

## State Library Grant Will Help Chico Library's Building Projects



Misty Wright,  
Acting Library Director

An application from Butte County has resulted in the California State Library's granting over \$14 million dollars for building improvements at the Chico and Oroville libraries! Acting Library Director Misty Wright credits former Library Director Narinder Sufi for the successful application.

The Butte County library based its application on a long list of needed physical upgrades and a possible limited expansion of space. Butte's grant was among more than \$172 million in Building Forward library facilities improvement grants awarded to 34 local libraries to address critical maintenance needs, improve energy efficiency and sustainability, and expand digital and physical access in 29 cities across 18 counties, the California State Library announced.

The \$172 million is part of \$489 million earmarked by the governor and the Legislature to improve libraries in the state's highest poverty areas. Of the 34 awards in this round, 85 percent improve facilities in communities experiencing poverty rates ranging from 20 percent to 52.3 percent.

Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the legislature.



## From CFOL's President

Brenda Crotts, CFOL Board  
President

Thank you to all of our CFOL members for supporting us and

the Chico Library in 2023, another good year but a challenging year for Chico. You checked out materials both physically and online, learned to use technology to make life easier, attended library programs yourself and with family, enjoyed being in a cool library during summer and a warm library during winter, asked staff questions, enjoyed reading newspapers and magazines, visited with friends, watched a movie, used library computers and printer, purchased materials from the ongoing lobby sale, purchased from the weekly book sale, and donated books and media to the CFOL.

Cutbacks in library services are never something staff or the public enjoy. For remaining staff it makes for a more difficult work situation—doing new tasks in multiple locations in fewer hours. CFOL commends the library staff for rising to the challenge and providing outstanding quality in all that they do.

A consultancy firm, Team CivX, has been hired by Butte County to survey residents on how they value their libraries, and would feel about a tax measure dedicated to the library system. The survey will include information that lays out the context for a proposed tax measure: where the funding would go and why that funding is needed. At present, the library is drawing on one time funding only lasting through this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2024.

## Chico Branch Library Hours

(530) 552-5652  
1108 Sherman Ave  
Chico, CA 95926

**Tuesday:** 10:00am-6:00pm  
**Thursday:** 9:00am-6:00pm  
**Friday:** 9:00am-5:00pm  
**Saturday:** 10:00am-5:00pm

### Saturday Book Sale Schedule:

November 4, 18  
December 2, 9, 16  
January 6, 20, 27  
First Fridays on 11/3, 12/1, 1/5  
No book sale 11/11, 11/25, 12/23, 12/30, 1/13

## A Program CFOL Members May Like: Access to Technology

Serenity Gregerson and Alaina Macarthy,  
Library Assistants

The Access to Technology program focuses on helping adults 60 years or older, and disabled adults, improve their technological literacy. Learners usually meet with us multiple times to practice and improve their skills over time.

<https://www.buttecounty.net/1650/Access-to-Technology-ATT>

During lessons, we focus on increasing access to necessary everyday services. We meet one-on-one with interested, qualifying people in all six Butte County Library branches on an appointment basis. Individual appointments help us focus on the goals of each person, while maintaining their privacy.

With the help of the Chico Friends of the Library, we now also offer monthly socials for our existing clients. We are happy to provide a space for our committed learners to get to know each other and develop a stronger sense of community, improving patrons' social lives.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the program can contact us at 530.552.5641 or lib-att@buttecounty.net

## ...from the Branch Librarian

Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Summer was a busy time at the Chico Branch. In addition to regularly scheduled programs, staff created special programs for Summer Reading:

- Sheryl Hubbard's *Sensory Sensations* programs for families, included Obstacleastic, Create a Crown, Shaving Cream Play, Exploding Sidewalk Chalk and Giant Bubbles
- January McHenry's *Creation Station* programs included Wooden Spoon Puppets, Making Musical Instruments—Maracas and Harmonicas, Personal Key Chains, Painter's Tape Art, and Aluminum Foil Transfer Art
- January's teen programs included *8-Bit Art* (express your love for vintage video games through Perler Bead art!), and *Totally Tubular Tie-*

*Dye Totes* (Sharpies and alcohol create "firework" tie dye patterns on tote bags)

Our three vendor programs were a big hit too—audiences for *Wild Things* - 250; *Northern California Bats* - 165; *Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show* - 62. Attendance at these programs grows every year. Total attendance for Summer Reading Programs—June: 1,941; July: 1,797.

**Upcoming program** plans include *Pumpkin Painting* (Thursday, October 26, 3:00pm); creating *Sugar Skull Mallow-Pops* for Dia de los Muertos (Thursday, November 2, 3:00pm); *Family Sing-Along Movies*—“Frozen” on Saturday, December 16 2:00pm; *Encanto* on Saturday, January 20—2:00pm; as well as Holiday Card Making and Holiday Graham Cracker Cottages.



## Book Sale News: The Books in the Foyer

Nancy Leek, CFOL Board

Love our book sale bargains but can't make it to the Saturday morning book sale? The Chico Friends of the Library have even better bargains all through the week in the library foyer.

Almost all travel, foreign language, and religion books go on the foyer table for only 25 cents each. You can also find sheet music, parent and teach resources, craft and quilting books, and classic literature for the same price.

More books of all kinds are placed on the big wooden book cart for 50 cents each. Quality paperback books by popular authors in excellent condition are on the spinner racks for 50 cents, too. Looking for kid's books? Children's fiction, non-fiction, and picture books are only 25 cents each. You will find them on a table in the foyer, too

**Pay for your purchases by placing the money in the black donation box on the circulation desk.** It's a great way to grow your child's library at bargain prices, and benefit the library too. All proceeds from the book sale go to buy new books, furniture, and craft supplies for the library. It's a win-win way to reading happiness!



## Little Free Libraries

*Elizabeth Berghold, CFOL Board*

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are found around the world! Even in prisons, refugee camps, you name it and I bet there is a LFL there! So, many thanks to Nancy Leek, of CFOL used booksale fame, for sending this picture from her travels. She was in Ruppolding, Germany, when she ran across this LFL. The text reads: “Free Library: place one in, take one out.”



All 11 of our LFL are in pretty good shape. But the plywood on the one in front of the Rhema Word of Faith Church, is starting to delaminate. When Joe Steck noticed this, he went to work on a replacement. He will deliver it to our artist, Christine MacShane, who will work her magic on it.

Children’s books are always hard to come by. If you have any collecting dust, that you would like me to come pick up, please drop me an email.



## CFOL Treasurer’s Report

*Diane Friedman, CFOL Treasurer*

CFOL is perking along. So far this fiscal year (7/1/23–6/30/24) we’ve received \$29,242 more than we’ve spent, mostly due to an anonymous \$25,000 donation (Thank you, Anonymous!). We don’t know where it came from, but we’re thinking hard about how to put it to good use to benefit the library.

Large donations aside, you are renewing your memberships and making memorial donations, etc. (\$6,357). Thank you! The weekly book sale continues to be a reliable source of income (almost \$18,000). We put those dollars to good use. We buy books, movies and magazine subscriptions (\$13,586). We support the library’s programs like the Summer Reading Program and other programs in the library (\$3,900). We would have been able to spend more on library programs, but the library is only open 4 days a week.

Thanks for all your support!



## What a lot of changes in “just” 39 years!

*Linda Elliott, CFOL Board*

While looking through our scrapbooks of events, one Chico Enterprise-Record article that really stood out to me was from July 12, 1984 when the Chico Rotary Club gifted the Chico Friends of the Library \$6,000 for new books and the first computers in the Butte County Library.

“Before being certified to use the computers, potential users must read an operation guide, sign a user responsibility statement, and be instructed in the operation of the computer by [Ron] Braziel or a volunteer on duty.” “Chico Friends of the Library own the computers and will be responsible for any malfunctions or repairs. Ms Armstrong notes that Butte County Library is the first Northern California library to acquire computers for public use...”

Chico Friends of the  
Butte County Library  
P.O. BOX 6952  
CHICO, CA 95927

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PAID  
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Today, the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library has 22 computers for public use.

- Children's Room: 2, and AWE\*: 2 (Educational programs and games)
- Young Adult: 4
- Adult: 14

*\*AWE is a database for children with a large number of educational games and programs on a variety of subjects—these computers only access this content.*

Become a part of Chico history and join the Chico Friends of the Library at [www.chicolibrary.org/ffg](http://www.chicolibrary.org/ffg)

Consider giving gift memberships to your Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL)! They pair equally well with Christmas cookies, Hanukkah gelt, and Kwanzaa feasts.

No need to puzzle over the correct size or color. Gift memberships come in a variety of denominations and only one color. Order your gift memberships today! Go to [www.chicolibrary.org/gift-of-membership/](http://www.chicolibrary.org/gift-of-membership/) or ask for membership envelopes at the Chico Library information desk. Happy Holidays!



## Hassle-free Holiday Gifts

*Merle Burbridge, CFOL  
Membership Chair*

Looking for that perfect all-purpose holiday gift? Does your friend or loved one already have plenty of ugly Christmas (or other holiday) sweaters? Are men's ties so last century? Need a gift that fits easily into a Christmas stocking? Are you striving to "go green" with gifts that need no wrapping?

This coupon admits you, a Chico Friends of the Library member, to the "First Friday" Members-Only Book Sale at 3 PM on: November 3, December 1, and January 5!

Elizabeth Quivey: Newsletter Design  
Keith Herritt: Newsletter Editor