



Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Summer 2012

Friends speak up on library, rec merger

The Chula Vista City Council voted June 28 to have library director Betty Waznis oversee both the Library and Recreation departments. The City Council also voted to hire an assistant recreation director, while eliminating the position of recreation director and adding funding for recreation programs.

Many Friends made phone calls, sent e-mails and attended City Council meetings to express their support of the library. As a result, the Council did not follow through with its initial plan to immediately consolidate the two departments with Waznis as its head, and without an assistant director. Several library supporters at the Council budget hearing carried signs that read: "We Read – and We Vote!"

"The city manager has indicated that it is not in the best interests of our city and its constituents to consolidate

the two departments, and we agree," said Shauna Stokes, president of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library.

Council has directed Waznis to meet with the community and affected groups, such as the Friends and the Board of Library Trustees, to discuss the consolidation. She and city manager Jim Sandoval will return to City Council in January 2013 with a report on the results of that outreach, at which time the Council will decide whether to keep the departments separate or integrate them.

"This is just too sudden. It is happening too fast for it to be a

reasonable administrative change," said Brian Young, chair of the Chula Vista Board of Library Trustees.

Council member Rudy Ramirez



proposed merging the two departments at the City Council meeting on June 12, and again on June 19, with no public input or notice. Council members Patricia Aguilar and Steve Castaneda supported the proposal at both meetings, while Mayor Cheryl Cox and Council member Pamela Bensoussan voted no.

Waznis will now be responsible for three libraries, a museum, 54 parks, 10 recreation facilities and over 200 employees.

"Our role as volunteers, fund-raisers and public advocates is more important than ever," Stokes said.

"As a nonprofit organization, the Friends cannot endorse specific candidates. We can, however, encourage you to stay involved, be informed and vote for candidates who truly have the best interests of our library, and our community, at heart."



Up and running: Betty Waznis, far left, helped Mayor Cheryl Cox, center, and Council member Pamela Bensoussan officially open the Otoy Ranch library in April. Business has been booming ever since. See Page 3.

Museum exhibit tells the story of Japanese in CV

The history of the local Japanese community, from 1905 to the present, is the focus of a yearlong exhibit that opened in June at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum.

About 300 people attended the grand opening, which featured live music of the World War II-era by Downbeat Big Band and a performance of songs from *Allegiance - A New American Musical*. Set in a Japanese internment camp, the play will have its world premiere at the Old Globe this fall. (Friends member Lee Parkhurst was the lucky winner of two tickets

given away at the opening celebration.)

The Museum is hosting the exhibit in partnership with the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, which has provided many photographs and artifacts, including a full-scale replica of a room in the Poston, AZ, barracks where about 450 Chula Vistans were interned in 1942.



Board member Earl Jentz (at left) explains the Poston replica at the Museum's opening event while visitors (below) check the location of a pre-war Japanese farm.



Local historian Steven Schoenherr created a map showing the location of Japanese homes and farms in the South Bay. Friends VP Imozelle McVeigh planned and installed the exhibit with help from JAHSSD president Linda Canada, intern Amber Tiffany and husband Jim McVeigh, who did the "heavy lifting."

To fund the exhibit, the Friends received a grant from California Reads, a program made possible by Cal Humanities in partnership with California Center for the Book.

Museum hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and noon to 3 on Saturday. For group tours, call the Museum at 619 427-8092.

A message from the director

Hello, library supporters:

Just a brief thanks to all of you who have expressed your interest, concern and support for library services here in Chula Vista as the City Council directed some reorganization efforts.



Betty Waznis

My title is now Director of Library and Recreation. As always, I will do my very best for the staff in the library division and the recreation division and support them as they continue their outstanding service to the citizens of Chula Vista. We look forward to partnering and collaborating at an even higher level and delivering the most efficient and effective public service possible.

- Betty Waznis, Director
Department of Library and Recreation

Be an online Friend

Want to keep up with the latest news of the Friends? Then visit our website at www.thefcvl.org, where you'll find photos of Friends activities, news about the library and more. (You can renew your membership, too.)

Thank you for being a Friend!

My tax-deductible contribution, payable to FCVL, is enclosed. Please renew my membership at the following level:

- Senior/Student - \$10
- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Sponsor - \$25
- Patron - \$50
- Benefactor - \$100

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone/e-mail: _____

Mail to: FCVL, P.O. Box 393, Chula Vista, CA 91912. Or renew online at www.thefcvl.org

Story hours, sleepovers and prizes make summertime reading fun

A total of 4,348 children, teens and adults spent many memorable hours this summer participating in the library's Summer Reading Program.

"Local kids were thrilled by animal and magic shows, learned crafts and dances, enjoyed movies and story times, and earned great prizes," said Debbie Taylor, Civic Center branch manager.

"At the same time, this fun environment promoted books and reading – always the main goal of our annual program."

With the theme "Dream Big . . . Read," one highlight of the children's program was the teddy bear sleepover at all three branches. Children brought their stuffed bears to story time and then left them for a bear-only sleepover at the library. The next day, each child received photos of the bear having a

pillow fight, enjoying hot chocolate and snuggling down for a cozy night's rest at the library. Sleepover bears at the Otay Ranch branch were even featured on a local TV program and received a visit from Bearamy, the friendly life-sized teddy bear from the mall's Build-A-Bear store.

Altered book workshops, spa crafts, a writer's workshop, chess and careers were among the features for the teen and adult programs. Participants earned a raffle ticket for every six hours of reading and were entered into a

drawing for a full-color Nook e-reader, courtesy of the library's mall neighbor Barnes and Noble.

"As in past years, the library extends its most sincere thanks to the Friends for being a major sponsor of the Summer Reading Program," said Taylor. "Without support from the Friends, the library would not have been able to offer such a wide variety of programs and prizes."



The teddy bear sleepover at Otay Ranch drew a full house in July. Participation in the Summer Reading Program set a record this year.



Friends member Selma Harris (far right) was part of the enthusiastic crowd that poured into the new Otay Ranch library on opening day.

Otay Ranch branch continues to draw crowds

"OK, library fans! We can't wait to open the doors and show you what we have here."

With those words, library director Betty Waznis officially opened the new branch library at Otay Ranch Town Center on April 14. About 2,700 people surged through the doors – and many of them walked out carrying a stack of books.

The crowds have continued: In the first two months of operation, library staff greeted more than 27,000 visitors, issued more than 2,000 new library cards and checked out 27,000 items. Story times are filled to capacity, with a row of strollers often lining the wall.

Eastside residents of all ages are drawn to this storefront branch for the

free Wi-Fi and computers, story hours, best sellers and classic novels.

In her remarks at the opening, Mayor Cheryl Cox thanked the Friends and urged others in the crowd to join the group and volunteer.

"The library wants to thank the Friends for assisting with the grand opening and helping to make this branch possible," said Waznis. "We are thrilled with the response from the community." The location has also led to partnerships with mall tenants.

The new branch is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. The branch is adjacent to the Food Pavilion in the mall just off Olympic Parkway.



Friends of the Chula Vista Library

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September is Literacy Month: Support your public library!

News of the Friends in brief . . .

The Friends organization has very active chapters at the Civic Center and South Chula Vista Library branches and at the Heritage Museum. We previously had a small but active chapter at the former branch library at EastLake High School. With the closing of that branch, and the opening of the new library at Otay Ranch Town Center, the Friends would like to start a new **Eastside Friends chapter**.

We need Friends to support this effort by forming a board with a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and one at-large member. The Friends executive board will provide the seed money.

What does a chapter board do? Members support the library by being the voice of the community to the library and City Council, by raising

funds and by volunteering. The Friends hosted an informational meeting at Otay Ranch in late June and will hold another this fall. If you would like to be involved with the Eastside chapter, contact executive board president Shauna Stokes at sstokes55@cox.net.

Author visit

In conjunction with the Japanese exhibit at the Heritage Museum, the Friends will bring *Farewell to Manzanar* author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston to the library this fall.

Mrs. Houston was 7 when her family was sent to a Japanese internment camp and, with her husband, novelist James D. Houston, wrote a memoir about that experience



in 1973. She will give a free talk at the Civic Center library at 6 p.m. Wednesday, October 10. Her book and others about the internment are also on display at the library as part of the California Reads program and accompanying grant.

Learn at the library

Beginning this fall, three non-credit courses will be offered at the library in cooperation with Southwestern College. Classes are: Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Academic ESL, and Learn to be a Tax Preparer. Go to www.chulavistalibrary.com for more details.