

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Couple get the credit for book sale success

TIGARD — Comedian Groucho Marx once commented, "Outside of a dog, a good book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

The Friends of the Tigard Public Library might revise that to say a reader's best friends, especially those looking for a bargain, may be Joyce and Geoff Caron.

The longtime Tigard residents — they moved there in 1976 — are responsible for maintaining the library's lobby book sale that raises about \$10,000 a year for library programs, furnishings and other expenses.

The couple price, date and stock the shelves in the library's lobby with hardcover, softcover and paperback books according to copyright year and condition. Most books range in price from \$1 to \$5. Books, which are donated or come out of the library's circulation, are marked down if they do not sell within a month or so.

"Most of the books end up finding a home, so it's great," Joyce said. "We're grateful for the amazing generosity of so many people that think of the library to keep the books circulating in a way that everybody benefits. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

She also noted that a side



Joyce and Geoff Caron
Rarely miss a week

benefit is finding bargains on books they enjoy — science fiction for Geoff, and nonfiction and cookbooks for Joyce.

They've been spending their Thursday mornings at the library for the past 2½ years after Joyce noticed a request in the city's newsletter for library volunteers to manage the book sale. The shift fits perfectly with Joyce's part-time job in a law office and Geoff's full-time position as a toxicologist with Legacy hospitals.

"I thought that might be a good fit," Joyce said. "I've always been so grateful for our library and was really happy to help in this way."

Not nearly as grateful as the Friends group and others are for their efforts.

"They do a great job of keeping that operation going," said George Burgess, president of the Friends group. "Since they have come to help us, the

amount of money that we make off of those book sales has grown quite a bit. It's one of the top two fundraisers for the Friends of the Library. We make almost as much money on the ongoing book sale in the lobby as we do on our two big book sales each year."

"What makes Joyce and Geoff so special is their style of 'stealth' volunteering," according to Trish Stormont, volunteer coordinator for the library. "Often here before we open and almost always on Thursdays, the main way you know they've been in is the appearance of the shelves — neat and restocked. They are in and out sometimes without a peep. As a team, they rarely miss a week. If Joyce can't make it, Geoff fills in, and if Geoff has a conflict, Joyce will be in to do the work. After 2½ years of service, the lobby sale is one of those chores around here that magically gets done. It's a pleasure to stop and reflect on who actually provides the magic — the Carons!"

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