

Fort Dodge Public Library

Community Postings

Purpose

Fort Dodge Public Library values civic engagement and the free expression of ideas. In keeping with the Library's overall philosophy of providing access to a wide range of information sources, FDPL provides bulletin board space, free of charge, for local, government, educational, and non-profit information, events, and activities.

General Policies

In general, space on the Library's bulletin boards is provided on a first-come/first-served basis. However, FDPL will give preference to the following community postings, in the following order: Library and Library related groups; government information; events of local interest; and non-profit materials of local, civic, cultural, educational, or recreational interest. The Library will also consider for display announcements of cultural, educational, or recreational commercial events where the commercial advertising content is incidental to the informational value of the item being posted.

Library staff members, under the supervision of the Library Director, have the discretion to approve, reject, or limit community postings. Postings may be rejected or limited based on size, duration, or space considerations even if the posting otherwise meets all of the other requirements listed in this policy. The Library reserves the right to provide ongoing space for items that provide continuing assistance to patrons and the public, such as library information, crisis services, etc.

Items will be added and withdrawn by staff as space allows, with consideration given to the timing of the events and the length of time that items have been displayed. Because of space limitations, the library cannot guarantee that all eligible posters or materials will be displayed.

All items must be suitable for general public viewing by all age groups and meet existing laws regarding obscenity, libel, defamation of character, and invasion of privacy.

Items will not be returned but recycled or discarded when no longer relevant or if they have been item posted or left for posting without approval by staff.

The posting of an item does not imply Library endorsement of its content, nor does FPDPL accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information listed on any posted materials.

Requirements for Postings

Items must be identified with the name of the organization, its contact information, and if appropriate, the time, date, and location of the event being advertised.

The Library will not accept the following types of items:

- Petitions of any kind
- Solicitations for contributions
- Political campaign literature of any kind
- Notices for free or "for sale" items (animals, products, etc.)
- Advertisements for a professional or personal business or service
- Any type of personal advertising (garage sales, etc.)