



# Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: [www.ridgecrestfriends.org](http://www.ridgecrestfriends.org)

Special Library Initiative Edition Newsletter – August 2018

## Library Tax Initiative

In the November 2016 election, the library tax initiative failed to meet the 2/3 vote of support needed to pass. However, in 2017, the California Supreme Court ruled that some tax initiatives brought by petition of the voters required only a 50%+1 majority to pass. Linda Fiddler, in Bakersfield, became the leader of a movement to bring a new initiative for a "library only" 1/8 of a percent sales tax to the ballot. She visited Ridgecrest in late May and a new group of R/C supporters began the task of collecting the signatures of registered Kern County voters in our area.

Renee Westa-Lusk got permission to collect in front of Wal-Mart, Albertsons, and K-Mart. With her, Robert Shaw, Dave Burdick, Penny LaPome, Sarah Wersan, Ed Schlesinger, and Peggy Johnson braved the heat and collected hundreds of signatures. Meanwhile, Carol Pearson, Vicki Siegel, Sandy Bradley, Elaine Wiley, Liz Babcock, Vickie Schauf, attended local events and collected additional hundreds. John Anderson, Marj Fairfield, Don Snyder, Mary Garback, Barbara Bane, Kristi West, Nadine Steichen, Ike Fujiwara, and other good library friends gathered more. In all, almost 2,500 signatures were delivered to Bakersfield from Ridgecrest.

Sadly, with such a short time to collect, we did not have enough by the June 2018 deadline. About 14,500 signatures were collected, but when allowance is made for the "usual" validity of petition signatures in Kern county, an additional 3,000 signatures must be collected to pass the Kern county Elections Department review and certification process. About 13,500 **valid** signatures are needed to qualify for inclusion of the LIFE initiative on the next available ballot (March 2020).

PLAN B: We can continue to collect until October.

We have several good options once the signatures qualify in the Fall.

(1) We can ask the Supervisors to adopt (it doesn't go to the ballot it just becomes real). We might have new faces up there next year.

(2) We place it on a future ballot (the signatures are good until the 2020 General).

(3) We force a special election. This is costly and not recommended but it might be good 'encouragement' to get them to Adopt.)

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Friends of Kern County Library since 1986. A Proud Partner of Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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✓ Pat Walters

Branch Supervisor  
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar  
February 21, 2018  
March 21, 2018  
April 18, 2018  
May 16, 2018  
No meetings June, July, Dec

Meetings are held in the Library's Community Room at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Use the Community Room entrance on the west side of the Library

Library Hours  
Mon. Closed  
Tues. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Wed. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sun. Closed  
Phone: (760) 384-5870

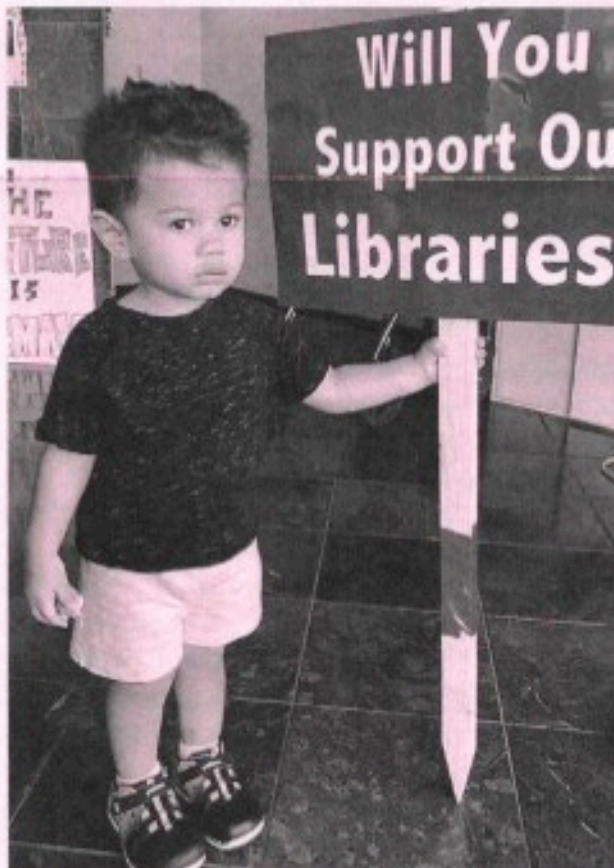
# P\_r\_e\_s\_i\_d\_e\_n\_t\_'s\_M\_e\_s\_s\_a\_g\_e

By Sandy Bradley

We have had a very busy summer, working on the library tax initiative, and we have many to thank for the effort and support. There were too many to include in the article, and we appreciate each of you.

The summer book sale on June 23<sup>rd</sup> raised over \$1100 by selling collectibles, treasures, and great summer fiction. Our thanks go to Janice Norcross and crew for the extra effort.

The summer reading program continued through July for all ages. For prizes we received a Molina Grant for 300+ young adult book titles and were able to select the most desired here.



If you want to help with the tax initiative Please contact Dave Burdick, [jodave5@verizon.net](mailto:jodave5@verizon.net) or 760-446-6876.

*Helen Jackson*

## Librarian's Corner

*By Charissa Wagner, Acting Branch Supervisor*

Summer is in full force both inside and outside the library! The high temperatures outside have been bringing many people inside to experience all that we have to offer. As usual, this summer we have at least one activity every day that we are open (even if it is "just" a scavenger hunt or our popular "I Spy" display case). Most activities are for children, but we had a few for teens and adults (crafts and workshops). We had some amazing visitors that packed our little library thanks to the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. (The Magic of Christopher Lopez and Roaming Reptiles) and the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (Omnipresent Puppet Theater, Wild Child Adventures Bubble Show, and Tutu's Shave Ice). We had visits from the Ridgecrest Police Department's K-9 and Traffic units and the Kern County Fire Department.

The Summer Reading Challenge theme is "Reading Takes You Everywhere!" and we incorporated the idea of "travel". We continue to offer a program that allows ALL ages to participate from babies through adults. Summer Reading Challenge runs through early August and we will do prize drawings for the HUNDREDS of prizes that have been generously donated by the Ridgecrest community on August 8. The next newsletter will have finisher numbers (including the Inyokern Elementary outreach location) and a list of all of the generous sponsors.

This was the first summer for Lunch at the Library, a partnership with Sierra Sands Unified School District to offer lunch between 11:30 am to 12:30 pm from Tuesdays through Fridays for six weeks. Lunches were FREE to all 18 and under (adult caregivers could buy a meal for \$3.75) and followed USDA standards. There were hot and cold entrees along with fruit & vegetable choices, and milk. We were fortunate enough to have an amazing group of volunteers who ensured that Lunch at the Library ran smoothly. I am incredibly proud to report that 1,244 meals were served to children, which is an average of 54 per day! We look forward to offering it again next summer and possibly expanding it to Inyokern Elementary.

We were asked to submit a proposal for funding from the Peck Family Foundation. In 2015, the Peck Family Foundation made it possible for us to replace all of the shelving for our Juvenile Fiction books. We've asked them to consider helping us replace existing shelving for our Juvenile Fiction and Young Adult uncataloged paperbacks/Young Adult new book display along with some tables in our Community Room. As you may (or may not) know, our Community Room is truly a multipurpose room and is used for Story Time, crafts, games, yo-yo tricks, book discussion, movies, workshops, and the list goes on. The flip top tables (some with power access built in) will help us easily reconfigure the room.

MANY THANKS to you, the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library for all that you do for us and our community! We requested more graphic novels and easy readers for kids and teens in anticipation of the busy summer. We ordered finisher bags for all ages and will be providing some of the prizes (such as bluetooth speaker, 2T themed shirt, World of Snacks online gift certificate, and more). We were able to provide some wonderful performances and activities. Thanks to a partnership with a local sorority representing the Friends, the Summer Reading Challenge happened in Inyokern for the third summer!

So far, we've managed to accomplish some great things in the branch- a changing table in one restroom (ADA compliance issues prevented the installation of a second changing table), a flat screen TV for digital events scrolling, and new flip top tables in the main reading area which has made setting up for big performances so much easier. Keep an eye out as we are looking to make more changes still in 2018.

Thank you,  
Charissa

## Newsletter Changes & a Huge Thank You

Some of you sharper-eyed friends may have noticed some changes in this newsletter. That is because this is an amateur effort just to share the library tax initiative news. The next quarterly newsletter will be issued as usual but with a new editor, Judy Fair-Spaulding. Judy is currently on vacation, and we decided to produce one to share all the news even though it is not the usual well-done newsletter.

Because there will be a new editor, there may be some changes to the newsletter format and style. Be on the lookout for some surprises.

Our previous editor, Penny Loper, is retiring after many years of service to the Friends, as the Newsletter editor, as well as a board member-at-large. Penny volunteered in the annex, at book sales, stocking books, and she and her husband, Richard, represented the library and the friends at the veteran's stand down, community dinner, and many other events.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Penny for all the hours she has devoted to the friends. WELL DONE!

## Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

*By Barbara Lupei*

The Friends hosted the Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event on July 19th at the library. Attendees included Chamber staff, Ambassadors, and members along with Charissa Wagner and Friends. Barbara Lupei and Terri Middlemiss shared our dreams — from a big dream of a new, larger library to the smaller dream of adding restrooms to the meeting room to serve groups who meet after the library is closed. FRBL, library brochures, and library card applications were provided. Charissa spoke about the Summer Reading Program, the teen group, and library resources. Raffle winner Jinny D'Angelis was awarded an FRBL t-shirt of her choice.



Photo by Brent Clark Palmer. Barbara Lupei, left, chats with Christopher Livingston, Managing Editor of the *Daily Independent*.

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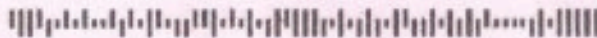
Please let these generous contributors know that you appreciate their support of our Library.

If you have not signed the petition for the Library Initiative,  
please contact a board member or Dave Burdick and sign.  
Also, note the next meeting will be August 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. in the  
library meeting room.

Thank You!



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 th application on to a friend!



2018/07/04  
Judy Fair-Spaulding  
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