



# NEWS

*From the Friends*

Spring 2025  
Volume 12, Issue 1

## FRIENDS OF THE COMMERCE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

### **President**

Pat Hillebrand

### **Treasurer**

Sharon Venia

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### **Membership**

Mary Ann Buckley

### **Newsletter**

Debbie Chad

### **Publicity**

Debbie Chad  
Diane Richard's

### **At Large**

Anne Gatland



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are excited to announce that a permanent used book sale store will be opening in the Library this spring. We know that many of you will miss the semi-annual sales, but hope that you will come visit "The Friends' Book Shop."

The Library is hosting a 20th anniversary celebration on April 26th. Those of you who visited the Library at its original location 20 years ago can appreciate just how much it has grown. The Friends have been a part of it for most of those years and look forward to working together for many more.

This has been my last year as president of the Friends and it's coming to an end in April. It's been equally challenging and rewarding. I have worked with many great volunteers and want to thank you all for your efforts and support.

*Patricia Hillbrand*

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Friends of the CTCL Board invite all of our members to our annual Membership Meeting on April 8, 2025 at 10:30 A.M.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to meet the members of the Friends Board, to interact with other Friends, to participate in current topics being discussed and to cast your vote for the upcoming year.

*Debbie Chad*

## TREASURER'S REPORT: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In the early 1990, Commerce Township residents passed a \$7 million dollar millage to build a library in Commerce Township. Prior to that time, Commerce Township did not have a library.

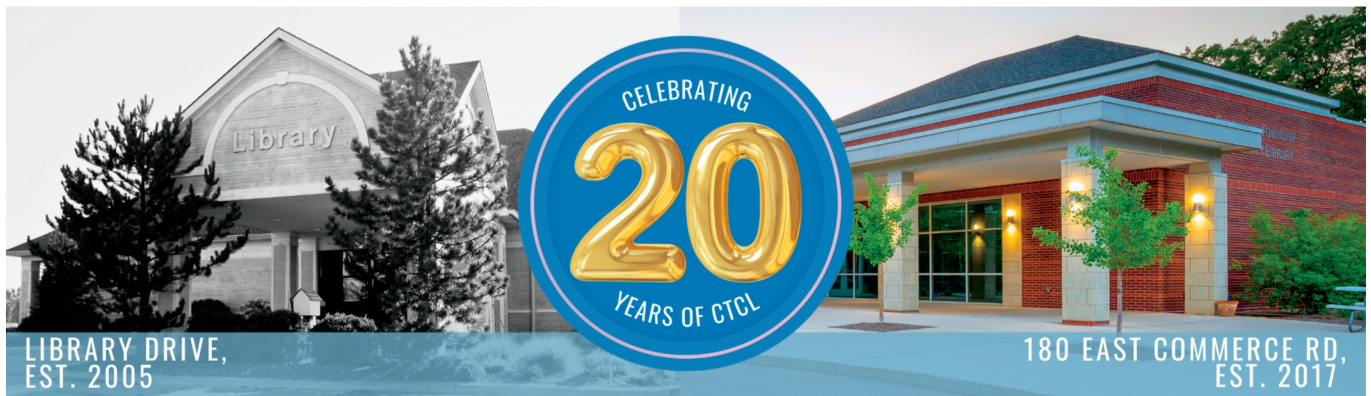
In 2005 Commerce Township opened its first library located in the former Eldorado Golf Course building. In 2007 the first Friends group was formed. The goal of the Friends group is to raise funds to support the needs of the library by selling gently used books, music, games and puzzles. The proceeds from the Friends sales are subject to State of Michigan sales tax.

On January 17, 2017 the Commerce Township Community Library opened in Dodge Park. The CTCL was built and paid for with the millage that was passed 25 years ago.

At the end of April, the CTCL will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

*Sharon Venia*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Are you ready for some fun events? Plan to join the Friends in celebrating the CTCL 20th Anniversary. The library is planning many special events for the whole family.

Saturday, June 14 is the Township's Bicentennial. The Library will be hosting activities for kids as we celebrate the Bicentennial and kick off our annual Summer Reading Program.

<https://commercetwp.com/departments/parks-recreation/2025-community-events/commerce-township-bicentennial/>

Two fun events for you and your family. Please plan to come out and join us. We can't wait to celebrate with you!





## **NEW MURAL IN THE YOUTH ROOM**

Have you seen the new mural in the Youth Room? It is so colorful and fun! Muralist Rhiannan Sibbald integrated the wonder and beauty of the nature in the Commerce area into this water and woodland art piece. In Riannan's own words, "Growing up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I have always been inspired by the magic found in nature. Cute animals, flowers, goofed-shaped trees...anything that adds fun and whimsy to this life is inspiring to me."

She received a degree in Illustration from Grand Valley State in Grand Rapids. The mural serves not only as a vibrant backdrop, but also as an interactive educational experience. The children and their parents have been seen surveying the mural and calling out the names of the flora and fauna while playing the 'I Spy' game. The Friends of the Commerce Library were happy to partner with Commerce Township to fund this wonderful addition to the Library.

*Diane Richards*

## THE NEWSLETTER IS CHANGING

The Friends of the CTCL bi-annual newsletter is going digital. The fall edition will be shared in both a hard copy and digital format.

The hard copy will continue to be mailed to you for the remainder of 2025 and will be available in the library. A digital version will be posted on the CTCL Friends page as well as on the Friends Facebook page. A digital newsletter will allow us to embed short videos, animated GIFs, and interactive elements. We are learning this new format and will be ready to roll out our first digital newsletter in the fall.

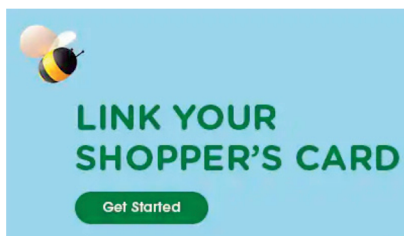
*Debbie Chad*

## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

If you shop at Kroger and enroll your Kroger Plus card, a portion of your purchases will be distributed to the Friends each quarter.

We receive about \$400 each year from this program. It's a great way to support your Library every time you shop at Kroger.

Anyone can participate in this program by registering online. Start by going to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://krogercommunityrewards.com).



If you already have an account, you can sign in, then:

- go to **Community Rewards**
- Select the Friends by using our account number, **SY750**. When you enter the number, you will see our name appear – **Friends of the Commerce Township Community Library**.

If you have a Kroger Plus Card but do not have an account, you will first have to create an account. Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy. Once your account is created, you can add the Friends under **Community Rewards**.

If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

*Debbie Chad*