

Chesterfield Township Library seeks permanent home

Programs, population continue to grow

By Katelyn Larese | katelyn.larese@voicenews.com | [@katelynlarese](https://twitter.com/katelynlarese) on Twitter Aug 6, 2018



As the Chesterfield Township Library continues to grow, leaders are looking to find space to construct a new facility.

Voice file photo

As the Chesterfield Township Library continues to grow, its leaders are looking to find a new permanent home in the community.

The library leases a 21,000-square-foot converted warehouse near Gratiot Avenue and Chesterfield Road. With nearly 80,000 visitors walking through the doors in 2017, library leaders are exploring the acquisition of land for the purpose of constructing a new building.

"We have a good problem in that many of the library's exciting enrichment programs are at maximum building and parking capacity," Chesterfield Township Library Director Elizabeth Madson said. "Therefore, the library is exploring the establishment of a permanent home in Chesterfield Township."

The library grew out of humble beginnings when the family of Bernard and Ceola Trinity opened their 500-volume home library to the community. The family started its library in the 1950s when neighbors began asking to borrow books after they announced plans to retire and sell the property, a 1991 Detroit Free Press article states. The family collection later became a branch of the Macomb County library system.

Voters officially established the Chesterfield Township Library and approved a dedicated library millage in November 1994. The library opened its doors that year in a small space on 23 Mile Road and has operated in rented facilities for nearly 25 years.

In its first 20 years, the library circulated more than 2.6 million books and welcomed millions of visitors. In 2017, library staff answered nearly 12,600 questions and conducted more than 380 programs for 10,570 children, teens and adults.

Library leaders expect growth to continue and anticipate becoming a Class VI public library, the largest class size in the state.

Concerns about the size and location of the library's current space have been brought up over the years. Tucked between Gratiot Avenue and 23 Mile Road, it is not easily visible from surrounding roadways.

To accommodate a growing community, programs and services, such as children's programming, music, magazines and movies, were added, along with a large-type collection that remains popular. Books on CD are also popular among patrons.

"Library staff are proud of their educational partnership with the community," Madson said. "From developing vocabulary and reading skills through story times for babies and preschoolers, leading art and STEM clubs for children and teens, to presenting retirement and health and wellness programs for seniors - libraries transform communities."

The library offers a variety of programs for both children and adults, including story times, crafts, movie nights, club meetings and technology-based workshops. Online services include OverDrive, which offers books and audio books, Zinio, which provides full digital copies of magazines, and Freegal, an online music service.

The facility was one of the first two libraries in the state to receive the Citation of Excellence Award in 2001 from the Library of Michigan for outstanding public service. The Friends of the Chesterfield Township Library was also formed in 2001.

The Chesterfield Township Library is located at 50560 Patricia Ave. For more information about the library or the services it offers, call 586-598-7900 or go to [facebook.com/chesterfieldlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldlibrary) or chelibrary.org.

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