



The Newsletter of the Argyle Public Library Board's Building Committee

Off the Shelf

November/December 2022

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Educator and Champion of Libraries, Mark Sturnick

Local teacher and naturalist Mark Sturnick is seen here presenting information to the more than 50 people who turned out for the Library's Sunset Owl Hike in November 2021. We asked Mark why the Library is important to him.

I am a New England transplant via college in upstate New York, the U.S. Navy, and graduate school in Alaska. By the late 1980s I was teaching high school science here in the Driftless Area and living in the Town of Moscow, and I still do now.

The village I grew up in did not have a library, so my mother took us to one a few miles away. I used to just look at non-fiction books. One day a librarian told me about the fiction books in the library. I signed one out and became a reader! During summers the library sponsored reading programs. Children chose books to read each week, wrote book reports, and received stickers to place on a card for keeping track of how many.

Today I enjoy visiting the Argyle Public Library. It is an interesting and pleasant place, and the people are friendly and helpful. I like to review some Lafayette County periodicals, though I live in Iowa County. I have signed out books in the past to use at Yellowstone Lake State Park nature programs that I lead.

My summer naturalist work at Yellowstone Lake is what led to my helping public libraries with an occasional reading program. I have had fun doing them at Argyle and Barneveld, where I now teach. All library programming is important to help young people grow and adults to be lifelong learners.



How important our public libraries and their programs are! I think of them as "public schools for adults." There are books and periodicals, lectures and meetings, and all manner of activities offered from hikes in a wetland to learning crafts and arts.

And isn't lifelong learning fun! Attending a library program is like your best day ever in school. You get to learn what you want to learn, there is no seating chart, and you never have to study for a quiz or test. Many people change their vocation over time by choice or need, and the public library is often where folks can go to start their journey on a new path.

Argyle Public Library has limited space for its collections and technology, and there is little seating to read a large newspaper or work on a project. I am happy to learn that a group is exploring ways to expand the facility that would also make it accessible to all. 🍷

Friends of the Argyle Public Library News

The Friends group wrapped up the Argyle Open Market season with an entry for the Chili Cook-off at Legion Park on October 15th. Board member Susan Muñoz made an outstanding Three Bean Turkey Chili using a recipe found in a cookbook from the Library, and the Friends took home the 2022 Best Presentation award, a beautiful piece that is on display at the Library.

The Library will host a table at the December 4th Holiday Craft Fair staffed by Friends volunteers, rounding out a year of outreach and fundraising activities. To become a Friends member, stop by the Library and pick up a membership form. Membership is a great way to get involved and support the Argyle Public Library. 🍷

At the Library

A visit to the Library or going to its website or Facebook page are good ways to find the most up-to-date information about Library programs, services, and hours of operation. Here are a few highlights:

- The Library is expanding its hours of operation to include some evening hours starting in January 2023! Stop by or visit the website or Facebook page in the next few weeks for details.
- In October, the Library participated in the 2022 Wisconsin Science Festival with a lecture on the night skies given by Dr. Jim Lattis of the UW-Madison Department of Astronomy.
- On Halloween, Trick-or-Read brought 185 trick-or-treaters to the Library for a book to take home.
- Beautiful decorative items were produced at two Recycled Book Art workshops held on November 16th and 18th.
- Garbage bags are now available at the Library! Please bring exact change, \$2 each, large size only.
- Looking to get back into reading? Ask your local librarian! Staff members are happy to help folks find something interesting.
- Holiday Caroling! Meet with a group of like-minded singers to bring cheer to Argyle's front doors. Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. Meet at library.

About the Building Committee

*The Building Committee is made up of 15 community members working to find a larger space for the Argyle Public Library. The need for a larger library was recognized as far back as 2004. A formal space assessment completed in 2020 said that a community Argyle's size should have a library with a minimum of 3000-4000 square feet of space, compared to the current space of only 900 square feet. The most critical issue is that the current library is not fully accessible to those using walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs. It also lacks sufficient space for children's story times and for tables and chairs where people can sit. Why do this now? A new crop of programs, stimulus funds, and foundation grants has become available to help pay for a library project like this, and the Committee sees this as the right time to move forward. To stay informed, find **Off the Shelf** in the Pecatonica Valley Leader, at the Library, or on the Library's website. Or subscribe by sending an email to communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com.*