

News Release

3/15/13

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Million Penny Project Launched at the Wixom Public Library

The Wixom Public Library is kicking off its "Million Penny Project" in April. Sponsored by the Friends of the Wixom Library and Genisys Credit Union, the activity is part of the Library's 40th Anniversary Celebration, which will run all year long.

"We did the math, and one million pennies will generate \$10,000," said Project Chair and Friends VP Mary Killeen. "And with 6,555 households in Wixom, we only need 2,000 of them to donate \$5 each. That is less than 42 cents a month."

To make counting and processing the pennies easier, the Friends decided to distribute penny wrappers. "That's when we realized we needed 20,000 wrappers to get the job done," said Jane Kleban, Friends President. "Thank goodness Genisys stepped in to supply all the penny rolls needed to achieve our million-penny goal."

Residents, businesses, and library patrons can stop by the library and pick up penny rolls. "And don't be surprised to find one tucked in books being checked out of the Library," continued Kleban. All of the rolls will be stamped, "*When filled, please return to the Wixom Public Library.*" Loose coins can also be inserted into coin canisters located throughout the library.

"We'll also be passing out wrappers and collecting coins at the Founder's Day Festival, the Farmer's Market, the Concert Series, the Tree Lighting Ceremony and other community events," said Killeen. "And we'll be asking local companies to place Million Penny Project posters in their places of business, and fill up some wrappers themselves."

"As many of you know, the last several years have been very hard on the Library," said Library Director Cindy Mack, "We've lost more than \$300,000 from our tax base, which means we've had to close on Sundays, and on Fridays in the summer, and postpone a number of capital items. We're blessed to have the Friends of the Library conduct used book sales and other fundraising events to ease some of the burden."

Despite the financial difficulties, the Library is planning more than 40 exciting summer programs for children, adults and teens as part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration. These are in addition to National Library Week, Library Card Sign-up Month, and a Summer Reading Club Reunion. "The Million Penny Project will be tied into many of the programs," said Mack. "We encourage everyone in the community to start saving their pennies for such a worthwhile cause."

The money raised will be used to fund technological equipment such as computers, ipads, scanners and color printers, which will benefit children, teens and adults.