

The Edna Buschow Memorial Library (also known as the Valley Center Public Library) located at 321 W. First, is open six days a week. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. You can reach the library at 755-7350 or by email: valleycenterlibrary@yahoo.com.

Web Page

Information about library activities is available on the library web page found at <http://www.valleycenterpubliclibrary.com> or through the Living Here link on the web page for the City of Valley Center at <http://valleycenterks.org>.

On-Line card catalog

The public-access catalog is available at: <http://valleycenter.polarislibrary.com>. Anyone may search the catalog but patrons must use their card number and password to place items on reserve or renew materials. The card catalog may also be accessed through the Library Info link on the library web page.

Library cards

Library cards are assigned upon completion of a registration form. Adult signatures are required for anyone under 18 years of age. Library cards are required for an adult or guardian when registering a child or children in the family. The assigned card numbers and passwords allow access to the online catalog.

Checkout

The library contains a variety of fiction and nonfiction books for children and adults including many in large print. The library also has books on CD's and PlayAway's for juveniles and adults as well as audio/book sets for children. Videos and DVD's of classic and historical movies, short stories and family and children's titles are also available.

All books are available for three-week checkout unless otherwise noted. Books with a reserve list may be checked out for one week with no renewals. Videos, magazines, and select reference materials are available for one-week checkout. Books on CD's and PlayAway's are available for two-week checkout with no renewals. Videos and DVD's may only be checked out to adults with a limit of five per family. Renewals can be completed by telephone.

Fishing poles

In a program with Kansas Wildlife and Parks, the library has fishing poles available for one-week checkout. Parental authorization is required for juvenile patrons.

Story time

Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 to 5 is held during the school year from September through May. Children must be 3 years of age by Sept. 1 and not yet in kindergarten to attend. The sessions meet from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Pre-registration is requested.

An additional Storytime, available for children 2 years of age, is held from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. each Tuesday. Pre-registration is requested.

Storytimes are not held if public schools are not in session due to inclement weather or holidays.

Summer reading

A Summer Reading Program begins in early June for children in preschool through upper grades. The weekly program meets on Wednesdays with two sessions — 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon — and continues through June and July. Sign-up is required in advance to facilitate planning and equalize attendance in the two sessions. The children come to the library for children's performers, guest speakers, storytellers and crafts. Upon completing the reading requirements for the summertime program, children receive prizes at a party held at the completion of the summer program.

Teen programs are held a minimum of 6 times during the summer and several times during the school year. The programs are designed for teens in grade 6 and above. Activities include a variety of games, crafts, skits and food.

Fall Festival

The library participates in Valley Center's annual Fall Festival each September with a variety of fundraisers sponsored by the Friends of the Valley Center Library.

Internet

The library offers Internet access to holders of a current library card with no overdue library materials or outstanding fines. The Computer Use Policy acknowledgement, included in the patron registration form, must be on file prior to Internet use. A parent or guardian must sign the agreement for children under 18 years of age. Microsoft Word programs are also available for public use. Charges apply for printing from computers, photocopies, fax and limited laminating services.

Interlibrary loan

Free interlibrary loan service with other libraries throughout Kansas is available. Most materials may be checked out for three weeks with one renewal. Items not returned by the final due date will be assessed a \$2.50 charge for return mailing fees. A \$5 charge is assessed for each item ordered but not picked up by the patron within five working days. Interlibrary loan service is available as needed outside of Kansas; however, mailing fees may be charged by the lending library.

The Library supports area homeschooling families by providing resources from the library as well as requesting materials as needed for their curricula through the interlibrary loan service.

Materials may be requested by email to the library or through the "Ask Us" link on the online catalog.

TALK programs

TALK (Talk About Literature in Kansas) programs sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council are held in the spring and fall. Topics change with each program.

Newspapers

The library has a full collection of Valley Center newspapers on microfilm. A microfilm reader/printer is available for viewing microfilm. Through interlibrary loans, the library can usually borrow microfilm as requested for in-house viewing. Charges apply for copies generated or costs charged by institutions lending the microfilm.

State services

Any Kansas resident may apply for a free Kansas Library Card at the library. The card entitles the cardholder to access a variety of restricted databases provided by the Kansas State Library and KAN-ED from the comfort of their own computer. The databases include Informe! (Spanish language research resources), WorldCat, Gale, Heritage Quest (genealogy resources), Overdrive (provides downloadable audio materials), Net Library eBooks, Literature Resource Center (biographies, essays, children's literature and other literary works), Learning Express, Custom Newspapers (full-text database of over 160 U.S. and English-language newspapers), ProQuest Nursing Journals (over 400 full-text nursing journals) and WorldBook (in English & Spanish - both including all articles in the 22-volume print edition). The Kansas Library Card is valid for three (3) years before renewal is necessary.

Friends of the library

Anyone may become a Friend of the Valley Center Library by paying an annual membership fee of \$25 per person or \$50 per family. Lifetime memberships are \$100 per person or \$200 per family. Membership fees may be paid at the library. All membership fees are used for special projects or promotion of the library. Donations for the building fund would be appreciated and are tax-deductible. Receipts are available upon request. The Friends are currently in a fund raising campaign to raise funds for a new library.

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