

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY

Indoor Express Services

Appointment and Mask required
walk ups accepted IF space available
Mon-Thu 12 pm-6 pm

www.kernlibrary.org

[Request Express Appointment](#)

760.384.5870

661.868.0701 (Bakersfield)

Ridgecrest Branch

Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm

Mon-Thu 12 pm-6 pm (limited same day appt)

- **Browse/Pick up requested items**
- **Public computer use/Printing/Faxing/Copies**
- **Reference and account questions/Payments**

For more info and guidelines, visit:

www.kerncountylibrary.org/anticipated-opening-plans/

Curbside Service STILL available



OUR WINTER VISITORS (PHOTO BY JUDY FAIR-SPAULDING)

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Friends of Kern County Library since 1986. Visit the County Library web site at www.kerncountylibrary.org

A Proud Partner of
United Way
Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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Members-at-Large
Terri Middlemiss
Peggy Johnson
Patricia Walters

Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
February 17, 2021
March 17, 2021
April 21, 2021
No meetings in June, July,
or December

Meetings are held at 10:00
a.m. on the third
Wednesday of each month.
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
EMAIL a board member for
the Zoom link as the
meetings are now held via
Zoom due to COVID-19.

Library Hours
APPOINTMENT ONLY!
Mon. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tues. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. Closed
Phone: (760) 384-5870

President's Message February 2021

by Brent Clark Palmer

Best of Times, Worst of Times

Right now as of this writing, case numbers are decreasing in California, while at the national level, our new leadership are telling us to buckle down for increases that are coming. I suppose it would take a "plague" to put us in a Dickensian best-of-times-worst-of-times situation. Here at our little charity, we are doing our best to deal with the worst and prepare for the best.

In the dealing-with-the-worst category, the board has started a small Rural Library Relief Fund for library staff affected by COVID-19. For now there is just a focus of providing some cash relief for Kern County library staff affected by the virus.

Thanks to newer mainstream apps like Venmo and Cashapp, we were able to send \$500 cash assistance to library staff in a neighboring town, while they were still in the hospital hooked up to oxygen. It was just enough so their partner and kids would not be worrying about basics: groceries and basic bills. Our recipient expressed that words could never say how much our care package meant to them. We know we did the right thing for our neighbors under our mission.

Library staff in our county are considered notoriously underpaid in the larger world. As of this writing, we are expecting two more applications for cash relief from staff affected by COVID-19 in our regional library system at a \$250 or \$500 level. Once approved by our board, they receive the help almost instantly. Applicants can message us through our Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library facebook page. Only Kern library staff may currently apply.

On the best-of-times front, one of our board members-at-large, Terri Middlemiss, has been watching over the move of all of our inventory from where it has been flung after the earthquakes into what is now our new storage building in the southwest corner of the Old Albertsons shopping center. If you visit, which you are welcome to do, please wear a mask. Also, if you visit, please lend your support to this work in progress.

Bringing book donations or helping clean and organize are both activities that are greatly appreciated.

Our presence in the community to accept book donations and to organize them will be in this storage building during these regular hours (Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm).

We hope to announce a work-in-progress book sale sometime this year, time and tide and pandemic permitting.

Eventually, we will fix up the building with our community partners to inhabit it and establish it as a regular booksale facility, depending on what makes sense given the board's outlook down the road a spell.

Thank you so much to you and to our members and other donors who are keeping us going during these historic times. Thus, we are able to continue to plan our usual budget for books, programming, equipment, furniture and other incidentals at our local library, which has been a model of good (*cont. on p.3*)

citizenship and great resources for locals during these trying times.

Please pat yourself on the back for contributing to and continuing to support our unique hub of education and enlightenment in our desert mountain region, the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Welcome to 2021! We are starting the year continuing in these ever-changing times, but the Ridgecrest Branch Library continues to offer services to our wonderful community!

- Curbside and Express indoor services continue and are still designed with the safety of our community in mind.
- Kern County Library continues serving Arvin, Beale, Delano, Frazier Park, Kern River Valley, Rathbun, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Southwest, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco.
- BREAKING NEWS! Our quarantine period has changed in response to more and newer studies. It is now 3 days for returned items only still, with no impact to our incoming shipments from Beale.
- MORE BREAKING NEWS! We received our supply of the federal tax forms and are waiting on the CA state forms.
- Our programming continues in a virtual and/or carryout format. Our main virtual programming platform is Facebook. We continue to offer regular carryout activity bags for kids with the occasional activity bag for tweens/teens and adults.
- Beanstack is the place to go to sign up and participate in our 2021 Reading Challenge! We are offering a year-long reading challenge for those who want to keep track of their reading and earn virtual badges.
- We are starting planning for this year's Summer Reading Challenge, with an emphasis on virtual programming but hopefully with some distanced programming as appropriate. Summer Reading Challenge is for ALL ages, so we hope to see YOUR name on our list of finishers this summer for reading OR listening to books. Stay tuned!
- If you are comfortable, an Express appointment to browse our library materials is a great opportunity to check out the floor plan reconfiguration. We have received all of the mobile picture book shelving for the new Children's Room (see picture) and are receiving more items for the makerspace! (also pictured) Our indoor capacity is 6 people for library purposes with 4 public computers available. *(continued on page 4)*





We continue to serve our amazing community as much as we are able. While nobody really knows what the future holds, with this new year comes the hope for changes and a return to some kind of normalcy. As always, we very much appreciate the support of our community and the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Memberships

As we begin 2021, we would like to acknowledge the very generous members who contributed \$50 (Sponsor level) or more as they renewed their membership during 2020.

Marge & Linda Anderson

Mary Atkinson

Vincent Avalos

Donald Baldwin

Ken & Nani Banks

Sandy & Jerry Bradley

Deborah & Frank Buffum

Daniel Burnett

Richard Carmer

John & Suzette Caufield

John Clark

Robert Collins

Thomas & Teresa Cooper

Leroy Corlett

Michael Delaney

Rod & Judy Ditzler

Irene Dodson

Kathy Donahue

Catherine Douglas

Judy Fair-Spaulling

Ike Fujiwara

Karen Haden

Susan Hennigan

Peggy Johnson

Sharon Juarez

Kathryn Killinger

Bob Kirchmeier

Pat Kleinschmidt

Mary Kus

Ann Lenz

Barbara Lupei

Elaine Miller

Linda Minshe

Charles & Clarice Moody

Naomi Norris

Brent Palmer *(cont. on p.5)*

Kenneth Pritchard

Joyce Seibold

James & Tamara Tucker

Linda Rolfs

Sharon & Paul Smith

Tina Warren

Victoria Schauf

Sylvia Sotomayor

Eric & Tracy Williams

Our librarian is making periodic checks there at the library and will be forwarding renewals to us that have been received from November forward. 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 renew, please mail it to our library and include "**Friends**" on your envelope so that library staff can relay it to us.

Membership Application for Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Date: *Memberships are renewable annually*

Miss Ms. Mrs. Mr.

Individual name:

Organization/Business Name (Business memberships start at \$50.):

Mailing address:

Phone:

Email:

Type of Membership (check one):

- Individual - \$10 Family - \$15 New Member
 Sustaining - \$25 Sponsoring - \$50 Renewal
 Benefactor - \$100 Other Contribution - \$_____

*Please make check payable to: **Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library***

Please mail or bring to: Ridgecrest Branch Library 131 E. Las Flores Ridgecrest, CA 93555

I'd like to volunteer!!. I am especially interested in (check all that apply):

- Annual Book Sales
 Ongoing Book Sale in the Library
 Ongoing Magazine Sale in the Library
 Pricing Books for Sale
 Writing for the Newsletter
 Internet Book Sales
 Special Events
 Answering E-mail
 Becoming a Board Member
 I don't know what I'm interested in, please call me

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

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Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union
Elemental Equine Massage
Heritage Montessori School
In Loving Memory of John Starr
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McDonald's of Ridgecrest
Nancy George Estate

Pack Wrap
Pizza Factory
Ridge Writers
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
Rusty Warren's Automotive
Sierra Sands Unified School District
TJ Frisbee Bicycles
Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones Investments
WACOM
Walmart

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



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!

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Ridgecrest, CA
 Permit #77

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 131 East Las Flores
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555
 Return Service Requested