



Welcome to Spring!

And welcome to the Friends of the New Gloucester Public Library's Spring 2023 newsletter. At this time of the year, the Friends are preparing for our annual meeting. Today, as we look back on our accomplishments of the past year, we also look ahead to continuing to serve the New Gloucester community by supporting our beloved public library. I invite you to join us at the annual meeting, to donate, to renew your membership — or to join for the first time — and to continue to support our library and community.

~ Noreen Williams, president

Our Latest Accomplishments

The Friends' mission is to support the library. Here's how we do it, this year and every year:

Raise money ...

We raise money through our very popular book and bake sales, sell donated books in the library lobby, sell refreshments at the library's summer concerts, and solicit donations and membership dues — **our membership increased from 52 to 82 this year, nearly 58%**. We also held a very successful 135th Birthday Match Appeal, raising \$4,640, plus an additional \$2,000 in matching funds. **That brought our donations to the library this fiscal year to \$10,640.**

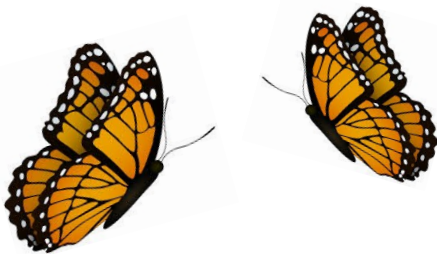


... And the funds go directly to the library

We give the funds we raise directly to the library so it can purchase materials and create programming for patrons of all ages.

This year the Friends bought new picnic tables, painted them, and installed them outside the library.

We are also developing a fun and educational pollinator garden for children.



The Friends of New Gloucester Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the library by volunteering time and energy, advocating for the library, and raising funds to support the library and its community.

You can make donations and sign up for memberships on the Friends website.

<https://www.friendsnewgloucesterlibrary.org>



OTHER LIBRARY SUPPORT

- We bring books to those who otherwise may have a hard time getting them.
- We tend the grounds at the library.
- We offered a six-week class to the community in beginning gardening and created a vegetable garden on library grounds.
- We serve refreshments in the library to our community at Tiny Timber, and library events including the library's pumpkin-carving party and its birthday party.
- We hosted a booth at the Community Fair and gave out books, bookmarks, and stickers to children who stopped by.

“Reading for me, is spending time with a friend” ~ Gary Paulson

FRIENDS EVENTS:

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 7 pm
In Person and on Zoom

Book and Bake Sale

Sunday, June 4

Friends Preview 11 am

Public 12 pm - 3 pm

Friends Brainstorming

Wednesday, July 12, 6 pm

For More Events Info:

[https://
www.friendsnewgloucesterlibrar
y.org/upcoming-events](https://www.friendsnewgloucesterlibrary.org/upcoming-events)

Thank you, for your support!

Donna's Greenhouse

Intervale Pizza

Terry's Candy

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- We collected hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for community members who needed them.
- We collected books, cards, and wrapping paper and gave them to the Food Pantry for distribution.

ADVOCATE FOR THE LIBRARY

This year members of the Friends wrote letters of support for the library and spoke out at the public comment portion of public meetings. Some of those comments also appeared on NGXchange. A member wrote an opinion piece, “What is the purpose of the public library?” And about 130 people signed a petition in support of increasing library funding.

COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADES

This year the Friends created a new website, updated our Facebook and Instagram pages, and created a newsletter - this one. Those wanting to join the Friends or renew their membership can now do so online.

<https://www.friendsnewgloucesterlibrary.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsngpl>

https://www.instagram.com/ngpl_friends