**Report from the County Librarian**

Friends of the Calaveras County Library – January 10, 2024

**Staff:**

Cathy Kuhn, Arnold staff on Friday and Saturday retired on December 16th. We interviewed 4 candidates for this position on Friday, December 15. Paula Gonzalez is approved and will attend orientation on Tuesday. She will train for about two weeks in SA and then go up to Arnold to complete her training with Gina.

Nancy Murray is our new extra-hire staff to fill in when staff are away in Murphys, Arnold or AC. She will be able to help in Arnold this Saturday and next Friday and Saturday. Gina has been able to fill some of the days, but has begun school again, so is not available going forward. We are trying to work out a plan for covering Fridays and Saturdays in Arnold until Paula is ready to start working on her own.

**Bookmobile Activity:**

Maria took the vehicle to Mercedes in Modesto for its first service, so we are good to go in the new year.

**Parks Pass Grant:**

We have been approved for 8 new Adventure backpacks available to us for free from the State Library, one for each site. Hoping to get them soon.

StoryWalks – Ronnie has done all the work for the installation in West Point. As soon as all are well, we will attach the panels to the chain link fence and put in the book panels. Any ideas about getting some publicity for this?

We met with County staff from Facilities to plan the installation at the Central Library. We are getting approvals for this from County Counsel and Planning. We will pay Facilities to install it for us, when all is in order. We believe we can pay for this from unused grant funds.

Nalatie, Ronnie and Nancy Murray are meeting with the Murphys Community Park board today to discuss the installation of a StoryWalk along the path next to the stream on the branch side of the creek.

We will meet with staff from Lake Hogan to finalize plans for the installation there on January 12th.

We will not be able to install the StoryWalk in Utica park using this grant, as all work must be completed by April 30, 2024.

Nalatie and I are doing a budget modification to reallocate money not used for trips to other items. We may be able to pay for some of the installation costs using grant money.

**Adult craft classes:** Adult crafts will resume in February.

**First 5 mini-grants:** Purchasing has been done for most of the grants that are going through the Library budget.

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

**Niche Academy additions:** The Word document help and other have been added to our website. Check this out in our Resources link.

**Welcome email:** We will be sending a welcome email to all users and then to all new users, using our Community Engagement Platform through our SirsiDynix database.

We are also working on a summary of our successes to send to all users.

**Coming in January!**  Since FOTCCL approved the budget plan for 2024, I will be adding the magazine access as soon as I am back in the office. Patrons will have access to over 500 magazine titles with multiple use, so no waiting in line for a free one!

**LATL grant:** Our grant application for Lunch at the Library 2024 has been approved. I have submitted or will shortly submit our budget proposal for this grant. We will receive **$85,172** for our County this summer. This will require a budget adjustment for you and a vigorous spending plan for us. I will likely be adding some of the grant money to my County budget plan as this will make spending easier for us and for Chloe. I will be working with Chloe on that. As soon as we get the check, I will purchase the commercial fridges for each site as this plan is in place with a vendor in Modesto. I will also begin to finalize the people who will be paid by you (using grant money) so that is all in place for our start. We will begin to order the books sets and other materials we will need for our programs.

**Quarter 2 draw from SRF:** This year will be an adjustment year, as Chloe, Shirley and I are working at bringing my spending in line with your budget cycle. This will result in paying for certain resources twice in your 2023 or 2024 budgets, as we get each resource on a spending plan that works with both our budget cycles – July1-June 30 for me and January to December for you. I hope we can explain this to your satisfaction as we work with the figures from my Quarter 2 draw from the Special Revenue Funds. Unfortunately, because I was gone over the holidays and am now sick, this work has been delayed a bit.