

## *A Message from the President*

I am honored to be serving as the President of the Friends of the Victoria Public Library for another term.

Last year was a celebration of our 50th Anniversary and it was also a “re-boot” of sorts after we had to take a pause for the pandemic. Starting book sales again in May after more than a year was truly exciting.

Our Board came back energized to take on new initiatives that helped to spread the word about the FRIENDS. Our Facebook page came back to life and we are launching a website to spread the word about

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# friends UPDATE

APRIL 2022

## BOOK SALES TO...

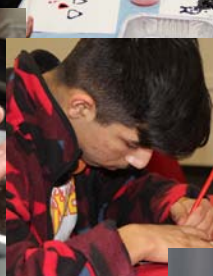


Community members love the bargains at the FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALES. And, the FRIENDS love being able to offer a great selection of materials for all ages and interests.

While the sale allows readers of all ages to grow their own libraries, the proceeds from the sales help to grow our Victoria Public Library. The Library offers hundreds of programs each year that appeal to all age ranges – babies to seniors. And, with the financial help from the FRIENDS, those programs can be offered to the community at no charge.

Visiting the sale means more than buying books, movies and music. You are supporting exploration, entertainment and education at our Library!

## EXPLORATION, EDUCATION, & ENTERTAINMENT



Our next  
**friends**  
Book Sale  
is  
May 15-21

## A Message from the President

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FRIENDS and make it even easier to join.

Check out some of the highlights



from the last twelve months on the back page of this newsletter.

Now, we are on the countdown

to our next Book Sale, which starts on May 15 with the members-only preview. Even though we call it a “book sale” there are lots of donated items that include DVDs, music and audiobook CDs, and this sale, we will even have a small selection of vinyl and an interesting collection of comic books.

Our community is so generous with its donations of great materials for the book sale! We are truly appreciative.

Supporting our great Victoria Public Library is the reason the FRIENDS exist. Our Library has adapted well to changing technologies and the “new normal” brought on by the pandemic. We are proud to offer financial support to the programs and services of the library and look forward to highly successful 51st year of the FRIENDS!

- Diana Sneed, Board President



Sign up to help at the Book Sale.

Click on the address below to help!

<https://volunteersignup.org/FRPAB>

## Four New Members Join FRIENDS Board

Four new members were elected to the Board of the Friends at the April 12 General Membership Meeting. We welcome Julia Cordova, Chuck Lambert, Bud Mendez and Carolyn Prichard to the Board. They join other Board members including Zach Wendell and Maria Spencer-Etienne, as well as President Diana Sneed, Vice-President Diane Boyett, Treasurer Bob McKnight and Secretary Ben Hernandez.

**Julie Cordova** says the Library became a second home for her family after moving to downtown

Victoria and having children.

“We’re here every-other-day,” she said, referring to the Library. Julie moved



to Victoria in 2006 from the Lake Jackson area and is employed in the healthcare industry.

**Chuck Lambert** is a Virginia Native, but as they say, he got to Texas as soon as he could. Chuck is a U.S. Air Force retiree and is now



retired after a second career. In his retirement he is active as a volunteer at Citizens Medical Center, in his church

and with his six grandchildren. He says he has been attending Friends Book Sales “as long as I can remember” and will now be working at those sales, too.

**Bud Mendez** is a Port Lavaca native and has over 15 years in the Health

and Wellness industry. A healthy body is just as important as a healthy mind,

and Bud believes reading is one of the most beneficial activities to help the latter. He was introduced to



the Victoria Library by frequenting the Friends Book Sales. In addition to books, Bud’s other favorite things are his nephew, Adriel and his dog, Odin.

**Carolyn Prichard** is a native Victorian with 44 years of experience

in the real estate business. She says the Victoria Public Library is one of her “favorite things” and always makes certain to



bring her out-of-town clients to see the impressive Library.

All four of the new Board members share their love of the library and continuing to grow the programs and services that enhance the quality of life for our entire community.



### 2022 Board

President

Diana Sneed

Vice President

Diane Boyett

Secretary

Ben Hernandez

Treasurer

Bob McKnight

### Board Members

Julie Cordova · Chuck Lambert

Bud Mendez · Carolyn Prichard

Maria Spencer-Etienne

Zach Wendell



# FRIENDS of VPL Prepares to Launch First Website



Events



Donations



Membership



Keep in Touch

The FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY will soon launch into cyberspace with the development of a new website.

The FRIENDS has had an intermittent presence on the social member platform, Facebook, but the planned launch of the website is a first-time venture for the FRIENDS.

Board member Maria Spencer-Etienne, who led the drive for the webpage, said the site will offer members a quick way to renew with the ease of credit and debit card

payments. “Even more than the convenience to current members is the opportunity to introduce ourselves to other members of the community,” Spencer-Etienne said. “Our strength as Friends comes from building support through involvement and through new memberships. This website will make that easier in this day of internet connections.”

The website address is [www.FriendsofVPL.com](http://www.FriendsofVPL.com). Launch is expected by May 15.

Friends and community members can also get up-to-the-minute information on FRIENDS activities on our Facebook page: Friends of the Victoria Public Library.



## 50th Anniversary Archives Find Home at Regional History Center

The Victoria Regional History Center at the University of Houston Victoria Library has accepted a collection of materials marking the 50th anniversary of the FRIENDS OF THE VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The collection includes proclamations from Mayor Jeff Bauknight and the Victoria County Commissioners Court, a celebratory banner that hung on Main Street, photo collections and other documents marking the occasion.

Board member Zach Wendel, Friends President Diana Sneed, Special Collections Librarian Brittany Rodriguez and Board member Maria Spencer-Etienne were on hand when the collection was signed over to the care of the Victoria Regional History Center in March.

# Twelve Months with the

# friends

After a year-long absence, the FRIENDS returned with a huge book sale in May 2021. We have hosted three sales in the last 12 months.



FRIENDS members donated almost 1300 of volunteer hours in the last 12 months. Well over half of those hours were donated during book sales.



Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the FRIENDS with proclamations, ribbon-cuttings and other events throughout the year.

Updated ByLaws to streamline operations of the FRIENDS.



Expanded our communications outreach with Facebook, media coverage, donated outdoor advertising and a planned launch of a first-time-ever FRIENDS website this spring.



Entered into an agreement with a credit card processing service that will ultimately allow for on-line payments and donations, as well as book sale payments. Expected activation this spring.

Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that formalizes the relationship between the FRIENDS, the Library, and the City of Victoria.

Made efforts to increase memberships and library support through programs with Victoria College Academy of Lifelong Learning, volunteering at Library events, news media outreach & community outreach on social media.