

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library



131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555
Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org



FRIENDS OF THE RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY

Used Book Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9am-10am Members' Early Access

10am-4pm Open to All

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

11am-Noon Members' Early Access

Noon-4pm Open to All

1000s of
books sorted
by topic

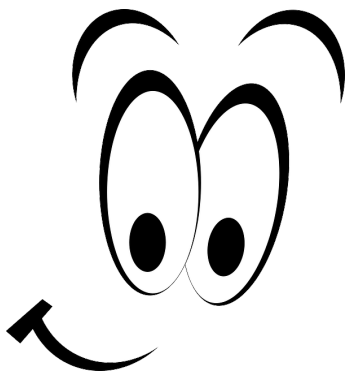


LOW PRICES



Proceeds support
programs and provide
resources for the
Ridgecrest Branch Library

Sierra Vista Center
1300 N Norma
Behind the
North Albertsons



Friends of the Ridgecrest
Branch Library is a 501 (c) 3
not-for-profit organization.

Visit the County Library web
site at
www.kerncountylibrary.org

Board of Directors

President

Jerry Bradley
(760) 371-3590
jerry_bradley@verizon.net

Vice President:

Memberships

Carol Pearson
(760) 375-7258
capears66@iwvisp.com

Vice President: Book Sales

Jil Richards
booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Nani Banks
760-371-2583
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Secretary

Barbara Lupei
lupei@verizon.net

Members-at-Large

Peggy Johnson
Julie Gervais
Barbara Bane

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

November 18, 2023
January 17, 2024
February 21, 2024
No meetings in June, July,
or December

Meetings are held in the
Library's Community Room
at 1:00 p.m. on the third
Wednesday of each month.
YOU ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME!

Use the Community Room
entrance on the west side of
the Library
To attend via Zoom, call
Sandy Bradley at (760)
371-3590 or email at
sandy.bradley@verizon.net

Library Hours

Tue-Thurs 11am-7pm
Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Curbside service still
available

Phone: (760) 384-5870

President's Message November 2023

I hope everyone enjoyed our unseasonably cool Summer and are busy deciding which of the many local Fall activities to attend. Please be sure to add our Fall Book sale on November 4th and 5th to your list of activities.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are transitioning to email delivery of our newsletters. This change is necessary due to increasing costs of printing, folding and mailing paper copies. If you elect to receive your newsletter via email, then the cost of individual and family memberships will remain \$5.00 and \$10.00. If you feel the need to receive a paper copy, you will pay an extra \$10.00 per year for that option. You should receive a renewal notice, or you can renew online at our website.

We continue to explore different ways to generate funds to support our library. We are continuing to sell books via our bookcase in the library, periodic book sales from our book storage site, Pizza Factory lunch donations, and plan to sponsor more Saturday morning movie events. We are also evaluating other fundraising options that are appropriate for a non-profit organization. And, of course, we greatly appreciate the ongoing support provided by donations from our members and the community.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but we still desperately need a permanent facility in which to store, sort and sell books. Operating out of such a facility has traditionally been our primary source of funds (other than donations) to support the library. If you have a candidate facility or know of a possibility, please let us know so we can follow up. Our goal is to be in a new facility within the next year – sooner if we are asked to vacate our current space. Because no one in the community has stepped up to offer us a facility, we are also exploring the option of purchasing or renting a facility. In order to do that we would need to raise a significant amount of money through donations. Unfortunately, revenues from book sales are unlikely to cover rent and generate enough funds to support the library.

Election of Officers will be held at our next board meeting on Wednesday afternoon, November 15th at 1:00 in the library. Interested members are encouraged to attend and vote. We currently have 3 board openings to fill; secretary and two members at large. If you wish to be considered for one of these positions, please contact a member of our nominating committee: Julie Gervais (julger67@gmail.com) or Barb Bane (bbane0975@gmail.com).

The other Board members and I thank you for your ongoing support, without which we could not so successfully support the library.




Librarian's Corner




Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Closed in November
 Friday 11/10 - Veterans Day observed;
 open on Saturday 11/11
 Thursday-Saturday 11/23-11/25 -
 Thanksgiving holiday

Closed in December
 Friday 12/1 - All Staff Training Day in
 Bakersfield
 Friday-Monday 12/22 through 1/1 -
 Winter Recess

As promised in the last newsletter, our branch **Summer Reading Challenge** finisher numbers are available. In 2023, we had 353 total finishers (250 child, 24 teen, and 89 adult) compared to 247 total finishers (176 child, 19 teen, and 52 adult) in 2022. THANK YOU to those who logged reading or listening (or had us log it for you). Branch staff are happy to log for you, as long as we know how many books you read or listened to.

The Kern County Library and Kern County Aging & Adult Services are collaborating on the **Access to Technology Program** to provide education, training, and assistance on the use of technology to older adults (60 years and up) and adults with disabilities. The goal

is to connect older adults & adults with disabilities to technology and help reduce isolation, increase connections & enhance self-confidence. Appointments in Ridgecrest will primarily be virtual. A variety of services will be available, from basic computer programs and how to use your device to how to access and download apps and organize your digital photos. If you or someone you know needs help to bridge the digital divide, contact us or Kern County Aging & Adult Services to get started.

Tutoring for children and adults is available through a partnership between the Kern Literacy Council and the Kern County Library. Adults and children in need of assistance with basic education (reading, writing, math), GED preparation, English as a Second Language, or Citizenship Test preparation can sign up for an in person or virtual appointment with a volunteer tutor. We are also looking for adult volunteers to tutor at our branch. If interested, go to <https://kerncountylibrary.org/tutoring/> and fill out the Kern County Library's volunteer interest form AND the Kern Literacy Council's volunteer application for each branch you are willing to tutor in.

New library card designs debuted in September for Library Card Sign Up Month! We have some beautiful new designs, including some limited edition designs based on photographs taken by a Marketing staff member. Trade in your current card for a new design for \$2 or if your card is in need of replacement due to normal wear and tear, it will be free. If you use Libby or OverDrive, we will have to merge your accounts to keep your current checkouts and position in the hold queue because your card number will change.

Dominic from Senator Shannon Grove's office is in the library's Community Room once a month, on the second Tue from 1:15-3 pm. Community members have the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions about anything that her office might be able to assist with. If you know anyone who needs assistance with unemployment claims, state taxes, the DMV, or any other concerns, please have them come by. They have committed to sending someone monthly through December and will be re-evaluating to see if it is a good use of time to continue sending Dominic here.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library finally arrived in Kern County towards the end of September, thanks to the efforts of the Kern Literacy Council to secure funds to mail high quality, age appropriate books each month from birth TO age 5. Please note that mailing addresses need to be in Kern County to receive the books. Sign up online <https://imaginationlibrary.com/us/affiliate/CAKERN/> or come in to the branch and staff can get you signed up. Participants in both (*cont. on p. 4*)

Imagination Library AND our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (which we started offering almost two years ago) can get a special Imagination Library button for their 1000 Books Before Kindergarten lanyard.

We are partnering with High Desert Training Services, who is offering the **Mission HERO** project to local small businesses. High Desert Training Services will provide training on Narcan while the library branch will provide Narcan for their small business. With the overdose numbers being high for our area, making Narcan readily available can make the difference to someone experiencing an overdose.

Reading challenges continued after the summer! The **Back to School Challenge**, which finished at the end of September had 66 finishers who read or listened to 5 hours in August and September. Children earned a Panda Express Cub meal while teens and adults were entered into a drawing for diamond painting or paint by numbers kits (and we drew 3 names).

Zip Books, the program funded by the CA State Library that allows books not available at a Kern County Library branch to be purchased via Amazon and mailed directly to the customer, recently returned! There are some stipulations on what materials can be requested. An email address is required to participate in this program that helps us build a community driven collection. Visit <https://kerncountylibrary.org/zipbooks/> for more information and the form to request something.

Two annual November card programs are happening again. The Thank-A-Vet project collects cards, letters, and coloring pages for our local veterans. Last year was the first year we were able to give them to Ridgecrest organizations and items were distributed between Alta One Federal Credit Union, the Elks Lodge, and the Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council for their veteran appreciation events. If you'd like to participate, drop items off by closing on November 9. Thanksgiving Cards for Seniors through a partnership with local moms group MAEVE Ridgecrest returns. Thanksgiving cards will be delivered to Bella Sera this year. (Note: they deliver Easter and Thanksgiving cards and alternate between Bella Sera and High Desert Haven.) If you'd like to participate in the Thanksgiving Cards for Seniors project, bring them by noon on November 22. For both projects, I've set up some library programs with supplies for people to come and make cards so check our calendar for dates and times.

Our current reading challenge offers incentives for participating in the existing **Adventure 365 Challenge** in Beanstack. Through the end of the year (Dec 22), kids will earn a Panda Express Cub meal for every 10 books read or listened to from October 18. (Coupons expire 12/31/23 so pick them up before we close for Winter Recess.) Teens and adults will be entered into a drawing for a diamond painting or paint by numbers kit.

As the holidays and the end of the year approach, it's generally a time to reflect on the past year of successes and learning experiences, be grateful for the support we've received, and look forward to what is coming in the future. Our branch has seen a lot of success this year and we have also had some learning experiences. We've had growth in some areas and will be making some changes. We appreciate the support we received this past summer (outlined in the previous newsletter) and we continue to be grateful for having amazingly wonderful financial and programming support. Looking to the future, we will continue to do our best to meet the needs of our community as we are able. Keep an eye on our calendars for more adult programs that we will try offering to determine the interest. If you have suggestions for programs (for any age group), please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate when we can. If you have a skill that you would like to share with our community, such as crochet, chess, art, or crafts, please let us know.

Annual Meeting and Election

The Annual Meeting and Election will be held on November 15th at 1PM in the library meeting room for the new board and officers. All members are invited to attend and vote. If you cannot attend in person but would like to attend via Zoom, please call Sandy Bradley – 760-371-3590, or email sandy.bradley@verizon.net and we will set it up. Hope to see you all there.

Membership News


By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

We have revised our membership structure to save bulk mail costs for our newsletter. Please see the new form below for details. Where possible, we will send you our newsletters via email in this newsletter cycle. For those who do not have an email address or prefer the mailed paper version, we are requesting an additional \$10 in the Individual and Family categories.

If you have an email address that you did not submit on your membership application, please email it to me at capears66@iwvisp.com If you have questions about this you can also phone me at 760-375-7258.

We are pleased to welcome **Susan Good** as a new member to our library support group.

Your renewal date should appear on your mailing address. I will send renewal notices via postcard or email to remind you but it helps a lot when you notice it and respond. **When you do renew, please address to our library and include “Friends” on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.**

 <h3 style="margin: 0;">FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</h3>		
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Date:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Individual Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mx. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> ____		
Organization/Business Name:		
Mailing Address: _____		
Email:	Phone:	
Type of Membership: [select one, along with preferred newsletter format]		Mail or bring check/cash to: Ridgecrest Branch Library 131 E. Las Flores Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Make checks payable to: Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (email): ...\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining:\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (print): ...\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring:\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family (email):\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor:\$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family (print):\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Contribution: \$_____		
Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]		
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Online Book Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Sort Books for Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Answering Email <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know yet – please contact me!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

AltaOne Federal Credit Union
Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union
Elemental Equine Massage
Heritage Montessori School
In Loving Memory of John Starr
KP PRODUCTIONS Graphics/Banners/Signs
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McDonald's of Ridgecrest
Nancy George Estate
Pack Wrap

Pizza Factory
Ridge Writers
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