

# Locals enjoy free concert at Birchard Library

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David Lester performs Tuesday on the lawn of the Birchard Public Library. The Brown Bag Lunch concert series continues next Tuesday with Nancy Harlett's folk music. / Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

FREMONT -- As temperatures neared 90 in the middle of the day Tuesday, about 25 people gathered under shade trees next to Birchard Library to let cool melodies wash over them.

Some unwrapped sandwiches during the lunch hour concert, while others just sat back and enjoyed Helena musician David Lester's acoustic guitar and vocals.

The Brown Bag Lunch concert series, sponsored by Friends of Birchard Library, is an attempt to draw residents to the local library, Director Pam Hoesman said.

"We want people to come to the library," Hoesman said. "We need the community support."

The series runs from noon to 1 p.m. each Tuesday in July. Hoesman said the first day of the series was overshadowed by

the Independence Day holiday, but she was glad to see such a good turnout Tuesday.

Lester played a number of popular songs including the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" and Journey's "Faithfully."

Local mother Kina LeJeune brought her five children Tuesday, who happily ate their lunches at a table and then sat, quietly listening to the music.

"It is a good excuse to come out," LeJeune said. "I like it because it exposes the kids to different music."

One of her foster sons, Navarion Robinson, said the picnic was his favorite part of the lunch concerts, which LeJeune has been regularly attending with her family since last year's series.

"I like eating," Robinson said as he bit into a peanut butter cup for dessert.

Phyllis Chambers, of Fremont, stopped by Tuesday to see Lester with her daughter, a friend of the local musician's.

"It was delightful," Chambers said. "I plan to go to as many as I can."

Another Fremont resident, Richard Binau, caught the concert by chance. Binau, recently elected president of Fremont's Rotary Club, got a chance to enjoy music while waiting for bicyclists to arrive at the library for a Rotary Club-sponsored fundraiser ride.

"I love the idea," he said. "I think the more a community does things like this, the better. These are the little gems we have in our backyards that people don't always take advantage of."

The series has two more hourlong concerts this year on Tuesday and July 26. Both begin at noon and are in Birchard Library's meeting room if there is inclement weather. Nancy Harlett's folk music will be featured next week, and David Rogers will perform American Indian flute music for the final concert.

Some chairs, benches and tables are provided at the library lawn and attendees are also welcome to bring a lunch and lawn chair to the free event.