

Report of the Library

Our Library continues to expand and provide a wide range of services. We registered over 150 new adult patrons and over 60 new children for library cards. These new folks and our dedicated patrons increased circulation to 22,560 books, movies, CDs, puzzles and magazines. That's an increase of 3,384 items over 2015. Our catalogue increased by over 400 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 fitness. Our opening celebration of reading and fitness brought over 40 children and adults together to celebrate fitness with Library Olympic Games. 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.

Special events this year included New England stone wall expert and New Hampshire author Kevin Gardner. His two hour talk about the history of stone walls in New England and traditional ways of building and repairing stone walls was fascinating and engaging for the room full of people who attended. This event was hosted by the Friends of the Library with help by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities program.

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.

The library offers many services for the public. We have a telescope to lend out. Computers are available to create a document or just check your email. We had 960 computer sessions this year. Color printing and faxing are available for a nominal cost and the Wi-Fi is always free. We are happy to schedule an impromptu class on accessing via the State Library books, audio books and magazines on your new tablet or phone. You can also see Eric anytime for help with all your basic technology needs.

September brought the 16th annual Library Association golf tournament. Thank you to all who help to make this event a success. Special thanks go to Nick Kakouris and the Fremont Pizzeria for the generous and delicious lunch.

The Library roof ventilation towers were repaired this year. Thank you to KTM for their timely and efficient work. The Trustees would like to ask for your support this March for the warrant article funding the Library Maintenance Trust Fund which funds future maintenance needs.

The Library is grateful for all the work and support the Friends group provides. They offered adult education class this year and helped fund our much-needed carpet cleaning. Friends President Kristy Butler and Vice President Dori Smith are stepping down this year. They and their team brought exciting ideas and rejuvenation to the Friends of the Library. We are grateful for all their hard work and efforts. Warren Gerety has rejoined the Friends as President. We look forward to working with him and his team in 2017. The Friends are always looking for more members. Please attend any meeting the first Tuesday of every month at the Library.

The Library is also grateful 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.

Our Community room saw a 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 so you saw Town Zoning and Planning Board meetings as well as Candidates Night and budget presentations simulcast on Channel 22.

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 Gibb family for maintaining our flower bucket/fairy garden throughout the year. Their donated resources and time make the Library a brighter place.

A round of applause please for Spencer Gregory. He donated his time and talent to provide the music for the closing party of our summer reading program.

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 are true professionals and stupendous local resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Abney, Director Fremont Public Library