



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

BOOKS & MORE

Julie Gervais, Book Store Manager



First, I would like to thank all our volunteers who have generously donated hours of their time working in the store cashiering, sorting, researching books, and more. Without your dedication and hard work, we would not be able to open our doors. Also, thank you to everyone who has supported our store by purchasing or donating books and other items. Every purchase and donation helps us provide

much-needed funds to our library.

On September 6, we hosted Tammy Pounds, a local author of two children's books. Tammy read her books and sold signed copies to the gathered children and adults. It was a successful event for the store and we plan to have more local author and/or artist events in the future.

We've received many compliments about our store; however, we're still not getting enough customers and are just barely breaking even each month. If you want to support what we do, please help us spread the word! Tell your friends and family about Books & More, share our posts on Facebook, or bring someone new with you next time you visit. Your support keeps our doors open and helps us provide ongoing support to the library.

We are continuing to accept donations during our store hours - we especially need newer fiction and smaller non-book items (e.g, knick-knacks, art or handcrafted items, etc.). If you have more than several bags or boxes of donated items, please contact us in advance to ensure we have room as our backroom/sorting space is quite small.

The store is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and is located at 1513 N Norma.

Extended Holiday Hours: 10am-4pm on Fridays and Saturdays from November 21 through December 20!

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: Book Sales

Jill Richards
booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Store Mgr.

Julie Gervais
julger67@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

John Freeman
Kim Metcalf

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

November 19, 2025

January 21, 2026

February 17, 2026

March 17, 2026

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

11/5/25-1/19/26

Closure services from

staff entrance on

courthouse access road

Express (walk up)

Wed-Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm

Curbside (call ahead & on

arrival)

Wed-Fri 11:30 am-6 pm

Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (760)

384-5870

President's Message November 2025

Book Store – The Books & More store continues to blossom under the management of **Julie Gervais**. If you have not yet visited the store at 1513 N. Norma, please drop by during open hours of 10 to 2, Wednesday through Saturday. The store has been well received by our members and the general public, and received many compliments. The store offers art and gift items in addition to books. In fact, these non-book items account for approximately 40% of all sales.

Unfortunately, however, the store is not yet profitable. We are hopeful that the upcoming opening of a soft serve/health food store next door will result in more customers for us. In addition, we will be having several special events at the store such as book signings, artist demos, and special sales for members. So, watch your email and our Facebook page to take advantage of these events.

Board Openings – Election of officers will occur at the November meeting which will be held in the Conference Room of the District 1 Supervisor's Office and NOT the library's Community Room due to the closure for renovation! The address is 400 N China Lake Blvd.

We do not have any candidates for the position of Secretary and a Member at Large. So, if you are interested in either of these positions, or know someone, please let me know at (760) 608-3452. The Secretary is a voting member and is responsible for taking minutes at board meetings and writing thank you letters to major donors. The Member at Large is a voting member, attends meetings, and may be on one or more committees.

Donations & Fundraisers – **Board Member Kim Metcalf** is organizing a fundraising event for February 21st at the Maturango Room at Spring Hill Suites. Dinner will be catered by Mirna, owner of the Mediterranean Flavors market, and will feature wine pairings and fun raffle items. Save the date and stay tuned for more information as the event gets closer.

Donations continue to be strong. I thank all who have donated for their generosity. These donations help offset the ongoing reduction in interest income due to falling interest rates. 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.)

Thanks -- Again, thank you to all who support the Friends with their time, money, and muscles. Because of your support, we now have an operational store that will hopefully produce additional funds to help the library. Also, thank you for helping us exceed our fund-raising goals for this year. In addition, I want to give special thanks to **Dr. Victoria Schauf** for her contributions as a board member this year. She is stepping down from the board, but will continue to volunteer in the store and will begin to sell collectable books on-line for the Friends.

 Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Welcome to the last update from the Ridgecrest Branch Library for 2025! We had an exciting year with new programs being introduced (like Reading Dragons and Community Culture Share) and new partnerships formed with community members (like Sandra Brown with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Community Outreach Department) to bring information to our community. We continued most of our existing partnerships and look forward to a fulfilling 2026.

As promised, the **Summer Reading Challenge** finisher numbers are included in this graphic. We would like to thank those who logged books or hours on Beanstack (or gave the info to staff to log for you) to help our branch totals! Since we try to increase our totals for every reading challenge, we hope you will consider participating in not just the Summer Reading Challenge, but any of our reading challenges. You do not need to use library materials, though we would appreciate it if you did (to keep our spot as 3rd busiest branch) since checkouts help our branch statistics and are reported to the California State Library.



Ridgecrest Branch Library



Finishers: 72% (380/527) Bonus finishers: 123

Books: 302 people (8,907) Hours: 78 people (1,803)

Early Learner (0-5yrs): 94 Child (6-8yrs): 72
Tween (9-12yrs): 120 Teen (13-17yrs): 27
Adult: 67* *Staff: 86% (6/7)

Prizes: 16 items, 50 gift cards, 11 3D printed items



ALL ages can participate!



**Frequently Asked Questions
Part 3 of ?**



Q: After you close on 11/1/25, what are we able to do during Express and Curbside hours?

A: While the building is closed to the public, here is a list of services we will be able to help with:

- * Return library materials
- * Pick up library materials (holds, requested grab bag, park pass)
- * Request specific library materials
- * Request Grab Bag (to pick up later)
- * Sign up for a library card
- * Limited browsing selection on days with nice weather
- * Reading Dragons (sign up/pick up cards)
- * 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (sign up/pick up pins)
- * Business Services: wireless prints ONLY (no prints from a USB), photocopies, faxes; CASH preferred for quickest service)
- * Carryout activity bag (as supply lasts)
 - + Early Learners (3-5 yrs) weekly starting on Wednesdays 11/5
 - + Kids (6-10 yrs) weekly starting on Wednesdays 11/5
 - + Tween/Teen (11-18 yrs) monthly on 11/19 and 12/17
 - + Adult (19+ yrs) monthly on 11/19 and 12/17
- * Use wi-fi outdoors only
- * Drop off limited quantity of book, DVD, puzzle donations for the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
- * Drop off plastic bags
- * Pick up Narcan and/or fentanyl testing strips (fill out anonymous form)

By the time you are seeing this, our library branch will be closed to the public to start the **renovation** work from the Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement Program. We were awarded just over \$1 million to make infrastructure improvements, so our branch is closed to the public from 11/5/2025 through 1/19/2026. Some of our renovations include: new doors and windows, an updated front entrance area, security cameras in the public areas and at the entrances, and light switches for the public areas (which is something staff is MOST excited about because we have been using breaker box switches for decades). Our closure will last about 2.5 months. (It includes multiple days when the library would regularly be closed for other planned closures.) (cont.p.4).

We understand the extended closure makes many anxious, but rest assured that library staff will still provide basic services and people will still be able to check out library materials. The format will be a little different than what you are used to over the past few years, but we will do what we can within our limitations to provide the same level of service as usual. (**See the graphic on page 3.**)

Express service will be offered Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11:30 am through 3:30 pm and will have a staff member sitting outside of our staff entrance for walk up service, unless there is inclement weather. **Curbside service** will be offered Wednesdays through Fridays from 11:30 am through 6 pm and

Saturdays from 11:30 am through 3:30 pm and will require you to call ahead to arrange the service you want and upon arrival so we can bring the items out to you or provide assistance. Some of our more popular and partnered programs will be continuing in **off-site locations** at Kerr McGee Center, Books & More, Fistful of Cards, Springhill Suites Maturango Room, and in the conference room of the District 1 Supervisor's office (weekday book related programs for adults). Many thanks to Fistful of Cards, Books & More, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, and the District 1 Supervisor for allowing the usage of their facilities!

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Ridgecrest Branch Library! We truly appreciate those who check out library materials, attend library programs (we also submit program attendance to the California State Library), volunteer at the library, purchase needed supplies from our branch Amazon Wish List, donate items, promote the library in person or online, support the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library, and last but not least, use our public computers, wi-fi, and business services.



Frequently Asked Questions Part 7 of ?



Q: I don't always know what I want to read until I see it. What about browsing for books?

A: We will offer browsing opportunities when weather permits during Express hours (Wed-Sat from 11:30 am-3:30 pm). During browsing, we will take general requests for future browsing (most likely for the next week). For instance, adult mysteries, YA fantasy, kids non-fiction animal books. We will try to honor requests but cannot guarantee anything.

We will also have a mini book display featuring a variety of topics and also new arrivals to our branch.

Q: I don't mind trying out new books or genres. What do you suggest?

A: We will offer grab bags. On some days, we will have some already prepared to choose from. For instance, we might have kids graphic novels, YA horror, new adult romance fiction, or picture books about dogs. We are able to create grab bags based on your requests for pick up on a future day.

RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY

131 E. Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

760.384.5870

We can't wait to have an amazing 2026 in our renovated library branch. Stay tuned for an announcement about our re-opening festivities in 2026!



Frequently Asked Questions Part 2 of ?



Q: Where do I go for Express or Curbside service? Do I use the regular doors?

A: Express (walk up) and Curbside (call to schedule AND call when you arrive) services will be available through our **STAFF ENTRANCE AREA** on the courthouse access road.

EXPRESS:

Wed-Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm
Park in the dirt or parking lot and walk up to the staff entrance area indicated in red on the map.

CURBSIDE:

Wed-Fri 11:30 am-6 pm
Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm
Call ahead to schedule and call on arrival for staff to bring items to your vehicle. Vehicles can be parked along the curb in the blue area **FOR CURBSIDE ONLY**.



RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY

131 E. Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

760.384.5870

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.

Bev Charlton

Paul & Sally Fry

Mary Jacobs

Genesis Maguina

Rebecca McKenna

Kim Metcalf

Alison & Charles Quinlan

Hollyanne Simon.

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		☐ New Member ☐ Renewal
Date: _____		
☐ Miss ☐ Mr. Individual Name: ☐ Ms. ☐ Mx. ☐ Mrs. ☐ ____		
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
☐ Individual (email): ...\$5.00 ☐ Sustaining:\$25.00 ☐ Individual (print): ...\$15.00 ☐ Sponsoring:\$50.00 ☐ Family (email):\$10.00 ☐ Benefactor:\$100.00 ☐ Family (print):\$20.00 ☐ Other Contribution: \$ ____		
Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]		
☐ Annual Book Sale ☐ Sort Books for Sale ☐ Answering Email ☐ Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale ☐ Writing for the Newsletter ☐ Becoming a Board Member ☐ Online Book Sales ☐ Special Events ☐ I don't know yet – please contact me!		

The Friends Thank These Donors Who Have Contributed, as of October 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
 John & Charlotte Freeman
 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
 Kim Metcalf
 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 & Julie Gervais
 Robert Collins
 Robert & Susan Parker
 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**

Sunday, Nov. 16 and Wednesday, Dec. 17!
Mention the Friends when you order.



Friends of the Ridgcrest Branch Library
131 East Las Flores
Ridgcrest, CA. 93555
Return Service Requested