HISTORY OF THE ALPINE LIBRARY

The first library in Alpine was established in the Alpine Center School in 1892. The collection of books was moved, in 1898, to the upstairs room in the Town Hall. The library shared the space with the Ladies Aid Society now the Alpine Woman's Club. The first set of books in the library was Bancroft's History of the United States.

In 1914 the San Diego County Free Library established Branch #16 in Alpine. During the 1930s the library moved out of the upstairs room and to the first floor west wing of the Town Hall (where Gordon Mize's State Farm Insurance office is today). The Library was at that location for over 40 years. In 1978 the Library moved to its current location at 2130 Arnold Way.

In October 1900 the Alpine Library Association was established as a nonprofit charitable organization. Their purpose is to support the programs and services of the Alpine Library through fundraising programs and volunteering.

Alpine Library Friends Association's (ALFA) campaign started in 2002. They opened a used bookstore to raise money to help build a new library in Alpine. All the books are donated, all the workers are volunteers, and all the money they collect goes towards the new library. Though state and matching funds from Prop 14 and 81 have been exhausted, proceeds from the ALFA Bookstore and community donations continue to increase the Capital Building Fund. The County has recently approved funding for the purchase of the new Library site, overlooking the park next to the Alpine Community Center. Three preliminary drawings were displayed in the Library and the ALFA bookstore during the first two weeks of November. On November 18, a public meeting was held and many members of the community gave input and ideas for the new design. Plan A, the largest floor plan, was agreed upon as a starting point, with various modifications to be determined. Drawings for Plan A are currently on display in the Library.

The ALFA bookstore has a great selection of gently used books to suit all tastes. They also have a wonderful children's section with hundreds of books for all age groups. You can buy a children's book for as little as 25 cents and most adult books sell for $1.00 to $3.00.

Next time you, or someone in your family, are looking for a good book to read, be sure to visit the ALFA Bookstore. The bookstore is located at 2554 Alpine Boulevard. For further information please go to their website at www.alpinelibraryfriends.org.

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