



FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2018

FRIENDS DONATE A SECOND \$15,000 to the City of Surprise for Surprise Libraries -

Many of you know about the main Surprise Library; however the first library in Surprise was what we now call the Hollyhock library. The Hollyhock library is located in the original town site inside a 900 square foot home donated to the City in the mid 1900s. This was the only library for many years until the original board of friends worked to bring a county library to the City.



In 2001 the current Northwest Regional Library was built and Friends started their used book store Friends' Place in the lobby.

Friends was able to support both the libraries by donating to the Maricopa County Library District. By July 2015 Friends had donated \$185,255.25.

Maricopa County supports libraries for cities with populations less than 50,000. In the 2000 census Surprise had a population of only 20,000. The 2010 census, however, recorded a population of over 100,000. This population growth meant that the County required the City take over the cost of running the library. The City reached 100% cost reimbursement in July 2015. Friends was no longer allowed to donate to the County for the Library as "the City of Surprise was paying for everything" A budget of \$2.1 million was in place and funds were no longer needed from Friends to support the ongoing operations or special projects for the Library.

The Hollyhock Library hours had been reduced in 2008 to only 8 hours a week Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 5 pm. This time was good for parents with small children, but not for any after school or weekend access. Friends President, Aly Cline, worked with City Staff to find ways that Friends could support the libraries or literacy programs in Surprise. In 2017 after many meetings and conversations, the City asked if Friends could support an additional day of operation at the Hollyhock library. The City requested \$15,000 to add Saturday hours of 11 to 5 and change the weekday hours from 1 to 7 pm on Tuesday and Thursdays. The Board agreed and the Hollyhock library opened the additional hours in October of 2017.

The increase in hours doubled the use of the Hollyhock library. Initially one bilingual story time was added on Saturday but a second story time was added on Saturday afternoon. A request for an additional \$15,000 was used to continue to support the Hollyhock library for fiscal year 2018-2019.



Friends Annual Book Sale Scheduled for November 19th through the 24th.

This year our annual book sale will start setting up our excess inventory on Sunday November 18th at 9:00 am. We will officially open to the public on Monday the 19th from 12 noon to 7 pm. The library will provide an information blast to cardholders the week of November 12th. Friends has had a wonderful response to our book sale and we hope this year will be another great success. If you are interested in helping out with an additional shift or with setting up or breaking down the event, contact Bev Autrey or Carol Mains.



Friends is supporting the City of Surprise Literacy Challenge for the third year in a row. Approximately 2500 fourth, fifth and six grade students from local schools are participating in the City of Surprise literacy challenge. Councilman Skip Hall, the Northwest Regional Library and Friends are all partnering with the Cities Youth Services department to provide 29 literacy challenges; visit the library and get a card, share a book with a friend or interact with the librarians. Students can earn book bucks each week from their teacher, and at the end of the challenge will have the opportunity to win a new book, a Kindle, or spring training tickets. Teachers are also eligible to win classroom sets of books.

Friends Bookmark Contest begins -

Committee Chair Manuel De Leon will be meeting with local Art teachers November 5th. Information about the contest will be available to local 6th, 7th & 8th grade students in November. Bookmark contest applicants will be turning in their entries by the end of January 2019. If you would like to participate in the Bookmark contest judging event; please contact Manuel.