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Friends of Dorsch
Memorial Library
Spring 2009



The Leaf



Friends Furniture Fundraiser

By June Coyne, President, Friends of the Dorsch Memorial Library

Friends of Dorsch are holding a Big Tent Book Sale on April 25, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM to begin raising funds for furnishings our newly redecorated library. As many of you know, the City of Monroe, which normally provides both building needs and furniture for our two city library branches, seems not to be in a position of refitting the rooms. Existing chairs and tables are decades old, unmatched and from differing eras. Style selections have been made and the Friends will be purchasing several chairs to show patrons what the new furniture will look like.

What can you do to help?

1. **Donate gently used books for the sale. You can turn them in at the Dorsch circulation desk and tell the Librarian they are for the Friends Earth Day Tent Sale.**
2. **Volunteer to help with the sale. You would be asked to help for a two hour shift. If you are available to help, please call June Coyne at 243-5992**

We need your help to raise the money for new furniture for Dorsch Memorial Library.



Libraries are Busier than Ever

by Alisha Cooley, City of Monroe Library Advisory Commission, Chairperson

While visiting a bookstore last weekend, my daughter walked up to me with a few books she was considering for purchase. The mom in me stated, "Do you really need all of those books?" After frowning, she perked up to reply, "Well, I can just get these from the library. Can we go tomorrow?"

My daughter's comments helped me to reflect on the current state of the economy and how it affects libraries. Recently on CBS news there was a report that nationwide, more people applied for library cards last year. This news of people using their library more frequently comes at the same time that library funding in local city budgets is being reduced. The Monroe City Council, making the decision to sell the United Furniture Building instead of expanding the Dorsch Memorial Library branch, stated they do not have the money to spare with shrinking budgets and other urgent needs. This question comes to mind: Won't everyone pay the price if libraries aren't there when people need them the most?

At a recent Library Advisory Commission meeting, there was a discussion of who is using the libraries. Both librarians of the City branches had a long list of users. Job Seekers were one group. They are using the FREE computers for internet access for job seeking tools and services. More and more employers encourage people to apply on-line, with resumés. This group also uses the library staff for assistance in writing resumés and for other resources. This raises a concern, however, of the increasingly important role of libraries and the challenge of providing these services. Another group, are families looking for budget friendly activities. FREE library programs fit nicely with all ages; book clubs, story times, The Blues series for Black History Month, Civil War Roundtables, and on and on. Simply looking at the quality programming the Monroe County Library System provides allows families to re-discover the value of the public library.

The bottom line is that everyone will pay the price, if these economic times cause cuts to libraries when people need them most. Be an advocate for our City libraries. Contact your councilperson or the mayor today!



Want to find free, informative, interesting things to do? Go to monroe.lib.mi.us and click on the Events and Activities button on the left side of the screen. A calendar of all Monroe County Library Events is just a click away!

Monroe County Library Events and Services.....

Quick Bytes

Friends of the Dorsch
Members needed to
volunteer for the
April 25 Book Sale
Call June Coyne at
243-5992

Mark Your Calendars!
Tues. May 5 6:00 PM
at the Dorsch
Bicycle Safety

Learn to keep you and your
bicycle safe. You will be
entered into a drawing for a
\$50 gift certificate to Jack's
Bicycle Shop!



Museum Adventure Passes are available through a grant program sponsored by Macys. Just visit your Monroe County Library to obtain free admission passes to a number of greater Detroit area Museums. Passes for two or four people are available to places such as the Detroit Children's Museum, The Detroit Institute of Art, University of Michigan Natural Science Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science, the Ford Rouge Factory Tour, and many more. For more information, visit www.detroitadventurepass.org or come by the Dorsch and ask a librarian for your free adventure passes.

The Monroe County Library System is making it easier for book clubs to find good titles to enjoy with enough copies for everyone with the introduction of *Book Club Kits*. Each kit contains at least ten copies of the book and can be checked out by one member of the book club to share with other members. They include author information; book reviews, and in most cases some basic discussion questions. There are currently 62 titles available to check out. They are available on the Monroe County Library System's on-line catalog by searching "Book Club Kits" under the subject heading for a list of available titles, or searching by call number or title to see if the desired book is included in the Book Club Kit collection. The kits can be checked out for six weeks. The replacement cost for a lost kit is \$100.00.

The kits are housed at the Bedford Branch Library but can be requested from and sent to any of the Monroe County Library System's 16 branch locations.

Now it's Fine Friendly First Friday **EVERY DAY!**

You can return overdue materials and pay only \$1 any day of the week our branches are open. Proceeds, up to one thousand dollars, will go to a different charity each month. Don't hesitate to return your overdue materials and begin to use the library services once again.

DORSCH MEMORIAL BRANCH LIBRARY
18 East First Street
Monroe, MI 48161-2227

