

MITCH HOTTS — THE MACOMB DAILY

Christine Egyedi and her 10-year-old daughter Kaylyn show off a pile of discounted books for sale Kaylyn selected from the Harrison Township Public Library during a community celebration on Saturday afternoon.

Library volunteers thank community for support

Card holders now have borrowing privileges at other area libraries

By Mitch Hotts
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Christine Egyedi stood and watched with a smile on her face as her 10-year-old daughter Kaylyn stacked up discounted books for sale at the Harrison Township Public Library on Saturday afternoon.

"She loves to read — and these books are cheaper than a candy bar," Egyedi said.

They were among the several dozen residents who turned out for a special community event to celebrate the library's fifth anniversary and to thank the volunteers, supporters and residents who worked on a successful millage campaign in August.

The 4-hour celebration included a cook-out with hot dogs and lemonade, free gifts for children, face painting and more.

"That's exactly why we're here," said Melissa Goins, the library's volunteer director after watching Egyedi load up on the discounted books. "We are grateful to the community for the support and now we're ready to grow."

The library, located in the annex of Rosso Memorial Hall on L'anse Creuse, has grown by leaps and bounds since it was started in 2009. There are now some 3,000 family card holders in the lakeside community.

Donna Dertinger, treasurer of the Friends of the Harrison Township Public Library, which sponsored Saturday's event, said volunteers were surprised in June after they had mailed out information about library hours and location.

"For the next few days, we were inundated with people standing in line to sign up for a library card," she said. "A lot of people didn't even know we had a public library."

In August, voters approved a 10-year, 0.5-mill tax increase to convert the volunteer-run library into a full-time public library in 2015. The move will raise about $413,000 in the first year to purchase new computers, books and other materials.

In the next year, the library will go from being open 23 hours a week to 40 hours.

As a result of the millage's passage, card holders beginning Oct. 1 will have borrowing privileges at any of the 21 Suburban Library Cooperative libraries in the area.

Residents can also return checked items at any SLC library to any SLC library. For example, books checked out at Mount Clemens Public Library can be returned to the Harrison Township library.

Also, card holders will now be part of the Michigan Activity Pass program, which provides discounts at more than 70 arts and cultural organizations across the state, including museums, art centers and historic sites.

The library is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday, noon-8 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit www.htplib.org or call 586-329-1261

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