

# The Friends of the Paw Paw District Library Fall 2024 Newsletter



*Mission Statement: The Friends of the Paw Paw District Library, Inc. is an independent, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting the Paw Paw District Library as an essential institution in our community.*

**We're Waiting for YOU...**



Since May 2024 volunteers have continued to accumulate and sort the donated materials pictured above in preparation for our October sale in the PPDL Program Room. After set up is completed on October 17, a current members-only pre-sale will take place from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

## BOOK SALE!

**Friday, Oct 18**  
**Saturday, Oct 19**  
**9AM - 4PM**

**PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY**

609 W Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079  
(269) 657 – 3800

**FREE ADMISSION**

New Books Put Out Each Day



## Featured Library Programs KIDS

Friday  
**October 25**  
5:00 – 8:00 pm

**Spooktacular**  
at Tapper Chevy  
(429 S. Kalamazoo St.)  
*The Library is teaming up with Tapper Chevy to host the biggest Halloween event of the season with carnival games, trick-or-treating, prizes, and more. Sponsored in part by The Friends.*

Wednesday  
**November 20**  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

**Sunset Storytime**  
*A new storytime, especially for early elementary students.*

## TEENS

Tuesday  
**October 29**  
3:00 – 4:00 pm

**Graham Cracker Haunted Houses**  
*Make a spooky, edible haunted house.*

## ADULTS

Tuesday  
**November 5**  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

**The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald**  
*Revisit the story of this legendary event with historian John Beck and a thirteen-foot LEGO model of the ship.*

*Look for more information about these and other programs on the Library's online calendar.*

**“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.”**

*Andrew Carnegie*

## Free Program for All Ages!



### GEEK FEST KALAMAZOO 10/12/2024 ~ 11am – 3pm

Nerds unite! **Geek Fest** returns to the Kalamazoo County Expo Center on **October 12** from **11 am – 3 pm**. **Geek Fest** is a free, all-ages celebration of geek culture in all its forms! Comics and art, table top games, technology, cosplay, and meet our special guest actor Tim Downie!

Downie has worked on films such as award-winning *The King's Speech*, *Paddington*, *War Machine*, *Transformers: The Last Knight*, and much more. Other television work includes *Outlander*, *Toast of London*, *Chewing Gum*, *Upstart Crow* and more. He can currently be seen on Netflix with *Geek Girl* and Amazon Prime's *Good Omens 2* and the film *Nandor Fodor and the Talking Mongoose* with Simon Pegg and Minnie Driver.

Last year was his gaming debut playing everyone's favorite wizard, Gale Dekarios in *Baldur's Gate 3*, a game set in a world by fantasy tabletop role-playing system *Dungeons & Dragons*. *Baldur's Gate 3* won 32 awards last year including, BAFTA Game of the Year, Game Developers Choice Awards, Golden Joystick Awards, PC Gamer and more.

**Geek Fest** is hosted by Kalamazoo Public Library, Paw Paw District Library, Portage District Library, Richland Community Library, and Vicksburg District Library. The Friends of PPDL have helped to support our Library's contribution to this fun and educational event.

## Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteers are needed to help with carnival games at **Spooktacular** on **Friday, October 25 (5-8 pm)** at Tapper Chevy (429 S. Kalamazoo St.). **Spooktacular** is sponsored by The Friends and attracts hundreds of children. It is a partnership between PPDL (which runs the carnival games) and Tapper Chevy (which hosts the trunk or treat activities). Those interested or with questions should contact the PPDL **Spooktacular** organizer, Kyra at [kdalrymple@pawpawlib.org](mailto:kdalrymple@pawpawlib.org) or 657-3800.



Thanks to our fellow Friends for supporting PPDL's recent *Voices from the Past: Tales From Prospect Hill Cemetery* tour, including Sue Danielson (above) in her role as Rena Van Fossen, one of this year's featured characters.

## New Book Sale Shelf Inside PPDL!



*In an effort to better serve PPDL patrons the Friends have implemented an ongoing used book sale inside the Library as shown above. The shelves are located near the front of the main Library space, adjacent to the PPDL adult audiobook collection. Books are refreshed weekly and purchases may be made at the circulation desk via cash or check. Sale items are donated by private individuals and the Library and, as with our semi-annual book sales, all sale proceeds are used to enhance programs and services that our Library offers our community. We invite you to stop in, take a look and maybe take a "new-to-you" book home!*

## Friends Funding at Work



*An appreciative patron showcases the new LEGO activity and storage center recently purchased for the PPDL Children's Library with Friends' funding.*



## Donation Drop Off Days

Our Donation Drop Off Events are held offsite at the **LookSharp! Marketing location (37174 W. Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw)** from 3:00 – 4:30 PM on the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays. During these times Friends volunteers will be available to help unload your donations of gently used books, CDs & DVDs. Please deliver your items to the cart in the overhead door opening indicated by the purple arrow in photo above. Donations can also be brought to PPDL during regular Library hours.

## The Friends Calendar of Events

Oct 7, 2024	Donation Drop Off Event
Oct 18 & 19, 2024	Used Book Sale @ Library
Nov 4, 2024	Donation Drop Off Event
Nov 20, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
Dec 2, 2024	Donation Drop Off Event

*The Friends **Board meetings** are open to the public & typically held at 4:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months in the PPDL Community Room. For most current schedule information please check the Events section of the PPDL website.*

## The Friends Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	Kris Steward
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cindy Barres
<b>Secretary:</b>	James Miller
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Shoemaker
<b>Membership Director:</b>	Joan Ford
<b>Book Sale Co-Director</b>	Carla Chase
<b>Book Sale Co-Director</b>	Darlene Wilson

## **Paw Paw District Library's Dedicated Prairie Land Supports Environmental Balance**

*Article contributed by Friends member Susan Anderson*

When the current Paw Paw District Library was completed in 2011 it was intended to better suit the needs of not only our community but also our rapidly changing environment. The building itself is LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; a globally recognized certification focused on sustainability and resource efficiency) and is surrounded by dedicated prairie land.

Why is prairie land important? Prairies consist of native plants with deep roots that aid in water conservation. The roots of these native plants reach far into the soil, thereby slowing down the flow of water. These root systems prevent soil erosion, maintain the water table and aid in flood control.

Another important aspect of prairie land is the diverse ecosystem it provides. This ecosystem supports pollinators such as bees, birds, small mammals, butterflies and beetles. Pollinators are essential to the continuation of not just native plants but also food crops. By providing dedicated prairie land our local library offers a safe, pesticide-free environment for the often underappreciated yet vitally important insect population.

Improved soil health and air quality are some of the many benefits of dedicated prairie land. The same deep roots that aid in water conservation improve soil health by aerating the soil, increasing organic matter content and promoting nutrient cycling. And because the need for mowing on prairies is minimal, emissions are, in turn, reduced, further lowering our much-loved Library's carbon footprint.

To summarize, the dedicated prairie surrounding the Paw Paw District Library is not only visually diverse but also something for our community to be proud of. Prairie plots are essential to support the biodiversity of Southwest Michigan. When frequenting our lovely Library we hope you enjoy the array of carefully chosen native wild grasses, lupine, coneflowers, spiderwort, bergamot, chicory, butterfly weed and hoary vervain, to name a few.



## Explore Little Free Libraries

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization which promotes access to books via a global network of volunteers. According to their website ([littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org)), "a Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. They function on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. If you take a book or two from a little library, try to bring some to share to that same library, or another in your area, when you can." Check out one of the many such book-sharing boxes in our area!



### Borrow a Book from MeLCat!

*Article contributed by Friends member Judith Halseth, Ed.D.*

Do you know how to borrow library books from the Michigan interlibrary loan system? MeLCat is the Michigan eLibrary, a 24/7 online library for Michigan residents. The system was set up by the Library of Michigan, using Federal grant money and offering access to library materials from all over Michigan. You need a resident library card from the local library where you reside. Patrons living in the Paw Paw School District are entitled to borrow MeLCat books through the Paw Paw District Library.

To borrow a book that is not available at PPDL, either order it online from MeLCat, or get help from a PPDL librarian in ordering the book from MeLCat. Use the online address [elibrary.mel.org](http://elibrary.mel.org) and be prepared to enter the number of your library card, and to click on the name of Paw Paw District Library from a list of participating libraries. If the book is available (you will be able to see if it is available) it will be delivered to PPDL in one or two weeks. The book is checked out for four weeks. Databases are available for kids, teens, and adults.

In 2023 PPDL borrowed 1948 items and loaned 1995 items through MeLCat. The system includes 400 Michigan libraries, including colleges and universities. This gives you lots of sources for that book you've been meaning to read!

*Thanks to Jill Ongley, Library Assistant for MeLCat Services at the Kalamazoo Public Library, and Denise Freeman, MeLCat Services at the Paw Paw District Library, for sharing this information.*



Our group now maintains two Little Free Libraries in Paw Paw. The original box (above) is located outside Paw Paw Brewing Company (780 S. Gremps St.). More recently a second box (below) was installed between the Paw Paw Village Hall and the Strand Theater (~113 E. Michigan Ave.).





## Best Book Sale EVER!

We're pleased to report that our May 2024 book sale was the best ever in terms of funds raised. This was true even though the volume of materials offered for sale was not as large as it had been for some previous sales. Beyond the usual books, DVDs and CDs, we were also able to sell several computers, displays and coffee urns which had been retired from service and donated by PPDL to our sale. As can be seen from the photos at left, volunteers and shoppers of all ages helped to make this event a great success. Thanks for supporting our Library!

### Contact/Follow The Friends

**Email:** friends@pawpawlib.org

**Facebook:** FriendsOfPPDL@facebook.com

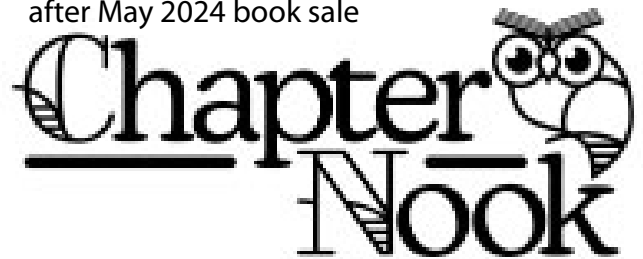
**Website:** <https://www.pawpawlib.org/friends-of-the-library/>

**By Mail:** The Friends of the  
Paw Paw District Library  
609 West Michigan Ave  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

### Acknowledgements

*The Friends of the Paw Paw District Library express their appreciation to:*

- Donors, Friends members & volunteers who made the May 2024 book sale a huge success
- Asia Weber of ChapterNook ([chapternook.com](http://chapternook.com)) for accepting & transporting unsold materials after May 2024 book sale



- Kerry Tapper of Look Sharp! Marketing/ Sporting Image ([www.looksharponline.com](http://www.looksharponline.com)) for providing The Friends with year round storage & sorting work space



**LOOK SHARP!**  
MARKETING  
SPORTING IMAGE