



Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

From book clubs to Medicare explainers to travel adventure, the library offers many programs of interest to Seniors. (Check out page 4 for current Tai Chi and Road Scholar offerings)

As the City of Ventura is now in the process of developing a Senior Strategic Plan, many of us library supporters have attended community meetings and spoken up for the place of our libraries in this planning.

City Council had allocated Measure O funding to develop a Senior Strategic Plan that will allow the City of Ventura to:

1. Identify current and emerging senior needs, potential gaps in services, and partnership opportunities and
2. Develop a set of realistic goals for meeting senior needs with strategies and actionable steps for accomplishment

GreenPlay, LLC, a nationally-known parks and recreation management consulting firm, was hired by the City of Ventura to develop the Senior Strategic Plan. City Council established the Senior Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee to support the development of the Plan and assist in engaging the community in the process which included a series of community meetings.

At this point in the process, a draft plan will be presented to the City Council on January 27 and 28. This will be followed by a 2 week comment period.

If you would like to follow the progress of the Senior Strategic Plan and share your comments, please go to

<https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1662/Senior-Strategic-Plan>

or contact Emily Fox, Community Partnerships Manager
efox@cityofventura.ca.gov (805) 658-4793

In other news of civic engagement, Ventura County Library was named one of 59 libraries nationwide to receive a \$2,000 Library Census Equity Fund grant from the American Library Association to bolster library services to hard-to-count communities and help achieve a complete count in the 2020 Census.

The funds will be used for computer equipment for the Mobile Library to facilitate participation in underserved areas of Ventura County in special Census 2020 Mobile Library events.

Treasurer's Update

While closing out the books for 2019 and preparing for the next book sale at the beginning of February, I am reminded how fundamental consistent book selling revenue driven by your volunteer service are to supporting our libraries. The bookstore, self-service shelves at Hill Road Library and online sales produced over \$35,000 (over \$670 per week) and periodic sales produced over \$4200 for 2019. For 2019 the Ventura Friends will be able to give over \$53,000 to the Ventura County Library System for the benefit of Ventura's libraries.

Funds are used to purchase thousands of books as well as encourage the joy of reading and strengthen reading skills in children by providing enriching and engaging programs. These programs reach children of all ages from early literacy to summer reading program to teen discussion groups.

If you can volunteer at the next or any periodic sale or in the bookstore please contact us at friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org, leave a note with the bookstore store cashier or call (805) 750- 6630.

--Kathy Thomson



Ventura County Library Adult Literacy READ Program is now recruiting adult volunteer tutors who would like to help other adults improve their reading and writing skills.

The READ program trains adult volunteers to provide free one-to-one reading instruction for adults in need of basic literacy skills, including the development of phonetic reading skills combined with communication skills. No teaching experience is required and the training is free. The next five-week tutor training series begins at VACE, 5200 Valentine Rd, on Wednesday Feb 5, 2020, 5 - 8:30 p.m. For more information about how you can support literacy and make a difference in someone's life, call (805) 677-7160.