

Greetings FOOLs and Friends,

- Our last newsletter was in late Spring 2020 and we described changes due to the world pandemic. We are proud of the Library maintaining services throughout the year!

- The Book Fools store, with health safety measures, is open and began the Holiday season with hosting work of guest artists. This was well received by the community and continues as a Shop Local destination.

The bookstore renovating continues as Jeannette Hierstein, proprietor and all-around handy person, has painted, updated lighting, and is progressing on the restroom project!

Book sale funds are 100% designated to the Library.

We are fortunate that Dr. McCole Dentistry supports our use of the space.

- Mark your calendars and check our website for these Library and FOOLs opportunities:

March 14 (3.14) is Pi Day! Who likes pie? π

Friends are planning to meet-up, bring pies, fun and fellowship, and learn more about being a Friend of the Oskaloosa Library. We love pie. Everyone welcome!

March 28 kicks off the Walk Kansas program through the Kansas State Extension office. Early March we will be setting up a Library Team! Join us!

March 19 is Trivia Night at the Library

March 24 hosting a Faerie Tale Garden workshop

April continues community wellness with Earth Day Week activities and speakers. Watch for a Native Lands LLC gardening talk, and a presentation by the Friends of the Kaw River Keeper!

Friends of the Library has a variety of volunteer opportunities to fit all

interests! Ask about your favorite or try something new with us.

Bookstore, Gardening, Crafting, Shelving books, and more!

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Notes from Library Director Cheryl

Spring is on its way! For me the pandemic seemed to make winter last a whole year. It is difficult to be a librarian that loves to plan programs. It's a great way to bring people into the library and offer another avenue of lifelong learning. The last adult program we had was last March when Jeanette did a wonderful presentation of her trip on the Escalante River. Wow! Summer reading was done quietly this past year for students. We added an adult program, but really didn't have participation. It has just been a different year in the library. But now, Covid numbers are coming down and people are getting the vaccine. So, possibilities are endless!

The Kansas Notable Grant we apply for each year brings in great new titles from Kansas authors or books centered in Kansas. It became our starting point to promote a winter read for adults. Our winter reading program was more successful for adults than the summer offering. I hope to continue this each winter. There were over 5700 pages of Ks Notable books read! I am not sure how many different titles went out, but the collection did rotate. I hope that you have stopped in to check some out. We will look at a winter read program next January and February. If you have ideas for a theme, let me know!

Warmer weather makes me think of gardening. The city has provided us with a new planter for in front of the library. Due to the trees around the square being removed, some of us met to come up with another solution to improve the look of the downtown area. We have a few upcoming garden programs so please mark your calendar and come learn or share ideas with others. I am also looking forward to being able to take more advantage of the outdoor space in back of the library.

Have you noticed the term Library Annex at The Center Place Little Red Barn? I have tried to figure out how to do outdoor movies legally with the public performance license we have, and also overcome social distance issues. Our meeting room is now available again, but with the computers and all of the books in quarantine, it has made it less attractive and smaller. My legal issue with outdoor movies was the location had to be on library grounds with my license. There is also more room at the Little Red Barn for programs. The little Red Barn is a solution to both.

This year's Summer Reading theme is Tails and Tales. We are looking forward to a fun summer with a lot of animal theme programs. Mary has already booked the Topeka Zoo and also the Prairie Park Nature Center. She has sent out a survey to see if we plan more in person programs and activities, a completely online and take-home activity summer, or combination. I have every confidence in Mary making it as fun as possible for the kiddos no matter how the program is presented. The important part is finding ways to keep kids interested in reading over the summer.

The sun is shining, the days are getting longer, and life is good.

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