



Community members view the 1967 Oak Lawn Tornado exhibit at the grand opening of the Local History Room on April 21, 2007.

Local History Program

In response to a growing interest in the history of our Village, the Oak Lawn Public Library reestablished a Local History program in November 2006.

The initial funding for a part-time Local History Coordinator was provided by the **Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation**. Within the first year, the Local History Room was reopened in April 2007 and two major exhibits were launched with corresponding public programs for all ages.

The success of these endeavors and future vision of the library staff gained the support of the library's Board of Trustees, who approved funding for a permanent, full-time Local History Coordinator position in March 2008.

As the Local History program continues to grown and expand, there are many archive storage, display, equipment and staffing needs that go beyond the library's regular budget.

The Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation is committed to remaining involved in this important initiative. By making a donation to the Foundation, you help make that possible.

History of the Oak Lawn Public Library

From humble beginnings more than 70 years ago, the Oak Lawn Public Library is now recognized as one of the finest libraries in the Chicagoland area.

In 1934, the first library was founded by dedicated volunteers who set it up in a building that was originally used as a pigeon coop. Much of the early library furniture came from the "midget exhibit" of the 1932-33 Chicago World's Fair. The first books were donated, but many came from the WPA (Works Progress Administration) program.

The Behrend family donated a small house for a bigger library on the same property in 1938.

In 1943, voters approved a referendum establishing a tax-supported library for the Village of Oak Lawn.

The first permanent library building on the original site was completed in 1958. The library has expanded and remodeled several times since then.

In 2002-2004, a major building expansion and renovation project increased the library by 25%.

In 2006-2007, the library reinstated an active Local History program with a dedicated staff. This was possible through the financial support of the Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation.

Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation

9427 South Raymond Avenue
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Phone: 708-422-4990
[www.oaklawnlibrary.org/
libraryfoundation.aspx](http://www.oaklawnlibrary.org/libraryfoundation.aspx)

Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation



Preserve Your Heritage



Make a Difference

Local History Fund Raising Campaign

What is the Library Foundation?

The Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation was founded in 1993 to seek private sector support for maintaining the excellence of materials and services offered by the Oak Lawn Public Library. The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization governed by a volunteer board of community members whose time and energies allow us to operate without administrative costs.

Why Have a Library Foundation?

With tax caps, diminishing state and federal funds and the increasing costs of materials and supplies, library service cutbacks are inevitable if new sources of funding are not developed. The Foundation was formed to ensure that the Oak Lawn Public Library will continue to meet the needs of the community.

The Library Foundation also provides an opportunity for private citizens and businesses to make tax-deductible contributions to sustain and expand library programs, materials and services.

How Does the Library Foundation Provide Support for the Library?

Donations made to the Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation are invested into a professionally managed Endowment Fund established for the long term security of the Oak Lawn Public Library. Over the years, this reserve will grow and become large enough to fund major capital projects at the library. In addition to building an endowment fund, the Library Foundation currently provides ongoing financial support for the growing needs of the library's revitalized Local History program.

How Can You Help?

The Library Foundation recommends that you consult with a qualified attorney or financial advisor regarding the tax advantages of contributing to the Foundation.

We would like to offer the following options for your consideration:

Cash contributions to the Library Foundation, in any amount, are greatly appreciated. These donations are often made as commemorative gifts to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, exceptional service by library staff or as memorials to remember a loved one.

Property donations, such as stocks, bonds and land, can provide significant tax savings to the donor. This can result in a reduction or elimination of capital gains taxes.

Last wills and testaments may list the Library Foundation as a beneficiary. Donors may gift money, property or a percentage of a residual estate to the Foundation, resulting in significant estate tax savings.

Living trusts can be created in a last will and testament to provide the beneficiary with a lifetime income, while ultimately benefitting the library through the Foundation.

Special events, such as Local History exhibit launches, public programming and a variety of fund raising campaigns enlist the support of the community.

Foundation Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Linda Atkins | Lenore Goodfriend |
| William Brouwer | Debbie Janicke |
| Joann Buschbach | Carole Onwiler |
| Dr. James Casey | Patricia Roberts |
| Lois Gasteyer | Mildred Sujka |
| John Gonczy | Robert Thompson |

Yes, I want to help preserve the history of Oak Lawn and the heritage of its people by making a contribution to the Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

My employer will match my gift.
Company name and city:

Memorial or tribute.
This gift is in honor/memory of:

I would like to donate property or stock.
Please contact me.

I am interested in planned giving.
Please contact me.

NAME

ADDRESS

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All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. The Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Please mail contribution and form to:
Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation
9427 S. Raymond Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453