

Just Between Friends

*Friends of the Hope Borbas Okemos Library
4321 Okemos Road, Okemos Michigan 48864*

LIBRARY HOURS

The library is now open for browsing and computer use only. Check CADL.org for details

SUNDAY
CLOSED

MONDAY
10 AM - 7 PM

TUESDAY
10 AM - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY
10AM - 7 PM

THURSDAY
10 AM - 7 PM

FRIDAY
10 AM - 7 PM

SATURDAY
12 PM - 5 PM

**Capital Area District
Library Upcoming
Closings:**

July 4 & 5, 2021
Independence Day

September 4-6, 2021
Labor Day Weekend

At Long Last - the Wait is OVER! Friends Book Sale Returns in July!

It's hard to believe that more than year has passed since we were able to browse the Used Book Sales tables loaded heavy with all manner of interesting books. This huge and popular event, sponsored by The Friends of the Okemos Library, is scheduled again on **Saturday and Sunday, July 24 & 25**, mark your calendars for this one! **New Hours** are as follows: for the general public this sale will start at 9:00 a.m. and go through 7 p.m., both days. (On Saturday, the browsing begins an hour earlier **FOR MEMBERS ONLY**, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) On Sunday, the book sale hours are from 9:00 a.m. through 2 p.m., then continues on with the **BAG SALE**, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.



NEW VENUE: For this Used Book Sale, the Friends are setting up in the temporary location of the **Old Farmer's Market---** across the parking lot from the Township Hall at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864. This is the **OLD Farmers Market** location.

Masks will be required in the pavilion.

CAVEAT: Do not be confused by the other event being held the same day across Central Park Drive at the New Farmer's Market. That event, the original Farmers Market, will also be selling their wares, mostly fruit and veggies.

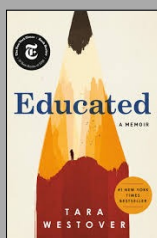
While the location may be different, the book set-up will be familiar: we plan to offer the full complement of used books: Fiction, Non-fiction, Children's, and Special Issues, Social Science, Literature, Biography, and more, along with a wide selection of CDs, DVDs and Books-on-Tape. Prices are the same, \$.50 for paperbacks and \$1.00 for most hardback books. However, our new price for a bag of books moves to a modest \$5.00 per bagful.

Okemos Thursday Book Group

All CADL programs are conducted online. Visit cadl.org/events for activities in the system.

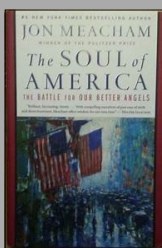
1st Thursdays • 12-1:30 p.m.
Enjoy casual discussion about

June 3rd



Educated, A Memoir by Tara Westover

July 1st



The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels by Jon Meacham

August 5th



The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis

From the Librarian's Desk



June is Bustin' Out All Over!

By the time you read this, the library will once again be open for walk-in, walk-up and walk-out traffic. Pick your pronoun!

It has been a long, cold lonely winter (yes— another song reference) but the library staff is ready to welcome you back inside. There will still be some limits in regard to building capacity such as we can't host a magician that attracts 200 people. Truthfully, we are looking at about 50 people at time including staff.

The number of public computers has been reduced to six as we still have to keep people sitting at least 6-feet from each other. Likewise, study tables and chairs have also been reduced. The event room is closed to outside groups since we are still using that for staff space.

At Okemos, we will continue our online programs through the summer. We have added several outside programs for children, Michigan weather permitting!

Mr. Tom and I are excited to share that we will offer inside story times. Again, there will be limits on the number of families who can attend and registration is required! That will be a big change, especially for Mr. Tom's standing-room only story times. However, we want to start out small and safely.

Our monster successful curbside service will remain for those who want the safety and convenience.

The Friends might have been absent from inside the building these many months, but Jim Tellner has been extremely busy picking up Book Sale donations. So much so that the Friends had to expand to a larger storage unit. The book sorting crew has been crazy busy finding boxes, sorting books, and looking forward to the July Book Sale.

The Friends board met via ZOOM, keeping in touch with me and each other. The staff lunches the Friends provided were great morale boosters.

I am eager to start this next phase of COVID-19 recovery. Please say hello to me the next time you visit the library. It will be wonderful to see you again.

Betsy Hull
Head Librarian



From the Friends President

Cecelia Kramer, Friends' President

Service with a Smile

In any normal year, each issue of "Just Between Friends" has given the Friends of Okemos Library a forum to bring patrons the latest library happenings and events. But during this past year, we struggled with a destructive Pandemic that had everyone in the community facing severe restrictions, including what for many may be, "*the unkindest cut of all*," namely: closure of our beloved library building. Despite this, the Friends managed to maintain some normalcy by publishing its quarterly Newsletter. Still, the loss of casual access to what many consider their "home away from home," shrouds everything going on inside in an aura of mystery.

Therefore, it is with pleasure for the Friends to act as a guide here, shining light on the library's inner-sanctum to reveal internal and external goings-on. If all you see of the library anymore are clerks bobbing out the building with paper-bags of reserved items to deliver to waiting cars, then be aware of these other library projects below that our Friends are working on.

This year we will continue to liven the front entrance with clusters of bright, colorful potted flowers to offer a warm welcome. Our "Beautification Committee" is working on this to cheer up returning patrons. Planting will begin soon and be ready when patrons are allowed back in the library. Get ready for grand things in the near future.

In service to our Librarians, our Friends have continued to supply meals to show appreciation for their efforts on the library's behalf, and its patrons as Essential Workers. Several of you have also helped by contributing to this fund, *thank you* for that. These luncheons will continue through the end of the Pandemic to demonstrate our support of the library staff's efforts to keep us in reading material and information. See photo on page 4.

Again, in appreciation and service to the staff, our Friends' organization has sponsored a Birthday Book Buy. It allows each staffer on their birthday to pick out a book which the Friends purchase for the Library collection. It requires the Birthday Staffer to pick out a book that is not currently in our Okemos Library, or perhaps not currently owned by CADL, but is one the staffer would like to see in our Okemos collection. The volume would be "home-based" here in our Library but could be borrowed by CADL patrons in other locations, but would be returned here.

All of these projects are done with a smile and in some small way to keep our library running smoothly and the staff working in synchronized fashion.

2021-2022 OFFICERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CECELIA KRAMER

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CADL REPRESENTATIVE**
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COMMITTEES

Book Sale

Communications

Curatorial and Decorations

Grounds & Gardens

History of Okemos Collections

Hospitality

Membership

Program Development

FRIENDS MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month
September through May

7:00 p.m. Business meeting. Board meetings are now held via Zoom. To register contact Cecelia Kramer, 517-349-3297.

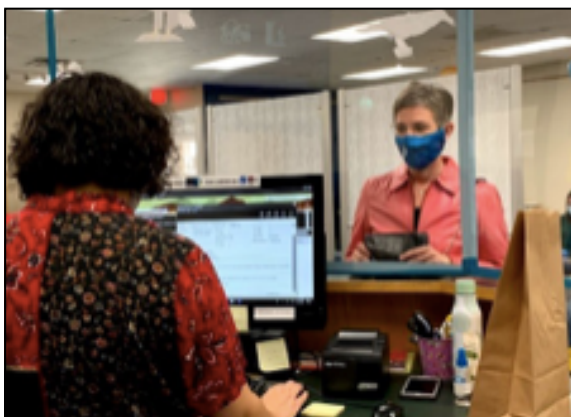
A Peak at What's Been Happening Inside the Library



Another unique way the Friends recognize staff is through the Birthday Book Buy. Staff select a book to add to the library's collection with funds from the Friends. Library Page Jan Matlock shares a recent addition.



Okemos Library staff are well-taken care by the Okemos Friends with morale -boosting lunches. Once again, we were the envy of our CADL colleagues.



Our State Representative Julie Brixie was a guest reader for one of our virtual storytimes. Naturally, she read, *"If You Go with Goat Vote."* She renewed her library card while she visited, too.

Okemos Library Events

Current Library Services:

Please visit www.cadl.org or call your local branch for service updates.

As of the printing of this newsletter, all branches are now for general browsing and socially distanced computer use. We will continue curbside or door-side service when you want to pick up library items. The Okemos phone number is 517-347-2021.

Fines on overdue items are not currently being assessed as returned materials must be quarantined for 96 hours before they are checked in.

For updates, call the Okemos number at 517-347-2021, ext. 3. Visit cadl.org/events for activities in the system.

Below is listing of the adult programs coordinated by Okemos staff:

FOR ADULTS

Okemos Thursday Book Group

1st Thursdays • 12 - 1:30 p.m. Online

Enjoy a casual discussion about listed books.

Registration is required by emailing Eric Stanton, stantone@cadl.org

June 3: *Educated, A Memoir* by Tara Westover

July 1: *The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham

August 6: *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis

What We've Been Reading Book Group

2nd Mondays, June 14, July 12 & August 9

• 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us each month and share your book titles with others. This is a great way to learn about different authors and titles that may be of interest to you. For information and to register send email to Eric Stanton at stantone@cadl.org. Limited to 10 participants.

Puzzle Masters (All Ages)

June 14 – July 9

Please join us for a collaborative art project! Pick up a puzzle piece of our giant puzzle to create our own design. Pick up any time June 14 – July 9. Paint the piece and return it to library by July 16.

Donation Drive For Rescue Pets (All Ages)

Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter provides care and supplies for over 5,000 animals and their owners. Help support their efforts by choosing items from [this list](#) to donate. Bring your donations to any CADL branch between July 19–31 and we'll take them to the shelter.



Top Five Requested Items:

1. KONG Toys & Cheez Whiz- Our enrichment teams staple! Kongs are the red or black rubber toys shaped like a bee hive that can be found in most pets stores. They keep the dogs busy and entertained for hours because they work hard to get the cheez whiz out.
2. Canned Cat Food- always needed for kittens and senior cats and those rehabilitating.
3. Paper Towel- because pets never stop making messes!
4. Collars & Leashes for medium to large dogs. We especially like the collars with the plastic snap buckles.
5. Braunschweiger- These work better than a spoon full of sugar for hiding doggy meds.

Service to the Community

Eagle-eyed patrons waiting for their books at the Curbside Pickup will have noticed a recent colorful addition to the library landscape. This is the new Micro Food Pantry. It is located near the Curbside Pickup area and is painted bright green, orange, and blue. You can't miss it.

The Pantry was installed with the collaborative sponsorship of CADL, Meridian Township government, and Faith Lutheran Church. The Pantry itself was built by Meridian Company, formerly Meridian Plumbing, which supplied it with the first full stock of food. Faith Lutheran Church applied for the pantry permit and will help with ongoing food and household products. Librarian Betsy Hull and her staff have also volunteered to assist by shuttling supplies on a daily basis to the outdoor pantry location to replenish its inventory.

A motto about Micro Food Pantries says, *"Take what you need and Bring what you can."* This is an opportunity for everyone, our Friends members as well as area residents, to help those who need basic foods, personal supplies and household supplies. Take a look for yourself at the pantry and the brochure to get an idea of the types of non-perishable items, particularly household products, that are so needed. With the COVID pandemic, the need for a pantry like this is even more critical.



Cecelia Kramer with the fully stocked Micro Food Pantry now at the Okemos Library



Pictured above, Kate Newcomb, Haslett Library; Betsy Hull, Okemos Library; Ellen Schoepf, Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church; Scott Duimstra, executive director, Capital Area District Libraries; Cecelia Kramer, food pantry coordinator, Faith Lutheran, and Okemos Friends President; Deborah Guthrie, clerk, Meridian Township.

CADL is pleased to "step up to the plate" and help sponsor a pantry at our Okemos Library as well as an identical one at the Haslett Branch.

It is another way for CADL Libraries to demonstrate that we really are the center and heartbeat of the community.

If you would like to contribute to the pantry, please refer to the list of suggested items. Small donations can be placed directly in the Micro-pantry. For larger donations, please deliver inside the library during open hours. No cash or monetary gifts accepted, hard goods only, please.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

- Breakfast Items: Cereals • Toaster pastries • Breakfast bars
- Snack Bars • Protein Products: Peanut butter • Canned tuna • Canned chicken, or Spam
- Microwaveable meals in a cup: Soup • Pasta • Mac & Cheese, etc.
- Crackers • Menstrual care products
- Shampoo • Conditioner • Hand soap • Dish soap
- Toothpaste • Hand lotion • Bath soap bars

For safety:

- Commercially packaged products only, no homemade items
- Expired or opened/used items will be discarded

A Shout Out of Appreciation

Since February, two local businesses, **Staples in Frandor** and **FedEx-Kinkos in Okemos**, deserve our praise for saving and donating used stock boxes to the Friends. With the increased number of books being collected and taken to storage during the pandemic year, we've been in dire need of boxes. In the true spirit of community collaboration these two firms have come forward to help us out. Each week, Friends' members Sue and Andy Steffel make the rounds to collect the boxes used to pack this week's collection of books. In a business there are always individuals who make things happen, in this case the store managers. A special thank you to Staples general manager, Phillip Crittenden and manager, Amber Marks; and FedEx-Kinkos manager, Justin Duffy for being so willing to make the extra effort to help us.



Susan Steffel with Justin Duffy of FedEx-Kinkos



Amber Marks of Staples in Frandor helping carry boxes with Susan Steffel.



Amber Marks of Staples in Frandor helping carry boxes with Susan Steffel.

One further note of gratitude to local business, **College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk**. They sent over three of their brawny movers to help haul the Friends' Used Book "collection" to larger storage quarters. Over the year of collecting books our small storage space had filled up. More room was necessary to continue taking in book donations. College Hunks stepped forward and donated their services! The mission was accomplished in just three hours! How truly supportive of our dear Okemos Library. Thank you, thank you.

We truly appreciate the collaboration and support of these local businesses.

A Big . . . Thank You!!



There's Still Time to Donate

BOOK DONATIONS: Those who wish to contribute books to our Used Book Sale can still do so. Do not bring your used book donations to the library. The Friends will pick-up your donation at your home. Call Book Sale Coordinator Jim Tellner at 517-775-3959, or email at jmct1965@aol.com to arrange a pickup. Tax Deductible Forms are still available at the pickup.



We can't wait to see our many book-loving, book-buying friends again.

See you in July!



517-347-2021

Okemos, MI 48864

4321 Okemos Road

Okemos Library

Friends of the Hope Borbas