

December
2019

Friends of the Portage Library

Friends of the Portage Library Board

Linda Floeter, President

Carol Heisz, Vice-President

Mary Grimm, Secretary

Judy Morrow, Treasurer

Pam Beckett

Charles Bradley

Dorri Engebretson

Deb Lechner

Eileen Marshall

Emma O'Brien, student rep

Linda Wendt

Ed Zydowsky



Register The Friends of the Portage Free Library as your choice of organization to receive a portion of the purchase price for items purchased at smile.amazon.com. Once you have registered, return to Amazon Smile every time you shop.



Comments by Library Director Debbie Bird about Friends Subsidies for Programming for the Library

The Friends have a profound impact on Portage Public Library programming. This upcoming year the Friends plan to contribute \$9,600 towards local programming for all ages—adults, teens and children.

Programming is an essential service. Without the funding support of the Friends, the Portage Public Library could not provide this level of programming to the community of users.

Beginning in 2020, a line in the regular library budget will be added for \$1,000 earmarked exclusively for programming. As the years pass, the plan is to grow that “seed” collection, so that funds that the Friends raise can support program enhancements and special author visits instead of subsidizing essential services.

This past year, funds were made possible by book sales, Pi Day, Culver’s Share Night and the Jerry Apps’ author program. The library staff appreciates the opportunities that the Friends’ provide through their donations.

Portage Library Is Ready for Business according to Library Director Bird

On Monday, November 25, the library fully reopened to the public. Although the children's side of the library has remained open throughout the Sprinkler Replacement Project, patrons wanting to utilize the adult and teen areas were limited. Spaces occupied by Dave Jones were inaccessible; meeting and discussion room requests were canceled; programming for teens was reduced to the children's area; and adult programming found alternative locations for library events.

Through this situation, the staff at the Portage Public Library would like to thank the following:

1. Tivoli offered the library a second location for check out and patron interaction. Autumn Baumann and Linda Floeter staffed Tivoli for two hours on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the Sprinkler Project.
2. MATC Portage Campus hosted Monday Night Book Club, Mystery Lovers Book Club and provided the space for the October Library Board meeting and Staff Inservice.
3. Portage High School hosted the November Library Board meeting.
4. Two Rivers Coffee hosted a weekly knitting group, as well as a paper bag craft.
5. Trecek Automotive, Portage Historical Society, Portage Theatre, Prairie Flower Beads, Neil's Wine House, The Mercantile, The Corner Pocket, Ski-Hi Fruit Farm and The Flower Company all have hosted programs since the Sprinkler Project began.
6. The Portage Daily Register was exceedingly helpful in getting word out to the community and keeping patron's updated on countless changes happening within the library.
7. The Portage Chamber of Commerce helped advertise the library's activities.
8. James, Kevin and the crew from Dave Jones transitioned staff smoothly and thoughtfully.
9. And patrons of the Portage Public Library supported, assisted, endorsed and encouraged staff, regardless of the inconvenience and the restricted services. Patron's kindness and patience were greatly appreciated.



Record-breaking fundraiser by Portage Friends at Culver's on Monday, October 21

Volunteers celebrating the success of the Friends at Culvers Night this fall: (In photo above, Portage Library staff Pam Roets and Chris Banks welcomed patrons, while Library Friends Pam Beckett, Autumn Baumann, and Jane Ziehmke wait inside.) Visiting children received bookmarks to color. Young patrons also got to select a free book. Adults received bookmarks and notices of the coming book sale. Donations plus Culver's contribution of a percentage of the evening's sales resulted in a \$900 net. Many thanks to Portage Culver's for providing this fund-raising opportunity!

**Save the Date for the Friends Pi Sale
Saturday,
March 14, 2020**



Now that the library is ready for business, look for the following:

1. A comments basket welcoming suggestions from library users.
2. New adult books, DVDs, Blu-Rays and audio books have a new location in the center of the library. Graphic novels and anime titles are also front and center and very visible, next to the fireplace. Programming and topical publicity are available on each shelving unit.
3. The puzzle table has been moved to the quiet reading room in front of the big window, offering brightness, a cozy living room environment and warmth, particularly with the upcoming winter weather ahead.
4. Brochures offering local information and services can be found together on top of the magazine shelves.
5. Reference materials are housed behind the Reference and Circulation counter.
6. Monthly displays are located between the adult and children's room.
7. Locked DVD and music- CD cases have been removed, making it easier to check out all materials using our self-check machines.
8. And shortly, the chalkboard in the lobby announcing events and activities going on at the library will be replaced with a Digital Sign Board purchased by the Library Foundation.

Adult Services is Here to Serve You!

According to Adult Services Librarian Tawnee Calhoun, some exciting changes were made during the sprinkler project. She wants to thank patrons for their patience and understanding. Programming remains strong, and Adult Services has collaborated with several local businesses and organizations such as Prairie Flower Beads and the Mercantile. Some upcoming programs include making a holiday centerpiece at the Flower Company. Every month the library also hosts two book clubs and a knitting club! Some changes have been made to our collections in order to make them easier to browse and increase space for large print materials. The Western, Street Lit, and Romance collections have been integrated into the main Fiction collection, but each book has the appropriate genre sticker for easy browsing. Some of the furniture and shelving has been rearranged to make the space feel even cozier and more welcoming. Patrons should also check out our "Monthly Showcase" of interesting items. Each month will feature a different theme or topic.

Teen Programming is Up and Running

We are very excited to start hosting our teen programs in the teen area again, and they'll be in full swing during the holiday season! We'll continue to offer our two popular ongoing teen programs: Japanese Comic & Culture Club on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM (lead by local educator and expert artist Kaylee Tsuboi) and our Magic: the Gathering Club every other Thursday at 3:45 PM. In addition to these, we continue to host Friday after-school programs that teens love, like video game nights, movie nights, anime nights (with authentic Japanese snacks!) and fun crafts. Our teens had a blast painting pumpkins before Halloween! Finally, we have a wonderful teen program on happening on December 13th, where a local cookie maker is bringing cookies and icing that our teens can use to decorate, so we can then donate the cookies to seniors at Tivoli here in Portage. It's great to do some giving during the holiday season! Comments provided by Chris Baker, Teen Services



Happy Holidays to the Friends of the Library!

Dawn Foster, Children's Librarian
On behalf of the Children's Department (Angie Tomlinson, Linda Floeter & Stephanie Helmann)

Children's Librarian Dawn Foster Reviews Ongoing Programming

As 2019 winds down, it's the perfect time for the Children's Department to thank the Friends of the Library for their continued support this past year. Due to the generous funding from the group the Children's Department was able to provide some wonderful performers for families to enjoy such as Duke Otherwise and Mark Hayward the Yo-Yo-Guy. The Friends also made it possible for us to provide a free book to over 350 children, birth to age 12 years, as part of the Summer Library Program! Funds also helped to purchase craft supplies, educational toys for STEM programs, and refreshments for large family events. Thank you to all those who contribute to the Friends!

Looking ahead to 2020, the Children's Department will continue offering storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers; after school programs for kids in kindergarten through fifth grades, and once-a-month STEM programs for pre-kindergartners. And the popular first Saturday of the month "FamilyFunEvent" will continue through April, 2020 with even more exciting new ideas! (In November the Children's Department held its first ever 'mini-golf' event through the book stacks!)



BOOK SALE

Nearly \$3,800 was raised this year by Friends at the Spring and Fall Book Sales. The Spring Sale brought in \$2,868.50, while the Fall Sale, held off-site at the Portage Municipal Building, brought in \$1,879.85. Sale of book bags (\$147.50) and donations (\$394.60) also provided income. The book sales were also provided an opportunity that dozens of patrons took to join Friends or to renew memberships.

Given the limited storage space available at the library, the recent sale allows Friends to clear and clean their designated store room. As for items left after the sale, personnel from the Columbia County Jail, the Columbia Correctional Institution, Tivoli, and the State Veterans' Home at King were given free access to select books and dvds for their clients. Items from two categories were kept: 1) children's books to give away at a future Culver's Night, and 2) works on gardening and landscaping to be offered for sale at the Columbia County Master Gardeners' Saturday in Rio next March. Otherwise, materials were passed on to Goodwill. A special thank you goes from the Friends to the staff at the Portage Municipal Building, particularly maintenance employee Randy Hinze, for their cooperation. The Friends also appreciate donations by Rhyme Business Supply and Portage Printing. Thanks also to the businesses that allowed banners, posters, and handouts to publicize these fund-raisers. Finally, thank you to all who supported us with purchases at the sale.



The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Portage Library was held on Wednesday, October 16 in the Children's Program Room at the library. Members approved Carol Heisz as new vice president and Debbie Lechner as new Board Members. The proposed Friends' budget for 2019/2020 was accepted

Following the meeting, Jessica Michna presented her impressions of the Midwest

author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Accepting donations of hardcover books, paperbacks, and dvds.

Items should be in good condition
and may be dropped off
at the Circulation Desk in the Portage Library.

For further information, see the Portage Public Library Gifts and Restricted Funds Policy.

Spring Book Sale scheduled for
April 29 and 30 and May 1 and 2, 2020

Friends of the
Portage Public Library
253 W. Edgewater St.
Portage, WI 53901