

Max H. Westhoff also designed our East Springfield Branch Library, 21 Osborne Terrace, which opened on March 9, 1932. In this area his designs included many features found in Colonial homes of the Connecticut River Valley.



East Springfield Branch Library



Connecticut Valley Historical Museum



## Library Locations

*A Brighter Future for Springfield Today*

### Central Library

220 State Street  
(413) 263-6828

### Brightwood Branch

(413) 263-6805  
359 Plainfield Street

### East Forest Park Branch

(413) 263-6836  
122 Island Pond Road

### East Springfield Branch

(413) 263-6840  
21 Osborne Terrace

### Forest Park Branch

(413) 263-6843  
380 Belmont Avenue

### Indian Orchard Branch

(413) 263-6846  
44 Oak Street

### Liberty Branch

(413) 263-6849  
773 Liberty Street

### Mason Square Branch

(413) 263-6853  
765 State Street

### Pine Point Branch

(413) 263-6855  
204 Boston Road

### Sixteen Acres Branch

(413) 263-6858  
1187 Parker Street

## SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY:

*PART OF SPRINGFIELD'S HISTORY,  
PART OF SPRINGFIELD'S FUTURE*

# The Liberty Branch

*1931-present*



773 Liberty Street  
Springfield MA 01104



*"On the opening day 1101 books were lent...The shelves were left practically bare and every morning new supplies of books were rushed out from the main library and other branches."  
Springfield Republican, Friday, May 22, 1931*



In 1930, stone, wood, copper and slate were delivered to a lot on Liberty Street where until a short time before, a home owned by Martin J. Brunton stood. Having moved that home to 29 Kendall Street, Mr. Brunton was able to sell the 773 Liberty Street lot to the City of Springfield. I can imagine the area's Irish and French Canadian skilled workers and craftsmen laying the prepared stone blocks (ashlar) in parallel courses, and topping the gabled roof with slate and copper. On May 15, 1931 the distinguished one-and-a-half story stone Colonial Revival building with twin end wall chimneys opened its doors as the Liberty Branch Library, with a collection of two thousand books.

Prior to this, residents of Springfield's Liberty Heights neighborhood could visit a small lending library set up in the basement of Liberty Methodist Church (821 Liberty Street) to check out library books. By 1929, circulation had increased considerably while space in the church had dwindled prompting the construction of the Max H. West-

hoff designed building at 773 Liberty Street. A well-known local architect, Mr. Westhoff also designed the East Springfield Branch Library, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum on the Springfield Museums Quadrangle, as well as many beautiful large homes in Springfield MA and Suffield CT, plus a number of lake camps in the Adirondack Mountains of New York state. For \$35,000 the W. W. Davis Construction Company built the five thousand square foot symmetrical library, which includes cast stone windowsills and decorative dentils, looking like a row of teeth, adorning the roofline.

Liberty Heights includes Hungry Hill, Lower Liberty Heights, and Atwater Park, making it the fifth largest of Springfield's seventeen neighborhoods. Not surprising then that "on that first day so many children and adults visited the library that there were only about 200 books left on the shelves! Within the first three days of its opening 247 Liberty Heights residents who had never before used any library in Springfield had applied at that branch for library cards so that they might borrow books."



1941



1949

*Authors often visited the Liberty Branch to talk to children about their latest books. Pictured on the left is C.W. Anderson, author/illustrator of the popular Billy and Blaze series about a boy and his horse. Vermont author Tasha Tudor (shown with her husband ) wrote and painted the watercolor illustrations for over 90 books, including two receiving Caldecott honors.*



Although the appearance both inside and outside the building appears to have changed little since its opening, each year more than thirty thousand items now circulate out of this diminutive blue-shuttered branch library! Instead of taking the Liberty or Carew Street trolley line, take the P3 PVTA bus route, drive, walk or bike to visit us. Our friendly, hard working staff welcomes those who visit often or are new to the library. You may sign up for a library card, use our computers or bring your laptop and access our wireless internet, or simply sit and read the newest magazines and newspapers. This branch has a strong collection of materials in Spanish, both books and music CDs. We have a large Urban Fiction collection, many books for lovers of vampire/romance fiction, and an extensive video collection.

*Open hours: Tuesdays 1-8 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*