

Summer 2009

City Support

Inside this Issue

- 1** City Support
- 2** County Budget Meeting
- 2** CFOL and the Library
- 3** Annual Meeting
- 3** Roger Aylworth
- 3** Flyer
- 4** Roger Pearson
Interim Butte County
Library Director
- 4** Website
- 4** Fall Festival

Chico Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 6952
Chico, CA 95927
Website -
chicolibrary.org

The Chico City Council is a strong supporter of the Chico Branch of the Butte County Public Library system. For the past several years they have voted to allocate money to extend the hours of operation from county-budgeted thirty-five hours per week to sixty hours per week, thus giving the community an additional twenty-five hours per week of operation. The cost for these extra weekly hours is approximately \$180,000 per annum. The Board of the Chico Friends of the Library thank the City Council both as a body and individually for their generous and continuous support.

As members of the community and as Chico Friends of the Library, we need your support once again. The City Council budget meeting will take place this coming Tuesday June 16 beginning at 3:00 in the City Council Chamber, 421 Main Street. Your voice is important to demonstrate to the Council that you thank them for their past support, and encourage them to continue with funding for the future. There are a couple of ways that you can help with this campaign. (1) E-mail individual council members. Each member of the council has the same address following their names using first name initial and full last name; for example: Mary Flynn is mflynn@ci.chico.ca.us; Mayor Ann Schwab is aschwab@ci.chico.ca.us. Our current council members are Mary Flynn, Scott Gruendl, Andy Holcombe, Tom Nickell (Vice Mayor), Ann Schawb (Mayor), Larry Wahl and Jim Walker. (You can also access their E-mail addresses by typing in any Internet search engine *Chico City Council*. On the right hand side of the Council website is listed the council members. Just click on their name and an e-mail screen will pop up ready for you to type your message.) (2) **You can attend the hearings on June 16 to show your support for the library. The library budget issue will be taken up by the council at 3:00 p.m.** If you wear something red and carry a book it will demonstrate to the council which part of the budget you wish to address. Bring your kids!

County Board of Supervisors May Meeting

A sea of red shirts greeted the Butte County Board of Supervisors at their May meeting. Library supporters from all over the county took seats to hear each department head presented how they proposed to comply with the request that money be slashed from their budgets. After these presentations were heard the board opened the meeting to those who wished to make a comment on a budget item that was being considered. Several library supporters took this opportunity to thank the board and Sheriff Perry Reniff for finding the money to suspend the further drastic cuts that had been proposed for the library the week prior to the May meeting. Thus the county library is down 23% rather than the 71% as originally proposed for fiscal 2009-2010.

The campaign to alert the Board of Supervisors to the needs of the community regarding the library involved many individuals and organizations. Leading all efforts was county Librarian Derek Wolfgram, whose commitment and dedication to the library system and all those involved with the campaign was greatly appreciated. All individual city library "Friends" groups along with the County Library Advisory Committee worked together to present a broad based campaign. Led by Grilla Bites owner Fred Marken, a committee was established to get the word out to the community to let the supervisors know of both our love and need for the library.

Thanks to many media outlets the word was heard. The E-R and the CN&R published several articles and Letters-to-

The Editor that addressed the issue. Television channels 12 and 24 aired a public service announcement several times a day. [Paul O'Rourke-Babb](#) of KZFR gave an hour's time to discuss the issue of funding with John Few of the CFOL.

You might think that since the County Supervisors did not cut the library budget as drastically as originally intended, that the problem of library hours has been resolved. While the county did not carryout the 71% cuts that were originally recommended, the library is still down 23%, a reduction that took place this past April. This is why the support of our City Council here in Chico is so vitally important. The library budget comes from several sources, the two primary being the County and the City. We need both to keep the library open for as many hours as possible. We cannot let our guard down at this time!

CFOL and the Library

The mission of the Chico Friends of the Library is to "promote and support the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library." Several efforts are in play to achieve this goal.

Volunteering in the library is perhaps one of the biggest achievements of our membership (although it should be noted that not all volunteers in the library are members of the Friends). Volunteers can be found assisting in all phases of library activity, from helping in the Children's Room, assisting at the circulation desk, completing research via various forms of media, working with Interlibrary and Intralibrary loan, etc.

The largest group of volunteers are those that help with the CFOL Saturday book sale. There are currently ninety individuals that make this library funding activity work. Under the capable leadership of CFOL board member Rob Atkinson, the weekly book sale generates most of the money that the Friends give to the library for the purchase of periodical subscriptions and book purchases. This amounts to approximately \$50,000 per annum. Volunteer hours also contribute to other acquisitions for the library. For every one hundred hour increments a volunteer works in the library the Friends give \$25.00 towards the Library Book Fund. For example in the year 2007 the total number of hours volunteered was 11,043 thus supplementing the Library Book Fund with \$2,025. Currently, about 187 individuals volunteer at the library.

As most of you know the Adult Reference Services library position was cut as part of the 23% reduction in funding that occurred in April. At the current time that position is not slated to be refunded. Along with reference duties Ms. Nancy Leek conducted a children's story time on Friday mornings. The CFOL recognizes what a great loss this has been to the community and has voted to fund the two stories times for the time being to restore some semblance of normalcy to the library.

Besides the Saturday morning book sale the Chico Friends of the Library receives income from its membership dues, various private donations and grants for specific projects such as the redecorating of the Children's Room.

77

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting which was held Monday June 8, 2009 the following individuals were elected to the board; Treasurer – Susan Davis; Vice-president – Marian Milling; Members-at-Large; Rob Atkinson, Margaret Bomberg, Debbie Ceriani, Gerald Davis, Betty Forbes, Linda Leahy, Al Luedecke, Rupert McDowell, Fred Marken, Anne Nordhus, Joan Olmstead, Fe Howard and Mary Wahl. As the four officers are elected for a two year term on alternate years our current President Ann Elliott and Secretary Anne Morris will begin their second year of tenure.

President Ann Elliott gave a wrap-up of the past years activities and what will take place next year. Please see the enclosed flyer.

The guest speaker for the evening was writer and wit Roger Aylworth. Mr. Aylworth's book *A Place in the Shower Schedule: 101 Favorite Columns* was issued by Delphi Press in August of 2008. Feeling completely confident and at ease Roger regaled the crowd with his homespun humor regarding being a husband, father and grandfather. For what most individuals would considered perhaps a difficult situation if not tragedy in the home Roger has the ability to see the lighter side. He has the capability to change anger into laughter and gave all a lesson in how to cope with life's little messes.

Also present was author Susan Aylworth. Roger spoke about the numerous books that she has published, including a series

about life in a small Northeastern Arizona town.

The new county interim Library Director Roger Pearson was introduced by President Ann Elliott after which Mr. Pearson spoke briefly to those assembled.

The Chico Friends of the Library welcomes Roger and looks forward to working with him.

WEBSITE

A reminder that all the most current news regarding the CFOL can be had at www.chicolibrary.org
Be sure to check out the photos on the site.

FALL FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for this year's Fall Festival which will be Saturday October 17. Each year the Festival gets larger and better. Be sure not to miss out on this annual event brought to you by the CFOL.