

friends

UPDATE

OCTOBER 2022

A Message from the President

We are at that time of the year again when we do some looking back and some looking forward and while this newsletter does a lot of looking back, I want to share some of the looking forward with you in this note.

In 2021, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary as Friends of the Library and over the past 12 months, we have been building on that legacy as we continue to recover from the pandemic, increase our memberships, and work to raise awareness of just how great our Victoria Public Library truly is.

Look to your right on this page for the story about donations the Friends made to the Library over the

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FRIENDS CONTINUE SUPPORT OF VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Friends of the Victoria Public Library donated a total of **\$18,206.20** to the Library during the recently closed fiscal year. The funds are utilized by the Library to support programs offered to community members of all ages and all interests. With the Friends funding, the Library is able to offer programs such as the Summer Reading Program, Gingerbread Adventures, and dozens of other programs at no cost to participants.

Shown left to right are: Friends Treasurer Robert McKnight, Friends President Diana Sneed, Library Director Dayna Williams-Capone and Assistant Director Jessica Berger.

Since the time of this photograph, Dayna Williams-Capone resigned as the Director and Jessica Berger has been named Interim Library Director. The FRIENDS OF VPL wish Dayna great success in her new position as a library consultant and looks forward to seeing the Victoria Public Library continue to grow and expand the programs she and her team worked to develop over the past 16 years.

The Friends 2023 Membership Drive is open now. Annual dues are \$10 and sponsorships are welcomed with a \$100 contribution. Membership information is available at the Circulation Desk of the Library and on line at www.FriendsofVPL.com.

Our next

friends

Book Sale

is

January
15-21

A Message from the President

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past 12 months. We were so proud to be able to provide the Library with over \$18,000 to fund programs like Summer Reading, the Holiday Gingerbread event and dozens of other programs throughout the year. These programs are offered at no charge to participants because of the support of patrons at our book sales, memberships and our generous sponsor donations.



Look here on page 2 for a report on the Summer Reading Program and the exciting news that the Gingerbread Holiday Event is moving back to an in-person celebration this year. Page 4 features a look at some of the events related to the Friends of the Library Week.

We look forward with excitement to the future of our Library and our partnership with it. The City of Victoria worked with a library design consultant this year in developing a strategic plan and a framework for ideas of how to enhance the facilities and services of the Victoria Public Library. That plan has been turned over to the City leadership and in coming years, we will start to see elements of that plan come to fruition. As these dreams become reality, our entire community will be the beneficiaries.

We know everyone reading this note has been impacted by inflation and economic uncertainty.

The Friends and the Victoria Public Library have also had to adjust to rising costs. That is what led the Friends Board of make the difficult decision to raise prices for future book sales. It has been over two decades since our last price increase so you can tell we are not prone to making these price decisions lightly.

Starting with the January sale, our hardback fiction and non-fiction books will be \$2 and soft cover/paperback books will be \$1. Audiobooks on CDs, DVDs and music CDs will remain \$1. We will still wrap up the close of sales on Saturdays with the Book Bag Special. Bring your official Friends of the Library Book Bag and fill it with as much remaining merchandise as you can for only \$1 with unlimited refills. Book Bags are available for purchase at the Library Circulation Desk and at the sale for only \$7. They are reusable from sale-to-sale.

I hope you will renew your membership soon and we look forward to seeing you at the next Friends Book Sale January 15-21, 2023!

- Diana Sneed, Board President



VPL SUMMER READING PROGRAM GROWS

Friends Proudly Supports the Program

Members of the FRIENDS turned out to volunteer at the kickoff party that opened the Summer Reading Program at the Library on June 4. Hundreds of children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends turned out for the Saturday kickoff...and that was just the beginning!

Over the course of the summer, the Library reports there were 64 programs associated with Summer Reading. That is in addition to 86 Story Times.

According to a summary from the Library, 7359 people participated in Summer Reading Programs plus 830 in attendance at Story Times during the two months of the program.

The Summer Program has experienced huge growth over the past four years. In 2019, before COVID, the Library counted 76 Summer Reading participants. In 2022, a total of 175 participants were enrolled in the program and 444,952 pages of reading were recorded!

The FRIENDS of VPL provides most of the funding in support of the activities in the Summer Reading Program. This keeps the programs available at no cost to the children, teens, and adults who enjoy reading, creating, learning, and fellowship opportunities.

Coming soon: The Gingerbread Holiday Event which is 100% funded by the FRIENDS. And, the event will be back at the Community Center for in-person fun for the first time in two years. Follow the Library's Facebook page for updates!



Sign up to help at an upcoming Book Sale. Visit the address below to sign up!

www.friendsofvpl.com/join-support



- President Diana Sneed
- Vice President Diane Boyett
- Secretary Zach Wendel
- Treasurer Bob McKnight
- Board Members
- Julie Cordova · Chuck Lambert
- Bud Mendez · Carolyn Prichard

**2023
BOOK SALE
DATES**

January 15-21

May 14-20

September 17-23

As always, the opening day of the sale is the Members-Only event from 2-4 p.m. Shop first for the best selection!



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Continued success as an organization in support of our Library relies on community support from people like YOU! Please join us for another great year of the FRIENDS! Complete the form below and mail it with your dues/sponsorship to:

FRIENDS OF THE VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
302 N. Main Victoria, TX 77901



Individual membership: \$10 Sponsor: \$100 (or more)

This membership continues through December 2023 • Contributions are tax-deductible
Please make checks payable to Friends of the Library

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____

If you would like to volunteer at a Book Sale or other FRIENDS event, please provide your phone number:

We ask for your e-mail to contact you with important FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY information.



Celebrating FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Week

Both the Victoria County Commissioners Court and Victoria Mayor Jeff Bauknight issued resolutions proclaiming October 16-22 as FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK. The resolutions note the work done by the Friends to raise funds that “enable our Victoria Public Library to move from good to great -- providing the resources for no-charge programming, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year.”

The resolutions also note the work of the Friends highlights the fact that our library is a cornerstone of the community and provides an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of the lives of Victoria County residents.



Our great volunteers and sponsors were special invited guests at a reception as part of the FRIENDS WEEK. Guests renewed memberships, signed up to volunteer at the next sale, and spent time sharing some cookies and lots of stories.

Our volunteers are AWESOME! For the September Book Sale, volunteers donated a whopping 221 hours of time in set up, sale time and breakdown time.

Volunteers and financial supporters make the FRIENDS a successful organization that improves the quality of life in our community. THANK YOU!!!!

