

## Osseo Library

**Address** 415 Central Avenue, Osseo, MN 55369 (City Hall Building)

**Architects** Community Design & Planning Associates, Inc.

**Square feet** 1,378 (leased)

**Open to Public** August, 1967

**Dedication** September 10,1967

All information above from Open House & Dedication Ceremony Program - Osseo Municipal Building 9/10/67

**Renovation** 2001 (City Hall renovation/expansion) From Osseo-Maple Grove Press 3/26/03

### Overview of the Community

Osseo, (a Native American name "Waseia" meaning 'there is light', or more commonly, ('son of the evening star') was originally settled under the name Palestine. In 1856, Warren Sampson, a merchant and operator of the post office, changed the name to Osseo. Shortly thereafter, another village, City of Attraction, laid out by A.B. Chaffee, was absorbed into Osseo. Potatoes were a major crop, along with cordwood, which was cut from the neighboring Maple Grove area and hauled to Minneapolis. The city was incorporated by legislative action in 1875. From "100 Year History of the City of Osseo" n.d.

### Library History

On February 1,1922, the first library in Osseo opened in the Commercial Club Room on the upper floor of the Hovorka drugstore. Sometime prior to 1929 the library moved to quarters in the front of the council room in the Town Hall. While this space was accessible, supervision was difficult due to the range of meeting times in the Town Hall.

From "County Line: Bulletin of the Hennepin County Library" vol. 4, no. 2, April, 1950

In 1948, library officials approached the village council about having the small room formerly used as the village jail, cleaned and used as a library. The council approved this request and the room was cleared out, painted, and new lighting was installed.

From "County Line: Bulletin of the Hennepin County Library" vol. 4, no. 2, April, 1950

By 1957 the library had outgrown its space and the Friends of the Library met with the village council to discuss finding a larger space. In January 1957, the library was moved to new quarters in the Masonic building at 212 Central Ave (Main Street). From North

Hennepin Post 1/17/57

In late 1958, the village council of Osseo began looking at either remodeling or expanding its existing town hall or building a totally new facility, which it was suggested, could possibly house the library. However, it was not until 1966 that the issue of the city borrowing money (\$97,000), for the construction of a new town hall was put to the voters. The proposed building was to house all village departments and a branch library.

[From Minneapolis star 4/7/66](#) Voters approved the measure and the new Osseo Municipal building was dedicated on September 10, 1967. Senator Eugene McCarthy delivered the dedication address.

[From Open House & Dedication Ceremony Program - Osseo Municipal Building 9/10/67](#)

As suburban Hennepin County grew, the population of Osseo remained fairly static given the confines of the city limits. The County Library system responded to this growth by placing larger libraries in growing communities, e.g., Brooklyn Park, Plymouth, and Maple Grove, while considering reducing and/or changing services or even closing the Osseo Library. Matters came to a head in 1984, when a library administrator stated publicly that plans called for replacing the Osseo library with bookmobile service and new facilities in other communities. The Osseo city council sent a resolution to the Hennepin County Board requesting a full discussion about the library. [From Resolution of City Council of Osseo, July 30, 1984](#). Although no action was taken at that time, library administration continued to consider changing the service patterns in Osseo. In 1998 another recommendation was made to close the Osseo library. Again, it did remain open, although with fewer hours, staff, services and collection.

[From Report: Library Director's Office 11/20/98](#)

In 2000, the Osseo community celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The library received a new sign. In 2002, when City Hall was renovated, the library was also remodeled and expanded slightly. [From Osseo-Maple Grove Press 3/26/03](#)

## **Services**

In addition to the print collection of approximately 12,200 items, and several dozen periodical subscriptions, the Osseo library offers computer workstations for children and families (Kidlinks); for very young children (LittleLinks); and Internet-equipped workstations for reference. [From Osseo-Maple Grove Press 3/26/03](#) and [from Framework for the Future: Capital Plan Discussion, July 2006](#),

With the opening of larger libraries in the area, public service hours were reduced to 18 hours per week. Story times were discontinued in 1996 after the new Champlin library opened. [From Report: Library Director's Office 11/20/98](#)

## **Friends of the Library**

After a series of meetings of interested residents, a Friends of the Library group was officially organized in November, 1949. This was the first Friends group in the Hennepin County Library system and its purpose was "to help the library promote as far as possible the use of books, and other library materials available to them from the County library, and add to the cultural interest of the community." [From "County Line: Bulletin of the Hennepin County Library" vol. 4, no. 2, April, 1950](#)

## Staff

Early staff names and dates from County Line: Bulletin of the HCL, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 1950 and Annual Reports

1970 and on information from HCL Tables of Organization

Mrs. Rosalie Killmer 1922 -1931

Mrs. Harvey Norelius 1931-1942

Mrs. Pearl Wiley 1942-1943

Mrs. Mary Ward 1943-?

Mrs. Merle Ramstad ? -?

Maud Dahle ? - ?

Dorothy Cook ? - ?

Barbara Garland ? - 1948

Mrs. Ruth Evans - Librarian: 1948-1969

Mrs. Marilyn Benson - Library Assistant: 1970 -1971

Ardis Wiley - Senior Clerk: 1970 -1971

Ardis Wiley - Library Assistant/Associate Librarian/Librarian: 1971 -1984

Hanne Robinson - Librarian: 1984-1986

Pearl Mead - Library Assistant: 1986 -1993

Rhoda Mead - Library Assistant: 1989 - 1998

Sandra Fischbach - Associate Librarian: 1998 - 2003

Susan Cooper - Associate Librarian: 2004 - ?

Linda Engberg

1/22/2009