

June 26, 2020

Dear Friends of the Library,

We have Thomas Paine to thank for those timeless and oft-quoted words “These are the times that try men’s souls”, and while they may ring true again today, I also believe that it’s the challenges and adversities like the ones we’re now facing that seem to bring out the best in us. As President of the Friends of the Menominee County Library I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for all you’ve done to help to keep our organization up and running these past few months. We’ve had to make some adjustments as well as postpone or cancel some of our usual events, but we’ve also been working behind the scenes to support our library. Here’s a brief summary of what’s been going on:

The library has reopened and stands ready to serve our patrons. The library will follow social distancing protocol and the number of guests that will be allowed in the building at any given time will be strictly limited.

The **Friends of the Library Annual Meeting** was cancelled due to the pandemic but we have now **rescheduled it for Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 10:00 am** at the Menominee County Library in Stephenson. We ask that you RSVP to the library (**753-6923**) so that we can arrange for enough appropriately-spaced seating in advance. Depending on the number of members who wish to attend and the weather, the meeting may be held outside or in the library garage.

Our fundraiser plant sale was held on June 6, and we are very happy to report that it was very well attended. We were also able to double the amount we had raised the year before! Needless to say, this event was a challenge to organize, but thanks to the many volunteers who offered their assistance, we were able to ensure that all of our plant tables, check-out lines and vendors were positioned at a safe distance from one another. We consulted and followed the Michigan guidelines as well as the Covid-19 recommendations from the Michigan Farmers Market Association. As a result we were able to establish a successful, but safe, fundraising event.

Our annual book sale has been cancelled for this year. During the library closure, much of our book inventory was used to provide FREE books to the community on carts just outside the front doors.

What’s happening next: Join us at our next meeting and let your voice be heard!

We are proud of all the events that we offer each year, but clearly, we can’t do it alone. While we are blessed with many hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers, we are still in need of someone to serve as chairperson to coordinate their efforts. Please consider helping us. Contact us via email MCFriends@uproc.lib.mi.us or leave a message for Nancy at library: 753-6923

Given the current conditions, we have discovered that it’s easier for smaller groups to plan events outside of larger, formal business meetings. We will encourage these groups to continue operating on their own and to report back to the Executive Committee. The members of the Plant Sale Committee, for example, met on their own and managed to plan an outstanding

event. Congratulations and thanks to them and to everyone else who donated plants, helped sort, set-up, and staff the event!

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers - July 23 - The following individuals have been nominated to the respective positions. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the meeting.

Nancy Tuinstra – President
Cherly Hargrove – Vice President
David Eagleton - Treasurer
Betty Poradek - Secretary
Director (3 year term) - Ruth Kranberg

Several of our members served on a committee that was established to review our organizational bylaws and to determine to what extent they reflect our current needs as well as whether or not they are in compliance with today's legal requirements. The committee found the need for several updates and will present them at our annual meeting for discussion and adoption. The link for the proposed changes follows. For a printed copy of the proposed bylaws, please contact the library or email MCFriends@uproc.lib.mi.us.

Friends of the **Menominee County**
Library
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We appreciate your continued interest in and support of our library community. We announce events, weather closures, and other library items of interest in these email updates.

To remove yourself from this list, email to: MCFriends@uproc.lib.mi.us and include the following in the text of the message: UNSUBSCRIBE FRIENDSMCL

Friends of the Menominee County Library, Stephenson, Michigan 49887