

Report of the Library

This year saw the unfortunate passing of former Library Director Barbara Bassett. Long term Fremont, Teacher and Librarian, Barbara ran our Library from 1984 until 2011. During her long tenure she took us from a small one room library to our current state of the art building. Barbara was intelligent, witty, generous and dedicated. She worked tirelessly for what she believed in, but always had time to stop and chat with friends and family. Barbara oversaw all aspects of our growth and even paid for some of it when the money was needed and funds were short. She was a great friend and mentor to all of us and she's sorely missed.

As Fremont continues to grow, our library continues to expand and provide a wide range of services. We registered 176 new patrons for library cards. These new folks and our dedicated patrons took out 22,068 books, movies, CDs, puzzles and magazines. Our catalogue increased by over 600 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 Building A Better World. Our opening celebration of reading and learning brought over 40 children and adults together to celebrate summer reading. Great fun was had by all.

Our weekly pre-school story time, run by Children's Librarian Nancy, 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.

The Friends of the Library hosted many special events this year: New England Quilts and their Stories taught us about the history of quilts and the fascinating stories behind them. We had a wonderful evening of music on our lawn with the Timberland Community Band. The Story of Baker Chocolate shared the history of the oldest chocolate producer in America. We all enjoyed the fountain of chocolate too! Ending the year the Friends presented local historian and author Matthew Thomas to discuss the rich history of Fremont.

The Library is grateful for all the work and support the Friends group provides. Warren Gerety rejoined the Friends as President. 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.

Cathy, our Assistant Librarian, has been doing her part in keeping Fremont fit. Every Friday at 9:30 AM 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.



In August we hosted an Eclipse Viewing Party. More than fifty people shared this historical event with us safely by using the NASA certified glasses we had on hand. Great fun was had by all.

Fremont DARE Officer Patrolman Greg Huard viewing the eclipse with many others from the Fremont Community ~ Photo Courtesy of Jason Schreiber

The library offers many services for the public.

Computers are available to create a document or just check your email. We had 978 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 dozens of 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.

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 are our Youth Chess League. We have a great group of young people of varying ages and skills who attend. Special thanks goes to Joshua Yokela and Bill Nihan who help us run these evenings by sharing their chess skills and patience. New members always welcome and weekly participation is not mandated. Show up when you can.

The second Saturday of every month is our Science Fiction/Fantasy book group. Join us as we discuss current and seasoned books in this genre and the authors who created them. New members are always welcome so come share your insights and knowledge.

Tuesday mornings bring fitness and relaxation with our Tai Chi class. This class filled immediately to the brim so watch our website for more options.

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 Selectmen, Zoning and Planning Board meetings as well as Candidates night and budget presentations simulcast on Channel 22.

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 51350 was kind enough to donate a ceremonial U.S. flag for our community room. This honored and special gift will serve all the citizens of Fremont for years to come.

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 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 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 hard-working staff at the library. Cathy Murdock, Marlene Emery, Nancy Mason, and Vincent Morrison as well as the volunteers Bob Soucy and Anne Beliveau. 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



Photos Courtesy of Jason Schreiber and Heidi Carlson