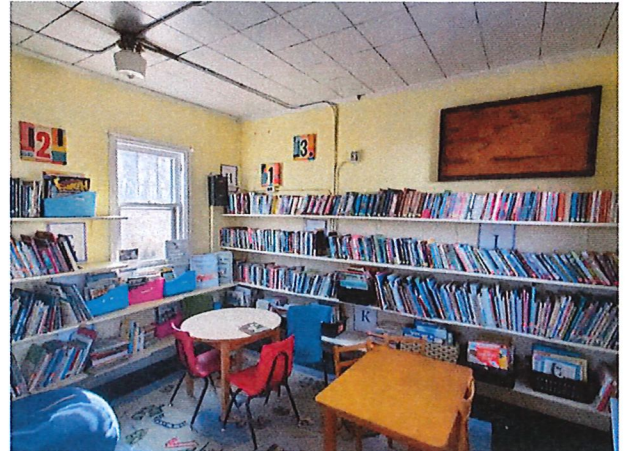


News from the City

Resident Mary Monson Takes On New Role As Librarian for City's Historic Margaret Dahl Children's Library



Margaret Dahl Children's Library (2016 photo)

The City of Minnetonka Beach is excited to announce that Northview Road resident, Mary Monson, (pictured above) has offered to look after the City's historic Margaret Dahl Children's Library. Named after resident and City Postmaster Margaret Dahl, the tiny library is rich in history and a unique treasure. Today's little yellow building near the Lafayette Club entrance was once home to the City's 11-by-18-foot Post Office. Margaret Dahl was the last postmaster there retiring in 1981 after 13-1/2 years. The next postmaster quit soon after Dahl's retirement as there is no bathroom. The building belonged to the Minnetonka Beach Civic Association and was on railroad property, so a use for it had to be found or it would have been removed. In 1983, the Post Office closed and Civic and resident volunteers transformed the building into the Margaret Dahl Library. They quickly filled the one-room library with books for the community to enjoy, and organized story-telling events where older children read books to younger ones.

In 2019, resident Avalon Johnson completed a comprehensive subject-based organization and inventory system for the 1,000-book collection for a Girl Scout project. The system remains in use for ongoing book management, including a visitor book checkout system for home enjoyment.

Child sized tables and chairs create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for young book lovers. Monson visits to the library with her grandchildren made it a special spot, prompting her to respond to the City's request for a library volunteer. Despite the lack of heat, Monson has already tackled initial cleaning and organizing at the library with big progress made. Future updates will come in spring, when residents are welcome to visit for the full reveal and explore the refreshed space. Residents can call City Hall when it warms up for the locked door code.

On behalf of the entire community, we thank Mary Monson for her invaluable service and dedication in preserving this Minnetonka Beach historic gem!