

Standing in front of the Hemlock Farms Community Library with the 50th Anniversary banner are members of the Library Board: Neil Barmann, left, Joyce Morris, Pat Quinn, Cheryl Schmitt, Kathie Waibel, Terri Greenwald, Anita Jorgensen, Alice Lindars, and Dave Zlasney. Missing: Anne-Marie Zenie.

Introduction

Hemlock Farms Community Library Turns 50!

By **KATHIE WAIBEL, Library President**

The Hemlock Farms Library has many volunteer opportunities available. We have three major branches of our team, all dedicated to providing the best possible experience to the members of the community. All the work and activities the library provides are guided by a 10-member board.

These are the people who greet you at the desk, process your returns and check-outs, and help you find just the right book. They are also responsible for a multitude of tasks including book purchases, preparing the books for circulation, shelving books in the proper collections, taking inventory, and much more. Some of these volunteers have been serving at the library for more than 25 years!

Board Members

Kathie Waibel, President
 Joyce Morris, Vice President
 Neil Barmann, Treasurer
 Cheryl Schmitt, Secretary
 Anne Marie Zenie, Corresponding Secretary
 Terri Greenwald
 Anita Jorgensen
 Pat Quinn
 Alice Lindars
 David Zlasney

Reception and Many Other Library Special Projects

Doreen Bove • Frances Coluccio
 Suzanne Gennaro • Cynthia Mento
 Barbara Norris • Karen Sagaas
 Sus Serlin • Ronni Terr
 Karen Umile • Adele Vanisky

Story Time

Hemlock Farms Library has seven dedicated women who alternate putting together programs for the youngest members of our community. Each volunteer works about one week a month. The group meets several times a year to create a calendar of programs for the toddlers and pre-K children in Hemlock Farms.

During the school year, most every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. children are welcomed with their adult companion(s) for some sensory activities, a story, a craft, some music, and movement. This free, hour-long program is very popular with the youngsters and their grownups. Reservations are required and the program is limited to 12 participants.

A big thank you to Susan Bartholomew, Maria Cirillo-Lein, Doreen Bove, Carmella Livingston, Joan Mazo, Paige Ehly, and Roz Buck for their hours of preparation for these programs!



Susan Bartholomew



Maria Cirillo-Lein



Doreen Bove



Carmella Livingston



Joan Mazo



Paige Ehly



Roz Buck

Device Tech

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, coaches are available to meet with you privately in the library to assist you with your device. Just call 570-775-4200, ext. 132, to arrange for a half-hour appointment.

This program is designed to help an individual find, and understand, the applications (apps) on their device to meet their needs. A smartphone, tablet, or computer is a tool to be used for a multitude of needs in everyday life. Our coaches help you relax and become comfortable with your device.



Tech coaches Ginny Malone, left, and Juliann Beckman offer technical assistance Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment at the library.

Standing Programs

- **Book Club** – Third Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.
- **Bridge** – Mondays at 12:30 p.m.
- **Device Tech** – Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings by appointment.
- **Story Time** – Fridays at 10:00 a.m. for toddlers & pre-K and their grownups. Registration required, limited to 12 children.

Special Programs

- **Poetry & Prose** – April program open to local authors for readings.
- **Summer Reading** – open to all grade school children. Prizes earned!
- **Summer Wednesdays** – educational programs for Hemlock's youth.
- **Assorted Craft Classes** – offered at various times.

Join Us!

If you would like to join our team, we'd be interested in hearing from you. Call the library at 570-775-4200, ext. 132, or stop by. The president will contact you for an initial interview.

Hemlock Farms Community Library A Brief History

Founding Years (1974-1976)

- 1974: Irene Nagy, Rita Nabors, and Muriel Emery begin planning a community library.

Women's Club contributes \$1,400; donated books form the first collection.

- March 23, 1976: Library opens in a 12-foot-by-12-foot room in the Association Office.
- May 1, 1976: Official opening with 1,300 volumes.

A New Home and Early Growth (1976-1985)

- June 1976: Library moves to the Eileen Lupinski House on Lookout Drive.
- Mid-1970s: Women's Club Bridge Group begins meeting at the library.
- 1980: Story Hour for young children begins.
- 1985: Friends of the Library formed to support fundraising.

Expansion Era (1986-1998)

- 1986: First "Books and Bubbly" fundraiser.
- 1988: HF Board approves expansion; Art and Ellen Lemp donate \$25,000; "Fiction Room" opens
- 1995: First Summer Reading Program.
- 1996: More renovations completed; kitchen converted to office.
- 1998: First Membership Drive by Friends of the Library.

New Programs and New Spaces (2001-2006)

- 2001: "Big Buddy, Little Buddy" and "Read Around the Clock" programs launched.
- 2003: Major expansion approved by membership adds children's wing and attic storage.
- 2005: Library celebrates 30th anniversary.
- 2006: Break-in damages replica model; rebuilt by 12-year-old Jeffrey Pelzar.

Community Engagement (2013-2019)

- 2013: Book Buddies book club formed.
- 2016: "Wednesday Evenings at the Library" begins.

Continued on page 4

Hemlock Farms Community Library

Through the Years – A History

Compiled/Written by **KATHIE WAIBEL,**
ANNE-MARIE ZENIE, and **JOYCE MORRIS**

Part 1: 1974-1985

1974: Three women of the community, Irene Nagy, Rita Nabors, and Muriel Emery, met to explore the possibility of a library in Hemlock Farms. In response, the Women's Club turned over \$400 from an established Library Fund along with a gift of \$1,000 to establish a treasury. Books were donated to start a collection. Those not suitable for general circulation were sold for minimal prices.

The community provided a 12-foot-by-12-foot room at the then Association Office near the 402 entrance. Women's Club members devoted hours to accessioning the books, preparing them for circulation. Gardener Soule, then Librarian at Pike County Library, was most generous in assisting the fledgling library in countless ways. Rose Marie Chapman, a resident with publishing connections, donated 100 books and \$500 to the Library Fund. The library opened on **March 23, 1976**, but its official opening was **May 1, 1976**, with 1,300 volumes in inventory.



The building known in the early 1970s as the Eileen Lupinski House was given to the Library by the Association in June 1976.

June 1976: It soon became apparent that larger quarters were needed. The community was approached and they made a building available from the Brewster Estate on Lookout Drive known by two different early sources as the Rost House, or belonging to Mr. Ralph Blackmore, the carpenter superintendent. During the Western Heritage years (the Canadian developer who purchased the Brewster Estate), it became known as the Eileen Lupinski House, the secretary for Western Heritage Co. who lived there while sales were at their peak. On a motion from Florence Welton, then Treasurer, the house was accepted in the name of the Library Committee, sponsored by the Women's Club, but the sole responsibility of the Library Committee.

At this time, the library was a branch of the Pike

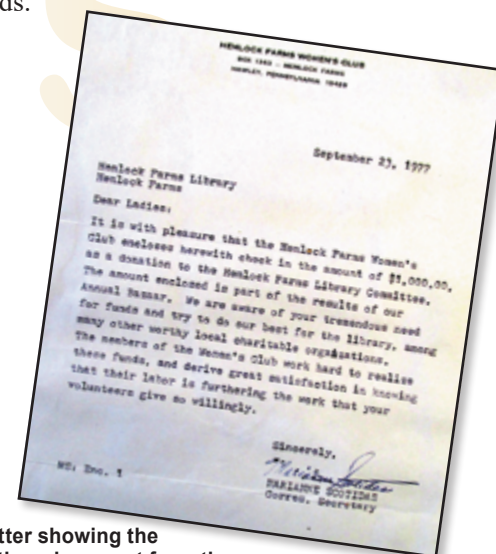
County Library and continued to receive assistance from Gardener Soule. This is no longer the case since we are a private community. Various fundraising activities were pursued, such as book fairs and lecture series (some at the Steer Barn and some at The Church at Hemlock Farms).

Mid-1970s: A Bridge group was started by the Women's Club and still meets in the library today on Monday afternoons.



In the mid-1970s, a Bridge group was formed by the Women's Club and began meeting weekly at the Library. Standing, left to right: Joan Blank, Betty Friedlaender, Thelma Severance, Bettie O'Donnell, Florence Waring, Winnie Kemp, Anne Kelly, Marilyn Hase, Martha McCue, Mary Patterson, and Rosabelle Shafran. Seated, front table, clockwise from top: Belle Rothstein, Bea Hurwitz, Barbara Neal, and Hinda Nathan. Seated, rear table, clockwise from top: Gertrude Davidson, Phyllis DiPrima, Dorothy Abramowitz, and Ruth Lange.

The library continued to grow with many new residents volunteering their expertise. Volunteers recruited by Rosabelle Shafran and trained by Ruth Lange manned the desk. The Women's Club continued its generous support, but the increasing cost of books and the need for newer books resulted in the formation of a "Friends of the Library" to raise funds.



A letter showing the continued support from the Women's Club. The money was used to purchase books.

Continued on page 4

LIBRARY BRIEF HISTORY

Continued from page 3

- 2017: Children's wing mural designed and installed.
- 2018: Graphic novel section created; books donated to Puerto Rico and India.
- 2019: Archives preserved in new archival scrapbooks.

Resilience and Innovation (2020-2021)

- 2020: COVID-19 closure; curbside pickup, email requests, and quarantined returns implemented.
- 2021: Library launches Zoom programs; Hemlock Farms Authors section created.

New Collections and Services (2022-2023)

- 2022: Presidential biography collection and Holocaust collection donated.
Device Tech program begins; "A Little About Us" article series in **Hemlock News** launched.
- 2023: Story Hour becomes Story Time; craft and gift shop added; free book bag giveaways begin.

Modernization and Outreach (2024-2025)

- 2024: Hemlock Farms supplied Library software installed: 12,000 items uploaded, full digital conversion by January 2025.
Donation made to Lahaina, Hawaii, after wildfires.
Monthly children's book recommendations begin in **Hemlock News**.
- 2025: Volunteer Profiles begin; new carpeting and sidewalks installed.
Summer book giveaway distributes 83 bags.
First Story Walk held in the fall.

Today (2026)

- Library holds more than 10,500 books and DVDs in 30+ collections.
- Open seven days a week in summer; closed Sundays the rest of the year.
- Monthly costs: \$500+ for new books, \$350 for operations.
- Supported by fundraising letters, bookstore, craft corner, and community donations.

50
YEARS

LIBRARY HISTORY

Continued from page 3

1980: Children's Librarian Marie Woods began a Story Hour Program for pre-K and Kindergarteners at the library.



Story Hour was first introduced in 1980. Children's Hour, first introduced in 1980, was every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Library under the direction of Marie Wood. Here are some of the kiddies try their hand at watercolor painting with the ready assistance of Marie.

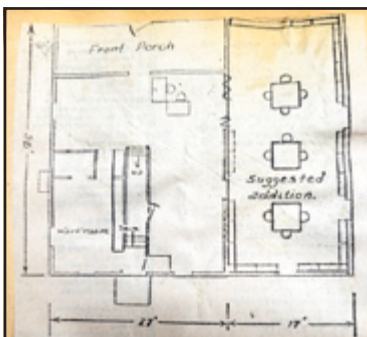


Story Telling Too is part of the Children's Hour program. Marie finds that the best way to reach the children's level is to join them on the floor. All children are cordially invited to attend!

1985: The Friends of the Hemlock Farms Library was formed to help raise money to support the library. It was disbanded in 2002 due to lack of leadership.

Part 2: 1986-2003

1982-1987: As the library grew in popularity and inventory expanded, more room was needed. Various proposals from the library staff and several committees were submitted to the Hemlock Farms Board of Directors (Board).



The Library Board petitioned HFCA to expand the library. This was one of the first proposals for the project.

June of 1986 brought the community the first "Books and Bubbly" program as a fundraiser for the library.



June 1986: the first "Books and Bubbly" production was introduced to raise money for the library's needs and programs.

1988: The Board approved an expansion plan in an August meeting with a completion date set for April 1989. According to **Hemlock News**, residents Art and Ellen Lemp contributed \$25,000 that helped fund the expansion.



The expansion project was finally approved and the ground is being broken for the new addition in May 1989.

Lemps Help Library

To the Editor:
We all enjoyed reading Lanette Garabedian's feature article about the Hemlock Farms Library in the April edition of **Hemlock News**.

However, without diminishing the terrific cooperation of Mrs. Weseman and the support of the Association and community in helping this project along, the members of the Library Committee would like to clarify one the statements in the article. It was only through the generous donation made by Ellen and Art Lemp that the new addition was made possible. Until this contribution was made, the new addition was only a dream. We are fortunate in having such public-spirited supporters in the community to help make dreams come true.

Marie Wood
For the Library Committee

Dedication of the new addition is reported in the May 1990 issue of Hemlock News.

Hemlock Herald, May 23, 1990

Library Addition Dedication Set Sunday, 2 to 4

By BETTIE O'DONNELL

The Board of the Hemlock Farms Library cordially invites all members of the community to join them for the Dedication of the Library Addition, and an Open House on Sunday, May 27, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

The new wing makes it possible to offer many more volumes of reference material, recreational reading, current magazines, local newspapers, a bulletin board for cultural events in the area, and an expanded children's room.

Join us in honoring Art and Ellen Lemp for their financial donation toward the new addition, and in honoring Pearl Abrams for securing much of the new shelving.

Refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY HISTORY

Continued from page 4



A dedication of the Hemlock Farms Library addition took place on Sunday, May 27. Pictured are Friends of the Hemlock Farms Library President Florence Bravin, left; Ellen and Art Lemp; Hemlock Farms Library Committee President Bettie O'Donnell; and Donna, Aaron, and Judy Abrams. The honorees were Art and Ellen Lemp for their generous donation allowing the addition to be built. Also honored was the family of the late Pearl Abrams, for securing much of the new shelving for the entire library. The new wing makes it possible to offer many more volumes of reference material, recreational reading, current magazines, local newspapers, a bulletin board for cultural arts events in the area, and expanded children's room. The Friends of the Library provided refreshments which were enjoyed by the many who attended.

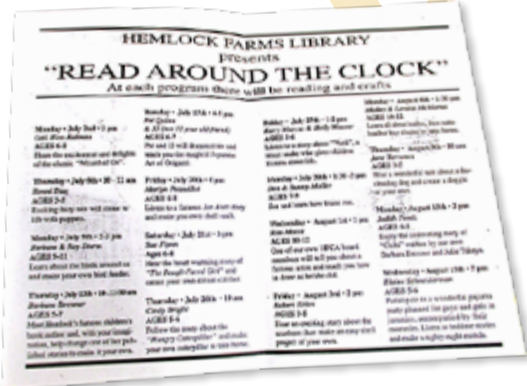
Inside the brand-new addition. Special guests were Eileen and Art Lemp who contributed \$25,000 towards the project.

1995: The first Summer Reading program was introduced at the library for the children in the community.

1996: Some renovations and remodeling, including converting the kitchen area to an office, were completed.

May 1998: The first fundraising membership drive was conducted by the Friends of Hemlock Farms Library.

2001: Gail Blau-Kalman led the Friends of the Hemlock Farms Library in sponsoring two summer programs: "Big Buddy, Little Buddy," where older children read to younger ones, and "Read Around the Clock," a series of summer programs for the children of Hemlock Farms.



In 2001, Gail Blau-Kalman organized a series of summer programs for the youth of Hemlock Farms, "Read Around the Clock."

2003: A Library Expansion Project, funded by the Capital Improvement Fee fund, was voted on and approved by members. With this expansion, we now have a children's wing and an expanded attic upstairs for storage.



News of a library addition to be built this fall throws Library President Bettie O'Donnell, left, and Marianne Scotidar into a state of elation.



Members of the Library Board Stella Muniz, front left, Cosie Hathway, Blanche Glass, and Norm Welson; Joyce McRae, back left, Elaine Kindred, Anne Leacock, Alice McDonald and Dot Duncan.

A Very Happy Library Board

By MARY BETH CONNORS

At the annual election in July, the membership voted to approve the Library Renovation/Expansion project. "This is a very happy Library Board. Everyone is on Cloud Nine," said Library Board President Anne Leacock. "We can hardly wait for the architect to get back to us." The money for this project will come from the Capital Improvement Fee

(CIF) fund, and will have no impact on member's dues.



Photos outlining a CIF project to expand the library for the second time. The project was approved by the membership in July of 2003.

Part 3: 2004-2019

2004: In preparation for the expansion, the giant "Library Tree," a scarlet oak, was cut down. The wood from the tree was saved and used for various projects in Hemlock Farms.

The Stately Scarlet Oak Lives On

By MARY BETH CONNORS

On Tuesday morning, September 7, the stately Scarlet Oak, located next to the library, came down to make way for the expansion of the library. The heaving of the Scarlet Oak took three hours. (And I was there.) Acorns from the tree have been collected and will be propagated to establish viable offspring what will be planted, protected, and allowed to grow. Natural Resource Coordinator Marian Keegan will be working with an arborist to graft branch buds to rootstock collected from the tree to establish new seedlings for planting. Lumber from the logs will be sawn and kind-dried and will be used to make tables and shelves for the library.



The Scarlet Oak stands 100 feet into the air, with a crown that spreads to just under 100 feet.



Natural Resource Coordinator Marian Keegan counts the growth rings of the Scarlet Oak to determine its age. "I calculate it's 130 years old," said Marian.



A huge scarlet oak tree stood outside the library and had to be removed in order for the expansion to begin. The wood from the tree was used for various projects in the community.



The new addition—it's getting there!



The almost renovated library.

The new interior and exterior of the expansion. This area is now the Fiction Room.

2005: A plaque from Management and the Board was presented to the volunteers commemorating the 30th anniversary of the library.

August 7, 2006: A sad day for the library. A break-in was discovered and some mischievous damage done. A replica of the original building, created in 1996 by the husband of one of the volunteers, was smashed. Twelve-year-old Jeffrey Pelzar learned of the damage and spent hours rebuilding the structure. It sits proudly on display in the library today.

Continued on page 6

LIBRARY HISTORY

Continued from page 5

Library is Vandalized

By MARY BETH CONNORS

When the Hemlock Farms Library opened on Monday, August 7, at 9:30 a.m., volunteers discovered that the library had been vandalized. Public Safety was called immediately and arrived on the scene within two minutes.

The Pennsylvania State Police arrived on the scene, gathered evidence, and began to conduct an investigation. The vandals took a small amount of cash that was on hand, smashed a replica of the original library building, and threw books and circulation cards throughout the library.

According to Public Safety Chief Bill Hamby, this crime is a burglary and is considered a felony.

"A burglary is a crime where an individual or individuals enter a building or occupied struc-



Vandals threw circulation cards about.

ture with the intent of committing a crime," said Hamby. The Public Safety Department and the Pennsylvania State Police will continue to investigate this crime.

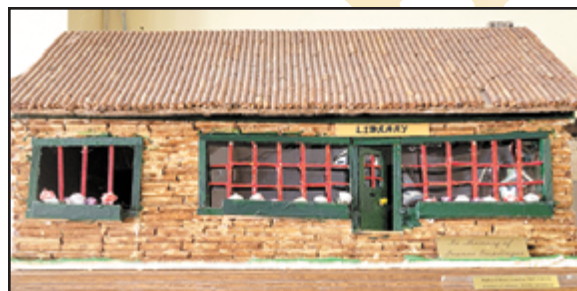
Library volunteers spent all day Monday placing things back in order and the library reopened on Tuesday.



Books were strewn about when vandals broke into the Hemlock Farms Library sometime between at the time the library closed on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and opened again on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.



The Pennsylvania State Police arrive to investigate the vandalism that was discovered by library volunteers on Monday morning, August 7.



On August 7, 2006, the Library was broken into and vandalized. One of the casualties of the crime was the destruction of a model of the library building. It was painstakingly rebuilt by young Jeffrey Pelzar and still sits on display in the reception area.

2013: A book club named "Book Buddies," was formed and meet in the library the third Tuesday of the month.

July and August 2016: "Wednesday Evenings at the Library" program was introduced. These programs usually involved reading some literature to youngsters and then a craft or activity.

LIBRARY NEWS



On August 11, Mary Brettenbach read a story about Amelia Bedelia and her camping experience. The children then decorated cupcakes and created ants in a patch of grass and dirt. Yummy!



On July 27, more than 45 adults and youngsters attended "Wednesday Nights at the Library." Guest musician Dan Marcus, left, with Bluestone 733 musicians Maran Waxenberg and Liz Taub as they entertain the crowd.

Children's Evening Program

By KATHIE WAIBEL

The Hemlock Farms Library's first summer program was presented by Kelly Stagen on July 6. Kelly read a story, "Uncle Andy" (a story about Andy Warhol) and then did a mixed-media project with the children that reflected the story. The program continued during July and August.

"We had at least 10-12 children, with parents and/or grandparents, attending each evening program," said Pat Tromans. She continued, "Everyone had such a good time that they are looking forward to next summer!"

The Hemlock Farms Library Board members extend their thanks to the presenters and to all who attended. They made this a very successful program!

Now that September is here, remember the Pre-school Story Hour at the library on Tuesdays, September through June, at 10:30 a.m. No pre-registration required. If you have any questions, contact Rhoda at 570-775-9035.



On August 17, Fran Bowen showed the children how to make a bubble mixture and create wands. Outside the library, the children use the mixture to blow bubbles!

Bubble mixture

- 1 1/2 cup water
 - 1/2 cup dish soap
 - 2 tbsps glycerin oil
 - 1 tsp baking powder
- Stir well, and have fun!

Hemlock Farms Library
117 Lookout Drive
570775-4200, ext. 132

Hours
During inclement weather, please call to confirm if open.
Monday: 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday: 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CALENDAR

Book Discussion Group
3rd Tuesday/month
September 20, *The Japanese Lover* by Isobari Akemitsu
October 20, *After You* by Jojo Moyes
All welcome! Contact Eliene at 570-775-2755.

Pre-School Story Hour
Tuesdays, September through June
10:30 a.m. No pre-registration required.
Contact Rhoda at 570-775-9035.

Check out the Book Sale area!



On August 18, Cliff Bowen read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and the children each create their own caterpillars.

Summer evening programs were introduced.

June 2017: Artist Susan Mentzel designed a mural for the wall in the children's wing of the library. With the help of Denise and Al Savincki and Jill Alecci it was painted and framed.

2018: The Library Board decided to create a section (at the time: one shelf) for graphic novels. That section has grown to encompass 240 volumes today including many series. Two "outside the gate" needs were helped by the library: children's and youth books were shipped to victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and a small rural village in Rajasthan, India, was sent two boxes of books through the efforts of Gail and Steve Kalman.

2019: Our vast collection of memories and newspaper clippings was deteriorating. Arlene Roberti and Phyllis Delaney spent many months transferring all the documents into archival quality scrapbooks.

Part 4: 2020-2023

March 2020: The world-wide epidemic of COVID-19 reached Hemlock Farms. The library closed due to strict regulations from the Center for Diseases Control. As the months passed, volunteers worked with the Recreation Department and national library agencies to create a plan for the lending of books and DVDs. We established an email address and a Facebook Group page. Patrons were encouraged to call us or send an email requesting books. We opened three days a week to allow for the pickup of books. Returned books were quarantined for 72 hours before recirculating. Limits

Continued on page 7



Nolan Fedorisin, foregoer; Aubrey Fedorisin dance!



Many thanks to Denise Savincki, left, Susan Mentzel, and Jill Alecci.

Photos by Lis Baumann

Susan Mentzel, Denise Savincki, and Jill Alecci pose with a new mural that Susan created. The mural brightens our children's area!

On July 20, Samson Pettah, left, and Nicky Shevchenko pose with storytellers extraordinaire Caroline Romano, Christine San Jose, and Marjette Mender, who told tales to Hemlock Farms children.



On August excellent the event's success!

"Books that..."



Photos by Lis Baumann

Library Board President Pat Tromans and Library Board Vice President Joyce Morris, right, thank Arlene Roberti for all her hard work in putting these new versions of the Hemlock Farms Library scrapbooks together. "We hope our neighbors in Hemlock Farms will stop by and look over these scrapbooks when they have time," says Pat. "There is a lot of information here!"

Library volunteer Arlene Roberti spent more than a year repairing and replacing the Hemlock Farms Library's scrapbooks of news articles and clippings dating back to the 1970s. "When I saw that these pieces of our history were crumbling, tearing, and fading, I felt I had to do something to keep them from disappearing entirely," Arlene explains. "I spent a total of two days a week, two hours each day, cutting these clippings from the old scrapbooks and safely moving them to newer books with protective sleeves on each page." For Arlene, the project has been personally rewarding and full of nostalgia, since she has been in Hemlock Farms since 1973. Arlene further explains, "Yes, I've been taking a trip down memory lane with each book I create!" Here, she proudly displays her handiwork.

After hours of work by Arlene Roberti and Phyllis Delaney clippings from *Hemlock News* are preserved in acid free scrapbooks. Pat Tromans, left, Arlene, and Joyce Morris stand behind the display of books.



PAGE 3: CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM HFCA AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Library Board Member Lynn Cavignino, right, hands a book to Monica and Thomas Simon. Residents can email book requests to thehemlockfarmslibrary@gmail.com. See page 50 for more information.

Volunteers stepped up to get the community supplied with reading material during the COVID-19 epidemic. An email account was created so members could request books. They would then be bagged and labeled for distribution. When books were returned, they were put in quarantine before being returned to circulation.

LIBRARY HISTORY

Continued from page 6

were set on how many items could be borrowed at a time. Due to the precautions necessary, Library volunteers were very busy behind the scenes: still buying books, preparing to lend books, and quarantining and cleaning books. COVID cases rose and fell during 2020 and early 2021 causing intermittent service.

2021: The Library opened a Zoom account and held meetings and even an afternoon of poetry. The library dedicated an area featuring Hemlock Farms authors which has now grown to 75 published works.

2022: Resident Kathleen Flynn donated a collection of biographies on all the United States presidents and many of the first ladies. There are now 109 books in that collection. Later that year, another resident, Alan Zuckerman, donated a collection of books on the Holocaust. A new program was initiated in September, “Device Tech” offered help to residents with any electronic devices. This program has volunteers available by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The library began a series of articles entitled “A Little About Us” in **Hemlock News** outlining programs, library procedures, and general news.



Library Story Hour with Miss Rhoda comes to an end after 15 years with her sad retirement from the program. (See photos of the new team of presenters on page 2.)

2023: The year began with a new take on an old program. After 15 years, the beloved Miss Rhoda Barr retired from Story Hour for toddlers and pre-K children. Several women volunteered to continue the program—it was revamped and renamed Story Time and moved to a new day, on Friday mornings. A section of the library was dedicated to a craft and gift shop where sales benefit library programs. We had acquired so many books through donations that we decided to give bags of books away for free.

Part 5: 2024-2026

2024: The Association purchased library software for the library. A group of three people, HFCA IT staff Demetri Reese, Kathie Waibel, and Ginny Malone, spent six weeks uploading 12,000 books and DVDs. This was completed by mid-October 2024. Training volunteers began immediately. By

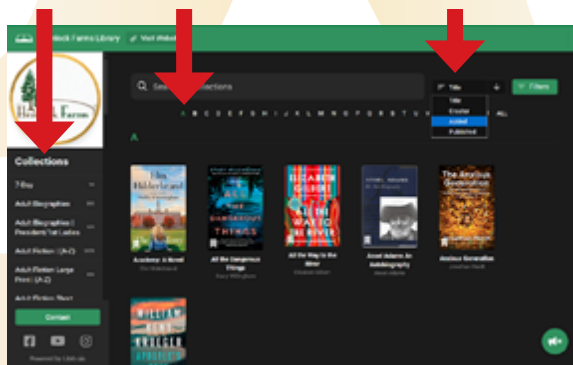


IT Director Jim Houston and his assistant Demetri Reese scan books into the new library software, Libib. The job of scanning more than 10,000 books and DVDs took Demetri and two volunteers, Kathie Waibel and Ginny Malone, six weeks of work.

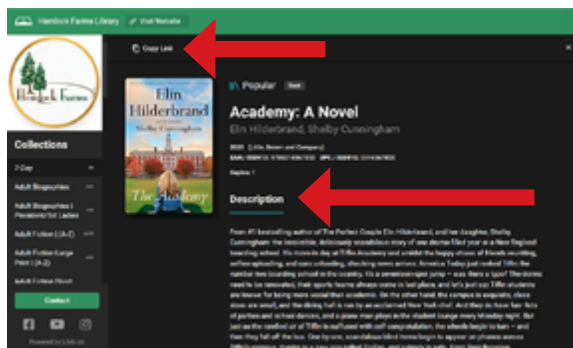
January 2025 the library fully converted to the computerized system from the old card files. We are now better organized and have better control of inventory. The IT Department made this program accessible to the members of the community. It can be accessed at: libib.com/u/hfca-library.

Wildfires in Hawaii devastated the town of Lahaina. The library made a contribution to the library in Lahaina to help with the purchase of books, once again helping others outside our gates. In December of that year, the library was asked by *Hemlock News* to spotlight four books each month to recommend for youngsters in the community.

2025: In January, *Hemlock News* began to feature “Library Volunteer Profiles” in the newspaper. In February, the library closed for a week for new



Members can access the new software at www.libib.com/u/hfca-library. Indicated on the left is a scroll down list of collections showing the number of books in each collection. Collections can be selected and viewed several ways (see arrow right): by title, creator (author), date added, or published date. Then the search can be narrowed down by choosing the alphabet (middle arrow).



Click on an image of any book of interest and a description will display.

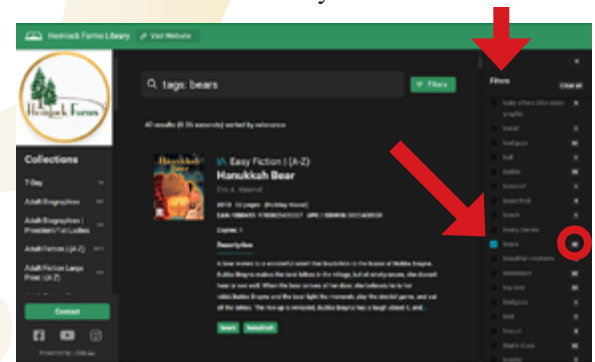
carpet installation throughout the entire building (an enormous task). Later that month, new sidewalks were installed for the entrance to the building.

During the summer, we held another free book give-away and a record number of 83 bags of books found new homes!

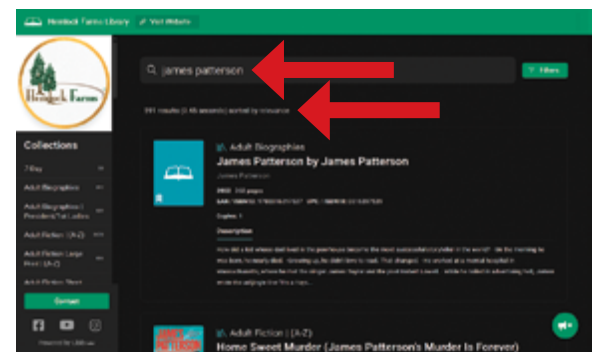
In the fall, we held our first “Story Walk,” a program led by Susan Bartholomew, where children read a story page-by-page while walking around the backyard with an adult.

Present: There are more than 10,500 books and DVDs in our inventory. We have organized the books in more than 60 collections. The library is open seven days a week in the summer; during the rest of the year we are closed on Sundays.

The library continues to need financial support from the members of the community. Although the building maintenance and utilities are supported by HFCA, each month we strive to order the newest books. During 2025, our average monthly book expense was more than \$500, and operating expenses averaged about \$350 per month. Our annual expenses were slightly more than \$10,600. In order to support these needs, periodic fundraising letters are mailed, there is a permanent book store and craft corner, and we gratefully accept private contributions of money and books.



Another search feature (a work in progress) is the filter tab (far right arrow). Clicking on a topic or series name will give you a group of books related to the search, for instance “bears” shows there are 40 books so far in this group and they will all display for you to browse through.



One of the easiest ways to search for a specific book or author is to go to the top of the screen by the magnifying glass and type in your search. The example shows “James Patterson,” and you’ll see there are 585 results relevant to that query.

He Said, She Said...



Members' Comments About the Library

Larry Snyder: *I'm in the library once a week. It's my favorite Hemlock amenity. The volunteer workers are very much appreciated.*

Georgene Snyder: *I have been a frequent visitor to the library for 38 years. Having a community library, run by volunteers, sets our community apart from all other communities. My most used, very favorite amenity. Happy Anniversary!*

Rich and Joy Vera: *My wife and I have been frequenting the Hemlock Farms library since we first moved into the community in 2020. We find the library a valuable resource staffed by volunteers for the benefit of the entire Hemlock Farms community. Whether you're looking for educational or entertaining material, the library has got you covered.*

Patty Magie: *I have supported the library since I worked with Art Lemp, who made a substantial donation for the building addition (now known as the Fiction Room). My grown children and my grandchildren have enjoyed the many activities offered. Hemlock Farms is truly blessed to have all the library volunteers who make these programs possible.*

Adrienne Cordani: *I've been using the library for at least 10 years. What I like best are the new additions. I would read the list of top books and was delighted to find the Hemlock Farms library had them. It also goes without saying that all the volunteers are so helpful. I think Hemlock is very lucky to have such a wonderful library so close to home.*

Mary Weinstein: *I have been using the library for many years. The large selection of books in a small library, including the latest books on *The New York Times* best-seller list, is amazing.*

Pete Ferris: *I've been using the library for the past 25 years. There are plenty of books to choose from. I follow several authors—my current favorite is Brad Thor.*

Bill Signorile: *I've been coming to the library since I moved here in 1996. The selection of books is great. Some of my favorites are: Baldacci, Connolly, Scottline, Box, Margolin, and Castillo.*



Tarry Truit: *There are lots of recent books, series, and biographies. I'm really enjoying working my way through the Presidents' and First Ladies' collection. My husband is a puzzle fan, we often buy them.*

Joyce Schul: *I love the convenience of having a library right here in the community. The volunteers who work at the library are very helpful. I've been using the library for 17½ years.*

Chris Carter: *I was a high school librarian in the South Bronx. I would often help the volunteer staff at the library with various questions. I've been coming to the library since the early '80s and love the people who volunteer and run the library.*

Kathleen Thorsen: *I've been using the library for the last five years as a full-time resident. I've been a Hemlock Farms resident on and off since 1976. My passion is reading, so I love having a library here.*

Diane Thaler: *The library is the BEST value for our dues. I've been using the library for 25 years. I'm a new member of the monthly Book Club now.*

Suzanne Johnson: *I've been a patron of the library since 2018. I was even able to borrow books during the COVID-19 closure. There are always lots of books available that are listed on the best-sellers lists. I think the Story Time program for the youngsters is great.*

Kathy Fracassi: *I've been using the library since August 2025. I knew there was a library as an amenity before we purchased our home. There are a good amount of books by authors I like to read.*

Collections

The Library is broken down in sections of books called "Collections." When books are scanned in by ISBN number, they will appear in these collections. When searching for a book, you will need to search by collection.

7 Day
Popular
Hemlock Farms Authors
Adult Biographies
Adult Biographies: Presidents, First Ladies
Adult Nonfiction by Dewey Number*
Adult Fiction (A-Z)
Adult Fiction Large Print | (A-Z)
Adult Fiction Short Stories
Adult Fiction Classics
Pennsylvania
Reference
Young Adult Fiction | (A-Z)
Young Adult Fiction Series
Young Adult: Star Wars
Youth Biographies
Youth Fiction (A-Z)
Youth Fiction Series
Youth Fiction Classic Novels
Youth Fiction Series Graphic Novels
Youth Nonfiction by Dewey Number*
Easy Fiction (A-Z)
Easy Fiction: Disney
Dr. Seuss
Sesame Street
Winnie the Pooh
Easy Fiction Series
Easy Fiction Board Book (A-Z)
Easy Nonfiction by Dewey Number*
DVDs
Youth DVDs
VHS

*Dewey Numbers:

- 000-099 General Works, Computer Science, and Information
- 100-199 Philosophy and Psychology
- 200-299 Religion
- 300-399 Social Sciences
- 400-499 Language
- 500-599 Science
- 600-699 Technology
- 700-799 Arts and Recreation
- 800-899 Literature
- 900-999 History and Geography