

Report of the Library

As Fremont grows, our Library continues to expand and provide a wide range of services. This became more exemplified as Covid-19 changed the way we all go about our days. The Library was able to stay open and service the people of Fremont for most of the year. January into March was business as usual for the Library. Storytimes, book groups, inter-library loans, exercise programs and chess tutoring were all in full swing until March 17th.

Our weekly pre-school story time, run by Children's Librarian Rachel, was well attended with over twenty children each Wednesday at 10 AM. Parents, caregivers and children came down for stories, crafts, snacks, friends and fun. All ages were welcome.

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 led "Walk Away the Pounds." This low impact exercise video is great fun and a good way to keep moving. Cathy also spearheaded our "Afternoon Literary Adventures" each month on the fourth Wednesday at 1 PM. This reading group was open to all readers and covered all genres.

The Library offers many services for the public. Computers are available to create a document or just check your email. 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. Friday days were technology time when you could bring in your troublesome phones, tablets, computers, etc. and we'd help you figure out how to utilize these devices to fit your needs.

Friday nights were our High School Chess League. We had a great group of young people of varying ages and skills who attend. Special thanks go to Joshua Yokela and Bill Nihan who helped us run these evenings by sharing their chess skills and patience. New members were always welcome and weekly participation was not mandated.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings brought fitness and relaxation with our Tai Chi class. Patrons learned and practiced this low impact ancient art.

The Fremont Library closed to public entry and moved to curbside pickup and bookmobile delivery on March 17. Patrons requested books/DVDs/magazines and they could pick them up outside the Library door. The Library bookmobile service, where patrons who cannot make it to the Library can request pick up and drop off of any Library material, continued and expanded for the spring, summer and fall into a grocery shopping service and medicine pickup/delivery system as well. The vehicle, gas and labor were all donated by Library staff. This year saw us make many trips, so please let us know how we can help you. Whether you can't drive, too busy or anything in between it's okay, no job is too small. Your Library is here for you. Throughout the spring and summer the Library served as the pickup point for Ellis School free and reduced breakfast/lunch program for students. Many Fremont families were able to secure free nutritious meals for their children during the pandemic.

Zoom became the method of storytime delivery over the summer and through the winter. The Library partnered with Ellis School to use this digital means to keep the children of Fremont learning and having fun.

Instead of a book sale this year, the Library gave away over 2,000 books during the summer and fall. The free table was such a success it has become a regular visitor during appropriate weather.

The Library opened back up to the public via twenty minute appointments in September. Curbside pickup and bookmobile delivery continued for Fremonters who preferred those services. Most patrons preferred the curbside/delivery service over the actual visits to the library due to Covid.

In October the Library hosted our third annual Scarecrow contest. The Horvath family won first place with their tribute to the movie Christmas Vacation. All the entries were posted on the Fremont Community Page and Library Facebook page.

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. The Friends are always looking for more members. Please check the Library website for information on future meetings.

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.

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

Special thanks go to Heidi Carlson and Jeanne Nygren and the whole team at the Town Hall 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