

Roseburg Library Has Amazing Friends  
Kris Wiley for The News Review

We celebrate the Friends of the Roseburg Public Library every day but especially during National Friends of Libraries Week today through Oct. 21.

The Friends have a longstanding tradition of fundraising for library programs and projects with great success. We have received nearly \$28,000 from their efforts over the past two years alone!

Most of that funding comes from book sales, which involves a lot of sweat equity.

We receive hundreds of donated books and magazines every week, and Friends volunteers sort every item.

Some of the material ends up in 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. Donations are appreciated.

Some donated material is saved for those 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 two virtual reality headsets, reading program prizes, craft supplies, giveaway books and program presenters.

In addition, the Friends purchased a new printer/copier for public use.

The Friends' other major initiative involves Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails one new, age-appropriate, 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 \$25 per registered child per year; approving and managing changes to registrations; and paying invoices.

Thanks to generous gifts from local funding agencies, businesses and individuals, the program is going strong. Currently, 1,382 children are registered, and 918 have graduated upon reaching their fifth birthday.

Online registration is available at [imaginationlibrary.com](http://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 who are passionate about literacy and public libraries to consider contributing to the Friends.

One way is to become 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](http://roseburglibraryfriends.org) for more information and the membership form.

Another way to help is by contributing your own sweat equity at the book sales. Email [friendsroseburglibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsroseburglibrary@gmail.com) or call the library at 541-492-7050 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

I couldn't ask for a better group of Friends. Members attend programs, check out material, share the library story and work so hard behind the scenes.

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

#### This Week's Library Events

Monday, October 16, 7 p.m. – How Stories Can Save Us storytelling workshop with Mark Yaconelli

Tuesday, October 17, 10:30 a.m. – Zoom Videoconferencing Basics (registration required)

Wednesday, October 18, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, October 18, 3-4 p.m. – STEAM program for elementary-age students

Thursday, October 19, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 19, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen Drop-In Hangout

Thursday, October 19, 6 p.m. – Computer Basics for Caregivers (registration required)

Friday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. – Android Basics (registration required)