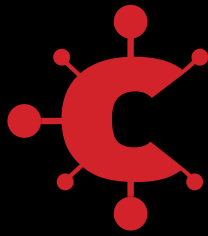




of the Rochester Hills Public Library

Dedicated to Promoting a Closer Relationship Between the Library & Its Constituents

FRIENDS COPING WITH CRISIS



COVID-19



Fall 2020 What's Happening!

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A Note from the President

Two Zero Two Zero

2020 has been an interesting year so far hasn't it? It started off so symmetrical – two zero two zero, but has become very disjointed since then. The year for the Friends started off pretty normally too. We had our winter book sale like normal and then everything changed in March. The library shut down for in-person operation, so everything stopped for the Friends also – Wine Wit & Wisdom, the lobby book cart, the Friends store, used book sales, book donations, book sorting, book shelving, online book sales – everything came to a halt. Pretty depressing.

But this issue of the Friends newsletter is about positive, not negative. The articles that you will see about our various events are focused on how we have adapted to the new constraints we are under and found ways to raise money for the library (our primary reason for being), serve the local community, and provide opportunities for our many volunteers to stay involved. All the things that came to a halt back in March are now back in operation but with revisions. Take a look at the articles to see how we've adapted and revised our various operations.



encourage Friends membership. We thank the Rochester Hills Public Library for recognizing us in the press and on social media.

“United for Libraries” designated October 18th thru the 24th as the 15th Annual “Friends of the Library” week. This was set up to promote the Friends in our communities, to raise awareness of what Friends groups do, and to

Thanks for supporting the Friends of RHPL



whether by donating used books, buying a book from one of our sales or an item from the store, attending one of our fundraising events or by volunteering as a Friend.

**Here's to
Two Zero Two One**

Ron Meegan
Friends President

Here Ye, Here Ye - the Friends of RHPL will be celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2021. Our Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Michigan on January 24, 1961. We started out as The Friends of the Woodward Memorial Public Library, became the Friends of the Avon Township Public Library and then assumed our present name when Rochester Hills became a city. We will be planning some 60th anniversary celebrations in 2021, so **stay tuned**



Like us on Facebook@ Friends of RHPL

From the Director

When I interviewed for the prestigious role of Director at the Rochester Hills Public Library nearly one year ago I can recall stating, "I am really good in a crisis." I had 15+ years of experience under my belt and I had dealt with my share of library related crises. I've trained on everything from life-threatening medical incidents, to building evacuations, and even the dreaded outbreak of bed bugs in a library. Little did I know that in my first year as a library director I would face a once-in-a-generation global pandemic and subsequent work stoppage the likes of which we could not imagine, yet faced in 2020.

Ten months into my new role and I am still confident about my crisis-management skills, but equally humbled and awed by the power of working with team when faced with a massive disaster. When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, our board, staff and volunteers rose to the occasion and charted a new path forward. As you might recall, in those early months there was a tremendous shortage of solid facts, cleaning supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Businesses and organizations rapidly pivoted into telework opportunities and prioritized what needed attention. As a library, we focused on ease of access: extending due dates, fast-tracking new library card requests, prolonging expiration dates, and removing fines and fees throughout the summer months.

Our building may have been closed, but staff never stopped working. Our Makerspace Specialist, Tierney Czartoski, had the inspiration to take our 3D printer to her home and use that technology to print much-needed face shields. We used supplies purchased for community programs to construct over 150 face shields that we gave away. The PPE was donated to local medical centers and neighboring assisted living facilities in need.

Our Friends of the RHPL helped make this possible. The Friends have always been early supporters of new technology at the library, and they underwrite all of our community programming. It was program supplies specifically, those that we normally would have shared with the community, that we were able to repurpose into PPE for the war on COVID. Without the generous support of the Friends, we would not have been nimble enough to make decisions as quickly as we did in the spring. You helped support us, and in turn, we were able to help the community at large.

Thank you, Friends!



Julianne Morian
jmorian@rhpl.org
248.650.7122

Lorrie Imbirowitz Selected as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year

Twenty years ago, Lorrie started working on the used book sales. She was not only skilled at sorting the donated books; she was a whirlwind of activity. She reached out to the staff to help them find donations that would be useful additions to the library collection. In recent years, Lorrie took over the job of pricing the quality books that we put in the sale.

We have discovered over the years that we could make much more money selling books as sets rather than individually. This takes a lot of effort though,

in researching and collecting the books to make up a set. Lorrie has spent countless hours doing this, both for the on-line sales and for the December Quality Sale.

It is only with dedicated volunteers like Lorrie that we have been able to achieve such success with the used book sales.

The Friends salute Lorrie Imbirowitz, the 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

COVID-19

How We've Managed & Revised Our Operations



Raising Funds with a Cancelled Fundraiser!

The menu was set, and seven interesting and talented speakers were confirmed. Registrations were arriving daily as members of the Rochester community anticipated an entertaining evening at the 7th annual Wine, Wit & Wisdom, scheduled for April 25, 2020. Then, in March, COVID-19 entered the scene. As the severity of the pandemic began to be recognized, it became clear that the only appropriate course of action was to cancel the event.

Wine, Wit & Wisdom is the Friends' major spring fundraiser. Canceling the event would have a significant impact on the Friends' planned revenue and on the programs that revenue would support. As the committee quickly mobilized to deconstruct the event, they also worked to identify ways to maintain some revenue. In announcing the event's cancellation, the committee asked current registrants to consider donating the cost of their tickets to the Friends. A full refund was also offered. Thanks to the generosity of the library's supporters, well over 50% of registrants donated the cost of their tickets. While we lost the anticipated revenue from the many individuals who had not yet registered, and from the event's silent auction, the cancelled event was still able to generate significant funds for the Friends.

We know that when the situation permits, people will be eager to come together again to enjoy food, wine, presentations and camaraderie. With that in mind, we are hoping to schedule Wine, Wit & Wisdom for fall, 2021. We have a great menu, committed speakers and a fantastic list of silent auction items ready to go!

The Friends Store is back in operation



Hello Fall! A new season brings new motifs for the home. It is time to transition from a summer look to a fall-inspired décor. The Friends Library Store volunteers can help you with that. Whether the look you want is elegant or casual, whimsical or classic, you can find the perfect something to welcome fall into your home and start you thinking for Thanksgiving.

You can shop by appointment any time on Mondays, on Tuesday afternoons, any time on Thursdays, and on Friday mornings. Simply send an email to Darlene.tomczyk@rhpl.org to set a day and time. Also, if you happen to be in the library when an appointment has been completed and the store is still open, check for an opportunity to stop in then.

And if you shop our posts on the Friends of RHPL Facebook page, you can make arrangements to pick up your purchase curbside in the south parking lot.

And here's another bonus! With the cooler temperatures that mark the end of summer, all the past season merchandise in the store is 60% off until it's gone. So check out the window

displays. There is lots of great merchandise just waiting for you!

And remember, Friends members always receive an additional 10% off. And every bit of the profit we make goes right back to the library, so it's a win-win-win for everyone!



Used Book Sales Challenge our Ingenuity

Like the rest of the world, it has been a difficult time for the used book sales, and it has challenged our ingenuity. Everything shut down when the library closed in March. Once we were allowed back into the library building, the first thing we did was to restart our online sales, which, thankfully, have been doing very well.



Due to the restrictions mandated by the state, we have been limited to only a few volunteers allowed in the library at one time. Most of our volunteers are retirees, which mean that most of them are in the vulnerable segment of the population. To keep them as safe as possible, we have scheduled them to work alone in separate areas with minimum contact with the staff, the public, and each other.

It seems everyone was busy housecleaning while they were locked down, so the phone has been ringing constantly with people who want to donate their books. When we ran out

of room, we were able to borrow a truck this summer from the nice folks at U-Haul to use as temporary storage. It was with great reluctance that we had to finally tell people that we could not accept any more donations for a while. As soon as we can make space, we will be happy to accept donations again.

Eventually, our shelves were overflowing, so we called a few of our biggest customers and invited them to come in, a few at a time, and buy large numbers of books. The next step was to set up small sales, by appointment only, for members of the Friends.

We've also conducted a couple of "teacher" sales by appointment only for teachers that work or live in Rochester Hills, Rochester and Oakland Township. This was something that we normally did just prior to our quarterly book sales and with many school systems now going back to in-person classes, the teachers were very excited to participate in this sale.

We look forward to getting back to "normal", but in the meantime, we will continue to be as flexible and innovative as possible. We appreciate all the suggestions we have received and the cooperation of the community.

The Lobby Book Carts are welcomed back

Among the many things missing at the library due to Covid-19 was the Lobby Book Carts. We are happy to report that the book carts are back,



albeit in a different format. Library patrons have long-relied on the materials sold on the carts, including hard and soft cover fiction and non-fiction books, cookbooks, children's and youth books, DVD's and books on tape. Besides purchasing these items for themselves, the good quality of materials often make them suitable for gifts or to simply pass on to others to share. Patrons have expressed their delight that the carts are back. As one gentleman said when he

purchased 5 paperbacks, "I was glad to find the carts because I buy paperbacks to take with me to Florida." We like putting a smile on faces!

The carts are currently residing near the Friends Store as a self-serve, honor system and are in place all of the time. A locked box attached to a table is on hand for purchasers to drop in their money with instructions that suggest if exact change isn't available to consider the balance as a donation to the Friends, or make your payment the next time you visit the library. We do advise purchasers that neither the circulation staff nor store volunteers are able to make change.

In the short time that the book carts have been available, funds are being collected daily that will eventually end up contributing to library programs.

Friends Membership – Our Lifeline

The Friends rely on your membership in the Friends of RHPL for funds, for helping identify volunteers and to help us keep track of our "friends." During the pandemic, when the Library was closed, maintaining our Friends database was a little bit of a challenge. We use our database to track the expiration and renewal of Friends members and to welcome new members when they join. Fortunately, a few years ago the Friends Board decided to update our database using a new program. Although we still rely on the Library's computers (and their very helpful IT department) we were able to access our database from a remote location. This allowed us to continue to process membership reminders and renewals. With the help of our Library Director Julianne Moran who kindly played "mailman" we have been able to keep our database pretty much up to date.

If you have let your membership lapse because you did not know if we would receive it, now is the time to renew. Just drop your renewal or new member request off at the library the next time you are there. You can also renew by mail to 500 Olde Town, Rochester, Mi 48307. We also offer you the opportunity to renew or join online. Go to rhpl.org/connect/visit-the-friends-of-rhpl and use PayPal.

A Hiatus for the Holiday Home Tour

Our Annual Holiday Home Tour, always a favorite during December for Friends and their friends, regrettably must be canceled for 2020. Despite extremely interested owners and diversely decorated locales on the tour docket this year, we cannot guarantee strict compliance to the governor's mandates about assemblage during the Covid-19 pandemic. Safety first is the committee's goal, so our plans have been postponed until 2021.



designer's home, fantastic holiday quilts, traditional Christmas themes, and the beginning of a young couple's Christmas decorating traditions. Plus, we have several more homes that would love to be included. It should be a spectacular display next December.

As always, the committee is on the lookout for homes and individuals who would like to help. Do not hesitate to contact the Friends of RHPL for your involvement opportunities.

Wishing you a hopeful holiday season!

Next year, expect to see beautiful décor in a

Little Free Libraries Are a Hit

Even though our beautiful RHPL is open and available for area readers, the community has embraced the idea of encouraging reading close to home. We are thrilled to report that we have sold 13 little free libraries to interested individuals, organizations, and



subdivisions since we began providing this service a year ago.

Our product is sturdy, accommodating, very easy to assemble, and can be seen all around Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Oakland Township. The prototype is on display in our library and orders can be made via the Friends hotline and/or the Friends Library Store. For just \$325.00, it is a gift that keeps on giving.

The Friends Partner with U-Haul

One unsung hero of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, as far as the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library was concerned, turned out to be a good neighbor as well. Explanation?

When the Friends re-started limited collection of used books and other media for its sales earlier this summer, donated goods piled up in a hurry. Problem? The state rules for public buildings greatly limited how many of the Friends volunteer corps could be in the main building to handle the donations. And the offerings from folks who used the stay-at-home limitation period to clean things out quickly filled the Friends storage coffers. What to do?

At a virtual Friends Board meeting in late spring, board members kicked around solutions. But the best was a suggestion that the Friends get a truck to act as sort of a portable warehouse.

Friends publicist John Smyntek was asked to tackle the situation and he approached a neighbor just down Rochester Road. The



U-Haul Moving & Storage Center of Rochester at 6875 N. Rochester Road was having adjustment dilemmas of their own as demand for trucks were still pretty solid. But Bethany Mosher, the U-Haul general manager in charge, came up with a novel idea. U-Haul has trucks that are rotated out of service and sold. She offered to check with U-Haul headquarters and within a couple of days, a suitable, destined-for-sale, 17-foot truck was ferried to the library's parking lot, where it stayed largely filled (and emptied) for the better part of three months. The truck was returned at the end of August.

In a letter to U-Haul brass, Library Director Julianne Morian wrote that Mosher was "Not only... responsive in helping the group acquire the truck, when we asked for an extension, she was incredibly accommodating. As a result, we were able to take in hundreds of donated materials during a time when the library could not otherwise accept them. The donated materials are now being sorted and will be added to the circulated collection or resold in our book sales; any revenue gained will be directed back to the library."

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.



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.

Since we started with AmazonSmile, 57 people have signed up to support the Friends with their Amazon purchases. Those purchases have brought in \$450 to help support library programs.

Thank you.

Donations to the Friends and Friends Store

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

Kayla Adams
Thomas Adams
Donna Austin
Sharon Backstrom
Muriel Balentine
Roger & Eugenia Bajorek
Diane Bennett
Jane Bingham
Sue Bohanon
Paul & Sue Burbank
Nancy Butler
Henry Eckfield
Eaton Ciera Waller
J Donald & Susan Ferry
Nancy Gaydos
Sally & Vince Giacobbe
Linda Giordano
Frank & Mary Glasgow
Jane Haugen
Bill & Peg Hayes
Debra Hebbeln
Joyce Hennessey
Norman Hunstad
Thomas Jones
Elizabeth Kircos
Mark & Debra Kosowski
Jean & Bill Kroger
Anne Kucher
Art & Lolly Lewry
Mary Mazure
Ron & Theresa Meegan
Nicholas & Rosemarie Mendes
John & Millie Merz
Don & Jeanette Nadler
John & Linda Pannuto
Dawn Saville
Linda & Chad Spawr
Witt Thanom
Michael Price Tyler
Carol Tough

Camille & Brian Westmore
Robert & Deborah Zeeb

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

2020 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Ron Meegan
Vice President	Bill Kroger
Secretary	Sandy Tabacchi
Treasurer	John Coombs
Asst. Treasurer	Jac Caldwell

Board Members

Tom Asmus
Marcia Decker
Kimberly Matis
Kim Whitney

Ex-Officio:

Library Director	Juliane Morian
Used Book Sale	Ann Gruenewald
Friends Store	Darlene Tomczyk
Membership	Connie Livingston
Publicity	John Smyntek

Phone Numbers:

Friends Membership	248-650-7160
Friends Events	248-650-7176
Friends Store	248-650-7179
Used Book Sale	248-650-7178
Online Sales	248-650-9790
Main Library	248-656-2900

Website

rhpl.org/connect/visit-the-friends-of-rhpl

Newsletter

Published Spring and Fall	
Editor/Publisher	Tim Schulte
Mailing Coordinator	Sandy Tabacchi

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 will get your newsletter earlier than those who select mailing
- 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.

To date, 66 Friends have agreed to have their newsletters sent by email.

2020 Friends Annual Meeting Held in October

The Friends of RHPL held their 2020 Annual Meeting virtually this year via Zoom on Thursday the 22nd of October. Minutes from the 2019 meeting were read by Secretary Sandy Tabacchi, and a financial report was given by Treasurer John Coombs. President Ron Meegan presented a check for \$160,000 to the Library Director Julianne Morian. President Meegan gave a report on the past year's accomplishments, got approval for two re-elected board members and also approval for the slate of officers for the next year. The meeting ended with the introduction of the 2020 Volunteer of the Year by Ann Gruenewald, Lorrie Imbirowitz – (see article elsewhere in the newsletter).

New Members - October 2019 through September 2020

Vicki Baker
Barbara Cordaro
Carl & Barbara Dibble
Shaylee Ferguson & family
Mary Frees
Susan Hewitt
Linda Larsen
Joseph Mendilyn & family
Christine Pencak
Leah Potoczak
Caryn Reeves
Yvonne Shannon
Sharon Snodgrass
Ann Tull
Bohdan & Nadija Zarewych

Carol Byron
Charlotte Cowper
Heather Dorn & family
Beverly Ferrari
Peg & Bill Hayes
Elaine Higgins
Linda Leibold
Jennifer Moses
Kristine Perosky-Tomich
Sharon Pulte
Daniel & Jeanne Rioux
Barbara Shelton
Lisa Sokol
Jeff Wagner
Jill Ziolkowski

Maureen Carty
Karen & Jeff Cuthbertson
Karen Elliott
Norma Frame
Joyce Hennessey
Deborah Key & family
Lana Mangiapane
Matej Padela
Bonnie Pitt
Sheila & William Quinn
Michael & Judith Schlaman
Martha Smydra
Violet Spencer
William Whiting

Giving Tuesday December 1, 2020



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

A recent article by Tara Brach said: "Civic engagement is a profound act of compassion and love, a way to shape our culture that will have a ripple effect for generations to come." Her article resonates with GivingTuesday and our library this year.

COVID-19 has greatly affected each and every one of us – there are too many different aspects to list here, but it's important to let you all know that this year, on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library is participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage giving and to celebrate generosity worldwide.

This week, show your love by getting involved and inspiring others to do the same. We encourage

you to join us, the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library, in celebrating GivingTuesday and give back to our community. We are a nonprofit organization that is entirely volunteer-run. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 1st, and then go to the library's website at rhpl.org/connect/visit-the-friends-of-rhpl.

Click on the PayPal link to allocate a donation to the Friends. Also, you may work at a company that doubles donations through matching gift requests – please check with your employer to see if a matching gift may be made. This is a one-day event and should only take a few minutes out of your day, even during this busy time of year.

Also, please check out the Friends tab at rhpl.org/connect/visit-the-friends-of-rhpl to see if there are any volunteer opportunities you may enjoy; spending time helping out at one of the book sales, waiting on customers in the Friends store, sorting donated books, or assisting with one of the special events we hold each year.

We at the Friends appreciate every donation from our community whether it is used books, volunteer time, or financial donations. Your generosity is very much appreciated!