

## HELP!

What if there were no libraries in Lincoln, California?  
What if the beautiful new Twelve Bridges Library closes its doors for good?  
What if the historic downtown Carnegie Library does not open?

The Friends of the Lincoln Library (FOLL) is standing in the breach as a major factor in keeping our Lincoln libraries open by making you aware of the pending disaster, but FOLL cannot do it alone. The City of Lincoln has already reduced staffing and services drastically, and library funding is on the agenda again.

No funds, no programs.

No computers, no computer classes, no internet, no job search or resume capabilities; no reference questions answered, no genealogy research; no opportunity for student research; no children's reading programs, no Mother Goose on the Loose, no movies, no CDs, no DVDs, no audio books - no books! - no facilities for homework help, for showing movies, for art displays, for author events, book clubs, community service groups such as Recreation & Respite, ESL programs, PALS. No family nights, no Open Mic, no Books in the Courtyard, no teen programs, no Sierra College OLLIE classes, no interlibrary loans, no summer reading program.

All these and more, gone, if our libraries close.

We have only four full-time, including the director, and six part-time library employees to staff both libraries in Lincoln. The Libraries are open only 16 hours (Carnegie) and 27 hours (Twelve Bridges) a week. In 2009 the library circulated almost 422,172 items for over 25,000 patrons, answered 17,000 reference questions, supported over 53,000 computer users, and provided 346 programs to over 14,000 children, teens, adults, and seniors.

Why can't we stay open with volunteers? Good question. We wish we could, but circumstances, such as professional training in providing library services and technology are required to provide resources to coordinate services, answer your questions, support access to computers, and provide and process materials. Also, library staff administers library budgets, staff, volunteers, and activities.

Volunteers take valuable time out of their already busy lives to give time to the library. Our volunteers are a critical addition to our library, but very few can make the necessary time commitment or take the time to receive the training necessary to provide the library services currently offered by our valuable staff. In addition, of course, volunteer programs must be overseen.

Thomas Jefferson said, "I cannot live without books." Neither can we.

This is what you can do to keep our libraries open:

Contact the City Council to request that they maintain or increase funding for library staffing and services - not reduce funding. In addition, contact Sierra College and Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) Boards, as the college and district help support the Twelve Bridges Library. For more information please go to <http://friendsofthelincalibrary.org> .

Lincoln City Council

Mayor Tom Cosgrove at [tcosgrove@ci.lincoln.ca.us](mailto:tcosgrove@ci.lincoln.ca.us)  
<http://www.ci.lincoln.ca.us/citycouncil>

President of the Board of Trustees WPUSD, Paul Carras

[paul\\_carras@yahoo.com](mailto:paul_carras@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.wpusd.k12.ca.us/District/School-Board/Board-Members/index.htm>

President of the Board of Trustees Sierra College, Barbara Vineyard

[trustees@sierracollege.edu](mailto:trustees@sierracollege.edu)  
<http://www.sierracollege.edu/AboutUs/board/index.html>

We need our libraries. Our libraries need us. They really need us.

From FOLL members Jeri Chase Ferris, Vi Kuka, and Fran Neves.