Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 24, 5-9pm — Join us for a “Dine-Around” fund-raiser

Eat out at either Pomona Pete’s restaurant, 55 Mill St, Unionville, or Bamboo Asian Cuisine, 3 Melrose Drive (off Rte.4, near Devonwood)

Tell them you love the Farmington Libraries, and a portion of your dining check will benefit the Friends of the Libraries, to be used for great programs and services. So eat and be merry and help your community — what could be better?

Friday & Saturday, November 15 & 16

The Fall Book Sale

Our annual Nearly New and Kids Books sale, featuring books suitable for gift-giving, 1000s of children’s books, plus Holiday books, stocking stuffers, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. If you like the more relaxed style of this sale as opposed to the chock-full room in the spring, then come and browse to your heart’s content, find special items for giving to members of your family to enjoy, and take away some AV items for your indoor winter amusement. Book categories are fiction, gourmet cookbooks, art, biography, history & politics, and nature & science; but there will be no framed art this year.

The schedule is as follows:

- Friday, Nov.15, 9:15-10am: First-choice of books, $10 admission
- Friday, Nov.15, 10am to 5pm: Regular sale, free admission
- Saturday, Nov.16, 9am to 3pm: Regular sale, free admission

And Bake Sale

On Saturday the Friends will also hold a bake sale in the lobby from 9am to 3pm. You know what good cooks we have in this town, so come for goodies of all sorts, mainly finger foods, but a few pies and cakes too!
Recent Developments

If you have not noticed it yet, the Teen Space is being renovated for the first time since the 2002 expansion. Computer stations will be replaced with laptops, the modern preference of most teens, available on a sign-up basis. There will be more flexible seating, and the hope is that the relaxed environment will attract even more teens, especially after school.

For fun, there is a new ukulele club at the library. We even have a few public ukuleles that you can try out. So if you have always wanted to play a uke, join the club, learn some chords, and then strum and hum a few tunes with everyone!

News from the Children’s Department

There is a new head of the department, and her name is Ericka Bajrami. She comes to us from the Plainville Library, with prior experience in other places. Ericka asks all of you young parents, “What do you want? What could the library do that we are not already doing? Let us know.” The department put out a summer survey, and we do hope that many of you filled it out and have already made your wishes known.

The library has started a program for home schoolers and their parents, to try to give them more resources and allow them to share ideas for educating their children effectively and comprehensively. If you are a home schooler and want to participate in the “HomeSchool Connection”, please contact the Children's Dept. at 860-673-6791.

Other new programs & initiatives:
- Early learning backpacks, containing books and toys based on a theme.
- Wonder books with an audio component, for early readers.
- Baby story time.
- Toddler Learn & Play, for those 12-30 months; and Busy Bags Bonanza, for ages 2-4, to learn fine motor skills.
- Tween Time, programs for children in 4th to 6th grade, an age group often ignored by public libraries, but not here!

Check the Web site for specific times and places of any of these programs.

The Giving Tree

Each year from mid-November to mid-December, the Friends provide a service to a Hartford-area charity by collecting new books for needy families to give to their children for the holidays. “The Giving Tree” shares our love of reading with children who often do not own even one book. The charity deals with all kinds of inner-city families, the only criteria being that they need help and can’t afford to do it themselves. What better way for us to encourage youth literacy? So watch at both libraries for the Giving Tree baskets, and please consider donating a new unwrapped children’s book to this project. We will pass it along to the folks who know where to place it.
Museum Passes

Each year, the Friends of the library allocate a substantial amount of money for museum passes, in order to help town residents enjoy the richness of our local cultural treasures without huge expenses. Some passes allow for discounts, and others give free admission, based upon each museum’s policy; but they all save your family some money.

There is a list on the Web site (Farmington libraries.org, Services, Museum Passes) of what passes we offer; but not everyone can look it up, so here is this year’s list:
- For families—Beardsley Zoo, CT State Parks & Forests Day Pass, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, New England Air Museum, Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, & the Peabody Museum of Natural History.
- Especially for children—the Children’s Museum & Roaring Brook Nature Center, the CT Science Center, Imagine Nation Museum, Kids Play Children’s Museum, and the Springfield Museums, incl. the Dr. Seuss Museum.
- For history—CT Historical Society, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Mark Twain House, & Old State House.

We urge you to take advantage of this service provided by the Friends. If you would like to reserve a pass, or have questions about the rules and usage of the passes, please call the Children’s Dept. at the library, 860-673-6791 and ask.

Attention—Garden Lovers and Gardeners!

Did you visit the library gardens and patio at the main branch of the Farmington Library this spring and summer? Weren’t the flowers and setting beautiful! Over the course of the season, people came and sat for quiet moments of reflection, to read, or to have lunch in a verdant setting.

This garden was lovingly attended to by a remarkable hard-working crew of volunteers and financially supported by the Friends of the Farmington Libraries. The following people have donated their time and energies to maintain this enchanting space: Barbara Javarone (head gardener), Paul Grimeissen, Ray & Nancy Iwanicki, Eileen Bland, Jessie Saxton, Neil Lynch, Jadwiga Gocłowski, Laura Creen, Bobbi Beyer, Sally Holmes, and Colleen McDermott. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work!

We will be looking for new garden volunteers to join this group next spring. No experience is necessary, just a love of plants. The gardeners meet on Friday mornings, weather permitting, from 9-10am. If you think you might be interested, email the Friends at: friends@farmingtonlibraries.org and we will contact you!
Surprising Vital Statistics

The major contribution by the Friends to the library every year is to fund the bulk of the programs offered to the public. In that regard, some of the statistics of what the library accomplishes each year are quite startling and impressive. In the most recent year, there were over 1200 programs given at the library, about 800 of which were in the Children's department; and these programs attracted a total of about 25,000 attendees. All of this was done for about $25,000 in Friends donations, or about $1 per person; and your membership money and profits from book sales made it all possible. Isn't that amazing? And what a bargain!

There are other equally impressive statistics of library activity in Farmington, including about 15,000 uses of the public computers; about 10,000 e-books downloaded; another 6,000 audio books downloaded; and the conference rooms used about 4,500 times. When anyone tells you that libraries are obsolete, ask them who else can provide these services to the public on such a scale?