



of the Rochester Hills Public Library

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

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A Note from the President

Libraries = Strong Communities

The communities of Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Oakland Township are great places to live for a lot of reasons. There is a beautiful mix of town and country, hills and flatlands, rivers and streams, strong leadership, great education, theater and arts, safe communities, and I could go on and on. Just think of all the state and national awards our communities have won over the past few years. Did I mention that our library is another great aspect of our communities??



National Library Week was April 7th thru the 13th and the theme this year, Libraries = Strong Communities, “illustrates how today’s libraries are at the heart of our cities, towns, schools and campuses, providing critical resources, programs and expertise. They also provide a public space where all community members, regardless of age, culture or income level, can come together to connect and learn.” In 2016, I wrote an article for this newsletter about “Libraries of the Future,” and the message at that time was that libraries are a place where the community comes together to learn, network, grow, and have fun.

As a member of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library, it’s rewarding to know that I am a part of making our community strong; because the library is such a vital part, the “heart”, of a strong community. The Friends are dedicated to providing volunteer support for the library by earning funds in a variety of ways that go to support library programs and other special needs. Along the way we get to interface and network with other Friends’ members and library staff, so in addition to supporting the library we develop relationships that often go way beyond our time spent at the library. We get to use our creativity, our organizational abilities, our negotiating skills, our

communication skills, and sometimes even our muscles – all dedicated to providing for the best library in the area.

Would you like to be a part of strengthening our community? You’ve made a start by becoming a member of the Friends, but you could up your game by getting involved in one or more of the volunteer opportunities that the Friends offer. Another article in this newsletter describes the volunteer opportunities that are available with the Friends. Take a look and see what might interest you. You can decide how much time you want to spend volunteering and whatever you decide will help to make our library stronger and strengthen our community at the same time.

Thanks to all our Friends and to all our volunteers. Together we can make a “strong community.”

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Ron Meegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Meegan" clearly legible.

Ron Meegan
Friends President



Like us on Facebook@ Friends of RHPL

National Library Week - 2019



Libraries = Strong Communities

During National Library Week (and also the rest of the year), the Rochester Hills Public Library celebrates the many ways libraries build strong communities by providing critical resources, programs and expertise. April 7-13, 2019 was National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and communities. Libraries are in the heart of their cities, towns, schools and campuses. They have public spaces where people of all backgrounds can come together and connect.

Library programs encourage community members to meet to discuss civic issues, work together using new technologies like 3D printing or learn alongside one another in English language classes. Library staff also partner with other civic and service organizations to actively engage with the people they serve, always striving to make sure their community's core needs are being met.

The Rochester Hills Public Library helps lead the community by providing programs in its Makerspace like "Girls Who Code," (starting May 7, Every Tuesday for 8 weeks, 4:30-5:30 pm for girls in Grades 3-5) to teach them about coding and other computer science activities; Teen Writer's Workshops; Evening

Family Storytime (on Wednesdays April 10 & May 8, 7-8 pm) encouraging people of all ages to enjoy reading, Between the Lines Book Discussion Group held on Wednesdays 10-11:30 am and Thursdays, 2-3:30 pm, lectures such as Intro to Birding (Thursday, May 9, 7-8:30 pm), and the Loud at the Library concert series. Some of these activities are sponsored by the Friends of the RHPL.

You, too, can help our community to be stronger. Please become a member of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library. Membership in the Friends of the RHPL is currently at 906 strong, which is less than 1% of our population. Many of these contributors actively volunteer their time to assist the group with fundraising efforts which include annual events like Wine, Wit, and Wisdom, and several book sales each year. I am proud to be a member of the Friends of the RHPL, and serve our community on its Board of Directors. If you can, volunteer your time or make a monetary donation, which may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will have an untold return on your investment. All money donated to the Friends goes to support library programs as well as providing funds for projects, activities and acquisitions in excess of those provided by the general library budget. Donating to the Friends helps to keep the Rochester Hills Public Library vibrant and up to date. From education to job resources to lifelong learning, your library provides access to the programming and services which make communities strong.

You can visit the Rochester Hills Public Library today or go to www.ILoveLibraries.org for additional information. You can also find more information through the Friends of RHPL tab on the bottom of the rhpl.org website, or call the Friends membership line, 248-650-7178.

Kimberly Matis

At The Friends' Store Now

A Favorite at the Friends' Store: American Spoon® products

Made in Petoskey, Michigan, using fruit grown at small family fruit farms, American Spoon products are one of the most popular Michigan items sold at the Friends' Store in your library. Customers frequently request them, and they sell out quickly.

Enjoy the recipe here for Thumbprint Cookies, courtesy of American Spoon's website.

Thumbprint Cookies

- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup butter
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla
- 1 Cup pecans
- 1 Jar American Spoon Preserves or Lemon Curd



In a mixing bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer until softened. Add sugar, egg yolks, vanilla and half the flour. Beat until thoroughly combined, then beat in remaining flour. Cover and chill for one hour.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Slightly beat egg whites. Finely chop nuts. Form dough into $1\frac{1}{2}$ " balls. Roll each ball in egg whites, then in the chopped nuts. Arrange $1\frac{1}{2}$ " apart on cookie sheet. With your thumb, make an indentation in each cookie. Bake 10-12 minutes. Remove from cookie sheet and cool on a wire rack. Fill the centers with your favorite flavors of American Spoon Preserves.



Customer Nancy Rockman of Rochester Hills tells store volunteer Linda about her favorite uses for American Spoon Lemon Curd.



Have more fun at the library! Join our staff of happy volunteers at the Friends Store. Stop in for an application. You'll be glad you did!

Store Hours

Monday, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00 – 4 pm

Like Us on Facebook

Want reminders of various events and sales through the library? Check us out on Facebook for posts and then please share them with your friends.

Friends of RHPL



From the Director

Fall Millage Election

The Library Board has decided to go to the voters in November of this year to ask for a millage increase of 0.31 of a mil for ten years. This would be the first rate increase since the original millage passed in 1924, 95 years ago! We have been fortunate that property values increased over the years, but the recession in 2007 cut our revenue by about 16%. Even though property has started appreciating again, we have yet to reach the 2006 property value level.



To cope with the revenue loss, the library took many cost-saving measures including:

- Re-bidding most service contracts (maintenance, Internet, supplies, etc.)
- Re-bidding bookmobile maintenance and saved 40 cents a gallon on gas
- Cutting supplies budget
- Cutting funds for consulting
- Cutting the printing budget
- Installing occupancy sensors in all storage closets, and staff restrooms
- Installing LED lighting as a cost savings procedure
- Turning lights off in staff hallways and rooms when not in use
- Renegotiating DTE rate structure
- Reducing equipment purchasing budget drastically
- Cutting facilities & equipment maintenance budget by 24%, and
- Delaying much-needed maintenance projects (parking lots, painting, restrooms, correction of the drive up window, etc.)

In addition, savings were achieved by:

- Freezing staff wages for 3 years
- Cutting the library's pension contribution by 40%
- Eliminating 2.8 FTE staff
- Cutting back health care plans (medical, prescription, dental)
- Eliminating personal business days
- Eliminating life insurance
- Cutting vacations by 1 day per person, and
- Discontinuing staff memberships in some professional associations

The library staff is outstanding and has continued to offer great service throughout the recession even with these cuts in funding.

We also made some service cuts by:

- Discontinued offering OCLC interlibrary loan
- Cutting back the book budget
- Restricting non-resident access to library programs, holds for materials not currently available and ceased initiating loans from other libraries for non-residents.

Starting in 2015 we used the library fund balance to do much-needed maintenance (carpet, painting, reupholstering after 25 years).

Our operating budget is still \$500,000 less than it was in 2006. Our fund balance is down to \$200,000. With 130 employees and a \$4.5-million-dollar budget, \$200,000 fund balance does not meet with recommended fund balance levels set by our auditors.

This winter we conducted focus groups and heard that people wanted:

- To see upgrades/repairs to public restrooms
- To maintain programming for all ages
- To maintain hours, and
- Had a shared pride in the library

We will soon not be able to support current services let alone provide new 21st Century services. Without the increase, we will not be able to address necessary repair and replacement projects. These are the reasons that the library board is asking for a millage increase.

The "Say Yes" Committee will be getting to work this summer for the fall election. If you have questions, please call me (248-650-7122). If you would like a presentation made to your club, homeowners group or church I would be happy to come and talk with you.

We have been operating a 21st Century Library on a 20th Century Millage. A "Yes" vote for the library will allow us to maintain current services, look at new services, expand library collections and do much-needed maintenance on our building.

Christine Lind Hage
Christine.Hage@rhpl.org
248-650-7122

Donations for the Friends' Used Book Sale

We welcome donations that are ...

- Clean
- Fresh-smelling
- In good condition

We DO accept ...

- Hardcover books
- Paperback books
- Textbooks
- CDs,
- VHS tapes, DVDs
- Books on CD
- Computer software (last 5-6 yrs)
- Complete encyclopedia sets
(last 20 yrs, very good condition)
- Vinyl records

We CANNOT accept ...

- Magazines (including
National Geographic)
- Condensed books

Small donations: Materials in bags or small boxes may be left at the Information Desk.

Large donations: Arrange to deliver multiple boxes at the dock east of the Drive-Through Circulation windows by calling 248-650-7178. Volunteers are normally available to assist you Mon-Fri 10:00 am -12:00 pm.

We are very sorry if the library staff is unable to assist with volunteer operations while performing their regular library work.

Donations to the Friends and Friends' Store

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.

- Judith Amir
- Sandy Avripas
- Meriel Ballantine
- Michael & Connie Ballanger
- Erma Bridges
- George & Carol Burkett
- Donald & Susan Ferry
- Judy Garrett
- Nancy Gaytos
- Thomas & Jennifer Gerada
- Diantha Guessous
- Robert & Christine Hage
- Sharon Harris
- Eric Hood
- Eric & Ginger Ketelsen
- Karen Krieger
- Lolly & Art Lewry
- Frank & Beatriz Lude
- Nina Macri
- Margaret MacTavish
- Mary Mazure
- Ron & Theresa Meegan
- John & Millie Merz
- Charles & Melanie Motchenbacher
- Don & Jeanette Nadler
- Chris & Lisa Palazzolo
- Peggy Phillipi
- Maratha Rice
- Marilyn Rosol
- Joyce Salisbury
- Gretchen Schumann
- Virginia Siewert
- Charlotte Stinger
- Michele Strojek
- Darlene Tomczyk
- Michael Price Tyler
- Kathy & Tom Wencel
- 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.

Comerica Park Tour



The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library are hosting a tour of Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers, on Thursday, May 30, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. All proceeds will benefit Library programs.

Founded in 1894, the Detroit Tigers have won four World Series championships and 11 American League pennants. The Baseball Hall of Fame is studded with Tigers, including Hank Greenberg, Mickey Cochrane, Charlie Gehringer, Ty Cobb, Al Kaline and many more. And what about Gibby, and Miggy, and Tram, and Justin? The team moved to Comerica Park in 2000 after 84 years at Tiger Stadium, and we have set up a tour so you can see the inner workings of the ballpark. See the dugout, the press box, the clubhouse, the walk of fame, and more.



Come see where your favorite tigers play, and support the Library at the same time.



Tour participants will meet at Tiger Club lobby which is located near the corner of Witherell Street and Elizabeth. Parking is available in Lot 1 in front of Comerica Park as well as other lots around the area; note that there is a fee for parking so carpool if you can. The tour lasts about 90 minutes and includes lots of walking and some stairs, so wear comfortable walking shoes. Photography is permitted on the tour. The D shop (where you can shop for Tiger memorabilia) is

open from 10am to 4pm Monday through Friday, you may want to arrive early to look around.



Date: Thursday, May 30
Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Location: Comerica Park - 2100 Woodward Ave.,
Detroit, MI 48201
Cost: \$25 per person

To reserve your place, go to www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl, and look for the "Special Events" link to download the reservation form. Instructions for payment and mailing are included on the form.

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, May 15.

We certainly hope you can join us this year for this

Holiday Home Tour Save the Date

The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library
Annual Holiday Home Tour

Sunday December 15, 2019 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- Tour five decorated homes in the area
- Shop at the Unique Boutique in the Van Hoosen Museum Dairy Barn
- Gain free admission to the Model Train Exhibit in the Van Hoosen Museum Calf Barn



Would You Like to Volunteer for the Friends?

The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library is an all-volunteer organization. Its heart beat is the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours each year to plan, organize, conduct, and communicate a wide variety of activities and fund raising events to support the library.

If you are interested in helping, take a look at the list of "Friends Volunteer Opportunities." In every case, training is provided. Your service can be a few hours per year or several hours weekly. Volunteers develop new friends, learn more about the library and have a great sense of accomplishment.

Friends Volunteer Opportunities

Friends' Library Store: Stop in to get an application. Job includes sales, assisting customers, housekeeping, opening and closing tasks.

Book Cart: Spend a 2-hour shift with a cart of books located by the information desk. Straighten shelves, collect cash, and answer questions. Work as often as you like, within a schedule.

Used Book Sorting and Shelving: Sort donations from patrons as well as Library discards and prepare them for the book sales. Organize the donations that have been sorted onto shelves in the 2nd floor used book room. Both tasks involve working a few hours a week in the sorting area and/or used book room.

Online Book Sales: Research books and other media to determine if the value is high enough to be sold online, list items on websites, prepare items for shipping to customers.

Used Book Sales: Volunteer for a shift on one of the sale days as a cashier, bagger, or book arranger. You could even be the chairperson for a shift. Our big sales happen four times a year plus other smaller sales.

Wine Wit & Wisdom: An annual spring event that includes speakers, a strolling dinner with wine and beer and dessert, and a silent auction. Help with setup and teardown the night of the event, solicit businesses for silent auction items, etc.

Holiday Home Tour: An annual event in November or December that features homes for viewing that have been decorated for the holidays. Help with obtaining homes for the tour, arrange for sponsors, publicity, ticket sales, docent captain at a house, or be a docent yourself.

Mailing: Label and sort mail to go out to all members. (two to three times a year)

Friends Board Member: Serve on the Board for a specified period of time, as elected at the annual meeting, and serve on a Board committee. Attend 10 meetings a year.

If you are interested in volunteering, stop by the Library Information Desk for an application.

2019 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
Karen Calavenna
Kimberly Matis
Kim Whitney

Ex-Officio:

Library Director	Christine Hage
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

www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl

Newsletter

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

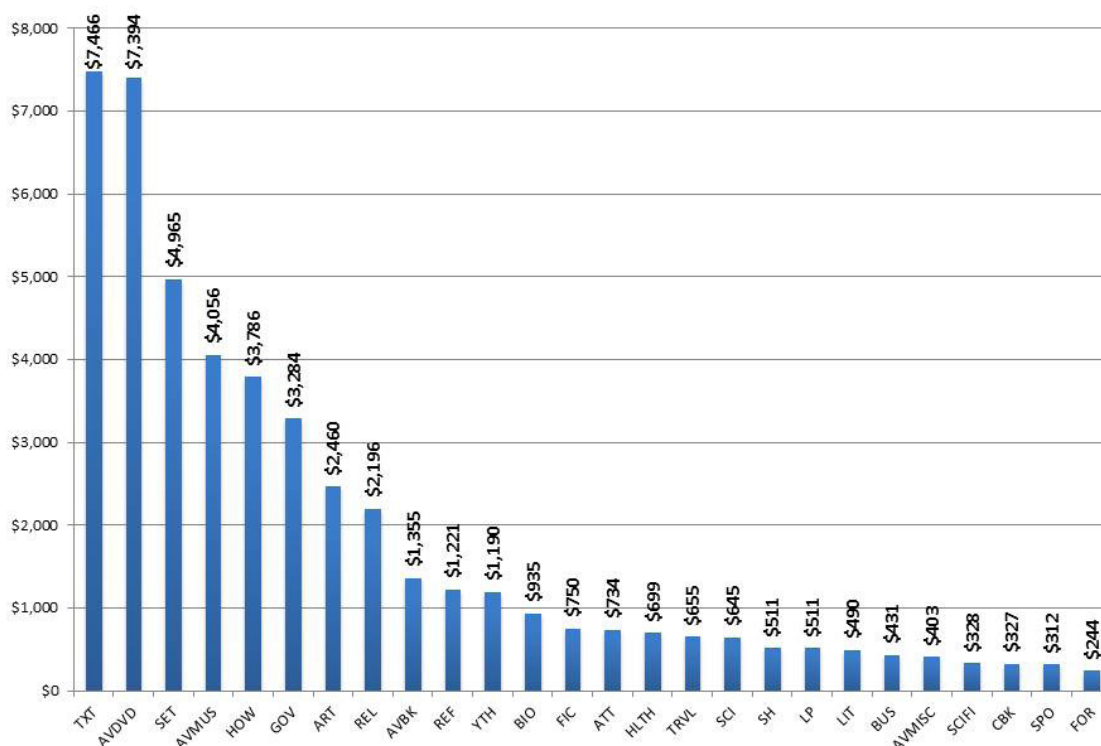
Making Your Donations Count

The used book sale committee has been selling online for over 12 years now, and it has grown into a very successful venture. Last year we netted \$45,432, selling through Amazon.com. As you can see by the chart, our biggest category is Audiovisual, with DVDs, CDs, and books on CD accounting for \$12,805 of that total. Our next biggest category is Textbooks, with a profit of \$7,466.

All of this takes the efforts of a large group of dedicated volunteers. Currently, we have 9 people listing items and 7 people involved in shipping. Then, of course, all of our many sorters are involved in picking out the items to go online. In 2018, we listed 3380 items and sold 77% of them.

If you buy used books from Amazon, watch for [friendsusedbooks](#). That's us! We are very proud of our 99% positive approval rating

2018 ONLINE SALES BY CATEGORY – NET \$45,432



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.

Since we started with AmazonSmile, your purchases have brought in \$237 to help support library programs.

Thank you.

New Friends Members for Spring 2019

Sally Antaya
Judith Beyer
Amy Debaets
Lois Duerk
Barbara Fornasiero
Jeff Hante
Eric Hood
Patricia Jones
David Kochanski
Shelly Mallon
Vincent Mungoli
Donald & Karen Patterson
Sandra Sibert
James Welte
Deb Martin

Diane & Mike Bennett
Kathryn Borton
Karen DeGrendel
Terry & Connie Firestine
Mary Godfrey
Sharon Harris
Marwa Ibrahim
Thomas Jones
Dennis & Doris Lamers
Marlene McLaughlin
Barbara Nettle
Barbara Ritthaler
Linda Stamey
Brian & Camille Westmore
Sara Woollard

Alanna Benway
Martha Custer
Kristine DeVaux
Nancy Flasck
Kathleen & Peter Grund
Ann High
Linda Jacobsen
Teresa Kober
Nina Macri
Marcia Mikula
Gail Palmer
Joyce Schieltz
Elaine Walpole
Paul Wicker

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.

To date, 72 Friends have agreed to have their newsletters sent by email.

Thank You!

Are you on facebook?



Be sure to like the Friends of RHPL for updates and reminders of events and sales in our Library Store. Remember members get into the Used Book Sales before the sale is open to the general public and you get a 10% discount in the store.

Plus your membership fee goes to support the library.

The Library Friends and Volunteers will be hosting a “Library Cookie Walk” Fundraiser on the first or second Saturday in December, 2019 in the Library Multi-Purpose Room. We are hoping to raise around \$3000. To make the event a successful fundraiser, we are asking for:

- Bakers to bake colorful, festive cookies or bars for the event
- Volunteers to help out the day before or the day of the event
- Committee members to help organize the event

If you are interested in helping in any one, or more of these roles, please email us at cookiewalk@rhpl.org and let us know how you would like to help.

Thanks so much!

Library Cookie Walk Committee

2019 Book Sale Dates

Spring	April 24 - 28
Summer	July 24 - 27 and Bag Day July 29, 10:00 am - 1:00pm
Fall	October 23 - 27

Times are the same for all sales

Wed	5:30 - 8 pm (Friends Members Only)
Thu	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fri	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sun	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Bag Day except as noted above)

Quality Book Sale: Dec 12 –14

Thu	3:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Fri	9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sat	9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Neither snow, nor ice, nor bitter cold could stop the Winter Used Book Sale.



The opening night of our winter sale was one of the coldest nights on record in Michigan, and we were worried that very few people would brave the weather to come out to our sale. We were amazed at how many hardy souls turned out and we had an exceptional sale that night.

A broken water pipe did manage to stop the sale on Thursday morning though. Since the pipe was connected to the sprinkler system, the Fire Department said we had to evacuate the building and the library

was closed the rest of the day. Fortunately, we did almost double the normal amount of business on Friday and Saturday. Even with losing almost a full day of sales, we ended up making only \$1200 less than the 2018 winter sale.

We do our best to make good use of the items that the community donates to the library. After the sale, we invite charities to come in and help themselves. Whatever is left is either sold or sent to recycling. We try hard not to send anything to the landfills. If you know of a charity that could use good books, please tell them to contact us.

The Used Book Sales had a great year in 2018. We made a profit of \$145,361 to help out our library. After the sale, all the shelves are emptied and we start filling them with all new items for our Spring



of the Rochester Hills
Public Library

500 Olde Town Road, Rochester, MI 48307

Nonprofit Org
US Postage

Rochester, MI
Permit #69

Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library...What We Do!

- Library Store
- Book Cart
- Used Book Sorting & Shelving
- Online Book Sales
- Used Book Sales
- Wine Wit & Wisdom
- Holiday Home Tour
- Other Events



Friends' Store

Our lovely store at the RHPL is stocked with some of the nicest gifts you can buy anywhere at very reasonable prices with great sales year round. The stock is changed often so there is always something new to find as a gift or as a new treasure for yourself.

