

Friends of the Novi Library Year-in-Review – 2023/2024

For the 2023/2024 year sales in the Book Nook were \$24,970, internet sales were \$4,268, and other books sales were \$53 for a total of \$29,291.

For many years the library has used Thrift Books for our “last chance” books. In July of 2023 Thrift contacted the library with a new request to scan books before they were sent to reduce the number of rejected books. The system was set up and the sorters trained to use it. To acknowledge the additional effort required, the Friends now receive the income from Thrift. We thank the library for that. We discontinued working with our Internet Seller. He did not feel that the volume of sales was worth his effort. We currently have no plans to find a new seller.

Our Friends members have been generous as always. Membership income for 2023/2024 was a record \$8,000 from 235 memberships. Donations were \$2,737 and income from Fundraising was \$2735.

Anne Craig joined our board in 2023/24. Carol Neumann agreed to be our new Treasurer and started in May of 2024. Carol has a background in banking and will be a fine addition to our staff. She will not join the board, but nothing in our by-laws states that an officer must be a board member.

The Friends and the Novi Library Board agreed on changes to their Operating Agreement to cover Large Donations. The section added specifies the process for donations intended for the Novi Library but given to the Friends for the benefit of their 501(C)3 status.

Here are a few of the highlights for the year.

Toward our goal to include - bringing the library to the community

- Brought four musical performances by Steven Floyd to area senior facilities including Fox Run, StoryPoint (Anthology), Meadowbrook and Waltonwood. Friends member Tom Coles was instrumental in bringing one of our concerts to Waltonwoods. He emailed after the event that it was enjoyed by all.
- Supported a giveaway for Battle of the Books at Novi Meadows Elementary with 150 kids participating.
- Funded the music for Tuesday Tunes and Summer Songfest at Paradise Park for the fourth year. These are both free events for the community and were again very well attended. Summer Songfest brought in 13 new members in September.
- Brought Vegas to Novi with a performance by Vanessa Carr. Light refreshments were served.
- Mailed two newsletters to our members and sent emails periodically to share what we were doing with our Friends.



Toward our goal to inform

- Sponsored four evening Kaleidoscope programs. Attendance was up over last year, and all the programs were very well received. We had planned for six programs, but unfortunately 2 were canceled by the presenters for health reasons.
 - Albert Kahn - Unintended Consequences
 - John Carlisle - Life in the Motor City
 - A return performance by author Stephen Mack Jones
 - Rod Arroyo—Imagining Detroit
- Sponsored Authors Live Luncheon on March 5th at Fox Run Belmont Clubhouse. Authors included Jim Bolone of *The Dockporter: A Mackinac Island Novel* and Tom Carr of *The Dark Side of the Mitten: Crimes of Power & Powerful Criminals in Michigan's Past & Present*.
- Helped to sponsor Community Reads, a joint event held each year with 7 local libraries participating. This year the author was New York Times bestselling young adult novel author, Emiko Jean, on her 2022 novel, "Mika in Real Life!" The event was held at the Novi Public Library.



Toward our goal to inspire

- Treated our Sorters to lunch at Moes on Ten to thank them for their help in complying with the requirements of Thrift Books.
- Held a Volunteer Appreciation breakfast in April to thank all our volunteers and library support staff.
- Hosted a luncheon for the staff and Friends Board during National Library Week.
- Supported Listen @ the Library with performances on Sunday afternoons.
- Purchased a large format archival scanner for the iCube.

Toward furthering reading

- Supported Summer Reading which is open to anyone in the community. The Friends are funding two Summer Reading interns.
- Supported Raising a Reader to encourage our youngest friends to love books as we do.



Fundraising Events/Donations

- Sadly Carol Hoffman's husband died in August of 2023. The Friends received \$2850 in donations in memory of John. The family asked that the money be used for purchases in the iCube.
- The Friends Giving Tree was installed in April of 2023. Since then we have imprinted 42 leaves and raised \$6800. Each leaf tells a story of a loved one lost or honors someone dear. Several thank the Novi Library for their superior service to the community. This year we are letting the purchaser select where on the tree you would like your leaf and come in when we put it on.



- A longtime Friend supplied a basket of Michigan items for a drawing in December. For a \$5 donation, an individual received an entry into the basket drawing. 2023 Michigan Basket winner was Linda McAleer. There were 123 entries and the Friends made \$625. That is our largest single raffle total to date! We had 23 requests for the free, one year membership.



- We made \$385 from the raffle at the 2023 Summer Songfest event.
- We made \$235.20 from our October 25, 2023 fundraiser with Applebee's. Applebee's gave the Friends 20% off the proceeds from the event.
- Participated with Vera Bradley in Twelve Oaks Mall. For a \$5 donation, shoppers received a discount coupon toward their purchase. We made \$40. Traffic was very slow at Twelve Oaks Mall that day.