



May 9, 2017

Dear Friends of the Mercer Public Library,

Hard to believe another year has flown by and it's time for the Friends of the Mercer Public Library annual membership drive. So many wonderful programs and projects have been paid for by the Friends because of the generosity of our members. We thank you for your support.

Our biggest investment will be realized soon. After two years of researching, saving, questioning and more questioning, we have proposed that a 6 kilowatt demonstration solar energy system be installed on library grounds. Once property lines are confirmed, we can get a permit and proceed. The system will save approximately \$1000 per year of the library's energy cost, and students and residents will be able to monitor electrical output via the internet.

Many additional projects have been completed this year, and more are in our sights. The Friends have purchased a new drinking fountain with a bottle filling station that counts the number of plastic bottles saved each time a bottle is filled. Now you can access Mercer weather on the internet via our new weather station at bit.ly/mercerweather. Be sure to check out the displays in the new cabinet in the reading room, and let us know if you have any collections you want to exhibit. Upcoming purchases include new cabinets for the Friends room to house area archives and new furniture for the reading room and for the teen area.

Perhaps what we are most proud of is the quality of the many library programs funded by the Friends year after year—Discovery Center programs, movie license, candidates' forum, wildlife programs, Northwoods Book Festival, solar program, Earth Day fair, music groups. Also this year we hosted luncheons for the Mercer teachers and for area businesses, events we hope to hold annually to continue exploring ways that the library can serve these community partners. The other side of this letter has information on how to keep up with the library calendar as we add programs throughout the year.

We hope to see you at our Friends events this summer and fall: the pie social July 16th, the book sale August 4, the Fall Celebration September 30. And as always, a heartfelt thank you for helping to make our library a community asset we can all be proud of. Please consider renewing your membership with a donation to the Friends so we can continue to provide great library services to the community. You make it happen; without your help, we couldn't accomplish all that we do.

The Friends of the Mercer Public Library

Wendy Thiede, President
Judy Ivey, Vice President
Hedda Patzke, Secretary
Opal Roberts, Treasurer

