

Hours
M-Th 10-8
F-Sa 10-5
Su 1-5 (Oct-Apr)

215 N. Ottawa St.
Tecumseh MI 49286
(517) 423-2238
www.tecumsehlibrary.org

**Spring
2024**

SHELF LIFE

BEYOND THE STACKS

NEWS FROM TECUMSEH DISTRICT LIBRARY

As you know, this year is the Bicentennial for Tecumseh – 1824-2024. In honor of that milestone, we've written a history of the Tecumseh Library, from its beginnings as Military Square to its current role as Tecumseh District Library. Please take a moment to read through the history and join us in admiration of those who were determined to have a library for their community.

National Library Week 2024 is Sunday, April 7 through Saturday, April 13. At TDL, we will have a special something for those who sign up or renew their library cards that week. Even if your card is not up for renewal, stop in to support your local library!

We look forward to the warm summer months and our Summer Reading Program. Designed to keep the reading skills of the young folks high during their summer months without school, we also have a program for our adult patrons. "Why should the kids have all the fun?" is the motto of this program! Summer Reading begins in early June and will continue through late July.

We hope you have a beautiful spring, and encourage you to stop in and check out our free Seed Library. We have lots of flower seeds this year, so please do pick up your favorites!

LEARN

EXPLORE

INTERACT

CREATE

ENJOY

Our Vision Statement:

The Tecumseh District Library strives to be a premier facility offering a welcoming, accessible community resource where all people can learn, explore, interact, create, and enjoy.

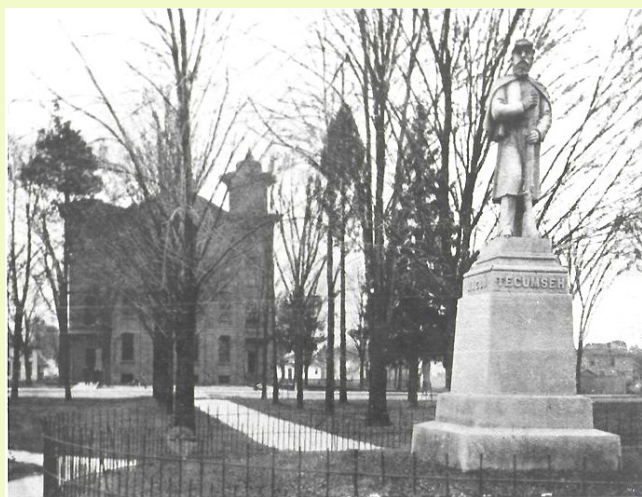
The History of the Tecumseh District Library

When Musgrove Evans and the Tecumseh Company laid out the town in 1824, there were four pieces of land marked for public use. One of them, Military Square, would eventually become the location of our present day Tecumseh District Library. First, though, the Square would be used as drill grounds for the Black Hawk War, the Toledo War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. A 3-rod strip was taken for the new railroad in 1838.

The town's first culture club and semi-public library was the Tecumseh Lyceum, established twelve years after Tecumseh was settled. The concept of the Lyceum came with settlers from the east. The general idea was to provide lectures, but the local group put more value on books. They pooled the books they had brought with them and purchased those that they could. Each borrower paid a dollar per year and was able to check out one book per week.

The first meeting was December 16, 1836 and was held in the Presbyterian Session House. As mentioned, the membership fee was \$1 and dues were .25 per month; these fees were used to purchase books. Books were also accepted in payment of dues at the discretion of the librarian. A bookcase and table were purchased from local lawyer Peter Morey and the library was located in his office.

It seems there was a period of time, due perhaps to the Panic of 1837, when there were no meetings being held but eventually the Lyceum was back in action, with the books being devoured. In 1888, a Private Library Association was chartered with subscriptions being sold for borrowing privileges. This was an organization until 1895 when it ran out of funds and merged with the Tecumseh School Library to become the Tecumseh Public Library of District No. 7. The Board of Education assumed expenses for the collection and it was available to the entire school district population.



Military Square on the grounds where the library now stands. Photo was taken prior to 1909.



Tecumseh Public Library
Carnegie Building 1960

In 1903, the School Board received funding from the Carnegie Foundation for a new library building to be built on Chicago Boulevard. This Carnegie Building was dedicated February 10, 1905 as Tecumseh's Public Library. The library shelves held 8,808 volumes. State aid was the library's major source of funding until a millage approved by voters in 1945 provided operating funds. Lenawee County received two more of the 5,000 Carnegie libraries built in the U.S. One was built in Adrian between 1907 and 1909, and the third was built of field stone in Hudson and is still being used as a library today.

More Photos of Tecumseh Public Library in the Carnegie Building 1960



Quiet Reading Area



Teen Room



Listening Corner

By 1960, the Tecumseh Community Fund Foundation decided that a new larger library was necessary. Two years later, the Military Park land was released to the city of Tecumseh from the Lenawee Board of Supervisors via a quitclaim deed. The building was dedicated October 11, 1962 and funded by United Fund donations, at a cost of \$230,000.

Between 1969 and 1993, voters approved various millages which funded the library, along with penal fines and state aid. There were several remodels to upgrade and enlarge the library. The Herrick family started a TDL Herrick Endowment Fund for the library in 1982.

In 1994, when Proposal A eliminated all millage funding for school district public libraries, the Tecumseh School Board took over operating the library. This continued until July 2003 when the School Board discontinued supporting the library.

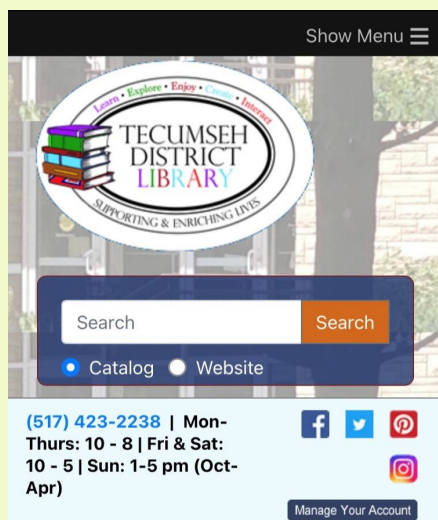
At this point, a group of dedicated women from the community, now referred to as the “Founding Mothers”, took the lead and a new district library was created. In May 2003, the first millage to support the library failed. In October 2003, the second millage vote passed overwhelmingly. In 2010, a renovation of the first floor of the library was done. Renovations included energy efficient lighting, new carpeting, upholstered furniture, fresh paint, a fireplace area, a local history room, a children’s programming room, a coffee area, 3 quiet study rooms, and 16 computers in a new computer area.

In 2015, a second egress was added to the east side of the building. A barrier free restroom was added to the lower level, along with an updated Friends book sale room, a movable wall for making the larger meeting room into two rooms, plus Smart Boards and drop-down projectors. Today, the lower level is constantly in use for meetings and programs.

Our Library Board, our Friends group, our library staff and various directors, and our supportive patrons have each made substantial contributions to the legacy of Tecumseh District Library. It truly is a cornerstone of our community.



Architect's rendering of Tecumseh District Library's current building 1960



Manage Your Account on TDL's Mobile Website

We have switched from our previous library app to our new mobile website. It's simple!

1. Open your web browser (Depending on your device this will usually be Chrome or Safari.)
2. Go to **Tecumsehlibrary.org**
3. Click **"Manage Your Account"**
4. Click the **menu** button
5. Click **"Login"**
6. Enter your **Library Card Number** and **PIN**
7. Click the box next to **"Remember me?"**
8. Click **Submit**

Thank You

Recent TDL Donors

We feel so fortunate to have the support of our community and we thank the following donors who have recently contributed to TDL:

3 Dudes & Dinner
 Adrian Mechanical Services
 Anne E. & John S. Walker
 Barbara & Stephen Kruger
 Barbara Vallieu
 Brian Burns
 Carma & Rodd Roesch
 D Printer, Inc.
 David Finnegan
 Debbie & Jonathan Gilbey
 Debi & Rod Bradford
 Deborah Lawson
 Donald Masserang
 Dorothy Smith
 F&S Landscaping
 Friends of the TDL
 Gary Haviland

Gary L. Thompson
 Gayle Hazelbaker & Jody Raus
 Irene & Lloyd Bastian
 J. Peter Longabaugh
 James Manley Family
 Jane & John Poczatek
 Jeanette & Thomas Meyer
 John Ellis
 Joyce Ferguson
 Judy Prater
 Karen Wenk
 Kristin Longabaugh
 Leona Bailey
 Lisa & Roger Hart
 Lorraine & Charles Henry Mensing
 Mary & Nick Calabro
 Mary Beth & George Reasoner

Masters Accounting
 Nancy & Calvin Smith
 Pam & Rich Weir
 Renee Gregory
 Robert & Pamela Feldkamp
 Sarah & Ronald Frenzen
 Sarah Ghesquiere
 Sharon & Dick McLaughlin
 Sharon & William Meyers
 Sharon Sargo
 Susan Bach
 The Lakehouse Bakery
 Thelma G. Ball
 Veronica J. Baugh
 William & Patricia Sparrow

