

Friends of the Seymour Library

Annual Membership Drive

2020

Dear Current or Future Member of the Friends of the Seymour Library:

What interesting times we live in now. COVID-19 has turned life at the library upside down and inside out. By the time you are reading this the library is reopened for business with limited services and programs . Social distancing and mask wearing is our new normal.

During this time the participation and support of the Friends has become an especially vital part of meeting the needs of the Seymour Library. The Friends raise money for a variety of purposes, including helping to support and advertise Summer and Year Round Children, Teen and Adult activity programming. How these programs are presented has changed in format and content over the last few months. The librarians have been tasked with figuring out how to present programming remotely using distance learning and online software. The librarians are working hard to keep patrons learning, engaged and comfortable in an environment that may be out of their comfort zone. Please remember, many of the online programs cost money, just like the in person programs that we are used to.

The Library understands that some of our patrons have not moved into the digital world. Therefore, some of the donated books that were meant for the spring book sale are now being used to restock several of the Little Free Libraries in our area. This restocking is being done by volunteers in the Friends. Offering books for all ages groups has become increasingly important as people are staying in more and schooling at home.

COVID-19 has forced us to cancel our Spring Book Sale and the Fabric and Yarn Sale. These events are major fundraisers for the Friends and highly anticipated by our supporters. We are all disappointed that we have not been able to hold these events. COVID may also eliminate the Fall Book Sale. PLEASE NOTE due to limited storage space we **are not** currently accepting book or fabric donations.

Without these fundraisers in 2020, your membership dues are particularly important for us. They may be our only source of funds this year. Your dues will allow us to continue supporting the Seymour Library in our new and challenging world. Adding to the importance of your donations is the very real concern that the decrease in tax revenue caused by COVID-19 will lead to a reduction in funding from our municipalities. This potential reduction will likely increase the library's reliance on the Friends.

Please fill out and return the enclosed membership brochure (return envelope included).

The Friends **thank you** for your support!

Note: The postage for this membership drive is again underwritten by Doug and Cathy Chesnut.