

A MESSAGE FROM TOM COOPER

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One of the shop terms librarians use is 'opening day collection.' It is just what it sounds like: the collection of materials, whether it's books or DVDs or compact discs, which should be on the shelves the day a library opens. One can buy an opening day collection one item at a time. One can contract with a vendor to supply an opening day collection. But anyone who has worked in libraries for long knows a simple truth: opening day collections are never complete. They are subjective and based on informed opinions about what the collection should contain, but there will always be something you forgot.

I once had the job of assembling the opening day music collection for a library that had never offered music before. What a fun job, to take several thousand dollars and start buying CDs so that you have what is most important in most musical genres, and something to please everyone. I thought I did pretty well. But within a week of opening day, patrons pointed out that I had missed ordering anything by Elvis Presley or Frank Sinatra. Oops.

It's just very hard to create a library. In a very real sense, in the words of English scholar and educator Augustine Birrell, 'Libraries are not made; they grow.' Webster Groves Public Library has grown for over eighty years. Its collections, its history, its traditions, all have grown and been part of the fabric of our community for decades.

We are now in the midst of a significant growth spurt. Sometime in 2012, we will open a renovated and expanded library building, one that will provide more room for collections, for public computers and for public meetings. An entire floor will be dedicated to services and programs for children.

Experience shows us that when a library opens a new building, it gets busier. There's more for people to do, everything is new and comfortable, there are new things to see—even skeptics have to stop by to find out if their worst fears are realized. And there are more opportunities for a group like the Friends of the Library to volunteer and to help with programs.

If you want to become involved, the best way is to join the Friends. The Friends arrange a number of fundraising events throughout the year, assist with library programs, and offer a few events of their own. It's a great way for anyone who is interested to help us grow our library.



The Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to community outreach through expanded use of the library and its resources. Our goals are to:

HELP the library increase and extend its collections and services

ENCOURAGE community members to volunteer as it relates to the library/community

PROVIDE financial support for current and future library needs

PROMOTE community enthusiasm about the library and its resources, services and needs

ENSURE that advances in technology are a resource for all



Membership Application Form

Yes,
I want to be a Friend of the
Webster Groves Public Library.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$25 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Author | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editor | \$100 |
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- I would also like to make a Special Gift of \$____. The names of donors contributing \$25 or more will be acknowledged on a Friends bookplate in a new library book.
- My employer will match my gift and I have enclosed the form.
- If you would like to receive the library's monthly newsletter and other information through e-mail, check here. Be sure to include your e-mail address above.
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Please return this portion of the brochure and your check to:

Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library
3232 S. Brentwood Blvd.
Webster Groves, MO 63119

The Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library is a non-profit 501©(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.