

Report of the Library

As Fremont continues to grow, our library continues to expand and provide a wide range of services. We registered 194 new patrons for library cards. These new folks and our dedicated patrons took out 23,194 books, movies, CDs, puzzles and magazines. Our catalogue increased by over 700 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 Rocking Your library. Our opening celebration was launched by Fred the Magician. Over one hundred children and adults attended the event and celebrated summer reading. Great fun was had by all.

Ellis School ran a successful summer learning drive which brought children into 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 and Library Trustee Cheryl Rowell 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 foreign films in their original language and enjoyed lively discussions about the films. This club is perfect for the teen that is looking to expand their film knowledge and meet with other teens who share their interests in movies and world cultures.

The Friends of the Library hosted many special events this year: Fremont's own Jeff Philbrick ran a packed seminar on Medicare and Medicaid; The History of Brewing in New Hampshire shared the long and interesting history of beer in our state; and The History of Covered Bridges drove home the importance of these early bridges in New England. Ending the year, the Friends presented local historian and author Matthew Thomas for another installment of his presentation on the rich history of Fremont.

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. 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 first annual Scarecrow Contest. We were joined by the PTA, the Open Space Committee, the Garden Club, and Litter Free Fremont. Attendees were treated with a scavenger hunt and storybook walk by the Conservation Commission on the new trail. Great fun, food and an abundance of community spirit made this event a terrific success.

The winners of the first annual Fremont Scarecrow Contest were: Danielle LeClair First Place with “Witch with Cauldron”; The Dyer Family Second Place with “Mooning Scarecrow”; and The Brown Family taking Third with “Sports Fans.” Great job everyone!

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 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 “bookmoblie” 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 dozens of 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 during the day is 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 are when our High School Chess League meets. 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.

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

Library Trustee Suzanne Wicks hosted a Game Day for the summer and fall on Tuesdays. Thank you for your time and efforts Suzanne.

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 Gardening club,

Quilters and many more made great use of this town resource. The room is cable ready which allowed us to simulcasts town meetings on cable 22. In pursuit of enabling more Fremonters to see Town meetings and local infomercials, Bruce White from FCTV spearheaded getting two TVs installed in the library.

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 51350 was kind enough to donate a real Daisy Garden to the library grounds this year. This beautiful and thoughtful gift will inspire all the citizens of Fremont as well as our wildlife for years to come.

Giving Hands, our local knitting group, made and donated over fifty pairs of 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 Suzanne Wicks 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, Kathy Clement and Jeanne Nygren 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, Marlene Emery, Rachel Edwards, Anne Beliveau, Bridget Abney, Emily Abney, Emma Edwards, Patty Turner and Vincent Morrison as well as volunteer Bob Soucy. 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



Photo courtesy of Dennis Howland & Mary Kaltenbach