



FRIENDS' FOCUS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Belen Public Library
333 Becker Avenue, Belen, NM 87002

Vol. 2004, Issue #1 

RENOVATION PROPOSED FOR BELEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since the beginning of this year, the Board of the Belen Public Library has been considering expansion and renovation of the existing library building. The current structure was built 20 years ago, and although the book collections are still maintained and housed with adequate space, increased requirements for library services and significant technological advances necessitate expansion of the facility.

Four areas that require additional space have been identified. (1) **Staff workspace** - The original library was built with workspace for only one staff member. The library now has four additional staff, and the Director of the Library has inadequate office space. (2) **Children's reading room and Adult Literacy Program** - Children's reading programs and adult literacy programs are quite successful and continually growing. (3) **Meeting/presentation room** - The room is the site of many local meetings and special presentations and should be able to accommodate *(Continued on page 2)*



Officers of the Friends of the Library

President

Bernice Boyle
861-2032

Vice President

Tami Wiggins
864-8560

Secretary/Treasurer

Donna Hernandez
861-1285

Book Sale Chairman

Sue Roether
864-3326 ✓

IS A BOOK CLUB IN YOUR FUTURE?

Have you always wanted to be in a book club? Have you wondered what a book group is all about? Do you think you would enjoy participating in a reading group? Do you think reading a common book and discussing it with fellow readers would help you get more out of your precious reading time? Let us

know about it! The Friends are considering starting a book group through the Library if there is enough interest. Call Bernice at 861-2032 or Tami at 864-8560 to discuss your interest in such a group and your expectations of what it would provide.



MAKE SURE YOU ARE A "CURRENT" FOTL MEMBER!

Have you ever asked yourself if your dues for the Friends of the Library (FotL) are current? Do you remember when you last paid them? Check your address label on the back page of this newsletter. The date shown is when your membership expires. If it's time for you to renew your membership, complete the form at the bottom of the back page. Thanks for being a Friend!

Our Mission

The Friends of the Library supports libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading.

July 2004

News

NM Voters Consider \$16,112,000 Bond for Libraries

by Eileen Longsworth, President of the New Mexico Library Association

In November, New Mexico voters will be asked to approve a \$16.1 million bond package to fund the purchase of books and other materials, such as periodicals and electronic databases. This 2004 Bond breaks down as follows:

1. **5.832 million for New Mexico Public Libraries:** To be distributed on a per capita basis to New Mexico libraries as supplementary funding to purchase books, electronic information resources, and the tools needed to share information. Statewide, this is about \$3 per capita, or less than the cost of one paperback book.
2. **\$6.156 million for publicly funded school libraries/juvenile detention libraries:** To be distributed with both a minimum per school amount and a per student allocation. On average, this amount will purchase 1 to 2 books per student.
3. **\$3.8 million for academic libraries:** To be distributed on a formula basis to all academic libraries in the state. This amount will purchase 1 to 2 library books, or other materials, such as electronic databases, for each full-time student in a New Mexico college or university.
4. **\$324,000 for two State Libraries:** To acquire library books, equipment, and materials for the State Library and the Angelico Chavez History Library.

Once again, as in 2002, this bond has the potential to make a difference to all New Mexico libraries - big and small. The last statewide library initiative was the 2002 Library Capital Improvement Bond which passed with 409,317 votes, the highest positive vote of all state bonds in 2002. This 2004 Bond proposal is endorsed by the New Mexico Library Association and the State Library Commission.

Summer Reading Program Supported by Friends

Registration for summer reading programs at the library began Wednesday, June 9. Readers from age 3 to 18 are participating. Young readers ages 3 - 12 can join the READiscover New Mexico/Leido descubra Nuevo Mexico program. They must read or listen to four books, fill out a reading log, and submit it for an incentive program. The Read-New Mexico Teen Reading Incentive Program is for young adults ages 13 - 18. Readers submit logs to earn raffle tickets for prizes, which will be awarded on Tuesday, July 20, during the program's teen pizza party. The party will also include storyteller Rosalia de Aragon as La Llorona, the Wailing Woman.

A significant portion of the budget of the Friends of the Library goes to support these worthwhile programs (see the budget on the next page).

(Renovation Proposed for Belen Public Library, continued from page 1)

groups of up to 100 people. (4) **Computer access** - Because computer access is central to the library's mission, a computer room or open area with adequate space for 10 to 15 additional computers is needed.

The Belen Public Library is an integral intellectual and cultural resource for Belen, Valencia County, and the surrounding community. Refer to future issues of this newsletter to learn how you, as a Friend of the Library, can participate in this important and timely effort and remain informed of progress on library plans.

<http://www.youseemore.com/belen>

Upcoming Event



ANNUAL BOOK SALE PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

The Friends' wildly popular annual book sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 16. Note that members of the Friends of the Library can enjoy pre-sale privileges. Thursday morning, October 14, members set up the sale by sorting the books and arranging them on tables in the conference room. On Friday afternoon, October 15, members are treated to a Preview where they can receive a bag of the books of their choice for only \$1 and taste a variety of refreshments. Then on Saturday, October 16, at 9 a.m. the sale opens to the public.

As you can imagine, this sale always requires time and effort to plan, set up, and run. You can help by donating books for the sale. Or volunteer to assist with set-up or refreshments. It's not too soon to call Sue Raether, the Book Sale Chairperson, at 864-3326 and let her know how you can help.

Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library was held on Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m., at the Belen Public Library. Donna Hernandez, the outgoing President of the Friends, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Treasurer's Report was presented, followed by a report from the Library Director, Beverly McFarland. Then, after some discussion, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 was approved (see box below right). New officers for the fiscal year were announced: Bernice Boyle, President; Tami Wiggins, Vice President, and Donna Hernandez, Secretary/Treasurer. Committee chairs include Pat Boyle, Refreshments, and Sue Raether, Book Sale. The meeting concluded with a compelling presentation about the national Veterans History Project by Ann Paden of the New Mexico Folklore Society. Ann told the group that the Veteran History Project was created to honor war veterans and to collect their stories and experiences. She



noted that there are 7000 war veterans living in Valencia County! The Belen Public Library and the Valencia County Historical Society are helping to support this important effort. The annual meeting concluded with refreshments and social time.

Bernice Boyle, left, is President of the Friends for 2004-2005.

Friends' Budget 2004-2005

Proposed Expenditures:

Children's Programs	\$425
Book Drop Cart	\$225
Summer Reading Program	\$1,300
Book Bags	\$300
Books	\$750

Total: \$3,000

Anticipated Revenue:

Book Sales	\$1,200
Memorial Books	\$100
Memberships/Book Bags	\$400
Grants & Donations	\$1,300

Total: \$3,000



Friends of the Belen Library
 333 Becker Avenue
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<http://www.youseemore.com/belen>



GREETINGS
 FROM
 Far Far Away



To:

87002+8125



MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you believe in libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading, join the Friends of the Belen Public Library! Your membership entitles you to participate in the Preview Book Sale, receive the Friends' Newsletter, and much more! Are you a current member? Check the date on the mailing label of this newsletter to verify when your membership expires.

New Member Renewal _____ Today's date

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please check a Membership category:

Individual (\$5) Patron (\$25)
 Family (\$8) Lifetime (\$100)

We need you! Please volunteer some time and energy to serve on a committee!

Refreshments Program
 Book Sale Publicity

Mail your completed form along with a check made out to **Friends of the Library** to 333 Becker Avenue, Belen, NM, 87002. Or on your next visit to the Library, drop off your check and form at the front desk.