

Elmhurst Public Library marks children's department renovation with time capsule activity

By **MARY STROKA**[Email Follow](#)

Aug. 20, 2018

[ELMHURST](#) – The Elmhurst Public Library is encouraging its patrons to ponder the past and imagine the future with a time capsule activity to dedicate the renovation of its Kids' Library.

Rita Perona, marketing head for the library, said library officials chose to do a time capsule because they wanted to do something special to both commemorate the renovation of the Kids' Library and plan ahead for the library's 25th anniversary in 2028, when the time capsule will be opened.

Perona said people tend to "harken back" to the old library building that was around prior to the current building, and she believes people will do the same with the past and current Kids' Library. The majority of the renovation was completed in May.

The time capsule opened in July for people to include photos, drawings and templated letters.

Preschool services librarian Sarah Burnside has been helping the public participate in the event, explaining what a time capsule is to children and helping children imagine what it's like to be 10 years older, which has led to the children thinking about what they might like to do for their future careers.

"It's been a nice conversation piece in the Kids' Library," she said.

Children have been writing letters to themselves in the future, imagining they have certain careers, such as professional baseball player, and answering the writing prompt of: "In 2028, I hope the library has a ...," Burnside said.

"It's kind of neat to have just the exercise of making that imagination of what 10 years looks like," she said.

Burnside added parents also have been participating in the time capsule, and the library staff plans to include technologically "timely" items, such as DVDs and CDs, that will "be dinosaurs" in 10 years.

The library will host a small party at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 25 to seal the time capsule following the reading of a proclamation, Perona said.

Burnside said the proclamation will include remarks on how children currently use the library, the future of the library and how children are the stakeholders of the library's future.

"It'll be a nice way to kind of finish the event," Perona said.

She said she hopes people take a moment to reflect on what the library means to them and the community.

"We hope that we're a positive place and experience for everyone to come and spend time here and to learn the love of reading and to come to our programs," Perona said. "We hope to be the center of the community with everything that we offer. This is a moment for people to kind of reflect [on] who we are to them in their lives and in their families' lives."

She has reserved a spot for the capsule in the basement, and she has "no idea" what the future opening of the time capsule will look like, though she imagines the library will have a fun, family friendly celebration for the anniversary.

If you go

WHAT: Time Capsule Celebration

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 25

WHERE: Kids' Library at the Elmhurst Public Library, 125 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst

COST: Free

INFO: elmhurstpubliclibrary.org