

= Briarcliff Manor Public Library =

The Briarcliff Manor Public Library is the public library serving Briarcliff Manor , New York . Located on the edge of the Walter W. Law Memorial Park on Library Road , it is a member of Westchester Library System . It is staffed by a director and eleven employees , including reference and youth librarians , and is governed by a seven @-@ member board , with a liaison to the village board . The library offers computer classes , book discussion groups , young adult programs , a children 's room and a local history collection . The library also houses the Briarcliff Manor @-@ Scarborough Historical Society and offices for the Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department . Adjoining the library is the village 's former train station , which housed the library from 1959 to 2009 , and was renovated and reopened as the William J. Vescio Community Center on May 30 , 2016 .

The library was founded in 1914 in the Briarcliff Community Center . From the building 's destruction in 1929 and over the next thirty years , the library was without a permanent location , and was moved between sites including public school buildings and the village recreation center . In 1959 , the library purchased the former Briarcliff Manor station of the New York and Putnam Railroad . After renovations in the 1980s and 90s , a significant expansion was funded and completed in the late 2000s , where the library is housed today . In 1981 , the trackbed which ran alongside the building became part of a 48 @-@ mile @-@ long (77 @-@ kilometre) rail trail , consisting of the South County , North County , and Putnam County Trailways . The biking , running , and walking trail stretches from the Bronx north to Brewster .

= = History = =

The Briarcliff Manor Free Library was founded by Edward S. Arnold in 1914 at the Briarcliff Community Center (also referred to as " the Club ") . The building was built as a public school in 1898 at the current Pleasantville Road southbound ramp to NY Route 9A . World War I slowed its expansion , though progress resumed in 1921 . This was achieved largely due to the efforts of Amy Bookwalter , at a time when the Library Board consisted entirely of women . On March 8 ? 13 of that year , the Briarcliff Free Library was officially opened , and on September 22 , 1921 , the library was registered with the New York State library system .

On September 1 , 1922 , the Club 's library funds were transferred to the Library Committee , and the village government donated US \$ 500 (\$ 7 @, @ 100 today) to the library in 1924 . At that time , it had 1 @, @ 900 volumes , which became 23 @, @ 000 by 1926 , around 6 @, @ 000 in 1939 , and by 1952 , 8 @, @ 000 volumes . In 1988 , the library 's collections had grown to 25 @, @ 000 .

In its early years , the Briarcliff library received donations from the village Sunday school and the Club . In July 1928 , the library moved from the community club building (which was sold to the Westchester Parkway Commission) to the tower room of the former Briarcliff Farms office building , the present branch of the International Union of Operating Engineers . On March 18 , 1930 , after invitation from the Briarcliff Board of Education , the library was relocated again . It moved to a large room on the main floor of Briarcliff 's high school extension to its Law Park grade school building . In August 1949 , the school required more classroom space ; the village board then provided two rooms on the second floor of its recreation building on Old Route 100 near the village downtown . On March 18 , 1952 , the New York State Board of Regents granted the library a provisional charter ; that year its registration numbered 503 . Also in 1952 , the village semicentennial history book notes the need for a permanent home for the library .

Around 1939 , the library received an efficiency rating of 93 percent from the Library Division of the New York State Education Department . In 1944 , the library obtained its highest efficiency rating , 98 @. @ 3 percent , from the Library Extension Division of the University of the State of New York . The 1952 appropriation for the library was \$ 1 @, @ 800 (\$ 16 @, @ 000 today) ; its expenditures were \$ 1 @, @ 875 @. @ 86 (\$ 17 @, @ 100 today) in 1951 .

On January 20 , 1959 , the library moved to its fifth location , the former Briarcliff Manor station on the New York City & Northern Railroad (later the New York and Putnam Railroad) . The station was built in 1906 by village founder Walter W. Law in the Tudor style , as a replacement for a smaller

station , moved to nearby Millwood . The railroad 's Putnam Division was discontinued in 1958 , freeing up use of the building for the library . The library spent \$ 12 @, @ 500 (\$ 101 @, @ 500 today) to purchase the building and an additional \$ 6 @, @ 500 (\$ 52 @, @ 800 today) for renovations ; it raised \$ 14 @, @ 000 (\$ 113 @, @ 600 today) from village residents , with the rest funded by the Library Board . In 1959 , the library received its absolute charter , and received a charter in 1964 to become a public library : the Briarcliff Manor Public Library . In the 1980s and 90s , videocassettes were increasing in popularity ; The New York Times reported in 1990 that the library had experienced a significant increase in its circulation , with over 5 @, @ 435 circulated in that year , compared to 2 @, @ 864 in 1989 . In 1985 , the library and the Briarcliff Lodge were among 60 sites given historical markers by Westchester County Tricentennial Commission .

The library , which had 3 @, @ 200 square feet (300 m2) , was determined to be too small ; other significant problems included no wireless capacity and poor shelving and lighting . In 1980 , a large interior renovation took place . Former mayor Chester L. Fisher and his wife led a \$ 50 @, @ 000 (\$ 143 @, @ 600 today) fundraising effort , and collected \$ 50 @, @ 072 . Construction started in March 1980 and included interior painting , new shelves , cabinets , and carpeting for the main room , a mezzanine on the south side , a relocated checkout desk and remodeled children 's room , and a vestibule in the main entrance designed to match the original building . In 1981 the first section of the Putnam Division trackbed was repurposed for a trailway ; the section ran from the library south to New York Route 117 . The 48 @-@ mile biking , running , and walking trail was completed in 2014 , and consists of the South County , North County , and Putnam County Trailways . It stretches from Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx north to Brewster. In 1995 village residents held a referendum for a new library of 10 @, @ 600 square feet (980 m2) ; it failed by 13 votes , from the 871 cast . From 1997 to 1999 , major renovations took place both on the building 's interior and exterior . In the early 2000s , plans began for an expansion . A modular building was set up in 2004 as the children 's room . In 2006 , a \$ 4 million bond resolution (\$ 4 @. @ 7 million today) was passed for a two @-@ story , 6 @, @ 600 @-@ square @-@ foot (610 @-@ square @-@ metre) addition , which began construction in summer 2007 and opened February 19 , 2009 . The original station building was renovated to become a village community center , which was in development since as late as 2013 and held a cost of \$ 1 @. @ 8 million . Mayor Lori Sullivan and former mayor William J. Vescio presided over the center 's opening and dedication to Vescio on May 30 , 2016 .

= = Location and architecture = =

The Briarcliff Manor Public Library is located on the eastern edge of the Walter W. Law Memorial Park on Library Road , and has a large parking lot accessible from Library Road .

The current structure consists of the 1906 former train station on the south end and an extension completed in 2009 on the north side . The exterior was designed in the Tudor Revival style , although The New York Times observed the building as " pseudo @-@ medieval " . When active as a train station , the timbering was painted a shade of green used for other New York Central stations . The 2007 addition has the same half @-@ timber and stucco exterior of the original building .

The station 's interior was decorated with flowers , oriental rugs on the terrazzo floor , and tables and chairs in the Mission style . During the library 's occupation from 1959 to 2009 , the building housed a main reading room , children 's room , and vestibule and second @-@ story balcony (both added in 1980) . The community center opening in 2016 in the same space holds a meeting room and kitchen on the first floor and an oculus opening on the full @-@ length second floor , which is intended for presentations , exhibits , reading , studying , and computer usage . The community center also has a backup generator for use as an emergency broadcast and warming and cooling center .

= = Operations = =

The Briarcliff library is open seven days per week , except in August when it is closed each Sunday . The library hosts four computer workstations and eight laptops , and has its own WiFi network . It is

a member of the Westchester Library System . The Friends of the Briarcliff Manor Public Library is an organization through which community members may support the library .

The library 's director oversees two and three @-@ quarters full @-@ time and eight part @-@ time employees , including reference and youth librarians . It is governed by a seven @-@ member board , with a liaison to the village board . Services include computer classes , book discussion groups , young adult programs , a children 's room and a local history collection . Library spending constitutes about four percent of the village budget .

= = Organizations = =

= = = Briarcliff Manor @-@ Scarborough Historical Society = = =

The Briarcliff Manor @-@ Scarborough Historical Society (BMSHS) is a 501 (c) (3) not @-@ for @-@ profit organization dedicated to local preservation , research , and education . In March 1974 , after the village mayor appointed twelve people for a 75th anniversary committee , the committee began by forming the Briarcliff Manor @-@ Scarborough Historical Society ; it received its provisional charter around that time . The historical society published an updated village history (A Village Between Two Rivers : Briarcliff Manor) in 1977 , marking the 75th anniversary of the village . The organization has since published several books , including a comprehensive history of the village . The publication , The Changing Landscape , a History of Briarcliff Manor @-@ Scarborough , was written by Mary Cheever , wife of novelist John Cheever . The historical society was initially located at the since @-@ demolished Briarcliff Middle School building ; it later moved to the second floor of a realty building on Pleasantville Road , and moved back to the school building after it was leased by Pace University . On March 21 , 2010 , the BMSHS was given a permanent location at the Eileen O 'Connor Weber Historical Center , established as part of the library 's expansion finished in 2009 . The current president , Karen Smith , heads a board of trustees , members of which have three @-@ year terms with a required year recess between terms .

Members of the historical society joined the nine @-@ member Centennial Committee in 2002 to organize events for Briarcliff Manor 's centennial . The Centennial Committee and BMSHS helped organize several events for the village 's 2002 centennial celebration , including the Centennial Variety Show at the Briarcliff High School auditorium in a sold @-@ out two @-@ night run on April 26 ? 27 , 2002 . The two @-@ act show consisted of interpretations of village life by village organizations and a revue of Briarcliff Manor history in skits and songs . Other society @-@ sponsored events have included tours of homes and churches , bus tours , Hudson River cruises on historic boats such as the M / V Commander (built in 1917 and listed on the national and state registers of historic places) , dances , antique @-@ car exhibits , day trips to historic points of interest , art exhibits and events with authors and elected officials .

= = = Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department = = =

The library houses the village recreation department , which has four staff and a six @-@ member advisory committee , and provides recreation programming for the village . The department has operated the recreation center on Macy Road since 1980 , and also runs a youth center on Van Lu Van Road .