

FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Saffordlibraryfriends.org

November, 2025

President's Message

Beginning Saturday, November 22

Welcome to November. This month represents a change in the weather and a change in disposition. It feels good to say "adios" to the triple digits. These fall temps were a long time coming and are truly appreciated.

Since I last wrote, the Friends hosted another successful Dine-Out at Jerry's. As I repeatedly say, "We are always in fundraising mode." So, what is next? The See's Candies Drive, of course. Subsequent articles will tell you more about all of this.

We are pleased to continue our monthly programming through Friends Night Out and the Open Book Club, as well as our quarterly afternoon performances with Gila Valley Arts Council. For more information, read on. And, don't forget to go to our website to stay updated on The Friends: saffordlibraryfriends.org. By the way, if you want to see this newsletter in full color, it is posted on the website. Check it out!

Wishing you a beautiful holiday season!

Paulette LeBlanc, SAGLIF President



See's
CANDIES®

Drive

Sponsored by:

FRIENDS
SAFFORD CITY
GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

*Remember to Get See's Candies
for the holidays at
Ginaveve's Market Place
401 W Main St in Safford*

Thanksgiving Treat



Perfect under the tree.

Friends Night Out

On October 28th, the Friends hosted a presentation, *The Martians, An Evening with David Baron*, author of a book by the same name. The focus of the event was on the alien craze that captured turn-of-the-century America. Comments from attendees included, "I really enjoyed this. Very interesting. I had never thought about all of this before. This was fun! An entertaining presentation and presenter."



Mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 20th** for ***Why Dark Skies Matter* with Matthew Goodwin**, Founder of Sedona Philosophy. This



presentation explores the importance of dark skies from a philosophical perspective. It is believed darkness is a gift that helps restore our moral

sense. Join us to develop an understanding of our place in the universe.

Both Friends Night Out presentations were chosen to complement the Exoplanet exhibit which has been featured throughout the library over the past 3 months. What a seamless partnership with our library staff!

Music to Feed the Soul

The Friends are pleased to partner with Gila Valley Arts Council and the library to sponsor afternoon performances at no charge to our patrons. Mark your calendars for **Monday, November 17th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Library



Program Room. **Quartetto Gelato**, a popular and highly unusual classical quartet, will offer a repertoire which includes classical masterwork,

engaging vocals, and the sizzling energy of tangos and gypsy songs, all brought to life with multi-

instrument mastery (oboe, musical saw, violin, accordion and cello). They are known for their relaxed humor which establishes an easy rapport with audiences. Please join us.

In September, the Kristyn Harris Band attracted an audience of 54 appreciative western swing fans. Feedback was so positive! Ellen Schmidt shared the following: "Amazing performance, as always. The lead singer, song writer, acoustic guitarist and leader of the group sure had a lot of energy and talent packed into her diminutive frame. Loved the fiddler! Great musician with an impish grin and lovely back-up voice."



Calling All Readers

The **Open Book Club** continues to meet at the library on **the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome anyone interested in the printed word, whether it be a book, newsletter, poem, short story, etc. The beauty of this club lies in its members and the variety of literature they bring to the table. In one evening, you may hear reports on fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction, an article from the *Saturday Evening Post*, poetry, a biography, and/or a newspaper article. It's wonderfully eclectic. Come to share or just to listen.



Janice Rackauskas, Joyce Welbaum, Verna Titchen & Ray Miles



Neoma Pack & Eva Harper



L to R

Sara Skemp, Joyce Major & Bonnie Briscoe

Holiday Bake Sale

Mark your calendars for the Friends' Annual Holiday Bake Sale; **Thursday, December 4th**. We will be selling goodies from **11:00 – 7:00** in the library lobby. Stop by to check out the incredible array of treats. **And, bring cash!** If you'd like to bake for the sale, just *drop off your donation* on **Wednesday, December 3rd**.

Be sure your name is on your treat. We love to brag on our bakers. And, yes, we will be featuring some See's Candies.

This sale coincides with the library's holiday festival which includes special activities throughout the day and a visit from Santa Claus.

Even Santa shops at the Holiday Bake Sale !!!!!



Calling All Chocolate Lovers

Our See's Candies Drive will be held from **November 22nd** until the inventory runs out. A word to the wise! The inventory seldom makes it to December 25th. Shop early!



Shop Ginaveve's Market Place! We love our relationship with John and Jenny Howard and are deeply grateful to them for serving AGAIN as our local retail location for this

fundraiser. And, we can't say enough about their helpful staff. Stop by during the month. Shop until you drop!

Dine-Out Dollars!

Our 8th annual Jerry's Dine-Out was another success. We pulled in a profit of \$548.37 while generating \$2193.45 worth of business for Jerry's.

To sweeten the pot, a Friend added another \$20 to the fundraiser. So, we can gladly report an adjusted profit of \$568.37. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser by going to Jerry's with flyer in hand! We would love to mention you by name but there is a fear of leaving someone out. (Photo – Canyonlands group from Page)



Be assured we appreciate ALL of you! It was fun!

And, thanks to the Jerry's crew for their capable and friendly service. The wait staff is still in awe of the tips. It's a joy to host a fundraiser when all parties win. Great partnership!



Jerry's Manager, Chris Foree, hands the check to Paulette LeBlanc, Friends President

Dessert of the Month. A Done Deal, for Now.

Reed Richins from Double R Communications was our high bidder for Dessert of the Month at our 2024 Radio Auction. Reed shared some comments about his year-long experience as recipient of those monthly confections. "I initially bid on Dessert of the Month to outbid another bidder and run up the bid. When it dropped on me, I just thought it was for a good cause. I didn't realize we would be getting amazing treats from so many kitchens around the valley. Each month, we were amazed and surprised. It is like going to a potluck and skipping the bad casseroles to get straight to the dessert."



Kudos to our devoted bakers: Barbie Spining, Elizabeth Henley, Darlene Montierth, Paulette LeBlanc, Laura David, Judy Johnson, Mindy Wilson, Nancy Schauman, Lou Ann Benzinger, Donna McGaughey, Sue Rasmussen and AnnJi Craig-Wooten.

We are going to do a different twist with Dessert of the Month this year. The Friends will host a raffle throughout April and May with the winner drawn at the May board meeting. Be on the lookout in the spring for board members who come bearing raffle tickets.

Happy Holidays
From your Library Friends

The Friends of Library newsletter is published 3 times a year.



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85546 - 2944. President-Paulette
LeBlanc, Vice-President – Sue
Rasmussen, Secretary & Newsletter
Editor-AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Treasurer- Donna Harrison.
Website – saffordlibraryfriends.org

This newsletter goes out to our members
and many others in our community.

If you have a **number** (for example, 2/26) **after** your
name on the address label, **you are a member.**

The number indicates the month and year your
membership needs to be renewed.

The 2/26 means you would need to renew your dues
February, 2026

Volunteering is at the very core of being human. No one
made it through life without someone else's help.

Heather French Henry

Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action.
The actions shape and mold the present into a future of
which we can be proud.

Helen Dyer

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're
worthless, but because they're priceless.

Sherry Anderson



Library News

Upcoming Programs

Holiday Open House

The library will be hosting its annual Holiday Open House on

**Thursday,
December
4th from 3-6
pm** where



there will be crafts available on the main floor of
the library. There will also be a special visit from
Santa from 4-6 pm for families.

Gardening Program Series

The library will be hosting *The Garden Plots*, a series
of programs provided through the Graham County
Extension, starting in January 2026. The series of
programs will allow community members to grow
their own

vegetables,
utilizing the
Seed to
Supper
curriculum,
providing a
simple
approach to



growing vegetables for adults and families. The
series of four (4) programs will **begin on Tuesday,
January 13th at 10 am and 5 pm.** For more
information about the program, please contact
Richard Cluff at richardcluff@arizona.edu.

Spring Programs

The library will return with its weekly school year
program beginning January 5, 2026. Please go to
the library website, **saffordlibrary.org**, follow the
library on Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to

the Monthly Newsletter for updates about upcoming programs!

Some highlights include:

- StoryTime
 - Babytime (Ages 0-2): Mondays @ 10 am
 - Bilingual Storytime: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month @ 10 am
 - Open Play (Ages 0-5): 2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays of each month @ 10 am
 - Toddler Time (Ages 2-3): Wednesdays @ 10 am and 10:45 am
 - Preschool StoryTime (Ages 3-5): Thursdays @ 10 am
- K-3 Grade Programs: Tuesdays @ 4 pm
- 4-6th Grade Programs: Wednesdays @ 4 pm
 - Tween Book Club is the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- Teen Programs: Thursdays @ 4 pm

Community Baby Shower

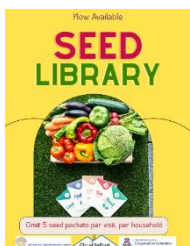
Save the date for the annual Community Baby Shower on **Friday, March 6, 2026 from 9 am – 12 pm!** The program is for caregivers and expectant parents of children up to age 1. There will be numerous community resource organizations attending the event with topics including childbirth, infant care, nutrition, parenting and much more.



Ongoing Programs/Services

Seed Library

The library continues to have seed available. The program is a partnership between the library, the Graham County Cooperative Extension, and the local AmeriCorps program. Thirty-nine fruits, vegetables, beans, and flowers are currently available for checkout for the community. Those with a library card can checkout up to five (5) seeds per week.



Monthly Library Newsletter

The library sends out a monthly newsletter via email highlighting programs for the upcoming month, along with other library services. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please go to <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/puA4l8h/MONTHLYNEWSLETTER> and sign up or scan the QR code.



Library Annex



The Library Annex hosts Cooking Classes provided by the Graham County Cooperative Extension, and Friends Night Events hosted by the Friends of the Library. This summer will also include Gardening 101

through the Graham County Cooperative Extension as well as weeklong camps for Elementary and Teen audiences. Class information and registration for the weeklong camps will be available soon. Check the library website, Facebook or Instagram for more information.

Makerspace Open Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 – 7pm. The Makerspace includes 3D printing, a Cricut machine, recording equipment and a Glowforge. Training is required before being able to use the Makerspace equipment.

Act One Culture Passes

The library participates in the Act One Culture Pass Program. A Culture Pass provides library users with two free tickets to

participating cultural institutions and theater performances. With recent additions, there are now 23 participating institutions throughout Arizona. For a list of available locations, please visit the library's website, saffordlibrary.org. For additional questions, contact the library at 928-432-4165.



GED Preparation Classes and Testing

The library continues to have in-person GED Preparation Classes are available for Graham and Greenlee Counties thanks to a grant from the United Way and generous funding through the Friends of the Library! Whether you are brushing up on your skills to prepare for the test or taking the first steps toward your future, this program is designed for you to succeed! Assistance is available Tuesdays through Thursdays. If you would like more information, please email the Adult Education Instructor, Kristi Apodaca, at kapodaca@saffordaz.gov. Please expect a response within a week.



Additionally, the library is an official GED testing site, with in-person testing available Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-7pm. Testing can be scheduled through myGED.com with tests costing \$41 (Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies) and \$9 (Civics). Please contact the library with any questions at 928-432-4165.

New Staff – Teen Program



Hello! My name is Kaiya McCray. I'm from Pima, but I'm recently back in town from the Phoenix area, so I'm looking forward to getting to know the area again with new eyes! I'm incredibly excited to join the team at the Safford library. I love to read, of course, but I fancy myself a bit of

a gamer - whether it's video games, card games, board games, or tabletop roleplaying like D&D, so I'm always looking for my next cozy adventure. Thank you for being here with me as I join this story!

Past Programs/Events

Fall Programs

As part of the Discover Exoplanets Exhibit, the library hosted an official Open House for the Exhibit

on September 25th, with 118 attending. All who came could interact with all pieces of the exhibit.

On September 30th, the library partnered with the Pima Public Library to have an elementary age program in Pima where participants learned about Exoplanets and created their own using various supplies. At the end of the program, the 21 participants were able to speak of the planet they created and its unique environment and characteristics.



School Field Trips

The library has and will continue to host several school visits until mid-November for the Exoplanets Exhibit. This year's exhibit is targeted for grades 4-6th. For each visit, students are split into two groups. One group interacts with the exhibit and the other learns more about Exoplanets and creates their own. Until the end of October there have been nine (9) visits with 234 attending. In the month of November, there will be six visits, with another 230 projected to participate.



Adult Language Classes



The library began their Adult Language Classes in September thanks to the Friends of the Library funding an instructor for this academic year. The classes are for those who desire to learn Basic Conversational English or Spanish. The class meets

twice per week, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until May and is currently full. The library will advertise updates, if there are openings.

Cooking Classes

The library hosted several classes for the Graham County Cooperative Extension at the Library Annex. September was preparing your own enchilada sauce and beans and October was learning how to prepare green and red tamales for the holidays. November was Smoked Sides and Desserts.



The library will host the Graham County Cooperative Extension on **Wednesday, December 3rd at 10 am and 5 pm** at the Library Annex. The class for December will be **Holiday Treats**. Look for more information about the program at the library, on the library's website, or its social media.

Mythology Under the Stars

In partnership with Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park on October 18th, the Mythology Under the Stars program had 68 attendees learn about the Greek Tales behind the constellations.



Pumpkin Master

Library staff held the sixth annual Library Pumpkin Master challenge. Staff created their own pumpkin display, with or without carving, with the public being able to vote in-person or through social media from October 27th to 30th. This year's winner, and repeat champion, is Lesley Talley!



Arizona Library Association Conference

Lesley Talley and Elizabeth Henley presented at the annual Arizona Library Association Conference on October 24th.

Their presentation, "Partnerships Are Power" highlighted how the library leverages



community resources and organizations to provide over 600 programs per year. Their presentation included a portion where attendees were able to brainstorm local entities and how they could incorporate them into future programs, filling community needs.

Some Thoughts to Ponder

To build up a library is to create a life. It's never just a random collection of books.

Carlos María Domínguez

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff.

Timothy Healy

Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.

Albert Einstein

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

Joseph Brodsky

SAGLIF

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See's Candies Drive
Begins November 22nd
At Genaveve's Market
Place, 401 W Main St
Safford

Safford Graham Library Friends (SAGLIF)

808 S. 7th Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546 - 2944

Please use this Membership & Donation Form.

Support your library. Become a member of the Safford Graham Library Friends!

_____ \$10 Annual membership per person

_____ \$20 Annual Family membership

\$_____ Donation - Donations are tax deductible.

Make your check to **SAGLIF**.

Please mail to the address above or put in an envelope and drop off at the library's circulation desk.

I would like this donation to be used for one choice or split among the choices:

\$_____ Use as needed for the library

\$_____ Support Friends' Endowment Fund

\$_____ Support Early Literary Concert Series (ELCS)

Please print neatly.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____