

ANNUAL REPORT

Page 5



Building Community through the Joy of Reading, Learning, and Exploring!

650 Deerwood Drive, Shorewood | shorewoodtroylibrary.org | (815) 725-1715

TRICK OR TREAT, SMELL MY FEET...
JOIN US AT THE LIBRARY FOR A SPECIAL TREAT!

Spooktacular

WEAR YOUR COSTUME AND GET READY FOR A
SPOOKTACULAR TIME! WE'LL HAVE TRICK-OR-TREAT
STATIONS, PHOTO OPS, FOOD, FUN AND MORE!

Sat, October 25

12-2pm
All ages!

**No registration required. Weather permitting.*

New for You at STPL

You asked, we listened! Take a look at our newest additions to our eResources—free with your library card! Check them out at shorewoodtroylibrary.org/resources

MANGO LANGUAGES

Ready to expand your world?
Learn a new language with Mango!

- Choose from 70+ languages
- Self-paced, bite-sized lessons
- Real-world pronunciation
- Access lessons via web or app
- Personalized progress tracking
- Up to 5 family members on 1 card—each with own profile
- Little Pim videos for ages 0-6
- Adaptive learning process adapts to your progress!



LEARN A LANGUAGE ONLINE

Mango Languages offers 70+ world languages to learn - all for **free** with your library card.



WEISS FINANCIALS

Let Weiss Financial Ratings show you how to:

- Make a budget... and stick to it!
- Pay off your student loans
- Select the best mutual funds
- Manage and eliminate debt
- Save for your child's education
- Invest in the stock market
- Start a 401(k)
- Get a good deal on your Medigap Insurance

October is Financial Planning Month

No Tricks, Only Treats
with Independent, Unbiased Analysis
from Weiss Financial Ratings



- ▶ Stocks
- ▶ Mutual Funds
- ▶ Banks
- ▶ Credit Unions
- ▶ Insurance Companies
- ▶ Medicare Supplement Insurance
- ▶ Financial Literacy Tools to Help You Get Started

WeissRatings
& Grey House Publishing

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT & TRUSTEES



Shorewood-Troy Public Library District Board of Trustees pictured left to right: Thomas Novinski, Board President; Karen Voitik, Secretary; Tiffany Allen-Smith; Krysten McGee; Vito Schultz, Vice-President; and Bob Stahl, Treasurer

Dear Shorewood-Troy Library Patron,

When you check out an item from our library, you're not just borrowing a book—you're making an investment. Last year alone, the 155,790 items checked out by our patrons saved them an estimated \$2,826,747 in purchasing costs. That's nearly double the amount of money we receive from property taxes (\$1,436,630).

But we know that the library's value goes beyond what you check out. Maybe you've seen our staff at a senior residence, or you've brought your children to our fantastic Summer Reading Program. Perhaps you rely on us for free audiobooks on your Kindle through Libby or Hoopla. Shorewood-Troy Public Library is always working to be a vital community resource, meeting your needs right where you are.

Building for the Future

We are committed to being fiscally responsible. We recently expanded our parking lot with the help of grant money, and we renovated our first floor using matching grant funds. All of our programs will always remain free.

However, with the recent elimination of funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), public libraries are facing tighter budgets. To ensure that the library you love can continue to thrive, STPL is establishing a new Foundation.

This Foundation will help sustain the services you value most, from our wide variety of items to check out to our beloved children's programs and the maintenance of our building. This is an opportunity to help build a lasting legacy.

If you'd like to support the Foundation, you can donate using the QR code below, or contact our Library Director, Jennie Mills, at (815) 725-1715 or by email at jmills@shorewoodtroylibrary.org.

Thank you for your support,

Thomas Novinski, Board President



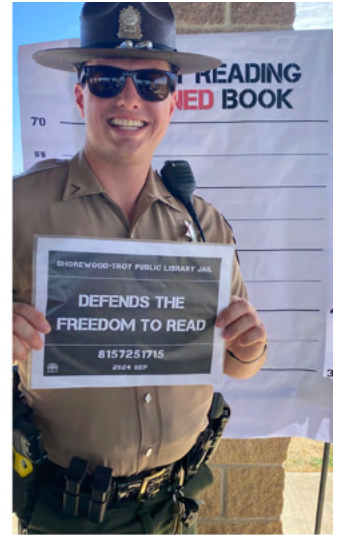
\$2,585 of \$10,000



A heartfelt thank you to our 20+ Library Foundation donors! Your generosity helps bring us closer to our \$10,000 goal. Your contribution brings resources, programs, and opportunities to more people in the community. Thank you for making a difference!

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025
by the numbers!



MISSION

Building Community through the Joy of Reading, Learning, and Exploring!



We had 69,632 visitors
7% increase from last year



We circulated 214,454 items
8% increase from last year



Staff answered 49,902 questions
for curious patrons



We launched a new website



We had 361 youth programs
with 31,839 participants



We completed our parking lot construction project



We had 409 adult programs
with 10,013 participants



And we go outside our library's walls with visits to schools, daycare centers, senior residences, parks, and more!



We circulated 58,664 digital items
23% increase from last year

Thank you all for another fantastic year! We continuously strive to improve. To see a list of our goals and intentions, please check out our Strategic Plan available on our website or inside the Library lobby near the elevator.

Children's Programs

Registration is required for all programs unless marked *

ITTY BITTY ART CLUB

Ages Birth-2 | All Day | Take & Make

Monday, October 20th & November 17th

Babies, toddlers, and their caregivers will create hand and footprint masterpieces together!

BABY OPEN PLAY

Ages 6-24 months | 11-11:30am | In Person

Thursday, October 9th & November 13th

Enjoy a warm, inviting space where you and your child can play and socialize with others in the community. This program is for both caregivers and child, and is not a structured program.

ITTY BITTY STORYTIME

Ages 0-3 | 10-10:30am | In Person

Tuesday, October 7th & November 4th

Hip, hip, hooray, it's time for Itty Bitty Storytime! We will sing songs, read a story, and share fun activities designed for fine and gross motor development.

MUSIC CLASS WITH MS. JAMIE

Ages 1-4 | 10-10:30am | In Person

Tuesday, October 14th, 28th & November 11th, 25th

STPL'S favorite Music Educator, Ms. Jamie, leads this fun music class. Learn simple songs and movements that your little ones will love! **When registering, please include yourself and any other adults attending.**

SENSORY SENSATION

Ages 1-4 | All Day | Take & Make

Thursday, October 9th & November 13th

Sensory play is a wonderful opportunity to participate in your young child's artistic exploration and discovery. You will receive a kit with everything needed to make playtime fun!

FRIENDS & PLAYTIME

Ages 2-5 | 11-11:30am | In Person

Tuesday, October 21st & November 18th

Have a playdate at the library! Every month we will set up a different activity that encourages socialization, creativity, and conversation.

TODDLER TINKER TIME

Ages 3-5 | 10-10:45am | In Person

Wednesday, October 1st & November 5th

Bring your toddler for some imaginative fun! We will have several stations of open-ended, hands-on activities that will keep your little one happy and engaged while learning through play!

STORYTIME EXPLORERS

Ages 3-6 | 5-5:30pm | In Person

Tuesday, October 28th & November 25th

Are you ready for a book-themed adventure? We will be exploring exciting stories, fun songs, and engaging activities.

LET'S FIND OUT WITH MS. LORI

Ages 3-6 | Email @ 9am

Monday, October 6th & November 3rd

Does your preschooler like to learn about the great big world around them? This engaging nonfiction magazine will help your child do just that!



VERMICOMPOSTING WITH WCG

Ages 3-6 | 5-6pm | In Person

Monday, November 3rd

Come to STPL to learn about worm composting with Will County Green! We will listen to a story, play with wiggly worms, and do a fun craft!

Children's Programs

DOODLE CLUB

Ages 5-8 | 4-5pm | In Person

Tuesday, October 7th & November 4th

Do you love to doodle? Follow our instructions on how to draw an adorable new masterpiece!

HALLOWEEN BINGO

Ages 5-10 | 5-6pm | In Person

Wednesday, October 15th

Want to get into the Halloween spirit? Join us for a fun game of Halloween Bingo! Costumes are welcome, but not required.

LASER COMEDY SHOW

Ages 5-12 | 5:30-6:30pm | In Person

Wednesday, October 29th

Come see Chris Fair put on a one-of-a-kind, spooky, laser-illustrated improv comedy show. With your help, he'll tell exciting stories through laser drawings on a glow-in-the-dark screen.



STPL KINDNESS CLUB

Ages 6-12 | 5-6pm | In Person

Monday, October 13th & November 10th

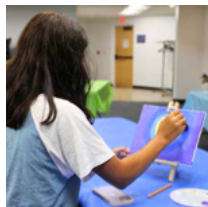
Do you enjoy helping others, doing good deeds, and making others feel good? In this club, we'll create a kindness-themed project and share them with others.

EPIC EASELS

Ages 8-10 | 5-6pm | In Person

Tuesday, November 11th

Do you want to channel your inner Picasso? Join us at our Epic Easels paint class! We will provide step-by-step instructions while encouraging your child to create their own masterpiece.



JR. PINTEREST

Ages 8-12 | 5-6pm | In Person

Thursday, October 16th & Nov. 20th

Each month, we'll make a new crafty creation inspired by Pinterest! In October, we're making yarn pumpkins! In November, we're making water-color leaf wreaths!



WOODLAND WEAR

Ages 8-12 | 4-5pm | In Person

Monday, October 20th

Let's create woodsy-style crowns and wands to celebrate autumn. You'll be amazed at how much you can make with supplies found right in nature.

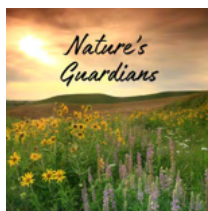


NATURE'S GUARDIANS

Ages 8-12 | 5-6pm | In Person

Wednesday, October 22nd

In this program, we will do projects to benefit the environment and learn that every effort can help protect our planet, no matter how small.



COOKING WITH KIDS

Ages 8-12 | 5-6pm | In Person

Monday, October 27th

Are you a junior chef in the making? We need your help making pumpkin pie and hot apple cider! All supplies will be provided by the library.



Children's Programs

Registration is required for all programs unless marked *

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Ages 0-12 | Take & Make

Tuesday, October 7th & November 4th

Celebrate and learn about special days from all over the globe with this exciting Take & Make!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Ages 0-12 | All Day | In Person

Monday, October 13th

Celebrate and honor the Indigenous peoples of our area. View locally found arrowheads while making a craft and learning new things.

NEW! BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Ages 0-12 | 10-10:30am | In Person

Tuesday, October 21st & November 18th

This storytime is for families of English and Spanish speakers. We will provide exposure to books, songs, and activities in both languages in partnership with the Spanish Community Center.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Ages 0-12 | All Day | In Person

November 1st - 15th

Stop by the Children's Department from November 1st - 15th to drop your letter in Santa's mailbox. Let him know how good you've been this year and we'll send your letters to the North Pole! If we send them early, you might just get a reply back!



DID YOU KNOW

your STPL library card grants you access to...



MANGO LANGUAGES



LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR KIDS

Visit shorewoodtroylibrary.org/resources

MOVIN' & GROOVIN' STORYTIME

Ages 0-12 | 10-10:45am & 4-4:45pm | In Person

Thursday, October 30th & November 20th

Put on your boogie shoes and join us for the AM or PM session! We'll have a groovy time listening to stories and songs that will get your feet movin'! This program runs twice daily on the dates specified.

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

Ages 0-12 | All Day | In Person

Thursday, November 13th

Celebrate World Kindness Day with us! Come to the Children's Department for some fun activities to spread kindness all around.

Family Programs



FAMILY CRAFT

5-6pm | In Person

Thursday, October 2nd & Nov. 6th

In Family Craft, we make seasonal projects the whole family will enjoy! This October, we're making Halloween votives, and in November, pinecone turkeys!



SPOOKTACULAR

12-2pm | In Person

Saturday, October 25th

Trick or Treat, smell my feet, let's go to the library for a special treat! Put on your favorite costume and join us at the library for some Halloween fun! We will have trick-or-treat stations, food, and a photo booth! *Weather permitting.



DISCOVER, LEARN & CREATE:

NATURE-INSPIRED PLAY

4:30-5:30pm | In Person

Monday, October 6th

In this hands-on program, kids and grown-ups will explore how nature can inspire us to build a better world. Through imaginative play and art-making with natural and found materials, children will uncover how animals, plants, and ecosystems solve problems - and how we can, too!



SUPERHERO STORYTIME:

LITTLE COTTAGE

ON THE FARM

4:30-5pm | In Person

Wednesday, November 12th

Join us as we highlight a very special superhero in our community! We will have a guest who will read us a story and tell us about their career! Join us to learn about a farmer and author who has a speech clinic on her farm!



FIRE STATION TOUR: MEET YOUR LOCAL HEROES!

TROY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STATION 1

5-6pm | In Person @ 700 Cottage Street, Shorewood

Wednesday, October 8th

Celebrate Fire Safety Week with a behind-the-scenes tour at our local fire station! The visit begins with a short, family-friendly presentation on fire safety, emergency procedures, and what to expect during the tour. Then, get an up-close look at the gear, equipment, and daily routines of the firefighters who help keep our community safe. Kids will also watch a firefighter suit up in full gear—helping them feel more comfortable with how firefighters look and sound in an emergency. We'll finish with a Q&A session and a small gift for each child to take home!

Parking is available at the station, with additional street parking nearby.

T-Rexplorers

Dinosaur Discovery Programs

SATURDAY, NOV 15
1:45 - 3PM



DINO DISCOVERIES WITH T-REXPLORERS

All Ages | 1:45-3pm | In Person

Saturday, November 15th

GET EXCITED! T-Rexplorers is bringing us a glimpse of what it is like to go on a paleontological dig with real dino bones! Ranger the T-Rex will also be at the library for some time before the program begins. If you want to see this lifelike dino up close and personal, be sure to arrive a little bit early. You won't want to miss this photo op!

Special Events



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK

All Day | In Person

October 19th - 25th

Friends of the Library Week celebrates the volunteers who support our library through fundraising, holding annual book sales, and sponsoring special events. You see them selling books at our Summer Read Kickoff Party and serving hot cocoa at our Christmas party. They even remodeled our Study Room! As we celebrate our Friends and all they do for us, we invite you to participate. Maybe you want to thank a friend or even volunteer your time as a new member. Let us know! Every effort counts.



CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE WITH JOSEPH STANDING BEAR SCHRANZ

Ages 12+ | 1-2pm | In Person

Monday, November 24th

Together with Midwest SOARRING Foundation, we invite you to honor and learn about Native American Culture and history with a presentation by Joseph Standing Bear Schranz.



PUZZLE COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

All Ages | 9am-12:30pm | In Person

Saturday, November 8th

Puzzle masters and novices join the Friends of the Library to put your puzzling skills to the test! Fourteen teams of four will each be given a wrapped puzzle at the start of this competition. The team that finishes first or gets the furthest with their puzzle at the end of the event wins the title of "Ultimate Library Puzzle Champion!"

Call to Register your team and stop by the library to pay the \$20 entry fee. This is a fundraising event sponsored by the Friends of the Shorewood-Troy Public Library who support programming and events throughout the year.

Tween & Teen Programs

Registration is required for all programs unless marked *

STEAM CLUB

Ages 10-14 | 4:30-5:30pm

In Person

Wednesday, November 19th

Come explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math in the STPL "lab!" We will do a hands-on experiment to better understand the world around us. Be prepared to get messy!



EGG CARTON GHOST PORTRAIT

Ages 11-14 | 4:30-5:30pm

In Person

Wednesday, October 8th

Come on in to make a ghostly craft you can display at home!



ADOPT A GHOST

Ages 11-14 | Take & Make

Thursday, October 9th

There's an unnerving feeling in the library... it's a pet ghost! Make your very own with this Take & Make kit.



WARHOL'S WONDERS

Ages 11-14 | 6-7pm

In Person

Tuesday, November 11th

If you are looking for a creative outlet, look no further! Warhol's Wonders is a step-by-step art paint class that is sure to spark your artistic interest. All supplies will be provided.



TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

Ages 13-17 | 5-6pm | In Person

Wednesday, October 1st & Nov. 5th

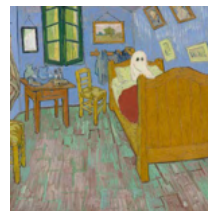
Do you need volunteer hours? Do you want a say on Library programs? Join the Teen Advisory Board!

HAUNTED GALLERY

Ages 13-17 | All Day | Take & Make

Thursday, October 9th

Paint a scary twist on a landscape! Pick yours up and drop it back off if you'd like it displayed for Halloween!



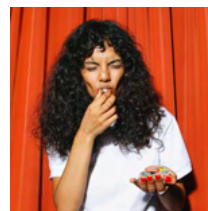
GLOBAL CANDY TASTING

Ages 13-17 | 5:30-6:30pm

In Person

Tuesday, October 21st

Get a taste of the world at your local library in our global candy night!



NINTENDO SWITCH MEET UP

Ages 13-17 | 4:30-5:30pm

In Person

Tuesday, November 18th

Love playing Animal Crossing? Stardew Valley? Or even Smash? Join the library for a fun night of playing!



PUMPKIN PAINTING

Ages 13-17 | 4:30-5:30pm

In Person

Monday, November 24th

Skip the patch and come to the library for a chill night of pumpkin painting.



Teen & Adult Programs

MORBID HISTORY PRESENTATION WITH LORRISA JULIANUS

Ages 13+ | 6-7pm | In Person | Tuesday, October 14th

From grand corpse larceny in medieval Venice to the iron coffins popping up in Lincoln Park, this light-hearted presentation takes you around the world with spine-tingling true tales you never learned in history class. Adult and teen-friendly!

MORBID HISTORY

Presented by Award-Winning Filmmaker & Playwright

LORRISA JULIANUS



TEENS & PARENTS

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Ages 13+ | 6-7pm | Virtual via Zoom

Wednesday, October 15th

This workshop will explore changes in financial aid that may impact how much parents will pay for college. To help navigate the complex world of need-based and merit-based financial aid, families will learn actionable strategies to lower college costs and make informed decisions. The workshop will also review the college search, selection, and admissions process.



THURSDAY TRIVIA | Ages 18+

6-7pm | In Person @ Will County Brewing Company

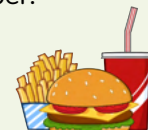
Questions and prizes for beginners and experts alike. This will be hosted at Will County Brewing Company in Shorewood, so while this event is open to all adults, IDs will be required to purchase alcoholic beverages.

*Costumes optional in October!



TRICK OR TRIVIA

October 9th



FOOD TRIVIA

November 6th



CVS VACCINATION CLINIC

Ages 18+ | 10am-2pm | In Person

Saturday, October 18th

Certified immunizers from CVS will be on-site at STPL to administer this year's Influenza and COVID vaccines. Please register and fill out the paperwork emailed to you ahead of your visit. This event is for 18+.

Adult Programs

Registration is required for all programs unless marked *

TECH HELP TUESDAY*

9-11am | In Person

Tuesday, October 14th, 28th & November 11th, 25th

Get your technology questions answered! Please bring your device and any relevant usernames/passwords. This is a walk-in event. No registration necessary.

BEYOND ANCESTRY

6-7pm | In Person

Tuesday, November 18th

Discover new ways to explore your family history! Join genealogist, author, and librarian Debra Dudek for a dynamic program highlighting free and budget-friendly online tools for genealogy research. Learn about innovative and evolving websites from across the U.S. and parts of Europe that go beyond the resources of Ancestry.com. Whether you're just starting your research or looking to break through barriers, this session offers valuable insights for every family historian.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

5:30-7:30pm | In Person

*Monday, Oct. 6th & Nov. 3rd

Monday, October 20th & Nov. 17th

Join this rag-tag band of adventurers to face the challenges that lie before them. *The first meeting of the month meets at Critical Grind in Shorewood. Participants will need to purchase their own beverage.



FELT GHOST PILLOW

All Day | Take & Make

Thursday, October 16th

For this Take & Make Thursday, we're making a cute (or spooky) ghost pillow with felt fabric. It makes a perfect seasonal throw pillow!

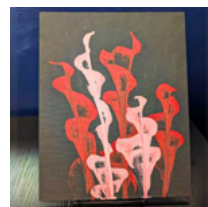


PUMPKIN STRING ART

6-7pm | In Person

Thursday, October 23rd

Join us for a fun crafting class where you'll create your own Pumpkin String Art. All supplies are provided. Perfect for all skill levels.



CHAIN PULL PAINTING

6:30-7:30pm | In Person

Monday, November 10th

Get creative and try your hand at making unique, organic pattern art with this abstract pull chain painting technique.



AUTUMN SPICE CANDLE

All Day | Take & Make

Thursday, November 20th

For this Take & Make Thursday, we're making a candle that is sure to add an autumnal aroma to your home.

Adult Programs | Book Clubs

A NOVEL IDEA

Join us as we discuss what we liked (and didn't like) about this month's book.

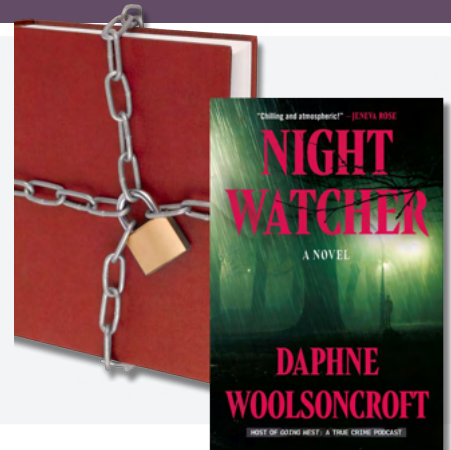
6-7pm | In Person

- **Wednesday, October 8th**

Reader's Choice: Banned Books Edition

- **Wednesday, November 12th**

Night Watcher by Daphne Woolsoncroft



AS THE PAGE TURNS

Read a variety of books on a variety of topics with a variety of people.

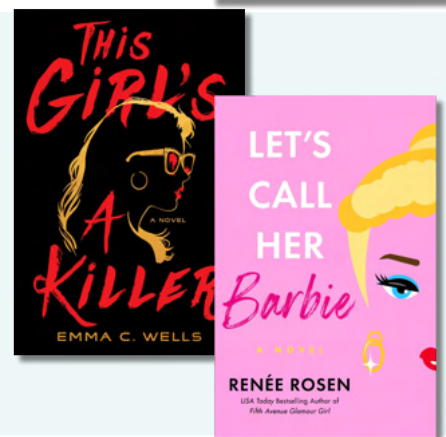
12-1pm | In Person

- **Thursday, October 16th**

This Girl's a Killer by Emma C. Wells

- **Thursday, November 20th**

Let's Call Her Barbie by Renée Rosen



TRUE STORY

This monthly book discussion features real-life stories.

6:30-7:30pm | In Person

- **Wednesday, October 22nd**

The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy

- **Wednesday, November 19th**

The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt

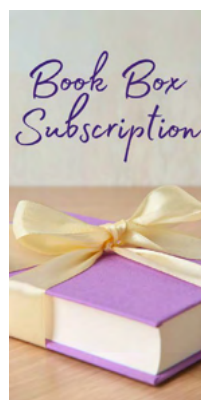


BANNED BOOKS WEEK

All Day | In Person

October 6th - 11th

Think through a few fun activities for Banned Books Week! How many edits can you spot in book scenes? Search for problem words in the word search, and try to spy all of Big Brother's eyes in the library.



BOOK BOX SUBSCRIPTION

All Day | Pick Up In Person

Tuesday, October 21st & Nov. 18th

The third Tuesday of every month, pick up a monthly book box tailored to your interests. Each box contains 2-3 books plus surprise monthly goodies. Space is limited. Registration opens Monday, September 15th.



SHOREWOOD-TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

650 Deerwood Drive
Shorewood, IL 60404

AVAILABLE NOW

**Try the
anytime,
anywhere
language app**

shorewoodtroylibrary.org/resources

**PUZZLE
COMPETITION!**

**SAT, NOV 8
9AM-
12:30PM**

Library Board

The Shorewood-Troy Public Library District Board of Trustees consists of seven elected members. All STPLD board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM in the library. The meetings are open to the public.

Thomas Novinski, President
Vito Schultz, Vice-President
Robert Stahl, Treasurer
Karen Voitik, Secretary
Arhetta Reeder, Trustee
Krysten McGee, Trustee
Tiffany Allen-Smith, Trustee
Contact: trustees@shorewoodtroylibrary.org

Staff

- Jennie Cisna-Mills**
Director
jmills@shorewoodtroylibrary.org
- Lori Freeman**
Children's Services Manager
- Rose Nowak**
Adult, Teen Services & Technology Manager
- Julie Hornberger**
Circulation Manager
- Leslie Lovato**
Technical Services Manager
- Melissa Almanza**
Marketing Specialist

Friends of the Library

Do you love the Library? Become a Friend! The Friends of the Library is a volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds to supplement the Library's annual budget for materials, programs, and literacy initiatives in the local community.

Interested? Join us the second Thursday of every month at 5pm at the Library or call (815) 725-1715.

Upcoming Closings

- Wednesday, November 26th
Close at 5pm
- Thursday, November 27th
Thanksgiving
- Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25
Christmas Day
- Wednesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
- Thursday, January 1st
New Year's Day