

"Imagine"
was the theme for the
Grand Opening of the new
Hill Road Library.

The library clearly captured the imagination of many as 1100 people showed up for the ribbon cutting on December 3, 2017.



Since the last new library opening in the city of Ventura in the 1960's, the city has grown far to the east. Library proponents have been dreaming and advocating for a branch more accessible to residents in the eastern part of our city for some time. This dream was realized through the efforts of Ventura County Library System, Ventura County Board of Supervisors who approved ongoing funds in the amount of \$250,000 to operate the new library, the City of Ventura who provided \$25,000 for one-time capital expenditures and approved \$50,000 annually and Ventura Friends of the Library who raised and contributed \$200,000.

The opening was indeed a grand and festive occasion. Library staff wore T-shirts emblazoned with "Imagine....Hill RoadLibrary." The program was MC'd by Ivor Davis, local author of "The Beatles and Me on Tour". Rubicon Theatre provided musical entertainment by The Harmonix who, under the keen direction of Miriam Arichea, performed John Lennon's "Imagine" and other hits from the Beatles. Library officials, State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Supervisor Steve Bennett, and Ventura Mayor Erik Nasarenko offered congratulatory remarks.

Nancy Schram, new Ventura County Library Director, said "We are thrilled to be opening a new library on the East side of Ventura. It's a wonderful example of how the County, City, and community came together to provide funding and support so that we can reach more people with library services and ultimately improve lives and enrich the entire community."

The festivities continued with demonstrations of Legos, 3D printer and wood etcher which will be available for use at the library. Visitors of all ages lined up to get library cards, check out books on the new self-serve machines, talk to the librarians and buy books from the Friends' shelves.

On the library's patio, guitarist John Bardi invited sing-alongs, multi-media artist Judee Hauer helped children make clothes-pin folk art dolls, and Beverly Russell, flower card reader, added a bit of paranormal pizzazz.

The Ventura Downtown Lions club supplied and served free hot dogs to all comers. Visitors could create a photographic memory of the occasion at a photo booth.



Thanks to the Ventura County Credit Union who, several years ago, chose to partner with the Friends, helping us to raise funds which were subsequently tapped for this project. Thanks to Ventura Chamber of Commerce (and their giant scissors) for participating in the opening day events. Thanks to international photographer Roger Whitehouse who donated six collectible signed photos of the Beatles for a raffle.

Thanks to Ivor Davis, John Bardee, Judee Hauer, the Rubicon Theatre and the Harmonix and Ventura Downtown Lions for their contributions to this celebration.

Special thanks to Beverly Russell, Ventura Friends of the Library member, author and flower card reader, whose imagination designed this event!