

Kudos to Library Friends
Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library has some of the best Friends around.

I'm talking about the Friends of the Roseburg Public Library, a 501(c)(3) organization made up of community members who are passionate about public libraries, literacy and lifelong learning.

We celebrate the Friends every day and especially Oct. 20-26, which is designated National Friends of Libraries Week.

Friends members attend programs, check out material, share the library story and work so hard behind the scenes to raise funds that support library programs and projects.

Over the past year, the Friends have donated more than \$20,000 to the library.

Most of that funding comes from their various sales of donated and withdrawn library books.

Behind the scenes, Friends sort through every donation of books and magazines we receive. Speaking of which, donations always are welcome during library hours; drop off items at the front desk.

Some of the donated material goes directly to the Friends Book Store, which is open to the public during library hours. This includes magazines published within the past three years, which always are free.

Currently, the store inventory consists of residual items from the large fall sale, and everything is free.

Some donated material is saved for the large book sales held quarterly in the Ford Room, and some is posted for sale on the Friends of the Library's Amazon account.

Proceeds from sales over the past year have been used to fund the summer and winter reading programs, craft supplies, giveaway books and program presenters.

The Friends also serve as the Local Program Partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails one new, free book to registered children from birth to fifth birthday. Our service area includes the following zip codes: 97443, 97447, 97470, 97471, 97494 and 97495.

As the local affiliate, the Friends are responsible for fundraising \$13 per registered child per year; approving and managing changes to registrations; and paying invoices.

Longtime readers of this column may catch that the per-child cost has decreased from \$25. We now can serve twice as many children because the State Legislature directed funding to expand the program statewide. All Local Program Partners receive a 50% match.

Thanks to generous gifts from local funding agencies, businesses and individuals, our program has reached 2,800 children over the past five years. Currently, 1,500 children are registered.

Online registration is available at imaginationlibrary.com; click "Check Availability." Anyone may register a child; however, a parent's or guardian's phone number or email address is required. The first book is mailed eight to 10 weeks after registration.

I encourage folks to consider becoming a Friend. The cost ranges from \$8 per year for an individual to \$100 for a business or lifetime membership. Stop by the library or visit the group's website at roseburglibraryfriends.org for more information and the membership form.

The Friends also always need help with their book sales. Email friendsroseburglibrary@gmail.com or call the library at 541-492-7050 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Thank you, Friends, for your support. We couldn't do all we do without you!

Next week's library events

Wednesday, October 23, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 24, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 24, 4-5 p.m. – STEAM program for elementary-age children

Thursday, October 24, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group