

Beaumont Library District

125 East Eighth Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
951-845-1357
bld.lib.ca.us

Hours of Service

Sunday—1 to 6 p.m.
Monday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday—10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday—CLOSED
Thursday—10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Sabina Brady, President
Kim Tursky, Secretary
Cynthia Carr
Mark Parker
Steve Perry

Director

Luren Dickinson



LIBRARY CLOSED

on Monday, May 29,
in observance of the
Memorial Day holiday
that honors those who
have died serving our
country in the military.



BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

a California Special District,
independent of both city and county
government, providing library services
to Beaumont and Cherry Valley



May 2017

Historic Beaumont Library Building is the Last “Carnegie Library” in Riverside County

by Luren Dickinson, Director

Beaumont Library was founded as a special district by a public vote in 1911 to serve a 60-square mile area, which now encompasses Beaumont and Cherry Valley. Its historic building was financed by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and built in 1914.

Between 1883 and 1929, Carnegie funded 2,509 library projects around the world, including 144 in California. Of the four in Riverside County, the only one left is in Beaumont.

(continued inside)

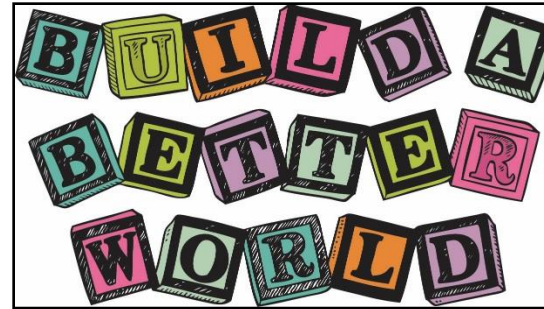
In fact, Beaumont Library is the oldest non-school public institution in the Pass Area. Beaumont Library District was founded before the City of Beaumont (1912), the City of Banning (1913), the Banning Library District (1916), the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (1919), the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (1961), and the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District (1971).

Beaumont's Carnegie library actually predated the iconic downtown Central Library of the Los Angeles Public Library system by 12 years! Although Beaumont's library was founded in 1911, thanks to the efforts of the Beaumont Woman's Club, and originally housed in an old bank building, it had moved to its current location by 1914 as a result of the \$10,000 donation by Mr. Carnegie that helped underwrite the construction of the then state-of-the-art library. The Central Library in Los Angeles, however, did not open until 1926.

From its earliest days, Beaumont Library District became an important part of the social and intellectual fabric of the region. An early brochure by the Chamber of Commerce in 1937 prominently featured the "fine Carnegie library" stating that it had an "assortment of books and periodicals" and was "the cultural center of the community."

The area grew steadily over time and an extension to the Carnegie structure was added in the 1960s, but with the rapid growth seen in the last decade and a half, space constraints became more apparent. There was no elevator in the library until 2009, when renovations took place in preparation for Beaumont Library District's centennial in 2011.

Today, Beaumont Library is still the informational hub of the district with an early learning outreach van, preschool story time programs, high speed 1-Gigabit wi-fi, public computer access, and both print and electronic resources available 24/7 for all ages. But its 12,000 sq. ft. facility is greatly undersized and will need to be expanded to meet the demands of our 70,000 residents and to build upon the legacy of excellent public library service over the past century.



"Build a Better World" is the Summer Reading Program theme for 2017. Registration begins on Monday, June 5, and activities for children, teens, and adults will continue through Friday, July 28. The kickoff event for children and their families will take place June 5 with two performances

of a "slick and silly magic show" by Christopher T. Magician. Other highlights for the summer will include: Ricky Raccoon & the Green Rangers, a puppet show with environmental super heroes, on Friday, June 23; a Portable Planetarium (for those aged 6 to 12, unless accompanied by an adult) where kids can experience the stars and planets, on Friday, July 14; and the SRP grand finale with two balloon shows on Thursday, July 27, featuring free ice cream from Stater Brothers and a goody bag with a book provided by Friends of Beaumont Library.

Proposal to Lower the Approval Threshold for Library Construction Issues Moves Ahead

The Governance and Finance Committee of the California Senate met on March 29 and accepted, by a 5-2 vote, a constitutional amendment proposal (SCA-3) that would lower the approval level for library construction bond issues from 67% to 55%. The bill will now head to the Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee where it will be reviewed May 2. A similar measure for schools, Proposition 39, was approved by voters in 2000. Public libraries lost significant funding in the 1990s when the state gave library funding permanently to schools. Beaumont Library District is trying to keep up with population growth, like other public libraries, and needs to update and enlarge its aging infrastructure for better service. Let Senator Mike Morell know how you feel about SCA-3 by writing to him at: Senator.Morrell@sen.ca.gov

Sign Up for Library Newsletter or Notices

To receive the newsletter automatically via email, please write to beaumontlib@telis.org and you can request notices on programs for children, or teens and adults, through the same address.