

LIBRARY CREATIVELY SERVES OUR COMMUNITY



Photo credits: Michelle Ossowski and Pat Baron

Fern Ridge, along with all of Oregon, has now survived four months of social distancing in a time of great uncertainty. Information about COVID-19 and the effect it

“I’m so appreciative of the pick-up service. I was even able to work with the staff to pick up books for a homebound friend and take them to her.”

has had on people, the economy, and our future changes almost hourly. Here at the library, we want to assure you that our first priority is your health and

safety. As such, we closed the doors to our building on March 14th.

Though our building closed, we continued to offer many fantastic resources that are accessible 24/7, including e-books and audiobooks from Overdrive via the Oregon Digital Library Consortium. For those without high speed internet access at home, our WIFI has been available and accessible from both parking lots and from most of the grounds. Staff members have been and still are available to assist patrons via telephone or e-mail from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

We were the first library in Lane County to offer curbside pick-up for books and other physical media, and we will continue this service for as long as COVID-19 is a threat. All material returned to the library is disinfected and then put through a quarantine protocol for a minimum of 72 hours before being shelved or recirculated. Holds can be placed online using your library account, or over the phone with staff.

Once Lane County went into Phase Two of the state’s reopening plan, we were able to follow recommendations and guidelines from the State Library and open our doors for limited hours beginning July 13th. If we and our pa-

trons are able to practice social distancing, hand-washing, material quarantine and mask use, we are optimistic that we can keep the library open through the summer and fall.

The staff has pursued creative ways to reach our community. Youth Services Coordinator Caitlin McMahan has been streaming story times and Summer Reading craft projects, and both she and Assistant Library Director Laura Blankenship are working to create virtual programming for patrons of all ages. Check out our website at www.fernridgelibrary.org and our social media for updates and information on how to participate as we move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 541-935-7512. We’re happy to get you a card over the phone, to make sure your account is clear and updated, and to help you connect to our resources.

Most importantly, we are doing our best to help everyone stay engaged, educated, and entertained as we all work together to Stay Home and Stay Healthy.

Fern Ridge Library Foundation Seeks Your Support for 2020-21

Goal: \$10,000

Grow the Fern Ridge Library Foundation Endowment Fund and invest funds today to support the library forever. Funds are invested by the highly-respected Oregon Community Foundation.

Ways to give include:

- outright gift
- direct transfer from a retirement fund or IRA
- bequest or gift by will
- life insurance or estate planning

Visit frfoundation.org or contact us at info@frfoundation.org

President's Message



So many things that we have taken for granted in our everyday lives have gone by the wayside as we struggle to deal with the coronavirus pandemic—a force of nature seemingly beyond our control. Our challenge during this time is to accept what we cannot change, adapt creatively, and make responsible choices about what we can control in order to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Though the quiet refuge that is our Library has been temporarily unavailable to us during the shutdown, the staff adapted and has been able to provide curbside service until the doors opened again. The reopened library continues to serve us now, with guidelines for distancing, temporary quarantining of used materials, special hours for seniors and immune-compromised individuals, and open hours for patrons of all ages.

The coronavirus has demonstrated to us that we can't predict what the future will hold. We can't know if and when we will be able to return to our pre-pandemic lives and need to be prepared to continue to adapt and change as we face a world we haven't anticipated. Be assured that the Library Family, including the Foundation Board, is committed to evolving as needed to ensure that our Library will continue to serve our community through this pandemic and beyond.

*David Floyd, M.D.
President, Fern Ridge Library Foundation*

Community Partner Program Gives Thanks

The Community Partner Program is a giving program for local and regional businesses and organizations who wish to help the library meet the needs of our growing community. All business and organization gifts of any amount will establish membership in the program. Each membership level has benefits and recognitions. The Foundation welcomes 20 new and renewing business and organization donors for 2019-20.

This year, we wish to pause and acknowledge the passing of Roger Soverns of The Farm Store and recognize his leadership as a Community Partner business member. The Farm Store has been a consistent donor since 2008.

Roger's commitment went a few steps further. Each Community

Partner member is invited to write a testimonial and send a logo for the Fern Ridge Library Foundation website. Roger said, "We believe the Library is an important source of knowledge for young people in the area." This statement gets to the heart of why libraries matter. Thank you, Roger.

Please join The Farm Store and sign up to be a Community Partner member. For more information, visit frlfdoundation.org/join



Good Things Coming— Fundraising Success

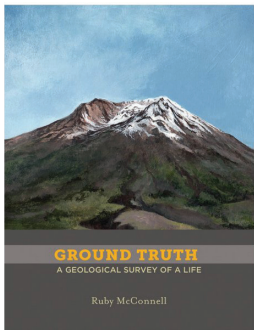
The Foundation is pleased to report \$15,000 was raised for two new projects to support the library in 2019-20. The mobile library tricycle is on order and will make its debut later this year. Improvements to the Konnie Room have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but funds are ready to make a return to inside-the-building programs more comfortable and functional. Special thanks to the generous community and business donors who support the Fern Ridge Library with gifts to support the Foundation's annual projects. Grants from the Equinox Foundation, Redtail Fund at OCF, Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund, and Trust Management Services were essential to make these improvements possible. Thank you all!

Writers & Wine 2020

Our “Social Distancing” Fundraiser



Writers & Wine, the fun and inspiring literary event and fundraiser for the Fern Ridge Library, will follow social distancing guidelines and will be held in the comfort of your own home in 2020.



The Fern Ridge Library Foundation's event offers readers and library donors a chance to grab a newly-released book by Oregon author Ruby McConnell, *Ground Truth: A Geological Survey of a Life*, and a bottle of wine from Sweet Cheeks Winery, plus enter a raffle for an Oregon coast getaway. So choose your comfy seat, patio lounge chair, or

outdoor location and enjoy these special gifts. Oregon's harvest of wines and literary works can bring us comfort and educate and inspire us during this unusual time.



Oregon author Ruby McConnell published her new book, *Ground Truth*, in April 2020. For each ticket purchased, you will receive McConnell's *Ground Truth*, along with your choice of a bottle of white (Pinot Gris) or red (Merlot) wine from Sweet Cheeks Winery, our 2020 wine sponsor. In addition, each ticket purchased will receive

one raffle ticket for a coast getaway drawing, all neatly assembled in our Fern Ridge Library canvas tote bag.

Visit the website at frloundation.org/events to see Ruby talking about her work, and to purchase your ticket for this year's socially distant event. Tickets may be purchased online for \$35 per person beginning September 1 and continuing through October 9. Additional raffle tickets for \$5.00 each are available for sale through October 17 on the website and charitable donations are always appreciated.

Pick up your Writers and Wine gift bag on Sunday, October 11 between 12:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Road, Veneta, Ore. For gift bags picked up on this day you'll receive an additional raffle ticket. After Oct 12, you may pick up your gift bag at the library during open hours. The raffle winner will be announced October 18.

McConnell is a geologist, scientist and writer who explores the connections between the landscapes we live in and the impact they have on our families, our communities, and in our hearts. She begins this collection of environmental essays with the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Part natural history, part memoir-in-essays, *Ground Truth* is a moving portrait of the forces and landscapes that have shaped a region and the people who live there. Her writing has appeared in publications such as *Grain Literary Journal*, *Oregon Humanities magazine*, and *Mother Earth News* and was awarded an Oregon Literary Arts Fellowship in 2016.

Historians, geologists, and environmental writers have praised her work. Mary Emerick, author and wildland firefighter says, "In *Ground Truth*, Ruby McConnell weaves in the geologic history of the earth beneath our feet with contemplation of her life as a scientist and a woman. She guides us beneath simmering volcanoes and heartbreak, an intriguing journey that leaves us wanting to know more."

Chet Orloff of the Oregon Historical Society, writes, "*Ground Truth* is about the deep history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, a history built on geography rooted in geology. And like geology, it is full of gems."

Although we are not sharing this work together with Ruby McConnell in person, and seeing our neighbors and friends, we can share in the common experience of reading and valuing the talents and bounty of the Pacific Northwest. Stay safe, Fern Ridge!

WRITERS & WINE SCHEDULE

Sept 1–Oct 9: PURCHASE: Online tickets sales at frloundation.org/events

Oct 11: PICK UP: Writers & Wine gift bags at the library, 12 pm.-5 p.m. or at the library after Oct 12

Sept 1-Oct 17: WIN: Purchase raffle tickets online at frloundation.org/events. Winner announced October 18 on the website





"I've missed the library terribly during the closure."

Stay Safe and Carry On



By Colin Rea, Library Director

In a normal year, I'd be writing this in a library filled with kids waiting to file into the Konnie Room for a fun and educational Summer Reading Program. Our public computers would be at full capacity, the local veterans group would be meeting in our conference room, and Assistant Director Laura B. would be prepping to spend a hot summer day engaging with the community at the Fern Ridge Beef BBQ.

But all is not normal. We are still providing vital library services to Fern Ridge, but these services now look a little different as we incorporate social distancing measures and follow the guidelines, recommendations, and mandates set forth at the local, county, and state level. As we move forward and strive to return to the service levels in place before that fateful Friday the 13th in March, it's important to look at the sources of funding that allow the library to be a part of this vibrant and healthy community.

The permanent tax rate for the district is only 39 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. From its inception,

Fern Ridge Library has relied on an additional local-option levy to meet the needs of the community. We are now in the fourth year of a five-year levy, and it's time to place a new initiative on the ballot. At the July meeting of the Library Board of Directors, your elected officials passed a motion to place a continuation of the current levy (35 cents per \$1,000/assessed property value) on the November 3, 2020 ballot. This levy, if passed, would allow the library to continue to provide library service at pre-COVID levels for an additional five years without an increase in your tax bill.

We're all looking forward to the point at which the pandemic can be declared to be over and we can once again fill our meeting rooms and library stacks with everyone in Fern Ridge who is looking to open and expand their minds. Until then, we're committed to doing so a few patrons at a time, and to finding creative and flexible ways to keep you engaged and entertained.

FERN RIDGE LIBRARY MISSION AND VISION

The MISSION of the Fern Ridge Library District is to inspire, empower, and engage our community through discovery and sharing of information.

The VISION of the Fern Ridge Library District is to grow an inclusive physical and virtual space where the services provided are responsive to the needs of our community.

FERN RIDGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION ~ MISSION AND VISION

The MISSION of the Fern Ridge Library Foundation is to serve the community through advocacy and support of the Fern Ridge Library.

The VISION of the Fern Ridge Library Foundation is to be a vibrant, sustainable, collaborative organization that works to enhance the library's service to the community.

Introducing your Library Board

Hello, my name is Erik Carlstrom and I am Chair for the Fern Ridge Library District's Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board since 2017. I am the board representative on the Technology committee as well as chair.

Our current Vice Chair is Courtland Rawson. Courtland is a recent addition to the board after the resignation of a prior board member.

Our longest serving member is Olivia Johnson who some may know as the Principal for Fern Ridge Middle School.

Becky Lemler has been serving on the board since 2017 as well. She is the Board representative on the Art committee and has been responsible for enriching the Library with works of art from local artists.

Our other newer Board member is Bridget Piccioni. Bridget has been a very involved member of the Friends

of the Library and the Library Foundation. She is the Board representative for the Grounds committee.

Since the start of the lockdown for the pandemic in March, the Board has met frequently to ensure that services can still be provided to the public. We know the Fern Ridge Library is a valued tool for many and don't want anyone to be without. Keeping that in mind, while trying to ensure the safety of our patrons, we have continued to work on how we respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. As members of the community we will never put the safety and health of the staff or patrons at risk. The board is incredibly grateful for the hard work of the Library staff during this challenging time.



Erik Carlstrom, Chair for the Fern Ridge Library District's Board of Directors.

2019 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Froggy Award: Jesse Dobson, Bonnie Thielman, Lilly Turner

Leona Schulz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service: Bridget Piccioni

➤ **FERN RIDGE LIBRARY**
88026 Territorial Road
Veneta, OR 97487
541-935-7512
www.fernridgelibrary.org

➤ **LIBRARY HOURS**
Monday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.*
*reserved for seniors and
immuno-compromised patrons only
Tuesday 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
Thursday 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
Friday 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

➤ **TO MAKE A DONATION OR
DISCUSS AN ENDOWMENT
GIFT, CONTACT:**

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FOUNDATION**
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Courtland Rawson, *Vice Chair*
Olivia Johnson
Becky Lemler
Bridget Piccioni



News from the Friends

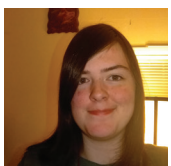
The past year has started out as another active one for the Friends of the Fern Ridge Library but has ended with a new set of challenges (as is true for all of us).

We were fortunate to hold two very successful book sales, in October and February, and a holiday sale in November. We also continued our successful every-day book sale stand in the library, and purchased a new, larger stand. Our book sales provide most of the funds that we spend to support the Library.

Our monthly Tuesday evening programs on a wide variety of topics provide information and entertainment to library patrons and community members. Programs were presented on topics such as: Oregon archaeology, making jams and jellies, Fern Ridge Reservoir, aging at home, a year in the life of a farmer, and an overview of running the Oregon Country Fair. The December program featured local author Jennifer Chambers portraying Abigail Scott Duniway, the subject of one of her recent books.

For the seventh consecutive year, the Friends awarded \$500 scholarships each to local high school seniors, with preference to a young person who has volunteered at the library. The Friends renamed the awards to honor Sandra Larson, longtime member and officer of the organization and avid library supporter. The scholarships are funded by donations and we were fortunate to receive donations from two local families so were able to increase the number of scholarships awarded. The recipients' names are added to a plaque on display near the teen area of the library.

The 2020 Sandra Larson Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Kayla Mataisz, Drenna Thompson, Bailey Williams and Jessica Woods



Kayla Mataisz is a 2020 Elmira High School graduate and plans to study health care at the UO with the goal of becoming a surgeon. She is a member of the library's Teen Advisory Board and a library

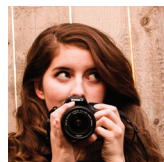
volunteer. She commented "one of the reasons I started volunteering at the Library was so I could find the good books to read, and so far, it's been working really well!"



Drenna Thompson is a graduate of Baker Charter Schools and plans to study psychology at Bushnell University. In 2017, she was selected to paint an indoor mural in the entrance area of the library. She has volunteered in a variety of service programs including community dinners and at the Rural Art Center.



Bailey Williams, also an EHS graduate, plans to study psychology at Oregon State University and eventually open a counseling practice. She has been an enthusiastic library user since she learned to read, has participated in library teen programs and uses the library as a quiet place to study and read.



Jessica Woods plans to study business management and writing at Bushnell University. She donated a painting to a library silent auction to help raise funds and was also the first artist to display in the library's Artspace. She grew up loving visits to the library and appreciates the education and inspiration she received from the books she's read.

Information about the Friends' programs and activities is posted in a number of places in the library as well as on the Friends of the Library page of the library's website (under the "About Us" tab). You'll find a downloadable membership brochure here, too. The Friends meet quarterly (usually in January, April, July and October). All who are interested are welcome to attend. Or e-mail us at friends.fernridgelibrary@gmail.com. Joining the Friends is another way to support the Fern Ridge Library!

FRIENDS OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY



Founded in 1991, the Friends is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501c3 membership organization dedicated to supporting the Fern Ridge Library. We advocate for our library and raise

money through annual membership dues, donations, and the book sales you know and love. The funds we raise help to

- fund library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program;
- host monthly Tuesday evening educational programming;
- purchase materials to supplement the library's collections;
- publicize the library's activities through sponsorship of the library's monthly calendar of events;
- assist the library with visibility and outreach events at venues such as the Veneta Downtown Farmer's Market and the annual Veneta Harvest Festival.



Honor Roll of Donors 2019–20



IN MEMORY OF
SANDRA L. LARSON, MAYOR & FRIEND

Annual Fund Donors

Fern Ridge Library Foundation Endowment Donors

The Fern Ridge Library Foundation acknowledges the financial support of these individuals, families, businesses, community organizations, and foundations. Business donors are recognized as members of the Foundation's Community Partner Program for their generous annual gifts.

We express our gratitude to the Equinox Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund, Trust Management Services, and The Redtail Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation for their generous grants.

The Writers & Wine event is made possible by generous donations of auction items and food from area farms to support a remarkable literary and fundraising event.

Your gifts make it possible for the library to meet the needs of our community. *Thank you!*

Fern Ridge Library Foundation

Adopt-a-Shelf

Honor a family member, a friend, or yourself; or adopt a shelf in memory of a loved one. Show your support for the Fern Ridge Library.

A gift of \$50 or more qualifies for a permanent shelf tag in the library. Visit frfoundation.org/give to make your gift or ask a staff member for a donation card.

It's your Library-
put your name on it!

Community Partner Program

Leadership Members

(\$500 and above)

- Champion Technologies, Inc. ♦
- Deep Woods Event Center ♦ *Writers & Wine Sponsor*
- Equinox Foundation ♦
- Friends of the Fern Ridge Library ♦ ★
- Oregon Country Fair ♦
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- Territorial Vineyards & Wine Company ♦
- The Redtail Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation ♦
- Trust Management Services, Braemer Trust ♦
- Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund ♦

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(\$250 - \$499)

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- Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative ♦
- Lane Electric Cooperative ♦
- Seneca Sawmill Company ♦
- The Farm Store ♦

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(\$100 - \$249)

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- Laughing Stock Farm ♦

Basic Members

(up to \$100)

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- Network for Good ♦
- Veterinary House Call, Devon Trotter, VMD ♦
- Wartenbee Trucking ♦

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- Friends of the Library ★

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2019 Writers & Wine Donors

Auction Donors

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- Café Mam
- Camas Country Mill
- Bets Cole
- Christi Corbett
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- Café Mam
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- Fern's Edge Goat Dairy
- Groundworks Organics
- Laughing Stock Farm
- L'Etoile Farm
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- Wild Child Flower Company
- Winter Green Farm

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- Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co.

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Writers & Wine

- Featuring newly-released book by Ruby McConnell
- Wine from Sweet Cheeks Winery
- In the comfort of your own home!
- Enter raffle for Oregon Coast getaway



Pick up your gift bag on Sunday, October 11, 2020, 12:00-5:00 p.m., Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Road, Veneta, or at the library after Oct 12.

Raffle winner announced October 18.

Purchase Tickets online (9/1-10/9) - \$35 per person
Purchase Raffle Tickets online (9/1-10/17) - \$5.00 each
www.frlfoundation.org/event

WE LOVE OUR LIBRARIANS!



Photo credit: Michelle Ossowski

"We Miss You! It's Quiet – Too Quiet" read the sign in the library window from mid-March through mid-July when the building was closed. During that time, however, Fern Ridge Library made more services available to patrons than most libraries in the area. Curbside pickup of books and other materials was available five days per week. Patrons could place requests using the library's online catalog or via telephone and then pick them up safely, usually the next day. Library staff were available via phone and e-mail to answer questions. They also helped patrons print documents and send faxes, and reviewed several sections of the collection for under-used materials.

The building closure was a challenge for the staff too. They had to cancel numerous in-person programs

that had been scheduled for the rest of the spring and summer, including the summer reading programs. They've learned how to use new software so they can do online story time, virtual meetings, and online programs, especially for the 2020 summer reading programs.

The staff worked in two teams to minimize the possibility of infection so they were not all in the building at the same time. They communicated with staff on the other team via messages, e-mails and an occasional online meeting. Despite the challenges, the Fern Ridge Library staff have worked hard and provided consistent, cheerful and high quality service to patrons.

As one staff member noted "I'm proud of the ways the library has adapted to provide service to our patrons during an uncertain time. I'm happy to collect the holds our patrons placed online and over the phone. I liked knowing they were still out there reading even though we couldn't see each other In the library."