<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
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| January 9    | • 2013 Board Calendar of Work  
• Conflict of Interest Policy  
• University Place Condominium Fees  
• Paper Management System  
• 2012 Operational Changes for Efficiencies and Savings  
• 2013 Board Calendar of Work  
• Core Skills and Qualities | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2013 legislation related to libraries  
• PLA Webinar  
• Report on Paul Allen Grant Award |
| January 25-30 | **American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Seattle, WA** |                                                                             |
| February 13  | • UP Condominium Declaration Amendment  
• KC Branch Opening: Opening event, Fundraising Campaign  
• EBook Blockage Campaign  
• Technology Plan: Update; Customer Survey | • Monthly Dashboard  
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• 2013 legislation related to libraries  
• 2012 Reciprocal Borrowing Report  
• 2013 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement |
| March 13     | • Reciprocal Borrowing Policy  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• Customer Satisfaction Surveys  
• 2012 Reciprocal Borrowing Report | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2013 Legislation related to libraries |
| April 10     | • Intellectual Freedom Training  
• Policy Review  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• UP Condominium Update | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• Steilacoom Friends Landscaping Proposal |
| April 24-26  | **Oregon Library Association/Washington Library Association Conference, Vancouver WA** |                                                                             |
| May 15*      | (Rescheduled from May 8 - approved at March 13th Board Mtg.)  
• 2012 Year-End Financial Review  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• Learning Organization  
• Naming Policy  
• 2013 Staff Budget Survey  
• Conflict of Interest Policy | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• 2012 Year-End Financial Review  
• IMLS National Medal  
• Annual Report to Councils  
• ULC Innovations Initiative |
| June 12      | • 2012 Capital Projects – Year End Report  
• 2013 Mid-Year Budget Process  
• Board Succession Planning  
• ILL Service Changes  
• Intellectual Freedom Series | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• IRS Tax Form 990  
• PC Reads Final Report  
• Paul Allen Grant Update  
• Summer Teen Reading  
• Bookmobile Seasonal Service  
• Summer Irrigation Plan  
• Our Own Expressions |
| June 20-26   | **American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Washington DC** |                                                                             |
| July 10      | • 2013 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment:  
  a) Operating Budget  
  b) Capital Improvement Plan  
• Intellectual Freedom: CIPA and filtering  
• Board Support of the Foundation  
• Workforce Partnership Agreement | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>• 2014 Budget: budget calendar and process</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
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<td>• 2014 Capital Improvement budget: 10-year projection and proposal to reduce set aside</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
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<td>• 2014 CPIU</td>
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<td>• Community Profiles</td>
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<td>• Branch Service Plans</td>
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<td>• Board Vision of Library Future</td>
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<td>• Intellectual Freedom</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>• 2014 Budget: Estimated revenue and expenditures</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
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<td>• Current and Future needs of the Library (September)</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
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<td>• Board discussion of: Essential Competencies for Executive Position</td>
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<td>• Library Card Purging Policy</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>• Review of Regular 2014 Draft Revenue and Expenditure</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
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<td>• *2014 pre certification of property tax levy</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Statement</td>
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<td>• *IPD for 2013 Property Tax Levy</td>
<td>• Set 2014 Board Meeting Schedule</td>
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<td>• *Review of 2014 draft revenue and expenditures</td>
<td>• Director Evaluation: Review Procedures</td>
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<td>• 2014 – 2016 Cash Flow</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>• First Public Hearing Regarding 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
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<td>• Review and approval to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2014</td>
<td>• Resolution: Schedule of Recurring Meetings</td>
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<td>• Review of Regular 2014 Capital Improvement Budget and 2014 Capital Improvement Plan</td>
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<td>December 11</td>
<td>• Second Public Hearing Regarding 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
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<td>• Resolution to transfer a portion of the fund balance of the general fund to the capital improvement fund</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
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<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Resolution: Cancellation of unredeemed warrants</td>
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<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2014 Capital Improvement Fund Budget</td>
<td>• Pierce County Library Foundation Annual Report</td>
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<td>• Motion to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2014 (if needed)</td>
<td>• 2014 Insurance Renewal</td>
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<td>• Resolution to set 2014 wages for non-represented staff</td>
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<td>• 2014 Election of Officers</td>
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<td>• Negotiate 2014 Executive Director Agreement</td>
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Library Activities

- The Library Corner: Reading recommendations
- Arts & Entertainment: New Book’s Appeal Proving Strong among Readers of All Ages
- Washington's Second Library is Also the First
- Heroin Addict Helps UP Police Search His Vehicle...
- Pierce County Library to Skip Watering Its Lawn This Summer
- Brown is the new green for Pierce County Libraries
- Vote for the next Pierce County Library cards, designed by local students
- Gig Harbor/Lakewood/UP/Puyallup Students Among Finalists in Library Card Design Contest
- Celebrate early learning at Lakewood library
- Day care provider makes her way to the White House
- PSD students place well in county library contest
- Make the most of e-readers
- Free healthful cooking class offered at Tillicum Library
- 20 finalists chosen in library system's contest
- Computer classes available at GH Library
Here are some reading recommendations from the Library staff serving Anderson Island:


**The Sandcastle Girls** by Chris Bohjalian. A sweeping historical love story inspired by the author's Armenian heritage. For readers of books like *Sarah's Key*.

**Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman** by Robert K. Massie. A gripping biography, perfect for history lovers, fans of the great epic Russian novels, & readers of Robert Massie's previous books.

Free online tutoring every day for kids 1-20 pm at www.piercecountylibrary.org/kids-teens
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: NEW BOOK’S APPEAL PROVING STRONG AMONG READERS OF ALL AGES

THE TACOMA WEEKLY

// AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR SIGNING JUNE 8 AT CAFÉ BROSSEAU

New book’s appeal proving strong among readers of all ages

Images Courtesy Of Author

Matt Nagle
Tuesday, 4 June 2013
South Sound writer S.E. Shell has written a charming new children’s book that is proving to be a hit with young readers and adults alike. “Coffee with Orange Sherbert” has been out on retail bookshelves for only a few months, but it quickly received a five-star rating on Amazon and was listed as a bestseller for the first week of February this year by the American Booksellers Association.

On June 8, Shell and the book’s illustrator, award-winning Gig Harbor artist Mary Elizabeth Smith, will be at Café Brosseau in Proctor District signing copies from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A former journalist, this is Shell’s first book. “Writing a book was basically a natural extension of what I do,” she said, noting how the tale parallels some of her own life experiences. “This story’s been in me for a long time.”

“Coffee with Orange Sherbert” tells the heartwarming story of a friendly ginger tabby cat named Orange Sherbert who lives amid the wharves and docks in the waterfront town of Brookings along the Oregon coast. A popular kitty, everyone seems to love “Sherbie” and takes care of him. As written in the story, Sherbie got his name, and spelling (Sherbert), from children who knew him at the local ice cream shop. Since the kids liked to pronounce the popular flavor "sher-bert," that was what they called him and it stuck.

“Writing a book was basically a natural extension of what I do. This story’s been in me for a long time.” - S.E. Shell, author of “Coffee with Orange Sherbert"

One day Sherbie meets a young woman who is new in town, a newspaper reporter starting her new job. A transplant from the “big city” and now in a very small town, the standoffish locals eye her with suspicion. This makes the girl feel very lonely – until she meets Sherbie. “Sometimes she sees, when the harbor closes down at night, that he’s very lonely too,” Shell explained. “She finds solace in this cat. They’re like kindred spirits.” The two pals begin meeting at the local coffee shop early each morning, and a magical bond develops between them. It is not long before tragedy strikes, offering a big surprise for readers, but it seems nothing can come between Sherbie and his friend leading to a very happy ending for everyone.

Alienation, prejudice, finding friendship in strange places and comfort with a new friend... Everyone knows these feelings, and these are the larger lessons in “Coffee with Orange Sherbert” that make the book appealing to all ages. In fact, Shell said many have purchased the book to send to United States military soldiers overseas. Readings at area schools have been a hit as well.

“We’ve done several readings at schools and kids love the book,” Shell said. “Animals don’t care what city you’re from or if you’re new in town – they’re unbiased. And everyone can relate to finding a friend.”

Beautifully illustrated with picturesque harbors and seaside life, “Coffee with Orange Sherbert” is as engaging to look at as it is to read. Smith’s watercolors bring life to the characters and visually set the tone for the book’s gentle

Painting since she was 5 years old, Smith runs her own graphic design business (http://www.harborart.com) and today is a graphic designer for the Washington State Fair. Her paintings have won awards in national, regional and local art shows and she has been in laudable juried shows that include the Northwest Watercolor Society’s National Exhibition, the annual Puget Sound Area Exhibition at the Frye Art Museum and the Maritime Invitational Art Exhibition in Seattle.

Smith said she appreciated the artistic license Shell afforded her from the start of the project. “It was the freedom to come up with a look that I developed in my mind from reading (Shell’s) descriptions. She liked my painting style and gave me the freedom to create what I thought the scene would include,” Smith said.

“I really scored when I got hold of her,” Shell said of Smith. “One of her specialties is drawing harbor scenes. When I went looking for an illustrator, this is something I looked for. She just nailed it.”

Throughout June, Smith is showcasing her new works at Gig Harbor’s Kimball Espresso Gallery (6950 Kimball Dr.) and will have a reception on June 16 at 4 p.m., combined with a “Coffee with Orange Sherbert” book signing.

Washington State Library: Between the Lines Blog

Washington’s Second Library is Also the First

June 12th, 2013 by Matthew Roach Posted in Articles, For Libraries, For the Public, State Library Collections, WSL 160 | No Comments »

From the desk of Steve Willis, Central Library Services Program Manager of the Washington State Library:

Although the Washington Territorial/State Library was formed in 1853, making it the first library and indeed cultural institution in Washington to be supported by public funds, the distinction of becoming the very first community library belongs to Steilacoom.

In our Rare Vault, WSL has two copies of the Constitution, by-laws, and rules and orders of the Steilacoom Library Association, Washington Territory: organized in March, 1858, which was published in 1860. One of the copies has a news clipping attached to the back cover, dated 7 Feb. 1926, apparently from the Tacoma Daily Ledger:

Steilacoom Library Has Rare Old Books
Movement Under Way to Prepare Fitting Home for Many Valuable Volumes of Historical Interest; First Library Organization Formed in 1857-58

Books, rare old volumes, representing the first library in the state of Washington, are contained in the Steilacoom library. It is but recently the men and women of Steilacoom have begun an active movement to restore the library and secure a home for the institution that will fit with the historical interest centering about this early library.

An article on the founding of the library was recently prepared by Mrs. William A. O’Donnell of Steilacoom and read by her sister, Mrs. Neil Henly, before the annual meeting of the library association January 12. It said, in part:

“During the fall and winter months of 1857-58 a group of citizens, trying to kill time in a corner grocery, in the then flourishing town of Steilacoom conceived the idea of trying to improve their spare time by organizing a library association and at the same time have a place to meet for social intercourse.”

“A call was sent out and the first meeting was held in the grocery store of Philip Keach, on the corner of main and Commercial streets. Meetings were held from time to time. Then a committee was sent to the State Legislature in January 1858, headed by Secretary W.H. Wood of the library.”

“The result of this was that the first library of the state was formed and known as the Steilacoom Library association. This was agreeable to the act of the Legislature passed February 3, 1858. The object of the association, it was agreed, would be the diffusion of useful knowledge and sound morality. A reading room was to be established, procuring public lectures and debates.”

“Among the signers of the first record very few are alive, but the names familiar now are E.R. Rogers, John Sarltar, E.A. Light, Ezra and John Meeker, Stephen and Paul Judson and Charles Prosch.”

“Money was collected and E.A. Light went to San Francisco to buy books. Some of the first 600 volumes are in the present library.”

“The first home of the library was in the brick store of McCaw & Rogers, with Mr. Rogers as librarian. The years passed and members scattered, until the association was almost forgotten. In 1892 a few interested citizens took the matter up and a reorganization was effected. A.L. Bell was elected librarian. As many of the books as possible were rebound, but this was not much of a success. In 1900 W.L. Bair had the books moved from the old brick store to his drug store and then to the Iron Springs hotel safe, as he realized the old books would become valuable.”

“In 1914 the Women’s Commercial club solicited books from each member, until a number of new books were secured. This club disbanded and a few remaining members took over the books and formed a library association under the old constitution and bylaws of the Steilacoom library. When the Iron Springs hotel was sold the library was again without a home.”
"Then the new and old library consolidated and since that time those interested have been working hard to keep a roof over the books by social gatherings and other means and hope to secure a permanent home for the oldest library in the state."

"At present Mrs. T.A. St. Clair is president of the association; Mrs. F.H. Chelius, vice president; Mrs. William J. Bradley, secretary, and Mrs. E.D. Annis, treasurer."

Like the Washington State Library, Steilacoom’s library has had an eventful and perilous history, but has survived and continues to serve citizens to this day.

Other pre-November 1889 territorial library efforts:

1860, January: Seattle Library Association formed, according to Thomas Prosch, followed by several reorganizations for the next couple decades. Actual books were not acquired until 1866. In 1881 the collection was donated to the University of Washington.

1860, November: Lyceum and Library Association, Olympia. A series of lectures failed to excite the interest of the public in funding a new library.

1862: University of Washington. The UW Library did not have a book budget until 1880, existing purely on donated material up to that point. In 1867 the University was missing so many books that an edict limiting circulation to students and teachers was issued.

1864: Walla Walla Library Association began organization in 1864 and incorporated in 1865. Eventually Walla Walla’s library shifted from a subscriber-based foundation and in 1878 actually built and opened what was possibly the first free public library in Washington with a full-time librarian. The experiment came to an end in 1888 due to costs.

1865: Holy Angels College Library, Vancouver. This collection of over 300 volumes was supplied by the Vancouver Catholic Library Association during the College’s quarter century or so existence.

1869, August: Tacoma Lodge of the Good Templars (Olympia). Capt. D.B. Finch, who skippered a mail steamer, donated a building to Olympia for the express purpose of establishing a free public library. By 1878, due to lack of funds, the library had to charge a subscription fee, but that failed to keep the institution alive. The collection was given to the Washington State Library in the 1890s. For a couple years in the 1870s the Territorial Library was housed in the same building.

1873: The Tacoma Reading Room. This short-lived venture began in a tent, which also served as a church on Sundays.

1875: Mrs. Maynard’s Reading Room, Seattle. Catherine Maynard, Doc’s widow, established a free reading room in her downtown Seattle home. In 1876 the collection was moved to the YMCA. Trivia: Mrs. Maynard may have been the person responsible for introducing the dandelion to the Puget Sound area.
1876: Dayton began as a free public library, but was forced to move to a subscription-based model after a year.

1878: The Vancouver Library Association worked in cooperation with the local Odd Fellows to create a free public reading room. In 1891 the collection was given to the newly formed Vancouver Public Library.

1880: The Spokane Library was free to the public and started out with 41 volumes. After a few fits and starts it eventually morphed into Spokane Public Library.

1882: Whitman College makes the first purchases of books for a library.

1882: The city of Colfax worked in cooperation with the Colfax Academy to form a subscription library.

1886: The Mercantile Library of Tacoma began as a reading room in the home of Mrs. Grace R. Moore. Within a few years it was moved downtown and became Tacoma Public Library.

1887: Mr. Bonney’s Book Collection, owned by W.W. Bonney in Ellensburg, was opened to the public. The Ladies Municipal Improvement Society took control of it for several years before the library was presented to the city.

1887, September: Gonzaga University opens and even employs a librarian in the first year.

1888, June: The Ladies Library Association in Seattle started a process of creating a new library, which finally happened after Seattle’s great 1889 fire.
Heroin Addict Helps UP Police Search His Vehicle, Teens Harass Library Visitors Because They're 'Bored'

UP Library

The following arrest and crime information has been supplied by the University Place Police Department. It does not indicate a conviction.

Posted by Lauren Padgett (Editor), June 11, 2013 at 08:47 am

5 Comment Recommend
Flag as Inappropriate

JUNE 4, 2013

Drug Possession, Warrants: An officer on patrol near 27th St. W. and Mildred Street West ran the license plates of a Ford Ranger and found that the driver had a felony warrant out for his arrest. The officer followed the vehicle to a parking lot on Sunset Dr. W. and 27th St. W. An officer searched Wade and the plastic cap to a syringe fell out of his pocket. Stuffed inside the cap was a plastic baggy of methamphetamine. A “drug kit” was found in the car, along with another plastic baggy that contained 1.5 grams of black tar heroin. The man was honest and forthcoming with police and didn’t want them to get harmed by the needles, so he made sure to tell police where to find everything. He said he got quickly addicted to opiates after back surgery and his addiction turned to heroin when pills became too expensive to purchase. He was arrested and booked for meth possession, heroin possession, paraphernalia and warrants.
Stolen Vehicle: At approximately 4:57 p.m. officers observed a Honda Civic travel past. They ran a routine license check on the vehicle, which revealed it was stolen. Police pulled over the car in the Meadow Park Garden Court Apartment complex on Hannah Pierce Road W. The driver tried to exit the vehicle after stopping but was quickly placed under arrest. The man said he didn’t know the car was stolen, despite having to start it with a screwdriver. He insisted that he borrowed the vehicle from a friend, but couldn’t provide a physical description of the person and claimed he didn’t know his address or phone number. He had a felony warrant for his arrest, for vehicle prowls. A search of the car revealed multiple GPS mounts and a damaged steering column.

Stolen Motorcycle: At approximately 9:41 p.m. officers responded to a stolen vehicle report. The victim parked his motorcycle in front of the flower entrance to Fred Meyer and left the keys in the ignition. He returned to find it stolen and walked back to Lakewood to report the theft.

Harassment: An officer responded to the University Place Public Library at 9:50 p.m. for a report of six juveniles harassing people as they exited the library. There were also reports of a 16-year-old man lifting up his shirt to people as they walked out of the library. One of the individuals had previously been trespassed from the library property and he was arrested for violating the order. The teen who had been lifting his shirt and yelling at people told the officer he was “bored.” He was issued a trespass warning.
Pierce County Library to Skip Watering Its Lawn This Summer

Lawns at the Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner locations are among those that will not get watered this summer.

Posted by Akiko Oda (Editor), June 7, 2013 at 12:15 pm
2 Comment Recommend

Pierce County Library System officials are saying "brown is the new green" as they plan to not water the lawn at 12 of its locations this summer.

Of the 19 library properties (18 libraries and the main processing and administrative center), the Library will not water the lawn this summer at 12 locations that have grass.

If you could save money and resources by not watering your lawn this summer, would you do the same? Tell us in the comments below.

Those include: Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, Fife, Graham, Lakewood, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit and Sumner Pierce County Libraries, as well as the Processing and Administrative business office.
By not watering its lawn, Marketing & Community Relations Director Mary Getchell said it'll save money and water resources for the Library System.

"The Library System anticipates $8,300 in savings from not watering and mowing less," she said. "At all locations that have shrubs we will continue the minimal watering of those, as they are not all drought tolerant and we certainly do not want to replace them—the shrubs do not rebound in the fall as grass does."

In the Pacific Northwest homeowners and businesses often go without watering their lawns, and the grass rebounds in the fall.

Library officials will share and discuss these plans at their upcoming board meeting on Wednesday, June 12.

The Board of Trustees will meet at the Library's Processing and Administrative Center, 3005 112th St. E., in Tacoma, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Comments

Mary Anderson Dearing June 8, 2013 at 07:29 pm
What lawn? At Sumner there is a grassy area in the rear leading down to the river. At Bonney Lake they don't even that have that.

Recommend
Flag as Inappropriate

foreversound June 9, 2013 at 01:43 am
Last summer I watered my yard ONCE. It browned a little, and I was grateful that the Homeowner's Association didn't send a notice. A number of my neighbors also let their yards do the same.
Brown is the new green for Pierce County libraries
June 06, 2013 @ 11:49 am
Tacoma Weekly

Also published in: NEWS BRIEFS | Published in the Fife Free Press | Wednesday, 26 June 2013

At its June meeting, Pierce County Library System’s Board of Trustees will discuss plans to go brown this summer by not watering lawns on its properties, changes to borrowing books from other library systems, intellectual freedom and other issues.

The Board of Trustees will meet at the Library’s Processing and Administrative Center, 3005 112th St. E., in Tacoma, on Wednesday, June 12, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Pierce County Library does not plan to water grass on its properties this summer. Of the 19 library properties (18 libraries and the main processing and administrative center), the Library will not water the lawn this summer at 12 locations that have grass. Those include: Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, Fife, Graham, Lakewood, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, and Sumner Pierce County Libraries, as well as the Processing and Administrative business office. Not watering saves money and water resources. The Library System anticipates $8,300 in savings from not watering and mowing less. In the Pacific Northwest, homeowners and businesses often go without watering their lawns, and the grass rebounds in the fall.

The Library System is making changes to borrowing books from other libraries, known as the inter-library loan (ILL) service. The changes will make the service easier for people to use and save the Library System money. Starting June 30, a new feature in the Library’s online catalog will let customers search from outside a Pierce County Library building and manage their own accounts for items they may want from another library system. Previously people who wanted a book from a library system outside of Pierce County Library would need to make that request on a computer inside a library building or ask a staff person to fulfill the request. This will make the service available 24/7 from anywhere. The Library will limit customers to three active ILL requests at a time to better manage staff work flow. Customers who request ILL books now will pay for any charges/fees from other libraries. In 2012, the Library paid $7,200.00 in fees from other libraries.

During the next several months, staff will be talking at board meetings with the trustees about intellectual freedom. It is based primarily on the First Amendment in the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights and related court rulings. It is a core principle of libraries and directs the selection of books and other materials and access to the Internet via library computers. Intellectual freedom is also based on the Fourth Amendment and related court decisions regarding an individual’s right to confidentiality in their use of library materials and services. At the June meeting, staff will share how it selects books, movies and other materials based upon intellectual freedom to offer a wide selection with a variety of diverse and opposing points of view.

The Library serves 555,000 people in all of unincorporated Pierce County and 15 cities and towns.
Vote for the next Pierce County Library cards, designed by local students
South Puget Sound News
June 18, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

A public vote will decide the design for the next Pierce County Library System’s library cards, designed by local students. Pierce County residents may choose the winners by voting online at the Library’s website, now through July 6.

During a free contest nearly 1,000 students throughout Pierce County submitted designs. Their art included submissions using pencil, pen, paint, camera and computer.

“Every entry shined with creativity and a unique view of the student’s personal library story or perspective,” said Neel Parikh, executive director for Pierce County Library. “Now it is up to the public to decide the design for our next library cards. The winning artists’ cards will be reproduced into 10,000 cards and available for free this fall during our card drive—pretty amazing exposure for a young artist!”

Professional artists reviewed entries and selected 20 finalists. Grades K-6: Trinity Brown, Puyallup, Naches Trail Elementary School; Megan Cannon, Puyallup, Fruitland Elementary School; Hunter Erwin, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School; Claire Hughes, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School; Amanda LaVoie, Spanaway, Pioneer Valley Elementary School; Grayson Loupas, University Place, University Place Primary School; Josiah McGinnis, University Place, University Place Primary School; Ainsley Peterson, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School; Nolan Robison, Puyallup, Brouillet Elementary School; and Madison Schumacher, Tacoma, Brookdale Elementary School.


The Library will announce the winning designs later this summer. A graphic designer will fashion the two winning designs—one from each grade category—into library cards that will be replicated into 10,000 cards. The student-designed cards will be available for free, in addition to other designs that the Library offers, during the Library’s seventh annual card drive this fall.

With a Pierce County Library card people have access to an array of free services, including 1 million books, movies, E-books, audiobooks and songs to download to computers and portable devices. Pierce County Library cards also give access to online professional tutors and coaches to help with homework and getting jobs.
Gig Harbor/Lakewood/University Place/Puyallup Students Among Finalists in Library Card Design Contest
Gig Harbor Patch, Lakewood Patch, UP Patch, Puyallup Patch
The two winning designs will be replicated into 10,000 cards, which will be available during the Pierce County Library System’s seventh annual card drive this fall.

Posted by Akiko Oda (Editor), June 17, 2013 at 09:48 am
Comment 1 Recommend

"Rocket" Credit: Pierce County Library System
The Pierce County Library System announced the 20 youth finalists for its library card design contest on Monday, and among them are three elementary school students from Gig Harbor.

During a free contest earlier this spring, nearly 1,000 students throughout Pierce County submitted designs. Their art included submissions using pencil, pen, paint, camera and computer.

Out of those submissions, a total of 20 designs have been selected by professional artists, and from now through Saturday, July 6, Pierce County residents can vote online for their favorite design, which will be made into 10,000 library cards this fall.

To vote, click here or at the Library's website, www.piercecountylibrary.org search site: card contest.

Here's a list of the finalists:

Grades K-6:

- Trinity Brown, Puyallup, Naches Trail Elementary School
- Megan Cannon, Puyallup, Fruitland Elementary School
- Nolan Robison, Puyallup, Brouillet Elementary School
- Hunter Erwin, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School
- Claire Hughes, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School
- Ainsley Peterson, Gig Harbor, Harbor Heights Elementary School
- Amanda LaVoie, Spanaway, Pioneer Valley Elementary School
- Grayson Loupas, University Place, University Place Primary School
- Josiah McGinnis, University Place, University Place Primary School
- Madison Schumacher, Tacoma, Brookdale Elementary School
Grades 7-12:

- Kourtney Baxter, Bonney Lake, White River High School
- Karly Dammel, Puyallup, Home School
- Nashesha Rowberg, Puyallup, Stahl Junior High School
- Kelly Lavelle, Puyallup, Rogers High School
  - Isabel Shin, Puyallup, Mount Rainier Lutheran High School
  - Katie Howard, Lakewood, Steilacoom High School
  - Janae Phelps, Tacoma, Cascade Christian Junior High School
  - Kazia Smith, Buckley, White River High School
  - Paige Wilson, Buckley, White River High School
  - Spencer and Gabriella Smith, Graham, Home School

The Library will announce the winning designs later this summer. A graphic designer will fashion the two winning designs—one from each grade category—into library cards that will be replicated into 10,000 cards.

The student-designed cards will be available for free, in addition to other designs that the Library offers, during the Library's seventh annual card drive this fall.

Credit: Jenny Manning
Celebrate early learning at Lakewood library

Ben Sclair | June 6, 2013 | 0 Comments

By Mary Getchell, Communications Director, Pierce County Library System

Join in the dedication of the Steve Albers Early Learners area during a free event at Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Road S.W., on Saturday, June 8. The dedication of the Steve Albers Early Learning area is at 11 a.m., with free events starting after the ceremony and running until 3 p.m.

"This celebration will spotlight the importance of giving preschool children the tools to learn and read," said Neel Parikh, executive director of Pierce County Library System. "The Early Learners area—where learning grows—will continue to honor the memory of our former Board of Trustees Chair Steve Albers and his service to Pierce County Library."

The Launch into Literacy celebration will have something for everyone. At 11 a.m., people will gather for the dedication of the Steve Albers Early Learners area. From 1 to 2 p.m., Daffodil Princesses will read stories, and children will have a chance to meet Lily the Ladybug Librarian. From 2 to 3 p.m., all ages will laugh and learn with Louie Foxx’s One Man Side Show, with magic and comedy.

The Early Learners area provides a place to make learning fun for the whole family, through interactive, hands-on activities. Computers designed for kids have top software programs for children. Furniture arrangements allow parents and caregivers to work while watching their children play and read.

Albers died in July 2012. He strongly supported library access to early learning for every child, and served actively in the community. He took on leadership roles in many nonprofit organizations, including Pierce County Library Foundation from 1997 to 2006 and Pierce County Library’s Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2012. Albers also helped raise funds for the Boys & Girls Club and United Way of Pierce County.

Launch into Literacy is a partnership program of United Way of Pierce County.
Day care provider makes her way to the White House

LARRY LARUE
Last updated: June 1st, 2013 12:15 AM (PDT)

Joelyn Cruz began a journey 21/2 years ago that took her from being a Spanaway stay-at-home mom to a home child-care provider, which in turn led her to the White House.

Where Michelle Obama hugged her last month. Twice.

"Amazing!" Cruz said. "And all because the Pierce County Library really cares about children."

Well, there's a bit more to it than that. And most of it has to do with Cruz, whose life was changed by the recession when her husband, Roland, lost a good job and had to go back to school.

"Like so many other people, we found ourselves in a position we never thought we'd be in," she said. "We had two kids in school, the youngest wasn't quite seven, the oldest was 17."

While the Cruz family was looking into options, a longtime friend of Cruz arrived one morning at the day care center where she took her children to find it had gone out of business overnight.

This single mom with four kids called Cruz, and Cruz said she'd help.

At first, she took care of the kids at the single mom's home, but that wasn't practical. Cruz wanted to be home with her family, too. She attended an orientation on home child care.

"It scared the mess out of me," she said. "I had no idea how to take care of someone else's child — the dynamics, the social issues, the responsibility."

Within six months, Cruz earned her Child Development Associate certificate, obtained a permanent child-care license and opened a home business, "Home on the Ranch," named in memory of her grandmother's ranch in Guam.

Then the hard work began.

"I realized how inadequate I was, and I didn't want to be a baby sitter, I wanted to help these little guys," Cruz said.

She jumped into the Early Achievers program, then the library's Early Literacy program. Everything she learned, she passed along to the children in her care.
“We recently did an ant hunt on one of our walks,” said Cruz, now 42. “We talked about it first, and the kids had questions: What do they eat, where do they sleep, what do babies look like?”

“So we watched the ants take down bees and worms, watched what they did, and then came back home and looked at books about them.”

Cruz took courses from the library on finding age-appropriate books for children. She’s now working with five kids and her own daughter, Madison, who is nine. The other children range in age from 10½ months to seven years.

Husband Roland, meanwhile, got a new job inspecting big equipment for the military. Like his wife, he has a child-care license and can step in if she’s ill.

With an average workday of 11½ hours, Cruz had plenty to do. And then she added to it: She began a Saturday breakfast club where home day care providers meet monthly to share questions and solutions. Cruz often brings in guest speakers.

Susan Anderson-Newham, the library’s Early Literacy supervisor, has been among them.

“They inspire each other and ask questions about multicultural books, about math and science,” Anderson-Newham said. “I’ll go back, research what’s available and give them a list. It’s wonderful interaction.”

When the Pierce County Library System was awarded the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal this year — the first Washington library selected in the 19-year history of the award — it was asked to have a community member represent the library.

Anderson-Newham nominated Cruz, who was asked to do a video, “How the library changed my life,” which was uploaded on YouTube.

Cruz didn’t know anything about the award until she was told she’d be flying to Washington, D.C. She went with the library’s executive director, Neel Parikh.

“I walked into the East Wing, and there were pictures of the president with his family, with his wife, his dog — like you’d see in your own house,” Cruz said. “I walked down the hall where there are pictures of past presidents and their wives, rooms filled with American history.

“Then, there was a hush. I looked over and saw her walking fast into the room with a big smile,” Cruz said of the first lady. “I got to shake her hand, and she asked me how I was doing. I tried not to stutter. She hugged me.”

That was the photo op. Later, they were called up to receive their awards. Cruz got hers and was walking away when a voice called her back. It was the first lady.

“She called me by my first name —‘Jo! Jo!’— and held me a minute longer. She hugged me and said ‘Thank you for all you do for our children.’
“None of it was political. It was about people and what makes our country amazing. When it comes to our children, it’s not about Democrats or Republicans.”

Larry LaRue: 253-597-8638 larry.larue@thenewstribune.com blog.thenewstribune.com/larue

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/06/01/v-printerfriendly/2620715/day-care-provider-makes-her-way.html#storylink=cpy
PSD students place well in county library contest

Three Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School students were winners in the recent Pierce County Library System's teen contest, Our Own Expressions.

Students from Pierce County, including home-schooled, submitted nearly 1,000 poems, short stories, photographs and drawings, which were judged by professionals in each field based on several criteria.

Eight Peninsula School District students were among the first- through third-place finalists, including Peninsula High's Jesse Mackinnon (third place, 11-12th grade drawing category, and second place, 11-12th grade photography) and Nick Tollefson (first place, 9-10th grade photography), and Key Peninsula Middle School's Merceila Washburn (second place, 7-8th grade photography).

"I like photography because photography lets me express different things, different emotions I wouldn't necessarily be able to express to someone with words," said Tollefson, who's been dabbling in photography for two years. "My plan is to get a degree in art, specifically in photography, and do photography for a living or teach it to adults. I've been told that if you love what you do and you love your job, you will never truly work a day in your life. If I become a successful photographer, I could travel the world and see the true beauty the world has to offer."

The winners of the annual contest showcased their work at a special public reception on May 30 at Pacific Lutheran University. They were awarded cash prizes ranging from $50 to $100, sponsored by the Pierce County Library Foundation.

"Students dazzle us each year with their amazing writing and art," said Neel Parish, executive director for Pierce County Library. "It is a joy and an honor to encourage these promising teenagers to share their talents and continue their creative efforts."
**GET OUT**

**TUESDAY**

Seattle Storm plays Washington Mystics

The Seattle Storm is back in town and you can see the team take on the Washington Mystics at 7 p.m. Tuesday at KeyArena, 305 Harrison St., Seattle. Tickets start at $19 and are available through Ticketmaster.

Learn about local history at Lakewood picnic

Bring your potluck dish and join the Lakewood Historical Society for its Picnic in the Park. Enjoy a picnic and learn the history of the park that used to be a farm run by the staff and inmates of Western State Hospital. It's at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Fort Steeleocc Park, large shelter, 88th Ave. SW, Lakewood, and it's free. Call 253-582-8682.

**THURSDAY-FRIDAY**

Health expo for runners at Century Link Field

If you're running in the Seattle Marathon or just interested in health and running, then make plans to attend the Marathon Health and Fitness Expo taking place at Century Link Field, 800 Occidental Ave. S., Seattle. For two days, more than 60 exhibitors will offer free samples and showcase the latest in running gear, sports apparel, health and nutritional information, and more. Pick up some last-minute race essentials before race day. All runners must visit the expo to pick up their race number, swag bag and T-shirt. Hours are noon-7 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday. Admission is free. Parking at the Century Link Field Event Center is $15 and will apply for the expo Thursday and Friday.

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Check out blog.thenewstribune.com/getout and calendar.thenewstribune.com for more events.
GET OUT

TUESDAY

Free healthful cooking class offered at Tillicum Library
If you're looking to expand your skills in preparing healthful meals, then check out the Healthy, Inexpensive and Delicious Nutrition Cooking Class at Tillicum Library. 15915 Washington Ave. SW, Lakewood. Learn about growing and cooking your own food from the WSU Extension Family Nutrition Education Program at the free noon class Tuesday. Call 253-548-3314 for more information.

Listen to The Gothard Sisters in free concert
The Summer Sounds at Skansie Outdoor Concert Series opens Tuesday with a 6:30 p.m. performance by The Gothard Sisters, a Celtic singing and dancing trio.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Taste of Tacoma takes over at Point Defiance Park
Get ready for a weekend full of good food at the Taste of Tacoma, Friday through Sunday at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. There will be, of course, lots of food choices, live music and entertainment, vendors, arts and crafts and plenty of family-friendly activities. Hours are 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free; food is sold separately.

SUNDAY

Cycle throughout the county with Tour de Pierce
For cyclists from advanced to recreational, the Tour de Pierce has a course just for you. Make plans to pull out your bike for a fun ride through Pierce County. Meet at the Puyallup Fair & Events Center, gold parking lot, 119 Ninth Ave., SW, at 7:30 a.m. Sunday. Registration is $18 per person, $22 for a family of four. Call 253-641-9515 for more information.
20 finalists chosen in library system's contest

The Pierce County Library System has selected 20 local finalists in its student-design contest for its next library cards. Pierce County residents now will choose the winners by voting online at the library's website, piercecountylibrary.org, under the "card contest" link. Voting is open through July 6.

Nearly 1,000 students throughout the county submitted designs. The winning artists' designs will be reproduced onto 10,000 cards and available free this fall during the library's card drive. Winners will be announced later this summer.

Staff report
Computer skills classes available at GH Library

- Gig Harbor Life staff report
- Kitsap Sun
- Posted June 26, 2013 at 6 a.m.

Learn basic computer skills and Microsoft Office programs for free at Pierce County Library System classes hosted at the Gig Harbor branch in July and August. Get started using an e-reader or iPad. Discover the world of social media and learn how to create a blog.

Register for classes at a Pierce County Library or sign up on the Library's online calendar @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.htm. Classes at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW are:

- 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 9: Drop-in help
- 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 16: Twitter for the tweetless
- 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 23: Drop-in help
- 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 30: Blogging for beginners
- 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6: Drop-in help
- 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 13: Pinterest for beginners
- 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 20: Drop-in help
Communications

- Congratulations from:
  - Puyallup Public Library
  - Prosecutor Mark Lindquist
- Email exchange between Stephen Neufeld, Marketing Executive of The Suburban Times, and Mary Getchell re Pierce County Libraries going brown this summer
Monday 17 June 2013

Linda Ishem, Chair  
Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees  
Processing and Administrative Center  
3005 112th Street East  
Tacoma WA 98446-2215

Ms. Ishem and the PCLS Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the staff, Friends, and patrons of the Puyallup Public Library, we congratulate you for your being selected as one of the ten 2013 winners of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Additionally, we congratulate you on being the first Washington state library recipient of the award.

We thank you for providing valuable and vital programs for the people of Pierce County, and for ensuring that our local communities have access to information and resources that they would perhaps otherwise be unable to attain or afford. Likewise, we thank you for your partnership in providing such services to the people of Puyallup through our reciprocal borrowing agreement. We look forward to continuing to partner with you, as both of our organizations strive to provide the best service, programs, and assets to the people of Pierce County.

Congratulations once more!

Troy Kehm-Goins  
PPL Board Chair  

Darice Hermann  
PPL Board Vice-chair  

Barbara Kastama  
PPL Board Member  

Heather Shadko  
PPL Board Member

Dee Dee Henry  
PPL Board Secretary
Neel,

Congratulations on the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. As J.F.K said, education develops our greatest abilities. Thank you for your work on a library system that enriches our community.

Prosecutor Mark Lindquist
From: Stephen Neufeld [mailto:stephen@thesubtimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 7:05 PM
To: Mary Getchell
Subject: Re: Brown lawns?

Thank you Mary.

The Pierce County library system has been such a great asset to our communities, I am hopeful that we can find ways to maintain the highest standards of service, including beautiful landscaping and green lawns. Usually, lawns can do with about half the water. It simply takes a managed approach for appropriate resource allocation. Often, slightly longer grass at each cut provides less water loss to evaporation and keeps grass greener for longer periods of time with less watering.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the community.
Stephen Neufeld

Stephen Neufeld
Marketing Executive,
The Suburban Times
stephen@thesubtimes.com<mailto:stephen@thesubtimes.com>
www.thesubtimes.com<http://www.thesubtimes.com>
253-318-7013

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On Wed, Jun 12, 2013 at 6:57 PM, Mary Getchell
<mgetchell@piercecountylibrary.org<mailto:mgetchell@piercecountylibrary.org>> wrote:
Hi Stephen. Thank you for your message regarding brown lawns. I provided a copies of your message to the Library’s Executive Assistant Petra McBride. Petra provided copies of your message to our Library’s Board of Trustees at this afternoon’s board meeting and entered your message as a formal public comment.

At the meeting, the Library’s Customer Experience Director Sally Porter Smith and I talked with the board regarding the Library’s plan to not water lawns this summer. We will water plants and shrubs and manage weeds and mow, as needed. We will monitor the lawns going brown, and, as needed, we will make adjustments, including turning on sprinklers, if warranted. The Library’s Board of Trustees agreed with the direction.

Thank you again for your message and interest.

Mary Getchell
Marketing & Community Relations Director Pierce County Library System
mgetchell@piercecountylibrary.org<mailto:mgetchell@piercecountylibrary.org>
3005 112th St. E. Tacoma, WA 98446
www.piercecountylibrary.org<http://www.piercecountylibrary.org>
From: Stephen Neufeld [stephen@thesubtimes.com<mailto:stephen@thesubtimes.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:18 PM
To: Cassie Creley
Subject: Brown lawns?
Cassie,

I just read, in The Suburban Times, about the Brown lawn idea for Pierce County libraries...

Though we can't come to the board meeting, I would like the board to know that our family (in Steilacoom) considers that a bad idea. Not only does it make the library look run down and uninviting, dead, dry grass also creates an extreme fire hazard--not a good idea for buildings full of books!

Could you share this sentiment with the board and let me know the email address of someone involved in that discussion.
Thanks so much!

Stephen Neufeld
Marketing Executive,
The Suburban Times
stephen@thesubtimes.com<mailto:stephen@thesubtimes.com>
www.thesubtimes.com<http://www.thesubtimes.com>
253-318-7013<tel:253-318-7013>

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Other Libraries

- Every Library and Museum in America, Mapped
- Library Clippings
- Pages for Prizes: Summer Reading Programs in Puget Sound
- JBLM libraries promote summer reading with prizes
- Younger Americans still use public libraries, survey finds
Every Library and Museum in America, Mapped

- EMILY BADGER, THE ATLANTIC CITIES
- JUN 07, 2013
- 31 COMMENTS

If you have ever felt overwhelmed by the ubiquity of McDonald's, this stat may make your day: There are more public libraries (about 17,000) in America than outposts of the burger mega-chain (about 14,000). The same is true of Starbucks (about 11,000 coffee shops nationally).

"There's always that joke that there's a Starbucks on every corner," says Justin Grimes, a statistician with the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington. "But when you really think about it, there's a public library wherever you go, whether it's in New York City or some place in rural Montana. Very few communities are not touched by a public library."

In fact, libraries serve 96.4 percent of the U.S. population, a reach any fast-food franchise can only dream of. On a map, that vast geography looks like this:

Grimes built that map this past weekend during the National Day of Civic Hacking, using the agency's database of public libraries. Each of those dots refers to an individual branch library (and a few bookmobiles), out of a total of 9,000 public library systems.

Similarly, here are America's 35,000 museums, as the IMLS has been cataloging them over the past several years as part of its Museum Count survey:
That picture includes zoos, arboretums, historical societies, art galleries, aquariums and just about anything trying to teach people about a collection of... something. The survey is still a work in progress, but this represents the most comprehensive database of museums in America.

Libraries and museums are both so thoroughly, densely spread across the landscape, Grimes jokes, that you could remove the physical boundaries of the United States from a map and still recognize the country by the geography of the places where we go to borrow books and learn about the universe.

Keywords: Maps, Museums, Libraries, McDonalds, zoos

Library Clippings

Whether it’s more than 140 people signing up for ID cards or city budgets remaining in line, Roy’s quarterly reports were, once again, positive. Library Director Cecelia Hanson said she spent a little more than $7,000 (35 percent) of the Roy City Library’s $20,199 budget, including $350 on library supplies. The library is waiting on four computers with wireless Internet.
(Nisqually Valley News [Yelm], 5.3.13)
Pages for Prizes: Summer Reading Programs in Puget Sound

Lauren Valencia
June 13, 2013 2:24 p.m.
Filed under: NewsBook ReviewsFun/Creative Ideas/Outings

Once upon a time, reading in the summer wasn't considered cool. Not anymore. With our bookish population and phenomenal libraries, tearing through books for prizes is as much a part of the Puget Sound summer experience for kids as **spray parks** and **berry picking**.

Libraries also offer many fantastic free events and programs throughout the summer, to keep kids (and adults) book-smart. Here's our roundup of local summer programs. Many have started already.

**Seattle Public Library**

The library kicked off its **summer reading program** by breaking the world record for the **longest domino chain** of, what else, books! (Watch the **video** to see it in action)! Appropriately titled “Expand Your Horizons,” this year's summer reading program at SPL encourages children to discover new paths.
Reading logs can be picked up at your local branch library, along with a Reading Ranger button and coupons for prizes. The rules are simple. After reading five books, kids win a Reading Ranger window cling. If kids read ten books, they get a free paperback of their choice.

The fun part for kids (and adults) is tracking their reads, redeeming their prize coupons, and, of course, expanding their horizons with each new book.

There are other nice incentives for reaching the goal, including a free pass to the Burke Museum (it can be used between July 1 and Oct. 31, 2013).

Speed readers who finish their ten books by August 5 can enter their name into a drawing for the Breakfast of Champions at the Space Needle. In addition to regular story time offerings, SPL has tons of free programs planned all summer long, including African drumming workshops, songs and stories by local kindie band The Harmonica Pocket, as well as hands-on science and movement activities.

Teens can participate online in “Follow Your True North,” and adults can join “Where Do You Want to Go?”

King County Library System

KCLS’s summer reading program — a spinoff of Washington County Libraries’ Dig Into Reading program — tracks minutes instead of books. Just sign up online, print out a reading log, and start counting. The goal for school-aged kids is 1,000 minutes of reading, while preschoolers can use an activity sheet to color in 20 books. Halfway prizes, a packet of Northwest seeds, are available July 1 for 500 minutes of reading for elementary schoolers, or 10 books for preschoolers.

If kids read 1,000 minutes or finish 20 books, they earn a KCLS Reader Bag, available August 1. If they meet their big goal by August 31, school-aged kids can enter in a drawing to win a Sony Reader, while preschoolers can enter to win a set of five passes to the Woodland Park
Zoo or a stack of books, and be entered to win one of three Family Memberships to KidsQuest Children’s Museum.

King County Libraries also offer activities and workshops all summer long, including I Dig Dinosaurs with Nancy Stewart, movies at the library and a variety of concerts.

Tacoma Public Library

Tacoma is offering three summer reading clubs this summer, which start on June 15 and end on August 10. Kids up to fifth grade can participate in the Dig Into Reading Club and read and report on ten books (or have ten books read to you). Everyone completing the club receives two tickets to a summer reading bash at the Point Defiance Zoo on August 17; two free games of bowling at Narrows Plaza Bowl; and a tote bag. Kids who complete ten books are also entered into weekly raffles, and kids who complete 20 books are entered into a drawing to win one of two iPads.

Teens can join the Beneath the Surface club; read and write a review of five books. After meeting the five-book goal, teens win ear “worm” buds, two free games of bowling, and two tickets to the reading bash on August 17, and are entered into weekly raffles. Ten book reviews get teens entered into the iPad drawing. And adults, take heed: They also have a program just for you called “Groundbreaking Reads.”

Snohomish County

Kids who sign up for Sno-Isle Libraries’ program can pick up or print out a field guide to keep track of their reading time. The goal is to read 1,000 minutes or ten books to win a free book and be entered into a drawing to win a free bike. As a bonus, you can earn an extra chance in the drawing for every additional 1,000 minutes of reading or ten books read. Sno-Isle Libraries also offer a range of engaging summer activities, with themes ranging from dinosaurs to magic.

Note: Thurston County is just posting their program this week; stay tuned!

About the author: Lauren Valencia is a former Seattle pre-K teacher and a freelance writer.

Photo credits: Thanks to our wonderful readers for their photo submissions of their kids reading. From top: Elizabeth, age 3, in one of her favorite reading cubbies; Sami at South Buzzard, his favorite Seattle bookstore; and Jude of Mountlake Terrace, enraptured with ‘Peek-a-Who’ by Nina Laden.

This article was originally written in 2012 and updated for 2013.
JBLM libraries promote summer reading with prizes

By Dean Siemon
Northwest Guardian

Whether it's "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens or a "Where's Waldo?" puzzle book by Martin Hanford, reading helps keep the brain active.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Book Patch Library and McChord Library are promoting the annual Summer Reading Program that challenges children and teens to read for 30 hours from June 17 to August 2. This year's theme is "Have Book Will Travel."

Young readers can select any book of their choice to accumulate hours for different prizes.

"If 'Where's Waldo?' gets kids reading, then so be it," said Maria Bilechka, children's services specialist at Book Patch Library. "It gets them in a book and you have to focus."

Three levels of prizes are awarded after every 10 hours completed. Readers keep track with a reading log provided by the libraries.

"They just color it in and it's the easiest way to keep track of their prizes," Bilechka said.

Book Patch Library has a variety of prizes for readers to choose from, including toys and book lights.

The McChord Library staff has their own stock of prizes as well, but they're being secretive of the items available for not only children, but also teens and adults.

"That's the fun part," said Isabel Mora-Shafter, library technician at McChord Library. "All of our prizes are ready to go for the months to come and they are hidden behind black butcher paper."

Once a reader reaches the 30-hour mark, both libraries will invite the registered readers to a grand finale party Aug. 7 with food, drinks, inflatable bounce houses and other activities.

As far as guidelines, participants can read books from home or from the library. Both paperback and hardback copies as well as books available on electronic devices such as Kindle and Nook are also encouraged.

"We don't see any competition between the books and the electronic devices," Mora-Shafter said. "Just as long as they read, we're happy."

Over the years more than 1,000 registered readers have participated during the summer program, with a recent increase in participation last year.

More than 1,200 children registered at Book Patch Library in 2012, with an additional 800 at McChord Library.

The first day to register for the program is June 17. Readers can still sign up any day afterward and still accumulate hours toward prizes with Aug. 2 the final day to finish in reading logs.

Dean Siemon - dean
siemon@nwguardian.com
Younger Americans still use public libraries, survey finds

The lobby of the Tom Bradley Wing of the Los Angeles Central Library is a bustling spot. (Anne Cusack / Los Angeles Times / October 16, 2012)

By Emily Alpert
June 25, 2013 11:58 a.m.

Think teens and twenty-somethings who are used to looking up everything on smartphones have little use for the public library?

Think again.

People in their 20s and older teens are just as likely as older Americans to have visited a public library in the last year — and about as likely to have taken out books or browsed the shelves once they got there, a new study from the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project finds. Nearly two out of three said they had a library card.

Young people do use libraries differently from older adults: They are nearly twice as likely to have used computers and the Internet there, and much more likely to have hung out in libraries to study or read, Pew found. They were less likely to have gotten help from a librarian.

Yet 80% of Americans between the ages of 16 and 29 said librarians were “very important,” the survey found. Three out of four said it was crucial that libraries offer books to borrow — just as many said the same about free access to computers and the Internet.

“Younger Americans don’t seem to be radically different from older adults in their conception of the library,” Kathryn Zickuhr, a Pew research analyst, said. “They think libraries should have books. They think libraries should have librarians. They think libraries should have quiet spaces.”
Pew also looked at reading habits of young Americans in general. In its survey, 82% of people ages 16 to 29 said they had read at least one book in any format in the last year -- bigger percentages than among older adults.

Though that might not be surprising to see among teenagers still in high school, reading was also slightly higher for people in their 20s compared with older adults, the study found.

Researchers also found that those in their 30s and 40s were most likely to have read an e-book. Nearly a third said they had read one in the last year, more than younger people and far more than among those 50 or older, the study found.

"E-reading is still fairly new," Zickuhr said. "We're not seeing very high rates of e-reading amongst younger adults. But that could rise and affect the image of the library."

The Pew survey included more than 2,200 people contacted via telephone, including land lines and cellphones, in October and November of last year.

Online Comments:

jskmail at 8:58 PM June 25, 2013

Our library when I was a kid was great. Small, but with big open windows and lots of light, going through the stacks every week for fun fiction to read was a big part of my young life. We love the downtown library (separate system but we have cards) and our County library. Now we do electronic checkout, although I like physical books while my wife likes Kindle. Reading. It's not just for first graders any more.

don9mm at 7:04 PM June 25, 2013

RE: "The Pew survey included more than 2,200 people contacted via telephone, including land lines and cellphones, in October and November of last year."

I wonder what percentage of older adults are likely to hang up on morons calling them up to ask dumb questions? My guess is it's a lot higher than 16-29 year olds.

jskmail at 8:54 PM June 25, 2013

Callers have 1.5 seconds to speak. If I hear indications of a boiler room (voices in the background) or it is not someone I know, I hang up. If they know us and meant to call and didn't speak in time, they will call back. As to the sales calls, requests for contributions and polls, hang up.

dgdevil at 2:13 PM June 25, 2013

God knows why people go to libraries anymore. They're just hangouts for smelly homeless people. The folks who work there are brave souls.

dubrovnik10 at 2:24 PM June 25, 2013

dgdevil there are always people like you who can take a really nice article and pee all over it.

Go away.
What’s Happening

• Tacoma becomes city of 200,000
• Award-Winning Local Author Brings Little Free Library to Wilkeson
• Trolley program good for city, Pierce Transit
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Tacoma becomes city of 200,000

The City of Destiny reached a new destination on April 1: 200,000 people.

Tacoma’s population surpassed that number for the first time in its history, according to the latest state population estimates released Thursday.

The city’s population grew by 800 people in the last year for a total population of 200,400, according to the estimates prepared by the state Office of Financial Management.

Tacoma remains the state’s third most populous city behind Seattle, population 626,600, and Spokane, population 211,300.

Spokane solidified its lead over Tacoma in the last 12 months, with the gap between the two cities’ populations growing to 10,900 people from 10,400.

Pierce County welcomed 6,300 new residents, increasing its total population to 814,500 from 808,200.

Washington state’s population experienced its largest annual growth spurt in three years as it added 64,600 residents for a total population of 6,882,400, estimates show.

The top 10 cities for population growth, in descending order, are Seattle, Bellevue, Pasco, Auburn, Renton, Kent, Spokane, Vancouver, Richland and Kennewick.

Housing growth also accelerated in 2013. The state added 23,300 housing units, an increase of 4,600 units, or 24 percent, as compared with 2012.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/06/28/2656854/tacoma-becomes-city-of-200000.html#storylink=cpy
Award-Winning Local Author Brings Little Free Library to Wilkeson
Bonney Lake Sumner Patch

Award-winning local author Peg Kehret is ensuring the small town of Wilkeson doesn't miss out on the novel idea of a small-scale book exchange, also known as a Little Free Library.

Posted by April Chan (Editor), June 24, 2013 at 09:33 pm

Credit: Peg Kehret

The phenomenon of little free libraries popping up all over Seattle neighborhoods was recently a featured story on KING5, and one award-winning local author is ensuring the small town of Wilkeson doesn't miss out on this novel idea of a small-scale book exchange.

Peg Kehret, whose pre-teen focused books have earned multiple young reader awards including Washington's Sasquatch Award for The Ghost's Grave, is a 13-year resident of the unincorporated area of Pierce County nestled between Wilkeson and Carbonado. "It feels like my hometown," she said.

Area residents are served by Pierce County Library System either at the Buckley or Bonney Lake branches, she said, but having their own 'little library' in town, however small, "people are really excited to have it," she said.

The Little Free Library project encourages individuals or groups to create kiosks where they live and start a book exchange program. "You take a book, return it, or keep it, and it's fine," said Kehret, who has donated the library in Wilkeson and is going to be its steward. "We're asking people to help restock by donating what they have. There's no library card, no fine, no due date. Just come and enjoy some books."

The library is located in front of the Wilkeson Post Office at 517 Church Street, which itself will almost guarantee high foot traffic. "We don't have mail delivery here," she said, "so everyone goes to the post office every day."

On Tuesday, June 25, Wilkeson Mayor Donna Hogerhuis will be on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming to the new addition to town. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend. The event begins at 7 p.m.
Trolley program good for city, Pierce Transit
The Peninsula Gateway

There hasn’t been a lot of good news of late for Pierce Transit. Earlier this month, the Pierce County Transit Board approved major reductions to bus routes, affecting every line and cutting service by 28 percent. Not surprisingly, it will mean significant cuts to outlying areas like the peninsulas.

Gateway Editorial Board
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0 Comments

There hasn’t been a lot of good news of late for Pierce Transit. Earlier this month, the Pierce County Transit Board approved major reductions to bus routes, affecting every line and cutting service by 28 percent. Not surprisingly, it will mean significant cuts to outlying areas like the peninsulas.

The cuts are in response to voters’ rejection last year of Proposition 1, which would have increased the county sales tax to maintain current transit levels.

Major service reductions come on the heels of layoffs of more than 80 Pierce Transit staff members.

Some members of the public, while not hostile to public transit in general, regard the cuts as the price to pay for what they consider Pierce Transit’s wasteful spending. For others, including many who live in the Key Peninsula area, the cuts severely restrict or take away the sole mode of transportation upon which they rely.

Like we said, there’s been a dearth of good news when it comes to Pierce Transit.

That’s why we are glad to see the agency launching a demonstration project for seasonal trolley service in Gig Harbor. The program, which will begin July 9 and run through Sept. 28, is a partnership with the City of Gig Harbor (see our story on page A1), the Gig Harbor Historic Waterfront Alliance, the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Gig Harbor Shopping Center merchants.

Right about now, you might be asking yourself the following: If Pierce Transit is in such bad financial shape, resulting in major service cuts and layoffs, then how can it afford to pay for a trolley test project in Gig Harbor? The short answer is: Necessity is the mother of invention.

The more detailed answer is: Pierce Transit, under new policy direction from the agency’s board of directors, is working with communities to find innovative solutions to community transportation needs.

In the case of the summer Gig Harbor trolley program, it means money and in-kind contributions from the private sector — the aforementioned organizations Pierce Transit is working with — and the city, which will kick in $10,000 from its nondepartmental budget.

In addition to the creative financing — a requirement during these difficult economic times — the summer trolley program makes sense in light of the fact that there’s a dramatic increase in activity downtown during the summer months.
Why trolleys? We’ll leave that up to Gig Harbor City Council member Derek Young, who also sits on the Pierce Transit Board of Directors.

In a recent post on his “Public Record” website, Young wrote: “We’ve settled on trolleys rather than regular buses because it provides a visual cue to people who aren’t traditionally transit riders.

“People who are unfamiliar with a transit system, particularly visitors from outside the area, typically won’t hop on a local bus because they’re not sure where it’s going, when it’ll return and what they’ll do when they get there.

“The very nature of a local trolley says ‘cool stuff you want to do this way.’

“Plus they’re kinda fun. Go to cities that already use these nostalgic wheeled trolleys, and you’ll see people riding it just for the experience.”

It seems like a win-win situation to us: Summer trolley service that doesn’t cost the public more money in terms of increased taxes.

How the program runs in the following months will determine whether or not it returns. There will be a small fee for riders, and transit officials will pay close attention to how much they recover from the fare box.

“It’s important to remember that this is a demonstration project,” Young writes. “We’ll be doing a lot of promotion in the coming weeks to ensure its success, but ultimately we’ll have to prove to the board that it had good enough use to justify full operation the following summer.”

It’ll be an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to try it and see if they like it.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/06/26/2653352/trolley-program-good-for-city.html#storylink=cpy
In Raising Scores, 1 2 3 Is Easier Than A B C

By MOTOKO RICH

TROY, N.Y. — David Javsicas, a popular seventh-grade reading teacher known for urging students to act out dialogue in the books they read in class, sometimes feels wistful for the days when he taught math.

A quiz, he recalls, could quickly determine which concepts students had not yet learned. Then, “you teach the kids how to do it, and within a week or two you can usually fix it,” he said.

Helping students to puzzle through different narrative perspectives or subtext or character motivation, though, can be much more challenging. “It could take months to see if what I’m teaching is effective,” he said.

Educators, policy makers and business leaders often fret about the state of math education, particularly in comparison with other countries. But reading comprehension may be a larger stumbling block.

Here at Troy Prep Middle School, a charter school near Albany that caters mostly to low-income students, teachers are finding it easier to help students hit academic targets in math than in reading, an experience repeated in schools across the country.

Students entering the fifth grade here are often several years behind in both subjects, but last year, 100 percent of seventh graders scored at a level of proficient or advanced on state standardized math tests. In reading, by contrast, just over half of the seventh graders met comparable standards.

The results are similar across the 31 other schools in the Uncommon Schools network, which enrolls low-income students in Boston, New York City, Rochester and Newark. After attending an Uncommon school for two years, said Brett Peiser, the network’s chief executive, 86 percent of students score at a proficient or advanced level in math, while only about two thirds reach those levels in reading over the same period.

“Math is very close-ended,” Mr. Peiser said. Reading difficulties, he said, tend to be more complicated to resolve.
“Is it a vocabulary issue? A background knowledge issue? A sentence length issue? How dense is the text?” Mr. Peiser said, rattling off a string of potential reading roadblocks. “It’s a three-dimensional problem that you have to attack. And it just takes time.”

Uncommon’s experience is not so uncommon. Other charter networks and school districts similarly wrestle to bring struggling readers up to speed while having more success in math.

In a Mathematica Policy Research study of schools run by KIPP, one of the country’s best-known charter operators, researchers found that on average, students who had been enrolled in KIPP middle schools for three years had test scores that indicated they were about 11 months — or the equivalent of more than a full grade level — ahead of the national average in math. In reading, KIPP’s advantage over the national average was smaller, about eight months.

Among large public urban districts, which typically have large concentrations of poor students, six raised eighth-grade math scores on the federal tests known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress from 2009 to 2011. Only one — in Charlotte, N.C. — was able to do so in reading.

Studies have repeatedly found that “teachers have bigger impacts on math test scores than on English test scores,” said Jonah Rockoff, an economist at Columbia Business School. He was a co-author of a study that showed that teachers who helped students raise standardized test scores had a lasting effect on those students’ future incomes, as well as other lifelong outcomes.

Teachers and administrators who work with children from low-income families say one reason teachers struggle to help these students improve reading comprehension is that deficits start at such a young age: in the 1980s, the psychologists Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley found that by the time they are 4 years old, children from poor families have heard 32 million fewer words than children with professional parents.

By contrast, children learn math predominantly in school.

“Your mother or father doesn’t come up and tuck you in at night and read you equations,” said Geoffrey Borman, a professor at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin. “But parents do read kids bedtime stories, and kids do engage in discussions around literacy, and kids are exposed to literacy in all walks of life outside of school.”

Reading also requires background knowledge of cultural, historical and social references. Math is a more universal language of equations and rules.

“Math is really culturally neutral in so many ways,” said Scott Shirey, executive director of KIPP Delta Public Schools in Arkansas. “For a child who’s had a vast array of experiences around the world, the Pythagorean theorem is just as difficult or daunting as it would be to a child who has led a relatively insular life.”
Education experts also say reading development simply requires that students spend so much more time practicing.

And while reading has been the subject of fierce pedagogical battles, “the ideological divisions are not as great on the math side as they are on the literacy side,” said Linda Chen, deputy chief academic officer in the Boston Public Schools. In 2011, 29 percent of eighth graders eligible for free lunch in Boston scored at proficient or advanced levels on federal math exams, compared with just 17 percent in reading.

At Troy Prep, which is housed in a renovated warehouse, teachers work closely with students to help them overcome difficulties in both math and reading, breaking classes into small groups. But the relative challenges of teaching both subjects were evident on a recent morning.

During a fifth-grade reading class, students read aloud from “Bridge to Terabithia,” by Katherine Paterson. Naomi Frame, the teacher, guided the students in a close reading of a few paragraphs. But when she asked them to select which of two descriptions fit Terabithia, the magic kingdom created by the two main characters, the class stumbled to draw inferences from the text.

Later, in math class, the same students had less difficulty following Bridget McElduff as she taught a lesson on adding fractions with different denominators. At the beginning of the class, Ms. McElduff rapidly called out equations involving two fractions, and the students eagerly called back the answers.

Because the students were familiar with the basic principles — finding the least common multiple of the denominators, rewriting each number as an equivalent fraction, adding the numerators, finding the greatest common factor, then reducing the final answer — they quickly caught on when she asked them to add three fractions.

New curriculum standards known as the Common Core that have been adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia could raise the bar in math. “As math has become more about talking, arguing and writing, it’s beginning to require these kinds of cultural resources that depend on something besides school,” said Deborah L. Ball, dean of the school of education at the University of Michigan.

Teachers and administrators within the Uncommon network are confident that they will eventually crack the nut in reading. One solution: get the students earlier. Paul Powell, principal of Troy Prep, said the school, which added kindergarten two years ago and first grade last fall, would add second-, third- and fourth-grade classes over the next three years.

Over time, teachers hope to develop the same results in reading that they have produced in math. Already, students at high school campuses in the Uncommon network in Brooklyn and Newark post average scores on SAT reading tests that exceed some national averages.

“I don’t think there is very much research out there to say that when you can take a student who is impoverished and dramatically behind, that you can fix it in three years,” said Mr. Javicsas, the seventh-grade reading teacher, who also coordinates special education at Troy Prep. “But I do think
the signs seem fairly positive that if we can take kids from kindergarten and take them through 12th grade, I think we can get there.”

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: June 4, 2013

An article on Thursday about efforts to help students improve reading and math skills omitted some skills that students in a math class needed to correctly add three fractions. They needed to find the least common multiple of the denominators, rewrite each number as an equivalent fraction, add the numerators, find the greatest common factor, then reduce the final answer — not just find the greatest common factor and reduce. The article also misstated, in some editions, the percentages of children who scored at a proficient or advanced level in math and reading after attending a school in the Uncommon Schools network for two years. Eighty-six percent, not 90 percent, scored that high in math, and two-thirds, not just over a third, reached those levels in reading.
Editorial: Cities stand up for transit service
Published in the Fife Free Press
Thursday, 30 May 2013

The cities of Fife, Milton and Edgewood are standing up for their right to be served by public transportation. This week Fife City Council and Edgewood City Council passed resolutions urging the Pierce Transit Board to shift away from the current plan for service cuts to the three cities.

The resolution concerns proposed cuts to two routes that run within the three cities. Route 501 goes from downtown Tacoma to Federal Way Transit Center. It runs along 20th Street East in Fife. At certain times of the day, it runs along Valley Avenue and 70th Avenue, past a number of businesses that employ substantial numbers of people. It runs through Milton and Edgewood and up Meridian Avenue into King County. It currently makes 30 trips on weekdays, 12 on Saturdays and 10 on Sundays.

Route 401 currently runs from Federal Way Transit Center south along Meridian Avenue, through Puyallup and ending near the Gem Heights section of South Hill. It currently makes 29 trips on weekdays, 22 on Saturdays and 18 on Sundays.

Pierce Transit has proposed eliminating the portion of Route 501 from Milton up to Federal Way, having the final stop just south of the county line. Weekday trips would be cut to 16, with no mid-day service. All weekend service would be eliminated.

Pierce Transit has proposed reducing runs on 401 from every hour to every two hours on weekdays and eliminating all weekend service.

Under the leadership of Fife City Councilmember Glenn Hull, who sits on the Pierce Transit Board, the three cities have proposed the creation of an alternative circular route concept. This route would run by the Puyallup Tribal Youth Center on Levee Road. It would serve approximately 4,200 Fife residents south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, many large employers and public facilities. It would connect residents of the three cities with shopping and health care destinations in Puyallup.

According to Pierce Transit data from 2011, the three cities contribute about $4 million each year to the agency, but in return get about $2.75 million each year in combined value of services.

Pierce Transit has been setting priorities and making cuts based on several factors. Serving densely populated areas is a priority, as is serving vulnerable populations. Tacoma has considerable density, as does Lakewood to some extent. Fife, Milton and Edgewood do not have the density of Tacoma. But they do have residents who meet the definition of vulnerable, such as the elderly and disabled who depend on mass transit to go shopping and for their doctor appointments. Route 501 runs near a number of apartment complexes where some residents have limited incomes and may not own a vehicle.
The resolutions express opposition to cuts to 501 and 402 and endorses creating the circular route. We urge the Pierce Transit Board to accept the recommendations offered in the resolution. Agency staff was recently presented with this proposal and expressed some openness to it.

Fife, with its many car dealerships, restaurants and other businesses, contributes a significant amount of sales tax revenue for Pierce Transit. And the two routes that run through Fife carry many people back and forth to their places of employment. In an economy that remains on shaky ground, getting people with jobs to work should be a priority during a time when many people do not have jobs. http://www.fifefreepress.com/news/view/editorial-cities-stand-up-for-transit-service/
John McCrossin Fife’s new school superintendent

By Matt Nagle
Thursday, 30 May 2013

At Tuesday's meeting of the Fife School Board, it was announced that longtime Fife Schools educator John McCrossin would be the district's new superintendent. His position officially begins on July 1.

This news follows on the heels of superintendent Dr. Steve McCammon publicly announcing his resignation last month. His last day at Fife Schools will be June 30 then he and his family will be heading to his Midwest home where he will take a senior level position at the nationally renowned educational non-profit Schlechty Center for Leadership in School Reform.

"I am both honored and humbled to be named the new Superintendent for the Fife School District," McCrossin told the Fife Free Press. "I look forward to leading the district forward in our work. I know that change can bring anxiety but it is also a great opportunity for growth and new possibilities."

After announcing the decision, board president Bob Scheidt said the vote among the board members was unanimous for McCrossin.

"A lot went into this decision. We spent a lot of time, listened to lots of people and your comments were heard," he said.

Scheidt and other board members expressed their anticipation of continuing the district on the same track McCammon so successfully worked to put into place to make Fife Schools a national model for education excellence under the Standard Bearer Network put forth by the Schlechty Center. "We're going to do all we can to move the district forward," Schiedt affirmed. "We're all about the Schlechty work and we have full faith in John. He is the right man for the job and there is no question that we're going to succeed."

Board member Bruce Bumsiie agreed. "There are lots of things to consider, and I'm 100 percent behind what we're doing." Member Sally Findlayson said it's up to everyone in the Fife Schools community to continue moving the district forward. "You guys are the leaders here," she said to the audience.

It was also announced at the board meeting that Deputy Superintendent Jeff Short is taking his retirement effective July 1, and McCrossin offered well wishes for his co-worker and friend.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank (Jeff) for his service to our district and wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement. He has given 39 years to the Fife School District in every capacity imaginable. His legacy is intact and contributions to this district immeasurable," McCrossin said.

Look for an in-depth interview with McCrossin in the next edition (June 14) of the Fife Free Press.
Program for homeless students needs funds

The Peninsula Gateway

The Peninsula Community Foundation facilitates the annual Pierce County homeless survey for Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. Led by John Oldham, it collects census data on homeless and at-risk populations in order to better apportion the county’s funding for community services.

Top Photo

LEE GILES III/GATEWAY FILE PHOTO

John Oldham, right, and fellow volunteers with the Peninsula Community Foundation, manage the annual Pierce County homeless survey for Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula.

Published: 06/26/13 12:05 am

0 Comments

The Peninsula Community Foundation facilitates the annual Pierce County homeless survey for Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. Led by John Oldham, it collects census data on homeless and at-risk populations in order to better apportion the county’s funding for community services.

The count, which takes place during a 24-hour period each winter, covers a wide area, and it’s imprecise. But Oldham said he’s had even more difficulty calculating the number of another underserved group in the area: homeless children and teenagers.

The homeless survey usually only counts adults.

“I knew from conversations that there were children who were homeless, but I wanted to get an accurate count and find out who they were, and where,” said Oldham, a founder of the peninsula’s 501(c)(3) organization that unites volunteer church and other service groups and runs community programs, including Food Backpacks 4 Kids.

Homelessness in the greater Gig Harbor area can be difficult to tabulate, given the region’s rural character and the perception that it isn’t really a problem, Oldham said. But after Oldham approached the Peninsula School District about information on homeless students, he was surprised to hear where 31 students live.

“People would think it’s all Key Peninsula,” Oldham said. “But the majority are in Gig Harbor proper.”

Oldham could not disclose the specific numbers of homeless students at individual schools due to student confidentiality, but about two-thirds attend schools in Gig Harbor, he said. The school district’s count increased by 11 students between March and April this year, and it fluctuates from month to month, depending on family movement, dropout rates and, most importantly, how many students make school counselors aware of their housing situation.

Oldham said the school district averages between 20 and 50 homeless students each year.

Kathy Weymiller, the district’s interim director of student services, said the term “homeless” can mean different things for different students. Some live with families who are between homes or moving from place to place; some sleep on friends’ couches; some stay with grandparents or other relatives.

“There are no two stories that are alike,” Weymiller said.
Oldham realized, however, that, regardless of students’ individual stories, most lack access to the kinds of basic services that the Peninsula Community Foundation works to provide. The transience of homeless youth keeps them from regular access to everything from health care to hygiene, and Oldham also said many homeless shelters won’t allow single mothers to bring in their teenage sons, leading to a greater absence of services for young boys.

Oldham had an idea: Since buses already take students to the Gig Harbor Boys & Girls Club and to the Tom Taylor Family YMCA after school, a program could be developed for homeless students to stay longer at each location and receive services, such as pediatric attention, dental care, tutoring and more.

“It’s something that we do already, so when (Oldham) started talking about his vision, it was an easy call for us,” said Natalie Stokke, Gig Harbor branch director for the Boys & Girls Club.

The organization already offers scholarships on membership for low-income families, giving children and teenagers access to tutoring, athletics, art and other activities for free or for a reduced charge. Stokke said the Boys & Girls Club is enthusiastic about expanding the program to receive homeless students.

“For us, the biggest thing that we can provide is a safe, warm place with caring adults, a snack and activities,” she said.

The difficulty with implementing such a program for homeless students comes not from getting the students to the services, Oldham said, but with returning them afterward to where they’re staying.

“The problem is that the school buses can take them to the Boys & Girls Club or the Y, but they can’t take them home,” he said. “There’s no money for that.”

According to an estimate from Annie Bell, the school district’s director of transportation, a trial program to run two days a week would cost about $238 per day, or $15,470 for 65 days per school year.

Buses would pick students up at the Boys & Girls Club about 4:30 p.m. and take them to the YMCA, return to the Boys & Girls Club by 6 p.m. for the club’s nightly dinner, and then depart to drop-off locations around the area.

In order to preserve anonymity for homeless students, Weymiller said the school district would have a “no-questions-asked” policy for the program: students whom counselors have identified as homeless would be given some kind of voucher for the buses, which they would also present at the Y or the Boys & Girls Club for services. Details are still being finalized.

The YMCA and Boys & Girls Club have both signed up to provide after-school services for homeless students for free, and Oldham said he’s spoken with a physician who has agreed to offer checkups.

But since the school district doesn’t have the money to pay for the program, and Oldham’s initial attempts to raise funds through private organizations proved to be too difficult, he must raise more than $15,000 through individual donations to insure the bus program gets put in place this fall.

Oldham is aiming for a start date in October and to continue the twice-weekly service throughout the 2013-14 school year. That means he wants to have the funding in place by the end of this summer.

“We’re really excited about the possibilities,” Weymiller said. “Just to have access to a shower, or to do homework, or even just to have someone rooting for you, is a big deal.”

Oldham said that, while the issue of youth homelessness can be obscured in Gig Harbor, his proposed program would offer a chance to expose homeless students to the kinds of care their peers already receive.

“Here you have kids waiting for the school bus after walking out of a million-dollar home, standing next to a child who’s homeless and about to get on the same bus,” he said. “We can do some prevention for their future by getting them some care now.”
Those who wish to donate can mail a check to the Peninsula Community Foundation, P.O. Box 352, Wauna, WA 98395.

Reporter Will Livesley-O’Neill can be reached at 253-358-4152 or by email at will.livesley-oneill@gateline.com. Follow him on Twitter, @gateway_will.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/06/26/2653332/program-for-homeless-students.html#storylink=cpy
JBLM schools granted $91 million to rebuild

Nisqually Valley News

Photo provided

Hillside school

JBLM schools can expect to look like Hillside Elementary School when it is finished. Hillside Elementary on JBLM was rebuilt last year.


JBLM schools granted $91 million to rebuildBy Lindsay Trottnews2@yelmoline.comYelmOnline.com | 0 comments

The Department of Defense recently awarded $91 million in grants to the Clover Park School District on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Clarkmoor, Greenwood and Beachwood elementary schools are currently being completely rebuilt to replace condition deficiencies and adjust to growing capacities.

Lynn Wilson, administrator for business services and capital projects, said the renovations are "well deserved and long overdue."

Greenwood will cost $28.6 million to rebuild while Clarkmoor will cost $30.9 million and Beachwood $31.3 million.

"This is an absolutely great thing for all of the children and the servicemen and women whom we are lucky to help in any way we can," Wilson said. "This is very much needed."

Wilson said the grants were awarded after a federal evaluation team reviewed schools located on military bases throughout the continental United States for capacity and facility condition deficiencies.

The grant comes from the Defense Department’s Office of Economic Adjustment and will be matched by $23 million from the Clover Park School District and the state of Washington, bringing the total investment to $114 million.

OEA gives priority consideration to those military installations with schools having the most serious capacity or facility condition deficiencies, as determined by the priority list.

Wilson said Clarkmoor and Greenwood elementary schools ranked second and fifth on the priority list of military base schools in need of repairs.

According to Wilson, this has been a six-year process. The schools currently being replaced were built in the 1950s and 1960s before technology and growth of the armed forces was a factor.
“We need more capacity because our base is growing fast,” Wilson said. “It will help not only the educational program but the technology the children need will be readily available now, as it was not before.”

He said up-to-date computer labs and wireless Internet will be in each of the rebuilt schools.

“It’s a tremendous upgrade for students and the community,” he said.

Another issue the schools ran into were safety concerns, as the schools were not up to date with safety regulations.

“Anytime you have a building that old you have safety concerns,” Wilson said. “Now we are working very hard to keep everything in code.”

With six active schools on JBLM, Wilson said plans and funding requests to replace the next three are in the works. He hopes they will all be replaced by September 2015.

Clarkmoor and Greenwood elementary schools will be open for students this October.

“The replacement of Greenwood, Clarkmoor and Beachwood elementary schools on JBLM will allow our students to continue to receive a quality education in state-of-the-art buildings that provide for today’s educational needs,” said Debbie LeBeau, Clover Park School District superintendent.

“Throughout this process, CPSD has received tremendous support from our elected officials as well as the Department of Defense. The military students and families at these schools will benefit from this support.”