



Mariposa READ
(Read, Enjoy, And Discover)

Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 2:30 PM

A Love of the Library
From the Mariposa Gazette, by Kellie Flanagan

To listen, tune in to KRYZ Radio or log onto www.kryzradio.org

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A Love of the Library

*By Kellie Flanagan, Staff Writer of the Mariposa Gazette
From Page B1, Eastern Madera County, Thursday, June 2, 2022*

Oakhurst branch will be offering many summer programs. Oakhurst loves its library, said one who knows, and many will enjoy it even more when they hear about the new lineup of summer activities for youth. Kids are encouraged to “read beyond the beaten path.”

“Much of what we do at the library is about community, and the exchange of ideas for lifelong learning,” said Sarah McIntyre, the Senior Library Branch Assistant at the Oakhurst Branch Library.

Part of the goal is to develop meaningful relationships, she added. The Madera County Library system’s vision is to strengthen the community by providing a place for everyone to connect, learn, and grow. The idea is for the library to be the center of a thriving and connected community. Those who follow books in the foothills may know Sarah from her almost 10 years at the North Fork branch. She transferred to Oakhurst about a year ago and, this May, added a master’s in library and information studies to her list of accomplishments. “This is a dream job,” Sarah enthused. “I love it!” Her tenure follows the retirement of longtime librarian Dale Rushing in December of 2020. “The work Dale put into the library and community provided a strong foundation for a success,” Sara reflected. “Dale’s legacy is seen in the strong relationships she built.”

Including Sarah, the Oakhurst Branch employs six people and is one of five libraries in Madera County - along with the new Bookmobile. The county’s head of this department is Krista Riggs, who lately has been found driving the Bookmobile around to places without their own library, like Yosemite Lakes Park and Raymond.

The Oakhurst Library was closed for about 40 days at the very beginning of the pandemic in 2020, and then reopened with curbside service only in October that year. Branch lead Sarah

started in May of 2021 and in June they reopened six days a week. “We did our very best to make sure the community had access to its library,” Sarah shared. North Fork resident Sarah said she “grew up in the center of town,” and loved to read. She was not only a Baby-Sitters Club fan (the series of novels written by Ann M. Martin) – she started a Baby-Sitters Club of her own. During her time at Azusa Pacific University, Sarah assisted in the School of Theology library, and eventually began volunteering at the North Fork library with mentor Ellen Mester before being hired there. Ellen Mester later became the county librarian. Now Sarah’s talents are focused on the collection development at the Oakhurst Branch, which holds somewhere between 40,000 and 50,000 items. The objective is to form a collection based on what the community needs and wants. The library on Civic Circle is among the most popular. “It’s almost the busiest in the county,” Sarah noted.

The library benefits from a community based five-year strategic plan and is supported in its efforts by Friends of the Oakhurst Branch Library (FOBL). With fiction and nonfiction for children, teens, and adults, the collection includes a growing graphic novels section. There’s always a sale shelf of books and puzzles along with a free paperback exchange. And they’re creating a new teen area with art supplies and a place to hang out and read or doodle. “We want them to make the library theirs.”

The Oakhurst Branch Library is located at 49044 Civic Circle Drive in Oakhurst. Registration opens June 6 for the library’s Summer Reading Program.

Pre-K to Fourth Grade – The Oakhurst Branch Library offers a series of workshops for children starting with Bubble Man on Wednesday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Reservations required. Sewing for kids is on Wednesday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to noon. Reservations required. Goodie bag tie-dye activity on Wednesday, June 29 from 10 a.m. to noon. Make sure to wear clothes that you don’t mind staining. Reservations required. Birdhouse building and decorating is on Wednesday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. Make sure to wear clothes that you don’t mind staining. Reservations are required. Reptile Ron and his gang will be at the library on Wednesday, July 20 from 10-11 a.m. Summer’s grand finale for kids at the library is on Wednesday, July 27 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. when kids can explore a real ambulance courtesy of Sierra Ambulance and EMT Natalia. Plus, there’s a grand prize drawing.

Fifth to Eighth Grade – The library offers three-day summer workshops for tweens and teens on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 1-2:30 p.m. June 28, 29, and 30 is Karate led by Denis Ciccarelli from Oakhurst Tenpo Karate. Reservations required. July 12, 13, and 14 is Sewing with Machines led by the Sierra Mountain Quilting Association. Reservations required. July 26, 27, and 28 is Gardening and Composting led by the UCCE Madera County Master Gardener Program. Reservations required. Thursday, July 28 is the grand finale pizza party and grand prize drawing.

Ninth to Twelfth Grade – The library offers three-day summer workshops for high school age teens on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. June 28, 29, and 30 is ukulele led by Laurie Ballard and the Kamanawannaplaya Ukulele Club. There is a limited supply of instruments. Reservation required. July 12, 13, and 14 is Knitting for Beginners. Reservation Required. July 26, 27, and 28 is Painting on Canvas. Reservation required. July 28 is the grand finale pizza party and grand prize drawing.

Phone (559) 683-4838 or visit maderalibrary.org and facebook.com/oakhurstbranchlibrary.

To find out about the family literacy programs at the Mariposa County Library phone (209) 966-2140 or visit mariposalibrary.org.