



# UPDATE

APRIL  
2024



Friends of the  
Victoria Public Library  
www.friendsofvpl.com

## *A Message from the President*

Dear FRIENDS,

2023 was a full year of activities for the Friends of the Library!

We watched as the Children's area of the library was transformed to a more family friendly reading area. The new arrangements have been enjoyed by families with children of all ages.

The Friends of the Library also participated in the Summer Reading Program Kickoff. Hundreds of children participated in the summer program that ended with a HUGE Foam Party. Thanks to a donation from the Friends made possible by YOU, our FRIENDS, the program is provided to the public free of charge.

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## Our Next



## Book Sale

is

May 12-18, 2024



*Library Director Jessica Berger and Friends President Diana Sneed, looking forward to another year of activities supported by the Friends*

## EXPLORE BENEFITS OF FRIENDS LIBRARY DONATIONS

The Victoria Public Library has been busy the past year – and there are lots of new things to be excited about in the coming year!

Imagine learning new recipes in a hands-on cultural cuisine class. Picture teens learning about drones and using critical thinking skills to problem-solve their way out of a jungle-themed escape room. Imagine children and their parents listening to a story and singing the alphabet at Storytime. These are just a few examples of the 460 programs offered at the Victoria Public Library last year, all made possible by your support. More than 21,000 people attended a program at the library in the past fiscal year.





## WHAT'S NEW AT THE VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY?

The Victoria Public Library hosted its first annual "Show Your Library Card" discount program in September of 2023. This program allowed patrons of the library to show their library card at local businesses and receive a discount on a purchase or service. Who doesn't love a good discount? The "Show Your Library Card" program was a resounding success with businesses showering cardholders with love - and special deals! The library will host the program again in 2024.

The holidays shimmered a little brighter when the Friends and library staff teamed up for the City of Victoria's Christmas Lighted Parade in December 2023. Friends and library staff marched with joy, showcasing our love for reading and learning.

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**friends**  
**Members Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 9 5:30 p.m.**  
**Bronte Room - Victoria Public Library**  
**Agenda includes election of Board Members,**  
**Officers, and an update from the Library**  
**ALL 2024 FRIENDS OF VPL MEMBERS WELCOME**

## *A Message from the President*

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In honor of Friends of the Library Week, we presented proclamations to our community partners, the City of Victoria and Victoria County Commissioners Court.

We celebrated with the Library on their acquisition of the new book drop by the front entrance and the new Book Locker that allows for materials pickup 24/7.

We also provided an activity for a Winter Reading Passport at the Gingerbread Workshop at the Victoria Community Center. Hundreds of children and families participated in this annual event.

Friends of the Library and the Victoria Public Library partnered and entered a vehicle in the Annual Lighted Christmas Parade. Fun was had by all!

Lastly, with the proceeds from the 3 Book Sales, we were able to donate \$20,216.20 to the Victoria Public Library. Many FRIENDS and hundreds of volunteer hours go into each book sales and I really appreciate every FRIENDS that has helped along the way.

And we could not do any of this without YOU- our valued FRIENDS!

Please join us at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 in the Bronte Room at the Victoria Public Library. We will have the election of officers and plan for an amazing 2024 year.

There are so many things we want to do but we need YOU- your continued support and volunteering to make our Friends a truly successful support for our wonderful Victoria Public Library.



## 2023 BOARD

President Diana Sneed  
Vice President Robin Knipling  
Secretary Zachary Wendel  
Treasurer Diane Boyett

### Board Members

Julie Cordova  
Barbara David  
Steve Dornak  
Harley Fisk  
Chuck Lambert  
Bob McKnight  
Bud Mendez  
Carolyn Pritchard  
Ashley Sisson



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY?

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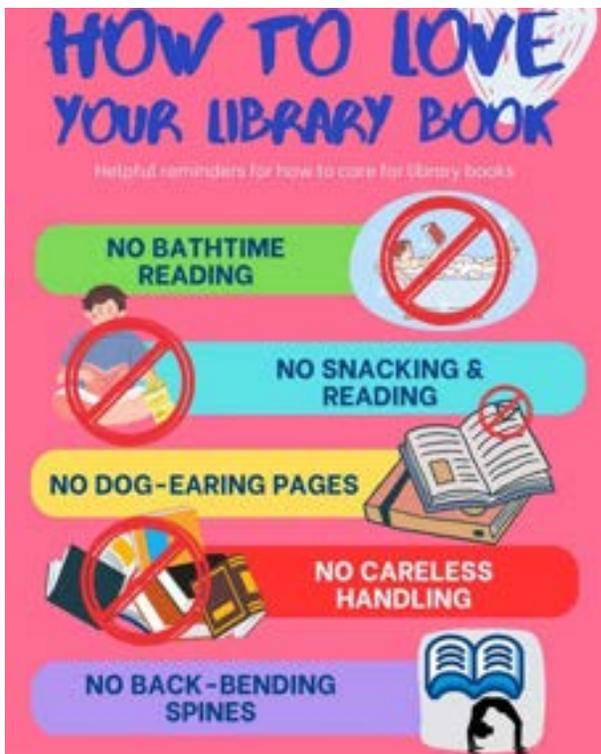
This winter, we also teamed up for a new “Winter Passport” program. Kids created winter passports with the help of the Friends at the annual Gingerbread Workshop. Participants receive a stamp for each program attended. Once the passport is full, participants turn them in for a chance to win a prize. The winner will be announced April 2nd. This program was a fun way for our teams to collaborate, as well as spread the word about awesome contributions the Friends of the Library make to library programs.

The library held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Anytime Pickup Locker in March and officially launched the service. Imagine the convenience of picking up your latest library reserve day or night. That's the beauty of the Anytime Pickup Locker. This new service allows patrons to reserve materials and pick them up 24/7 by selecting the locker when requesting a reserve. Visit the library's website to see it in action. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Grant # LS-253655-OLS-23) to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (2024).



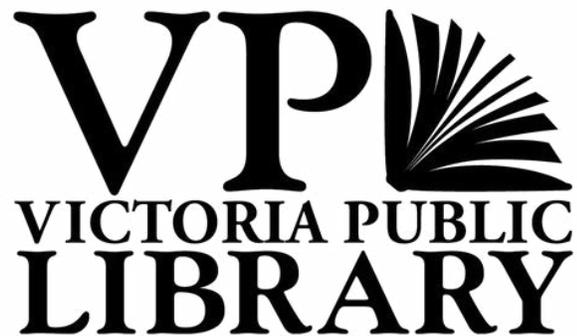
Sign up to help at an Upcoming Book Sale  
@ [www.friendsofvpl.com/join-support](http://www.friendsofvpl.com/join-support)





## Letter from the Director

Greetings from the Library Director. Good things continue to happen at Victoria Public Library (VPL). A major project that we have completed this past year is the adoption of the library’s first master plan and development of the new strategic plan that will help us to establish and focus on set goals and priorities for the next 5 years. The community and stakeholders have done an outstanding job of supporting and helping us with this undertaking with the feedback we received from survey responses. This feedback helps determine the role of VPL in this community. Some of the library’s new priorities will be showcased on our website and throughout communication we provide to the public. This work included a new library tag line **IMAGINE. DISCOVER. CONNECT.** VPL is a place where learners and creators come together to imagine the future, discover new possibilities, and connect with others who share their passions. I hope this provided you



**IMAGINE. DISCOVER. CONNECT.**

with an update of what we are working towards. I also wanted to include my sincerest thank you to all for the Friend’s volunteer efforts at library events as well as the continued financial support to the library. Thanks for all that you do to make our library better.

