



Volume 14 No. 1 January 2012

LIBRARY BUDGET UPDATE

The Royal Oak Public Library continues to weather the downturn in the economy but the tough sledding is not over. Over 90% of the library's revenues come from the 1 mill dedicated millage passed by Royal Oak voters in 2003. The Headlee amendment reduces that millage to .9597 and with the decline in property values, the millage for the first time will bring in less than \$2,000,000. An additional decline of 3.5% in property values is predicted for the next fiscal year which starts on July 1, 2012. Since the 2008 fiscal year, library millage revenues have decreased by over \$225,000.

The library has taken many "belt-tightening" measures including a hiring freeze (since 2005) on full-time positions; employee pay cuts, unpaid holidays, and changes in benefits to save money; spending less on materials of all types including books, audiobooks, electronic databases, downloadable audiobooks, magazine subscriptions, office supplies, etc.

A major fundraising program has been undertaken by the Library Board of Trustees that has resulted in \$25,000 of donations made by library supporters last fiscal year. Over \$18,000 in donations have been made this fiscal year in response to an appeal letter sent out in July. This is the last year that a donation to the library can be used as a Michigan Tax Credit, so we hope many people maximize their Michigan Tax Credit this year by making a donation to the Royal Oak Public Library before Dec. 31.

The Friends of the Library have extended their support over and above funding the over 500 annual programs presented at the library for all ages to also funding some of the library materials such as World Book Online, the Ancestry library edition of the popular genealogical research site, Playaway audiobooks, and Playaway Views. Last year the Friends also donated money for large print books, book club kits, Playaways, and foreign language books. The Friends have funded some technology replacements and upgrades. The Friends support is crucial to ROPL's services.

With the economic downturn, more and more Royal Oak residents are coming to the library for books, dvds, and internet access. We are pleased that we have been able to maintain our 6 day a week/60 hours a week open hours and continue to serve 32,000 Royal Oak cardholders circulating over 450,000 items in the 2011 fiscal year.

Mary Karshner, ROPL Director

TIME CAPSULE ART CONTEST

The Art Contest, funded by the Friends of ROPL, was an adjunct to the Royal Oak Time Capsule Project which celebrates Royal Oak in 2011. Photographs of winning art entries were placed in the time capsule as well as some of the actual artwork. All participants have their names

included in time capsule. See you in 35 years to reminisce about what life was all about in Royal Oak in 2011!



Sybil Lecoutre (5 years & under) Julianna Darawi (6-8 years) Megan Mueller (9-12 years)

Maryn O'Brien (13-15 years)
Eric Lofquist (16-18 years)
Angela Santoro (19 years & above)
Megan Mueller People's Choice Award



ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Our annual book sale is scheduled for March 8 through March 10. The "Members Only" Preview will be the evening of Thursday, March 8, 2012, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The sale is open to the public 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will be looking for volunteers for the book sale. If you have volunteered in the past, expect to receive a telephone call in early 2012. If you are interested in **volunteering**, please email your name and telephone number to **Friends@ropl.org** or telephone

Nancy Spigliano at (248) 542-3849.

Playaways and Playaway Views at ROPL

Ever heard of a Playaway? ROPL now has many audiobooks including titles for youth, teens, and adults in Playaway format. Never heard of or seen a Playaway? Ask next time you are at the library. A Playaway is a preloaded MP3 player, so there is no need to download an audiobook to your own device. The Playaway is about the size of a deck of cards and all it needs is an AAA battery and your earbuds or earphones and it provides hours of listening enjoyment. With an audio cable you can also have it connected to your car's sound system and listen to it while you travel.



Playaway Views are a very new format and ROPL is proud to be one of the first libraries to circulate them. Playaway Views are hand held preloaded video players. Each contains several videos for children, both fiction and nonfiction titles, including videos from National Geographic and PBS. There is a recharger that comes in the case with the Playaway View so it can easily be used, no batteries needed. Playaway Views check out for three weeks. Because the library's Playaway View collection is small, there are no renewals or holds allowed. Look for them in the youth area of the library and try them out!

The Friends have provided funding to purchase many of the Playaway Views and the audio Playaways.

Save the Date

Upcoming Adult Programs at ROPL

Music Series:

- Sat, Feb 4 at 3 p.m. Classical Guitarist Paul Vondiziano
- Sat, March 31 at 3 p.m. Woodward Corridor Musicians

Launch Your Own Business Series:

- Wednesdays Feb 1, 8, 15 at 6:30 p.m. **Investing Series:**
 - Mondays Feb 13 at 6:30 p.m., Feb 27 and March 12 at 7 p.m.

Women in Art Series:

• Starts Wednesday, March 28 at 2 p.m.

Registration requested either by phoning (248) 246 - 3727 or online at http://ropl.org/



RESOLUTION - BOOK DONATIONS

Maybe you have a resolution to lighten your load or would like to help out the Friends, a simple way to do this is to donate your used books!

The Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library is always accepting used book donations. Used books can be donated at the library on the cart by the elevator door. We're looking for books, sheet music, DVD's, audio books, and board games. No outdated textbooks or encyclopedias please.

We are currently **building up our stock** for the **USED BOOK SALE coming up in March.**

This newsletter is distributed up to three times a year, free of charge.

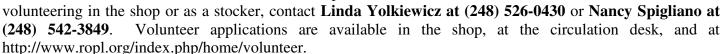
FRIENDS SHOP NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The loss of volunteers during the past several months resulted in several shifts that need covering. We still need volunteers to fill three monthly shifts. The shifts are:

- Second Monday, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (closing)
- Fourth Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (closing)
- Fourth Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity with a bit more flexibility, we also need two or three more volunteers to stock the shop. For more information about





SPECIALS

"Specials" are tailored to the stock on hand and change month-to-month. We are considering a "Feature" shelf to highlight seasonal books, a genre, or particular author we have an abundance of. Recently we had a cart with novelty books (those annoying little books that keep accumulating!) each was specially priced - surprisingly by making them visible we have been able to sell a large number of them. Suggestions are always listened to and appreciated.

"BOOK SCOUTING" SCANNERS

Many patrons have noticed our signs about "book scouting" scanners and asked what they are and why we don't want them in the shop or at the annual sale. The scanners we are referring to are electronic barcode scanners similar to those you see used almost everywhere, including at the circulation desk in the library. However, those we are referring to are often very small and connect to a cell phone, or a smart phone with built-in barcode reading ability. Users scan the ISBN barcode on books and are able to immediately find possible values for the book through an Internet connection. These scanners may give a few patrons an advantage over the regular shop customer. Additionally, when someone is focused scanning, they are often unaware of customers who just want to browse.

The primary goal of the shop and the book sales is to serve the local community by raising funds for the library and by giving patrons an opportunity to buy used books at a great price. While dealers and collectors are welcome, we want everyone to have a chance to find that special or unique book and to keep our relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere.

Update Your Contact Information with an Email Address

In an effort to become more green, save on printing and mailing costs, and provide more timely information to our Friends Members, we are collecting member email addresses for an electronic mailing list! Please update your contact information in our membership database by sending your email address to Larry Baker, our membership chair, at **Friends@ropl.org**.

Board Meetings

The ROPL Friends Board meets the third Monday of the month (excluding December and July) at 7:00 pm in the Friends Auditorium.

Membership Renewal Alert:

Please check the date on the address label of this newsletter. If it says 12/2011 or before, your membership has expired, and this will be the last newsletter mailed to you.

Renewal is easy! Simply fill out the form on the back of this newsletter, attach your check, and bring/mail them to the library.



Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library Membership Form

Name	Phone	
Address	City	Zip
Email Address		
Life \$200 Patron \$100 annual Business/Organization \$50 annual	Single \$ Family \$	
I want to be an active member. Pleas	e contact me.	
Drop this form and your check off at the I Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library.		

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