**Report from the County Librarian**

Friends of Calaveras County Library – February 8, 2023

**Staff:** Our new employee for Branch Assistant in Valley Springs passed background today! She will attend orientation on February 13th and staff here will begin her orientation. We are looking forward to working with her and getting her ready to work with our patrons and community in Valley Springs, where she is a resident. She is a retired teacher with a lot of experience in teaching science and early learners. She will add a great deal to our service in Valley Springs.

**Bookmobile:**

Ed, Nalatie and Maria picked up our vehicle on January 30th. All is in working order, but we will not plan any trips until my return. We have notified TechOps and I will follow up with them concerning the warranty when I return.

**Outreach media staff:** Jennifer Carriero is the new contact for the FOTCCL website. Be sure to send her anything you want publicized and she will get it on the website. Jennifer also works with us to create flyers, attend events to take pictures and help us with print marketing.

**Niche Academy:** We have paid our bill and getting ready to launch.

**K-12 online tutoring –** Nalatie is working with IT to get this onto our website. She is organizing the flyers and publicity about it as well. I will submit a Press Release about it as soon as it is live and operational.

**Parks Pass Grant opportunity:** Nalatie and I submitted a grant proposal for $74,879.00 to include 5 StoryWalks, numerous backpacks and their equipment, 6 trips and a 12 hour/week staff person. We should hear about this early next month.

In the meantime, we have everything ready to order. We have quotes from all the vendors we will be dealing with, so as soon as we have the money, we will begin our purchases.

I have reached out to Rebecca Callen in regard to putting a StoryWalk in Utica Park as part of their park upgrade. She is very excited about the idea and has sent the information on to the group working on it.

We have a very good lead for possible placement in Valley Springs and although that was not in our original plan because we didn’t have a place for it, we can alter our plan or find another way to fund one more. We will have plenty of books (We have ordered 8 with an additional 4 copies of some of those) and nature panels, so we can easily accommodate another site.

We did not put the installation of the frames into the grant as we need to communicate with the leaders in the areas where we are placing them to be sure we are complying with their requirements. This may be an area where we can get County help (here in SA), help from community members who run the parks or even volunteers. We will keep you posted on how this develops.

We have a nice book budget in the grant so will be placing around 30 new books in each branch.

**Mid-grant report on current budget:** We have a small grant of $5000.00 through the Parks Pass program. Although all the plans for the use of this money have been made, we are waiting to see how our larger request turns out before ordering things. We submitted a mid-grant report which contains our plans this week.

**Mid-year budget adjustments:**  I have submitted my mid-year budget adjustments to Admin. I have asked for an increase in Utilities costs. We have experienced a significant rise in our PG&E costs in San Andreas, Arnold and Mokelumne Hill. Facilities believes it is connected to the HVAC system which they are learning to program after the retirement of Dave who was the expert. They think they have the kinks worked out, but Admin knows of the problem and will likely support this request without requiring me to reduce my materials budget.

Mid-year adjustments will go before the BOS on February 28th.

**Copperopolis hours:** We have changed our open hours in Copper to T/W/Th 10-4 as they were before Cynthia came to us. We did not see in increase to patronage with the 4 days of service and feel the old schedule was better for community and school children.

When I return, we will open a recruitment for a permanent staff member in Copper and Cynthia will apply. We hope she will be our best candidate so we can bring her on board quickly. We all love working with her and she is doing a great job in the branch.

I am sorry to be missing this meeting. The activities planned sound like so much fun! Enjoy it all and I will be in touch after my return. Thank you for all you do for the Calaveras County Library.