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 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

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

Vice President - Sales

Book Store Mgr.
Julie Gervais
julger67@gmail.com

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

Secretary
Debra Fields
fields517@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large
John Freeman
Kim Metcalf

Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
November 18, 2026
January 20, 2027
February 17, 2027
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 November 2026

Need for Store Volunteers

We truly appreciate our small group of store volunteers that help Julie keep the store operating. However, we do not want to overwork them. Therefore, we have a **serious** need for additional volunteers to work in the Books & More store. If we cannot build and maintain a sufficient cadre of store volunteers, we could be forced to cut back store hours or even close the store. We definitely want to avoid either of these options, especially after all of the hard work over the past year and a half that has made the store well-known and profitable.

Please consider adding your name to our store volunteer list! You can even pick a friend to volunteer with you. The four-hour shift goes by quickly, giving you a wonderful chance to meet new people and browse our great collection. If you are interested, please contact Julie Gervais, our fantastic store manager, to get on the schedule and receive brief training. You can reach Julie at julger67@gmail.com.

We normally schedule two people to run the store together, which means we need over 30 volunteers each month. I have asked all FRBL Board members to volunteer at least once per month. However, that still leaves over 20 slots to fill every month. If you feel you cannot work a full four hour shift, find another person to split the shift.

Thanks in advance to those of you who sign up as new store volunteers.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The November meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at the library on Wednesday, November 18th. At this meeting we will elect officers for next year. Members and the public are welcome at this meeting, as they are at all of our meetings. We currently have a slate of candidates, but will also accept additional nominations at the meeting. This will be the last meeting of the year. Meetings will resume January 20th with the new Board.

We Need a Grant Writer

The Board is seeking additional sources of funding to help us provide the best possible support to the library. To that end, we wish to apply for grants from various organizations. Unfortunately, none of our Board Members have expertise in that area. So, if you have experience in writing grant proposals, or if you know someone who does, please let us know. You can contact me via email at: ridgecrestlibraryfriends@gmail.com

Suggestions for Additional Library Support

The board is always looking for new ways in which to support the library. We currently purchase periodicals and fund a variety of programs offered by the library. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to increase the size of the library, which everyone would like to see. However, we do have sufficient funds to cover a significant new piece of equipment or new activity or program, in addition to the things we now support. Obviously, anything we fund would need to be approved by the library director and her staff. So, if you have any ideas on a new project to benefit the library, please let us know. Just send us your suggestions via an email to: ridgecrestlibraryfriends@gmail.com

Donations

Overall community donations continue to be good. However, we can always use additional funds because the cost of library publications we purchase and library programs we support continue to rise with ongoing inflation. You can support us by donating through any of the following methods:

- In-Person: Drop by the Books & More store at 1513 N. Norma (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Wednesday through Saturday).
- Online: Visit the official Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library Website and click the large Donate button.

[cont. p.3]

- By Mail / Drop-off: Send or bring a check made payable to FRBL to the Library located at 131 East Las Flores Ave.

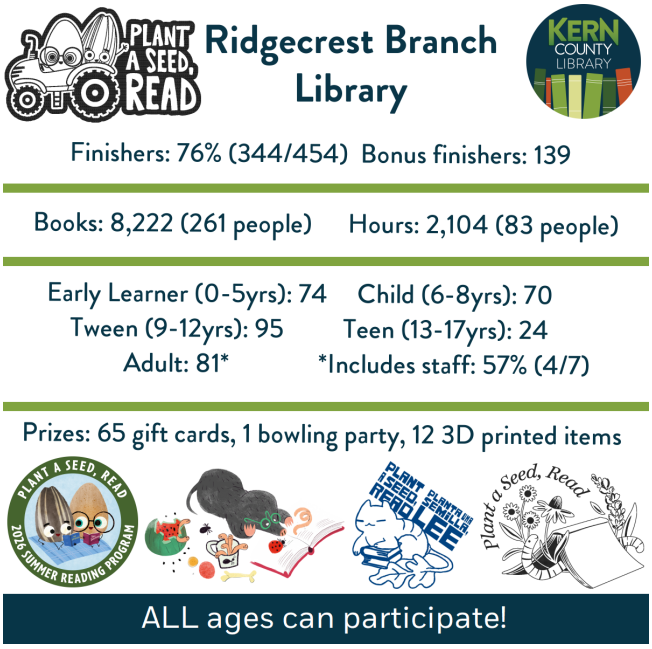
Special Thanks

We are continually grateful for all of our volunteers who keep the store well-stocked and running smoothly. We are also incredibly thankful for the patrons who keep coming back to purchase books and other items. And, of course, we are thankful for our generous donors whose support helps keep our library functioning.

Happy Thanksgiving, and be sure to stop by the Books & More store soon!

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor



As the weather starts changing into the colder temperatures of the fall and winter, I'm keeping summer in your minds and providing a recap of our Summer Reading Challenge (SRC). Since we allow people to pick up finisher books and bags for the first two weeks of August, the SRC recap missed the last newsletter deadline.

This past summer, we asked participants to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours to finish the challenge and get a finisher bag (provided primarily by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library) and a finisher book choice (provided primarily by the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc.). Participants could continue to read or listen and be bonus finishers, entering into drawings for a gift card of choice or opting into a drawing for a bowling party, provided by some generous donors (Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation, Conveying Awareness with Jessica David, and Sierra Lanes Bowling Center). All kids and teen finishers received a free mini 1 topping pizza, thanks to the amazing generosity of our local Pizza Factory.

We were fortunate to have another successful summer filled with a variety of fun, educational, and interactive programs for all ages. The summer was packed with big performers! Our community enjoyed some returning favorites:

Magic of Josiah* High Desert Falconry*** Magic Napoleon*****
Maturango Museum** Omnipresent Puppet Theater****
Juggler David Cousin*** Golden Meadow Goats**

New experiences included:

Snakes on Sam*** Kailan Carr*****
Hula from the Heart*** Wunderland Kitchen Pop Up.**

*sponsored by Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc.
**sponsored by Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
*** sponsored by Lunch at the Library
**** sponsored by the Ridge Writers
***** sponsored by branch donations

Even though the summer has ended, the fun and educational opportunities do not stop (but are offered on a smaller scale). We have introduced a variety of new programs requested by our community, such as: guided painting, learning American Mahjong, Casual Conversations (currently featuring Russian only as no-one has offered to "host" another language), and Hard Sci Fi Discussion Group.

[cont. p. 4]

Stay tuned to what is happening and when by picking up a paper brochure or by following our branch Facebook page.

Renovations to the side ADA ramp and parking space started recently. Everyone will be very happy to have both the use of the side door and the entire parking lot back. We are hoping to be back to business as usual by the end of November.

As the end of the year draws close, we continue to be grateful for the support we receive year-round through community members near and far. The Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library continue to be instrumental in making sure our community has a wide variety of opportunities at no cost to participants!



Golden Meadow Goats



Wunderland Kitchen Pop Up

Book Store Information

Julie Gervais, VP Sales & Book Store Manager

BOOKS & MORE **1513 N Norma** **Open: Wed-Sat 10am-2pm**

November Sale

November is the month to give thanks, and we are incredibly thankful for you, our members! To show our appreciation, enjoy 50% off your purchases at Books & More. If your membership has expired, you can easily renew it when you come into the store.

Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated books and other items to the store. While each week we receive sufficient donations of books, the donations of other items tend to be minimal. If you have high-quality used items (think boutique thrift store items, artwork, puzzles, or book-related items), please consider donating them to our store.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (ridgecrest_friendsofthelibrary) for future sales, weekly photos of new inventory, and more!

Membership News

Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

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

Gloria Aguilar **Michele Leonard**

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

Date:

☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

☐ Miss ☐ Mr.
☐ Ms. ☐ Mx.
☐ Mrs. ☐ ___

Individual Name:

Organization/Business Name:

Mailing Address: _____

Email:

Phone:

Type of Membership: [select one, along with preferred newsletter format]

☐ Individual (email): …$5.00
☐ Individual (print): …$15.00
☐ Family (email): $10.00
☐ Family (print): …….$20.00
☐ Sustaining: $25.00
☐ Sponsoring: $50.00
☐ Benefactor: $100.00
☐ Other Contribution: $_____

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

Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]

☐ Annual Book Sale
☐ Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale
☐ Online Book Sales
☐ Sort Books for Sale
☐ Writing for the Newsletter
☐ Special Events
☐ Answering Email
☐ Becoming a Board Member
☐ I don't know yet – please contact me!

The Friends Thank These Donors Who Have Contributed, as of October 31, 2026:

$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)
Jerry & Sandy Bradley
Rotary Club of China Lake**

$1,000-$4,999 (Over 5 years)
Barbara Lupei
Billy Campbell
James & Barbara Vijay
James & Tamara Tucker
John & Charlotte Freeman
Libby Vincent
Mark Pahuta
Peter & Elaine Wiley
Pizza Factory **
Richard Carmer
Ridgecrest Cinemas **
Ridgecrest Hospital**
Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation**
United Way of IWV**
WACOM**

$250-$990 (Over 5 years)
Alta One**
Anonymous 3
Barbara Bane
Bob & Sue Parker
Cathy Douglas
Dan & Brenda Burnett
David & Molly Cooley
Deborah Buffum
Don & Eileen Shibley
Dr. Victoria Schauf
Elaine Miller
Fidelity Charitable**
Flo Eichenberg
Gregory & Ann Lenz
Ike Fujiwara
Kathy Donahue
Ken & Nani Banks
Kim Metcalf
Lindgren & Heydlauff
Mary Lundstrum
Mojave Pistachios**
Naomi Norris
Peggy Johnson
Ridgewriters**
Rob & Julie Gervais
Robert Collins
Rod & Judy Ditzler
Tom & Carol Sakai

**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.

2026 Pizza Factory/Beansters
Fundraising Dates: November 18, 2026.
Mention the Friends when you order.

Return Service Requested

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