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ALMA LIBRARY FRIENDS

April 2025 Newsletter

Open House April 23rd from 3:30-6 p.m. is the big news this month. Here's what you need to know.

Tasks completed:

- Meijer is providing refreshments and supplies
- Cindy Lou's Sweet Creations is loaning us a 3-tier cupcake display
- Promotional flyers have been distributed around town
- Library yard signs are available for free at the circulation desk
- Social media posts begin this week
- Morning Sun has run a preview story
- Herald plans some coverage
- "Bond burning" with assistance from the Alma Fire Department is lined up--2 firefighters in full gear, plus a fire truck, which should be fun for little and big kids alike
- "To go" craft kits for kids to take home are in progress (contact Linda Bradley if you can help put the remaining kits together)
- The 5-minute video produced 20 years ago to promote the library expansion will play on a loop during the open house. It features community members and is quite fun to watch.

What's left to do the day of:

- Set up: make punch, set out cupcakes, water, coffee, punch, set up tables and chairs
- During the event: Greet guests, keep refreshments going, circulate, and socialize
- Clean up

Linda Bradley is chairing the event. She'll use the volunteer sign-up sheet we circulated at the March meeting to call on volunteers. If you didn't sign the sheet but would like to help, let her know. Volunteers should arrive at the library by 2:30 p.m.

One Book, One Community decision

The Friends liked the idea of this project (bringing a community together through a shared reading experience). Many larger libraries have done it successfully, but after digging into the details, we determined we don't have the resources to pull the many pieces of the project together right now.

Adult Literacy

We had a short discussion on the need for adult literacy programs in the county. We'll research what's available and see if there is a role for the Friends to play.

Spending our funds, part 2

At our February meeting we voted to use our funds to help with the purchase of computers and software, but learned at our March meeting that a \$3000 donation as well as grant money has come to the library, so Friends' funds won't be needed. We asked Library Director Lorrie Taylor to get some estimates for the cost of three other priorities on our list: shelving for children's nonfiction, new furniture, and carpet in the Smith Room.

2025 Used Book Sale

Nancy O'Brien is chairing the Book Sale Committee this year. Please let her know if you can help her with organizing this major event. Volunteers with an hour or two to spare on a come-when-you-can basis are needed now and on an ongoing basis to sort and box books. It's a feast or famine situation with the books--some days there are hundreds to do, other days things are all caught up. Just give Lorrie (989-463-9585) a call when you'd like to help. That will save you a trip if it happens to be "famine" day as far as books to box goes.

Funding challenge coming for the library

Curtis Dancer, finance director for Alma and Dave Ringle, public works director, will be at the meeting to talk about the almost \$500,000 in capital improvement expenses the library faces. The city does not have a fund set aside for the library building, so it's a pretty big challenge ahead.

No meeting in May

Due to our May meeting falling on the eve of Memorial Day weekend (and the Highland Festival) we voted to cancel it.

Our next Alma Library Friends meeting is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24th at the Alma Public Library. A reminder with the agenda for the April meeting will be coming your way a few days before the meeting. Thank you for being a Friend!

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can email me by hitting reply to this message, or call or text me at 989-620-0272.

Susan

Susan Hunter, chair Alma Library Friends

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.

~Andrew Carnegie

