



746 Lakeside Dr. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Think outside the books.



Join Friends of the EGR Library today!
www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org
Like us on Facebook!

Your membership helps support the EGR Library.



Please visit www.kdl.org/events for a full list of Friends sponsored programs.

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Book Sale

FRIENDS OF THE EGR LIBRARY BOOK SALE in MAY!

The snow is gone and summer will be here before we know it. If you are looking for a good book, DVD, or CD for relaxing and enjoying the warmer weather, plan to attend our **Semi-Annual Book Sale!** Our next sale will be Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19, 2019.

We accept donations of gently used books all year long for our Semi-Annual Book Sales. Simply drop them off at the library information desk. Donations are tax deductible and tax receipts are available for your convenience. If you are interested in volunteering at the book sale, please go to our website www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org and send a message via the "Contact Us" link on the Volunteer page.



Funds raised at the semi-annual used book sales help to support enrichment programs and new materials for the EGR library. We hope to see you at the May sale!

—Andrea Williams, Book Sale Chair

SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 17-18-19!

Members' Pre-sale	Fri. May 17, 6:30 - 8:30pm Join at the library, at the sale or via www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org
General Sale	Sat. May 18, 9am - 5pm
Bag Sale	Sun. May 19, 9am - 3pm First bag \$7, each additional bag \$5, no limit

Lower level in the EGR Parks & Recreation Department
750 Lakeside Dr SE 49506

QUESTIONS?
Call 616-784-2007

FOOTNOTES



Newsletter

Spring 2019

Kyle Irwin Fund Provides Board Book Set of City Bugs for StoryTime

The Friends of the Library annually honors Kyle Irwin by purchasing books in her name. This year a set of board books was chosen. *City Bugs* by Antonia Banyard has been a favorite with the little ones and their parents! (*Irwin, cont. on p. 5*)



City Bugs by Antonia Banyard

The EGR Library Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary!

The Friends organization was established in 1958 specifically to establish a public library in the city of East Grand Rapids. The venture was successful. 500 citizens became Friends during a door-to-door campaign. The East Grand Rapids branch of the Kent County Library System opened in Gaslight Village on February 28, 1959 at 2168 Wealthy SE. This site was originally (*Anniversary, cont. on p. 5*)

Spring Book Sale
May 17-18-19

Ice Breakers by Grand Rapids Artist Chris LaPorte Finds a Home in the East Grand Rapids Community Center

The Friends provided funding to help bring the monumental life-size pencil drawing "Ice Breakers" by Chris LaPorte to the EGR Community Center. LaPorte, a Grand Rapids artist, is known for his panoramic pencil drawing *Cavalry* which won the 2010 ArtPrize. It is an artwork that touched the hearts of many in the West Michigan community. LaPorte is an art professor at Aquinas and also works on commission.

In 2015, LaPorte met with Mary Dersch, curator of the EGR History Room, to look at uniquely East Grand Rapids photographs. He was inspired by the 1910 photograph of the men of the "Consumers Ice House Gang on Reeds Lake." Consumers Ice Company was an important business on our lake from 1894 through 1924. Its three large ice houses stood on the property currently occupied by the EGR Middle School soccer field. Reeds Lake ice was highly prized. In the days before electric refrigerators, blocks of ice were harvested from the lake and delivered to homes (*Ice Breakers, Cont. on p. 3*)



Ice Breakers by Chris LaPorte, 2hb pencil on paper, 8' x 12'
Installed in the upper level atrium of the East Grand Rapids Community Center, February 8, 2019



Greetings from the Board President



Your generosity allows us to *think outside the books...*

The **Friends of the East Grand Rapids Library** (founded in 1958) has a long, rich history like our wonderful community. While the material world has changed greatly since its inception, the foundation of its goal to provide top-notch library services and a community space accessible and relevant to all remains steadfast. To keep pace with these changing times, our wonderful library has morphed itself into a space that has become so much more than just a place to check out a book. It truly is a place of community—a place to meet, a place to create, a place to explore. This metamorphosis would not have been possible without the support of our generous members and volunteers.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this success. If you aren't a member of our **Friends of the Library** family, I invite you to get involved. Your membership is put to good use to fund projects and programs beyond the scope of what millage dollars allow. As a bonus, members are granted early access to our semi-annual book sales. In addition to our members, our volunteers play a key role in supporting our mission and success. Please consider joining us on the volunteer front. Opportunities range from helping with the Friends Corner Book Shop and semi-annual book sales to serving on the Board of Directors. We'd love to hear from you!

Check us out at www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.com

—Shellie Adamy, Board President

Your Friends Membership Supports the Library

It has been an eventful start to the year! An extended power outage in February had the library running on a generator for nearly three days. While there were no elevators operational, most of the electrical outlets worked, and we were able to have most computers working. Given the number of people in East Grand Rapids and surrounding areas who had no power for a number of days, the staff were glad to be able to offer a warm place to take kids and charge devices.

The third week of March was also eventful with a burst water pipe and damage to the carpeting upstairs and downstairs, as well as some drywall and electrical damage in the lower level. The great news was only 70 books were damaged! It took a few weeks to get things dried out and repaired. We are happy to have all the square footage once again available to library users! Thank you to the **Friends of the Library** for helping move most of the Teen collection to be stored in a safe place. And thank you to all of the library users for your patience and understanding with the limitations of the building while repairs were being made.

Programming must go on! Staff at the Parks and Recreation Department helped by providing space for children's programs after the burst pipe and after a week or so we were able to use the room in the library, but with one wall blocked off. Many fun hours of Rhyme time, Toddlertime and Babytime took place as usual. Some wonderful programs, including making paper dahlias, two finance programs (one for teens), a history of Jacobson's Department store and book discussions made for a great series of programs for adults this spring. On to summer!

—Dawn Lewis, EGR Library Manager



Above: Plastic offers protection from water. Below: Fans dry the carpets in the Teen library. Photos courtesy of Mary Dersch.



(*Anniversary, cont. from p. 1*) a private home, but has housed the following businesses: The Bagpiper, Molesta Real Estate and currently, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors. The Friends would officially incorporate as an organization in May 1959.

The first EGR Library librarian was Betty Garver. She was assisted by one staff member that shelved books and helped at the circulation desk. The library consisted



Betty Garver, the first EGR Library librarian, reads to kids at our first location in 1959.

of 700 square feet with an initial collection of 1,700 Kent County Library books, a loan of 1,100 books from the Michigan State Library in Lansing and books purchased by the Friends of the East Grand Rapids Library. Library hours were 1:30 to 6pm and 6:30 to 9pm Wednesday and Friday, and from 10:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30 to 5:30pm Saturday. Books and staff were supplied by the Kent County Library System and paid through county revenues. The city of EGR was responsible for maintaining the building and its contents. The city also paid into a County library fund.

The library remained at this location until 1960 when it moved across the street to the shopping center, into the storefront currently occupied by H&R Block. The library would remain there until it moved to its current location in the summer of 1969, becoming part of the East Grand Rapids Community Complex.

—Mary Dersch, Board Historian

(*Irwin, cont. from p. 1*) Kyle Irwin was once a member of the Friends of the Library board and was an important EGR Library fundraiser. In 1987, she was influential in helping the library expand to two floors, growing from 5,500 feet to 11,000 square feet. She has been a faithful library supporter and was very involved in our library expansion and renovation in 2005 to 2006 when we grew from 11,000 to 28,000 square feet.

—Mary Dersch, Board Historian

Got Used Books? The Library Will Take Them!

The Friends of the EGR Library wish to thank the many people who have donated books, CDs, and DVDs to us. Due to your wonderful generosity we are able to have our book sales and the proceeds in turn help to support our wonderful library.

If you would like to donate items to us, it's easy. Just bring your items to the library any time it's open. Be sure to ask for a receipt if you'd like one for tax purposes. We currently accept books, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs. We do not sell damaged items, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, or magazines (except for older, collectible issues).

If you'd like to stock your personal library, come visit our Corner Book Shop. We put many of the book donations in this ongoing sale on the upper level of the library. It's open whenever the library is open. Books are separated into popular categories on the shelves. They're in very good condition and we sell at bargain prices.

Recent releases are \$4, Adult Hardcovers \$3, Adult Paperbacks \$2, Teen and Children's Hardcovers \$2, and Children's Paperbacks \$1. Some books are specially priced. Friends volunteers help to sort the donations and stock the Corner Book Shop a few times a week, so the selection changes frequently.

—Mimi Martin, Chair, Corner Book Shop



1987 photo of Vern Ehlers presenting a proclamation to the EGR Library upon its expansion. L-R: Kyle Irwin, Mayor Nyal Deems, Library Manager Gail O. DeYoung, unknown, Louise Carpenter and Senator Vern Ehlers.

Staff Spotlight

Kelaine Mish

I began working in libraries at the ripe old age of 15 as a page at the Grand Blanc branch of Genesee District Library. Fast forward too many years to count after receiving my Masters of Museum Administration and Architecture History, 8 years of work at Mackinac State



Historic Parks, several years of curriculum programming at house museums in Lansing and Ypsilanti, and a stint as Director of Membership and Annual Giving at the Holland Museum, I am enjoying my 19th year at KDL at the EGR branch. I've done programming for babies, toddlers, teens, and everything tech... and most recently celebrating my job as driver and librarian on our new bookmobile! So glad every day that I went back to school a few years ago and got another Masters in Library and Information Science so I can provide the best possible information to our library patrons. Our library by the lake is my favorite place to be! Thank you to the **Friends of the Library** for all you do to make that relaxing beauty possible.

—Kelaine Mish

(Ice Breakers, cont. from p. 1) throughout EGR and Grand Rapids for ice boxes to keep food cold. The Peré Marquette Railroad had a spur that came down to the ice houses to take the ice away to Grand Rapids and other cities and even as far away as Chicago where it was used in the meat packing industry. At its zenith, Consumers Ice Company employed as many as 500 men throughout the year. The men of the “Ice House Gang” were summertime laborers whose job it was to keep the ice moving in the ice houses and also to pack blocks of ice into the household delivery trucks and train cars.

LaPorte received permission from the City of East Grand Rapids City Manager, Mayor and Commissioners to place the finished drawing in the upper level atrium of the EGR Community Center, provided that he do the fundraising. The City did not provide any funding for this artwork. LaPorte completed the life-size drawing by 2016 and finished fundraising in January 2019. The EGR Community Foundation managed the intake of funds.

We wish to thank the following businesses and individuals who joined with the Friends to make this breathtaking piece of local history possible: Bissell Incorporated, Rachel and Martin Stein and Family, the LaPorte/Fox Families, the McAlleenan Family, the Turmelle Family, Vos Glass, and the Dersch Family.

—Mary Dersch, Board Historian

KDL Bookmobile

280 Requested Special Events and 5,800 visitors

The Kent County District Library's Bookmobile brings books, magazines, videos, movies, and internet access to your location. Go to kdl.org/bookmobile, click the 'request a visit' link, and fill out the form. The KDL staff will contact you soon. Then anticipate the fun and knowledge heading your way.

The Bookmobile is available for all county residents and organizations. KDL's book collection includes 9 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Bosnian, English, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese.

The Bookmobile is under the management of Sara Proano, KDL Manager of Community Engagement, and Joyanne Huston-Swanson, Outreach Specialist and Schedule Coordinator. Volunteers and staff include Bookmobile operators Kevin Kammeraad (and his animated assistant Wimee the Robot), EGR Librarian Kelaine Mish, and CAL Librarian Adam Flynn.

We are grateful to everyone who enables this vehicle to provide enjoyable features and programs to the citizens of Kent County.

—Dave Padula



Kent County District Library Events & Activities Magazine KALEIDOSCOPE

The *Kaleidoscope* magazine is published quarterly by KDL and is available at each local library branch and online at <https://www.kdl.org/events>. Within its colorful pages you'll find information about events available to everyone.

Activities such as: programs for families with children, seminars for teens about how to handle money, recommendations for age appropriate books, writer conferences for adults, poetry recommendations for kids and adults, books chosen and recommended by kids and adults, live music concerts, programs specific to a particular branch



Stop by your local branch library and pick up a copy.
It's **FREE**

library such as EGR's "Reads to the Rhythm" Series, current information about branch hours of operation, and local used book sales.

The spring 2019 edition has articles about how to sign up your children in grades K-3 up for the "Mission Read" program so that they'll be able to pass the new "Read By Grade Three" law. It also explains KDL's new High School diploma program, "Career Online High School." Another important KDL goal is to provide a library card to every student in Kent County and this issue covers this far-reaching effort and so much more!

—Dave Padula

Your Friends of the EGR Library provide funding for many programs and activities above and beyond what Kent District Library is able to provide. Here is a listing of many of the programs and activities that the Friends have supported and will support from winter through summer 2019:

YOUTH PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Teen Zones: supplies for programs – food, arts and crafts supplies

"EGR Rhythm and Reads" programs Sundays in March

Board book set for StoryTime (Kyle Irwin funds)

Sensory consumables and various line items for "StoryTime" and "ToddlerTime"

KDL Lab creative toys and supplies

Construction of custom wooden table by self-checkout computers downstairs

Author visit: Denise Brennan-Nelson, author of *Tallulah: Mermaid of the Great Lakes* and other



L-R: Miss Monica and Carol McDonald

children's books (March 7)

Harry Potter Yule Ball: Supplies for children's librarian Monica's attendance and participation

Refreshments for "Fifth Grade Art Reception" in March

Movies in the Park – Summer 2019

Movies in the Park – Summer 2019 – teen popcorn and candy supplies

ADULT PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Helped to fund and bring the monumental pencil drawing *Ice Breakers*, by ArtPrize artist Chris LaPorte, to the EGR Community Center

Snacks for "Morning Movies for adults with cognitive special needs"

Wooden plant stand behind upstairs information/circulation desk

Reupholstering of chairs by the fireplace (cost shared with City)

Basic Home Maintenance program (March 14)

Food and Finances program (April 9)

DIY Paper Dahlias program (April 11)

Ethics Book Club (monthly)

Jacobson's in Gaslight Village: We Remember! Program (April 17)

Hot Books Book Club (monthly, September – June)

4th of July Parade – participation & supplies, including candy for distribution

