARKS A BEGINNING

Welcome to the newly renovated and expanded Oshkosh Public Library. The Board of Trustees and staff are excited and proud to be a part of this chapter in the library's continuing history of bringing excellent service to the community.

Many people need to be thanked, and here are a few I would like to single out:

- **Anonymous Donors** – two tremendously generous benefactors stepped forward and provided gifts of \$5 million and \$200,000 in order to permit the library to achieve a quality building project not possible solely with tax support. Other people and organizations are continuing to make contributions as well.
- **City Council** – it is important to thank the Council for their support of this project in the face of controversy and conflict. We would not have a project today if they had not matched the anonymous donation.
- **Library Board and Building Project Committee** – have provided support and guidance to me and the project team throughout this process—particularly Board President, James Zitzelsberger; Committee Chairman, Tom Herzing; and City Manager, Bill Frueh.
- **Project Team** – the architects, construction managers and staff became a true team that played the significant role in producing a building the community can be proud of. While everyone on the team played important roles, it is perhaps Lonny Frye's design intent that became the glue which bound us all together.
- **Library Staff** – I can't say enough about the outstanding job the entire staff has done in coping with change and difficult circumstances in the past few years. You can be very proud of them. I am. One, who everyone would agree, needs to be singled out is Joan Mueller, Assistant Director, for her dedication and commitment to the myriad details of this project.
- **Volunteers** – the response of people to requests for help has been overwhelming and gratifying. Over 150 people stepped forward to help with tours and our dedication and open house weekend. Be sure to thank the members of the Open House Committee for the outstanding job they have done.

This dedication marks the formal acceptance and completion of a significant building project in the history of the library and community. It marks the end of planning that began in 1987. But for me, the dedication also marks a beginning. The building now gives us the opportunity to meet the increasing need for information as the community grows and as the way we obtain information changes. We look forward to continuing challenges and the chance to serve you for many years to come. Thank you for your support of the Oshkosh Public Library.



John V. Nichols  
Library Director



## CHAPTER I – *YOUR LIBRARY*



The Oshkosh Public Library will meet the needs of the community today and into the future. The superior building design allows for smoother work flow and more efficient use of space and staff time. Cable trays and electrical systems were installed in order to meet requirements of future technology.

Additional shelving offers a future home for library materials. The final result is a public building with 94,500 gross square feet of space.

The design spotlights the historical features of the original 1900 library. The north wall has been revealed from within, offering a spectacular view. The dome soars 42 feet above the refurbished marble-covered floor of the Great Hall. Restored stencil decoration, refinished oak tables and reproduction light fixtures add to the atmosphere of this magnificent space.

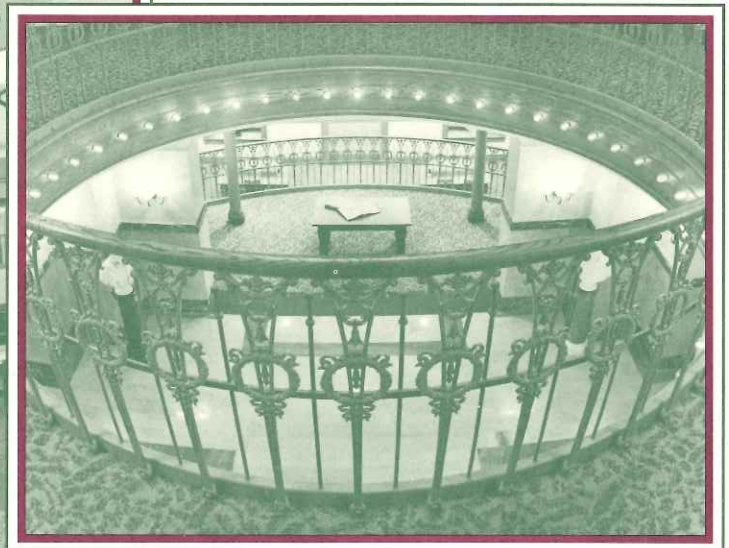
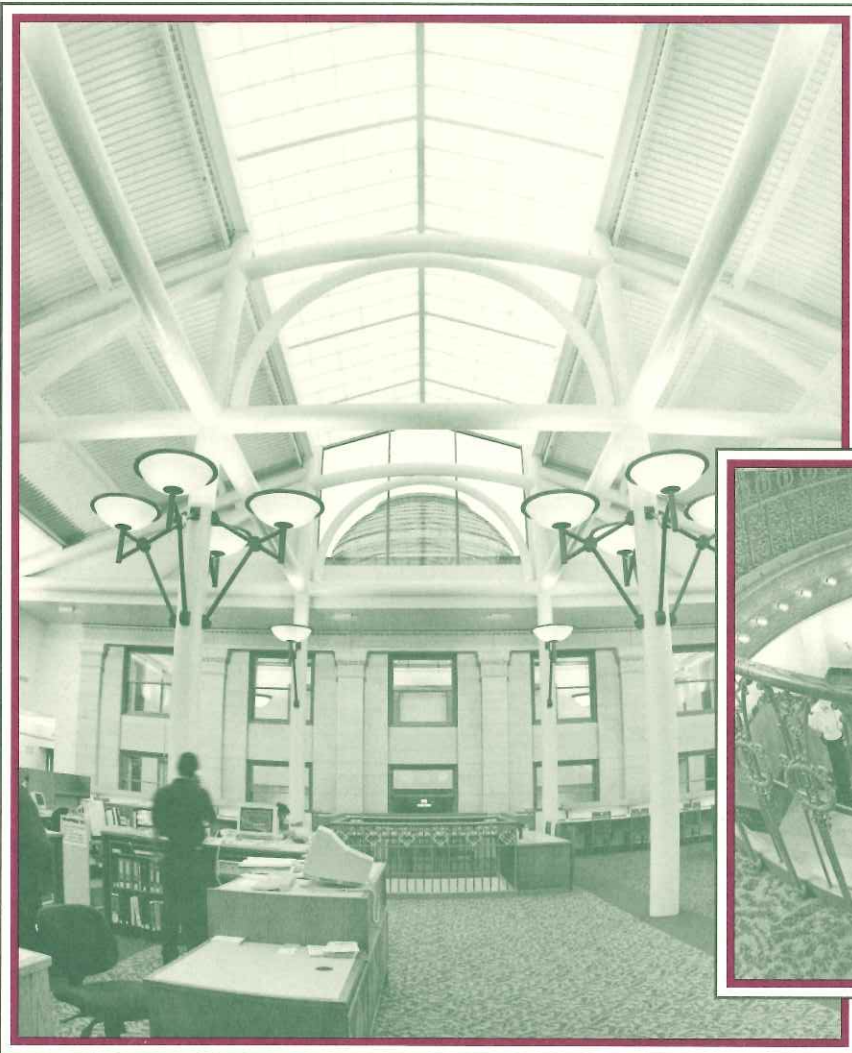
Sunlight is an integral feature in the building design. It bathes the second floor nonfiction collection through a skylight on the north-south axis with the dome. Daylight also flows through the windows of the lower level meeting rooms and Children's Area. This natural light

welcomes families as they visit the Story Room or the terraced Story Garden.

There are many improvements in your "new" library:

- **Seating** – twice as much reader seating spread throughout the building
- **Collections** – shelving space to house almost twice the current collection
- **Computer technology** – electrical service and data cabling able to accommodate future information technology
- **Improved lighting** throughout the building
- **Improved handicapped accessibility**
- **Improved safety and security systems**
- **An architecturally significant and sensitive addition to the renovated 1900 library**

Through the generosity of private donors and taxpayer support, the Oshkosh Public Library has become an inspiring building that reminds us of the importance of education in the quality of our lives and our community.





## CHAPTER II – OUR HISTORY



The Oshkosh Public Library was established in 1895 and opened in City Hall on April 2, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Harris left an estate of \$75,000 to the city to build a library on the Harris property. The city supplied matching funds which included \$25,000 donated by Senator Philetus Sawyer. The Sawyer and Harris names are still displayed above the bronze lions on Washington Avenue.

The classical design of William Waters, a prominent Oshkosh architect, was selected for the building. As was typical of public libraries of the Carnegie era, it featured stone columns and monumental front entry stairs leading to reading rooms on the elevated first floor. The library was distinguished by a tile-capped dome. The Oshkosh Public Library opened on September 3, 1900.

The Waters building was modified somewhat over the years to increase usable space. The dome was closed in 1951 and an addition was added to the building in 1967. By 1988 this too had been outgrown and study began on alternative ways of obtaining needed space. This led to a referendum on an \$8.4 million expansion and renovation

proposal in November 1990. Although unsuccessful, the proposal inspired many library supporters.

In May 1992 an anonymous donor offered to match up to \$5.5 million of city tax support for “a quality project” that would renovate the 1900 building and expand on the 106 Washington Avenue site. A Library Building Committee was formed with the Library Board president, two City Council members, the City Manager, Library Director, two Library Board members and a citizen member. The committee selected C.R. Meyer as construction manager and the firm of Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff as architects in association with design architect Lonny Frye of the firm Frye Gillan Molinaro.

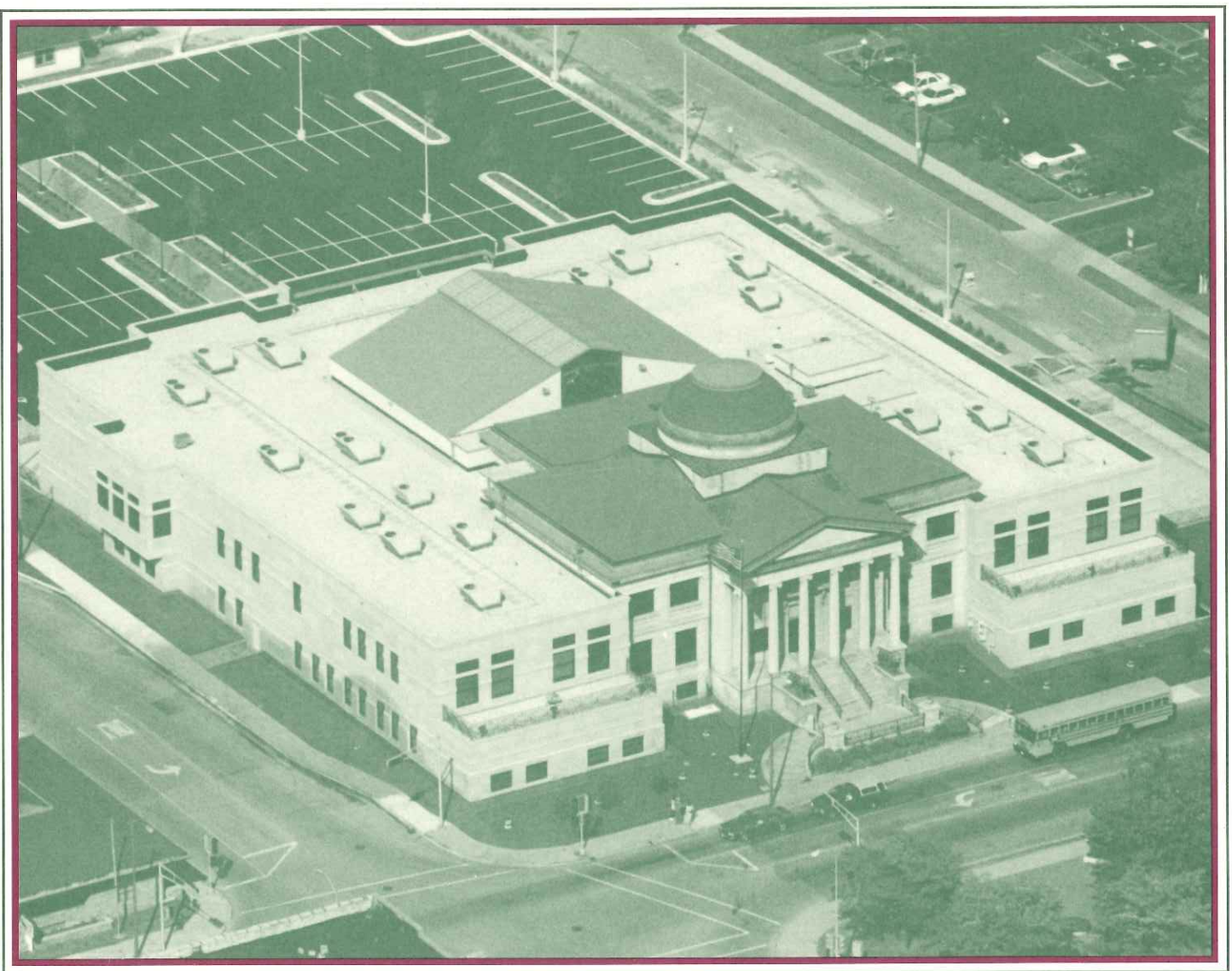
In November 1992 the City Council voted to bond for \$10 million, accepting \$5 million of the offered gift, to be paid in annual installments of \$1 million during the first five years of the term of the bonding. In December 1992 another anonymous donor provided \$200,000 to the library. Such generous community support has given a tremendous gift to the citizens of Oshkosh. A gift that will be cherished for many generations and help to improve the lives of young and old alike.





## TIMELINE

- May 1992** The library received a gift of up to \$5.5 million by an anonymous donor in order to expand and renovate the library at 106 Washington Avenue.
- Summer 1992** A Building Project Committee was formed and the construction manager, C.R. Meyer, was selected. Architects Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff in association with Frye Gillan Molinaro were also chosen for the project.
- November 1992** Project funding was approved by the Oshkosh City Council.
- December 1992** Another anonymous donor provided \$200,000 for the library.
- February 1993** The collection and staff moved to temporary housing at the former Radford Company, 40 Wisconsin Street.
- March 1993** Construction and renovation began at 106 Washington Avenue.
- Sept–Oct 1994** The collection was cleaned and moved to the newly refurbished and expanded downtown library.
- September 1994** The planting of trees as well as landscaping, partially funded by a federal grant, were completed.
- October 18, 1994** The library reopened at 106 Washington Avenue.
- Nov 5 & 6, 1994** Dedication and Open House Weekend
- 1995** Oshkosh Public Library Centennial



# OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY...

## Connecting People with Information...

**Collections** – print, audio, video, reference and other collections are on three levels in the 1994 expansion that wraps around the original 1900 library.

**Service** – service desks are located on each floor.

**Access** – stairs, an elevator and rest rooms are located off the lobby. The library is also handicapped accessible.

**Hours: School Year (Labor Day–Memorial Day)**

Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–9 p.m.  
 Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
 Sunday 1–5 p.m.

**Hours: Summer (Memorial Day–Labor Day)**

Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–9 p.m.  
 Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

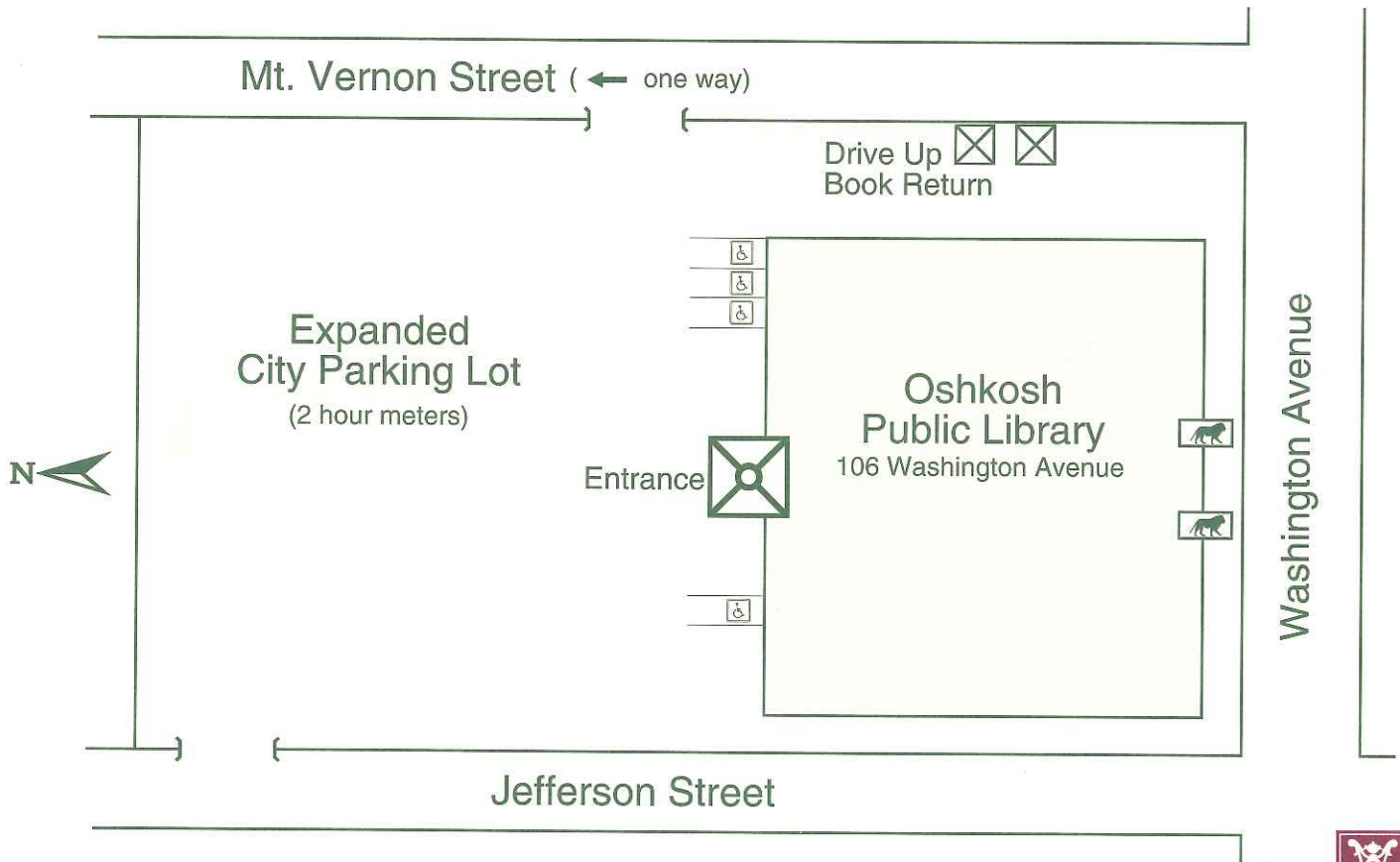
**Telephone Numbers:**

Oshkosh Public Library .....	236-5200
106 Washington Avenue	
Library Hours .....	236-5201
Reference Desk .....	236-5205
Children's Reference Desk .....	236-5208
Place Reserves .....	236-5202
New Books, Videos & Compact Discs .....	236-5202
Children's Storytimes & Programs .....	236-5208
Dial A Story.....	424-4056
Bookmobile Information .....	236-5203
Home Delivery Service & Volunteers .....	236-5206
Overdues, Notices & Fines .....	236-5203
Dial Access .....	236-5159
TTY/TDD–Adult .....	236-5204
TTY/TDD–Child .....	236-5225



**South Side Branch** .....

913 Oregon Street  
 Hours: Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.



**KEY**

RESTROOMS	HANDICAPPED ACCESS	SKYLIGHT	STAIRS	ELEVATOR	AREAS CLOSED TO VISITORS





## FIRST FLOOR – POPULAR MATERIALS AND CIRCULATION DESK

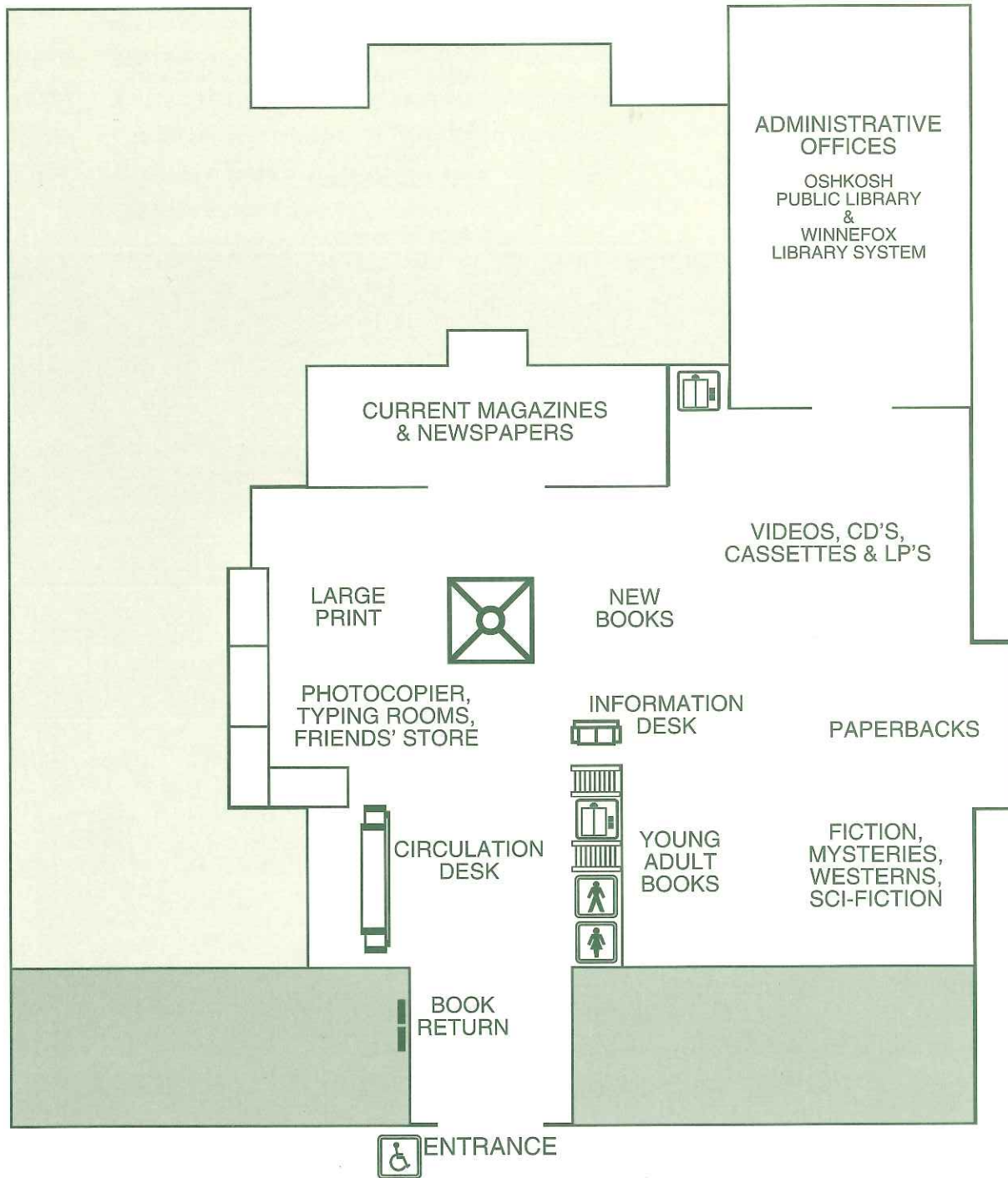
The **Information Desk** staff assist people in locating new books, fiction, videos, CDs, cassettes, records, paperbacks and large print books.

The **Circulation Desk** staff handle all check-outs for the library.

**Book return bins**, located in the lobby, should be used to return everything except overdues and renewals.

**Library cards** are free to people of all ages. Cards are issued to Oshkosh and Winnebago County residents who present current residency identification. The library honors cards from Neenah, Menasha and Berlin and issues cards to residents of the other Winnefox Library System member counties: Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara.

The **Reading Room** in the Waters building houses the current non-circulating copies of magazines and newspapers. All back issues of magazines are on the second floor.





## SECOND FLOOR – REFERENCE SERVICE AND NONFICTION

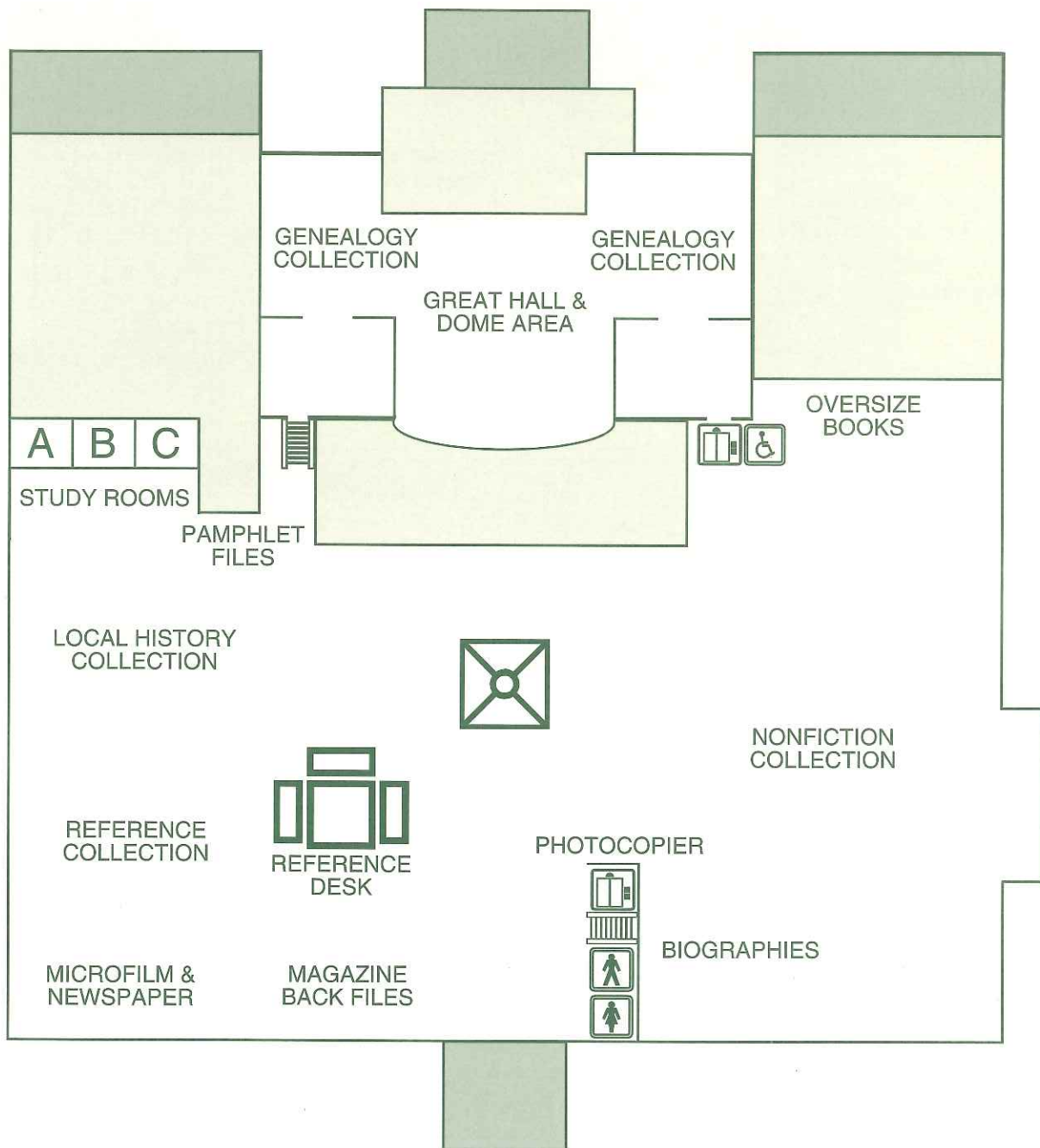
**Reference Desk** staff provide assistance in locating library materials. They provide information from a variety of print and electronic resources to library users in person and by telephone.

**Topical reference clusters** integrate computer and print resources: Auto Repair, Business and Investment, Consumer Information, Jobs and Education, Literature, Medicine, Wisconsin Law.

**Local History** materials are on public shelves. You may request to see materials in the locked cases at the Reference Desk.

**Back issues of magazines**, up to 10 years worth, are on public shelves and can be checked out. Back issues of newspapers are available on microfilm and reader-printers are located on the second floor.

The main floor of the **Waters Building** has been restored to its appearance in 1900 and now houses the genealogy collection. The marble floor and wainscotting are original. Much of the woodwork is original. The stencil work reproduces the damaged work uncovered when the false ceiling closing off the dome was removed. Enter from the stair or elevator.





## LOWER LEVEL – CHILDREN'S AREA AND MEETING ROOMS

**Children's Reference Desk** staff provide assistance in locating children's materials.

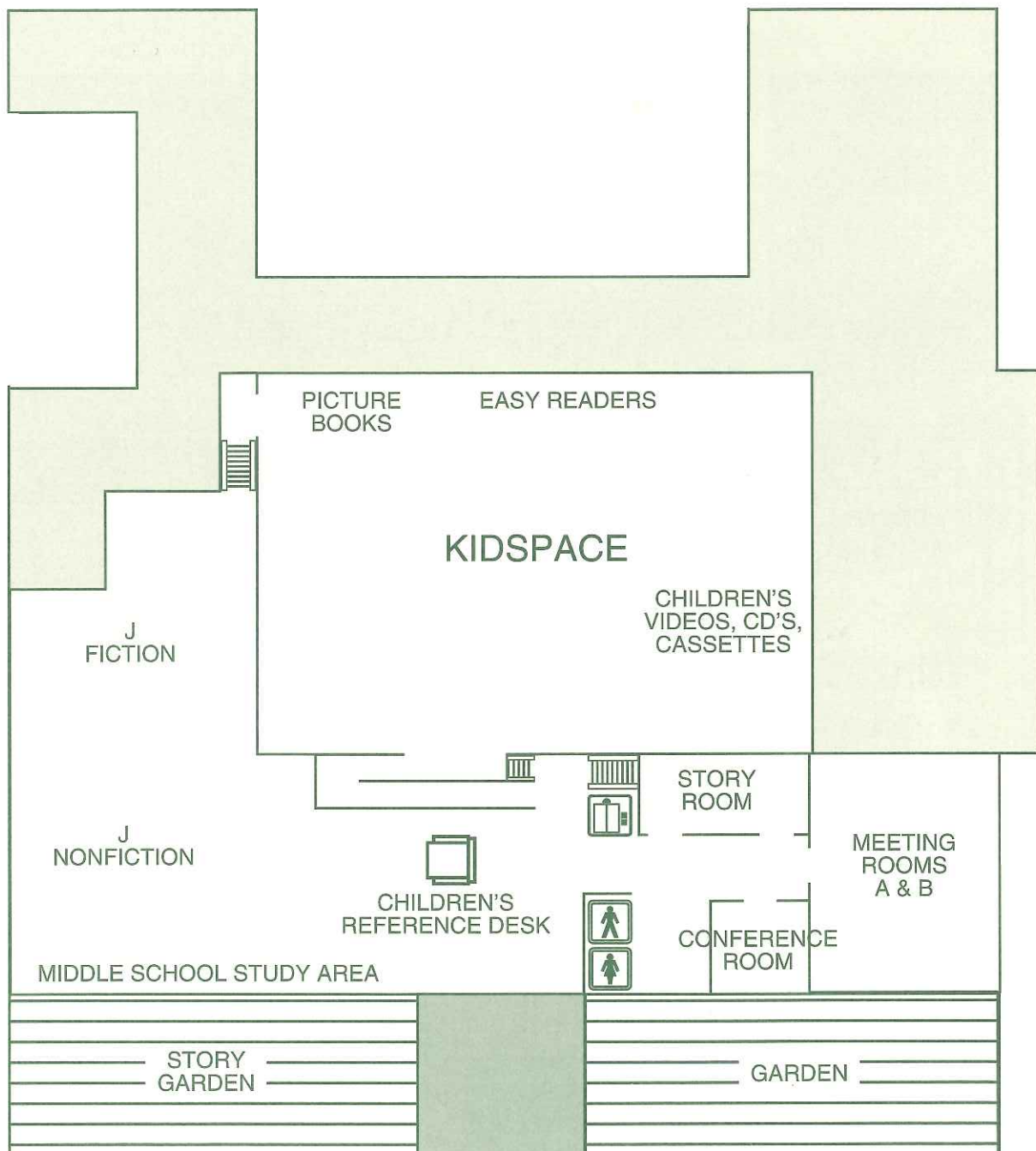
**Children's collections** for infants to eighth graders are located in the Children's Area. Infants will enjoy board books and picture books. Young readers move from easy readers to juvenile fiction, nonfiction and paperbacks. Music and stories are on audio cassettes and video cassettes.

**Children's reference books** and computers can be used for researching homework assignments in the study area.

**Kidspace** provides an exciting physical space to inspire the child's imagination.

The **Story Room** is used for storytimes for different age groups. An outdoor **Story Garden** is used for programs during the warm weather.

The **Meeting Room and Conference Room** are used for library programs and meetings and are available to the public for group meetings. Bookings are done through the Administrative Secretary.







### Children's and Family Outreach Services

- The library offers free **children's and family programming**. Storytime sessions, holiday programs and craft classes are designed for various age groups. The South Side Branch, 913 Oregon Street, also hosts storytimes and special events for children.
- The annual **summer library program** provides a reading challenge, special performances and other activities designed to motivate children to read.
- A **Baby Book Bag** with a board book, information on the library and tips for reading aloud is provided to new parents at Mercy Medical Center. This program is funded by the Friends of the Library and the William Steiger Memorial Trust Fund.
- **Classroom collections** are offered to schools. Book collections are also provided monthly to day-care centers and preschools.
- **Winnebago Literacy Council** tutors and adults learning to improve their reading skills use private tutor rooms in the library.

### Circulation Services

- To place reserves, get information on new books, videos, and CDs, contact the **Information Desk** on the first floor.
- **Book collections** are provided to senior housing centers and nursing homes.

- There is **bookmobile service** to residents in Oshkosh and Winnebago County. Schedules are available at the library, or by calling 236-5203.

### Reference Services

- The Reference Services staff have **electronic connections** to national networks at their fingertips.
- The **Area Information Database** provides current information on local clubs and organizations.
- If the library does not own an item that you need, the staff can request the item through the **interlibrary loan service**.

### Computer Services

- The library offers **Dial Access Service** to the library's computer catalog. Brochures on this service are available.
- The **Computer Catalog** covers materials from Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Berlin. All of the materials in these collections may be reserved using the computer catalog.

### Volunteer Services

There are several opportunities to help the library. Please contact the Library Volunteer Coordinator at 236-5206.

- Friends of the Oshkosh Public Library
- Genealogy volunteers from the Winnebago County Genealogical Society
- Home Delivery Service
- Summer Library Program
- Tour Guides





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*With sincere thanks and appreciation, we wish to thank all of the following individuals for their vision, effort, and craftsmanship in producing an outstanding public library.*

### DONORS AND TAXPAYERS

#### **OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

James N. Zitzelsberger, President  
Ron J. Montgomery, Vice-President  
Daniel J. Carpenter  
Jo Dell'Antonia  
Carol M. DiBiasio-Snyder  
Thomas W. Herzing  
Clarence Jungwirth  
Patricia M. Kaprelian  
Neil Lorge  
Robert Pung  
William L. Meisel, Jr. (1988–1994)  
Timothy R. Young (1984–1993)

#### **OSHKOSH COMMON COUNCIL**

Richard A. Wollangk, Mayor  
William R. Castle, Jr., Deputy Mayor  
Melanie Bloechl  
Jon C. Dell'Antonia  
Stanley Kline  
Lawrence Spanbauer  
John A. Stenz  
Thomas J. Binner (1985–1993)  
Floyd R. Chapin (1979–1993)  
Karen W. Fonstad (1991–1993)  
Robert C. Jungwirth (1988–1994)

#### **BUILDING PROJECT TEAM**

John Nichols, Library Director  
Joan Mueller, Assistant Director  
Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
    George Owen, Project Manager, AIA  
    G. Charles Bruscato, Project Architect, AIA  
Frye Gillan Molinaro Architects, Chicago, Illinois  
    Lonn Frye, Design Architect, AIA  
    Barbara Arendt, Design Associate  
C.R. Meyer & Co., Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
    Tim Van Dyn Hoven, Project Manager  
    Pete LeCompte, Project Architect, AIA  
    Franz Gaertner, Project Superintendent

#### **BUILDING PROJECT COMMITTEE**

Tom Herzing, Chairman  
William Castle, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
William Frueh  
John Nichols  
Nancy Roberts  
James Zitzelsberger

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### CONTRACTORS

Fluor Bros. Construction Co., Oshkosh  
Reigel Electric Corp., Appleton  
Biesanz Stone Company, Winona, MN  
Construction Supply & Erection, Green Bay  
Rohde Bros. Inc., Plymouth  
Appleton Lathing Corp., Neenah  
Oshkosh Office Systems, Oshkosh  
and  
Buckstaff Company, Oshkosh  
  
Calnin & Goss, Inc., Appleton  
Systems Furniture, Inc., DePere  
R.J. Kampo Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Appleton  
H.J. Martin & Son, Inc., Green Bay  
Omni Glass & Paint, Inc., Oshkosh  
Spacesaver, Fort Atkinson  
Grinnell Fire Protection, Menominee Falls  
Northwestern Elevator, Milwaukee  
Crafts, Inc., Manitowoc  
Willems Landscape, DePere  
Coakley Bros., Milwaukee  
Milwaukee Marble, Milwaukee  
Verhalen Inc., Green Bay  
ASI Sign Systems, Chicago  
New Tab, Ltd., Appleton  
Cablevision, Oshkosh  
G. Reinke & Company, Oshkosh  
GCME - Geotechnical & Const. Engineers, DePere  
Martenson & Eisle, Inc., Neenah  
River Valley Testing, Appleton  
Security Fence & Supply Co., Inc., Appleton

### SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Donald L. Wolfe, James D. Robl  
Lyle Reigel, Dan Reigel, Tom Giesen, Paul Hildebrand  
Chuck Biesanz  
Tom Heinike, Ron Christensen, Bruno Henke  
Charles Rohde, Tim Klein  
Tom Van Wyk, Ron Racette  
Tom Hagene, Joyce Anderson  
  
John Buckstaff, Frank Yench, Tom Mugerauer, Rick Pata,  
Bill Morren, and the entire staff  
Steve Wolfe  
Curt Beilke  
Rick Kampo, Mark Eastman  
Dana Balevre  
Ken Corcoran, Dave Vander Sanden, Joel King (stenciling)  
Arnie Nehls  
Jim Neusen, Mike Musha  
John Rosenberg, Ted Reitz  
Thomas Owens, Arvid Schulz  
Dan Peters, Ron Willems  
Neil Coakley, Chris Coakley, John Regent-Smith  
John Schmidt  
Brian Wickman  
Dawn Reinhart, Gregg Wiecker  
Keith Paul  
Chris Doyle  
Bob Reinke

### TEMPORARY LIBRARY REMODELING – RADFORD BUILDING

John Kolander, Architect, C.R. Meyer  
Binder Construction  
Schmidt Plumbing  
The Carpet Source  
  
Town & Country Electric  
August Winter & Sons  
Mike Lyster Painting  
Mulder's Red Carpet Storage & Moving



## A CONTINUATION OF EXCELLENCE

Now that we have a library designed to take us into the 21st century, you can look forward to some of the following:

- **Library Centennial** – during 1995, we will have fun looking backward and forward at the past 100 years and the next 100 years.
- **Strategic Planning Process** – one of our key centennial events will be a new strategic planning process that will involve the community in charting the course of the library from 1996–2000.
- **A Centennial Endowment Fund** will provide the means by which the library can continue to excel in areas that local tax support cannot provide.
- **Collection Growth** – collections of picture books, easy readers, board books, books-on-tape, compact discs and other media we have not yet seen can grow to a level more adequate to serve your needs.
- **Volunteers** – you can expect greater opportunities for volunteers to be directly involved with the library in ways similar to our use of trust funds—providing excellence that goes beyond our ability with staff.
- **Area Information Database** – in cooperation with human service providers, the library has developed the first computerized area information database that includes information on available human services and area clubs and organizations. Watch for it later this year!
- **Electronic Information** – following a trend affecting all of us, new electronic reference products will soon be appearing throughout the library. From CD-ROM encyclopedias to telephone directories to health information databases, new electronic reference products offer new, more convenient, ways of searching for information.
- **Self-service check-out** – as use at the library increases, you can anticipate self-service check-out terminals that volunteers will help you learn how to use.
- Other changes we can't even anticipate...
- And a continuation of the excellent service you have come to expect.

Since 1895, Oshkosh Public Library has undergone many changes. It has grown into one of the best libraries of its size in Wisconsin. The partnership of generous benefactors and local taxpayers has accomplished a magnificent building project that provides a legacy for generations to come. I expect the next 100 years will be equally exciting and rewarding.



John V. Nichols  
Library Director

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE

Margaret Alm  
Brad Britton  
Dan Carpenter, Co-Chair  
Marlene Herzog  
Susan Hoffman  
Bob Ingiald  
Pat Kaprelian, Co-Chair  
Nancy Meyer  
Gloria Miner  
Catherine Nelson  
Jean Nelson

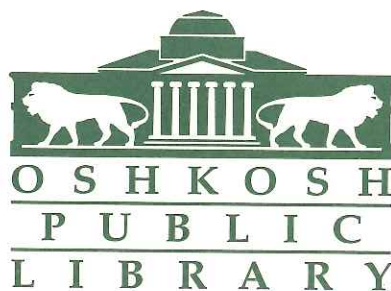
Pat Nichols  
Maureen Olm  
Ruth Percey  
Sara Scharpf  
Marlyn Supiano  
Andrew Swinney  
Betty Vandenberg  
Jan Viste  
John V. Nichols  
Joan Mueller  
Sue Fojtik

*Thank you to the following for their donations to the library dedication and open house.*

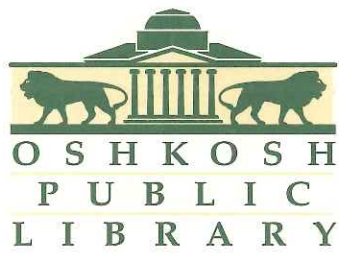
Balloon Magic  
C.J.'s Trophies and Gifts  
C.R. Meyer  
Castle-Pierce Printing  
Chamber Ambassadors  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Wisconsin  
Miles Kimball Company  
North High String Quartet  
OEC Graphics, Inc.  
Oshkosh Business Improvement District  
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce  
Oshkosh Channel 10  
Oshkosh Community Band  
Oshkosh Daily Northwestern  
Oshkosh Grand Opera House  
Oshkosh Public Library Employees Union AFSCME  
Local 796-A, AFL-CIO

Oshkosh Transit System  
Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers of Wisconsin Inc.  
Phil Weston Graphics  
Radio Results Network  
Rippin' Good Cookies  
Sawdust City Slickers  
Scott Foodservice  
Paul & Ona Srubas and Dave Duffey  
Stolley Photography  
Sweet & Sauer Kraut  
UNISOURCE  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh  
West High String Quartet  
WOSH Radio

*And all merchants who donated prizes for the prize drawing!*







106 Washington Avenue ■ Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-4985

