

Report from the County Librarian

Friends of the Calaveras County Library – November 8, 2023

Bookmobile Activity:

September 14 – At the invitation of Public Health, Christine and I took the Bookmobile to the Health Fair in West Point. We were there from 12:30 -7 p.m. We shared all the Library information and had the spinner to draw a crowd. People were very impressed and excited about service to their community. We conducted a survey to solicit community suggestions about day and locations that would serve them best. Surveys were on conclusive. Some thought no morning hours were needed.

October 7 – Lumberjack parade – West Point. I drove in the parade. Response was positive. There was not a plan for staying and interacting with the community. After the parade, I left.

October 20 – Trunk or Treat at Mark Twain elementary – at the invitation of the Parents’ group planning the evening. We gave away 200 books from 5-7:30.

November 4 – Harvest Festival – Copperopolis. Christine and Cynthia engaged with the community from 10-2. Cynthia engaged at least 40 people/families and gave them our new brochure and library information. Christine issued 3 new cards and gave away approximately 8 Golden Tickets*.

Golden Tickets will be created for us or Friends to give away when we engage with the public. Each person who brings their ticket to their branch and gets a Library card or checks out a book will get a prize. For adults, we could offer a ticket to bring to the Library to enter a raffle for a basket of prizes.

We are planning to have the spinner at these events and have swag and books to give away. This draws children – which draws their accompanying adults.

Parks Pass Grant:

The Astronomy and Disc Golf kits will go to branches on Wednesday.

We have ordered all the equipment and books for backpacks on insects, animals and birds. They are going to be great!

New Adventure backpacks are now available to us for free from the State Library. These will include some equipment that the original ones did not, specifically items to help hikers. We have called the first Adventure backpack “Nature” and will call this one “Hiking”. We will get one for each branch.

Everything for the StoryWalks has arrived. We will finalize locations and get these installed as soon as we can.

Ronnie took a group to Grinding Rock State Park on Nov 3. . We now have permission to use our Library delivery van – not super comfortable, but has 7 seats with seat belts – for any trips we want to plan.

We will be doing a budget revision of our grant money to spend the money allocated for renting the van. We will likely put this into additional astronomy and disc golf backpacks.

Adult craft classes: We have resumed the adult craft classes for October, November and December, doing seasonal crafts for all branches that want to participate.

MOU additions: No update on this. I have not yet received comments from County Counsel.

First 5 mini-grants: All grants have been received and purchases will be made as desired by branch staff.

Moon Event at SA Library, October 21, 5-7 p.m.: We had a wonderful event on Saturday. Final numbers are not calculated yet, but we had a LOT of people here! Everyone had a great time. Over 30 volunteers helped us set up and run the event. Games, NASA space control center, rocket dogs and grilled moon cheese sandwiches, crafts, live feeds from NASA and a photo booth on the moon are ready to go.

Grant for Murphys extension:

We did not receive a State Library grant for this project. I hope to meet with MVL soon on this issue to determine how they want to proceed. More grant money is coming, but we will not get it due to our size and poverty rate, so I have encouraged them to either drop the plan or begin to work on fund-raising.

If they want to move ahead, we will present the preliminary plans to the BOS. They will discuss this at their meeting tomorrow.

New hours for VS branch?

I spoke with the VSE principal today and asked if we could open the Library from 11-4 on Fridays since school is out at 12. This would serve our community during morning hours, give parents and children coming to Storytime the ability to check out items, and allow TKK children/parents to come to the Library while waiting for older siblings to get out at noon. The likelihood is high that he will agree.

Library Signage:

Valley Springs: The principal of VSE also agreed that we could put a sign at the end of the building so people coming up to the school can see where the Library is. Hopefully this will help them to notice all the signs and arrows directing them around the multi-purpose building and up the road to the Library.

Copperopolis: We need to remove the sign on the marquee at the Copper Cove where the old branch was. We should see about getting a sign on the marquee at Lake Tulloch for the Branch Library. We should replace the location sign at the branch as it is not visible or enticing.

Murphys branch: I am communicating with Public Works to help us install directional signs from Hwy 4 to the branch. For Hwy 4, we need permission from CalTrans. Signs are needed going up Hwy 4 and on down Main Street and after following the arrow from Hwy 4 (going down from Arnold), signs are needed at the stop sign to direct people down Main.

State Library report submitted: I submitted my report on October 30!

Highlights:

Total operating: \$923,059 - \$619,00 for staff and 2

Local Government: \$760,238

State and Federal Funds: \$102,479 – ZIP books, LATL grant, eRate, other grants

All Other: \$60,059 – FOTCCL, donations, fees/fines

Holdings:

Print materials: 110,503

Other physical items: 17,886

eBooks: 2,998,982

Downloadable audio/video: 902,102

Circulation:

Total Circulation, physical: 84,928

Electronic circulation: 17,612

Total: 102,540

Total Circulation, digital: 35,224 – 34% of total

Total use of all resources: 120,152

Programs: Story Time, Book Clubs, Celebrations, crafts, STEAM, etc.

Total number: 504

Attendance: 7,337

Virtual visits to our website: 44,538

Wireless sessions: 22,770

Branch Circulations:

AC – 7,061

Arnold – 11,955

Central – 24,484

Copper – 3,504

MH – 2,714

Murphys – 14,106

VS – 8,295

WP – 3,218