

F·R·I·E·N·D·S



of the TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

P.O. Box 33
Troy, Michigan 48099

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends promote and support the Troy Public Library.

Editor
Eve Parsons
248.524.3543
friendsoftplmi@yahoo.com

Fall Greetings!



**FRIENDS SHOP
NOW
OPEN!**

Role of the Friends in Difficult Times

People move to Troy for a variety of reasons, but at the forefront is the excellent quality of life this community offers. Our schools are A++ rated and our city services (Police, Fire, Public Works, Library, Museum, Nature Center, Parks & Recreation and Community Affairs) are second to none. One of these outstanding services is the Troy Public Library— the informational, educational, cultural and recreational resource for the entire community which offers valuable programs for all ages and something of interest for everyone.

The Friends of the Troy Public Library (FTPL) can certainly take some of the credit for supporting one of Troy's most valuable assets. Thanks to our dedicated FTPL volunteers, through our Book Shop and, the recently renovated, Friends Shop, we raise funds to support, supplement and improve the services at the library. FTPL volunteers donate many tireless hours to raise funds for adult, children and teen programs including book discussion groups, summer and year round reading programs, writing workshops, computer classes, cultural programs and various enrichment events. In total, the money raised provides funding for over 400 programs annually—all at no charge to the public given the FTPL's support. The Friends have also donated collections to the library such as the \$5,000 gift in 2007 to create the Special Needs Collection plus a set of four computers and software for Youth Services.

During these tough economic times, now is certainly not the time to abandon OUR library. Highly ranked and well respected amongst its peers, the library is a necessary and vital service for Troy residents whose needs are now greater than in the past. Many come for internet access they may no longer be able to afford, use the computer center for job searches, research new career options, learn new skills and have access to a wide range of free materials. Others find free or inexpensive entertainment for their families while students and teachers rely heavily on library resources as school funding is cut.

The Friends will continue to work hard at our fundraising efforts and we always encourage new volunteers to join us in our mission of promoting and supporting the TPL. Drop by the library and find out how to become part of our great team. Help strengthen our commitment to the Troy Public Library and our fellow residents by becoming a Friend!

~ Jeff Stewart, FTPL President

Book Shop Hours	Friends Shop Hours	Troy Public Library - Points of Pride
Monday	12 - 8 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #1 in Michigan in 2004 among Class VI libraries per Hennen's Rating Index • #2 in 2005 and 2006 due to expansion of West Bloomfield Library • 2004 received the Library of Michigan Citation of Excellence for diversity • 2005 honored with the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Library Services • 2005 top 1% - #13 in the nation • Attracts approximately 15,000 visitors a week • Most popular place in Troy! <p>COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS!</p>
Tuesday	12 - 8 pm	
Wednesday	12 - 8 pm	
Thursday	12 - 8 pm	
Friday 10 am - 1 pm	12 - 5 pm	
Saturday 10 am - 1 pm	12 - 5 pm	
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm	12 - 4 pm	



BOOK SHOP BUZZ...

While the proverbial long and lazy days of summer may be behind us, there was nothing lazy about all the action taking place in the Book Shop earlier this year! Actually, it was one of our busiest seasons yet! Donations flowed to us in record numbers as did our shoppers. Plus, there was the additional activity and excitement in preparation for the opening of the Friends Shop.

For the 3rd year in a row, the "Summer Reading" shelf with books from the Troy School District required reading list, sold like hot cakes. And no wonder—with the average soft cover costing around \$15, getting the same book in our shop for \$1 is a deal that can't be beat!

The Education section featuring workbooks, non fiction (books & AV), reference and teaching materials for elementary and middle school grades was highly popular and we've now allowed it additional space.

In August, all VHS was on sale for 50% off ...and we'll continue this promotion in anticipation of the long cold winter nights just around the corner. And, as always, we have a rotating menu of "specials" each month for you to discover.

Upstairs in the Friends Shop you will find a sampling of books and AV which, just as in the Book Shop, we restock with fresh items daily. Currently we are featuring mysteries,

soft cover fiction, Collectors Corner, history, teen and children's books ... with holiday theme books soon to arrive!

Our outreach partnerships continue on the record setting path—we are shooting for 1,000 boxes by year end...or double of what we gave away just a couple of years ago. We take special pride in our outreach projects, especially now, when so many are in need.

As always, many thanks to all our volunteers for working so hard and giving their time. Thanks, too, to all the generous donors and our shoppers—you're the reason for our success!

-Eve Parsons, Book Shop Manager

OUR LIBRARY—THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY !

As many of you may be aware, the City of Troy is currently assessing its financial situation and options and their impact on the future of city services—including library funding. Rhonda Hendrickson, FTPL Communications Director and Spokesperson attended the City Council meeting on October 5th, 2009 and shared the following thoughts.

"For 51 years our non-profit, all-volunteer organization with over 400 members and volunteers have donated hundreds of thousands of hours of time and considerable resources to promote and support our wonderful Troy Public Library.

We are aware of the difficult economic times we are facing, but research from the American Library association as well as countless news organizations report that in down economic times, library attendance surges. Many people have been forced to cut their home internet service and the library is their only access to technology. Some use the library to get information on or file documents for public aid. The unemployed use the library as their office, to get information to retrain, attend resume writing or skill building classes. Some volunteer their time while waiting to find employment. Studies show that children are the heaviest users of public libraries. The library is a great source of free educational and entertainment materials and the Friends Shops offer inexpensive.... For families trying to make ends meet. Those are the realities, but it is also necessary to hear what residents themselves say about the Troy Public Library.

In January or 2008, the FTPL commissioned a Needs Assessment to see how Troy residents felt about the library and what changes or improvements they wished to see. Several interesting points came out of the study. Nearly all people surveyed felt that;

- 1. The TPL was an "important gathering place for the community".*
- 2. They viewed the TPL as an access point to technology.*
- 3. Cultural Arts and programming were an essential component of community.*

Focus groups touched on a re-occurring theme—individuals indicated that Troy was a "city without a heart", as it had no defined downtown, and that the library in the Civic Center complex played that role. Residents reinforced that they wanted Troy to continue its evolution as a "knowledge-based community, with the library as a leader in that evolution". And, most of those interviewed felt that Youth Services provided by the library were essential building blocks of our community's future.

The Friends of the TPL, in concert with the library Staff, are on the front lines of the effort to give the best possible service and greatest resources to our citizens. Over 1,000 programs are offered and attended by over 27,000 residents in a given year. The Summer Reading Program had over 1,600 children and 159 teens read more than 20,000 books during the school break.

I can tell you from first hand experience that nearly every morning large numbers of people are lined up waiting for the library doors to open. Our Special Needs Collection—one of the first of its kind is a huge success and well used by children with special needs and disabilities. The Friends made a decision to renovate the Friends Shop in the TPL lobby this year because we believe that the library is an educational and cultural focal point of our community and worth our investment of time and resources.

The City of Troy lists as one of its Core Values the importance of "quality of life venues". Well, without those venues, we are just another sprawling suburb. The Troy Public Library IS the heart of our community that does provide a quality of life. The Friends will continue to champion it through our advocacy and fundraising. I ask all Troy residents to raise their voices with the Friends to support our library because we believe that strong libraries builds strong communities!"

-Rhonda Hendrickson, FTPL Communications Director

Coming Soon ... the FTPL WEB Site!

FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



There's a saying, "libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries."

Libraries provide information, entertainment, and avenue for education and socializing, all for little or no cost. Libraries are community hubs, places where people go to connect personally in a world where so much is increasingly done online. Libraries open doors to new worlds of interest and opportunity. Libraries help. For example, the

IRS sends people who are filing for unemployment benefits to their local public library, for assistance. It's true.

I have always maintained that the library is the one place in society that truly does have something for everyone. And the value of this is incalculable. However, there's a great practical way of finding out how much the library can save you every month. go to the library's website at www.troylibrary.info, and click on the link "Find out how much money you save monthly by using the Troy Library!"

You can enter the number of books, CDs, DVDs, books on CD and other library material you check out each month. You can also include the numbers for reference questions you ask, programs you attend, or museum passes you check out. The

Value Calculator will total it all show how exactly much you would spend in one month's time if you had to purchase all those items out of pocket. Try it! It's fun, and you will see very quickly how much you can save by using the library. Multiply it by the number of people in your family who also use the library and you will realize significant household savings!

The Troy Public Library is here for YOU—use it! Put your tax dollars to work—check out a book, ask a question, download an audio book, do research in a database—and find out just how valuable the library is!

~ *Cathy Russ, Library Director*

FRIENDS SHOP OPENS TO RAVE REVIEWS!



Ribbon Cutting—FTPL Board Members (L to R) Liz Coon, Jeff Stewart, Rhonda Hendrickon, Tom Krent, Mary Kerwin—Troy Councilwoman, Bill Van Horne, Jeanne Stine, Phil Kwik, librarian and Eve Parsons.

The newly renovated Friends Shop in the TPL lobby is a hit! After eight months of construction and reorganization, the ribbon cutting took place on September 10th. City Councilwoman, Mary Kerwin, along with FTPL Board Members, cut the ribbon to officially open the shop for business. And business is booming!

We have enjoyed a steady stream of customers and sales have been brisk. The Friends Shop carries items such as library totes, travel mugs, greeting cards, office supplies, jewelry, glassware, toys and puzzles, teen items and much more. In addition, the shop also has a sampling of used books, movies and talking books from our highly successful Book Shop on the lower level.

New inventory is on its way! And, as part of our effort to support our community, we are also working to soon carry on consignment art by local artists.

The Friends Shop is an attractive addition to the library lobby and patrons are excited about our presence. We have a wonderful, talented roster of 26 volunteers that are working in the shop and we are always interested in continuing to expand our team. Our investment in time and resources into the Friends Shop is paying off for both the FTPL, and, of course, that in turn pays off for our Troy Public Library and residents.

WANTED!

With our enthusiastic team of cashiers is nearly complete we are now looking to fill openings on our Friends Shop Management Team. Team responsibilities include; helping to select merchandise, arranging displays, scheduling volunteers, prepping cash box & deposits and enjoying running the shop! These duties will be shared amongst the entire Team as "many hands make light work"! Previous retail experience a big bonus, but not necessary.

Consider joining this wonderful new venture. The schedule is very flexible—you can volunteer for as little as 2 hrs per month! Your time and talents will ensure the Friends continued success in promoting and supporting the TPL.

Contact: hendricksonftpl@gmail.com (248) 643-8686

Friends Shop Hours

Mon — Thu	12-8
Fri — Sat	12-5
Sun	12-4

Special Fall Savings



**Two places
to shop ...**

F·R·I·E·N·D·S



of the TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Two ways
to save !!!**

Save 20% on one purchase

--- Friends Shop ---

Located in the Library Lobby

Open Monday-Thursday 12-8

Saturday 12-5, Sunday 12-4

Save 20% on one purchase

--- Friends Book Shop ---

Good books at great prices!

Located on the Lower Level

Open Friday & Saturday 10-1, Sunday 1-4

**The Friends of the Troy Public Library *promote an support* the
Troy Public Library!**

HAPPY FALL!

F·R·I·E·N·D·S



of the TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

P.O. Box 33

Troy, Michigan 48099

