Board Reports
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 8     | • 2014 Board Calendar of Work  
• 2014 Operational Changes for Efficiencies and Savings  
• Succession Planning - Essential Competencies Needed for Executive Position | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2014 Legislative Day  
• STAR Libraries  
• Tehaleh (Newland Communities) |
| January 24 - 28 | *American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Philadelphia PA* | |
| February 12   | • Technology Plan Update  
• Internet Policy  
• Collection Budget  
• Self-Service Lobby  
• Customer Surveys | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2014 Legislation Related to Libraries  
• 2014 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement |
| March 11 - 15 | *Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Indianapolis IN* | |
| March 19      | *Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum*  
• Metropolitan King County Library Joint Boards Meeting | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• PC Reads |
| April 9       | • Access Policy  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• 2013 Reciprocal Borrowing Report  
• Emergency Capital Project: Diesel Generator  
• Technology Plan Update  
• Executive Director Search Firm  
• Facilities Master Plan Overview | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report |
| April 30 - May 2 | *Oregon Library Association/Washington Library Association (OLA/WLA) Conference, Wenatchee WA* | |
| May 14        | • 2013 Year-End Financial Review  
• Re-appointment of Donna Albers  
• South Hill Library Project  
• Facilities Master Plan Next Steps | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• ULC Innovations Initiative  
• IRS Tax Form 990  
• Summer Reading Program  
• WLA Attendance |
| June 11       | • 2013 Capital Projects – Year End Report  
• 2014 Mid-Year Budget Process  
• Metrics in 2014 Budget  
• Scout Introduction  
• Wellness Program  
  a) Resolution  
  b) Policy | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• PC Reads Final Report  
• Our Own Expressions |
| June 26 - July 1 | *American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Las Vegas NV* | |
| July 9        | • 2014 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment:  
  • Operating Budget  
  • Capital Improvement Plan  
• Circulation Decline  
• Self-Service Lobby Plan  
• Maker Movement  
  • Maker Fest  
  • 3D Printing at Gig Harbor Library | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• IRS Tax Form 990 Final Review |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>• 2015 Budget: Budget Process and Calendar&lt;br&gt;• 2015 CPIU&lt;br&gt;• Meeting Room Policy/Procedure Review&lt;br&gt;• Meeting Room Use Analysis&lt;br&gt;• Fife Update - Surrounding Development&lt;br&gt;• Board Bylaws Revision&lt;br&gt;• OPMA Training</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Monthly Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>• 2015 Budget: Estimated Revenue and Expenditures&lt;br&gt;• Long Term Capital Project Projections&lt;br&gt;• Leadership Competencies&lt;br&gt;• Science to Go&lt;br&gt;• Facilities Master Plan: Funding Options&lt;br&gt;• Pierce County Capital Facilities Plan&lt;br&gt;• Pierce County Library 2030 Standards&lt;br&gt;• State of the Library Presentations&lt;br&gt;• Board Bylaws Revision (cont.)&lt;br&gt;• Microsoft IT Academy Open Lab</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Monthly Financial Report&lt;br&gt;• Library Card Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>• Review of Regular 2015 Draft Revenue and Expenditures&lt;br&gt;• 2015 pre certification of Property Tax Levy&lt;br&gt;• IPD for 2014 Property Tax Levy&lt;br&gt;• 2015 – 2019 Cash Flow&lt;br&gt;• OPMA Training for Trustees&lt;br&gt;• Teen Summer Challenge Marketing&lt;br&gt;• Facilities Master Plan: How Other Libraries Have Funded Capital Projects&lt;br&gt;• Learning Sessions With Neel</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Monthly Financial Statement&lt;br&gt;• Set 2015 Board Meeting Schedule&lt;br&gt;• Pierce County Library Foundation Annual Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>• First Public Hearing Regarding 2015 Budget&lt;br&gt;• Review of Draft 2015 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan&lt;br&gt;• Review And Approval To Certify Property Taxes To Be Levied For Collection in 2015&lt;br&gt;• Review Of Regular 2015 Capital Improvement Budget And 2015 Capital Improvement Plan&lt;br&gt;• Key Center iPad Project</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Monthly Financial Report&lt;br&gt;• Resolution: Schedule of Recurring Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>• Second Public Hearing Regarding 2015 Budget&lt;br&gt;• Resolution to transfer a portion of the fund balance of the general fund to the capital improvement fund&lt;br&gt;• Resolution to Adopt 2015 Budget&lt;br&gt;• Resolution to Adopt 2015 Capital Improvement Fund Budget&lt;br&gt;• Motion to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2015 (if needed)&lt;br&gt;• Resolution to set 2015 wages for non-represented staff&lt;br&gt;• 2015 Election of Officers&lt;br&gt;• Negotiate 2015 Executive Director Agreement&lt;br&gt;• Annual Branch Service Plans</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Monthly Financial Report&lt;br&gt;• Resolution: Cancellation of unredeemed warrants&lt;br&gt;• 2015 Insurance Renewal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Activities

- Library board to discuss executive director search, meeting rooms and more
- Three finalists chosen for library executive director position
- Three finalists chosen for library executive director position
- Three finalists selected for executive director of Pierce County Library System
- Finalist named for PC Library leadership
- Meet finalists for library director position Aug. 21
- Georgia Lomax named new library executive director
- Pierce County Library promotes deputy to top job
- Lakewood Playhouse Laurie King event
- Mystery writer Laurie King in Lakewood Sept. 6
- A “geek” as a youth, she’s now a best-selling author
- Laurie R King Author Event at King’s Books
- Facebook screenshot and statistics
- Grab a Science to Go Backpack at Pierce County Libraries
- Grab a new Science to Go backpack at Pierce County Library
- Pierce College Hosts Lakewood MakerFest
- Register for MakerFest! A Great Free Event For Creative Families!
- Bring your creations to the 2nd annual Lakewood MakerFest in August
- Online Teen Summer Challenge at Pierce County Library
- Pierce County library system called the Teen Summer Challenge – A Teens Perspective
- Musicians, magicians and makers at Steilacoom Pierce County Library
- CoderDojo: Fall Coding Camps at Pierce County Library
- Learn to grow food year-round at Parkland Spanaway Library
- Technology classes at Pierce County Library
- Lakewood Library closed Sept. 2-21 for improvements
- African safari photos and stories at Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library
- Screenshots of ads on ParentMap
- News Release: Brown bag lunch with author J.A. Jance at University Place Pierce County Library
- South Sound Weekend Kid’s Calendar featuring PCLS advertisement and Mythbusters tween event at the Graham Library
- South Sound Weekend Kid’s Calendar featuring PCLS advertisement and a link to a list of kids’ events in the Library System
- South Sound writer of fantasy trilogy finds art imitates life: His own
- Libraries hosting job-search workshops
Library board to discuss executive director search, meeting rooms and more

AUGUST 12, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER — LEAVE A COMMENT

At its August meeting, the Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees will hear an update on the search for a new executive director, will learn about proposed changes to systemwide meeting room policies and will discuss planning documents for a future levy lid lift and/or facilities bond. The board meets from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Aug. 13 at the library’s Processing and Administrative Center, 3005 112th St. E., in Tacoma. The meeting is open to the public. Download the agenda.

Executive director search update

Finalists will be chosen soon for the Pierce County Library executive director position. Nineteen applications were received and six semi-finalists were interviewed. Finalists will be named next week. Final interviews are scheduled for Aug. 21-22. A public forum will be held Aug. 21, time and place TBD. Board packet (pp.57-58)

Changes proposed to public meeting room policies and procedures

The library maintains meeting and conference rooms at all but three of its 19 facilities to provide library-sponsored programs. When not in use for library-sponsored programs, the public may use the facilities free of charge. The library recently conducted an extensive review of its public meeting room policies and procedures and is recommending a number of changes. Board packet (pp.60-74).

Highlights include:

- **Commercial use.** The proposed revisions include clarification regarding meeting room use for commercial activities.

- **Advance reservation period.** The library is recommending that the advance reservation period be shortened from three months following the current month to two months following the current month.

- **Maximum reservation length.** The library is recommending that the maximum length of a room reservation be four hours instead of all day. This will allow for multiple groups to use the meeting rooms each day.

**Materials developed for future levy lid lift and/or facilities bond**

Pierce County Library Executive Director Neel Parikh will share templates and possible timelines for a future levy lid lift and/or facilities bond. The documents are strictly for planning purposes. Board packet (pp.75-87)

**About Pierce County Library System**

Established in 1946, Pierce County Library System includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns. Pierce County Library serves more than 564,000 people through 18 branches as well as online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and lends more than 7.5 million items each year. The library is an independent taxing district reporting to a Board of Trustees. Local taxpayers fund 96 percent of the library's revenues through property taxes. In 2013, Pierce County Library earned the coveted National Medal for Museum and Library Service award.
Three finalists have been chosen for the Pierce County Library System executive director position: Nate Hill, Georgia Lomax and Jeff Scott. Final interviews take place in Pierce County on Aug. 21-22. The library hopes to make an offer by the end of August and have the new executive director on board before the end of the year. Nool Parikh, the library’s executive director of 20 years, retires Nov. 1, 2014.

Nate Hill

Nate Hill is the deputy director of the Chattanooga Public Library in Chattanooga, Tenn. His recent successes include developing and implementing the "4th Floor" space, a civic laboratory focusing on information, design, technology and applied arts; collaborative partnerships with the mayor’s office and other community agencies; and creating and building project-driven staff teams. Prior to his work in Tennessee, Hill was the web librarian for the San Jose Public Library in San Jose, Calif., and he spent 10 years at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York. Hill’s professional activities include speaking and consulting on a national level and continuing to advise the Architectural League in New York on a branch system redesign.
Three finalists chosen for library executive director position

visioning project based on his development of an innovative storefront "Outpost" library service model. In 2012, Library Journal honored him as one of its "Movers and Shakers."

Georgia Lomax

Georgia Lomax is the deputy director of the Pierce County Library System. Lomax’s recent successes include being highly involved in the Pierce County 2030: Facilities Master Plan, her collaborative work with the City of University Place on behalf of the University Place Library, and her commitment and work developing an outward, forward-thinking, customer-focused organizational culture. Prior to her work at Pierce County, Lomax served as cluster manager for the King County Library System, and library director of the Flathead County Library System in Montana. Lomax sits on the Public Library Association (PLA) Board of Directors, serving as the National Conference Program Committee Chair (2014) and is active locally with the Tacoma Community House, serving as a member of its Executive Board. Lomax is a 2010 Library Journal "Mover and Shaker," and also won the Allie Beth Martin PLA Award in 2006.

Jeff Scott

Jeff Scott is currently the county librarian in Tulare County, Calif. Scott’s recent successes include significant facilities work expanding and renovating several of the system’s 15 branches, installing library book machines at two locations, and planning and implementing the fundraising campaign, “Your Library in More Places.” Scott has received several grants and awards for projects, including the California State Association of Cities (CSAC) Challenge Award for 2013, Teen Digital Media Lab, and the CSAC Merit Award for “Your Library in More Places.” Scott currently serves on the California Library Association’s Board of Directors. Prior to Tulare County, Scott was the city librarian with the City of Casa Grande Public Library, also in California.

Public forum to be held Aug. 21

The candidates will be on hand at a public forum from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Aug. 21 in the first-floor meeting rooms at the library’s Processing and Administrative Center, 3005 112th St. E, Tacoma, 98446. All are welcome at this free public event. Candidates will introduce themselves, speak on a pre-selected topic, and answer questions from the audience. A short reception follows.

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Library officials hope to make an offer by the end of August and have the new executive director on board before the end of the year. Neel Parikh, the library’s executive director of 20 years, retires Nov. 1.

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Three finalists selected for executive director of Pierce County Library System

By Steve Maynard
Staff writer August 14, 2014

A panel has selected three finalists to vie for the executive director job running the 18-branch Pierce County Library System.

The finalists are:

- Georgia Lomax, deputy director of the Pierce County Library System.
- Nate Hill, deputy director of the Chattanooga Public Library in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- Jeff Scott, county librarian in Tulare County, California.

A screening committee recently chose the finalists from 19 applicants.

A public forum with the three remaining candidates will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at the library system’s administrative center, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma.

The library plans to pick a new director by the end of August. He or she would start work before the end of the year.

Executive Director Neel Parikh is retiring Nov. 1. She has led the library system for 20 years.

Steve Maynard: 253-597-8647 steve.maynard@thenewstribune.com @TNTstevemaynard
Finalists named for PC Library leadership

Aug 14, 2014 - 10:51 AM
The Business Examiner

The system’s current deputy director is among three candidates named by board members of Pierce County Library as they search for a replacement to retiring executive director Neel Parikh.

- Georgia Lomax is the deputy director of the Pierce County Library and was highly involved in the Pierce County 2030: Facilities Master Plan. She also worked with City of University Place on behalf of the University Place Library as it moved into new space in Town Center project. Prior to joining the Pierce County system, Lomax served as cluster manager for the King County Library System, and library director of Flathead County Library System in Montana.

- Another finalist candidate, Nate Hill, is the deputy director of the Chattanooga Public Library in Tennessee. He is credited with developing and implementing a civic laboratory focusing on information, design, technology and applied arts and with forming collaborative partnerships with the mayor’s office and other community agencies. Hill was formerly the web librarian for San Jose Public Library in San Jose, Calif., and he spent 10 years at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York.

- Jeff Scott is currently the county librarian in Tulare County, Calif. His recent successes include significant facilities work expanding and renovating several of the system’s 15 branches, installing library book machines at two locations, and planning and implementing the fundraising campaign. Prior to Tulare County, Scott was the city librarian with the City of Casa Grande Public Library, also in Arizona.

The candidates will be on hand at a public forum from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Aug. 21 in the first-floor meeting rooms at the library’s Processing and Administrative Center. Candidates will introduce themselves at this open, public event, speak on a pre-selected topic, and answer questions from the audience. A short reception will follow.
Meet finalists for library director position Aug. 21

AUGUST 19, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER — LEAVE A COMMENT

Meet the finalists for the Pierce County Library System executive director position this Thursday, Aug. 21. The candidates—Nate Hill (deputy director, Chattanooga Public Library), Georgia Lomax (deputy director, Pierce County Library) and Jeff Scott (county librarian, Tulare County)—will give presentations at the public forum to be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the first-floor meeting rooms at the library’s Processing and Administrative Center, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma. A short reception follows the presentations. The event is free and open to the public.

Final interviews for the executive director position are being held this week. The library hopes to make an offer by the end of August and have the new executive director on board before the end of the year. Neel Parikh, the library’s executive director of 20 years, retires Nov. 1, 2014. Learn more about the candidates.

About Pierce County Library System

Established in 1946, Pierce County Library System includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns. Pierce County Library serves more than 564,000 people through 18 branches as well as providing online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and lends more than 7.5 million items each year. The library is an independent taxing district reporting to a Board of Trustees. Local taxpayers fund 96 percent of the library’s revenues through property taxes. In 2013, Pierce County Library earned the coveted National Medal for Museum and Library Service award.
Georgia Lomax named new library executive director

Suburban Times
AUGUST 28, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER

Georgia Lomax is the new Pierce County Library System executive director. Lomax has served as the library’s deputy director since 2006. Lomax, 55, starts on Nov. 10, 2014, at a salary of $140,000. Neel Parikh, the library’s current executive director, retires Nov. 1, after 20 years at the helm.

Prior to joining Pierce County, Lomax worked for the King County Library System from 1993 to 2005 serving in a number of positions including cluster manager and managing librarian. Before that, she served as director of the Flathead County Library System in Montana from 1987 to 1992, and as the director of the Miles City Public Library and the Sagebrush Federation of Libraries from 1985 to 1987. She earned her master of library science degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, and her bachelor’s degree in communications and journalism from Washington State University.

Lomax sits on the executive board of Tacoma Community House and serves on the University of Washington iSchool Advisory Board. Nationally, she sits on the Public Library Association (PLA) Board of Directors and served as this year’s national conference program committee chair. She was named a “Mover and Shaker” by the “Library Journal” in 2010 and also won the Allie Beth Martin Award from PLA in 2006.

A Des Moines, Wash., native, Lomax is a 1977 graduate of Mt. Rainier High School in the Highline School District. Now a Sumner resident, Lomax is an avid sailor. She races regularly in Seattle aboard the 46-foot sailboat New Haven. In July, she and her New Haven teammates took third overall in the 2014 Vic-Maui race.

Lomax is the fourth director in Pierce County Library’s 68-year history. With faster Internet connections, more mobile devices and the rise of entertainment giants such as Amazon and Netflix, public libraries find themselves at a crossroads. Lomax’s goals for keeping Pierce County Library relevant include focusing on tech innovation, workforce development and finding ways to further support the military population. She also has a personal interest in further connecting the library with the Native American community.

“As libraries exit the recession, they can look back and try to rebuild what was, or they can look forward and ask what they must now become,” said Lomax. “We choose to move forward. We will determine our future using guidance from the community and the resources and creativity of our staff. I know for sure that includes providing much-needed services, great books for readers, and the library playing a major role in the community.”
Georgia Lomax

The Pierce County Library System will stick with a familiar face to lead it further into an increasingly digital and mobile information age.

The library board voted Tuesday to promote deputy director Georgia Lomax as the system's new executive director. She was the lone internal candidate on a list of three finalists that included Nate Hill, deputy director of the Chattanooga (Tennessee) Public Library, and Jeff Scott, county librarian in Tulare County, California.

Lomax, 55, has been deputy director since 2006. The Sumner resident will be paid a salary of $140,000 to run the 18-branch library system and an array of online services.
A statement from the library system on Wednesday said Lomax will focus on technology innovation, workforce development and finding ways to further support the local military population. She also has a personal interest in reaching out more to the Native American community.

“As libraries exit the recession, they can look back and try to rebuild what was, or they can look forward and ask what they must now become,” Lomax said in the statement. “We choose to move forward.”

The system conducted a national search that drew 19 applicants, then six semi-finalists and finally the three finalists who went through two full days of interviews, according to spokeswoman Linda Farmer.

Lomax is a Des Moines, Washington native with degrees from both Washington State University and the University of Washington. Her resume includes management positions with the King County Library System from 1993 to 2005.

Her promotion will be effective in November. Executive Director Neel Parikh is retiring Nov. 1 after leading the library system for 20 years.

Lomax will be the fourth director in the 68-year history of the Pierce County Library.

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LAKEWOOD PLAYHOUSE

Laurie King Event

August 25, 2014 by Ben Sclair Leave a Comment
Suburban times
**Mystery writer Laurie King in Lakewood Sept. 6**

**Events August 15, 2014 News Room 0 19 | South Puget Sound News**

Laurie King

Meet national best-selling mystery writer Laurie King at a talk and book signing at 10 a.m. on Sept. 6 at Lakewood Playhouse.

Nine of King’s books will be available for purchase and signing:

- “The Beekeeper’s Apprentice” – The first book in the Mary Russell series now out in a special 20th anniversary edition.
- “The Game” and “Locked Rooms” – Popular titles in the series about Mary Russell who partners with the retired Sherlock Holmes to solve cases.
- “Folly” and “Keeping Watch” – Standalone novels set partly in the San Juan Islands.
- “The Bones of Paris” and “Touchstone” – From the Stuyvesant & Grey historical series set in 1920s Europe.
- “A Grave Talent” and “With Child” – Two books from the Kate Martinelli contemporary mysteries in a new set of paperback covers.

King’s books have won many awards, including the Edgar Award and the Nero (Wolfe) Award. She was inducted into the Baker Street Irregulars and has been chosen as guest of honor at several crime conventions.

A former Pierce County resident, King graduated from Franklin Pierce High School in 1970. As a child, she lived in Dash Point in a house overlooking Puget Sound. She now lives on California’s central coast.

The event will be held at Lakewood Playhouse, located at 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Blvd., Lakewood 98499. This free event is made possible by a partnership with Pierce County Library System and Lakewood Playhouse.
Q&A WITH LAURIE R. KING

A 'geek' as a youth, she's now a best-selling author

BY SHELBY ROWE
Staff writer:
Laurie R. King describes herself as a "geek before there were even geeks." She used books as an escape from a childhood in which she moved frequently and had few friends.

In the Tacoma area, she was the "weird kid" with gold-rimmed glasses who spent her days reading novels.

Now, she's a New York Times best-selling mystery author with 24 books under her belt and another coming out next year.

King, who never took a creative writing class, is most famous for the Mary Russell series. It begins with a 15-year-old girl who literally runs into a novel about a marriage that's disintegrating for example, there really are no rules. You can begin it anywhere and you can end it anywhere, but with a mystery novel you have to tell the story from beginning to end.

Who in the Tacoma area had the most influence on you?

I had some teachers at Franklin Pierce that were very good. At Dash Point Elementary, there was an excellent teacher named Mr. White who taught fourth and fifth grade. But we knew an artist in Dash Point. Her name was Martha Mardells who painted oils. She was the first artistic type I'd ever met, and I was fascinated by her. She was an adult and I was a fifth-grader or something like that. But she was a friend of my parents and I was fascinated by her.

Have you borrowed any scenes or set any of your books in Tacoma?

I don't think Tacoma specifically, but there are a couple of books that take place in the Puget Sound area and the San Juans. There are a few scenes in Seattle and somewhere down toward Olympia. But so far I haven't written Tacoma. It's something I'm saving for just the right book.

From A1

Sherlock Holmes in 1915. She becomes his apprentice and, as the series evolves, her partner.

"Dreaming of Spies," the 14th book in the series, will pick up with Russell and Holmes returning home to find a closed-case investigation might not be as closed as they thought.

King, 62, is revisiting her roots in the South Sound. She's traveling from her California home for a book signing Wednesday in Lakewood.

As a child, she spent four years in Dash Point, returned to California, then moved to Parkland, where she attended Franklin Pierce High School for three years and graduated.

In an interview with The News Tribune, King gave insights into the inspiration behind the famous books and her writing career.

Where did the idea behind the Mary Russell series come from?

I wanted to write a sort of coming-of-age story about a young woman with that same extraordinary mind. That is, what would Sherlock Holmes look like if he were a female? Because it's always more interesting to look at two similar things near each other, I thought I might place this character in that time and make her contemporary with Sherlock Holmes and make her an apprentice. So she meets him in "The Beekeeper's Apprentice." She meets him in 1915 when she is a young woman, and the series has gotten up to 1923 now. It's a story of their partnership.

Where did your interest in Sherlock Holmes stem from?

I came to Holmes backward. I came to him because I was interested in writing this character, Mary Russell. So I began looking at the (Sir Arthur) Conan Doyle stories and came to see how very, very interesting his character is. Some people think of him as a just a thinking machine, but in fact, he has a very complex personality. He's passionate about justice and doing right with an unexpected sense of humor, a very dry British sense of humor that I appreciated a great deal since I wanted to make humor a main element in the book. So I came to the stories kind of backwards and grew to appreciate him more than I anticipated.

Have your characters ever done anything that's surprised you?

I count on my characters to surprise me. Because I don't outline my books beforehand, I have a very general idea of what the books are going to be, but I mostly begin in one direction and know that there will be a number of twists and turns that I had not anticipated. So far, they have continued to surprise me reliably.

What's your favorite aspect of mystery novels?

What I like as a writer about the crime genre is the structure of it. It's very pleasing to me to have a structure in my mind that I need to work around. It's sort of like the skeleton that holds the body up and keeps it moving. Without it, things would collapse. Without it, more than any other genre I think, mysteries and crime require structure. When you're writing a mainstream
Laurie R King Author Event

King’s Books

Start: 09/06/2014 10:00 am

Pierce County Library and Lakewood Playhouse welcome bestselling mystery author Laurie R King! Join us as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of *The Beekeeper’s Apprentice*! Laurie King has local history having lived in Dash Point and graduated from Franklin Pierce High School in 1970! The event is free and open to the public.

**Laurie R King** is the New York Times bestselling author of 22 novels and other works, including the Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes stories (from *The Beekeeper’s Apprentice*, named one of the 20th century’s best crime novels by the IMBA, to the upcoming *Dreaming Spies*). She has won or been nominated for an alphabet of prizes from Agatha to Wolfe, been chosen as guest of honor at several crime conventions, and is probably the only writer to have both an Edgar and an honorary doctorate in theology. She was inducted into the Baker Street Irregulars in 2010, as “The Red Circle”.

**Location:**

Lakewood Playhouse

5729 Lakewood Towne Center Blvd SW

Lakewood

Washington

98499

United States
Pierce County Library shared The Librarians's Video.
12 hours ago

We love Noah Wyle in Falling Skies. This oughta be awesome!

Humanity's End | The Librarians | TNT
Humanity's end begins at the... library. Watch the series premiere of The Librarians December 7 on TNT Drama.
Post Reach
The number of people your post was served to.

Likes, Comments, and Shares
These actions will help you reach more people.
Grab a Science to Go Backpack at Pierce County Libraries

SEATTLE'S CHILD | BY PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY STAFF

Photo courtesy of the Pierce County Library System.

Children are natural scientists. Questions such as “Where does the wind come from?” and “Why don’t pennies float?” are the beginnings of scientific investigation. Satisfy that curiosity with a Science to Go backpack from Pierce County Library.

Science to Go is a free new learning program at all 18 branches of Pierce County Library System. Each backpack contains five themed books, a notebook for recording and sharing insights, and a hands-on activity. Backpacks are available for ages 5 to 7 and 7 to 9. There are 24 themes, everything from animal homes and insects to volcanoes and weather. Families return the backpack after the checkout period, but can keep the activity sheet.

Activities and books support STEM concepts (science, technology, engineering and math), Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The backpacks are great for weekend fun or can easily be incorporated into a school or homeschool curriculum.

Look for the colorful Science to Go kiosk or shelving area at a Pierce County Library or place a hold on a backpack through the library catalog.

Pierce County Library created Science to Go with funding from Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Pierce County Library Foundation.

- See more at: http://www.seattleschild.com/article/science-to-go-backpack-pierce-county-library#sthash.9i3q4f0C.RfpMVqED.dpuf
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Pierce County Library created Science to Go with funding from Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Pierce County Library Foundation.
Pierce College Hosts Lakewood MakerFest

08/07/2014 Filed under LocalTalk Posted by South Sound Talk Editor | South Sound Talk

Submitted by Pierce College

Clubhouse member R.J. Garlick, 13, will be showcasing his “Widget Wagon” at the event.

The Pierce College Science Dome will be filled with do-it-yourselfers of all ages on Aug. 9 during the second annual Lakewood MakerFest. Sponsored by the Pierce County Library System, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Computer Clubhouse and Pierce College, this free event is geared to new and experienced makers, as well as those looking for a little DIY inspiration.

Many youth from the Lakewood Computer Clubhouse have been hard at work for weeks creating innovative projects to display during MakerFest. The Clubhouse, as an outreach of Pierce College, has provided the space, resources and support that local youth need to gain hands-on experience creating toys, gadgets, games and more – all on their own.

“There has been so much emerging technology that has come out within the past few years, that it’s really allowed people to make their own stuff,” Clubhouse Coordinator Kurt Sample said. “We’re happy to provide a maker-space for kids, because many of them do not have much of a chance to gain this kind of experience anywhere else.”

The Clubhouse is a free after-school drop-in center where youth ages 10 to 18 can learn more about technology and spend time making everything from original music to digital art.
Lakewood MakeFest is on Saturday, Aug. 9, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., at Pierce College.

Clubhouse member R.J. Garlick, 13, will be showcasing his latest creation at the event, which he calls the Widget Wagon. This former Radio Flyer wagon has been transformed into a vessel for a remote-controlled camera that Garlick designed with the help of Clubhouse volunteers and friends.

"I love being able to have this time to just make stuff," he said. "The Clubhouse has all the resources we need to create things, and the mentors are really nice."

The event will also feature a variety of activities for youth, as well as Science Dome presentations and an opportunity to mingle with other makers. Festivities take place inside the Rainier Building at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom from 1-5 p.m.

"If you're interested in crafting, bookmaking, robotics or computer programs, or even if you're just looking for something fun for the kids to do, this will be a great family event for you," said Michelle Angell, youth services librarian with the Pierce County Library system.

Anyone interested in bringing their own creation can register as a maker by clicking [here](#).
Register For MakerFest! A Great Free Event For Creative Families!

JULY 29, 2014 BY ADMIN LEAVE A COMMENT | Sounds Fun Mom

I'm so excited to tell you about a great way to celebrate creativity and imagination.

It's the 2nd annual MakerFest coming to Lakewood, August 9th!

It's a FREE, all ages event, and it would be a super fun activity to do as a family. Register and show off your creation!

What can you make? Suggested categories include alternative energy, art, data collection, electronics & technology, gaming, mechanical things, photo, practical ideas, robotics, sewing, sculpture and video, but the only limit is your imagination. I think this would be a super fun excuse to get your homeschool group or Scout pals together this summer, too!

You can also just attend the event as a visitor. Meet the makers, be inspired by their inventions, and catch the making bug. There will be kids' activities and maker presentations, including a 3D printing demonstration courtesy of Gig Harbor Library, which has the system's only 3D printers. Also, the college's science dome will be open.

It's all happening the 9th at Pierce College from 1-5PM. You can get more information and register your project here!

Maker Fest is brought to you by our friends at the Pierce College Library system, who also proudly sponsored this post.

- See more at: http://www.soundsfunmom.com/2014/07/29/register-for-makerfest-a-great-free-event-for-creative-families/#sthash.0jYccQTm.Zti2UzdK.dpuf
Bring your creations to the 2nd annual Lakewood MakerFest in August

JULY 17, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER

Makers from all over are invited to showcase their creations at the second annual Lakewood MakerFest from 1-5 p.m. on Aug. 9 at Pierce College.

Suggested categories include alternative energy, art, data collection, electronics/technology, gaming, mechanical things, photo, practical ideas, robotics, sewing, sculpture and video. Don’t see your category on the list? That’s okay! If you can make it, you can bring it.

MakerFest is a free all-ages event that celebrates all things made by you. Register as a maker to display your project, or attend this year’s event as a visitor. Meet the makers, be inspired by their inventions, and catch the making bug. There will be kids activities and maker presentations, including a 3D printing demonstration courtesy of Gig Harbor Library, which has the system’s only 3D printers. Also, the college’s science dome will be open.

The maker movement is sweeping the nation. As the name implies, makers explore the process of making things and celebrate do-it-yourself creations and inventions. Today’s makers are skilled in coding, embedded electronics and all types of arts and design. Many makers combine function with aesthetics to create new and interesting things.

The event will be held in the Rainier Building at Pierce College’s Fort Steilacoom campus, 9401 Farwest Drive S.W., Lakewood. It is sponsored by Pierce County Library System, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Computer Clubhouse and Pierce College.

Please share:

Online Teen Summer Challenge at Pierce County Library

JULY 16, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER

A summer reading program and more, Pierce County Library's Teen Summer Challenge offers teens a one-of-a-kind way to explore their interests, library and community, now through Aug. 31.

Teens complete activities to earn badges such as Code an App, Doctor Who, Hunger Games, John and Hank Green and Stop Motion Animation. New badges are released throughout the summer as participation increases. As of today, more than 10,000 activities have been completed. Players share their experiences online and with other teens through regular community meet-ups.

Anyone ages 13 and up can register. Participants with a Pierce County Library card qualify for prizes. Each completed activity equals another entry into a grand prize drawing for an iPad mini. Top point earners win an Amazon gift card. Prizes are courtesy of Pierce County Library Foundation.

This year's theme is Spark a Reaction. Activities and badges focus on learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Online Teen Summer Challenge at Pierce County Library

This is the third year of the library's online challenge for teens. The 2013 effort landed the No. 7 spot on Clickipedia's Top 25 Best Examples of Gamification in Business. Pierce County Library beat out top household brands such as Verizon, Nissan and The World Bank on Clickipedia's list.

Pierce County library system called the Teen Summer Challenge – A Teens Perspective

JULY 30, 2014 BY SIA | THRIFTY NW MOM

We recently shared with you about the Pierce County library system called the Teen Summer Challenge. In that post we shared all of the details of the teen reading program, so be sure to check it out for more info on the program in general.

We know programs for teens can be harder to come by, so we wanted to also share with you what the program looks like from a teens perspective. I happen to have a 16 year old son, Malek, so we asked him to check out the program for us and give us his thoughts to share with you all!

Honestly, I did not think I would be able to get him to review the program, at least not voluntarily. He has football, and is a teen during the summer, so I just was not sure how interested he would be in a reading program. But when I mentioned it to him, he had already heard of it from some friends and told me he would like to do it (insert jaw drop)!
For Malek the big lure to the program was the Video Game Challenge component. He loved the idea of not only being able to play the games, but also be able to create his own game.

After signing up here, this is what Malek had to say about the program:

"I really liked it because of the games you could play. It was kind of like an Xbox because they had avatars and you could earn points to buy prizes that you would want. I liked the fact that I was having fun, rather then being forced to learn, because of how good the system was set up. I thought it was cool that I was learning too (he went on to say that he liked that they tricked him into learning by having fun, and loved that because it made it easier for him to stay involved)."

They have a dashboard set up to make it easy to keep track of your account. The kids can set up their account with their avatars, and invite friends. They can message, provide feedback for the program, invite their own friends (which is a great motivator too, if they have their own community there), earn prizes, keep a journal and more.
You did it!

12,000 activities FOR THE WIN!

You have unlocked new badges:

- Build a Website
- Graphic Design
- Anime
- Where's Spike? Take Four

One example of how the learning component is weaved through the fun for the kids, is that Malek had to play games to earn points to unlock badges. He played some games that allowed him to unlock the badge to be able to do some website design. So he is learning about technology, but it looks like its a rewards and the next step so the kids get excited to click through. The games were not cheesy either, Malek said they were similar to the stuff he loves to play on Xbox.

Of course, being a video game fan, that was his focus. Your teen might find a different area that they are drawn to, but in general it is a really well put together program that I think will draw teens with all kids of interests, and keep them active in the program! I would definitely recommend it for your kids to try too! He also loved the idea of the meetups where teens could connect and have fun in person in the summer too.

Find [more information about the program here](http://), or you can have your teen can create their own [Spark a Reaction account here](http://) for free too!

**Disclosure:** Pierce County Library system has sponsored this post so we can share about this cool program for teens in Pierce County. All opinions are 100% mine. See our disclosure policy for more details.

Musicians, magicians and makers at Steilacoom Pierce County Library

August 26, 2014 by Linda Farmer
Suburban times

Children and their families will have fun learning as they explore diverse cultures and music, magic and creative crafts during free events at Steilacoom Pierce County Library.

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 3 p.m. Miho & Diego Duo: Musical Trip around the World
Miho Takekawa from Japan and Diego Coy from Colombia introduce their native music. Join in on the singing in Japanese and Spanish as well as body percussion. All ages: 6 and under with an adult

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m. Silverlight Magic with David Harkey
Experience close-up magic with everyday objects by a magician who has performed for the White House and many others. All ages: 6 and under with an adult

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3:30 p.m. Tinkertopia
Take your imagination on a wild ride with repurposed objects and a little creativity. Tinker your way into making something cool you can take home. Ages 6 and up

Steilacoom Pierce County Library is located at 2950 Steilacoom Blvd. Download the event flyer here.

The Danae Rideout Endowment, Pierce County Library Foundation and Pierce County Library System sponsor these free events.
CoderDojo: Fall Coding Camps at Pierce County Library

AUGUST 22, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER | Suburban times

CoderDojo: Fall Coding Camps

Ages 8 – 18

Parents and families welcome

CoderDojo is a global movement to provide free coding education to young people!

Tinker, play, and work with mentors to learn how to code, show off your programming skills, and develop your own websites, apps, and games.

Bring a laptop if you have access to one. The library will provide a limited number of laptops for program use.

Lakewood Pierce County Library
6300 Wildaire Road SW 98499 • 253-548-3302
Mondays, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
October – December

South Hill Pierce County Library
15420 Meridian E. 98375 • 253-548-3303
Tuesdays, 3 – 5 p.m.
Sept. 2, 9 and 16 – Robotics and Computer Programming
Oct. 7 and 21 – Computer Programming
Dec. 2 and 16 – Robotics and Computer Programming

Free events sponsored by Friends of the Libraries.
Learn to grow food year-round at Parkland Spanaway Library

AUGUST 20, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER LEAVE A COMMENT

Master Gardener John Valentine shares his expertise in how to:

- Design hoop house greenhouses – from small to large
- Select cold-hardy seed varieties for our local climate
- Manage disease and dampness

Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library

13718 Pacific Ave. S.

Tacoma 98444 • 253-548-3304

Saturday, Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m.

PKS-Growing Food Year Round.pdf
Technology classes at Pierce County Library

AUGUST 20, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER LEAVE A COMMENT | THE SUBURBAN TIMES

Sign up today for a free technology class at a nearby Pierce County Library. Classes take place in libraries throughout the county.

New classes

Find cool stuff with your card for parents, experience trendy tech in a hands-on environment, and ease the transition to a new operating system with Windows 8.1 for beginners.

Basic skills for job seekers and more

Get started with computers, email, Excel, Internet, PowerPoint and Word. Build a resume employers want and find answers during drop-in help in English and Spanish.

Devices and downloads

Explore e-readers and download free e-books, learn iPad basics and beyond, and visit a technology petting zoo.

Continuing education

Build technology experience with Microsoft IT Academy, take more than 500 free courses with Universal Class, and discover the world of online classes.

Registration may be required. Register for classes at a Pierce County Library or online @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar
Lakewood Library closed Sept. 2-21 for improvements

AUGUST 13, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER LEAVE A COMMENT | THE SUBURBAN TIMES

Lakewood Pierce County Library will be closed Sept. 2-21 for improvements. During this time, the library’s meeting room will be open limited hours so people can pick up books and other materials they have placed on hold. Some computer access also will be available. Restrooms will not be available.

Hours during the closure are:

· Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

· Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

· Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

· Sunday, 1–5 p.m.

During the closure, customers may change their holds pickup location to another library such as Steilacoom Library, 2950 Steilacoom Blvd. or Tillicum Library, 14916 Washington Ave. S.W.

Lakewood Library is located at 6300 Wildaire Road S.W.
African safari photos and stories at Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library

AUGUST 10, 2014 BY LINDA FARMER LEAVE A COMMENT | THE SUBURBAN TIMES

Join traveler Pat O’Connor on a safari through Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as he shares pictures (see a few below) and stories of animals and people living in the region. Pat will be at the Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library (13718 Pacific Ave. S. 253-548-3304 on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.
FESTIVALS + FAIRS 8 reasons to go to Imagine Cup Day World-class inventions of young Imagine Cup finalists, mad science activities, Massive Monkees performance. MOHAI exhibits and more — for free! Seattle Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

SUMMER Insiders' guide to Northwest water parks Wild Waves is just the beginning. Cool tips on the best splashing parks to go to for epic adventures, fewer crowds, wet friendly thrills and more.

URBAN ADVENTURES Summer in the cities: 6 cool communities to explore In August, we dare you to leave your ZIP code behind and explore the corners, cafes, water parks, trails and food forests (!) of a new 'hood. Here are six to start with.
Friday

Fridays are big days in the Pierce County Library System. Head here for a list of kids' events today.

Milwaukee appreciation day at the Poulsbo Public Library 3PM

Once On This Island - by Green River's Heavener from 872 Theatre "Island" adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid

Free night at the Hands-On Children's Museum in Olympia. Enjoy free admission the first Friday of the month from 5-9 PM

Summer Sounds and Cinema in Auburn 7PM free outdoor movie, It's A Small World 2D Children's art activities, magicians, and 4D films before the show. Concessions available.

Movies in the Park with Pierce County Parks and Rec. Free showing of the Lego movie at the Heritage Rec Center on South Hill; pre-show activities at 5PM, movie at 7PM; concessions available.

Saturday

All Over

Need to keep cool? Head here for my list of every playground, wading pool, fountain, and water feature in the South Puget Sound.

Try to plan for next week! Head to the "Summer" tab in my menu bar for quick info on summer camps, kids' activities, and much, much more.

Kids Club at Michael's: Michael's offers a 45-minute craft workshop for kids for $2.50 hours 10-11:30. It's a summer keychain and bracelet. You may also want to read about their Passport to Imagination summer program open for registration now.

Visit your farmer's market!

Head here for the list of South Sound wading pools, fountains, splash pads, and playgrounds.

More than two dozen events around the South Sound continue below the fold. Just click. "Continue Reading."
News Release: Brown bag lunch with author J.A. Jance at University Place Pierce County Library

JULY 22, 2014 BY LINDA SMITH

Join New York Times best-selling author J.A. Jance for a brown bag lunch at 12 p.m. on July 25 at University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W. Jance will talk and sign books.

Free tickets required

To attend the free event, visit University Place Library for a free ticket. Limit two per person, while supplies last. Friends of the University Place Library sponsor this free event.

Newest Joanna Brady book

Jance’s newest book is scheduled to be released July 22, and will be available for purchase at the event. In this latest title in the Joanna Brady series—"Remains of Innocence"—Brady investigates two perplexing cases that may be tied together. The story brings to life Arizona’s Cochise County and the desert Southwest in all its beauty and majesty.

J.A. Jance: life and works


Please share:

FILED UNDER: ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, UNIVERSITY PLACE
TAGGED WITH: PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

South Sound Weekend Kids’ Calendar: Family Fun And Things To Do July 25th-27th

JULY 25, 2014 BY ADMIN LEAVE A COMMENT

Free festivals, free movies—it’s a weekend full of South Sound area family fun at my favorite price!

New here? I hope you’ll be back. I have lists like this each weekend and lots of great stuff in between—just for the South Sound. You might want to get my daily emails so you don’t miss a thing!

For Seattle or Portland area fun you’ll want to check out the fantastic list over at ThriftyNwMom compiled by the newest member of their frugal finding team, Annalise of Grays Harbor Deals! She’s found some good ones this week!

Saturday

All Over

Lowes Build and Grow -All stores are full. This is a reminder if you signed up already, missed it? Sign ups open for the next one Monday!

Kids’ Club at Michael’s Michael’s offers 30 minute craft sessions for kids for 2.00 from 10-11:30. It’s a canvas flower painting. You may also want to read about their Passport to Imagination summer program-open for registration now.

Visit your farmer’s market!

Head here for the list of South Sound wading pools, fountains, splash pads, and spraygrounds.

More than two dozen events around the South Sound continue below the fold. Just click, “Continue Reading.”

South King County

Renton River Days Three big days of fun at Liberty Park with arts and crafts, entertainment, and more

Carnival on the Dock at HCC Mast at Redondo 12-5 face painting, sink the boat, crab racing, and more. Free. donations accepted. 12-5

Thank Our Sponsors!
Mad Hatter's Sweet Tea Event at Mary Olson Farm in Auburn - Family friendly tea with Mad Hatter, sweet treats, and croquet and crafts. Tickets must be purchased in advance. 12.00 adults/8.00 kids

Enumclaw Street Fair - Weekend festival with live entertainment, vendors, and more. All weekend

Highland Games in Enumclaw - Get your kilt on! All weekend

Greater Pierce County - Puyallup/Sumner/Olalla/Graham/Flite/Bonney Lake

Good Guys' vintage car show at the fairgrounds - cars, kids' activities, entertainment. Buy online to save on admission; be sure to get the military discount if you qualify for it; adult tickets are 17.00 kids are 6.00 6 and under are free

Manestage theater presents Fiddler On the Roof

Mythbusters' event at the Graham Library

Tacoma

Your spraygrounds are open!

Ethnic Fest at Wright Park - Two big days of live entertainment from cultures around the world, kids' zone, Lego movie at dusk Saturday

Family nature walk at Wapato Park 10-11 Free walks with volunteer naturalists. Registration suggested but not required. Perfect for ages 3 and up. Not suitable for strollers.

Visit the Job Carr Cabin Museum in Old Town - Open 1-4 Wednesdays-Saturdays Small cabin replica - A quick outing, but fun for children and free (donations welcome)

Fire and Ice science show at the Moore Library 3PM Free

Crafts From the Past at Fort Nisqually Local artisans demonstrate different crafts each weekend through September 3rd. Included with admission. I think demos will probably only interest older children, but kids of most ages enjoy exploring the fort. It's banjo making today. Included with admission

Family movie matinee in Tillicum 1PM - Titles are newer releases, family friendly titles

Tacoma Little Theater student production of Grease - All seats 7.00 "I would not take very young children to Grease"

Kids Club at the Steilacoom Historical Museum

Fossils event at the Parkland/Spanaway Library

Children's and all ages show at the science dome at Ft. Steilacoom - Low cost astronomy shows in an indoor planetarium cash only at the door, or buy online. Children's show at 12:30 or 2 is on Pluto - all ages at 3:15 is Moons

Dupont/Lacey/Olympia

Play at the Well - Free performance of The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe at Olympia's Artesian Well

The South Sound Estuarium has reopened at its new location 11-4 weekends

Meet us at the beach events - low tide exploration with volunteer naturalists *Note these are NOT very low tides today. If you want a real sand and sea creature experience, plan on doing this the weekend of August 9th, the last truly minus tides of the summer.

Pacific Northwest Mushroom Festival - Kids' zone, Sounders women appearances, Radio Disney on Sunday, lots of mushroom cooking and fun

Visit the LOTT Wet Science Center - The center is free and open to the public every weekend. Presentation at 1PM on low impact building for engineers 10 and up. There should be all ages activities available in the center all day.
South Sound Weekend Kids' Calendar: Family Fun And Things To Do August 1st-3rd!

AUGUST 1, 2014 BY ADMIN | LEAVE A COMMENT

Need something to do around the South Sound this weekend? Boy, have I got you covered! Free festivals, free movies—it's a weekend full of South Sound area family fun at my favorite price!

New here? I hope you’ll be back. I have lists like this each weekend and lots of great stuff in between—all just for the South Sound. You might want to get my daily emails so you don’t miss a thing!

For Seattle or Portland area fun you'll want to check out the fantastic list over at ThriftyNWmomm compiled by the newest member of their frugal finding team, Annaliese of Grays Harbor Deals! It’s Seafair week.

Friday

Fridays are big days in the Pierce County Library system. Head here for a list of kids' events today.

Military appreciation day at the Thurston County Fair. 2.00 admission tickets and 5.00 off carnival ride bracelets with id

Be a toxic investigator! Free program from the Pierce County Health Department at the Puyallup Public Library 3PM
South Sound writer of fantasy trilogy finds art imitates life: His own

A man who likes to fill his house, Jason McWhirter makes wine in his University Place garage and ties flies there for later use on rivers and streams across the Northwest.

McWhirter teaches history at Curtis Junior High School, a family tradition. For 12 years before that, he taught and coached wrestling and soccer at Key Peninsula Middle School — and directed 30 stage productions for the drama department.

And then, there's his writing. "I began writing about 15 years ago, putting together 'The Cavalier Trilogy."' McWhirter said. "I chose fantasy because I was always a fan. It was a genre I loved as a kid, and still do.

"I created a world, a magic system, and over a 10-year period wrote all three books." When it came time to publish, he listened to authors' horror stories, tales of rejection after rejection on the long path to acceptance.

"I never went into writing for the money. I did my research. I listened, and made the decision to self-publish," McWhirter said. "That gave me control of everything — including the book covers, which I helped design. All

See LARUE, A6

LARRY LARUE
he listened to authors' horror stories, tales of rejection after rejection on the long path to acceptance.

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LIBRARIES HOSTING
JOB-SEARCH WORKSHOPS

Job-seekers can get tips for finding work through free job-search workshops at Pierce County Library System branches, including the Eatonville, Parkland-Spanaway and South Hill branches. The events are co-sponsored by WorkSource.

The schedule includes:

- **AUG. 21** at Eatonville Library, 205 Center St. W., "Effective Applications and Resumes" at 11 a.m. and "LinkedIn Help" at 2 p.m.
- **AUG. 11** at Parkland-Spanaway Library, 13718 Pacific Ave. S., "Advertising Your Abilities" at 11 a.m.
- **AUG. 7** at South Hill Library, 15420 Meridian E., Thursday, "Presenting Yourself as a Polished Professional" at 11 a.m. and "Effective Applications and Resumes" at 2 p.m.

"Advertising Your Abilities" focuses on profile statements and the use of social media.

"Effective Applications and Resumes" deals with situations such as age, background and reason for leaving a job. Resumes and cover letters also are covered.

"LinkedIn Help" provides assistance in utilizing a LinkedIn profile. Participants must have a current LinkedIn profile and familiarity with the Internet and computers.

"Presenting Yourself as a Polished Professional" covers topics such as preparing for and what to say in an interview, including how to respond to questions about over-qualification, salary and background issues.

Other courses available through libraries include "The Job Doctor" (resume reviews, mock interviewing and other help from WorkSource job search specialists) and "Job Seeker - Services - Russian" (for job-seekers whose primary language is Russian, Romanian or Ukrainian).

In an effort to devote resources to military veterans, including those who are disabled, WorkSource helps thousands of veterans find jobs each year. As a veteran, you can get preferential access to WorkSource services, including priority referrals to jobs.
Communications
Other Libraries

- Timberland Regional Library increases branch hours
- Puyallup library takes joy in connecting books and readers
- Librarians React to Kindle Unlimited Launch
- Kansas City proposes gigabit-speed software lending library
- ULC 2014 Top Innovators
- Queens Library to Offer PreK Class in Fall 2015
- New York City Libraries Struggle to Meet Demand for English-Language Classes
- The Public Library Wants To Be Your Office
- Why the Public Library Beats Amazon—for Now
- Designs That Last
- [wa-clippings] Library Clippings - August 1, 2014 & August 8, 2014
- QA Little Free Library vandalized
- Ballot measure possible on annexing Stanwood's library to Sno-Isle
Timberland Regional Library increases branch hours

By Lisa Pemberton

Staff writer August 26, 2014

Patrons file in Tuesday morning as the doors open to the Lacey Timberland Regional Library. The library will be open an extra hour a week, part of a system-wide increase in library hours.

STEVE BLOOM — The Olympian [Buy Photo]

Beginning Sept. 2, the Timberland Regional Library system is adding 58 more service hours per week across its five-county district.

“Libraries are at the heart of healthy communities,” said Timberland Library director Cheryl Heywood. “They have one simple mission: to serve the public.”
In Thurston County, it means that most branches — including Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater — will be able to stay open an hour later on Fridays, according to Timberland spokeswoman R.J. Burt.

“I think it’s awesome,” said Lacey Timberland Library patron Matthew Lheureux, 26, of Lacey. “This is my place of peace.”

The biggest change will occur at the Tenino branch, which is increasing from 31 hours of service time per week to 36 hours. The additional time will allow the library to open at 10 a.m. instead of 11 a.m. every day it’s open, Burt said.

The increased hours will not have an additional cost, officials say. That’s because the district is “shifting people and duties into longer open hours and reducing the amount of work done while libraries are closed,” a news release states.

The district’s decision was in response to feedback from community meetings and online surveys, according to Burt.

Lacey Timberland Library is one of the busiest branches in the district, and there’s usually a line of people waiting to get in when it opens every day, Burt said.

Library patron Lisa Lewton said she enjoys bringing her 21-month-old daughter Avrie to the Lacey branch to explore its children’s area, which features kid friendly books, blocks, puzzles and other toys.

“Every time I’ve been here, it’s been super busy,” said Lewton, 40, of Olympia. “It’s super popular.”

Library patron Nanako Lawrence of Thurston County said she’s happy the district is expanding its service time, but wishes the extra hours could have been spread out differently.

“It would be nice if they could open up on Sundays for a couple of hours,” Lawrence said.

Still, she’s able to visit the library several times a week with its current schedule.

“I just love coming here,” Lawrence said. “Meeting people, getting books and DVDs. The staff is very nice.”

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Read more here: http://www.theolympian.com/2014/08/26/3285119_timberland-regional-library-announces.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy
Puyallup library takes joy in connecting books and readers

By Tim Wadham
Director of the Puyallup Public Library
August 12, 2014
puyallupherald.com

The new novel “The Storied Life of A. J. Fickry” by Gabrielle Zevin is one of those books that may cause you to sit quietly and reflect for a long time afterward.

It is the tale of a bookseller, A. J. Fickry, who runs an independent bookstore on Alice Island, off the coast of Massachusetts. Fickry is very opinionated, especially about his literature, and when a young publisher’s representative comes to visit him, he makes a horrible first impression. But there is a side to A. J. that we don’t see at first glance. When a young baby is left in his bookstore with a note asking him to care for her, he ends up adopting her and becomes quite a good father. Over the year he turns his bookstore into the cultural center of his island community, with A. J. as the “purveyor of culture.”

Of course, here in Puyallup, we are a bookstore desert, but the Puyallup Public Library is an oasis in that desert. Much has been made recently of Amazon and its new “unlimited” service, where for $10 a month you can read an unlimited number of books from what turns out to be a fairly limited selection. An article found on Bloomberg online titled “What’s Better than Kindle Unlimited for $120 a Year?” points out that there is a “competing service already available for compulsive book downloaders, and it’s available for free. It comes with a massive selection of books including new bestsellers, and a great app that lets you download to any of your devices: Kindle, iPhone, iPad, laptop, Android devices, Nook, Mac, PC, whatever. This miracle service is available — get this — at your public library.”

There are so many reasons for reading. And there are so many reasons for using the library, not just the availability of unlimited eBooks. Throughout Gabrielle Zervin’s book, there are a number of quotes that spell out some of the more significant reasons. Here are a couple of them: “The words you can’t find, you borrow.”

So often, books give us the words that perfectly articulate something that we are feeling, or perhaps have always known, but have not known how to verbalize. At one point in the story, A. J. says, “My life is in these books ... read them and know my heart.”

Here at the library, we take great joy in connecting books and readers. We understand that in a very real sense, we are what we read. The books we respond to and the stories that have shaped our lives become part of our life. As we read and share and discuss what we are reading, we understand better not only our own hearts, but also the hearts of others.
Toward the end of the book, Zevrin puts the following words in the mouth of Amelia, the publisher's rep who had Fikry's bookstore as one of her accounts. Despite the horrible first visit, Amelia continued to visit the store, which leads to plot points best left for the reader to discover on their own. Amelia says, "...to me this (the bookstore) is as close to a church as I have known in my life. It is a holy place. With bookstores like this, I feel confident in saying that there will be a book business for a very long time."

The goal of the Puyallup Public Library is the same — to stay relevant for you long into the future.

We hope that you, our community, will say, that with a library like ours, which we came together as a community to build, we can be confident that there will be a book and a library business for a very, very long time.
Librarians React to Kindle Unlimited Launch

In a long-expected move, Amazon on July 18 announced the launch of Kindle Unlimited, a new subscription service that will give users unlimited access to a selection of 600,000 ebooks and more than 2,000 audiobooks on Amazon Kindle devices and any device with a Kindle app for $9.99 per month. Amazon is not first to market with an “all you can read” commercial ebook subscription platform—it follows last year’s launch of Scribd and Oyster. But the online retailer’s financial resources, marketing clout, and massive base of users will doubtless raise consumer awareness of ebook subscription services while altering the competitive landscape for all providers of ebooks, including libraries.

“I’m enough of a realist to assume that consumers will gravitate to the cheapest, most convenient source of content, whether that’s Amazon or the public library,” said Jimmy Thomas, executive director of Colorado’s Marmot Library Network. “Amazon continues to set a high standard of convenience libraries should attend to. And every time this huge corporation does something on a massive scale, libraries should be reminded to approach services differently. Competing with Amazon on its own terms is not a good direction for libraries. But thinking about how to complement Amazon is worthwhile.”

At launch, there are chinks in the armor of this new behemoth. While Amazon has publicized the availability of popular series including series such as Harry Potter, “The Lord of the Rings,” and “The Hunger Games,” as many as 500,000 of the titles currently available on Kindle Unlimited were self-published through Amazon’s Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) Select program, according to publishing industry newsletter Publisher’s Lunch. At least for now, the “big five” publishers—Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins, Macmillan, and Hachette Book Group—are not part of the Kindle Unlimited offering. So, despite the size of this initial collection, many libraries still have access to plenty of popular ebooks that are unavailable through the service.

"From a library perspective, Kindle Unlimited seems unlikely to affect demand for library materials at all," said Sarah Houghton, director of California’s San Rafael Public Library (SRPL), blogger at Librar-
anInBlack.net, and a 2009 Library Journal Mover & Shaker. “Six hundred thousand titles is not a lot. Our library participates in Link+, a cooperative lending project that makes tens of millions of titles from libraries across California and Nevada available in print to our communities—at no charge to them.”

SRPL’s ebook catalog also offers about 50,000 titles, Houghton added. In terms of raw numbers, that might seem insignificant by comparison, but Houghton contends that “our selection is also much better than what you’d find in Kindle Unlimited, including most best-selling titles from the Big Five publishers.”

Heather Teysko, director of innovation and development for the Califa Library Group, also noted the lack of goodwill that Amazon has with these publishers.

“I can’t see the Big Five going to [Kindle Unlimited] any time soon because of the contract disputes, like with Hachette,” she told Hotline. Amazon’s sheer size and influence over retail and publishing ensured significant media coverage. And some librarians found it vexing that the vast majority of reviewers and reporters failed to mention libraries as part of the modern ebook lending landscape. Or, less frequently, writers used the announcement as an opportunity to pen op-eds about the death of libraries.

“It’s as much [a point of concern] about mindshare and relevance as it is about a new Amazon service,” said Gary Price, editor of Library Journal’s infoDOCKET blog.

More competitors may soon follow. On July 22, the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) released the results of an extensive survey of 4,000 industry professionals including publishers, librarians, book sellers, and aggregators, and 80 percent of respondents said they believe that ebook publishing was inevitably moving to-ward subscription-based models.

“For libraries, it just means that differentiating your collection and focusing on what makes the library collection unique is even more important,” said Teysko. “Offering the best sellers through vendors won’t necessarily be as appealing if the Big Five come on board and patrons can borrow [those publishers’ books] for $10/month, but, at the same time, highlighting local authors, encouraging local authors, showcasing local history—these are all things that [libraries] can do to differentiate themselves.”

Linda Braun, youth services manager, Seattle Public Library, pointed out that as these subscription services emerge and become more popular, libraries will need to be prepared to provide access to content to users who cannot afford subscriptions and to help other patrons learn how to use these services, much as libraries continue to do with ereaders, tablets, and, more recently, streaming devices.

Jamie LaRue, principal of LaRue and Associates Consulting, noted that “even if [Kindle Unlimited is] multi-platform and authors approve, and [it has] all the best sellers, there will still be a place for libraries—children’s services, sanctuary, meeting space, study space, Maker space. But for most public libraries, circulation is the driver—and this is clearly a shot across the bow.”
Kansas City proposes gigabit-speed software lending library

By Patrick Marshall    Jul 19, 2013

Major software manufacturers, including Adobe and Microsoft, are increasingly moving toward selling online subscriptions to their applications rather than one-time sales of licenses for discs that can then be passed on or resold. The new model may make sense for business users, but it presents problems for individual users who may only need to use an application occasionally.

Unless they live in Kansas City, the site of Google’s first gigabit-speed fiber broadband network.

With the help of the Mozilla Ignite Challenge – which was funded by the National Science Foundation for the development of applications that take advantage of gigabit-per-second Internet speeds – the Kansas City Public Library is developing a high-speed Software Lending Library that will allow users to “check out” applications hosted by the library.

The library hopes to offer high end (and often expensive) productivity software such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premier.

The Software Lending Library plans to use an existing remote desktop solution to deliver software applications from library servers to patrons across the service area. Using the high-speed connection to deliver the applications will allow library patrons to access brand-name business software from gigabit-wired locations even using typically low-performing or older computers and devices.

According to the Kansas City library’s proposal, the project would not be possible without gigabit fiber connectivity. Because the city’s Google Fiber network is low-latency, off-the-shelf remote desktop software will be responsive enough for remote users to manipulate images in software like Adobe Photoshop. That kind of response time will also make it possible for the library to “mediate the effects of unequal access to productivity tools in the community,” the proposal stated.
Inspiring Libraries. Transforming Communities.
About the Innovations Initiative

“Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.”
– Albert Einstein

Five years and literally hundreds of smart ideas later, the Urban Libraries Council’s (ULC) Innovations Initiative continues to showcase public libraries’ remarkable capacity for leadership, innovation, and transformation in the communities they serve.

The 2014 Top Innovators epitomize the pillars of 21st century library success – supporting a lifetime of learning for all, maximizing digital access, encouraging civic engagement, meeting health and safety needs, promoting economic and workforce development, serving communities in crisis, and more. From a library-school partnership that introduces kids to the power of eReaders, to a mobile career center for job seekers, to a collaborative effort to reduce obesity and promote healthy living, to helping communities recover from natural disasters, public libraries are at the center of community life and success.

A panel of expert judges selected the 2014 Top Innovators and Honorable Mentions in 10 categories based on the strength of their innovations, results achieved, and capacity to be replicated. The categories are: Leading Learning; Civic and Community Engagement; Collections; Customer Experience; Economic and Workforce Development; Health, Wellness, and Public Safety; Operations; Organizational Change and Strategic Management; Positioning the Library; and Sustainability. In addition, ULC is honoring two communities for their leadership in helping their communities respond to and recover from natural disasters.

In 2014, more than 180 stories of successful innovations were submitted. All will become part of ULC’s Innovation Resource Center which now includes close to 1000 leading practices in these diverse categories of library services and operations.

ULC congratulates all of its member libraries and the 2014 honorees for their innovative practices that highlight the power and impact of high-performing public libraries.
Leading Learning

Grand Rapids Public Library, MI
DigiBridge
grpl.org/schools

DigiBridge is a joint effort of Grand Rapids Public Library and the Grand Rapids Public Schools to put technology in the hands of middle and high school students to help them become 21st century learners. The program includes conversion of school IDs to digital library cards to provide quick access to library databases, aggressive efforts to register students for full-access library cards, and training for teachers, students, and parents on using databases for research. As part of the program’s initial roll out, eReaders loaded with grade-appropriate books were purchased and distributed to 200 students at four middle schools to foster digital literacy skills.

In just six months, DigiBridge produced remarkable results – 17,000 school IDs became digital library cards, students logged 3,800 research sessions using digital resources, more than 850 students, parents and teachers completed training on how to use library databases, and nearly 100 students, parents, and teachers joined library staff at the Nook eReader Festival in January. In addition, middle school students attended a four-week Teen [Tech]Knowledgy Camp where they used library resources to learn about technology and its real world applications.

Honorable Mention:
Palo Alto City Library, CA
makeX: Teen Mobile Makerspace
cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/lib/teens/makex.asp

makeX is a teen-designed “starter” mobile makerspace in which middle- and high-school aged youth in Palo Alto can build, design, tinker, play, and let their imaginations run wild. This model for makerspaces, that can move throughout the community, emerged from a partnership between Palo Alto City Library and Palo Alto Art Center to promote self-directed and mentored creative expression as well as learning about art and technology while relieving stress and connecting with friends in a “place of their own.”

2014 Top Innovators
Civic and Community Engagement

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, KS
Librarians Facilitate Community Change
tscpl.org

Library staff have facilitated meetings, workgroups, and strategic planning sessions for multiple community organizations including the Downtown Rotary, the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department, the Heartland Healthy Neighbors coalitions, and the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Honorable Mention:
Wichita Public Library, KS
Activate Wichita
activate-wichita.org

Activate Wichita is a library-designed and led online town hall that engages citizens in conversations about challenges facing the metropolitan area and increases connections to the library. In its first year of service, Activate Wichita had more than 10,000 visitors viewing 5,400 pages per month with 1,000 active participants in online community conversations. The site offers two-way communication 24/7 between city leaders and local residents.

The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library is becoming the go-to resource for helping groups of smart people achieve great things together for the community. After completing an Effective Facilitator/Masterful Meetings training program, librarians and management staff have the skills needed to serve as conveners for community conversations and as trusted resources for reconciling diverse perspectives and helping groups reach consensus. In addition, the training process broadened the role of librarians in the community as change agents and contributed to individual professional development.

Inspiring Libraries.
Collections

Santa Clara County Library District, CA
SCCLD-JukePop Launch Self-Publishing
sccl.org/browse/ebooks-and-downloads/
episodic-fiction

A unique public library-Silicon Valley partnership has provided an easy-to-use platform for bringing self-published fiction to library users in an eBook format. The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) and JukePop, Inc., a Palo Alto start-up company specializing in self-publishing, joined forces to provide free access to 800 self-published eBooks on the library website.

The partnership has increased traffic to the library website, reached a new set of readers who are interested in self-published content, revitalized interest in serial fiction, connected up-and-coming authors with new audiences, and increased use of eBooks in the library collection. The library's relationship with JukePop has also provided significant eBook content at no cost while demonstrating the potential for lending eBooks for use by multiple readers simultaneously. While easily available through the SCCLD website, the JukePop content is not part of the library's collection, and any questions, concerns, and challenges regarding content are referred to JukePop.

Honorable Mention: Pikes Peak Library District, CO
Waldo Canyon Fire Digital Collection
ppld.org/digital-collections

The loss of two lives, 347 homes, 18,247 acres of land, and $350 million damage from a major fire in the Colorado Springs area prompted the Pikes Peak Library District to use its archival experience to collect and preserve information about the fire's impact. The Waldo Canyon Fire Digital Collection contains reports, press releases, photographs, videos, oral-history interviews, and handwritten personal stories. Because the documentation was "born digital," the process challenged library staff to rethink their approach to archival work in the 21st century.

Transforming Communities.
Customer Experience

**Denver Public Library, CO**
**DPL Connect: A Pedal-Powered Bookmobile**
bikedenver.org/bicycle-news/Denver-public-library-on-2-wheels

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**DPL Connect**, a fully equipped book bike with shelves, display areas, and a Wi-Fi hotspot, has successfully imbedded the Denver Public Library throughout the community in a nimble, dynamic, and unexpected way. The book bike is part of a comprehensive effort to make the library more accessible by bringing services, products, and staff outside traditional branch locations. It was designed by a local custom bike builder and has helped establish new community and business connections for the library. For example, the Denver Bicycle Cafe offered happy-hour prices to customers with library cards at an event where **DPL Connect** was registering new library users, and Bike Denver named DPL a bicycle-friendly business.

The book bike’s VPN connection to the library’s integrated library system has made it possible to register new library users and circulate items. That VPN link is now used by DPL’s street team to ensure that the library is connected to its customer base anywhere and everywhere. More importantly, the book bike has expanded the customer experience and changed the way the library is perceived in every corner of the community.

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**Honorable Mention: Edmonton Public Library, AB**
**Great Stuff: EPL Makes It Personal!**
epl.ca/staffpicks

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) created a “Great Stuff Crew” to help customers get a handle on the 6.5 million items in its collection. The nine-member team, selected through a casting call and auditions, has become the face of the library – a fun, creative group that shares relevant, cool, and unique content about trending and timely topics. While the crew is the front-line for customer service, every staff member plays a role in promoting EPL’s collection and generating excitement about and awareness of its resources, and encouraging customers to see EPL as a trusted source for information and advice.
Economic and Workforce Development

Memphis Public Library & Information Center, TN  
JobLINC: Mobile Bus for Job Seekers and Employers  
memphislibrary.org/joblinc

With an unemployment rate lingering above 10 percent, the Memphis Public Library launched the JobLINC mobile career center to provide a one-stop resource for job seekers in close-to-home locations - community centers, library branches, community agencies, grocery stores, malls, and other public areas. Rolled out in 2012, the 38-foot bus offers a range of job-hunting resources as well as staff on board to help job-seekers in various ways, from preparing resumes or sharpening interview skills to improving computer skills, applying for jobs online, or setting up and accessing an email account using the on-board laptops. Its services are tailored to individual needs and a strong focus on solving problems that interfere with job-hunting success.

The eco-friendly and ADA-accessible bus has solar panels to power its electronics, recycled flooring, and a hybrid engine that runs on diesel fuel.

JobLINC has been enthusiastically welcomed throughout the city and county with between 6,000 and 12,000 people using its services and resources annually including an average of 1,500 in-depth counseling referrals and more than 2,000 job searches. It is sometimes flagged down by job seekers en route to an appointment or followed until its next stop.

Honorable Mention:  
King County Library System, WA  
Building a Workforce that Reflects our Community  
kcls.org

The King County Library System (KCLS) established the Page Fellowship training program to recruit, hire, educate, and retain a diverse library workforce that better reflects and directly connects with the communities the library system serves. The program is built around three components - a community-centered recruitment process, a transparent training work plan, and regular reality-based evaluations. More than 10 percent of the KCLS's current staff are now former fellows of the program.
Health, Wellness, and Public Safety

Houston Public Library, TX
Healthy L.I.F.E.
houstonlibrary.org/healthy-life

Healthy L.I.F.E. is the Houston Public Library’s (HPL) health-based literacy initiative designed to empower and equip families with information, resources, and tools needed for healthy living. With 66 percent of adults and 34 percent of youth in the Houston area overweight or obese and one in five Harris County adults lacking basic literacy skills, the library leveraged its status as a trusted learning resource to tackle a significant community health education challenge through a family-learning model. Healthy L.I.F.E. offers regularly-scheduled events to help parents and children learn together about healthy lifestyles, stress-free living, school success, and healthy eating while also getting access to free community resources that support better health. The events are held at branches that serve low-income populations, have positive relationships with schools and community groups, and experience high-demand for and interest in family-centered programming.

Since its creation, more than 50 agencies have worked with the library to contribute information, resources, and services to more than 3,100 families including 50,000 pounds of fresh food distributed to needy families by the Houston Food Bank, along with 3,000 nutrition and fitness books and DVDs. Among participating families surveyed, 80 percent have committed to changing their lifestyles and improving their own healthy-living behaviors.

Honorable Mention:
Pima County Public Library, AZ
Santa Rosa Snacks
library.pima.gov/locations/santarosa

The Santa Rosa Branch of the Pima County Public Library System began serving healthy snacks to the many low-income children who use the library as a safe after-school space while their parents are working. More than 85 percent of the children who live in the Santa Rosa Library service area qualify for free or reduced cost lunches, and the 60-100 children who spend every afternoon at the library rarely had any snacks in their backpacks to carry them through the afternoon. The library became an Agency Market of the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank to qualify for their snack program for children in need. Library staff report that participating children are more focused after snack time, and there has been a decrease in behavioral problems.
Organizational Change and Strategic Management

Skokie Public Library, IL
Realigning for Greater Access, Learning, and Community
skokielibrary.info

To better align staff to meet the needs of the community it serves and stay true to its core values, Skokie Public Library carried out a major organizational realignment based on a new strategic plan. With the active engagement of library staff, the realignment led to the creation of three new departments – Access Services, Learning Experiences, and Community Engagement – paralleling the library’s core values. Since implementation in January 2014, the realignment has led to a fresh perspective among staff and improved outcomes for customers. For example:

- Access Services, which combined technical services, collection development, and materials handling into one group, is focusing on unifying the library’s entire collection, both physical and digital, and growing digital resources.

- Learning Experiences is working on an experiential, interdisciplinary STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) learning lab for middle-school students, establishing more creative learning environments for adults, teens, and youth, and broadening digital literacy initiatives.

- Community Engagement, with more staff assigned to this function, has already built stronger partnerships with local preschools, schools, and a community health center and is developing new virtual resources for community connections.

Honorable Mention:
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC
WorkSmart for Process Improvement and Innovation
cmllibrary.org

WorkSmart, a staff-led initiative to create best practices and efficiencies throughout the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, has provided new ways to capture, share, and reward improvement and innovation. The program encourages every library branch to develop and implement innovations and efficiencies that can be shared and tweaked for use in other branches and rewards staff for their efforts. Along with specific improvements throughout the system, WorkSmart has empowered staff to offer suggestions for improvement and know that their ideas will be seriously considered.

Inspiring Libraries.
Positioning the Library

Durham County Library, NC
First Library in Space
firstlibraryinspace.org

The First Library in Space (FLIS) has successfully launched and landed. The launch was part of the Durham County Library’s effort to take its STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programming for teens to new heights by building and launching a capsule filled with library memorabilia into near space. In addition to teaching participating teens new skills, the FLIS project was designed to build the library’s reputation as a STEM resource by involving patrons and community partners in an innovative, high-profile event. The library carried out the goal of building its STEM bona fides by:

- Launching the capsule from a high-profile location: center field of the Durham Bulls Athletic Field
- Engaging the community through tweets and real-time GPS tracking on the website.

While the first capsule disappeared after launch, FLIS2 launched and landed without a hitch a few weeks later. The project’s success and visibility led to a $25,000 grant from Duke Energy to support a Teen Tech Learning Lab, new community partnerships for STEM learning, and an expanded library social media audience to increase interest in STEM programming. A documentary video about the launch, with a soundtrack written by two teen patrons, has attracted more than 500 viewers.

Honorable Mention:
Springfield City Library, MA
Imagine: A Peace-Full City
springfieldlibrary.org/library/imagine-a-peace-full-city

Sparked by sadness about the 2012 tragedy in Newtown, CT, and continuing gun violence, the Springfield City Library joined with an Interfaith Council to distribute “peace flags” and carry out programs to get people talking about creating a peaceful city. The project engaged a broad range of community connections including the Springfield Police Department, the Mayor’s Anti-Violence Task Force, and the city’s Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. With nearly 1,300 program participants, the Peace-Full City initiative reinforced the library’s position as a safe, neutral, community gathering place that fosters discussion, learning, and change.
Salt Lake County Library Services, UT
Sustainability Initiative
slcolibrary.org

Following a pattern of rising annual utility costs, Salt Lake County Library Services began a comprehensive sustainability initiative to cut energy consumption in its 18 library buildings, save taxpayer resources, raise public awareness of the importance of energy conservation, and engage library staff in creating a culture of sustainability. To achieve its goal of a net reduction in utility expenditures by 2015, the library is:

- Creating a profile for each building including location, age, square footage, whether it is LEED certified, number of employees, building systems, and utility costs
- Implementing energy conservation strategies such as plug-load control systems, wireless smart plugs, and watt metering devices
- Piloting an employee gardening space
- Using environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Creating sustainable purchasing practices and policies.

One of the library's LEED-certified facilities has already reduced its energy costs by nearly 56 percent. Savings in other facilities are being tracked and compiled. At the same time, the library is engaging and educating staff about the important role they play in ensuring a more sustainable work environment.

Honorable Mention:
Milwaukee Public Library, WI
Better Building Challenge Showcase Facility
www4.eere.energy.gov/challenge/showcase/Milwaukee/central-library

The Milwaukee Public Library achieved a 15 percent energy reduction in its 115-year-old historic downtown Central Library as part of a city-wide energy conservation challenge. The savings were achieved through installation of a green roof with solar panels, repair and replacement of energy-deficient steam traps, and use of more energy-efficient lighting. The library, which was recognized for its efforts by the Better Buildings Challenge of the U.S. Department of Energy, is on track to meet the goal of a 20 percent energy reduction by 2020.
Special Honors: Serving Communities in Crisis

Pioneer Library System, OK
PLS Virtual Response: May 2013 Oklahoma Tornadoes
pioneerlibrarysystem.org/pls/111-press/4805-tornado-relief-information

The Pioneer Library System has established itself as a vital resource for both immediate response and longer-term recovery from natural disasters. When tornadoes tore through three county service areas over several days in May 2013, the library instituted on-the-fly changes to its virtual platform to keep vital communication channels open. After back-to-back tornadoes on May 19 and 20, the library moved its official communications to social media and managed to create a tornado relief site before a third tornado hit on May 31. The library’s website was used by the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to create the statewide “Oklahoma Strong” site. The experience of being a vital communication resource during and after the May 2013 tornadoes prompted the library system to implement new disaster preparedness strategies including remotely hosted online services and to improve its emergency communication methods with library staff.

The tornadoes also reinforced a long-standing need for financial literacy training, particularly to help tornado survivors figure out how to recover financially from the crisis. Using a Smart Investing@your library grant, the library created a series of special programs on financial and mental health needs titled “Resilience in the Heartland.” The programs provided both specific recovery guidance and mutual support for people who experienced losses during the tornadoes.
Participants in the 2014 ULC Innovations Initiative:

Alameda County Library, CA
Alexandria Library, VA
Allen County Public Library, IN
Anne Arundel County Public Library, MD
Arapahoe Library District, CO
Aurora Public Library, CO
Boston Public Library, MA
Broward County Library, FL
Calgary Public Library, AB
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC
Cleveland Public Library, OH
Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH
County of Los Angeles Public Library, CA
Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH
Dallas Public Library, TX
Dayton Metro Library, OH
Denver Public Library, CO
District of Columbia Public Library, DC
Durham County Library, NC
Edmonton Public Library, AB
Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, IN
Free Library of Philadelphia, PA
Fresno County Public Library, CA
Frisco Public Library, TX
Grand Rapids Public Library, MI
Gwinnett County Public Library, GA
Hartford Public Library, CT
Hennepin County Library, MN
Houston Public Library, TX
Howard County Library System, MD
Indianapolis Public Library, IN
Jacksonville Public Library, FL
Kansas City Public Library, MO
King County Library System, WA
Lexington Public Library, KY
Los Angeles Public Library, CA
Loudoun County Public Library, VA
Madison Public Library, WI
Memphis Public Library & Info Center, TN
Mid-Continent Public Library, MO
Milwaukee Public Library, WI
Nashville Public Library, TN
Oakland Public Library, CA
Orange County Library System, FL
Ottawa Public Library, ON
Palm Beach County Library System, FL
Palo Alto City Library, CA
Pasadena Public Library, CA
Pierce County Library System, WA
Pikes Peak Library District, CO
Pima County Public Library, AZ
Pioneer Library System, OK
Portland Public Library, ME
Queens Library, NY
Rangefield Library District, CO
Richland Library, SC
Sacramento Public Library, CA
Salt Lake City Public Library, UT
Salt Lake County Library Services, UT
San Antonio Public Library, TX
San Diego Public Library, CA
San Francisco Public Library, CA
Santa Clara County Library District, CA
Skokie Public Library, IL
Snc-Isle Libraries, WA
Springfield City Library, MA
St. Louis County Library, MO
St. Paul Public Library, MN
The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton, OH
The Seattle Public Library, WA
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, KS
Torrance Public Library, CA
Virginia Beach Public Library, VA
Wichita Public Library, KS
Worcester Public Library, MA

All submissions can be found on the ULC website, urbanlibraries.org.
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Queens Library to Offer PreK Class in Fall 2015

By Lauren Barack on August 11, 2014

Eighteen school children in Queens, New York are heading to their local library on September 8—for school. As part of New York City’s push to open 33,000 new universal pre-kindergarten (PreK) spots by September 2014, the Woodhaven branch of the Queens Library will open its doors on September 8 to 18 Pre-K students. Image courtesy of Queens Library.

The Woodhaven branch of the Queens Library, one of its four Carnegie libraries, will be the first public library to open its doors as a formal full-time classroom under the New York City Department of Education (DOE).

“The Queens Library wanted to jump on Mayor de Blasio’s bandwagon to provide more PreK locations in NYC,” says Nick Buron, vice-president of Public Library Services, who is heading the PreK initiative inside the Queens Library. “We
have always done informal learning for more than 100 years at the Queens Library, so this was not new for us.”

What was new was working within the confines of the DOE, says Buron, even as the library continues its commitment to early learning. De Blasio’s mission is to have a total of 33,000 PreK positions in place by September 2014, with an additional 20,000 for 2015-2016. Buron says that 30 families applied for the branches’ 18 PreK spots. (Funding for the new program came through the DOE, although the actual amount was not disclosed by the Queens Library.)

Some adjustments had to be made to the Woodhaven branch space—“capital improvements,” says King, which included renovating a former large storage area into a new programming room, with the former one turning into the new classroom.

The library also re-did a back area with “overgrown trees,” says Buron, and transformed it into a new outdoor space with grass that works for the children—and also for the general public when school isn’t in session.

The Queens Library has a long history of its commitment to early childhood literacy. Take its recent grant of $152,000 from the Pinkerton Foundation—thepinkertonfoundation.org—this year, which will enable the library branch in South Jamaica to open on Saturdays and pay for a new full-time dedicated children’s librarian in that location as well. And Buron says the library had originally hoped to open PreK classes in two locations—the one at Woodhaven and a second at a family literacy center at Ravenswood which used to be a traditional library in the Ravenswood Houses, a public housing complex. Queens Library had hoped to offer 36 additional spots for its PreK classes at Ravenswood but had to drop the location, with plans to revisit the options for 2015, because of the money needed to fix the space to meet facility standards by September.

“Most meeting places are geared to adults,” says Buron. “But with children, you have to have a lot of little toilets. If a location doesn’t have that, there’s a lot of money or plumbing.”

Because it’s not a school, the Queens Library had to apply for its PreK opportunity as a community-based organization, or CBO, like others that run universal PreK programs in New York City, including the Children’s Aid Society and Catholic Charities. While the library is experienced at hiring librarians, for the universal PreK program it is hiring three new positions: a teacher certified in early learning, among other qualifications; a teaching assistant; and an administrative assistant to run the office. All positions will be in place when the 18 children make their way to their new classroom on Monday morning next
month. As for the library’s shift from supporting education toward being a center for schooling?

“We have 4-year-olds doing story hour with us right now,” says Buron. “They’re with us because there’s not enough formalized education for them. It seems this [direction] is where we are going.”

About Lauren Barack
Lauren Barack writes about the connection between media and education, business and technology, and is the recipient of the Loeb Award for online journalism. She can be found at www.laurenbarack.com.<http:www.laurenbarack.com/>.


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New York City Libraries Struggle to Meet Demand for English-Language Classes

By WINNIE HU  AUG. 6, 2014

They came, one after another, through the glass doors of the Bronx Library Center, the largest public library in the borough. Some rode multiple trains or buses from home; others took precious time away from work. A few struggled with young children in tow.

It was not books they wanted, but something more basic: to learn English.

The Bronx library on East Kingsbridge Road has become a hub of English instruction at a time when many of New York City’s public libraries are seeking to expand their language and literacy programs to better serve patrons who increasingly come from all over the world. The programs are free to local residents, regardless of their income or immigration status, and have become so popular in some neighborhoods that people stand in line for hours to sign up and many have to be turned away because there are not enough spots.

“I need to learn English,” said Rafael Villeta, one of 153 people waiting to register for classes at the Bronx library on a hot Tuesday afternoon in July. “Every job, the first question is, ‘You know English?’ ”

Mr. Villeta, 45, a former army captain in the Dominican Republic who moved to the Bronx this spring to join his wife and daughter, said he looked into a private language school but could not afford the registration and tuition fees. He came to the library after hearing about the free classes from a friend who had taken them.

More than one-third of New York City’s 8.3 million residents were born in other countries, according to an analysis of census data by Queens College’s sociology department. And of all residents over the age of 5 — about 7.8 million people — nearly half, or 3.8 million, speak a language other than English at home,
the most common being Spanish (1.9 million speakers). One million people speak little or no English.

The New York Public Library, which covers the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, taught English to 4,398 people last year at 32 of its 88 neighborhood branches, including 16 in the Bronx alone, the most in any borough. Library officials, who surveyed the participants about why they chose the library classes, reported finding that more than three-quarters said they simply had nowhere else to go.

"The need is real, and there are simply not enough of these classes in New York City to meet the demand," said Tony Marx, the library's president and chief executive. "The library system has always been about offering access to education and opportunity to all New Yorkers. This is another way — an important way — that we can do that, and we want to do it for as many people as possible."

The library had offered English instruction through an outside service for more than two decades before it replaced it in 2012 with a program that it developed itself, and significantly expanded classes across the city. Mr. Marx said the library offered 7,901 seats in English instruction in the 2014 fiscal year — up from 2,500 seats in 2011 — and aimed to offer as many as 16,000 seats if additional funding could be secured. (There are fewer actual students than seats available because many people take more than one class session a year; a single person enrolled in three sessions would be counted as three seats.)

The library spends about $5 million a year on English-language instruction and literacy classes, of which about $3 million comes from private donations, and the rest from city and federal funds, Mr. Marx said. The classes are offered at designated adult learning centers in neighborhood libraries, which also offer related classes in computer skills and citizenship.

Libraries in Brooklyn and Queens are also struggling to meet what they see as a growing need for English instruction, though they have been constrained in some cases by reductions in budgets and operating hours as well as increased costs for technology and teaching materials.

In the 2014 fiscal year, the Brooklyn Public Library increased its funding for English-language classes to $417,893, from $214,021 in each of the previous two years. The money, which paid for 1,757 students, included a state grant for a new
class, Business English Workplace Conversation, for those with more advanced language skills.

The Queens Library added summer workshops for the first time this year to supplement its fall and spring English-language classes, conversation groups and computer-assisted studies. The library, which switched to a mail-in lottery to enroll students in the early 1990s because fistfights used to break out over the limited number of seats, currently teaches English to 2,700 people a year in seven adult-learning centers and 28 neighborhood branches. Library officials say that while they would like to expand the offerings, they cannot until operating hours, which were reduced at many branches to save money, have been restored.

At the Bronx Library Center, information sessions for the English instruction have drawn hundreds of people in the past two weeks. Many were recent immigrants like Billy Moises Figueroa, 19, who grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to the Bronx in early July to study graphic arts. “Even though I know English, the school needs it to be better,” he said through a Spanish-speaking translator.

The library employs 65 teachers for the English instruction, all with a bachelor’s or master’s degree and previous classroom experience, who answered the library’s job ads. Emily Skalet, 28, said many of her students come in without any kind of schooling in their own countries. So she starts with pictures, videos and role playing — say, at a doctor’s office — and after three months, they are exchanging pleasantries, asking questions and filling out forms.

Last spring, her students signed a letter petitioning the city to restore library funding. “My students said, ‘I never thought I’d be able to do this, to write my name without anybody’s help,’ ” she said. “They were really proud, and I was really proud, too.”

The classes, which are taught at six levels from beginning to advanced, are built around themes — housing, family, shopping, transportation — intended to help students communicate in everyday life. Sarah Horton, 32, who teaches five days a week at the Bronx Library Center, said her students were highly motivated and often put their new English to work right away. For instance, one student, after taking job-themed classes, told her that he felt more confident in job interviews. “They want to be there,” she said. “And they realize the value of it for their lives.”
The program, which requires a minimum six-month commitment, assigns people ages 16 and over to two two-hour classes a week based on ability. Attendance is required, and those who miss more than one class a month or are chronically tardy can be asked to leave, though they are allowed to re-enroll at a later time. Library officials said that had happened to only a small number.

As the auditorium at the Library Center filled up, a library worker, Elke Stappert, played James Brown’s “I Feel Good” to loosen up any anxieties. Then Ms. Stappert asked if there was anyone who spoke Korean (yes), Bengali (yes), Italian (yes), Russian (no). When she got to Spanish, half the audience raised their hands.

Amarilies Maisonave, 55, a home health worker, said she felt comfortable taking lessons at the library because she already spent two or three days a month there, reading books in Spanish or getting help with reading correspondence. Ms. Maisonave, a native of the Dominican Republic, said that while she learned to speak English from years of working in people’s homes, she could not read or write well. “This helps me and gives me an opportunity for learning,” she said. “I hope I can use the library a lot because it’s boring to be at home.”
The Public Library Wants To Be Your Office

Shoving books aside to create community-centered coworking spaces doesn’t sit well with some library loyalists.

By Anita Hamilton
It’s 9:45 on a Monday morning, and Jonathan Marino has just arrived at his tech startup in D.C.’s Chinatown neighborhood. The 30-year-old director of content for Map Story—which aims to be the Wikipedia of interactive maps—greets his two interns with a huge smile, joins them at an open table tucked inside a glass-walled pod, and fires up his laptop. Hunched over their computers, the group looks like any other early-stage startup, with one key distinction—their “office” is merely a meeting area inside Washington, D.C.’s main public library.

Home to nearly 784 million printed books, U.S. public libraries aren’t just a place to peruse them in silence anymore. Over the past decade, dozens of reading rooms have been reincarnated as de facto coworking spaces. Some, including D.C.’s Digital Commons and Scottsdale, Arizona’s Eureka Loft, cater expressly to startups by helping them find funding, mentors, and other resources to advance their business plans. Others take a laissez-faire approach geared more toward solo artists seeking a no-frills space. Altogether, more than half of all public libraries now offer workspaces for mobile workers, according to a new study from the Information Policy & Access Center.

For the growing ranks of freelancers whose alternatives range from a cramped corner of their bedroom to a $500-a-month, private coworking space, the new library work zones are a boon. Decked out with fast Internet, 3-D printers, meeting rooms, whiteboards, and plenty of space to spread out, they’re much better suited to getting work done than jostling for counter space at a noisy coffee shop.
Refreshing The Mission

While each library coworking zone has its own vibe, all were created in response to a singular need: reinvention. When Benjamin Franklin donated 116 books to a small town in Massachusetts to create the first public library in 1790, access to bound volumes other than the family bible was a luxury. Now that we’re deluged with the written word both online and off, the demand for a central repository of free reading material can feel antiquated. “The role of the book is changing,” notes Brooklyn Public Library president Linda Johnson. “It won’t be long before it is less important to people.”

New York Public Library president Anthony Marx puts it more bluntly: “Books are a 500-year-old delivery system for providing access to information. We aren’t getting out of the book business, but now we are providing new ways to access information.” Nationwide, book collections at public libraries have shrunk 2% from their peak of nearly 800 million in 2003, according to data provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

But to some patrons, moving books aside to create more communal spaces feels like a classic case of mission creep. “Aren’t books really the backbone of a civilization?” asks David Levering-Lewis, a Pulitzer-Prize winning biographer who says he wrote six of his eight books using reference material from the New York Public Library. The scholar was a plaintiff in one of three lawsuits aimed at getting NYPL to shelve a plan to replace the research stacks that held millions of books at the central library in Bryant Park with a circulating library featuring new spaces for people to plug in their laptops and tap away on tablets. (The library dropped the controversial plan this past May, citing high costs, but promises to increase public space in the building by 58% with a more modest renovation.)

“It’s valid for libraries to have workspaces in them,” says Michael White of the advocacy group Citizens Defending Libraries, which joined the suit against NYPL, “but taking a library and just making a Starbucks out of it is really duplicating what we are going to have tons of anyway.”
A Room of Their Own

Step inside the lobby area at Brooklyn’s main branch at Grand Army Plaza, and there’s not a book in sight. Instead, there’s a café, an art exhibit by the library’s artist-in-residence, and the book-free Info Commons. Opened in 2013 and financed by a $3.25 million private grant and $560,000 in federal funding, the space was nearly full on a recent Wednesday afternoon when the temperature outside hovered around 90 degrees. Among the dozens of locals seated at the long tables and counters there, a young woman was teaching herself to type using Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, a guy with a ponytail and chunky headphones was designing a logo using Adobe Illustrator, and another guy wearing pink shorts and a T-shirt was browsing templates for music websites on Wix.com—all on the library’s widescreen Mac workstations.

Terrence Hamilton, a 32-year-old real estate agent, spent the afternoon at the Info Commons updating listings on his laptop. He says he likes working there because it gets him away from office chitchat and out of the house when he’s between appointments. “It’s inspiring,” he says. “I see all kinds of people doing all kinds of things, and it motivates me.”

For Jonathan Marino of Map Story in D.C., working out of the public library isn’t just a way to save money on office space; it helps him grow his business. The startup partnered with the library to digitize some 8,000 historical maps of Washington, D.C., then import them into Map Story. Marino also holds informal focus groups at the library in which he solicits feedback from anyone who walks in off the street to find out which features they like. And because Map Story’s ultimate success or failure depends on how well the public embraces it, “being embedded in a public space,” as Marino puts it, makes perfect sense.

How does working at the library compare to private coworking spaces? For one thing, the crowd at the paid spaces is noticeably less diverse. A block away from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library where Map Story is based, seats at an open table inside WeWork’s loft-like space start at $325 a month. Touring the space, I can’t help but notice that everyone there looks young and white—a stark contrast to the multiethnic crowd at the nearby public library, which is about half African-American and skews much older. Jacqueline Chenault, an actor and software developer in her late twenties, says she joined WeWork in part because of the other
people working there. "The networking opportunities are a big part of it," she says, noting that several of the people she met there have become clients of hers. "That's not happening at the library," she says.

"25-year-olds who are entrepreneurs don't normally think of the library as a cool place to be," notes Micha Weinblatt, 31, whose startup Betterific operates out of the D.C. library's Digital Commons. When he tells people he works there, he says, "people are like, 'you are probably working in a dodgy room with stacks all over and slow Wi-Fi.'" In reality, Weinblatt's team passes its days in a glass-walled pod on the first floor of a Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed building featuring 18-foot, floor-to-ceiling windows.

That perception gap may be libraries' biggest hurdle in attracting more freelancers to their increasingly accommodating spaces. Given the diversity of people who patronize them--a mix of the homeless, college students, retirees, freelancers, and entrepreneurs--chances are these public spaces will never match the intensity of hard-charging coworking lofts where everyone pays for access. While I saw plenty of "workers" at the main Brooklyn and D.C. libraries, there were just as many, if not more, people checking Facebook, watching YouTube videos, spacing out, or, in one case, taking a long nap.

Footing the Bill

How to pay for these new spaces is another key concern. Libraries' shrinking budgets have resulted in millions of dollars of deferred maintenance, making it hard to justify buying dozens of high-end workstations when something as basic as the air conditioning isn't functioning properly. Brooklyn relied primarily on private funding to pay for its Info Commons because it could do the renovations "faster and better" than if it had used public funding, which would require using the city's contractor, according to library president Johnson. While the Info Commons got fast-tracked, the Art Deco building it resides in still needs $100 million in repairs to its roof, ventilation system, and elevators.

Libraries catering to workers walk a fine line between appealing to business-minded patrons who help energize their once-sleepy reading rooms and avoiding the appearance of playing favorites in what has traditionally been an egalitarian space. To do this, they may finance startups indirectly by connecting them with private
sources of funding or waiving other costs that a typical startup would incur. For example, the D.C. library is using a $10,800 federal grant to digitize its historic maps, which it will then give to Map Story for free. In Scottsdale, Arizona, the winner of the library’s annual Gadget and Demo Day, Morgan Coffinger, says she got 20 new customers for her Japanese-style composting system—but no prize money— as a result of the exposure. And since 2003, the Brooklyn Public Library has held an annual business plan competition with cash prizes of up to $15,000, all paid for by Citibank.

D.C. Public Library president Richard Reyes-Gavilán defends libraries’ growing role as business incubators, despite their tenuous connection to books, literacy, and information access. “Libraries have always been a place for personal betterment. We are providing a space for people to get a leg up on their lives, whether that’s someone running their own business or getting their library card for the first time so they’re better able to tackle first grade.”

Adds NYPL President Marx, “libraries should be providing free access to information and physical space to engage in the life of the mind whether it is a new business idea or thinking up a new novel.” It’s a nice idea. But as demonstrated by the failed plan to gut the stacks at the crown jewel of the New York Public Library system, trying to accommodate everyone in a finite space is just begging for a turf war.

[Photo by Philip Greenberg]

Anita Hamilton

Anita Hamilton is a freelance writer covering business, technology, health, environment, and lifestyle topics. She has also written for Time, Bloomberg Businessweek, Time Out New York, and CNET.

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August 8, 2014 | 9:00 AM

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There is nothing wrong with adding appropriate resources to libraries, but in New York City where the NYPL and BPL are going off in a lot of sometimes very strange directions they are selling off and shrinking library space and, in the process, getting rid of books, librarians too, in a big way. I don’t mean that they are converting to digital, although that is one of the things library chiefs will tell you they are doing in a way that misleads. What I mean is that resources are totally disappearing or becoming substantially less accessible. Yes that includes removal of physical books and the opportunities to browse.

Upon further analysis, we see that such library shrinkages and removal of resources in New York City, at a time of substantially increasing use, have been pushed to create real estate deals that substantially benefit others but not the library-using or general public.
Amazon, Scribd and Oyster now sell all-you-can-eat ebook subscriptions. But Personal Tech columnist Geoffrey A. Fowler found a free alternative with a much better digital selection: Your local public library.

A growing stack of companies would like you to pay a monthly fee to read e-books, just like you subscribe to Netflix to binge on movies and TV shows.

Don't bother. Go sign up for a public library card instead.

Really, the public library? Amazon.com recently launched Kindle Unlimited, a $10-per-month service offering loans of 600,000 e-books. Startups called Oyster and Scribd offer something similar. It isn't very often that a musty old institution can hold its own against tech disrupters.

But it turns out librarians haven't just been sitting around shushing people while the Internet drove them into irrelevance. More than 90% of American public libraries have amassed e-book collections you can read on your iPad, and often even on a Kindle. You don't have to walk into a branch or risk an overdue fine. And they're totally free.
Publishers have come to see libraries not only as a source of income, but also as a marketing vehicle. *Emily Prapuolenis/The Wall Street Journal*

Though you still have to deal with due dates, hold lists and occasionally clumsy software, libraries, at least for now, have one killer feature that the others don’t: e-books you actually want to read.

To compare, I dug up best-seller lists, as well as best-of lists compiled by authors and critics. Then I searched for those e-books in Kindle Unlimited, Oyster and Scribd alongside my local San Francisco Public Library. To rule out big-city bias, I also checked the much smaller library where I grew up in Richland County, S.C.

Of the Journal’s 20 most recent best-selling e-books in fiction and nonfiction, Amazon’s Kindle Unlimited has none—no "Fifty Shades of Grey," no "The Fault in Our Stars." Scribd and Oyster each have a paltry three. But the San Francisco library has 15, and my South Carolina library has 11.

From Amazon’s own top-20 Kindle best-seller lists from 2013, 2012 and 2011, Kindle Unlimited has no more than five titles a year, while the San Francisco library has at least 16.

Of Stephen King’s 2012 list of his all-time 10 favorite books, Amazon and the other subscription services have four, including classics such as George Orwell’s "1984" and Charles Dickens’s "Bleak House." But the San Francisco library has all of those, as well as Salman Rushdie’s "The Satanic Verses" and William Golding’s "Lord of the Flies" for a total of eight. (My South Carolina library also only has four.)

You will certainly find things to read on all of these paid services. For $9 per month, Scribd offers a slightly superior browsing experience and collection, especially if you’re the kind of reader who goes deep into a genre. Of one critic’s list of the 10 best vampire novels no one has read, Scribd has four, while Oyster has three and Amazon has none. My South Carolina library has two, but the San Francisco library just has one.

But who needs to pay for a "Netflix for books" subscription? I am a little awed by binge book readers. Still, not everyone is so voracious that they could guarantee reading $120 worth of e-books in a year.
How They Stack Up

E-book subscription services don't always have the big-name e-books available at some public libraries. Below, a comparison in the availability of books on three services—Oyster, Kindle Unlimited and Scribd—with the public libraries in San Francisco and Richland County, S.C. We compared Amazon's top 20 best-sellers on Kindle from 2013, as well as a more esoteric list of author Stephen King's 10 favorites.

Another argument against shelling out for Kindle Unlimited comes from Amazon itself: If you own a Kindle device and subscribe to Amazon Prime, you already get one e-book loan a month as part of the service.

The subscription companies say their services are designed to let you try more books without the barrier of committing to buy. But none of these services yet feel as complete as Spotify, the $10-per-month all-you-can-eat music streaming service I used to explore the latest Miley Cyrus album without the regret of buying it.

How did library e-book collections get such a leg up? Amazon is locked in a hate-hate relationship with many publishers, so none of the five largest will sell their whole collection to Amazon for its subscription service. (Amazon bought a few big titles like the Harry Potter and Hunger Games series, has 500 books already in the public domain and pads out the rest with back-catalog and self-published books to reach the 600,000 tally it touts.) And so far only two of the big publishers will sell even part of their collections to startups Oyster and Scribd.

Over at the library, the situation is different. All of the big five publishers sell their e-book collections for loans, usually on the same day they’re available for consumers to purchase. They haven't always been so friendly with libraries, and still charge them a lot for e-books. Some library e-books are only allowed a set number of loans before "expiring."

Publishers have come to see libraries not only as a source of income, but also as a marketing vehicle. Since the Internet has killed off so many bookstores, libraries have become de facto showrooms for discovering books.

Children at the Richland Library in Columbia, S.C., use the library's eReady Bar, where librarians help them access and use digital collections. Joey LeRoy/Richland Library
I have a soft spot for public libraries. I grew up reading at the one where my mom, now retired, worked. Like many, I hadn't used my library card much since I started reading books on screens. But in the past few weeks, discovering my library's e-book collection helped me reconnect with the power of the library card I felt when I was young.

It's easier than you might think. At the typical public library, you need only log in with your card number and a PIN to its e-book collection, then search through the online catalog.

During online checkout, many will give you the choice to zap your borrowed book directly to a Kindle reader, a tablet or phone app, or a computer screen. When it's time to "return" the e-book, it just disappears.

In exchange for this free access, you have to accept a bit more hassle. Your loans may expire after 21 days or less, but you can recheck them out. Some libraries have multiple e-book collections that you have to search and learn to use. Most aren't as pretty as Scribd or Oyster, which let you scroll through large images of book covers to find something that suits your fancy.

The most legitimate argument against libraries is the wait list: About half the e-books I surveyed were checked out. This required placing a "hold" that could last a few weeks, or sometimes even months. The smaller your library, the less likely it could afford extra digital copies. (San Francisco's library has some tech books and travel guides where publishers allow unlimited simultaneous checkouts.)

What's available will depend on your community tax dollars—many libraries took a hit in the last recession. Some communities have banded together to create larger e-libraries; for example, all Colorado residents can use the Denver Public Library.

Libraries' current collection advantage, borne of those publisher contracts, isn't likely to last forever. Publishers may resolve their squabbles with Amazon or come to see paid subscriptions as a lucrative new market. What would happen to libraries if they truly had to go head-to-head with Amazon? Ultimately, the winner will be the service that offers the most convenient access to the best array of e-books.
But libraries serve nobler purposes than just amassing vampire romances. They provide equal access to knowledge, from employment services to computer training. And in an age where getting things "free" usually means surrendering some privacy, libraries have long been careful about protecting patron records.

The rise of paid subscription services is proof that there's demand for what libraries can offer in our Internet era.

Write to Geoffrey A. Fowler at geoffrey.fowler@wsj.com or on Twitter at @geoffreyfowler.
DESIGNS THAT LAST

Welcome to the 2014 Library Design Showcase, our annual celebration of new and newly renovated libraries. These libraries are shining examples of innovative architecture that address user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways.

By Phil Morehart
OPEN SPACES

A. FREDERICA E. BERRY LIBRARY AND LEARNING COMMONS, SALEM (MASS.) STATE UNIVERSITY

The new learning commons at Salem State is a model of space and openness. The floating form of its central staircase reinforces this notion, and pleated glass walls that face the new quad reach out into the green space, drawing patrons to seats that line the wall.

New construction
Shepley Bulfinch
Size: 128,000 square feet
Cost: $50.4 million
Photo: Chuck Choi

B. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARINERS HARBOR BRANCH

Mariners Harbor’s single-story plan minimizes the library’s small size by emphasizing space. Expansive open rooms with large windows feature comfortable, relaxed reading and tech spaces among low stacks.

New construction
A|PT Architecture
Size: 10,000 square feet
Cost: $7.5 million
Photo: Naho Kubota

C. QUEENS (N.Y.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, GLEN OAKS BRANCH

The new Glen Oaks branch is twice the size of the previous building and provides reading rooms on three floors, community rooms, and computers throughout. The use of space continues outside with a landscaped plaza and exterior reading garden open to the public.

New construction
Marble Fairbanks
Size: 18,000 square feet
Cost: $11.75 million
Photo: Eduard Huber; Arch Photos, Inc.; Marble Fairbanks
REUSE AND RESTORATION

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, STAPLETON BRANCH
NYPL renovated the existing 1907 Carnegie Library in Stapleton, Staten Island, blending old and new by adding a new 7,000-square-foot modern addition alongside the older building. The addition is constructed of glue-laminated Douglas fir posts, beams, joists, and roof. The older adjacent building was transformed into a children's reading room.

Renovation and Expansion
Andrew Berman Architects
Size: 12,700 square feet
Cost: $15 million
Photo: Naho Kubota

Baltimore City Public Schools, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary Library
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary embraces its past with this renovation. Old elements were discarded to reveal existing historic architectural structures. Brick archways hidden behind walls now make up the entryway, and an original hardwood floor more than 100 years old now shines after being freed from a laminate cover.

Renovation
JRS Architects
Size: 2,400 square feet
Cost: $460,000
Photo: JRS Architects/Alain Jaramillo

Corvallis-Benton County (Oreg.) Public Library, Monroe Community Library
This new library is a part of the last remaining freight depot in Benton County, Oregon. The library was constructed as an addition to the depot itself, which was restored and housed meeting facilities. The building is a perfect match of old and new: Original historical features, including graffiti, were preserved, while solar and geothermal energy sources were added.

Adaptive Reuse
Broadleaf Architecture
Size: 7,550 square feet
Cost: $2 million
Photo: Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Staff
FOR THE KIDS

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BRANCH
The Washington Heights children's reading room encompasses the entirety of the branch's second floor. The open space features a loop of shelving and casework that encircles the reading areas, provides seating at each window, and features self-checkout stations. Couches are paired with window seats to create intimate spaces within the room.
Renovation
Andrew Berman Architect
Size: 3,300 square feet
Cost: $2.1 million
Photo: Naho Kubota

CENTENNIAL LIBRARY, MIDLAND, TEXAS
Midland County transformed a former retail store into a modern, kid-friendly public library. Four steel trees were constructed inside the building that project nature videos and sounds onto a painted pathway. Additional video projections enliven the children's area, as does the section's centerpiece: a real hot air balloon donated by a Pennsylvania woman. After making its flight to Texas, the balloon was resized to fit in the library with its bottom basket becoming a reading area for kids and their parents.
Adaptive Reuse
Dewberry
Size: 33,000 square feet
Cost: $3.48 million
Photo: Timothy Hursley
BIRMINGHAM (ALA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, PRATT CITY BRANCH
Reconstructed after being damaged by tornadoes in 2011, Pratt City Library was reborn as a lantern of inspiration and learning for the community. The lantern design motif also recalls the area’s coal mining history, and local museum artifacts were incorporated throughout the new reading room and stacks.

Renovation
Herrington Architects, P.C.
Size: 8,392 square feet
Cost: $1.5 million
Photo: Sherwood Cox Photography

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY, CONEY ISLAND BRANCH
After being severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and flooded with five feet of water, the Coney Island branch was rebuilt to reflect the history of the area. The walls are filled with murals of archival images, and salvaged planks from the boardwalk are integrated into the new ceiling.

Renovation
BHC Architects
Size: 6,000 square feet
Cost: $2.7 million
Photo: Emily Andrews
CULINARY LEARNING

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, PARKWAY CENTRAL BRANCH

The renovations of the Parkway Central branch included the construction of a demonstration kitchen to provide culinary literacy classes to children, teens, families, and adults. The facility includes three ovens, a grill top, 16 burners (four of which are on the demo island), a walk-in fridge, seating for 36 at nine tables, three Came-As that provide views of the prep space and the burners with feeds to a big flatscreen TV, and an outdoor patio with an herb garden for class use.

Renovation
Safdie Architects
Size: 324,000 square feet
Cost: $1.08 million
Photo: Eileen Owens

GOING GREEN

ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY, LANE LIBRARY, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The new learning commons extension at the Lane Library repurposed an existing space into a LEED Gold-certified facility that includes a green roof, energy-efficient mechanical systems and lighting fixtures, and solar panels to produce renewable energy.

Renovation
Cogdell and Mendrala Architects
Size: 66,022 square feet
Cost: $3.89 million
Photo: Richard Leo Johnson

HILLSBORO (OREG.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, SHUTE PARK BRANCH

As a showcase project in the Better Buildings Challenge by the US Department of Energy Shute Park underwent extensive renovations to increase energy efficiency. An efficient HVAC system was installed, exterior lighting was replaced with LED, motion sensors were installed, the window system was replaced with insulated glass, and exterior wall insulation and a more effective and efficient roof were added. Based on an energy usage assessment, the estimated energy and cost savings are expected to improve by 20%.

Renovation
Hennebery Eddy Architects
Size: 15,000 square feet
Cost: $3.76 million
Photo: City of Hillsboro
SERVICE FLEXIBILITY

CUYAHOGA COUNTY (OHIO) PUBLIC LIBRARY, PARMA-SNOW BRANCH
The Parma-Snow renovation was undertaken with the community's needs in mind. The building was expanded from 12,000 to 41,000 square feet and now features AV-equipped meeting rooms, more than 40 computer stations, an outdoor reading garden, a café, and an impressive black box public auditorium.

Renovation and Expansion
Holzheimmer Bolek + Meehan Architects
Size: 41,000 square feet
Cost: $15.2 million
Photo: Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library

MADISON (WIS.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, CENTRAL LIBRARY
In addition to a three-story atrium that increases natural light and new daylit reading rooms, the Madison Central Library renovation added a new third floor for community use, featuring an art gallery, meeting rooms, and an outdoor terrace that overlooks a green roof. The floor can be rented for private events as well.

Renovation and Expansion
MSR
Size: 120,000 square feet
Cost: $29.7 million
Photo: Lara Swimmer
COLLABORATIVE SPACES

TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOINT-USE LIBRARY, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

When Tidewater Community College and the City of Virginia Beach discovered that they were about to build libraries across the street from each other, they combined forces to build a joint academic and public library. In addition to housing academic and popular materials, the new building includes 200 public computers, more than 30 collaborative work spaces, public meeting rooms, and a café.

New construction
Carrier Johnson + Culture
Size: 125,000 square feet
Cost: $43 million
Photo: Courtesy of the City of Virginia Beach

HIGHER ED HUBS

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, SNELL LIBRARY, BOSTON

Northeastern’s Snell Library was transformed from a traditional stack space to a state-of-the-art media facility that supports digital creation, design, and analysis, complete with 3D printing labs, an innovation center, and audio/video/post-production studios.

Renovation
Wilson Architects
Size: 100,000 square feet
Cost: $18.5 million
Photo: Anton Grassi/Esto

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES, MAIN LIBRARY, IOWA CITY

“Study villages” made up of 16 small study rooms grouped along a main path are a highlight of the Main Library commons renovation. A café, larger group study rooms, open collaborative spaces, and additional quiet areas complement the design.

Renovation
Architects Smith Metzger
Size: 427,000 square feet
Cost: $8 million
Photo: Main Street Studio, Iowa City
The following libraries are winners of the 2014 Library Interior Design Awards, sponsored by ALA and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). The biennial competition honors international library interior design. Winners demonstrate excellence in aesthetics, design, creativity, function, and satisfaction of the client's objectives. The competition is managed by the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) Buildings and Equipment Section's Interior Design Awards Committee. Winners and their clients were honored at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Las Vegas.
SPECIAL LIBRARIES
MORE THAN 30,000 SQUARE FEET

C KISLAK CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, RARE BOOKS, AND MANUSCRIPTS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA
Firm: Gensler, Dallas
Photo: Garrett Rowland

30,000 SQUARE FEET AND SMALLER

D GENSLER LOS ANGELES RESOURCE LIBRARY
Firm: Gensler, Los Angeles
Photo: Gensler/Spenser Harrison

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES
MORE THAN 30,000 SQUARE FEET

E JAMES B. HUNT JR. LIBRARY, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, RALEIGH
Firm: Snohetta/Clark Nexsen/Another Inside Job, New York City
Photo: Jeff Goldberg

30,000 SQUARE FEET AND SMALLER

F GLENMORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ELEMENTARY LIBRARY, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
Firm: Loop Interior Design Inc., Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Photo: On a Wire Photography and Design

OUTSTANDING HISTORIC RENOVATION PROJECT

G ST. LOUIS (MO.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, CENTRAL LIBRARY
Firm: CannonDesign, St. Louis
Photo: Timothy Hursley

SINGLE SPACE DESIGN

H NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY HAMILTON GRANGE TEEN CENTER, NEW YORK CITY
Firm: Rice+Lipka Architects, New York City
Photo: Rice+Lipka Architects

ON THE BOARDS

I NEW LAW LIBRARY OF HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY
Firm: *MULTIPLECTIES, New York City
Photo: *MULTIPLECTIES
Port Angeles Library will offer free online tech courses. The North Olympic Library System will offer introductory classes that cover everything from sending and receiving email to navigating the web. More advanced users will benefit from the Microsoft Online Academy. Completion certificates are free and testing with official Microsoft Certification is available for a fee. (peninsuladailynews.com, Port Angeles, 06/30/14).

The Morton City Council plans to discuss plans to put a Timberland Regional Library at the Morton Junior High School. Last fall, TRL officials in cooperation with Central College East (CC East) installed a library kiosk at the CC East campus for patrons. (The East County Journal, Morton, 06/18/14).

Sno-Isle Libraries are hoping to build the next generation of library users by kicking off a research and engagement project targeting 13-29 year olds. The objective is to show Gen YZ that Sno-Isle Libraries fit very well into their tech savvy, mobile lifestyle. The early data collection process will focus on library card holders, demographic, geographic, and trend analysis, online customer surveys, and non-customer focus groups. (The Edmonds Beacon, Mukilteo, 07/03/2014).
QA Little Free Library vandalized
Library honors Vietnam veteran's spirit
By Sarah Radmer, Staff Reporter

Tuesday, July 15, 2014 4:15 PM

The Little Free Library’s old message box and notebook were stolen in June. Michelle Nash hopes someone will find the notebook and return it to her. Photo courtesy of Michelle Nash

The story of the Little Free Library that was vandalized recently in Queen Anne is not just that. It’s a story about a veteran’s life, his wife’s endeavor to honor his spirit and a community coming together.

Seattle’s first-ever Little Free Library is on Second Avenue West in Queen Anne, and on June 26, a vandal tore off the message cabinet and stole the notebook.

Michelle Nash created the library in honor of her late husband, Bob Nash. She installed it on April 20, 2012 — what would have been their 43rd wedding anniversary.

It took Nash about a month to build the library. And from the beginning, it was a community effort. She used scrap cedar shingles from her neighbors’ remodel to cover the box. An old picture frame borders the window full of books. She found the wood posts in an alley near her house and found a local construction worker to help her cut them.

It’s decorated with trees she bought at an auction, to add a little Pacific Northwest decor, and three dragonflies — one for herself, Bob and their daughter.
A plaque on the side reads, "In loving memory of Bob Nash, who walked with grace and dignity and showed me the way."

"It's more than just this little box that has books in it," she said. "It has generated whole discussions with people. It's rewarding for me and overwhelming."

**Honing Bob's curious nature**

Bob was a Vietnam War veteran who suffered a spinal injury in the war. Michelle worked part-time for a local library and spent the rest of her day with him. Together, they shared books, ideas and quotes.

He had a quote that he always carried in his wallet, which he read to her when they first met. It was the same quote that he left on a tape before he took his own life.

"It was both the beginning and the end," she said.

As a paraplegic, Bob didn’t have it easy, but toward the end, he developed Parkinson’s disease, which caused hallucinations — a symptom Michelle believes triggered his suicide.

When Bob passed away, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) denied Michelle her widow’s benefits; she had to fight for 10 months to get them. She’s still fighting another battle: to get his name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

In the meantime, her Little Free Library was her way to honor his curiosity and spirit.

To Michelle, libraries have been near and dear, ever since she was first allowed to ride her bike to the library. She loves the kids who get excited about the Little Free Library’s books — they’re blown away that they get to keep it.

"Who would have imagined?" she said. "It’s such a simple thing."

So it hit Michelle hard when a vandal ripped off the library’s message box. Inside the box, she kept a notebook for people to leave messages — that was stolen. She hopes someone may see the notebook around the neighborhood and return it to her.

The notebook itself holds no value, but it’s the messages Michelle wants. This was the library’s fourth notebook; she has kept them all. People will write messages about which book they selected or say things like, "Bob must have been an amazing guy. I wish I’d known him," or "What a great thing to have in neighborhood." Kids will often draw a picture.

On July 6, Michelle installed a new message box and notebook. Soon after, someone wrote something on the cover of the notebook that she had to cut off because its meaning could be misinterpreted. She plans to monitor the library more closely than she has in the past.

**The community’s library**

Recently, a neighbor brought a donation to Michelle. Every week, Red Square Yoga in Queen Anne has a donation-only class on Saturdays that collects money for a local charity or organization. One class collected money for Michelle to buy books for her Little Free Library at the Queen Anne Book Co.

Stacy Lawson, owner of Red Square Yoga, said the story of the vandalism "pulled at me." Lawson uses Little Free Libraries herself. This donation was the studio’s way of helping and creating goodwill.
“We really want this person to know what she’s doing is really amazing,” Lawson said. “This is someone who’s doing something for the community; it really adds value.”

Michelle has a suspicion that the vandal may be a young kid from the neighborhood, so she went to the bookstore and bought young-adult books for boys.

“The ripples of good will just keep going on,” she said of the donation.

Michelle will continue to maintain the Little Free Library “forever.” She loves to hunt for books to add to it, and it’s not just about her or Bob’s memory anymore — it has become the community’s library.

There are many Little Free Libraries on Queen Anne, Michelle said, “but some people are affectionately tied to mine, and I am so grateful that they are.

“It started out as a memorial to Bob and just became so much more,” she said. “I think he’d be pleased.”

To comment on this story, write to QAMagNews@nwlink.com.

- See more at: http://www.queenannenews.com/Content/News/News/Article/QA-Little-Free-Library-vandalized/26/337/36033#sthash.hw1FG1h5.dpuf
Ballot measure possible on annexing Stanwood's library to Sno-Isle

Published: Sunday, June 29, 2014, 12:01 a.m. | The HeraldNet

EMAIL ARTICLE | PRINT | JUMP TO COMMENTS

By Kari Bray, Herald Writer

STANWOOD — Stanwood voters are likely to see a November ballot measure that would annex the city's library into Sno-Isle Libraries, freeing up city funds for roads, police and fire by creating a new library tax.

City council members voted unanimously on Thursday to place a measure on the Nov. 4 general election ballot. The annexation, if approved by a simple majority of voters, is set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

The measure would increase taxes in Stanwood. Based on this year's assessments, people would pay 39 cents more per $1,000 assessed property value, according to a city staff report. This amounts to about $97.50 per year on a $250,000 home.

The potential tax hike factors in both a new library tax and reduced city rates.

Annexing into Sno-Isle would create a library tax for people who live in Stanwood, limited to 50 cents per $1,000 assessed property value. However, the overall city tax rate would decrease due to state legislation that caps the post-annexation rate at $3.10 per $1,000 assessed value. Stanwood property owners pay $3.21 per $1,000, so the rate would drop 11 cents.

For the city, this means $70,290 less in annual tax revenue. The decline is more than offset by a potential $289,200 gain.

Stanwood currently pays that much to Sno-Isle as an annual fee for services at the city's library building, which means the dollars come from the city's general tax base rather than a specific library tax. This both limits city funding for other services and puts the library in a precarious position, according to Stanwood officials.

Several cities annexed into Sno-Isle to keep library services while alleviating contract costs during the recession. Lynnwood joined in 2008; Darrington, Lake Stevens and Sultan in 2009; and Langley in 2010. Stanwood is the only city with a library building that continues to contract with Sno-Isle, spokesman Ken Harvey said.

About three quarters of the $218,910 expected to be saved by library annexation is slated to go to road repairs and maintenance. The remainder is meant for police and fire services.

"There's been a chronic shortfall in the street fund," City Administrator Deborah Knight said. "Our success has kind of been our downfall."

The only constant revenues for the city's street fund are gas taxes, she said. As vehicles are built to be more fuel efficient and people pay more attention to prices at the pump, revenues have declined.
Stanwood received $148,000 for its street fund in 2014, most of it from gas taxes. The cost for street maintenance — including staffing, supplies, equipment and electricity for streetlights — is anticipated to be about $312,000 this year.

Recession-based legislation allowed the city to redirect real estate excise taxes, which are meant for new projects, toward street upkeep. It’s not a permanent solution, Knight said. The legislation is scheduled to sunset in 2016.

“The city either needs to find a steady source of revenue or cut services,” she said.

Stanwood also has struggled to keep up with police costs.

The city spent an unexpected uptick in revenues from 2013 to catch up on three months of overdue payments, totaling $350,000, for their police contract with the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office, according to a June 5 city staff report. The police contract is set to increase about 6 percent in each of the next two years.

“The key issue is making sure the public knows how the city intends to spend the savings we would get,” Knight said. “The last thing we want to do is surprise people in September and October with information on how their taxes might change.”

If voters choose to annex, they would be able to vote to withdraw anytime after three years. Both the city and Sno-Isle also could agree to de-annex Stanwood in the future.

The Stanwood City Council plans to cast its final vote on the ballot measure July 10, after which it will go to the Sno-Isle Board of Trustees for approval before being shipped to Snohomish County Council for placement on the November ballot.

Kari Bray: 425-339-3439; kbray@heraldnet.com.
What’s Happening

- State jobless rate dips to 5.6 percent
- Amazon’s Kindle Unlimited is limited; it’s missing 5 major publishers
State jobless rate dips to 5.6 percent

Aug 13, 2014 - 05:34 PM
The Business Examiner

Washington experienced continued job growth in July and the state's unemployment rate fell to its lowest point since August 2008, according to preliminary, seasonally adjusted estimates released today by state Employment Security Department.

According to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released today, nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 7,300 from June 2014 to July 2014. While the public sector lost 2,100 jobs, the private sector more than made up for it with gains of 9,400 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate continues to drop, falling from 5.8 percent in June to 5.6 percent in July. Unemployment in the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett area dropped from 4.8 percent in June to 4.7 percent in July. The national unemployment rate ticked up to 6.2 percent in July.

"Washington's labor market continues to gain momentum," said Paul Turek, an economist with the Employment Security Department. "Year-over-year, the state saw growth in nearly every industry."

Industry sectors with the largest employment gains in July were:

- Professional and business services with an increase of 4,500 jobs, including 2,400 in administrative and support services;

- Leisure and hospitality with an increase of 4,000;

- Construction with an increase of 2,300;

- Education and health services with an increase of 1,100; and

- Retail trade also experiencing an increase of 1,100.

Government continued to lose jobs, down 2,100 positions since June, with 2,200 lost jobs in state and local government and a small increase of 100 jobs in the federal government. The transportation, warehousing and utilities industry also lost 1,700 jobs.
Amazon’s Kindle Unlimited is limited; it's missing 5 major publishers

Jul 21, 2014, 1:37pm PDT

Rachel Lerman
Staff Writer- Puget Sound Business Journal

Hundreds of thousands of books are accessible under Amazon’s new virtual library card, but some of the top sellers are missing.


Amazon’s ongoing battle with Hachette seems to have branched out to the other major publishers as well, as they realize Amazon’s low-cost e-publishing is attractive to many independent authors as well as customers.

It remains to be seen how many customers will sign up for Kindle Unlimited with so many notable books missing. The Big 5, which have their own critics, and Amazon don’t seem to be making any effort to play nice with each other.

Representatives from HarperCollins, Hachette and Simon & Schuster confirmed the companies are not participating, the New York Times reports. Penguin Random House and Macmillan declined to comment.

Some authors publish their books under multiple publishing houses, so some titles will still be available. And thousands of books published by smaller houses and Amazon itself are online.

Amazon revealed the Kindle Unlimited plan Friday. It works like a Netflix for books — customers can pay $9.99 per month and read as many as they want of the 600,000 titles available, including some audiobooks.

It’s similar to an (expensive) library card, though Amazon promises there won’t be any overdue charges.
Lobby group Author Earnings said in a report released this month that 31 percent of e-book sales on Amazon come from self-published authors.

Amazon is demonized by some who believe it's a threat to traditional publishers and lauded by others who believe it's helping out independent authors.

Amazon did not respond to a request for comment.

Rachel Lerman covers technology and retail for the Puget Sound Business Journal.