

Library History

Historic records don't agree as to exactly when Youngstown had its first library. One account puts it in 1915 and another says 1927. Both agree, however, that this early library was short-lived and had to close due to lack of public funds. The date of this closing is also in question... either 1925 or 1932. At this closing, all books and equipment were given to the Ransomville library.

In 1948, the Youngstown Civic Guild sponsored a new Youngstown Free Library as one of its first projects. In early 1949, a Certificate of Establishment was filed in Albany, trustees were elected and by-laws were written and adopted. Two hundred books were purchased and others were donated by individuals. The Village gave the library one room, rent-free, at 120 Lockport Street. After one year, this library had over 2000 books and 271 members. In 1959, the library moved temporarily to the back of the fire hall on Second Street while the Village Hall was renovated. In 1960, it returned to 120 Lockport Street where the library space had been doubled.

In 1971, the Red Brick School House was no longer needed for classrooms and was remodeled to function as a civic center, village office and library. In August 1972, the books and equipment were first moved into the former school gymnasium while the remodeling was completed. In June 1973, the present library space was opened.

The Youngstown Free Library as we know it today was officially incorporated in 1951 and the trustees applied for a provisional charter, which was granted by the State Board of Regents in December of that year. In 1953, the library was registered by the state and in 1957 the provisional charter was extended. In January of 1962, application for an absolute charter was made and was granted in September 1962.

In September of 2005, the charter was amended to change our service area.