



Friends  
of the  
New Buffalo  
Library

# Friends In Focus

## The FOL Newsletter

February 2026



Denise Churchill

### President's Letter

Welcome to the very first issue of Friends in Focus. We are so glad you're here.

At the heart of every great library is a community that believes in it. The Friends of the New Buffalo Library exists because of that belief—the simple but powerful idea that access to knowledge, imagination, and connection should be strong, vibrant, and available to everyone.

Our mission is simple yet profound: to support quality library services in our community through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocacy. That work shows up in many ways: helping fund programs for children and families, expanding resources for lifelong learners, enhancing events that bring neighbors together, and ensuring our library continues to grow and adapt in a changing world. Every book sale, every membership, every hour volunteered helps turn possibility into reality.

But beyond the programs and the pages, what we're really helping build is something deeper—a place where young readers discover confidence, where teens find belonging, where adults continue to learn, and where friendships begin. A library is more than a building. It is a cornerstone of opportunity, curiosity, and connection.

We invite you to journey with us as we share the stories, people, and impact behind this work. Together, we are ensuring that the New Buffalo Library continues to thrive as a vibrant resource for our entire community.

As we begin this newsletter, our hope is to bring you between the lines—to share the stories, people, and impact behind the scenes. In each issue, we'll spotlight volunteers, highlight programs, celebrate successes, and keep you connected to the work that makes a difference right here in New Buffalo.

We also invite you to be part of that story. The Friends are always looking for new hands and fresh ideas. Whether you have an hour to spare, a passion for literacy, a knack for organizing, or simply a love of libraries, there is a place for you. Every contribution—whether time, talent, or financial support—strengthens that foundation for future generations. Volunteering is not only meaningful—it's also a wonderful way to meet neighbors, make connections, and leave a lasting mark on our community.

Thank you for supporting the library. Thank you for believing in its future. And thank you for being a Friend.

## FRIEND SPOTLIGHT:

Julie Grynwich, Library Director



### How long have you been a Friend?

Since 2008, when we established the Friends of New Buffalo Library.

### What inspired you to get involved with the Friends?

I had become the director in 2006, and we did not have a Friends group at that time. We were considering building a new library and felt that a Friends group would be a huge benefit. They were indeed a benefit and served on our assessment team, plus lead the campaign for library funding.

### Favorite part of volunteering:

I love working with the FOL on various projects and fundraisers. They are a great group of people!

### What do you do as a Friend?

My role is a little different since I am the library director. I attend the monthly meetings and help when needed for events or projects. I am the liaison between the library and the FOL, so one of my tasks is to let the FOL know what the library needs funding for.

### A favorite book or author:

I really love Historical Fiction. Kate Morton is one of my favorite authors, and I enjoyed her book *The Forgotten Garden*.

### Why the library matters to you:

Our library is my second home really, and the people matter to me. Our library staff are wonderful people and such a joy to work with! I love being able to serve the community in a very practical way, and our patrons are great!

### Fun fact about you:

I love hanging out with my grandkids! They teach me something new every day.

### One message to the community:

Come and see what the library can offer to you! We have something for everyone in our community, so please feel welcome to attend programs and pick up books and more. Also, we would love to have you as a Friend of the Library, join today!

## FOL Forum Calendar

*We are pleased to share some of our upcoming Forums. Please note that additional events may be scheduled after the issue of this newsletter. Please check with the library front desk and the website under FOL Tab as additional events/dates may be scheduled.*

### February 2026

Pat Fisher – “Berrien Ecology” - Sat Feb 21, 12:00 pm

### March 2026

FOL Film - TBD

William Hazelgrove – “Capone’s Vault” – Tues Mar 24, 6:00 pm

Ryan Postema - Chikaming Open Lands – Mon March 30, 6:00 pm

### April 2026

FOL Film- “Life is Beautiful” (reschedule from Jan)

Julie Ryan McGue – Memoir Writing Seminar – Monday April 20, 6:00 pm

Annette Bochenek – “Hometowns to Hollywood” – date TBD

### May 2026

FOL Film - TBD

Nick Bogert – “EK Warren & Lakefront Land” – date TBD

## 2026 FOL INITIATIVES

*Below is a glimpse of some of our initiatives this year.*

- Adult literacy needs
- Purchase a 3-D Printer for the library
- Fund Subscriptions for the library including Master Class and Tumbler (multimedia blogging).
- Fund History room shelving repairs & supplies
- Explore the creation of a “Library of Things” and the storage space to house it
- Bring more continued diverse and engaging content to our FOL Forum programs

## Be A Friend. Make an Impact.

Our library thrives because of people like you. The FOL is always looking for volunteers to help with book sales, events, fundraising, outreach and special projects.

You don't need special experience – just a willingness to support literacy and community. Whether you can give an hour a month or want to take a more active role, your time truly makes a difference.

Interested?

Reach out to learn more about how you can get involved. We'd love to welcome you.

Membership Dues are \$20, paid annually (see QR code to the right, or Membership form on the last page)

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Immediate Volunteer Opportunities Include:

Program Committee: Meets as needed to determine the programming for the year. Introduce speakers and track attendance at FOL Forum events

Books – Sort through donated books for either the Little Libraries or the Books for Donations shelves.

Planning Committee – Meets as needed to plan and execute special events for "Friendraising" and to fundraise for the library as needed.

Board of Directors – Serve as part of the Leadership Team. We meet quarterly, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays in March, June, September and December.



The Friends of the New Buffalo Township Library is a volunteer-led non-profit organization. Donations of any size are always welcome and directly support programs, resources, and opportunities for readers of all ages in our community.

If you love what the library brings to New Buffalo, we invite you to consider making a gift. Your generosity helps ensure our library continues to thrive for generations to come.

You may sign up OR donate through our Zeffy QR Code



OR by sending a check and completing the form on the last page of this newsletter to the attention of the FOL at the Library (address below). In person drop-off is welcome as well.



## Contact Us

[fol.nbtl@gmail.com](mailto:fol.nbtl@gmail.com)

Find us under the FOL tab on the library website:  
[www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.com](http://www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.com)

### FOL Officers

**President** - Denise Churchill

**Vice President** - Donna Vega Ragovich

**Treasurer** - Deb Dyer

**Secretary** - Janet Musikantow

**Trustees** - Julie Grynowich, Sandy Sporleder, Tom Clark,  
Kathryn Petrakis, Jurate Landwehr

## New Buffalo Township Library

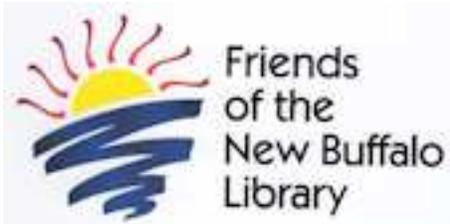
[33 N. Thompson Street](#)  
[New Buffalo, MI 49117](#)  
[269-469-2933](tel:269-469-2933)

### Hours

Monday:	9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday:	9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday:	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday:	9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday:	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday:	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday:	Closed

## FOOTNOTES:

**Our next FOL Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, at 10AM, EST.  
Meet us in the Pokagon Room at the library.**



## Membership Application/Renewal Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Year: 2026 (Jan-Dec)

Annual Dues: \$20.00

Additional Donation Amount (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Friends of the New Buffalo Library**

Send or bring in form and payment to:

Friends of the New Buffalo Library

33 N Thompson St.

New Buffalo, MI 49117

Interested in volunteering time with FONBL? Circle YES here!

**THANK YOU for your continued support!**