

Friends of the Library - 2019 Board Reports

Membership -- Mardy Blaschka

As of 11/7/19 we have 297 members, 209 paid, and 88 past due. There are 54 new members since January 1, 2019. At the end of December, we will be removing 40 unpaid members from the list (members who have not paid since 2017). So far we show 103 members already paid for 2020, with 22 of those being new members.

Programs -- Erin Williams Hart

In 2019, the Friends allocated nearly \$13,000 to the Library for programs and events. More than 20 unique programs for people of all ages came out of this funding, including a series of live music concerts. A portion of this helped to support our Summer Library Program- which saw an enrollment of over 3,000 children this year- and paid for the kickoff event, the end-of-summer pool party for program “finishers”, and several other components of the Summer Library Program.

Adults also benefitted from the generosity of the Friends. Some adult program highlights this year have included: a visit from notable Wisconsin author, Jerry Apps; two cooking classes with Chef Jason Dunn; and the Friends’ annual Ice Cream Social with music provided by John Duggleby. There are several Friends-funded events yet to come, including our 2nd Annual Gift Wrapping Jam with live music from John Duggleby, and we hope you’ll join us:

Nov. 20- Great Lakes Ramblers-- songs and stories of the Great Lakes

Dec. 4- Holiday Harp Concert-- Gaelic harpist Jeff Pockat

Dec. 11- Winter Origami Workshop

Dec. 15- Celtic Fiddle concert-- Irish Fiddle music featuring Alan Ng

Dec. 18- Johnny V Holiday concert

Dec. 21- Gift Wrapping Jam-- let us wrap your gifts for you!

Dec. 22- Guitar concert-- featuring Helen Avakian and Dave Irwin

The Library is very grateful to the Friends for all their support in bringing so many wonderful programs to our patrons.

Friends of the Sun Prairie Library

Annual Report of the Read Before Book Store

November 11, 2019

A. Review of Nov. 2018 thru Oct. 2019.

1. Sales in the Read Before Book Store were \$23,410.30 during the past 12 months. The increase over the previous year was \$799.99. Due to higher Pepsi product expenses, the price per can has been raised from 75¢ to \$1.
2. Donations have been very good especially in regard to CDs, DVDs, children's books and cookbooks.
Ruth Wanless donated a bookcase to the RBBS which is enormously helpful in providing space for the large number of DVDs and audio books that have come our way recently.
3. Promotions/sales.
 - a. Donations play a major role in the type of sale that is held on the lobby table. A recent DVD sale was successful.
 - b. Seasonal sales continue to appeal to library patrons.
 - c. To reduce our large hardcover fiction inventory, a half-price sale was held last spring followed by a "Buy One, Get One Free" for nonfiction books. Free books on a cart in the lobby has been necessary several times this past year.
 - d. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce we participated in their Spooktacular event and placed an ad in their Community Guide.
 - e. The coupons in the Town Planner Calendar have been redeemed by dozens of customers.
 - f. The Sun Prairie Public Library won the Neighborhood Favorite Award for the favorite Bookstore (Read Before Book Store).

B. Future goals/promotions/marketing

1. Sale of Christmas items will be similar to last year. A good quantity of books, AV materials and stocking stuffers are available.
2. Seasonal sales will be held throughout the coming year.
3. An ad in the Chamber of Commerce's Community Guide and 2 coupons in the Town Planner Calendar will provide us with publicity in the coming year.

4. The RBBS will continue to provide free books to Sunshine Supper and participate in the Farmer's Markets monthly.

C. Volunteers

1. Currently over 40 volunteers help staff the Read Before Book Store.
2. Among those volunteers are a number of very valuable ones who contribute a lot time and energy: Ken and Martha Stofflet, Val Hanson, Cindy Mestelle and Starr Seefeld.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Semmann, Manager

2019 Library Report -- Svetha Hetzler, Library Director

2019 has been a busy year for the Sun Prairie Public Library Staff and Library Board as we build on the work and accomplishments from the previous years. Undoubtedly, our facility has received a lot of attention. From leaky roofs to non-ADA compliant restrooms, the library has been addressing immediate needs. By the end of 2019, critical roof repairs and public restroom renovations will be complete. The leaky roof situation necessitated the need to shift collections so staff took this as an opportunity to create a new teen space in the east tower. With funds from the Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation, youth services staff will be working to update this space with equipment, technology, furniture and other features to help meet the needs our teen patrons.

The Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation has also had an exciting year of growth and change. After receiving a gift from the Sun Prairie Improvement Council and the transfer of the Kind Fund, the Foundation's assets are now over \$1.4M! After working with Library Strategies, the Foundation is now in the process of recruiting an Executive Director so that the Foundation can continue to thrive in new and exciting ways.

Adoption of the 2020 Operational Budget is scheduled for November 19 by the City Council. The budget currently includes the following library initiatives:

Ongoing, Tax Levy

Hoopla Digital Services
Library Champion Signs
Year-Round Sunday Hours

One Time Expenditures, Non Tax-Levy

Furniture and Equipment
Professional Service
Continuing Education

The Sun Prairie Public Library's commitment to access continues to grow through policy reviews, outreach and extension services.

- Dream Bus Bookmobile stops were new to Sun Prairie this year. On Saturdays, the Dream Bus brought library services to the YMCA, Vandenburg Heights Park and CH Bird Elementary School. Over the summer, the Dream Bus stopped at the library on Sunday afternoons when the library was closed.
- Pop-Up Library visits now include the Downtown Farmer's Market, Holiday & Winter Markets, Colonial View Apartments, Sunshine Supper and Community Schools.
- Library Champion Signs – Random Acts of Kindness visits!
- City Services: metro bus passes, taxi rides, recycling stickers, city surveys, regular voting, voter registration and early voting.

The Sun Prairie Public Library is a hub of activity for the community. In 2018, we welcomed 232,931 visitors, circulated 635,368 physical items, provided 283,397 Wi-Fi sessions, and hosted 676 programs!

Our robust usage is a testament to the exemplary work of our library staff. Our Youth Services department continues to break records. 3,064 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, a 2% increase over last year. Our “finishers” increased to 1,879, a 9% increase over last year. Finishers proudly displayed Library Champion Signs throughout the city. Thank you to the Friends for providing funding for these signs for the past three years.

The biggest question on everyone’s minds is **“what about the expansion?”**

Below is the library’s 2018-2024 timeline.

A ✓ indicates the activity is complete.

2019 activities are in progress.

2020-2024 activities are contingent upon public funding decisions.

Year	Activities
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Architectural Analysis. ✓ Focus Groups & ATF Meetings. ✓ Library Board accepts report. ✓ Title search and review.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication to elected officials & public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding development & fundraising feasibility study. • Address immediate facility projects and interim solutions.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firm selection for design service. • Contract with fundraiser. • Identify and meet with potential large donors.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Campaign-quiet phase • Design workshops, presentations, and final full design
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Campaign-public phase • Begin Construction – main library expansion
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue construction & capital campaign – main library expansion
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th Anniversary • Ribbon cutting for expanded main library

Elected officials endorsed the Library Board’s recommendation in May and the five-year CIP Plan is under consideration. Currently, the CIP Plan includes funds for a \$992,000 design in 2020 and \$10M in construction costs in 2022. A successful public/private partnership will bring our city a 21st century public library filled with resources, services, collections, programming, technology and spaces to help enrich the lives of our current and future residents. City staff and elected officials may consider a 10-year CIP Plan, which may shift the timeline and funding level for the library’s expansion.

Library staff continues to work on the day-to-day services our patrons have come to appreciate and count on as we plan for our future. We are motivated and thankful for the support we receive from our Friends. The largest percentage of financial support we receive from the Friends allows us to bring unique program experiences free of charge to our community. Over the past 10 years, program attendance has increased by 54%. We went from 19,292 in attendance in 2008 to 29,634 in attendance in 2018.

This year, funds from the Friends included local artists' exhibits and programs as well as a "Why I Love My Library" writing contest. The writing submissions from children and adults are wonderful testimonials demonstrating how the Sun Prairie Public Library is the heart, mind and soul of our community. The dedication and hard work of our Friends throughout the year makes our library such a gem, a destination, and place for all. On behalf of the Library Staff and Library Board, thank you for all your support!