

## Report of the Library

Thanks to our fabulous patrons and staff, 2022 was one of the best years yet for the Fremont Public Library. Circulation and event attendance hit their highest numbers to date.

Circulation of books, audio books, DVDs, and magazines rose to 24,694 units for the year. 197 new patrons signed up for library cards. We processed 687 books from Inter-Library Loan for our patrons and sent 1,056 books out to other New Hampshire libraries for theirs. Circulation of digital books, audio books and magazines was 5,646. That made a cost of only \$0.29 per use.

Top circulating adult books were:

1. *History of Fremont* by Matthew Thomas
2. *Dream Town* by Baldacci
3. *Dark Hours* by Connelly
4. *Run, Run, Run* by Dolly Parton

Top circulating children's books were:

1. *Minecraft Redstone Handbook*
2. *Encanto: Family is Everything* by Disney
3. *Sonic the Hedgehog* by Stanley
4. *Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Burach
5. *Carnival of the Animals* by Flint

Top Circulating DVD/BluRays:

1. Game of Thrones
2. John Adams
3. Spencer (Lady Diana)
4. Belfast
5. Ghostbusters Afterlife

Top Circulating Magazines:

1. People
2. Time
3. Food & Wine
4. NH Home
5. NH Magazine

The Library bookmobile service expanded this year to weekly trips. We made 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 activities were held outside weather permitting under our awning and on our picnic tables. All ages were welcome.

The Summer Reading theme this year was Oceans of Possibilities. Over one hundred young readers and family readers signed up for the fun. The program was kicked off by our Spring Cookout which brought together Fremont Community Groups and Summer Reading participants as well as our Police and Fire Rescue Departments. Over 250 hot dogs and cheese burgers were consumed by hungry readers. The food, condiments and paperware were all generously donated by The Fremont Library Association which is run by John Hennelly. Cheryl organized some fantastic events to support summer reading. We had a presentation by UNH on marine

biology. Musician Steve Blunt entertained us with music and stories. There were underwater themed origami and painting classes, the Turtle Lady with stories and music and a sixty foot inflatable whale we could walk through and learn whale biology and facts. So cool!

The Ellis School Third grade field trip was exciting and fun as always. The police escorted march from the School to and from the Library was reminiscent of a holiday parade. Students learned about the different parts of the Library organization and services offered via a tour and interactive storytime. We finished with ice cream on the front lawn which might have made the event too cool for school. Chocolate and vanilla for everyone!

Cheryl also created and ran some new events this fall. We had Babies on a Blanket where babies and new moms came to hang out on a blanket, make new friends and have some special play time. We also had a young readers book group which met weekly to read and discuss children's literature and watch the associated movies. School days off and weekends saw drop-in Lego and games days for young mechanics and engineers to practice their building skills and tactics.

Mary Dutton ran a popular Teddy Bear Tea Party where treats and fun were had by children and teddy bears alike.



crafts.

We partnered with Parks and Rec Commission and the Fremont Police to watch the movie *Spies in Disguise* on the library front lawn. Giant inflatable screen, popcorn, friends and family, a cool movie, who could ask for anything more? The Fremont PD also joined us for holiday fun in December where we read stories and created holiday

Fremont's Girl Scout Troop earned a badge by using the library for a sleepover, scavenger hunt and making breakfast. You go girls!

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 1PM. This reading group was open to all readers and covered all genres. Lots of fun, tasty treats and lively discussions were had. New members are always welcome.

Our Science Fiction/Fantasy book group was active throughout the year. We discussed works of speculative fiction past and present. New members are always welcome.

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 application Libby, books and audiobooks 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. Monday and Friday mornings brought fitness and relaxation with our Tai Chi class. Patrons learned and practiced this low impact ancient art.

Our free book table out front was replaced with the free book cabinet. This way you always have access to the free books no matter what the weather. The books are constantly restocked so please stop by and grab a few to keep or share.

In September the Library hosted our fifth annual Scarecrow contest. The kickoff cookout was attended by way over 200 people (we lost count) and representatives from the PTA, Garden Club, Friends of the Library, Parks and Rec, Litter Free Fremont, 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 newest fire truck and also to the Fremont PD who gave tours of their police car. Burgers and hot dogs were expertly grilled by Paul Nuzzi and Tom Murdock, grill masters extraordinaire. Volunteer face painting by Denise Driscoll and temporary tattoos by Liza Manner were huge hits, as was the individually created tie dyed tee shirts. Debbie Caputo's flamingo scarecrow won first place. 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. New President John Rand was welcomed this year. He and his team worked hard to offer new and exciting programming. The summer saw Songs of Emigrations which told the history of U.S. emigrants

through spoken word and song. In November the Friends presented a talk with Matthew Thomas on Tramp Houses, Poor Houses and Pest Houses. Our very own local historian always draws a crowd and mesmerizes us with stories of our local history. The Friends also sponsored the vocal group Concord Coachmen in December. They dazzled us with barber shop quartet renditions of holiday favorites and their extremely festive holiday outfits. The Friends are always looking for more members. Please check the library website for information on future meetings.

The Library community room is open to Fremont residents and non-profit groups for gatherings of all kinds. This year we had: The Rockingham ATV Club, Fremont Bible Study, knitters, quilters, Girl Scouts, Anime Group, Fremont Condo Associations, Sanborn High School Drama, Sanborn High School AP Calculus study group, Fremont Garden Club, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, rug hookers and assorted proctored exams.

In efforts to ensure we can all age in place here in Fremont, the Library partnered with the Rockingham Planning Commission and started an Age Friendly Steering Committee. We created and distributed a survey inquiring what Fremont citizens are concerned about as they age in town. Top concerns were transportation for errands/medical visits and socialization. In reaction to this, we applied for and won a grant to start setting up a volunteer driving program in Fremont. Please check with the Library to see our progress on this as 2023 proceeds.

Giving Hands, our local knitting group, and other knitters made and donated over fifty mittens, hats and scarves this year. Their hard work really makes a difference to those in need. These beautifully done items were free in the Library foyer for any who needed them.

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. As always.....

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 shared by Eric Abney and Michelle Gallant