

Batavia Public Library

A gathering place for all ages

Batavia Public Library, 10 South Batavia Avenue, is the place to go — for information, cultural events, and relaxation. Whether looking for homework help, storytimes, or the latest Grisham novel, many of life's pleasures are found at the Library.

The origins of the Library can be traced to October 1866, when the Batavia Lyceum Association — an organization of young men — acquired a collection of books from the Sigourney Society — an organization of young women — which directly led to the creation of the Batavia Library Association — a membership library — in June 1867.

The Batavia Library Association was the second library established in Kane County; a similar membership library was founded in Elgin in 1846. The Batavia Library Association was incorporated in 1869 and later became the first “free library”

in the Tri-City area when it adopted a “free library plan” in 1873 and opened its doors to all residents of Batavia Township, regardless of whether they were members.

By 1882, the Library had increased to 1,040 volumes. At the annual township meeting, the new public library was established on April 4, 1882, and was supported by a tax of one mill (equal to one-thousandth of \$1.00). The first Library Trustees were John Van Nortwick, president; O. T. Snow; D. C. Newton; N. S. Young; W. H. Burnham; and F. P. Conde.

Francis H. Buck, the last Librarian of the Batavia Library Association, was appointed the first Librarian of the Batavia Public Library. The Batavia Library Association held its last meeting on April 12 of that year, at which it voted to transfer the books and other personal property to the “Batavia Public Library,” a township organization.

HISTORICAL FACT: Librarians are dedicated to their work at the Batavia Public Library and have remained at their jobs for long periods of time. During its first 126 years (1882–2008), the Library has only had eight head librarians.



Batavia Library, 1904

The Library moved several times during its early years and operated in six locations from 1882 through 2002, when its current building opened for business. Today, the 54,000-square-foot library has a collection of more than 184,000 items — books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more — all available for checking out. Library services include Wi-Fi, computer use and instruction, entertainment programs year-round for children and adults, contemporary lectures, reference databases, book discussions, Notary Public, public fax, and voter registration. The professional staff is eager to assist in any search for materials or information. The Library is also a popular meeting location for community groups.

Visitors are encouraged to check out the café, quiet reading room with fireplace, toddler play area, study rooms, local history room and community meeting rooms. The lovely outdoor Reading Garden on the lower level is a favorite spot for quiet reading and summertime activities and programs.

For information on obtaining a library card, call 630-879-1393, or visit the Library, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 9 pm; Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, 12 to 5 pm (Sept.–May) or 1 to 4 pm (June–July).

Books about Batavia history at the Library

Batavia, 1833-198: A Collection of Newspapers Articles; Campbell, Roberta

Batavia Revisited: Reminiscences of Batavia, Illinois; Mair, Thomas A.

Batavia's Sable Arm; Hamilton-Dryden, John

Christopher Payne: American Pioneer, 1786-1871; Barnes, Robert F.

A Collection of Newspaper Clippings about Batavia and Kane County, Illinois: 1983-1985

The Days of the Cootie Before and Later: [The Experiences of a Local Resident Before, During, and After World War I]; Weaver, Brayton Ladd

Fox River Division: Aurora Street Cars, Elgin Street Cars, Fox Valley Interurbans, the Summer Cars, 1901-1923; Peffers, Hopkins Stolp

Garsson-May Connection: An Account of War Profiteering in Batavia, Illinois; Hamilton-Dryden, John

A History of the Congregational Church of Batavia, Illinois

A History of the United Methodist Church, Batavia, Illinois; Stafney, Lydia Jeane

John Gustafson's Historic Batavia; Robinson, Marilyn; Schielke, Jeff; and Gustafson, John

Little Town in a Big Woods: The Story of the Young Years of Batavia, Illinois; Robinson, Marilyn

Memories of a Childhood Anderson, Helen Bartelt

One Hundred Fifty Years of the First Baptist Church of Batavia, Illinois

They Came to Kane County: Lars Bengston and Enrico Fermi Havighurst, Walter

Third Rail Line: Aurora, Elgin & Chicago, Chicago, Aurora & Elgin; Peffers, Hopkins Stolp

Walk in My Shoes; Anderson, Carl

Great dental care just a (s)mile or two from your home.

We are a full service dental office in downtown Batavia. We offer you and your family anything from routine cleanings to oral surgery (but let's try and avoid that).

Let us be your family dentist!

Call our office today!
630.879.7642
150 Houston St, Suite 102

 **RONALD A. MURPHY, DMD**
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

2008© Created by Emerald Marketing, Inc



Protecting your nest. Insuring whatever it delivers in the future.

A complete line of personal and business insurance—including Auto, Home, Life, Health, Business Liability, Property, Auto, and Workers Compensation.

Contact **George Gladis** today to get personalized service from your Batavia neighbor.



Call today!
630-897-8824

161 S. Lincolnway, Suite 206
North Aurora, IL 60542
george@volkmaninsurance.com
www.volkmaninsurance.com

 **VOLKMAN**
INSURANCE AGENCY
Protecting Your Assets. Securing Your Future.

2008 © Created by Emerald Marketing, Inc

