Library Historical Timeline, continued

1983 Library was remodeled, including a dropped ceiling, new lighting, carpeting, shelving and window in the children's area.

1985 Received our first computer, an Apple IIe.

Dec. 17, 1990 Officially became a library district

April 2, 1991 The referendum passed to expand the area served by the library district to encompass the entire school district.

1990 - 1996 Grant funding assisted with the purchase of additional computers, membership in RSA, a new circulation desk, and conversion to Winnebago, a computerized circulation system.
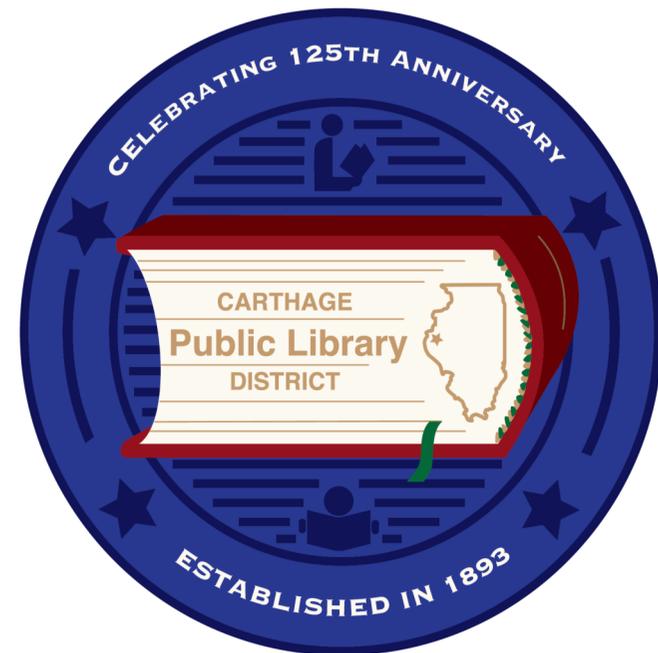
Jan. 27, 2004 Marine Bank announced they were giving their building at 500 Wabash Avenue to the library. We received possession of the building in Oct. 2005 and renovations began.

May 2006 The library moved from 538 Wabash to 500 Wabash. We reopened in the new location on May 30 and held an Open House on Sept. 24, 2006.

2017 The library trustees and a community focus group worked with Library Building Consultant, Dr. Fred Schlipf and Architect Mark Misselhorn to evaluate the library's needs and costs of remodeling the 2nd floor of this building. A small addition including a new ADA compliant elevator and a second stairway, both required, and renovation of the 2nd floor are estimated at $1.2 million. The consensus is that building a new library, estimated at $2.5 million, is more cost effective.

Future Plans Reconvene community focus group. Seek appropriate building site. Begin Capital Fundraising Campaign. Work with architect to design new library building.

Welcome to
Carthage Public Library's
125th Anniversary
Open House
Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm

Congratulations and thank you to Danna Waltner of Vintadj Graphics in Galva, Kansas, winner of the Logo Design Contest, for creating our new logo.

Thank you for coming!
While you are here, please be sure to:

- Sign the guest book.
- Listen to music of the era performed by the Lemmings.
- Add your comments to the "Why I love the Library" banner in the hallway.
- Write down your stories about the library to add to our memory book.
- Look through the photo albums, scrap books, and other displays.
- Enjoy cake and other refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library. (The Friends also have commemorative tote bags for sale.)
- Take a tour of the Library.
- Pick up one of the winning bookmarks from our "Design a Bookmark" contest.
- Register for a Library card if you live in our district and do not have one.
- Learn about the history of the Carthage Public Library, our current collections and services, and possibilities for our future.
- Visit with current and former library staff and board members, and with your friends and neighbors.

Historical Timeline, Carthage Public Library

March 11, 1893 Woman's Columbian Club changed its name to Columbian Library Association with the purpose of founding a free public library in Carthage.

July 10 , 1893 The mayor appointed and City Council approved the first directors of the Library Association. A library fund was added to the appropriation bill and levy.

Sept. 11, 1893 Carthage City Ordinance No. 36 was passed to officially establish the library.

Feb. 14, 1894 The library opened as a Reading Room, in a room above John Culkin's clothing store, northwest corner of the square.

March 10, 1894 The library opened to the public and residents were able to borrow books to take home. Mrs. Elizabeth Pennock was the first librarian and served for 32 years.

1896 The library moved to an upstairs room in City Hall at 538 Wabash Avenue.

Nov. 1900 The library moved to the main floor of City Hall.

June-July 1924 The library was closed for several weeks to catalogue the books using the Dewey Decimal System. They also rearranged the shelves and installed new light fixtures.

Jan. 16, 1940 A fire, caused by an overheated furnace, damaged the building. More than 6,000 books were lost. The library reopened in April 1940.

1965 The building to the east, formerly used by the fire department was remodeled. City offices were in the front and the library expanded to include the back portion.

1967 Joined the newly formed Great River Library System.