



## FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE TOWARD NEW PUBLIC COMPUTERS



The Friends of ROPL have agreed to match dollar for dollar funds contributed to purchase new computer hardware and software needed to meet the needs of our community. The library's public internet computers are over eight years old and are desperately in need of replacement. They are running Windows XP and Office 2003 which will reach end-of-life on April 8, 2014. At that time Microsoft will no longer support them by providing security updates, making all computers on the Library's network extremely vulnerable to viruses and other malware.

Upgrading the current Adult and Teen Lab computers to Windows 7 and Office 2013 isn't an option. They barely meet the minimum requirements to run these programs and would not perform well as multitasking and video streaming are two common tasks in the computer lab. The speed of the hard drives, memory and other internal components don't compare to what is available in new computers. In addition to the software issues, many of these older computers have experienced some degree of hardware failure. The library has repurposed parts from other failed computers to keep them operational.

To keep cost down, the Library is not requesting new monitors. The computers cost \$600 each and will come with current hardware and software. The Friends generously have offered to match up to \$15,000 in donations from area businesses and residents who contribute money for new public computer equipment. Donations are being sought through January 31, 2014 for replacement of the computer lab equipment, with the Friends matching those donations.

This is an excellent example of the Friends stepping up to help the Royal Oak Public Library during this time of lean millage revenues. The drop in property values in Royal Oak around 2008-2009, has meant an annual millage revenue decline of over \$200,000 during the past several fiscal years. Thanks to the Friends, the library is looking forward to new public computers in early 2014!

**Please consider making a donation for this important technology upgrade!** Simply fill out the form on the back of this newsletter, check donation for technology upgrade and drop off the form and check at the Royal Oak Public Library Circulation Desk or mail to the address listed.



### 2014 PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT AND DIRECTORY

Monday, January 27, 2014 will be the 15th annual Preschool Information Night held at Northwood Elementary School from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. (If that date is snowed out, the event will take place on Monday, February 3, 2014.) Parents will have the opportunity to talk to representatives from state licensed area preschools, child care facilities and kindergartens. Also debuting that night will be the 2014 Royal Oak Area Preschool and Child Care Directory which gives information on nearly 50 area facilities that provide services for children ages six and under.

## Inter-Club Bring-A-Toy Luncheon

Friday, December 13, noon @ The Salvation Army  
3015 North Main Street, Royal Oak

Inter-club Council is a non-profit organization comprised of local service and civic groups and non-profit agencies. Each year the council holds its December meeting at the Salvation Army and invites all members of these organizations and their guests to attend. Admission for each person is at least **one unwrapped gift for a child or teen valued at \$10 or more**. The Salvation Army uses the donations to **help provide families in need with holiday gifts**.

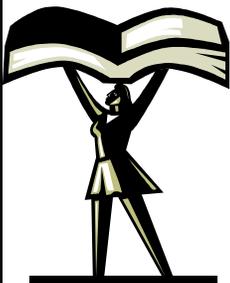


The Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library have traditionally reserved a table for the event. Prizes are awarded to the club/organization with the largest percentage of members attending the luncheon. All Friends' members, volunteers, staff, and guests are invited to attend. **Please RSVP to save a seat by December 4<sup>th</sup>**, email [friends@ropl.org](mailto:friends@ropl.org) or call Roxanne at (248) 435-2011.

## Library Fiscal Update for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Royal Oak Public Library's adopted budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 is very similar to the FY 2012- 2013 budget year. For the second consecutive year, the anticipated revenues from the library's dedicated millage will be just under \$2,000,000, the lowest it has been since the millage was passed in November 2003. At its peak in FY 2008-2009, the millage brought in \$2,230,000. Royal Oak's recently passed public safety millage does not directly benefit the library.

The library has sought outside sources of revenue including appeals for donations and grants. The Friends of ROPL continue to fund our public programs. The library has looked to the Friends for funding electronic databases, audio books and dvds, e-books, free paperback books given to participants in the fourth grade RIF visits and summer reading program, and some technology needs like the replacement of one of the self check out machines.



In working to stretch our resources despite declining revenues, we have had to cut back in many areas. We have entered our second year of our reduced hours, opening at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, our reduction in hours was much less drastic than those of many area libraries. Our budget line items for books, dvds, magazines and newspapers, and databases have all been significantly reduced in the last three years. The Friends have helped greatly by funding some of these things, like paying for the Ancestry Library Edition database that is used by many people for family history searches. The huge demand for downloadable books has been addressed by additional funding given by the Friends.

Without the Friends, the library services would be significantly diminished. The library staff truly appreciates the efforts of our strong Friends organization and the countless hours that Friends volunteers put into helping ROPL. There are many who are not directly involved with the Friends but their support in donating used books and buying used books at the Friends Shop and Annual Book Sale translates into Friends revenue that directly supports ROPL. We thank all of you!

**Mary Karshner, ROPL Director**



**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL  
OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsROPLibrary>



### Add An Email Address!

In an effort to 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 Melissa Kaunelis, our membership chair, at [friends@ropl.org](mailto:friends@ropl.org).



# FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Our Annual Book Sale is scheduled for **Thursday, March 6 through Saturday, March 8**. The **“Members Only” Preview** will be the evening of Thursday, March 6, 2013, 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 and on Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare for the book sale and to work during the sale. **If you are interested in volunteering, please email your name and telephone number to friendsbooksale@ropl.org or call Roxanne at (248) 435-2011.**

## The Friends Shop – Behind the Scenes



Open for business!

Ever notice the glass fronted room just beyond the circulation desk of the ROPL? It’s the Friends bookshop! It is through this storefront, and the behind the scenes efforts of many volunteers, that the Friends are able to provide funds to support library programs and budget shortfalls.

Many of you meet our great volunteers in the shop, but few ever see the volunteers behind the scenes. It takes numerous hours of volunteer work to process the incoming donations and keep the shop stocked and organized. Volunteers start by unpacking boxes and bags containing the donations to the library. They check to see if the books are in good enough condition to sell. Books in poor condition must be recycled. Using online databases, some volunteers identify books as saleable on the Internet and put these aside. More volunteers sort the remaining (and majority of the books) into categories and shelve them in our sorting room.

The shop is stocked at least three times a week. Volunteers look at the shop and the carts outside the shop and in the children’s area to determine what is needed. They often make multiple trips to the sorting room for books and media. They shelve the books, marking them with a small dot that tells when the books are put out for sale. If after several months, a book has not sold, it is pulled and returned to sorting room. Many of these books are later sold at the Annual Book Sale.



Volunteers shelving

Visit the Friends Used Book shop in the Library! The Friends have great deals on books, magazines, and videos. You will find a surprising variety and range of materials, some good bargains, and help the Library too!



New Donations



Ellen Taylor processing new donations



Barbara Grinke scanning to find book prices

### 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 **11/2013 or before, your membership has expired.**

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



**FRIENDS**  
of the Royal Oak Public Library  
222 E. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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**Please check the date on the address label of this newsletter. If it says  
11/2013 or before, your membership has expired!**

*Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library*

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Life \$200

Single \$10 annual

Patron \$100 annual

Family \$20 annual

Business/Organization \$50 annual

Yes, I've included a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the technology upgrade.



Yes, I want to be an active member. Please contact me.

Drop this form and your check off at the ROPL Circulation Desk, or mail it to:  
Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library, 222 East 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067