

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Web: Modestolibraryfriends.org Email: Info@Modestolibraryfriends.org

Last Used Book Sale Before Library Closes for Renovation

Soon the leaves will begin to turn to those beautiful Fall colors. Winter will quickly follow with rainy days and the urge to curl up with a blanket and a great book. We know the perfect place to buy some great books.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, Friends of the Modesto Library will hold its Fall Used Book Sale to help you stock up on books to read over the next several months. The sale will include fiction, non-fiction and children's books, in both paperback and hardcover. The hours will be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Library Portico, 16th and I streets. The price for most will be 50 cents each – a great deal by any standards.

Because of the big renovation project, this will be the Friends' final Used Book Sale for at least a year. Our goal is to clear out the warehouse. We will not accept book donations again until the Modesto Library reopens.



Scholastic Book Fair – Nov. 6-9

November 2024 will be the last in-house Scholastic Book Fair until the Modesto Library reopens.

Since 2005 Friends of the Modesto Library has hosted a Scholastic book fair twice a year, except during pandemic closures. The sales earned Friends more than \$50,000 worth of books (nearly 10,000 volumes) and equipment to support the library's mission.

The fairs offer low-cost, high-quality books for home libraries. Fall book fairs have – and will again this November – offer Wish Lists to area youth and literacy related agencies. Through these lists, shoppers have donated nearly 3,000 books to the community since 2005.

Time to stock up for birthdays, holiday/celebration gifts, vacation books or the grandkids.

In-person book sales:

Nov. 6-9, 2024. Hours will be 10-6 Wednesday and Thursday, 10-5 Friday and 10-4 on Saturday.

Where: Modesto Library basement auditorium

Online: Nov. 6-18 at

www.scholastic.com/bf/modestopubliclibrary

Online offers more choices than the in-person book fair and includes free shipping.

THANKS TO DITTOS FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.

MORE NEWS INSIDE

We're close to our \$3 million goal for the Lifelong Legacy Campaign to supplement improvements at the library. We hope to hit our goal by the end of December. **Page 2.**

The Board of Supervisors OKs the temporary closure of the Modesto Library effective Nov. 30 and an interim location during the renovation. **Page 3.**

Capital Campaign Reaches 93% of Goal; We're Not Done

Friends of the Modesto Library set an ambitious goal of raising \$3 million to supplement the major improvement project that will start soon at the Modesto Library. As of early October, \$2,730,000 has been collected in contributions and pledges.

The hope is to reach the \$3 million mark by the end of the year, although donations will be gladly accepted well into 2025.

Almost \$1.9 million of the amount raised so far came from major donors and those whose generosity will be acknowledged with signage once the library remodel is done.

More than half the donors so far contributed in smaller amounts – from \$100 to \$5,000.

County and state dollars are paying for much of the work, including the removal of asbestos, upgrading heating and cooling systems and bring the library into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The money raised through the Legacy Campaign will cover enhancements, including a special art area and more.

In the final few months, the campaign will be getting the word out about our campaign as donors consider end-of-the-year giving for tax purposes and reaching out to prospects who haven't yet heard about the campaign.

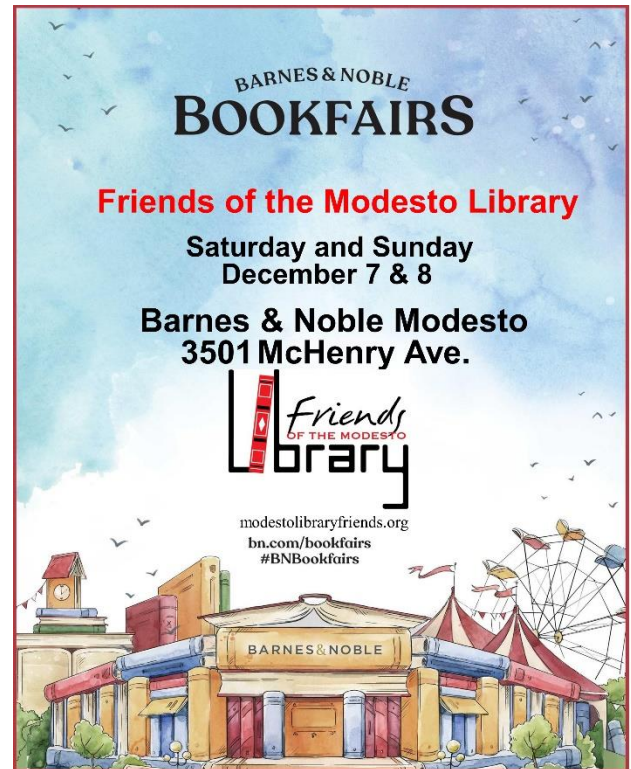
Retirees who have reached 72 and must distribute some of their IRAs are another prospect. Although the goal is to finish by Dec. 31, the campaign welcomes commitments for contributions to be made in 2025. Learn more about the Legacy Campaign at <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/>

Membership Drive Continues

The Friends budget relies heavily on the annual membership dues we collect. While many people pay at the beginning of the calendar year, we happily accept renewals—and new memberships—all year long. We're so grateful to the 164 members who have paid dues in 2024. If you're a lapsed member, please consider renewing this fall.

Go to <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/join> to quickly and easily renew your membership with PayPal, a credit card, or a check.

Not sure if you renewed in 2024? Email Ellen at membership@modestolibraryfriends.org



Subaru Event Benefits FOML

FOML's Lifelong Legacy Campaign has been selected as the sole local beneficiary of Modesto Subaru's annual Share the Love event.

From Nov. 15 through mid-January, Modesto Subaru will donate \$325 from the sale of every new vehicle purchased or leased to the library campaign. Customers also have the option of selecting one of Subaru's national charities.

Since its inception in 2008 the Subaru Share the Love Event has raised over \$288 million for charities across the globe.

The staff and sales team at the dealership chose our campaign as this year's beneficiary. FOML President Denise Nordell said this incredible partnership will provide valuable support to the campaign and help us provide enhancements for the renovated library.

For more information: Subaru Share the Love Event visit <https://www.subaru.com/our-commitment/share-the-love.html>; FOML Lifelong Legacy Campaign visit <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/legacy/>

Renovation: Library To Close Nov. 30 and Reopen in Summer 2026

At its Oct. 15 meeting, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the time schedule for the massive improvement project at the Modesto Main Library at 15th and I streets.

The \$18 million project will take about a year and a half, starting with moving all the staff and books and other materials to the Salida and Turlock libraries. Because asbestos removal is a major part of the project, nothing can be left inside the building.

A temporary library site will be located on 10th Street, in the first floor of the six story city-county building, across from Brenden Theatre. The facility formerly housed the Graffiti Dogs restaurant. The building is being referred to as a “temporary express site” because it only has room for a small portion of the collection. Customers will be able to reserve the books of their choice and pick them up either at the downtown location or at one of the branches.

The library on 15th Street will not have public services after Nov. 27 (the day before Thanksgiving). It was already scheduled to be closed for the holiday. The official closure date is Nov. 30.

The temporary express library site is scheduled to open for public use on Monday, Jan. 6. The public hours will be:

- Mondays through Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Thursdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Tenth Street Place location will serve as a base for occasional public outreach programs during downtown events.

In our next issue of this newsletter, early in 2025, we'll offer more information about accessing library services during the renovation. The library has devoted a section of its website, <https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/> to updates on the project, and will be sending updates via email as well.

President's Column: Good Friends Stay in Touch

You might be wondering what the Friends will be doing during the time the library is closed for renovation in 2025.

Someone suggested (maybe it was me) a group cruise to Tahiti. That didn't get much traction. We could also have opted to take it easy in 2025 following a very busy – and very productive – year of working non-stop on the capital campaign, not to mention all of the Friends' usual activities: two used book sales, two Scholastic sales, volunteering at library events, and all the other things that friends do.



But Friends of the Modesto Library will not be idle during the library closure. We will use the time to advocate for the library and make new friends by looking for opportunities to connect with people in new ways. For example, Yarning with Friends will be finding a temporary home during the closure, and FOML will continue to participate in community festivals and other events.

Good friends stay in touch and so will we. You'll hear from us throughout the closure through our newsletters and social media.

In service,
Denise Nordell

Lots of Effort Is Going on Behind the Scenes of the Legacy Campaign

The Lifelong Legacy Campaign began this year and has almost reached the goal of raising \$3 million to provide enhancements that will make our library a vibrant, attractive resource that Modestans can be proud of.

A founding gifts circle was established first, made of generous donors pledging nearly \$2 million. Throughout the summer and continuing this fall, FOML volunteers have been reaching out to include the entire community in this effort, with the goal of having the full \$3 million committed or collected by the time the library closes for renovation.

The Lifelong Legacy teams reached out to the community by:

- Sending a letter directly to FOML members, who contributed approximately \$25,000.
- Assisting supporters to host events at their homes. **See next page**

Continued ... Behind the Scenes

- Making presentations to and asking for donations from civic organizations, such as Kiwanis, Rotary and Soroptimists.
- Attending events, such as Modesto Farmers' Market, DOMO First Fridays, and MoPride.
- Sending emails to individuals' contact lists.
- Sending personal thank you notes to donors.
- Reaching out to businesses and banks for support, either a donation or displaying a window poster.
- Maintaining the Lifelong Legacy donation thermometer on the library portico so everyone can check on campaign progress.

The Story of Friends of the Library: The Final Chapter

By Maree Hawkins

What do we do with all the money we raise? Give it to the library, of course! In the early years, our annual operating budget was usually less than \$5,000. Today, it is five to six times that. Each year, library staff presents a list of funding requests, and we do our best to fulfill them, usually to the tune of \$15,000 - \$20,000.

Since 1974, our investments in the library include the fish aquarium and its several replacements, film projectors, a noon travel club, a microfilm reader, a clock, bulletin board, newspaper racks, holiday events like the Harry Potter Yule Ball!, adults, sponsoring programs such Popcorn children's story hour when it was cut from the summer reading programs and a children's



In our early years we even bought a the Turlock Library. It wasn't until 1993 that at other libraries. Today, almost all of the library's 13 branches boast Friends groups.

author visits for children and and Poetry, funded the budget, an elocution contest, dinner theater.

projector and record player for Friends groups began forming

Throughout the years the county librarians have kept the Friends informed on the ups and downs of the library budget. There have been many lean times. The 1978 passage of Proposition 13, a property tax-reducing measure, radically reduced the revenue available for library services. In 1984, the year the Friends became a 501 c3 charity, budget cuts forced the library to cut its budget by half. More reductions happened in 1992-93 due to the state shifting funds to education. By 1994 the Modesto Library was open just 27 hours per week and the smallest branches were open only 10 hours per week.

In 1993, the Stanislaus County Free Library Advisory Board was formed to develop a recommendation on how to fund the county library system. The group recommended to county supervisors that library services be restored to an acceptable level funded by a 1/8th-cent sales tax. This dedicated sales tax, now the library's primary source of revenue, was first approved by voters in 1994 for a period of five years, then again in 1999, 2004, 2012 and most recently in 2017. The current tax has a sunset date of June 30, 2030.

Friends of the Modesto Library has played an important part in each election. By law, we can contribute as much as 20% of our operating budget to the Yes campaign, and we have regularly done so. Just as important, our members have volunteered with the campaign, walking precincts, phoning voters, etc.

We are proud of our 50 years as an organization. Our goals are still to raise funds and friends for the library and support the Modesto Library in any way we can.