



NAPERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 19, 2017

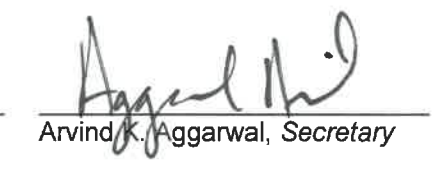
Dear Mayor and City Council,

The opening of the original Nichols Library at 110 S. Washington in 1898 signifies the beginning of what is now almost 119 years of library service to the residents of the city of Naperville. James Nichols' 1895 bequest of \$10,000 to start a library in Naperville has become an organization offering full library services from three locations, with one and a half million visitors a year and an annual circulation of over 4.2 million items. Naperville loves and uses the public library and it all goes back to that beginning in 1898. The Nichols Library on Washington is not just the foundation of the public library, it is also part of the foundation of the community, an icon of the history of Naperville itself. The limestone used in its construction came from the quarry that is now Centennial Beach, making it even more uniquely a product of the community.

The Naperville Public Library Board of Trustees supports the efforts to designate 110 S. Washington as a local landmark. The Board further supports efforts calling on the City of Naperville to refrain from the demolition, destruction, or alteration of the building. And the Board supports efforts to preserve a building that is, even 30 years after vacating it, so closely identified with the Naperville Public Library and remains such an important piece of the history of our community.


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