



Friends of the Commerce Township Library

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2020

Message from the President

One of our very dear Friends, Penny Moran, passed away this past January. Penny was an active member of the Friends since 2007 and was a volunteer at Hospitality House. You may remember seeing Penny at the cash desk during the used book sales where she frequently volunteered. All of us who worked with Penny will remember her for her kindness, thoughtfulness and wonderful sense of humor. She will be greatly missed.

-Pat Hillebrand

Annual Meeting & Membership

The **Annual Meeting** of the Friends will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 10:30am in the Dodge Room. The meeting is open to all members of the Friends.

Your **Friend's membership** will expire April 1st. Enclosed with this newsletter is your renewal form. If you do not receive a renewal form, your membership will not expire until 2021.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Commerce Library will again host a Red Cross Blood Drive on June 10, 2020, between the hours of 12:15pm and 6:15pm.

Donors can register by going to redcrossblood.org, and searching under zip code 48382 for the Library.

BOARD

MEMBERS

President

Pat Hillebrand

Treasurer

Sharon Venia

Secretary

Mary Connell

Membership

M. Buckley

Newsletter

Pat Hillebrand

Diane Richard

At Large

Diane Richard

Richard Eaton

Melissa Koester

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Welcome our New Library Director



Next time you visit the Library say “Hello” to the new Director, **Alyson Lobert**. She joined the staff in February and welcomes the opportunity to meet the library patrons. She is very enthusiastic and you’ll find her pleasant to talk to.

Alyson is a 2000 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School. In 2004 she received her undergraduate degree in English and Communications from the University of Michigan. She earned a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University in 2009.

Alyson’s previous experience includes the following:

- 2009-2011 Novi Library, Information Services
- 2011-2013 Ypsilanti District Library, Adult Services
- 2013-2020 Walled Lake Library Director

Her #1 priority is to preserve the high standards already existing at the Commerce Library, but also to have the opportunity to be creative and open to new ideas.

- Diane Richard

Thank you, Kroger!

The Friends would like to give special thanks to our good friends at the **Kroger** located at, **2905 Union Lake Rd., Commerce**, for their support of the Friends and the Commerce Township Library.

Did you know that Kroger donates the paper bags that we use for the Fill-a-Bag days. They have been doing this for the past several years, and these donations help not only with our budget but also help patrons of the sale to get purchased books to their cars.

We have partnered with Kroger since 2012 in their "Kroger Community Rewards" program. To participate in this program go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> and enter our Friends account no. SY750. Kroger will then donate a portion of your purchases to the Friends. To date, Kroger has donated \$2379.06 to the Friends----a very

good addition to our bottom line, and which we use to help the library with their various needs. If you do participate in this program, you will see at the bottom of your bill an acknowledgment of this donation. We hope that those who have signed up continue to do so, and, if you have not done so, please consider participating. This program in no way will affect your fuel points.

We also wish to thank Marika Zemke, our Adult Services Librarian, who suggested the Friends sign up for this program.

Kroger hours are 6AM to midnight 7 days a week, and their phone number is 248 779 6200.

- Richard Eaton

Youth and Teen Services



Trista Reno is the Youth and Teen Services Manager. She has been with the Commerce Library since October, 2014. Trista is thankful to the patrons and Friends of the Library for their participation in and positive support of their programs. She is an important asset to the Library with her professionalism and innovations.

Trista reports that the Summer Reading Program has really taken off. Enrollment has increased 100% over the last 3 years. The Teen Section gets a lot of use, especially during study week for finals. January is the busiest month, then May and June. To keep up

with the demand, the Library purchased kits containing white boards, markers and erasers. To help students decompress from the stress of studying for exams the Teen Department offered hand massages, board games, pizza, and a visit from Ellie, a licensed therapy dog.

The Teen Advisory Board meets once a month on Saturdays. The Perler Bead Club also meets once a month for their craft session on Tuesday nights.

Trista received her undergraduate degree in English Literature from Oakland University. In 2010 she received a Masters Degree in Library Science from Wayne State University. Her professional work experience includes the following:

2009-2011 Wayne State University,
Interlibrary Loan Digitization
Royal Oak Library, Youth Librarian
2011-2014 Birchard Public Library,
Fremont Ohio, Youth Librarian

- Diane Richard

A Gift to the Children's Department

The Friends of the Library are often being asked what they do with the proceeds from the used book sales. A perfect example of money well spent are the two new AWE computers in the children's section. They replaced two well-used but out-dated computers the Friends purchased in 2009.

These popular computers are designed for public libraries and schools. The keyboards and programs are devised to teach children from pre-school to 5th grade. The touch screen, programs and games develop all different levels of skills in reading, science, math, technology, writing, as well as internet safety

and security. No internet access is required, so everything is regulated. These new computers have been well received by both children and parents.

- Diane Richard



2020 Spring Used Book Sale

The Spring 2020 Used Book Sale schedule is as follows:

Setup begins **Wednesday, April 15 to Friday, April 17**, beginning at 9:00 am each day. This includes alphabetizing the fiction. Lunch will be provided each day during set-up.

Friends' Night will be **TUESDAY, April 21**, between the hours of **5:30 pm and 7:30 pm**.

Sale schedule is Wednesday and Thursday, **April 22nd and 23rd**, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm; Friday and Saturday, **April 24th and 25th**, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday, **April 26th**, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Fill-a-Bag days are Saturday and Sunday only. **Clean-up** will be **Monday, April 27th** at 9:00.

The last day for donations will be Friday, April 3rd, or earlier as storage space allows.

Volunteers can sign up by calling 248-438-5239, by email at friends@commercelibrary.info or by talking with the Friends' representative when they call.

The 2020 Fall Used Book Sale is scheduled for October 7th-11th, and Friends' Night will be Tuesday, October 6th, 2020.

Want to Volunteer?

We're frequently asked about volunteering at the Library. Most people think that we work in the Library, shelving books, etc. When I explain that that's not what we do, they change their mind about volunteering.

Those of us who do volunteer perform a much-needed service to the Library. All of the donations, whether they come from patrons or the Library, must be looked at, discarded if need be, and "keepers" put on the shelves in our sorting room in the proper category. Then they must be boxed and stored until the next used book sale when

they're taken out of the boxes and organized for the used book sale. This goes on every week between book sales.

The used book sales take the greatest number of volunteers. Each day of the sale is split into shifts—morning, afternoon or evening—so you're sure to find a time that fits your schedule. Or, you can come in during the set-up days. How much or how little you help depends on you!

Be a Friend, support your Library - Volunteer!

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in the world all of your own. - Albert Schweitzer"