BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

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

DISTRICTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

November 2026

Beaumont Library

will be closed Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, and on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26 and Thanksgiving Day Friday, November 27.

Honoring a Beaumont World War II Vet Whose Family Survived Pearl Harbor

William Kauber was born in Eagle Rock, California, in 1911 to Herman Kauber and his wife, Elizabeth Hawley. Whether due to divorce or Herman's death, she married Frank Winden in 1914. That is why Kauber was known as Bill Winden while growing up in Beaumont.

As the story goes, Bill left Beaumont High School during his senior year to join the U.S. Navy. But he came back to town in 1933 to get married. According to the Daily Gazette, Grace Evelyn Bailey and William Lewis Kauber were "two of Beaumont's popular young people" when they were "united in wedlock." They made their home in Long Beach, where he was stationed on the U.S.S. Milwaukee, and later in San Diego.

Within the next few years, Mrs. Kauber and her children were spending more time with family back home while Mr. Kauber was honored for

(continued inside)

his marksmanship, earned a commercial pilot's license, became a naval aviation pilot, and began training other sailors how to fly.

By 1941, he was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and his family joined him early that year. Little did they know that by December 7, the naval base would be hit in a surprise attack by the Japanese. As it happened, Lt. Kauber was at a base on Midway Island, but his wife and three young children had to dive into a grassy ditch to escape harm during the bombing. While Kauber was "somewhere in the Pacific" fighting the war, his family returned to Beaumont in April 1942.

During World War II, Kauber spent time in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines while conducting bombing and transport missions. By 1944, he was squadron commander of 110 enlisted men and 56 officers. After the war, Lt. Cmdr. Kauber was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, for successful attacks on enemy shipping, after having previously received the Air Medal with a Gold Star.

Unfortunately, the frequent separations caused by his naval service and the war led to the end of his marriage. By 1950, both he and his wife had remarried; he ended up in Washington state where he died in 1972; she stayed in Beaumont where she raised their children and died in 1964.

Director Emeritus Dickinson Is Retiring After Over A Decade At Beaumont Library

Luren Dickinson came to Beaumont Library District in May 2016 as the Principal Librarian overseeing Outreach and Youth Services. Eleven months later, he was named Director.

A native of Lockport, New York, he earned his MLS degree from UCLA and had most recently served for eleven years as the Director of the Shaker Heights Public Library in Ohio. Before that he was Director of the countywide Jackson District Library in Michigan (above, posing there with their famous Lincoln statue in 2002);

Director of the Reading Public Library, as well as District Library Center Administrator for Berks County, in Pennsylvania; and County District Librarian for the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library in Ohio.

Overall, his professional career has spanned 52 years, and he has served as a Library Director in academic and special libraries, as well as in public libraries. Accomplishments over that time included:

- Planning and constructing a 37,000 square foot library facility in Ohio
- Helping set up the first statewide Internet service for public libraries in Ohio
- Creating authenticated database access for a business with offices nationwide
- Designing an early library website in English and Spanish in Pennsylvania
- Building a county high-speed Internet wide area network in Pennsylvania
- Working with Maya Angelou, Elmore Leonard, John Updike, Anthony Doerr, etc.
- Completing a needs assessment and master plan for 14-building Michigan system
- Receiving 5-Star Library Journal rating and Top 10 Hennen rating in Ohio
- Circulating over a million items a year for more than a decade in Ohio
- Purchasing Beaumont Library's first Bookmobile with a $224,000 grant
- Using a $4.8 million grant and $8 million in bonds to expand Beaumont Library

As part of the Beaumont Library Board's succession planning, he coordinated the nationwide search in 2024 for a new Director. When Kelly Van Valkenburg was appointed in 2025, he became Director Emeritus with oversight of building construction and financing.

According to Dickinson, "Being here at Beaumont Library District has been the capstone of my career. We have been able to move forward with technology through wireless access, high speed Internet, and an improved website with better access to e-books, databases, and streaming services. And now our expanded building is offering the kind of services to individuals and families in Beaumont and Cherry Valley that modern libraries can provide."

Dickinson and his wife will be relocating to Ohio later this month to live near their son, but they plan to return to Beaumont early next year to participate in the dedication and ribbon cutting of Beaumont Library's expanded and newly renovated building.

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Get this newsletter by email at info@mybld.org or get our e-newsletter at www.mybld.org/subscribe-to-our-monthly-library-enewsletter.

Beaumont Library District

125 East Eighth Street

Beaumont, CA 92223

951-845-1357

mybld.org

Library Hours

Sunday—1 to 5 p.m.

Monday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bookmobile Stops

Mondays—11 a.m., Chatigny Community Center

Wednesdays—1 p.m., Solera (Limited to residents)

Wednesdays—2:15 p.m., Blossom Apartments

Thursdays—3:15 p.m., Liberty Village

2nd & 4th Fridays—10:30 a.m. Petco; Storytime at 10 a.m.

Saturdays—9:30 a.m., Mickelson Park

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