

Report of the Library

2021 was an exciting year for the Fremont Public Library. Normal open hours resumed and some spectacular programming was run. We ran by appointment until May when the doors were opened for unfettered access. Curbside pickup was still popular for those looking to grab and go.

Circulation of books, audio books, DVDs, and magazines rose to 19,367 units for the year. 157 new patrons signed up for library cards and book reading groups ordered 179 books for their members. Circulation of digital books, audio books and magazines was 5,552. That made a cost of only \$0.29 per use.

Top circulating adult books were:

1. *The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica
2. *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
3. *Three Women Disappear* by James Patterson

Top circulating children's books were:

1. *Hooray for Helpers* by Mike Austin
2. *Elsa's Gift* by Disney
3. *How to Apologize* by David LaRochelle

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 its expansion into a grocery shopping service and medicine pickup/delivery system as well for Fremonters who could not leave their residences due to the pandemic. 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.

Our weekly preschool story time, run by Children's Librarian Cheryl Rowell, was well attended with over twenty children each Wednesday at 10 AM. Parents, caregivers and children came down for stories, crafts, movement, singing, friends and fun. All ages were welcome.

The Summer Reading theme this year was Tails and Tales. Over one hundred young readers and family readers signed up for the fun. Cheryl





organized events with Squam Lake Science Center, Jane Kelly's bird rescue group On the Wing, as well as youth yoga, butterflies and a puppet show.

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.

Fridays 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 mornings brought fitness and relaxation with our Tai Chi class. Patrons learned and practiced this low impact ancient art.

Instead of a book sale this past year, the Library gave away over 5,000 books and DVDs via our Outside Free Table. The program was such a success it has become a regular visitor during appropriate weather.



In September the library hosted our fourth annual Scarecrow contest. The kickoff cookout was attended by over 200 people and representatives from the PTA, Garden Club, Friends of the Library, Parks and Recreation Commission, Clean Up Fremont, local author Danielle Bilodeau and even a few antique car owners made the day a true community event. Special thanks go to the Fremont Fire Rescue Department who gave tours of the new fire truck and also to the Fremont Police Department who gave tours of their police car. Burgers

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and hot dogs were expertly grilled by Paul Nuzzi and Tom Murdock, grill masters extraordinaire. The Moschillo family scarecrow won first place with their tribute to the movie Jeepers Creepers. 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. In October they presented a talk about New England lighthouses by Jeremy D'Entremont. In November they organized a talk on Fremont History and President Pierce by the erudite Fremont Historian Matthew Thomas. Both events were well attended and educational. 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, Emily Clark 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, as always, 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, Cheryl Rowell, Anne Beliveau, Bridget Abney, Emily Abney and Mary Dutton. 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 Michelle Gallant