Record Breaking Year for Online Book Sales

Online book sales, a subset of the Friends Used Book Sales, has been having a record breaking year. As the name implies, books, CDs and DVDs are sold online, via Amazon. In 2014, the profits for the year were just over $23,000. **Through September of this year, we are already over $30,000 in profit**. Our record for one day is $768 profit, with 25 items sold. Our three-day record for number of sales is 39 items. We started out the year averaging six to eight sales a day, and are now selling about ten a day. Some of the biggest sellers are current textbooks and DVDs. The record day mentioned above had four textbooks that sold for over $100 each.

The increase in sales can be attributed to more items listed for sale and also frequent repricing of current items, to stay competitive with the other sellers. The group uses a corner of the new second floor addition, where the used book sales are held. A very dedicated crew of about a dozen folks makes all this happen. They scan donations for candidates to put online, list the items online, and ship out the sold items.

We receive frequent positive comments from our buyers. They usually include kudos for our quick shipping and great condition of the books. Here’s an example: “The condition of the book is better than described. Ordered on Saturday and received on Wednesday. Incredible shipping speed! This seller is my new best friend. Thanks!”

New Book Sale Room is a Winner

The customers at the Summer Used Book Sale were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about our new sale room. No more digging through piles of books under the tables to find the books they wanted...now they are all on shelves and easier to find. We are still working out some minor details, but overall, the sale went smoothly and the Friends made a profit of almost $15,000 for the library. If you were not able to make the summer or fall sale, be sure to check us out in the future. We have more books than ever, thanks to the generous donations from the community.

Due to our ever increasing sales, we are looking for shippers. A shipper needs to:

- Commit to one day a week (2 to 4 hour shifts)
- Be computer savvy, especially with Excel
- Be able to haul packages to the post office
- Be an independent worker
- Be detail oriented

If you would like more information about becoming a shipper, phone 248-650-7178 and leave a message for Peggy.
Pigs and chickens and cows….oh my! 
(and Books too)

During the month of October, the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library have been partnering with Upland Hills Farms and their annual Fall Harvest Festival.

The partnership allowed visitors to tour the farm, see the animals, enjoy cider and donuts, and learn what a farm is all about. As each visitor submitted a special Friends participant donation form (available in advance at the library’s info desk, on the library website www.rhpl.org, or at the farm), a portion of the ticket price came back to the Friends.

Every Saturday or Sunday in October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. visitors who paid their $9 admission price along with the Friends participant donation form got to tour the farm and give back to the library at the same time. Included in the admission was a magic show, a farm show, a hayride, a chance to milk a cow, a storybook trail, and visiting with all the animals on the farm. Additionally, visitors were able to purchase pony ride tickets, food for feeding the ducks, and were also able to purchase pumpkins.

The Harvest Festival’s showpiece event was Saturday, October 17, when youth librarians from the Rochester Hills Public Library were at the farm reading from some favorite children’s books in places like the pumpkin patch, by the chicken coop and at the barn.

To kick off the October festival, a special event was held at the Library on Friday, September 18. Upland Hills’ Farmer Nate has written a children’s book about the farm and came to the Library Multipurpose Room to do a reading at Story Time. Accompanying him was a rooster and a baby goat. Parents and children enjoyed hearing about the farm from Farmer Nate and also spending time with the livestock.

Upland Hills Farm is located at 481 Lake George Rd, Oxford Charter Township, MI 48370. See www.uplandhillsfarm.com or call 248-628-1611 if you want to tour the farm on the last few days of the Fall Harvest Festival.

Get Ready for Wine, Wit & Wisdom 2016

Mark your calendar for the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library’s third annual “Wine, Wit & Wisdom” fundraiser. This year’s event is set for Saturday, March 12, from 7-10 p.m.

That evening, the Library becomes a modern day salon, mixing sustenance —a strolling dinner— with knowledge from six showcase speaker presentations, all for $50 a ticket. The Friends group inaugurated the series in 2014, building on a similar event held by its counterpart in Rochester, Minnesota.

Registration and details about the speakers are pending and will be made public in December. The evening’s agenda: Attendees get to partake of a first-class strolling dinner, beverages (beer, wine and soft drinks), a choice of two speaker presentations from six interesting and intriguing presenters from the world of the arts, dining and business. Attendees also have the opportunity to bid on unique items, services and entertainment opportunities in a silent auction. It has fast become one of the area’s spotlight spring events—don’t miss it.
Have you ever wondered where to find out about what is happening with the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library? One helpful resource is the Friends tab on the far right of the home page at www.rhpl.org. Let me tell you a little about what's included.

If you click on the tab, a series of categories appear, or if you hold your cursor over the tab a duplicate drop down list appears. The first category is ‘About the Friends’ where you can learn what the purpose of the Friends is and also view links that tell you the current members of the Board of Directors, what our volunteer opportunities are and who the latest ‘Volunteer of the Year’ is, how to contact us, and a link to our Friends Newsletters.

The second category is ‘Join the Friends’ which tells you the benefits to you and to the Library of being a Friend member. The annual dues schedule is listed at the bottom of the page, and there is a link to a form you can fill out to join the Friends. We also have links to a couple of our major operations - the Used Book Sale and the Friends Library Store. And finally, there is a link to the list of volunteer opportunities with the Friends and a form you can fill out to tell us which areas you might be interested in.

The third category tells you what items we accept for donation to our used book sales and what we can’t accept. The fourth category talks about our activities including the store, used book cart, used book sales, and another link to the volunteer opportunity form. The fifth category is our ‘Special Events’ page where all the upcoming activities are listed, sometimes with links to give more detail on the activity and sometimes with PayPal buttons that allow you to use your credit card to purchase tickets to the events. Category six is another link to our Friends Newsletters that come out in the spring and fall along with other historical information on previous events.

The seventh category shows the businesses that had been in existence for 50 years or more at the time that the Friends held their 50th Anniversary in 2011. If you click on the name of the business you will see the poster that was displayed in our lobby about the business, and if you click on the year you will be taken to the website of the business, if they have one. Category eight shows the dates of all the Friends Board Meetings. The final category is a recent addition that takes you directly to the Amazon site where the Friends list their on-line sales media (see the article elsewhere in the newsletter that describes our on-line sales activity).

You can see there is a lot happening with the Friends of RHPL, and we'd love to have you be a part of it. Contact us with any questions you may have, and share some of your time with us if you are able. We always like meeting new supporters and volunteers.

Order from AmazonSmile and donate to Friends of RHPL at the same time

Do you order from Amazon.com? If so, you can contribute to the Friends of RHPL at the same time at no additional cost to you.

The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library have signed up to be a part of the AmazonSmile program. Before you start your shopping just log into Amazon via smile.amazon.com, sign in with your current Amazon account information and select a charity to support - who else but the “Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library Inc”. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to the Friends every time you shop. It’s that simple!
Holiday Home Tour Coming in November

Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library 2015 Holiday Homes are all decked out and ready for the season. The Holiday Home Tour events include:

A preview party on the evening of November 11, 6 to 8 p.m., at Hepplewhites, Main St., Rochester

Five homes decorated in their holiday finest on Sunday, November 15, 12 to 5 p.m.

A boutique located at the Van Hoosen Farm that’s also on the home tour, November 15, 12 to 5 p.m.

The preview party at Hepplewhites, allows attendees an opportunity to meet the tour homeowners in the festive Hepplewhite showrooms.

’Tis the season in the five locations on the Holiday Home Tour 2015:

The 1840 Van Hoosen farmhouse will be professionally decorated in period décor, and the holiday home tour boutique will be in the newly renovated 1927 calf barn.

A young growing family in a Craftsman-style ranch will give us a glimpse of Eastern European holiday celebrations, along with their special children’s tree.

A spacious condominium with an inviting courtyard entrance will welcome us into a Christmas wonderland.

Nativity scenes from Israel and India, a Dicken’s village, and Christmas trees abound in a 5,000 square foot colonial, built in 1999. The holiday garage display will complete the festive feeling in this home.

Yuletide collections, numerous Christmas trees, and 40-plus nutcrackers are part of the holiday feeling in a 3,250 square foot home, built in 2006. The trees have themes and Nativity crèche sets are from South America and Europe.

PREVIEW PARTY TICKET $25.00
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR TICKET $25.00

Tour tickets and preview party tickets will be on sale beginning in early October at the Library Friends Store and at the following locations: Lytle Pharmacy, 340 S. Main St.; Dillman and Upton, 607 Woodward Ave.; Sharon’s Hallmark, 115 S. Livernois and 3038 Walton Blvd.; and Hepplewhites, 322 S. Main St.

The tour and preview party tickets are also available online by credit card or PayPal at www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl/special-events.

And remember the Holiday Home Tour Boutique at the Van Hoosen Farm! Think holiday gifts, hostess gifts, or gifts for yourself. Boutique items include Michigan made products, vintage inspired holiday items, bakery items, cards, paintings, decorative socks, toffee, scarves, and much, much more. The Friends store will sell items at the home tour boutique!
2015 Volunteer of the Year Peggy Philippi Announced

Peggy took over the online sales activity in June of 2014. At that time the Friends online sales were running at a rate of around $22,000 per year. Under her leadership we are on track to sell well over $40,000 this year. Peggy can’t take all of the credit for this huge jump in sales, but she has made it possible. Here are some of the things Peggy does to ensure this degree of success:

- Peggy has expanded and empowered a volunteer staff of screeners, listers and shippers to accommodate the larger workload.
- She locates and trains new volunteers and makes sure the written guidelines for each function are current.
- She communicates and coordinates with Amazon.com to solve problems that arise and to assure compliance with the terms of our agreement with Amazon.
- She manages the online volunteer workforce. This includes finding replacements for vacations (often filling in herself for absentee shippers) and scheduling volunteers to effectively utilize available computers.
- Peggy reviews open listings on a regular basis to reduce the price of items that haven’t sold or to remove the listing.
- She managed the move of online sales from downstairs to the new second floor Used Book Room. She has established a well-organized work area in the new room, without stopping online sales for even one day.

Peggy is able to do all of this while maintaining a positive outlook, a pleasant demeanor, and a highly motivated online team. Peggy’s leadership and administrative skills make it highly likely that online sales will continue to be a bright spot for the Friends for a long time to come.

We salute Peggy Philippi, the 2015 Friends Volunteer of the Year!

Holiday Used Book Sale Coming in December

The Friends of the RHPL will hold its annual Holiday Sale on **Friday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the library.** Like new, very gently used Quality books will be for sale along with DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games, many still in their original shrink wrap. This is a great opportunity to do some last-minute shopping for holiday gifts.
Thoughts from a Friends Board Member

When I hear the word “give,” I think of volunteering. I like to give back to my community by volunteering my time, and money, when possible. Volunteering is good for your health, as shown by a 2013 UnitedHealth Group study on the link between health and volunteering called “Doing Good is Good For You.” They found that volunteering makes people feel better physically, emotionally and mentally. 76% of participants reported that volunteering made them feel healthier. You may be wondering how volunteering could possibly be related to health. One big reason? Volunteering lowers stress, which not only improves general health, but improves your mood.

Volunteering makes me happy. I think it’s a lot of fun. According to that same UnitedHealth Group study, 94% of volunteers report an improved mood from volunteering. Volunteering is a great way to meet people in your community with similar passions and get connected with your neighbors, and it can also provide a sense of purpose. I enjoy working with everyone at our library; in fact, it’s one of my most favorite places to be.

The Friends of the RHPL, being a nonprofit organization, is entirely volunteer-run. Please check out the Friends tab on the RHPL website at www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl for volunteer opportunities you may enjoy; spending time helping out at one of our book sales, waiting on customers in the Friends store, sorting donated books, or assisting with the Holiday Home Tour or the Wine, Wit, and Wisdom events we hold each year.

We welcome you to consider giving your time as a volunteer with the Friends of the Library.

Kimberly Matis - Board Member

Giving Tuesday

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have a day for giving. This year, on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library are participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. We at the Friends appreciate every donation from our community whether it is used books, volunteer time, or financial donations. If you have the means to give a monetary donation this #GivingTuesday, it would be much appreciated by the Friends and the Library.

Go to the Friends Special Events page at www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl/special-events on December 1st and click on the PayPal link to donate to the Friends.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1, 2015

New Friends Board Member Sandy Tabacchi Announced

Sandy Tabacchi is our newest member of the Friends Board since Kathy Dorn moved to Illinois. Sandy has lived in the Rochester area since 1988 and worked as Library Media Specialist with Avondale schools for 20 years. Since retiring she has become a volunteer for many aspects of the used book sale, and has currently taken over the responsibility as Chair of the Teacher Preview Sale. Teachers in the area need to find out about this wonderful opportunity.

Upon moving to California, Sandy needed a CA teaching credential and also signed up for her Master’s Degree. A graduate of California State University Los Angeles, Oakland University and Dominican High School she has also worked for Warren Consolidated Schools and Providence High School in Burbank, CA. She is the mother of Peter and Jeff, both grads of Rochester High. Sandy has been married to Dennis, a DeLaSalle grad for over 40 years.

Passions include reading, knitting, watching soccer and hockey and visiting their lake house in Greenbush, MI.
From the Library Director - CHRISTINE HAGE

I hope you were able to attend our recent book sales in the new book sale room on the second floor of the library. The Friends have settled into the space and book sale numbers have increased. Hopefully the boon will continue.

There are still other changes that will be taking place over the coming months. The west parking lot has been seal coated and once again looks spiffy. We are going to be repairing the two public entrances where pavement tiles have lifted and cracked. This work will likely be done in the spring. Also in the spring we will be painting the inside of the library. Most areas have not been painted since we moved into the building in 1992!

In addition to building improvements we’ve done over the past year, we have had some significant staffing changes. Claire Lopiccolo became Manager of Youth Services, Mary Davis became the Manager of Outreach and Bookmobile Services and most recently Jessica Parij became the Manager of Adult Services. Two of the former managers have moved on to become assistant directors in Farmington and Birmingham. We wish them well and are happy to have such able successors.

On a personal note, I am a candidate for President of the American Library Association (ALA). ALA is the world’s largest and oldest library association with over 54,000 members. The election will not take place until March/April of 2016, but if I win, it will be a three-year commitment. If I win, it will not impact my work here at RHPL. Wish me luck!

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL??!

Would you consider getting your future Friends of RHPL Newsletters by email rather than getting a hard copy in the mail? The benefits of an email newsletter include:

• Email version will be in color
• You can easily save back issues for future reference
• The Friends of RHPL will save money on printing and postage

If you would like to have future newsletters sent by email please send a message to friends@rhpl.org. Please include your name and address since some email addresses are cryptic, and we want to update our mailing list correctly. Thanks.

News from the Friends Store

Quails and turkeys and gourds, oh my! Autumn décor has arrived at the Friends Library Store. New this year, blown glass pumpkins from a Michigan artist make a charming statement in cool shades of amber, orange, gold, and an almost iridescent blue. Picture several on your holiday table, with quirky turkeys made of contrasting natural fibers. Sprinkle in a few of our realistic artificial acorns, and your decorating is complete.

Great news! By special agreement, the store has arranged to put Pewabic Pottery on sale for a limited time only. In mid-November, customers will save 20% on purchases of these unique tiles and vases. The store will have a wide range of styles and colors to choose from, as well as a selection of Pewabic’s customer-favorite Detroit and Michigan themed Christmas ornaments. This is a great opportunity to save on these highly prized items, which make wonderful gifts and lasting keepsakes of our rich southeast Michigan cultural heritage. Please check with the store and on the Friends Facebook page for dates of the sale.

And hurry in for last minute savings on remaining Halloween decorations. You’ll love the brazen witches’ hats, the spooky but playful skeletons and the smiling felt jack-o-lanterns.

Remember, shop local and support our hometown economy as well as your own Rochester Hills Public Library. 100% of our profits benefit the library.
Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Ken and Kathy Dorn

Back in 2009, a couple from Illinois by way of Utah moved to the Rochester area and immediately got involved in volunteering at the Rochester Hills Public Library.

Kathy Dorn started as a volunteer in the Friends Library Store and then she and her husband Ken started working as sorters for the Used Book Sales and in set-up, support, shift chairs, and teardown for the sales. Shortly thereafter, Kathy was asked to join the Friends Board and soon became the President of the Board. She enlisted Ken to take over the duties of Membership Chair and he worked with the IT folks at the library to improve and streamline the membership process. Kathy was also a regular volunteer on the daily Used Book Cart in the lobby.

One of the tasks that Kathy took on shortly after joining the Board was to chair the Holiday Home Tour, and for several years she was instrumental in coordinating one of the major fund raisers for the Friends. Once again she enlisted Ken to help with the set-up of the event. The Friends began another yearly fund raiser in 2014 called Wine Wit & Wisdom and Kathy jumped right in to be on the committee that handled that year’s event. Guess what, Ken helped with the set-up again.

Alas, all good things must come to an end. Family responsibilities have called the Dorn’s back to Illinois. They moved back this summer and the Friends have lost two dedicated and tireless volunteers. It’s only been a few months, but we miss them and will continue to miss their involvement in all that goes on at the Friends.

In order to recognize their many efforts on our behalf, the Friends Board voted to give Ken and Kathy a “Lifetime Achievement Award” which was presented at the 2015 Friends Annual Meeting.

We salute Ken and Kathy Dorn, volunteer’s extraordinaire.

2015 Friends Annual Meeting Held in October

The Friends of RHPL held their 2015 Annual Meeting at the Library on Thursday the 22nd of October. Minutes from the 2014 meeting were read by the secretary, Karen Calavenna; and a financial report was given by the treasurer, John Coombs. Friends president, Ron Meegan, presented a check for $125,000 to the Library. This was in addition to a $23,000 donation made in April to purchase new shelving for the Library addition. President Meegan gave a report on the past year’s accomplishments and got approval for four reelected board members and the slate of officers for the next year. He also reviewed the change to the Friends ‘Articles of Incorporation’ to simplify them and change from a ‘membership-based’ organization to a ‘director-based’ organization.

A ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ was presented to Ken and Kathy Dorn for their loyal service to the Friends before their recent move back to Illinois (see article elsewhere in the newsletter). The 2015 Volunteer of the Year was introduced – Peggy Philippi from On-Line Sales (see article elsewhere in the newsletter). Finally, a presentation was made to name the new Second Floor Used Book Room. The room is named the “Barlow-Gruenewald Used Book Room” in honor of two individuals who have been instrumental in beginning and growing our highly successful used book sales – Pauline Barlow and Ann Gruenewald.

The meeting was adjourned with President Meegan introducing the speaker for the evening – Maureen Thalmann talking about her new book “Petticoat Surgeon”, about the life of Bertha Van Hoosen.
NEW FRIENDS MEMBERS -

Laurie Alkidas  Michael Rota  Benjamin Mathews  Janet Esselink
Margaret Bartos  Judy Sloan  Darcie Nelson  John Hale & Family
Cathy Caputo  David Stockman  Shawn Pomaville  Marjorie Kelley
Ryan Deel & Family  John Trustman  Charles Rever  Alice Kowalski
Veronica Donovan  Mr. & Mrs. Bill Williams  Bob Roach  Julia Lanoue
Sue Fox Family  Tammy Arcori  Bonnie Scollon  John & Susan Masiak
Jacob Augustyn  Michael Butler  John Smydra & Family  Pamela McArthur
Joanne Kelley  William Clark  Sallie Thomas  Linda Norris
Don Kulich  Sharon Derico  Sharon Viggato  Jill Porter
Reina Lawler  Peter & Diane Downey  Judy Workings & Family  Nancy Rewold
Grace Mather  Penny Hackett-Evans  Maria Avant  Joan Ross
Brendella McPherson  Laura Kroger & Family  Daniel Butterworth  Swetha Sivakumar
Donna Peters  Aiden King  Rick & Alicia Conner  J. Stevenson
Pamela Racz  Lisa Lanni  Family  Marion & Diane Tobkin
Cynthia Rike & Family  Patrice Lelco  Grace DiSessa  Nancy Waineo

Donations to the Friends

The Friends of RHPL are thankful for the donors who help support our organization and through us the Rochester Hills Public Library. Below is the list of donors since our last newsletter.


You may send a donation to the Friends of RHPL at 500 Olde Towne Rd, Rochester, MI 48307 at any time …… we will be pleased to publish your name in future newsletters.

Articles of Incorporation Revised in October 2015

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library (“The Friends”) reviewed its bylaws to ensure that they are reflective of how the Friends currently operate. We also had an attorney look at our “Articles of Incorporation” filed with the State of Michigan. He found them very confusing since there is the original incorporation document of 1961 plus five or six modifications since then (Woodward Memorial Public Library to Avon Township Public Library to Rochester Hills Public Library, etc.) He recommended that we put together revised “Articles of Incorporation” and refile with the state to clarify things up and consolidate the articles in one document.

As he looked through the articles, he found that we are more than likely set up as a “membership-based” nonprofit rather than being “director-based,” since that was the only option when we were formed and nothing has been specifically documented which changes that status. The impact of that is when we make major decisions as a board; we need to get a majority of our members to approve the decisions. Since we have more than 800 members, that process is unwieldy to manage. Our attorney recommended that when we revise our articles and refile them with the state, we also include the change to a “director-based” organization and have that change approved by the Friends Membership.

Ballots were sent out to the Friends Membership list in late September with stamped addressed envelopes included. Ballots were requested to be returned by the 16th of October. Ballots not returned were deemed to be abstentions from voting and were not counted for or against the proposal. The change to the “Articles of Incorporation” to a director-based organization was approved by the Friends membership and the revised “Articles” will be submitted to the State of Michigan.
THANK YOU HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
SPONSORS - Many local businesses donate money to help sponsor the Holiday Home Tour. The Friends would like to acknowledge the following individuals and businesses for their support of the 2015 Tour. Over $3300 was donated this year.

Adams Cleaners
Balian Eye Center
Bates, Dick & Julie
CoccoMusic Studio
Decker, Al & Marcia
Dillman & Upton
Dorn, Ken & Kathy
Friends Board of Directors and spouses
  - Asmus, Tom & Mary
  - Calavenna, Karen & Anthony
  - Caldwell, Jac & Mary Jo
  - Coombs, John
  - Kroger, Bill & Jean
  - Matis, Commissioner Jeff & Kimberly
- Meegan, Ron & Theresa
- Moore, Robin & Dick
- Tabacchi, Sandy & Dennis
Golden Eagle Restaurant
Goodison Veterinary Clinic
Hollywood Market
Krazy Greek Restaurant
Lucido's Jewelers
Lytle Pharmacy
Mallmann, Juanita
Manny's Liquor & Wine Store
Mattina, Kent & Gibbons, P.C.
Millman-Derr Center for Eye Care
Modern Art Jewelers
Modetz Funeral Homes
North Hill Marathon
Pierce, Mark & Pat
Pixley Funeral Home
Rochester Elevator
Rochester Hills Tire & Service
Rochester Plumbing & Heating
The Toffee Store
VanRaaphorst, Paul, DDS, MS and Ramos, Michael, DDS, MS
Yates Cider Mill