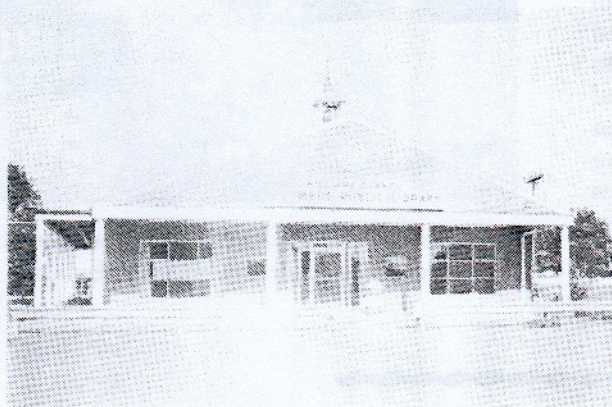


Library Services



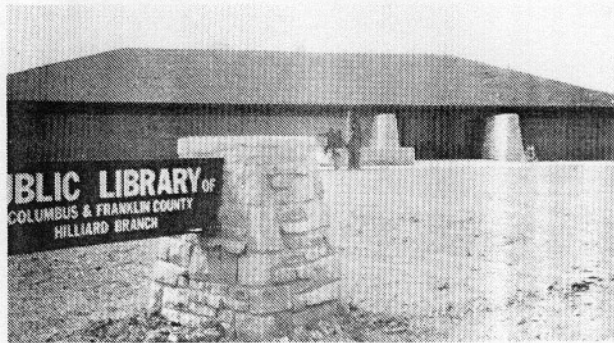
The purpose of a library is to meet the educational, recreational and informational requirements of the residents of an area. Prior to 1915 the only reading material that was readily available to the people of Hilliard was the newspapers or magazines to which some families could afford to subscribe. Because school books were not furnished as they are today, but had to be bought by the parents and were handed down from the oldest to the youngest child, there was not money for books which could be read for pleasure. In November of 1915 the Hilliard County Normal School, which had opened in 1914 in the high school on Scioto Darby east of Main Street, and had moved to old bank building in 1915, made arrangements with the State Library, located in Columbus, to have one of its traveling libraries here. It was open to the public 2:30 to 4:30 on Thursday afternoons and 7:00 to 9:00 on Saturday night. It soon became very popular. It was taken over by the high school library and financed with money making projects, after the Normal School closed.

The first libraries in Columbus were operated on a subscription basis. In 1872 a permanent tax supported public library was established. In 1873 a library was opened in Columbus City Hall. In 1907 a library building was built with a gift from Andrew Carnegie. It was located on South Grant Street, Columbus, and is part of today's main library. That same year it started a series of deposit-collections in various locations around the county. On February 2, 1939 Hilliard became the eleventh library station and was located in the high school (now Hilliard Junior High) on Scioto Darby east of Main Street. Bookmobile service to various parts of Franklin County was started in November of 1950. In 1952 this service was started in Hilliard. In 1960 the

Hilliard Branch Library was opened in a one floor building on the east side of Main Street, south of Scioto Darby Road. This was the first rural branch of the Columbus Public Library and the thirteenth branch library. It is open for use by any resident of the area.

During the eighteen years of its existence the number of patrons has grown to over 8000. There is a computer output microfilm catalogue circulation system which increases access to the entire system which includes: Telebooks and Talking Books which are services for the blind and handicapped; Healthline which has more than 300 tape recorded messages available by telephone; Information Service, at the Main Library Reference Division, which includes the New York Times Information Bank and Ohio Career Information System; a Pre-school Experience Project at the Main Library which is designed to introduce pre-school children to learning and reading; Homebound and Hospital Services; and 16mm films. Here at the Hilliard Branch there are about 33,000 books, both hard bound and paper backs, as well as magazines, record albums and pamphlets for loan, with plans for cassette tapes. There have been annual reading clubs with activities for children such as weekly story hours. There has been participation in Fourth of July celebration with prize-winning floats in the early 1960's. The first head librarian was Nancy Frasch. Ms. Susan A. Lowry now holds this position. There are four full time and two part time employees. Hours are 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday and 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

In 1975 there was a possibility that the people of Hilliard would lose its library because there just did not seem to be enough money to keep all the branches open. Interested and concerned citizens were called together by the mayor to determine what could be done. They joined a group, called Friends of the Library involving the entire library system which had been formed to support the branches by means of money making projects. They assisted in the passing of a .6 mill county tax levy in June 1976 which gave the Columbus Public Library more funds and the Hilliard branch did not have to close its doors. But it was evident that the facilities were too small to answer all the needs of the patrons. The lease, which had expired on the building, was picked up by Paul Tidrick, Realtor, who permitted the library to stay open, with the city assisting in the paying of the



rent, until new facilities could be built. After many meetings and much planning with the main library offic-

ials, Hilliard officials and Friends of the Library, ground was broken on September 30, 1977 on the southeast corner of Scioto Darby and Cherry Tree Drive, and construction began on a 8,000 square foot building, estimated cost \$320,000. Financing was mortgage-revenue bonds. Being close to the Municipal Park there is plenty of opportunity for outdoor library programs. The building contains a community meeting room and a separate children's area. Kenneth Valimaki was commissioned to make a sculpture, "The Family" and it enhances the entrance to this new facility. Dedication services were held June 3, 1978.

The Hilliard Public Library

4772 Cemetery Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

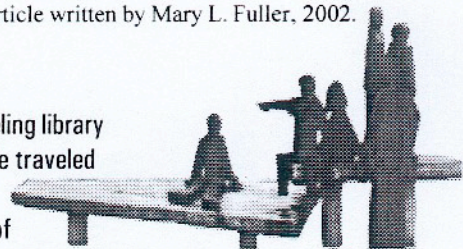
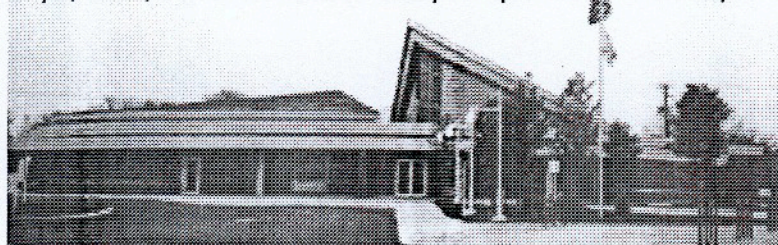
Ref: Excerpts from *Library* article written by Mary L. Fuller, 2002.

"Due to arrangements between the Ohio State Library and Hilliard Normal School, a traveling library was sent twice a week. Columbus accepted Hilliard as its eleventh library station. A book mobile traveled to two elementary schools.

The Hilliard Branch Library opened in 1960 in a rental one-floor building on the east side of Main Street and slightly south of Scioto Darby Road. High school students carried the books manually from the high school across Scioto Darby Road into the "new" library. The first head librarian was Nancy Frasch.

As the Hilliard population grew, a group of concerned citizens pushed for a tax levy that raised funds for a new building. The site at 5657 Scioto Darby Road was selected and ground was broken on September 30, 1977, for an 8,040 square foot building. Head Librarian organized a "Check-out Campaign" in hopes card holders would check out as many book as possible to help in the moving. After moving and sorting 33,500 books in the new facility, a dedication was held on June 3, 1978. The sculpture "Family" was unveiled in front of the building. It was the first major work of Michael Liscano and Kenneth Vlamaki. Miss Carol Knoblanch became the new head librarian that summer.

The demand for library service increased along with the population. Yes, it was "dejavu". The Columbus Metropolitan Library set aside \$3.3 million for a new and larger library on 4.4 acres of land at 4756-4772 Cemetery Road in 1986. The new building would be 20,000 square feet with a drop-up book drop, the first at a regional branch. Also included was an expanded reference section, larger children's area, an audiovisual room, computer room, study room, periodicals room, conference room, large multi-purpose with kitchen facilities. The new facility opened on Wednesday, May 1, 1996, and the dedication ceremony took place on Saturday.



The library building on Scioto Darby Road was sold to the Islamic Society of Greater Columbus in March of 1996. The present library had increased to 28 full and part time personnel to assist the still growing number of patrons. The sculpture "Family" had been moved to the new location and still continues to welcome visitors."