

“Friends of Cheboygan Area Library continue to help library”

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“Friendship multiplies the good of life... ” - Baltasar Gracian

“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship. ” - Thomas Aquinas

“The only way to have a friend is to be one. ” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

‘Friends of Library’ organize was a featured story headline published by the Cheboygan Daily Tribune on Wednesday, March 5, 1986! And so, the Friends of the Cheboygan Public Library group was born! Of course, a lot of work went into organizing a Friends of the Library group before that headline could appear!

Rewind to September 30, 1985. As the agenda for the Cheboygan Public Library Board Meeting shows, the first point of discussion during the “Librarian’s Report” was a request to start a “Friends” group. And the minutes share that the request was “approved in concept”.

The next step was to set up the organization structure for the Friends group through bylaws, which were approved by the Library Board on January 20, 1986.

On April 28, 1986, it was reported to the Library Board that the Friends group had elected officers and had already recruited nineteen members! The elected officials included Ron Driscoll as President, Irene Jankoviak as Vice-President, Mary Wallace as Secretary, and David Sharits as Treasurer.

Today, the Friends of the Library has seventy-two members, of which thirty-one are lifetime members and forty-one are annual members! But you can never have enough Friends, right? So, did you know you can join the Friends of the Library anytime? Annual membership fees are listed at three levels that you can choose to join, which include \$10 for a Donor, \$25 for a Patron, and \$50+ for Benefactor.

As a Friends member, you can focus public attention on the library; stimulate the use of the library’s resources and services; receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the library; support and cooperate with the library in developing library services and facilities for the community; lend legislative support where needed; and support the freedom to read as expressed in the American Library Association Bill of Rights.

Specifically, here are some opportunities that you can participate in as a Friend of the Library volunteer! You could volunteer in the Book Nook on Tuesdays or Saturdays, serve as a greeter during Library programs, hand out library flyers to the community, attend meetings (held quarterly), help at Gift of Reading events, share a book recommendation or review to be used in the Friends newsletter, or donate financially with a membership or with a one-time donation. Most volunteer opportunities require only a couple hours of time.

There are also leadership roles within the Friends group that utilizes volunteers! At the most recent meeting, held last week on Tuesday, June 8 at 1p.m., new Co-Presidents Leslie Carmin and Sue Johnson were elected. This appointment is for a two-year term.

Outgoing President Rosita White has served as an Executive President for the last two terms and has also served in other leadership roles for the Friends on and off for the past several years.

Also at this annual meeting, the Friends' bylaw updates were approved. To complete the bylaw update process, Library Director Mark Bronson presented them to the Library Board of Trustees during their board meeting on the following Thursday, at which time the Library Board approved them.

The bylaws are available on the Cheboygan Area Public Library's website. The updates clarified the purpose and application of the monies raised by the Friends, which is to promote and support the Cheboygan Area Public Library's programs and services.

With this in mind, the monies raised through the Friends of the Library's membership donations, Book Nook sales, and other fundraising efforts support Library programs and services such as the annual Summer Reading program, digital service subscriptions including Overdrive and Flipster and the Gift of Reading initiative.

The Gift of Reading initiative is a program that spreads the love of books within the community by giving away books to area youth during Santa's annual visit in December and at the Family Fun Day at the Cheboygan County Fair in August.

This year the Cheboygan County Fair to be held the week of August 4-14, 2021. The Family Fun Day date and time will be forthcoming. During this event, the Friends of the Library will have a booth full of books and any child or teen who stops by the booth may take a free book of their choosing.

Next year, at the Friends' annual meeting in June, the Secretary and Treasurer positions will be on the ballot. Currently Jeanette Mateer is serving as Secretary and Gwen Kuehn is serving as the Treasurer. Gwen also serves as the Book Nook Manager.

And speaking of the Book Nook, the Friends of the Library are excited to announce that the Book Nook will be opening for normal hours starting July 6, 2021! Hours will return to Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please note that the Book Nook will not be open on July 3 on account of the Independence Day parade festivities downtown.

When you visited the Book Nook, which is a second-hand bookshop located on the Library's lower level, you will find a great variety of fiction and non-fiction titles in both hard and soft cover formats. There are also some DVDs, CDs, large print books, as well as a selection of children's books! Of course, these are all offered at excellent prices being three dollars or less!

Maybe you have books to donate so you can make room for new ones! In that case, donations of books in good, clean condition are always welcome! All donations can be delivered to the front desk in the main library anytime during regular library hours.

Regarding regular library hours, the Cheboygan Area Public Library will be returning to normal hours starting July 5! The normal hours are Monday through Wednesday 10a.m. to 8p.m., Thursday 8a.m. to 7p.m., Friday 8a.m. to 5p.m., Saturday 10a.m. to 3p.m., and Sunday 1p.m. to 5p.m. Indoor services will also resume on Sundays and Curbside Services will continue to be offered every day.