



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue 📖 Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

Quarterly Newsletter

August 2016 - October 2016

Budget Crisis

Nancy Kerr, the Kern County Director of Libraries was recently asked to address the Board of Supervisors regarding the shortfall in the county budget. They specifically asked her to detail what cuts would mean. Here are her comments.

At this point, we have been asked to present our budget analysts and the Board with potential additional reductions in our budget of 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25%, on top of the 5% reduction we had already been asked to take. We have now been asked to speak to what the effect would be of a 15% cut. As to further cuts over the next four years, we don't have any idea what those might look like at this point, other than that they will indeed happen. For fiscal year 2016-2017, if we cut another 15% (which is really 20%, as noted above) you can expect to see multiple branch closures. Staffing reductions could look like this: 11 unfunded DA positions and one unfunded OSA PT positions would be eliminated entirely. Extra help staff would be gone, as they are the first to go. We would then have to lay off permanent employees: 10 DA positions, one FT OSA, 2 FT and 1 PT OST, 4 Library Associates and one Librarian.

Needless to say, all who will be let go and laid off are crucial to our library operations. For example, the Library Associates who could be laid off currently run multiple branches, and run our children's department at Beale. Our newest Librarian runs Tebachapi. Without our 38 extra help employees, there is a serious impact to our ability to keep doors open, much less provide necessary services.

While not written in stone, we would anticipate having to close Northeast, Wofford Heights, Boron, Holloway or Wilson, Baker, Buttonwillow, Shafter, and McFarland. We made those decisions based upon 2014-15 statistics and other factors such as proximity to other libraries, cost of operation, rent, program and circulation statistics, etc. We are looking at 2015-2016 stats now, as a few of those branches have had a resurgence in the number of checkouts and program attendance, but it is almost certain that if we must cut an additional 15%, 8 branches will close and our bookmobiles will no longer run. Days and hours will be reduced at our remaining branches. There will also be cuts to crucial "back of the house" Support Services, Marketing, and our Business Office. Expenditures for materials, already low, will be cut to the point where we can only purchase limited quantities of popular materials.

To put this all in perspective, we are currently funded at 1/5th of State average. If we see this new 20% budget cut, we will be down to 15% of State average. Imagine that your own personal income was \$60,000 per year. You've been living on \$12,000, or 20% of that \$60,000, but you are now asked to live on only \$9,000. No amount of frugality, grant writing, innovation, donations, or book sales can possibly make up our deficit. You can't do more with that much less, as we are asked to do - you can't do what you are currently doing with that much less, you just do much, much less for a community that needs and deserves more.

I am allotted 3-5 minutes to speak to this tomorrow - please wish me luck as I try to convey the gravity of our situation. Any who would like to speak on behalf of Library funding are much appreciated. Thank you, as always, for your support. Nancy

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Friends of Kern County Library since 1986. Visit the County Library web site at www.kerncountylibrary.org

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Roy Parris

Acting Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

August 17, 2016
September 21, 2016
October 19, 2016
November 16, 2016

No meetings in June, July, or December

Meetings are held in the Library's Community Room at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Use the Community Room entrance on the west side of the Library

Library Hours

Mon. Closed
Tues. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Wed. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sun. Closed

Phone: (760) 384-5870



President's Message

By Sandy Bradley



The Library tax measure vote came on June 7. Sadly, the measure did not pass. It did not receive the 66-2/3 % yes; only a small 50% majority voted yes. The Ridgecrest vote was more significant at 60% yes. What does that mean? We are looking at potential branch closures, loss of staff, and fewer hours and days open. Nancy Kerr explained the issues at county budget meetings with the Board of Supervisors. She was asked to look at cuts of 5-25% over the next few years and tell the Board what that could mean. Her explanation is also in this newsletter in more detail.

Despite the bad news, there is good news to share. The library put on a great summer program in Ridgecrest and in Inyokern with a variety of activities and offered entertainment and learning for our local youth.

The Reading Shaman based on the Friends logo was installed and graces China Lake Boulevard, and will for years to come.

Our Friends group is going strong and it does not appear that we will work for a contracted group. We did vote enough that the BOS now understand that their constituents value their libraries. Currently, it looks like the threat of contracting out is not their first option.

The Friends group is looking for new members and volunteers. We hope to attract those who felt strongly about supporting the library when the tax measure alerted them to the budget problems. We hope you will consider attending a meeting or running for an office. There are more details later on about our annual election in November.

We are looking at an updated website. Stay tuned for more information.

"My Books"

By Francis Bennoch

I love my books as drinkers love their wine;
The more I drink, the more they seem divine;
With joy elate my soul in love runs o'er,
And each fresh draught is sweeter than before.
Books bring me friends where'er on earth I be, -
Solace of solitude, - bonds of society!

I love my books! they are companions dear,
Sterling in worth, in friendship most sincere;
Here talk I with the wise in ages gone,
And with the nobly gifted of our own.
If love, joy, laughter, sorrow please my mind,
Love, joy, grief, laughter in my books I find.



LIBRARIAN'S

By Charissa Wagner, Acting Branch Supervisor

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Wow, what a FULL and fun-filled "Read for the Win" Summer Reading Challenge! Many thanks to you, the wonderful Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library, for your incredible generosity that makes Ridgecrest's Summer Reading Challenge a great success year after year. Here are some things provided by FRBL funding: themed finisher bags for all age groups, tattoos and stickers for young finishers, infused water bottles and hacky sacks for prizes, Beaded Bracelet Making craft, Marshmallow Shooter craft, Slime craft, Book Bingo prizes, Giant Boggle, Spy Camp activities, Gluten Free Taste Test, and the Brand Name vs. Generic Taste Test. The large programs paid for by the Friends include: Beth Armogida Planetarium, Wild Child Adventures with bubbles, ii V I Jazz Trio, E & M's Reptile Family, and Jim Cogan, interactive storyteller.

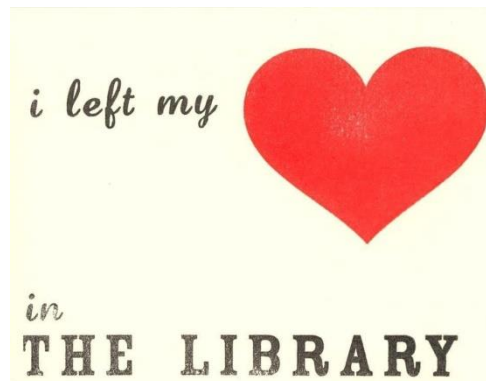
We had a successful Teens Only After Hours Party at the library in July with 12 enthusiastic teens. They ate pizza, played games, went on a Pokemon GO Walking Tour, read books, listened to music, played on computers, and had a popcorn bar with multiple types of candies. I was approached by the Fairgrounds to collaborate on a Glow Run (and concert) with Ridgecrest Addiction Awareness. It will be on Saturday, August 27, in the evening. Proceeds will be split between the three groups, and the portion going to the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is going to be specifically designated for teen programs.

We were also able to have other, new activities this summer hosted by some very enthusiastic volunteers, such as the teens from Opportunities for Learning who put on a kids' activity every Thursday afternoon in July (Fairy Tales, Superheroes, Mythology, and Magic Tricks), STEM Time for all ages and pre-teens/teens, and For the Fun of Math series for school age children. I would also like to thank the sales crew for being willing to rearrange their schedule to accommodate the extra activities I wanted to do in the Community Room.

This summer, there was a bigger shift towards an online system where readers earn points for reading and completing other activities. Some of the events provided a secret code to earn a badge. As a result, I am unable to tell how many signed up for this year's Challenge. We continued our Inyokern Elementary Outreach program (see Terri's article for more information) and it was such an astounding success that it should definitely be continued next summer!

In other branch related news, we got a new circulation desk! Ok, fine, it's technically not a new desk. But the laminate panels for the front of the desk are new and the countertop is new also. The new countertop is the same color all the way through, so when it does wear down, (and we know it will) the difference will not be very noticeable. A new ADA-compliant push button system for the side entrance was also updated very recently, and the front doors will still be replaced at some point. Other "Wish List" projects are still on hold for the time being.

My next update will feature our Summer Reading Challenge statistics as well as our wonderful community sponsors who really make it great every summer.



Annual Meeting and Election

November 16 is the date of the annual meeting and election of officers. The Friends of the Ridgecrest Library meet nine times a year, on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the library meeting room. We do not meet in June, July, or December.

Visitors are welcome, and we would be happy to explain the duties of board members to anyone who might be interested. The election is held in November for President, Vice President for Sales, Vice President for Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, and two members-at-large. We usually adjourn to a restaurant after the meeting. Lately we have gone to Pizza Factory, where they donate 30% of the proceeds to our group, as long as we mention the Friends when we order. Please consider this your invitation to join us at the meeting at 10:00 or at the Pizza Factory at 12:00 or so.

Shaman Installed

After many months, the Median Art piece "Reading Shaman," was installed on China Lake Blvd, Thursday, July 28. You have seen the photos and perhaps visited him in the library. Now you can wave to him as you drive to and from work, or to and from the Ridgecrest Branch Library. Thank you to Milt Burford, the talented artist who built him and insured that he would pass inspection. Another thank you to Chuck Cordell whose group installed him on the site, and a final thanks to all the friends who sponsored him, and made him a reality.

We hope you enjoy him!

Inyokern Elementary School Summer Outreach Program 2016

By Terri Middlemiss

For the second year, Inyokern School has hosted the Summer Reading Program as part of Ridgecrest Library's Outreach, bringing reading and activities to the children of Inyokern in June and July.

Even more popular than last year, the 75 children who participated were able to be part of the reading challenges, (garnering prizes), listen to Storytime, do various crafts, and even have two of the special programs come from their Ridgecrest presentations to Inyokern. The magician and the music group were enthusiastically enjoyed.

Everyone, including parents, grandparents, and teachers, enjoyed themselves. I was there to represent FRBL and handle the reading lists, prizes, and information. What great joy I had seeing the kids really enjoy themselves. We also had enthusiastic parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles doing crafts right along with the children.

It was the best use of Friends' money to pay for keeping the library doors open and sponsoring the supplies and programs for the great kids in Inyokern.

A huge thank you to teacher Annie Jorgensen for making all of this possible in Inyokern with her presence, her craft supplies, her Storytime, and her endless enthusiasm for the children. Teachers Mrs. Hiatt, Mrs. Worley, and Miss Eberhardt were invaluable to our success. Principal Bev Ewbanks is our most successful interface with the School District.

FRBL can be proud of making this summer program possible, creating memories and bringing the joys of the library to those who came. Thank you.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice-President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group.

Barbara Bane

Mr. & Mrs. Canning

Erika Cunningham

Please note your renewal date that appears on your mailing address of this newsletter. I will send renewal notices via postcard or e-mail to remind you, but it helps a lot when you notice and respond. **When you do renew, please include "Friends" on your envelope address so that library staff can quickly route it to us.**

2016 Combined Federal Campaign

By Bill Eichenberg, Treasurer

I'm very pleased to report that our local Friends group is once again approved to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. This is very good news in that it gives our members another avenue to help support our efforts on behalf of our local library. Our group number is 31045, and we should be included in the 2016 Campaign booklet listing all of the approved charitable organizations.

If you make charitable donations through the CFC process, please consider designating the Friends of the Ridgcrest Branch Library as one of the organizations that you support. This is more important than ever because of the proposed reductions in County funding for our libraries. More than ever we are the ones making up the difference.

<u>FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</u>													
Date: _____ Memberships Are Renewable Annually													
Organization/Business Name: (Business memberships start at the \$50)													
Individual Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.													
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I am interested in helping in Friends of the Ridgcrest Branch Library activities. I am especially interested in (check all that apply):													
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

AltaOne Federal Credit Union
Heritage Montessori School
KP PRODUCTIONS Graphics/Banners/Signs
Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
McDonald's of Ridgecrest
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Pizza Factory

Ridgecrest Automotive
Ridge Writers
Rusty Warren's Automotive
Sierra Sands Unified School District
TJ Frisbee Bicycles
Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones Investments
WACOM

Please let these generous contributors know that you appreciate their support of our Library.

BOOK STORE HOURS

MONDAY—CLOSED

TUESDAY—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY—CLOSED through end of summer to accommodate library programs

THURSDAY—1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY—CLOSED

SATURDAY—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

SUNDAY—CLOSED



Check the date on your mailing label! Is it time to renew your membership? If so, please take a moment to fill out and return the application on the other side. Not time to renew yet? Pass the application on to a friend!

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