

Thanks to Library Volunteers
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Roseburg Public Library

April was National Volunteer Month, a time to recognize the efforts of volunteers engaged in service throughout the community.

At Roseburg Public Library, we are especially grateful for the 23 volunteers who contributed nearly 1,200 hours of their time and talent in 2024.

All of our volunteers have a role in managing the library's physical collection. Most of them shelve materials, and while they are in the stacks, they greet patrons, answer questions, locate items on shelves and support a welcoming community space.

In 2024, patrons checked out 78,000 physical items, which is equivalent to the size of the library's collection. That means the volunteers reshelfed the entire library over the course of the year.

Many volunteers help us in other ways, including lending a hand at programs and tending the plants. One works the front desk, and another creates the video slideshow of library events.

We also welcomed student volunteers to assist with programs, package craft kits and support the Friends of the Library book sale efforts.

Speaking of the Friends, we are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated group of folks to raise funds for the library, oversee important special projects and advocate for public library services.

In 2024, more than 30 Friends contributed almost 1,900 hours of service.

The Friends are well known for their book sales. They have a bookstore inside the library that is open during library hours. Typically there is a nominal charge for books, but everything in the store currently is free through June 7.

The Friends manage larger, quarterly book sales. The next event is June 5 through June 7. Hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, June 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, June 6 and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 7. This will be a better book sale with gift-quality inventory, and most items will be \$1 the first two days and half price on Saturday.

The group also administers an online bookstore at Amazon.

Their work is continuous. They sort every box of donations and library withdrawals and determine the appropriate sale for books. They set up and tear down the quarterly sales, keep the bookstore stocked, and list, package and ship items across the country.

They accept donations anytime the library is open. Drop off items at the front desk, and let staff know if you want a receipt.

The Friends donated more than \$23,000 to the library in 2024, funds that were used to support the StoryWalk® in the Roseburg parks system, craft supplies, reading program prizes, speaker honorariums and more.

The Friends also serve as the local program partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails one free book every month to registered children from birth to fifth birthday in the Roseburg, Winchester, Wilbur, Glide and Idleyld Park areas. Our program serves 1,500 children, and registrations are ongoing at www.imaginationlibrary.com; click Check Availability.

The Friends also ensure the path behind the library and beside the Sister Cities Friendship Garden remains clear of litter.

People interested in becoming a Friend may drop by the library for an application form or visit the Friends' website at www.roseburglibraryfriends.org.

Finally, the seven members of the Library Commission volunteer their time and talent to review policies and make recommendations to library staff and the City Council. The group meets at 4 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library, and the meetings are livestreamed on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofroseburg.

We are grateful for our volunteers' enthusiasm for the library and community service.

Thank you, volunteers. Roseburg Public Library is better because of you.

Next week's library events

Wednesday, May 7, 12 p.m. – Umpqua Haiku