

2022 FREMONT TOWN REPORT

APPRECIATION

Commencing with the 1991 Town Report, the Town has annually recognized an individual who has stepped up to the plate, and gone above and beyond, to work with, and for, the Town of Fremont.

The 2022 Town Report Appreciation recognizes some Library movers and shakers:
Eric Abney and John Hennelly

John Hennelly is beginning his 28th year as a Fremont Library Trustee, since first being elected in 1996. John's community involvement story starts with his trip to the Town Clerk's Office many years ago to ask what he could do to volunteer and help in the Town. With an election coming and no candidates yet signed up, she suggested to him that he run for the open spot of Library Trustee. The rest is history!



He was instrumental in building the new Public Library, which has been occupied now for 21 years. He first was a contributor on the Library Building Committee beginning nearly two years in advance of construction and helped to lead the Town's effort to make a new building a reality. He attended weekly site meetings held early on Friday mornings, with the Town, architect, contractors, and other Trustees, throughout the duration of construction.

The Trustees Annual Report in 2001 detailed a groundbreaking ceremony on September 17, 2001 and the promise that *"The Fremont Public Library in time will grow to become a worthy and vital asset within this proud town that will benefit all that wish to use it."* How that prophecy has come true!

John has given countless hours of volunteer time and is passionate about the Fremont Public Library and the programming it can offer the community. John is the originator of the Golf Tournament which happened for many years, to help fundraise for Library programs and books. He has also recently broadened the Scarecrow Cookout event to include those with antique cars and trucks as a way to engage an even greater audience at these important community events.



He has been here ever since, a quiet yet thoughtful presence and firm supporter of the Library and it's many methods of outreach to the community. He is well-respected by the staff and many former Library Trustees.

Eric Abney has been the Library Director since 2015. Prior to that he spent six years as a Library Trustee. Eric has been involved in many facets of the Fremont community since moving here in 1997. He is passionate about Library programming and including the community in more and more events. The Library is not just books, it's a place to go for a wide variety of resources and learning.

Aside from the smiling face that greets you when you enter the Fremont Public Library, Eric partners with Ellis School to make sure that every year third graders have a fun visit to the Library and get a library card; and often visits the school as a guest reader. He began the bookmobile during Covid lock down to make sure elderly and vulnerable patrons could have books to read (and sometimes groceries too), while also keeping the Library functioning with curbside service any day of the week.

He sees that the Library is participating in programs such as "End 68 hours of Hunger" and has initiated multiple community events like the Scarecrow Contest to bring the people of Fremont together to get to know each other at a town wide cookout. He ensures that the Library partners with multiple scouting troops to help them earn service awards and provides a safe place to meet and encourage them. He has recently gotten involved with helping to maintain and mark the trails behind the Library, and in order to engage the use of them has used Library funds to buy items like snowshoes and telescopes so that people can borrow more than books.



Most recently Eric has been a mover of the Age-Friendly work in Fremont and received a grant to pursue a volunteer driving program to help provide transportation for our aging population as something the community wants to see. Eric is an all-around great man with integrity and a big heart. He is also a US Army Veteran, 82nd Airborne.
Thank you for your service in so many ways!

You have gone above and beyond to make the Fremont Library a pillar resource in our community. Thank you both for your many contributions to the community through our Library. We appreciate your dedication!