



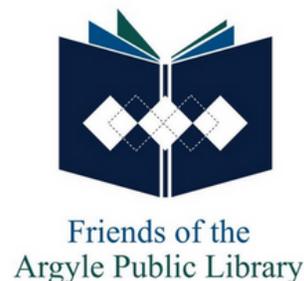
President’s Message

Welcome to the second edition of the Friends of the Argyle Public Library’s annual newsletter. We’ve had an “event-full” year packed with numerous activities; some were repeats from last year, while others were first-time opportunities for our organization.

Our board of directors and the organization as-a-whole, continue to evolve as we seek out ways we can fulfill our mission to advance and encourage public use of the library. The board said goodbye to Jean-Margret Merrell Beech and Peg Rasch and hello to Steve Engles.

We look forward to the coming year and the many ways we can engage with and assist Argyle’s Public Library, especially as a major stakeholder in the Library’s pursuit of a new large space it can call home.

Garry



Board of Directors

Garry Rossing
President

Vacant
Vice President

Vicki Tollakson
Secretary

Steve Engles
Treasurer

Susan Munoz
Director

Maryellyne Rear
Director

Library Director’s Message

Having a Friend of the Library group at for the past two years has been a real game changer for the library! Friends have helped support literacy and programming in both financial and physical ways, they advocate and promote the library and in general, bring an extra sense of fun!

What makes this group of people so special is that Friends really see and believe in the vision of Argyle Public Library- to enhance and support our community however we can.

Having a library in your village since 1881 is a huge accomplishment; thank you all who currently help maintain the mission.

Thank you!

Sarah Kyrie



Staff Appreciation Gala

In the late-afternoon of Sunday February 26th, a Board-funded and organized party was held in the Community Building to show our appreciation of the library staff. The gathering provided an opportunity for Board members to hobnob with and get to know staff members and their families. A full-course dinner of items prepared and presented by the board was topped off by a beautifully-decorated cake from the local Farmer's Daughter Bakery! Many thanks to each board member who brought a specially prepared food item to share! We are hoping this becomes an annual tradition.

Annual Membership Meeting

Our Inaugural Membership Meeting was held on April 23rd in the EMS Building. After approval of the agenda and the treasurer's report, a review was provided of the organization's beginnings and purpose. This was followed by a presentation of 2022 events and planned activities for 2023.

It was decided that annual membership dues through 2024 would remain the same, \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. To simplify tracking and bookkeeping, it was decided all memberships would expire at the end of each calendar year.

Two changes to the bylaws were proposed and approved by the membership, the first to provide more flexibility to the board in spending funds, with the second a change to what constituted a quorum at the annual meeting.

Following the meeting a social gathering was held along with a book swap, where each member brought a book to donate to the cause. Each attendee then picked out a book of interest. Everyone went home happy to have another book to add to their 'to read' book shelf!



Annual Used Book Sale

The Friends again helped out with the Library's Annual Used Book Sale, held the first weekend in June in conjunction with the Village-wide Garage Sale event. This year the Friends arranged for the book sale to be held in the community room of First National Bank and Trust a half-a-block from the Library.

Thursday afternoon, during set up, a members-only sale was held, allowing members to have first-crack at purchasing books. This is one of the great benefits from being a member of the Friends!

Many thanks to all the teenage helpers who assisted in transporting books to the bank and setting them out for display. They also assisted with packing up and moving leftover books out of the bank after the sale.



Open Market

This past year the Friends were present at several of Argyle's Open Market events held on select Saturdays last summer on Broad Street. We were better equipped to sell used books, provide coffee and display Friends and Library literature this past season due to tables, chairs and furnishings acquired via an Argyle Community Fund Grant. Special thanks to all the Board members who helped set up, staff and store away our kiosk; these include Peg Rasch, Vicki Tollakson, Susan Munoz and Maryellyne Rear.

We have found this is a great way to stay visible in the community and stay in touch with members and supporters.



Community Band Concert Ice Cream Social

A new event that we participated in during 2023 was sponsoring an ice cream social following the annual Community Band Concert held on Sunday, July 30th in Argyle's High School. Board member, Susan Munoz took the lead in organizing the event, soliciting an ice cream donation from Central 52 and recruiting some young helpers.



Thresheree

We were approached to provide a food-related booth at the Thresheree, which is held every year in September at Argyle's Legion Park. The Thresheree is sponsored and organized by the Thunderbridge Flywheelers and includes an Antique Tractor & Old Engines Power Show. Susan Munoz again stepped up and took the lead in organizing and soliciting donations for this event. Baked goods were donated by members and others in our community, as well as, items to serve root beer floats, which proved to be the most popular. Many thanks to Susan for organizing, Steve Engles for helping staff our booth and those who donated baked goods!



Student Art Show

The Friends were happy to lend support to the first annual Student Art Show held in the Library May 1st-19th. We caravanned to Argyle Public Schools to pick up a variety of carefully-wrapped 2D and 3D art pieces organized by Art Teacher, Laurie Pledl. We then helped display the art work on walls and shelves throughout the Library and adjacent hallway.

Following a reception for the students on May 17th, Board members helped pack up and transport the artwork back to the school on May 19th.



FEH Project

The Friends partnered with the Library Board in retaining FEH Design out of Dubuque, IA, an architectural firm specializing in public libraries. FEH evaluated and provided conceptual library designs and estimated construction costs for three select sites in Argyle related to possible new locations for the Library. The process included an all-day 'spark session' where public input was provided to FEH's design team regarding library features and floor plans.

The Friends, as a major stakeholder, helped pay for FEH's services and actively participated in the 'spark session' and other meeting related to the project. We also helped review project documents and reports.



Homecoming Parade

A week after FEH's 'spark session' we set up our kiosk outside of the Community Building and were present during and after the Homecoming Parade to display the drawings produced by FEH. We also displayed the drawings of the proposed new Fire Department/EMS building developed by Delta3 Engineering. Many thanks to Vicki Tollakson and Peg Rasch who staffed the kiosk and helped answer questions posed by interested parade attendees.



Chili Cook-Off

Again this year, the Friends entered the annual Chili Cook Off held on October 21st in conjunction with the last Open Market event of the season, which was held at Argyle's Legion Park. Susan Munoz made our chili entry, chosen from a cookbook available at the Library and helped us repeat as 'Best Presentation' by, in part, dressing up as a chili pepper!



Holiday Craft Fair

The Friends had a booth at the Holiday Craft Fair again this past December held at the Argyle Public School gymnasium. We raffled off two great items donated to the Friends, a quilt made by former Argyle quilter, Jeannine Nelson (who passed away earlier in 2023) and a gallon of locally produced honey! The quilt was donated to the Friends by Kristine O'Connor and Linda Gebhardt, of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, while the honey came from fellow Open Market vendor, Beeville Honey!

Argyle Community Grants

In 2022, the Friends were awarded a grant from the Argyle Community Fund to help us acquire additional furnishings and display items when our organization is present at various community events, such as the Open Markets, Chili Cook Off, Holiday Craft Fair or other opportunities. With the grant we purchased tables, chairs, book displays and coffee carafes. These items supplemented the canopy we had purchased after organizing in the Spring of 2022.

In November 2023, we were awarded a grant from the Argyle Community Fund for library furnishings consisting of up to 40 new audience-type chairs to be used in the upstairs room of the Community Building, where many Library events are held. These will supplant the old metal folding chairs currently being used. We are hoping this will provide a more comfortable experience for attendees of Library events and encourage attendance.

The Library was also awarded a grant in conjunction with the Friends grant, which will be to acquire dollies for the new chairs so they can be quickly set up when needed and stored away when not in use. The chairs will be available for use for Village administrative activities or other groups/organizations using the room. We look forward to sharing information about this grant in next year's newsletter!



Thank you members!



Your membership continues to build on the foundation of our organization's success. Together, we are moving forward to build an even brighter future for the Argyle Public Library and the overall community!

Friends of the Argyle Public Library, Inc. PO Box 293, Argyle, WI 53504