



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

Off the Shelf

September/October 2022

Dorothy Dammen, Book Lover

Dorothy Dammen is well known by many in our area for her many years of work at both the Argyle School Library and the Argyle Public Library. How did all this library involvement come about?

When in high school, Dorothy was a volunteer at the Argyle School Library. Later, after a 33-year career with Swiss Colony, Dorothy retired. One day when she was visiting the Argyle Public Library, Director Jackie Widmer asked her, "Would you be interested in working for me?" Dorothy replied, "When can I start?" Jackie said, "Right now!" After that Dorothy worked with Jackie two days a week for ten years, from 2007 to 2017. Today she is in charge of the Adams Lutheran Church Library where she orders books and attends to other library tasks. She has been doing this for six years, and loves it.

While working with Jackie at the Argyle Public Library, Dorothy learned how to do many different library tasks, such as preparing books for check out, record keeping, and helping library patrons. One memorable event was moving the Library from its upstairs location Dorothy to its current location on the first floor of the Community Building. She remembers all the work involved in getting each book into its proper place.

Dorothy recalls that even years ago the library was somewhat tight and congested. She and Jackie would hold the door open to assist seniors or women with babies in strollers or young children at the entrance. Their goal was to be welcoming and help people navigate the small space as easily as possible.

Today Dorothy lives in Monroe and uses the Monroe Public Library. She said she never checks out fewer than three books at each visit. Dorothy's daughter says she can't visit her mother's house without seeing books. Dorothy said she even has books in her car because she likes to "carry them everywhere". She likes reading historical novels, westerns, and biographies, particularly biographies of US Presidents. Reading stories about how people lived in the 1800s, how they traveled west and found new homes, and how they managed life without things such as running water fills her with admiration for their strength and perseverance. She happily shares some of her favorite authors - Linda Lael Miller, Nancy E. Turner, Lindsay McKenna, Lori Wick, Debbie Macomber, Beverly Lewis, and Linda Byler.

Dorothy understands very well the need for Argyle's library to move to a larger and more accessible space because she has seen people struggle with the heavy entrance door and moving through the narrow aisles. She believes that it is time to have a library here that will better serve today's seniors as well as Argyle's next generation of learners and readers. She plans to visit Argyle's library again soon, and when she does she will be welcomed with open arms by a community grateful for her years of service. 🍷

Friends of the Argyle Public Library News

All are invited to stop by the Friends group and the Building Committee information table at the Argyle Open Markets through October to enjoy a cup of coffee and find a good used book to purchase - just \$1.00 for hardbound books and \$.50 for paperbacks. To become a member of the Friends group, stop by the Market or the Library for a membership form. Annual memberships are \$15.00 for families, and \$10.00 for individuals, and are a great way to get involved and support the Library. 🍪

What's Happening at the Library

Anyone who has not visited the Library's website lately will be pleasantly surprised with all the information it now offers (argylepubliclibrary.com). One of the newest features is a page devoted to the Friends group with information about the organization, its board of directors, and how to become a Friends member. Many programs and activities can also be found on the website. By clicking on "Event Calendar," upcoming events for community members of all ages can be found. Here are a few:

- One of the newest offerings is the Chess Club every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. at the Library. This is a drop-in club where people of all abilities are welcome, with snacks and chess boards provided.
- Friday, October 7, is a Professional Development Day for Argyle teachers, and there will be no school for students. That day the Library is open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - come visit us!
- On Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. all are welcome to the library to hear *Eyes on the Skies, the Current Night Sky, What to Watch for, and How to Observe It*. This presentation by Dr. Jim Lattis who teaches at the UW-Madison Astronomy Department and manages the historic Washburn Observatory, promises to sparkle.
- On Halloween the Library will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Trick-or-Read, an annual tradition at the Library. Trick-or-treaters are invited to stop by and pick up a book "treat."

About the Building Committee

The 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 library of only 900 square feet. The most critical factor 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 chairs for people to 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. Subscribe by sending an email to communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com.