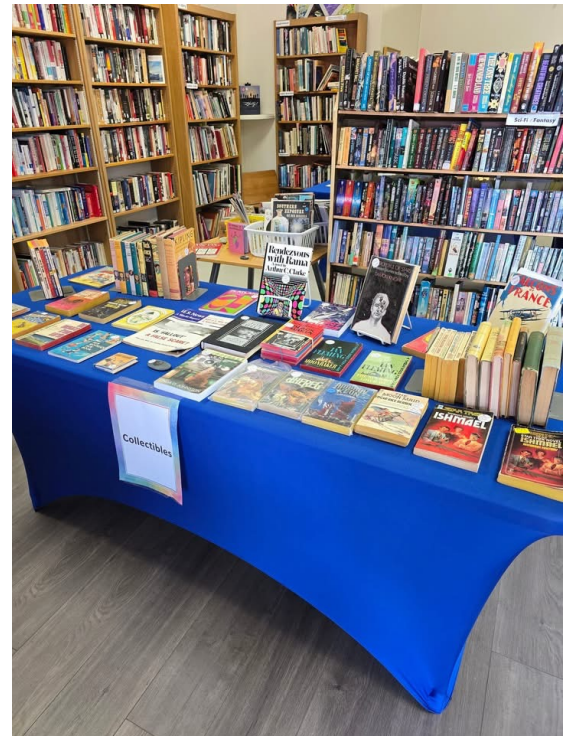




Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org



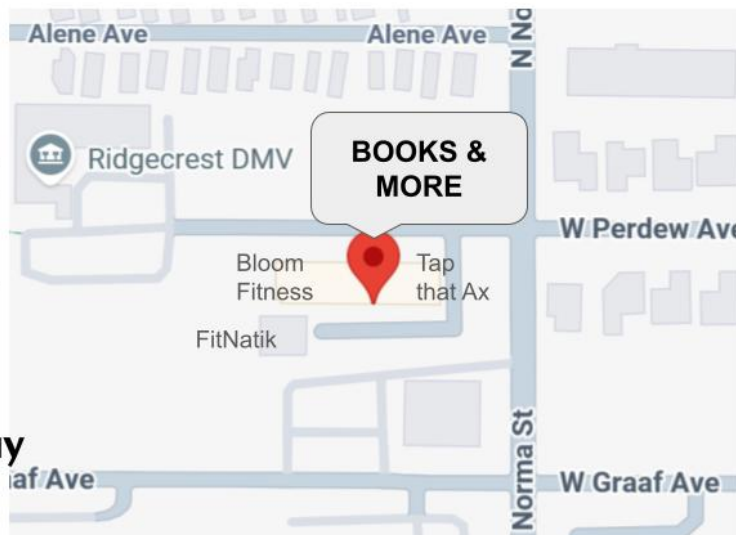
Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Books & More
1513 N. Norma

STORE HOURS

Sunday - Tuesday
CLOSED

Wednesday - Saturday
10:00am - 2:00pm



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
banksck@iwvisp.com

Secretary/Store Mgr.

Julie Gervais
julger67@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Dr. Victoria Schauf
 John Freeman
 Kim Metcalf

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

August 20, 2025
 September 17, 2025
 October 15, 2025
 November 19, 2025
 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 10am-7pm
 Friday 10am-6pm
 Saturday 10am-4pm
 Curbside service still available

Phone: (760)

384-5870

President's Message August 2025

Book Store – On June 1st, the Friends initiated a one year lease on a store front at 1513 N. Norma, just North of the former Sizzler restaurant. As you may recall, this was necessitated because we lost use of our facility at the North Albertsons shopping center. With a lot of volunteer labor, we built an interior wall, cleaned and painted the floor, installed lots of shelving/displays, and filled the store with inventory. We had a grand opening on June 27th and 28th, then started our “regular” hours (10am - 2pm, Wed. through Sat.) on July 9th after the holiday. The store name of “Books & More” was selected because the store not only offers books, but also has art work and nice thrift shop items. Board member, Julie Gervais has graciously agreed to be the manager of the store. So, stop by, say hello, shop, and let us know what you think of the new store.

Although this store allows us to continue to sell donated books, we still do not have a solution to our book storage needs. And, the profitability of the store is uncertain at this early stage. However, based upon initial sales, we are very optimistic.

Volunteers -- I am amazed at all of the support we have gotten from the community, FRBL members, and even a few non-members. The list of everyone that helped set up the store is so long, it would take up most of this newsletter to list them all. Plus, if I tried to publish the list here, I would certainly miss a few names. The store's initial non-book inventory was donated by board members and local artists. We have over 30 volunteers signed up to “run the cash register” four days each week. (We require at least two volunteers be present in the store during open hours.) I am not only amazed, but grateful for all of this support.

Donations & Fundraisers – On July 21st, the Friends sponsored a Movie (How to Train Your Dragon) at the Ridgecrest Cinema. The theater generously allows us to keep all ticket sales and donates a portion of concession stand receipts. Thanks to Ridgecrest Cinemas, Julie Gervais, and Nani Banks for making this happen.

I am not sure if opening the new store is a factor, but we have recently received several large donations, which are reflected in the “expanded” donor list at the end of this newsletter. You can add to these funds by going to our website at <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org> and clicking on the large “Donate” button. Or, you can mail or drop off a check made payable to FRBL at the Library, 131 East Las Flores Ave.

Your Board of Directors continues to work with fellow board member Kim Metcalf to create a fundraising event in the Fall. This will include a catered dinner and fun activities. Stay tuned for more information as we approach cooler Fall weather.

Thanks -- Again, thank you to all who support the Friends with their time, money, and muscles. Because of this support, we now have an operational store that will hopefully produce additional funds to help the library, and we are exceeding our fund raising goals for the year.

📖📖 Librarian's Corner 📖📖

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

While the Summer Reading Challenge officially ended on July 31, we give people a couple of weeks to pick up their finisher bags and pick out their finisher books, so the next newsletter will include the Summer Reading Challenge finisher numbers. For now, here's a recap **Lunch at the Library** and some of the amazing **performances** we have brought to our community.

We have had a wonderful summer filled with nourishment for bodies through **Lunch at the Library**! Our continued partnership with Sierra Sands Unified School District provided lunch for 22 days this summer, free to all 18 and under! We served 1,866 lunches to children (an average of 84.8 lunches per day we offered lunch) with 2,651 people attending. We were fortunate to have grant funds for two summer hires along with 7 amazing volunteers who volunteered 156.5 hours with Lunch at the Library. For the first time since we started Lunch at the Library (in 2018) we had a visitor during every lunch. The vehicle visits from **Waste Management's recycle truck, Liberty Ambulance, Ridgecrest Police Department, and Kern County Fire Department Station 84** drew large crowds, as expected.



This summer, we also nourished minds through our Summer Reading Challenge performances for our community and a great variety of **“regular” programs** for all ages from babies through adults. Lunch at the Library grant funding allowed us to have the always popular **Wild Man Dan** return with a variety of reptiles and information. New this summer and made possible with Lunch at the Library grant funds were: electric violinist **Cara-C** (who played songs for children and adults), **High Desert Falconry** (who brought a Eurasian eagle owl, peregrine falcon, and a Harris hawk for education and a flight demo with the hawk), and **Firelight Shadow Theater** (who put on a fun and educational shadow puppet show incorporating a handful of audience members). The **Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc.** sent **The Magic of Josiah** back to all of the open branches, where this summer's performance included a real, live rabbit for the first time! **Omnipresent Puppet Theater** put on an entertaining performance of *The Tortoise and the Hare* and was sponsored by **Ridge Writers**. (Don will work on a new show for summer 2026!)

We finished the summer with a new event and a returning experience sponsored by the **Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**. *[continued on page 4]*



New this summer was **Golden Meadow Goats**, who brought four baby goats (two were two days old and two were two weeks old but two weeks premature). Attendees were able to spend some quality time with these baby goats (and the security bunnies) and it was an enjoyable experience for all.

Magic Napoleon returned and, as always, put on a wonderful magic and bubble show filled with audience participation and interaction before creating balloon sculptures for all who wanted one.



We remain incredibly grateful for the support of the FRBL members that helps us bring so many different experiences to our community! Thank you, for doing your part to support the FRBL and in turn, the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Attending programs and participating in the **Summer Reading Challenge** is another way to support the library, and it was nice to see familiar FRBL faces in attendance at big and small programs and choosing their finisher books.

Reminders about non-book items that can be picked up or checked out at the Ridgecrest Branch Library: we have **Narcan** available for first aid kits. No library card needed. Stop by the library when we are open to pick up your box(es) of Narcan, after a brief training which includes completing an anonymous form. We also have **California State Parks passes** available for checkout with your library card, good for free vehicle day use access. For more information, go to both of these websites: kerncountylibrary.org/california-state-parks-pass/ and www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30813

Book Store Information

Julie Gervais, Book Store Manager

Thank you to everyone who has supported the store - those who helped set-up, those who have volunteered to work, and those who have visited and purchased items! Please spread the word about the store - tell your friends, family, and coworkers! As we continue, we will need additional volunteers to work in the store and to help sort donated books. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 760-382-8994 or julger67@gmail.com. Again, thank you for your support and please stop by the store!

We are ready to start accepting donations for the Books & More store!

We will be accepting donations on Wednesdays, 10am - 12noon, at Books & More (1513 N Norma). We will open the back door of the store (off of Perdew) to reduce disruption in the store. We have limited storage space at the store so please contact Julie Gervais (julger67@gmail.com or 760-382-8994) if you have more than 2 boxes of donated items. We will be accepting the following items:

- Children's books
- Fiction published in the last 10 years - with a focus on best-seller
- Cookbooks and craft/hobby books published within the last 10 years
- Antique, rare or collectible books that are likely to have significant value
- Audiobooks on CD
- Puzzles (with all the pieces)
- Artwork (e.g., paintings, wall art, small sculptures)

Please consider donating older books to other nonprofit organizations.

Attention Booksellers: Collectible books are available at Books & More at prices WAY below prices online. The FRBL reserves the right to refuse, re-donate, or dispose of donated items due to space limitations and/or condition of the materials.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

We welcome the following new members who help to support our mission of providing resources to our local library.


Lisa Austin
Ken Beck
David & Mollyann Cooley
Diane Foucher

Ruth Gleason
Raymond Kelso
Mary Lundstrom
Raul Maza

Andrea Pelch
Charylene Peterson
Debra Pio

Where possible, we will send you our newsletters via email. 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 member-ship 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. **When you do renew your membership, please address it to our library and include "Friends" on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.** For email newsletter members I will email you a notice re renewing. You may also renew your membership on our website:

<https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org/>

 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
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"/> Sort Books for Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Answering Email <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Online Book Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know yet – please contact me!		

The Friends Thank These Donors Who Have Contributed, as of August 1, 2025:**\$10,000 + (Lifetime)**

Anonymous 1
 Anonymous 2
 Elizabeth Starr Estate
 Mary & Dan Kus
 Nancy George Estate
 Sierra Sands School District**

\$5,000-\$9,999 (Over 5 years)

Rotary Club of China Lake**
 United Way of IWV**

\$1,000-\$4,999 (Over 5 years)

Barbara Lupei
 Deborah Buffum
 Dr. Victoria Schauf
 Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Fair**
 James & Barbara Vijay
 James & Tamara Tucker
 Jerry & Sandy Bradley
 Kern Recovers Nonprofit Grant Covid**
 Peck Family Foundation
 Peter & Elaine Wiley
 Pizza Factory **
 Richard Carmer
 Ridgecrest Cinemas **
 Ridgecrest Hospital**
 Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation**
 WACOM**

\$250-\$990 (Over 5 years)

Alta One**
 Gregory & Ann Lenz
 Barbara Bane
 Bob Kirchmeier
 Cathy Douglas

Charles & Clarice Moody
 David & Molly Cooley
 Elaine Miller
 Fidelity Charitable**
 Ike Fujiwara
 Jean Wu
 Judy Fair-Spaulding
 Karen Haden
 Kathy Donahue
 Kathy Killinger
 Ken & Nani Banks
 Kenneth Pritchard
 Libby Vincent
 Linda Anderson
 Linda Minshew
 Linda Rolfs
 Lindgren & Heydlauff
 Liz Babcock
 Mary Atkinson
 Mary Lundstrom
 McDonald's**
 Mojave Pistachios**
 Naomi Norris
 Nguyen & Laskey
 Pearson's Recycling**
 Peggy Johnson
 Ridgewriters**
 Rob and Julie Gervais
 Robert Collins
 Rod & Judy Ditzler
 Sharon Juarez
 T.J. Frisbee Bicycles**
 Vincent Avalos (Edward Jones)**

**Organization

NOTE: If you see an error on this list, please contact our treasurer at (760) 371-2583 so we can make corrections before the next newsletter.



2025 Pizza Factory/Beansters Fundraising Dates

Wednesday, August 20, Wednesday, Sept 17,
Wednesday, Oct 15, **Sunday**, Nov. 16, and
Wednesday, Dec. 17!

Mention the Friends when you order.

