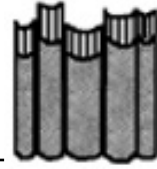


Ex Libris



Newsletter of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Fall 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Thomson

This past spring the city of Ventura embarked on a Strategic Plan for Libraries, involving several steps:

- 1) Community conversations and survey to determine service priorities (ongoing);
 - 2) Community conversations on facilities and staffing, June - August;
 - 3) Conversations with County Library, State Library, Peer Libraries and experts, May-Sept.;
 - 4) Final report to the City Council by October, 2011.
- Responses from the survey and conversations have conveyed that top service priorities include reading for fun, literacy, lifelong learning, homework help and providing technology for all. Additional comments centered on a need for more locations for library service, particularly on the east end of the city, more materials and books and more technology/eBooks.

These extra and enhanced services would require additional revenue. Currently Ventura's libraries are supported by revenue from property taxes (.0085 per dollar of property tax) at a rate of \$17.45 per citizen. Donations through the Friends of the Library are able to boost revenue to close to \$18 per citizen. The average rate in the county is \$23.38 and neighboring cities receive between \$24-64 depending on the city. Positioned at the low end of the revenue range, we are currently receiving the level of library service we can afford.

At the culmination of the first phase of the Strategic Plan this October it is apparent that discussions must continue with the City Council on ways to increase revenues for libraries in order to meet the requirements the citizens recommended in their responses to the survey. Nothing less is acceptable.

The next public meeting of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee will be held September 14th at 7:00 pm in the Topping Room at Foster Library.

The depth of talent and commitment to libraries among our Friends is exemplary and can be witnessed firsthand at the bookstore in the E. P. Foster Library and periodic sales. Please attend the next sale at the Pacific View Mall on September 10 from 10am to 3pm. The sale will feature an extensive collection of materials. We are still in need of volunteers for set up and take down. Contact Chuck Carlson if you can help, 642-6084.



Summer Reading Program participants jump for joy during the "Nifty Balloons" kick-off performance at E.P. Foster Library. Each summer, the Friends of the Library provide funding for the program. This year's theme was One World, Many Stories. And the participants were many -- 775 enrolled in the program at E.P. Foster and 110 at Saticoy Library. More than 300 people attended the Avenue Library's kick-off event at West Park. Activities throughout the summer ranged from origami and Kamibashibai Theater from Japan to Lego building from Denmark. At Saticoy Library, teens enjoyed instruction in Manga art and Salsa dancing. Circulation of books to teens has doubled there since last year.

LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

MaryEllen Santiago of Santiago Library Consulting, Inc. has been gathering information over the past month on the actual costs of delivering specific library services in order to report to the Library Strategic Planning Committee in September. This information is important in deciding how services will be delivered in the future. City Council requested the Consultant to report back on four possible methods of delivering services: remaining with the VCLS, contracting with a private entity, contracting with another public agency, or the City delivering the services itself.

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Congratulations, Star Soto and Paws for Reading!

On Monday, July 11, Star Soto was honored for her work with the Paws for Reading Program. After learning about the concept at a workshop at another library, Star brought the program to Ventura. The Paws for Reading Program brings together young readers and affectionate, nonjudgmental canine listeners.



Since 2006, these therapy dogs have helped boost the confidence of more than 600 beginning readers. Supervisor Steve Bennett presented certificates of recognition to Star and to each of the Paws for Reading dogs and their owners. Star also received a \$2,000 check from Kim Lyman, director of organizational development at Sage Publications in Thousand Oaks. \$1,500 is earmarked for buying children's books -- Star said she already has titles picked out.

Teens Teach Tech at E.P. Foster Library

Need help with your new gizmos and gadgets? On the third Saturday of each month, from 10 am to noon, at E.P. Foster Library, teens will teach you to use and understand today's technology. For more info, call (805) 648-2716 & ask for Star Soto or Jane Middleton.

SAN BUENAVENTURA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 22 is Make a Difference Day. We invite you and all your friends to make a difference by your participation as Friends of the Library. Our membership drive will kick off on October 22 with a gathering in the Topping Room from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., including a screening of the film "Seeds of Life". The film, which chronicles the Generational Garden Project in Oxnard, is generously loaned to us by the Ventura Film Society. Watch the mail (and email) for your invitation.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

The bookstore is enjoying good sales with our regular patrons and Ventura's summer tourists. We have been lucky to have large, regular donations of books and videos. If you still have a VCR, our videocassettes are a great buy at only 50 cents. We have classics, recent award-winners, and children's movies. Come by and see our new lower prices throughout the store!

We always need more volunteers in the store, and there are several regular shifts that still need to be filled. Please notify me if you have any interest in volunteering in the store. If you know someone who loves books and might enjoy helping in the store, please pass this message along. See you in the store!

--Colleen Gallo (805) 641-3704

*** MEMORIALS ***

in memory of **Lois Breyer**
from

Jean Nickel

Marilyn Batelaan

Janet & Francis Perrone

in memory of **Starrett Kreissman**
from

Freda Massaro & John Roth

in memory of **Arlene Kirman**
from

Linda Kay Fisher

in memory of **Jean Conner**
from

Mary Ann & Dale Wymer

Charles H. Bertsch

Dorothy C. and Michael D.

Bertsch

George Graves

Carol Odenberg

in memory of **Janis Bassett**
from

Dixie Adeniran & Jack Ellison

Thank you for your generous donation

Victoria Ammons

Ann T. Demir

John & Anna Evetts

Terrence Foley

Ronald G. Harrington

Dorothy & Kenneth Prairie

Pamela Sue Schuman

Esther R. Sorkin

Margaret E. Stevens

Fall Book Sale at Pacific View Mall



Saturday, September 10

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Affordable, Quality Used Books:

**Lots of Non-Fiction; Large Print;
Art; Classics; Hard Cover and
Paperback Fiction; Children's
Books**

**Music, Movies, Puzzles,
Books on Tape**

Have you been missing bookstores at the mall? The Friends of the Library are very fortunate to have the opportunity to bring our wonderful selection of donated books and media to the Pacific View Mall once again. We held a very successful book sale at the mall in March. This time we will be indoors at two locations, so it should be very convenient for you to browse our collection as you shop. We will be located in the corridor near the Guest Services desk and in the corridor between the parking structure and the entrance to Target. Our thanks to the Pacific View Mall and to our energetic student volunteers who will provide their essential services as usual. For more information, contact Chuck Carlson (805) 642-6084, chucknsherrie@att.net

Library Strategic Plan Progress *cont.*

Responses to the Request for Information (RFI) were due August 15, 2011. You can read the text of the RFI at the City's website: www.cityofventura.net/libraries. Click on "Consultant's Request for Information...."

If you haven't completed the Ventura Library Survey, it's still online at the city's website. Just click on the Ventura Library Survey link. You can also keep track of responses to the survey as of 6/10/11 on the same website. New questions will be on the website sometime in September so stay tuned.

The next Library Strategic Planning Committee meeting is September 14 at 7:00 p.m., Topping Room at E.P. Foster Library.

Legislative Doings

Assemblyman Das Williams has proposed a bill, AB 438, which addresses the issue of privatization of library services. The bill was amended on July 12, 2011 and is now heading for its third reading in the Senate. The bill is an act to amend Sections 19104 and 19116 of, and repeal Section 19104.5 of, the Education Code, relating to libraries.

To read the latest version as of July 12 and read the Senate Floor Analysis of July 13, go to www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/AB-438/20112012.

City Council Candidate Forum

The Midtown Community Council and the College Area Community Council are jointly sponsoring a forum for city council candidates. The format will allow each candidate 5 minutes to speak on any subject they wish. Candidates may be available prior to and after the formal presentation to respond to your individual questions. Each community council has submitted two questions (one of which concerns library services) to candidates for a response in writing. Responses will be posted at the Midtown Council's website: <http://www.midtownventura.org/>

The forum will be held on Thursday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. at Cooper Hall at Grace Church, 65 South Macmillan Avenue

Check SBFOL's website for notices of other candidate forums.



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Calling all Members of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library!

We can always use more friends -- invite yours to join!

And check the mailing label to be sure that your membership is current.

Lifetime Membership (\$1,000) Business (\$250) Sponsor (\$100)
Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Student (\$10)

Make checks payable to: SBFOL Send to: P.O. Box 403, Ventura, 93002

SBFOL Supports the public libraries of the City of Ventura in their delivery of library services, including:

- Purchase of library materials and equipment, e.g. books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, bookcases
- Summer programs for children and youth
- Special programs, e.g. receptions, anniversaries, speakers
- Increase public awareness of legislation and other activities that may affect the delivery of library services

SBFOL is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization entirely directed by volunteers.

Name _____ New

Address _____ Renewal

Phone Number _____ Email _____

I would like to volunteer in the following area(s): Book Sales Membership Programs