

Feb. 12, 2025

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**Friends of the Temple Public Library
Host Annual Mid-Winter Used Book Sale
Starting February 24**

On the heels of the unveiling the Temple Public Library's new bookmobile, the Exploration Station, the Friends of the Temple Public Library are hosting the annual Mid-Winter Used Book Sale. The sale, located on the third floor of the Temple Public Library, starts with a preview for Friends members at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 24.

The new bookmobile, ensuring greater accessibility to books and media for Temple residents, was funded by the city with the help of an \$83,000 gift from the Friends of the Temple Public Library. The Friends raised the money for the bookmobile and other library programs with its twice-a-year book sales.

"We face new challenges and opportunities in 2025. The big news is the arrival of the library's state-of-the-art bookmobile that the Friends helped to underwrite. We also have helped the library purchase STEM kits for families to check out and have supported several reading programs," says Friends President Al Waite.

Book Sale Co-Chairs Diann Anderson and Kathy Harrington estimate that "volunteers working year-round have sorted about 40,000 books for the sale." Books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, games and other items are donated by Temple area residents, and most sell for \$2 or less.

Memberships start at \$10 for individuals and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Membership forms are available throughout the year at the library circulation desk or on the Friends website <https://friendsofthetemplepubliclibrary.org/join-the-friends>.

The sale opens to the public at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, and continues through Saturday, March 1. On that last day of the sale, remaining items can be purchased for \$5 a bag (provided by the Friends). Teachers receive a 20 percent discount every day of the sale, except Saturday. Volunteers can sign up to work the sale on the Friends website.

"Each year," adds Anderson, "we have customers looking almost daily for bargains. Volunteers add items every day as space becomes available."

Books are sorted by categories – fiction, mystery, biography, history, etc. – and displayed on tables filling the McLane Room on the library’s third floor. Vintage books, record albums, DVDs, CDs, classic fiction, religious books, children’s books, textbooks, non-fiction and cookbooks also are included in the sale.

The Friends of the Temple Library held their first meeting in 1965, and 20 years later the first book sale was held at the Temple Mall over the Labor Day weekend. That was the start of the annual event, which is now held twice a year and is the Friends’ primary fundraising event. Over the last 40 years, the used book sale has made it possible for the Friends to donate funds for library renovations, children’s summer reading programs, and the library’s first bookmobile. Each year, the Friends provide \$25,000 to \$35,000 to fund the library director’s wish list and other library needs.

Book sale hours are: members’ preview, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., February 24; open to the public, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., February 26-28; and \$5 bag sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 1.

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