



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org



FREE WAYS TO HELP LIBRARIES



Check out a physical or digital item

Every check out helps demonstrate demand and supports library funding.



Follow & engage with their social media

Like, comment, and share to boost their reach (we have a Facebook page; search for Ridgecrest Branch Library).



Visit your local branch

Use the various services offered by your local branch, including attending programs of interest to you.



Tell your family, friends, and others

Encourage family, friends, and others to get a library card and use the FREE library services.



Advocate for funding

Contact the Board of Supervisors to show support or simply spread awareness about the importance of library funding.

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
om

Treasurer

Nani Banks
760-371-2583
banksck@iwvisp.com

Secretary

Members-at-Large

Denise Gorman
Dr. Victoria Schauf
John Freeman

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

May 21, 2025
August 20, 2025
September, 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 May 2025

Book Facility - As you may have seen on our web and Facebook pages, the Friends have an urgent need for one or more facilities in which to receive, sort, store and sell used books. Our on-going search became urgent upon finding that further structural damage to our current facility has made both the facility and our inventory of books inaccessible. We are hopeful that the school district will provide similar storage space in the James Monroe school building. Unfortunately, we are not likely to be able to sell books from James Monroe. Therefore we need a retail space to sell books. Good News! We are finalizing a one year lease on a 1250 square foot store front starting in June. Once we have an opening date, we will let everyone know via email, our web site, and Facebook page.

Building Fund - The above new store front requires that we pay rent, utilities, furnishings, and insurance to operate. To help defray those expenses and raise funds to possibly purchase a facility we have created a Building Fund. This fund will be used to cover only facility-related expenses such as rent, utilities, taxes, insurance, repairs, maintenance, mortgage, etc. Thanks to several generous donors, the building fund currently contains just over \$13,000.00 and we have identified potential donors that could take that amount to over \$50,000.00 once we have identified a specific facility to purchase. You can add to this fund by going to our website at <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org> and clicking on the large "Donate to the Fund" button. Or, you can mail or drop off a check made payable to FRBL at the Library (131 East Las Flores Ave.). Be sure to write "For Building Fund" on the check to assure your donation will go toward the building.

Fund Raiser Event - Your Board of Directors is working with volunteer Kim Metcalf to create a fund raising event in the Fall. This will include a catered dinner and fun activities. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to cooler Fall weather.

Little Free Libraries - The Friends supports several Little Free Libraries in the community by providing books and repairs as needed. Recently, with the help of Gary Arnold, we relocated the Little Free Library from in front of the DART thrift store to the nearby front yard of the steward on Indian Wells Lane. This relocation was needed because of multiple cases of vandalism (destroyed doors and an attempt to burn). Hopefully, it will survive and thrive in its new location.

As always, the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library appreciate all of the support from our members and the community.

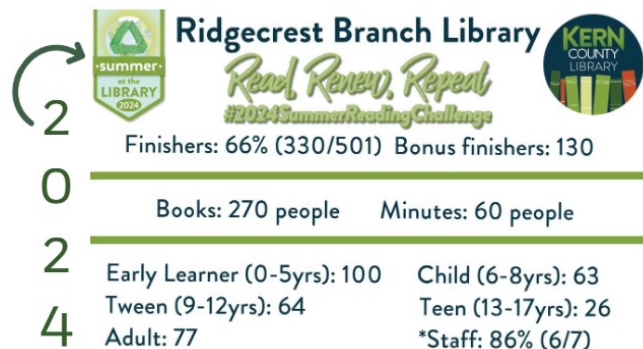



Librarian's Corner




Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

We are heading into a busy and fun-filled **Summer Reading Challenge** season, themed "Level Up at Your Library" featuring more game-related programs. Summer Reading Challenge is for ALL AGES from babies through adults. Participants can choose to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours and log them on Beanstack OR on a reading log/piece of paper (your due date receipt works great too). We would appreciate your assistance with increasing our finisher numbers this summer. We always allocate a few prizes for adults but participants can choose to not enter the prize drawings.



We need YOUR help to level up this summer!



Fans of dragons and/or trading cards should consider participating in the new **Reading Dragons** program this summer! Ages 6 and older can sign up (we have 1000 Books Before Kindergarten for the younger crowd) for a set of starter cards and a reading tracker. After 4 sessions of reading or listening for 30 minutes, participants collect a family of dragon cards (egg, baby, teenager, and adult dragon). There are 8 different dragon family cards to collect this summer.

Summer Reading Challenge



Be a finisher!

Read OR Listen
10 books OR 10 hours

Be a bonus finisher!

Continue reading or listening to enter into prize drawings (items or gift cards)

Ask library staff or go to Beanstack to sign up or add the challenge
kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365

Lunch at the Library returns thanks to our continuing partnership with the Sierra Sands Unified School District. **Lunch is FREE to all 18 and under** with adults who bring a child paying \$5. No sign up or

verification needed. Lunch is served 11:30 am-12:30 pm, Tuesdays through Fridays from 6/3-7/11 EXCEPT on 6/19 and 7/4 due to SSUSD holidays.

We will have two summer hires again thanks to a Lunch at the Library grant.

Lunch at the Library Visitors

6/3: Waste Management

6/4: Aguabonita Flyfishers

6/5: Sierra Amateur Radio Club

6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27 & 7/11: Princess

from Sierra Academy of Dance

6/10: NAWS China Lake

Environmental Management

6/11 & 7/9: Children's Burn Center

6/12: Oasis Family Resource Center

6/17 & 7/1: Cerro Coso Community College

6/18: Kern Family Health Care

6/24 & 6/25: Navy Federal Credit Union

6/26: Anderson Dental Hygiene

7/2: United Way Central Eastern CA

7/3: Liberty Ambulance

7/8: Kern County Fire Station #84

7/10: TBA

FREE performances

Check brochures for dates and times:

- *Wild Man Dan
- *Cara-C electric violinist
- * High Desert Falconry
- * Magic of Josiah
- * Firelight Shadow Puppet Theater
- * Omnipresent Puppet Theater
- * Golden Meadow Goats
- * Magic Napoleon

We have a few **new things** to showcase!

Most recent is our **Vox Books collection**. Vox Books are books with built-in, rechargeable audio players allowing people to listen and read at the same time. The Ridgecrest Branch is one of the pilot locations for Kern County Library and our collection consists primarily of picture books but includes a bilingual picture book, an in between chapter book, and a children's graphic novel.



If you have visited us since the end of April, you may have noticed the beautiful **new branch sign**!

We also acquired **two new 3D printers**, courtesy of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library. These 3D printers will be used to make more Summer Reading Challenge prizes and other items for the branch, and we have been collecting contact information for those who want to receive training on how to use them.



These are the collaborative community art canvas panels that were created by library children and adults. These panels will be finished and displayed in the Children's Room in the Fall of 2025.

NOTE: We are open on 6/19 and closed on 7/4.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library members, who make many things possible for the library and our community!

Book Sale Update

Jil Richards, Vice President-Book Sales

I am sorry to announce No Spring Book Sale. The building where we store our books has become dangerously uninhabitable. The earthquake damage has worsened. So, until we find a new place to store and sell books, we cannot have a sale or accept books.


However, the good news is that we are in the process of renting a storefront from which we plan to sell books and other interesting things, on an ongoing basis, starting sometime shortly after June 1st. We will let you know as soon as the grand opening date and hours of operation have been finalized.

The library can accept very small quantities of books. Please check with staff before dropping off books. If you have larger quantities of books to donate, please contact me via email.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

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 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. 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 May 1, 2025:**\$10,000 + (Lifetime)**

Anonymous
 Mary & Dan Kus
 Elizabeth Starr Estate
 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
 Pizza Factory **
 Richard Carmer
 Ridgecrest Cinemas **
 Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation**
 WACOM**

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

Alta One**
 Gregory & Ann Lenz
 Barbara Bane
 Bob Kirchmeier
 Cathy Douglas
 Charles & Clarice Moody
 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
 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, May 21, Wednesday, June 18,
Wednesday, July 16, Wednesday, August 20,
Wednesday, Sept 17, Wednesday, Oct 15,
Sunday, Nov. 16, and Wednesday, Dec. 17!
Mention the Friends when you order.

