

National Friends of Libraries Week 2022

Mechanicsburg, PA -- Cumberland County's public libraries will be spending the week of October 16-22, 2022, celebrating their Friends of the Library groups as part of the 17th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week.

The Friends of the Library are all-volunteer nonprofit organizations that focus on raising funds for their public library to supplement governmental income for vital programs and services. From book sales to bake sales and auctions, the libraries' Friends' groups raise tens of thousands of dollars each year with events and activities that require more "feet on the ground" than paid library staff can provide.

Karen Shirey, volunteer coordinator for the Friends of Amelia Givin Library, provides an example of some of the services the Friends provide: "Friends of Amelia Givin Library in Mount Holly Springs, PA, had a busy September. We set up and served as sales staff for 4-day Book Sale that raised \$2,200+ for the Library. We also generated a ton of goodwill by being part of Mt. Holly Festival Day where we gave 150+ free books to the children who attended, provided Jimbo the Clown balloon artist who made 120+ animal/creatures for the children, and sold coffee, sweet rolls and fresh fruit to raise money for Friends. We work hard, play hard, and have a lot of fun doing so. We're now preparing for a change of officers at our November Meeting as we plan a busy holiday season at our beautiful little library."



Jimbo the Clown, sponsored by Friends of the Amelia Givin Library

Jeffrey D. Swope, executive director of Bosler Memorial Library, comments, "The Friends of Bosler have existed for more than 60 years and have provided support well into the seven figures for operating costs, special projects, and capital support of the library during those years. Without them, Bosler would not have been able to provide the high-quality collections, programs, and services to the citizens of our community."

Please visit <https://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org> for more information about Cumberland County's public libraries and their Friends' groups, including ways to contribute or volunteer.

National Friends of Libraries Week is coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united.