

Pequot Library's 45th annual book sale lures book lovers to Southport

The Pequot Library Book Sale is one of the largest events of its kind in New England with over 140,000 books of every imaginable type, all on sale for bargain prices. Now in its 45th year, this year's book sale runs from Friday, July 28 through Tuesday, August 1.

The books at the sale are sorted into more than 40 categories, including children's books, Connecticut and New England, current fiction, classic literature, gardening and nature, history, mystery, science, science fiction, sports, travel, crafts and hobbies, health, music, performing arts, art and architecture, biography, and many, many more. In addition, every year a number of special books are set aside because of their remarkable interest, rarity or value. This year there are already over 290 of these "specials."

John Hartwell, chair of the book sale, along with Barbara Young and Jim Fast, co-chairs, have been working since last August getting ready for the event.

The sale takes place in two large tents set up for the event and in the library's magnificent auditorium, which, thanks to a recent renovation, will be air-conditioned during the sale for the first time.

New this year is Young Readers Day taking place on Sunday, July 30 starting at 9 a.m. The idea was triggered by the gift of thousands of "like new" children's books from Random House and the Penguin Putnam Children's Book Group. These books will be available for the first time during the sale on Sunday morning, and will be housed in a separate Young Readers Day tent. The first 20 children to come to Young Readers Day before 12:30



p.m. will receive a free book.

In addition to this large selection of children's books, Young Reader's Day will also feature a children's concert at 1 p.m., led by well-known music educator MaryAnn Hall. At 2 p.m., Creative Castles will present a children's art workshop. From noon to 1 p.m., Pequot Library's new "Secret Service" — a group of teens who are volunteering at the library — will take turns donning a Curious George Costume to share their love of books and encourage the younger children to read.

The book sale's vouchers-for-teachers program provides \$100 worth of vouchers for each of 120 teachers in the schools of Bridgeport and New Haven. The

teachers who participate in the Pequot Library voucher program have used the books to supplement their classroom libraries, and have given them out as rewards for student achievement.

The Pequot Library Book Sale, 720 Pequot Avenue Southport, is open as follows: Friday, July 28, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., all items double the marked price; Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., items priced as marked; Monday, July 31, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., items half off marked price; Tuesday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., all items are free. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. For more information about the Pequot Library Book Sale, visit pequotlibrary.com.

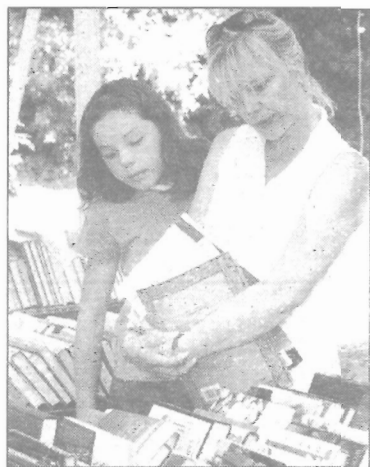


Photo by Craig Skinner

Diane Smith and her daughter, Karen, peruse the offerings at last year's Pequot Book Sale.

AROUND TOWN

Easton firefighters host carnival

The Easton Fire Company's 71st annual carnival will run through Saturday, July 29 at the

L'Guri-Italian American; Sunday, July 30, Bob Thoesen Orchestra; Wednesday, Aug. 2, Patti and Guys Polka Band; Aug. 3, Glamour Girls, Society Jazz