

Report of the Library

Our community lost a wonderful Librarian this year. Marlene Emery, a Fremont Librarian for thirty-four years, passed away in March. Marlene was the heart and soul of our town library. Through her work at the school and the library Marlene befriended and helped multiple generations of Fremonters. She was our life line for all questions about Fremont places and citizens. It seems not a day went by where we did not call upon Marlene for some requested piece of Fremont lore or the best way of doing a task. We all miss her terribly and will try to live up to her example.



As Fremont grows, our library continues to expand and provide a wide range of services. We registered over 200 new patrons for library cards. These new folks and our dedicated patrons took out 24,776 books, movies, CDs, puzzles and magazines. Our catalogue increased by over 800 volumes due in large part to generous donations of books and movies by Fremont residents. Thank you for your generosity.

The library had a fun and successful summer reading program. Over 100 families and children pledged reading goals and attended the events focused around Exploring Space. Our opening celebration was a repeat appearance by Fred the Magician. Over one hundred children and adults attended to be entertained and celebrate summer reading. Weekly the library hosted educational events such as Butterfly Class, the SPCA discussing animals and adoption, as well as a musical story time. Great fun and perhaps a bit of learning was had by all.

Ellis School ran two successful events this year. The first was a family game night which saw older students making and running games, based on math and English skills, for the younger students. Over one hundred children came to learn and have fun. The second was the continuation of their "fight the summer slide" program where the children came to the library to read and turn in their completed weekly bookmarks. Each bookmark had weekly reading and learning activities. Almost two hundred bookmarks were returned.

Our weekly pre-school story time, run by Children's Librarian Rachel, has been well attended with over twenty children each Wednesday at 10 AM. Come down with your toddler for stories, crafts, snacks, friends and fun. All ages are welcome.

Library Page Emily Abney hosted the Fremont Foreign Film Club throughout last year. They viewed and discussed foreign films in their original language. This club is perfect for the teen who is looking to expand their film knowledge and meet with other teens who share their interests in movies and the world.

The Friends of the Library hosted many special events this year: Fremont's own Jeff Philbrick sponsored a packed seminar on Long Term Care. A Night of Fiddle History and A Night of Banjo History both drew music enthusiasts for a rocking good time. November saw local historian and author Matthew Thomas discuss the rich history of Fremont. Ending the year, the Friends presented The Concord Coachmen, a choral group who performed holiday favorites.

The Library is grateful for all the work and support the Friends group provides. Warren Gerety is the President of the Friends. He and his team worked hard this year to offer new and exciting programming as mentioned above. Our condolences go out to Warren and his family for the loss of his wife Pat who was a wonderful woman who was always dedicated to helping others in the community. The Friends are always looking for more members. Please attend any meeting the first Tuesday of every month at the library.

In October the library hosted a town cookout to celebrate our second annual Scarecrow contest. We were joined by the PTA, the Open Space Committee, the Garden Club, and Litter Free Fremont. Attendees were treated with our new fire truck and other emergency response vehicles as well as two school buses. Great fun, food and an abundance of community spirit was had by all. The Ruiz family won first place with their tribute to Minecraft scarecrow.

Cathy, our Assistant Librarian, has been doing her part in keeping Fremont fit. Every Friday at 9:30 AM and Wednesday at 3 PM she leads "Walk Away the Pounds." This low impact exercise video is great fun and a good way to keep moving. New walkers are always welcome. Cathy also spearheads our "Afternoon Literary Adventures" each month on the fourth Wednesday at 1:00 pm. This reading group is open to all readers and covers all genres. There is literally something for everyone.

The library offers many services for the public. Computers are available to create a document or just check your email. We had over 1,000 computer sessions this year. Color printing and faxing are available for a nominal cost and the Wi-Fi is always free. We have a telescope to lend out and we are happy to schedule an impromptu class on accessing via the State Library books and audio books on your new tablet or phone.

Thanks to the passage of the warrant article in 2017, Fremont Library has a "bookmobile" service where patrons who cannot make it to the library can request pick up and drop off of any library material. This year saw us make many trips, so please let us know how we can help you. Whether you can't drive, are too busy, or anything in between it's okay, no job is too small. Your library is here for you.

Friday days are technology time when you can bring in your troublesome phones, tablets, computers, etc and we'll help you figure out how to utilize these devices to fit your needs. Friday nights we held our High School Chess League. We have a great group of young people of varying ages and skills who attend. Special thanks go to Joshua Yokela and Bill Nihan who help us run these evenings by sharing their chess skills and patience. New members are always welcome and weekly participation is not mandated. Show up when you can.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings bring fitness and relaxation with our Tai Chi class. Come learn about this low impact ancient art.

The library is thankful for all the efforts of the Garden Club. Their partnering with us for their spring sale helped the Friend's book sale and the holiday decorations they donated were beautiful as always.

Our Community room saw another significant jump in usage this year. Non-profits from all over Fremont utilized the room for meetings and functions. Scouts of all levels, the Garden Club, Quilters and many more made great use of this town resource. The room is cable ready so you saw town meetings simulcast on cable channel 22.

Giving Hands, our local knitting group, made and donated over fifty mittens, hats and scarves this year. Their hard work really makes a difference to those in need.

The Gates family, in memory of Marilyn, continued to maintain the outside garden with wonderful seasonal decorations and plantings. Thank you for your donated time and resources. Thanks goes out to the True-Gibb family for maintaining our flower bucket/fairy garden throughout the year. Their donated resources and time make the library a brighter place. Resident Steve Legere, owner of Heritage carpet cleaning and floor care, has our sincere appreciation. He donated his time and resources for free to clean our carpets this year. He did a great job and helped us stay within our budget. You can't ask for more than that.

Our team here at the Library would like to thank our Trustees John Hennelly, Cheryl Rowell and Arlene Nuzzi for all their effort and support over the year. They are always there for us with ideas, help and guidance.

Special thanks go to the Selectmen's Office Staff for their endless patience and willingness to share their vast experience and knowledge.

I would like to personally thank the dedicated, knowledgeable and hardworking staff at the library. Cathy Murdock, Rachel Edwards, Anne Beliveau, Bridget Abney, Emily Abney, Mary Dutton and Vincent Morrison. You are all true professionals and stupendous local resources who are making a difference in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Abney
Director, Fremont Public Library

"In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them."

~ Mark Twain