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BENSENVILLE LIBRARY INSTALLS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

This April, the Bensenville Community Public Library unveiled the latest service to be offered to the Bensenville community in the form of a dual-port electric vehicle (EV) charger located in the library's parking lot. Installation was provided by Bensenville's Kapital Electric, Inc. Bensenville joins Evanston and Decatur as being the only municipalities in Illinois with public libraries offering EV charging services to the public. It is the only EV charging station in Bensenville at this time. Charging is being offered free of cost to all members of the public. 50% of the funding needed for the charging station was obtained through a rebate grant offered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"We looked at the opportunity to leverage state funding and provide an innovative service to our community. Working with the Village of Bensenville to determine the need and viability of placing electric charging stations in a strategic location, the Library decided the project had value," states Library Director Jill Rodriguez. "This charging station not only provides Bensenville with necessary infrastructure for a fast-emerging technology, making EV's a realistic option for nearly all Bensenville residents, but it brings attention to what the modern public library has evolved into: a community center offering a multitude of services to the public."

All-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles now account for nearly 4% of automobile sales domestically, with numbers more than doubling annually. The advantages of EVs include no emissions, greatly increased mileage at a ¼ of the annual operating cost of a gasoline powered vehicle, little-to-no maintenance, and a reliance on domestically produced energy. The most popular EV models are also assembled in the U.S. The public, however, has been slow to embrace EVs. Consensus is that this apprehension toward EVs stems directly from the perception that not enough charging stations exist to effectively operate an EV vehicle. And while the number of charging stations increased 1000% nationwide from 2011 to 2014, it is this lack of infrastructure that hinders the widespread acceptance of EVs as a viable transportation option. Fortunately, Bensenville now possesses the necessary infrastructure and technology to take another step toward being a vibrant, forward-thinking community of the 21st century.

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