Board Reports
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 11        | • University Place Project: 1) Project Update; 2) Architect Fees; 3) Property Closing Process  
                     • 2012 Board Calendar of Work  
                     • Tobacco-Free Campus Policy  
                     • New Circulation Training  
                     • Re-Appointment of J.J. McCament to Board of Trustees | • Star Libraries |
| January 20 - 24    | **American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Dallas, TX**         |                                                                         |
| February 8        | • Reappointment of J.J. McCament to the Board of Trustees  
                     • 2011 Balanced Scorecard and Statistics  
                     • University Place Library Status: Project Update; Architect fees; Property closing procedures  
                     • Circulation Report | • 2012 legislation related to libraries  
                     • Snow Storm Report  
                     • 2011 Reciprocal Borrowing Report  
                     • New Circulation Training Presentation  
                     • Lakewood Towne Center Report |
| March 7           | • University Place Library Status: Project Update; Architect fees; Property closing procedures  
                     • Fife Library: budget report  
                     • Art: University Place and Fife libraries  
                     • Policy: alcohol consumption on library premises  
                     • Leadership Roles for Library Trustees: Discussion  
                     • 2012 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement | • 2012 Legislation related to libraries  
                     • Smoke-Free Campus Communications Strategy  
                     • Media coverage 2011 |
| March 13 – 17     | **Public Library Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA**                      |                                                                         |
| April 11          | • University Place Project Update  
                     • University Place Property Closing  
                     • Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement  
                     • Resolution: Claims for Damages  
                     • "One Desk"  
                     • Report on Community Public Survey | • Parking Space Data  
                     • February 2012 Statistical Snapshot  
                     • Staff Longevity Awards  
                     • Staff participation in community organizations  
                     • Digital Board of Trustee Packets  
                     • Resolution: Surplus Equipment  
                     • New website for military families |
| April 18 – 20     | **Washington Library Association Conference, Tulalip**                          |                                                                         |
| May 9             | • 2011 Year-End Financial Review  
                     • University Place Library: Update and Closing Documents  
                     • Resolution: Appoint Agent to receive claims for damages  
                     • Public Records Policy | • March 2012 Statistical Snapshot  
                     • 2012 ULC Innovation Award Submissions  
                     • IRS Tax Form 990  
                     • PC Reads Final Report  
                     • Teens: Summer Reading Program: Gamification |
| June 13           | • University Place Library: Closing; Atrium art; LEED  
                     • PCLS Partnerships Report  
                     • Loss Control Review  
                     • Monthly Financial Reports |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Board Packet: Officers Report Discussion</td>
<td>• May 2012 Statistical Snapshot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2012 Mid-Year Budget Process</td>
<td>• WorkSource Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21 - 26</td>
<td><strong>American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA</strong></td>
<td>• Young Adult Summer Reading Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>• 2012 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment: a) Operating Budget, b) Capital Improvement Program</td>
<td>• Joint Base Lewis McChord Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Capital Projects Overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2012 Assessed Values Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• South Hill Efficiency Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>• In Remembrance of Steve Albers</td>
<td>• Skype at Parkland/Spanaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2013 Budget: Bookmobile services study; staff budget survey; 2013 budget calendar and process</td>
<td>• Approval of IRS Form 990 for 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2013 Capital Improvement budget: 10-year projection and proposal to reduce set aside</td>
<td>• June 2012 Statistical Snapshot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2012 Capital Improvement Budget: Revision to capital improvement plan; copier</td>
<td>• June Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2013 CPIU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Distinguished Budget Presentation Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Election of Officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>• 2013 Budget: Estimated revenue and expenditures and Use of Cash Reserves</td>
<td>• July 2012 Statistical Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Selecting the Collection: Why We Buy What We Buy: How the Library Chooses the Titles it Buys; 2013 Materials Budget Recommendation</td>
<td>• August 2012 Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Board Self-Evaluation</td>
<td>• Legislative Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Board Vacancy</td>
<td>• Library Card Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Technology Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>• Review of Regular 2013 Draft Revenue and Expenditure</td>
<td>• Set 2013 Board Meeting Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2013 pre certification of property tax levy</strong></td>
<td>• Director Evaluation: Review Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*IPD for 2012Property Tax Levy</td>
<td>• August 2012 Statistical Snapshot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Review of 2013 draft revenue and expenditures</td>
<td>• September 2012 Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2013 – 2017 Cash Flow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• GFOA Award: Presentation of Plaque</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• University Place Library: Update</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Board Appointment: Update</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Digital Board Packets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Friends and Foundation Thanks and Recognition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conflict of Interest Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Director: Job Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>• First Public Hearing Regarding 2013 Budget</td>
<td>• September Statistical Snapshot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review of Draft 2013 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td>• October Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review and approval to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2013</td>
<td>• Summer Reading Program Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review of Regular 2013 Capital Improvement Budget and 2013 Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td>• Lakewood Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution: Schedule of Recurring Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Branch Projects: Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Strategic/Policy</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dashboard</td>
<td>• Resolution: Cancellation of unredeemed warrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E-Book: Issues for Libraries</td>
<td>• Pierce County Library Foundation Annual Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Naming</td>
<td>• Insurance Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>• Second Public Hearing Regarding 2013 Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to transfer a portion of the fund balance of the general fund to the capital improvement fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2013 Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2013 Capital Improvement Fund Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Motion to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2013 (if needed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• University Place Library status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to set 2013 wages for non-represented staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2013 Election of Officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Negotiate 2013 Executive Director Agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conflict of Interest Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Block Play Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The library's new manager is no stranger to U.P.
• October 1 kicks off Pierce County Library's sixth annual card drive
• KP library groups looking for help to upgrade meeting room
• Get ready for college, study for SAT at Sumner and Bonney Lake Libraries
• Lakewood Art Commission supports National Literacy Month
• Get money-saving meals tips at Lakewood Library on Oct. 30
• Firefighters, Police and soldiers to tell their stories at the University Place Library
• Key Center Library closed Thursday due to smoke; Key Center is back open today
• Library promises robust collection next year
• Fife Chamber Newsletter
• Key Center Library to close this Winter for facility improvements
• Pierce County Library System says 'thank you' for being a Friend
• 'Lakewood is a City that Reads' contest big hit
• Write in the Valley launches 'Chapter 4' of Writer Workshop Series
• Everything's coming up daffodils as festival's 2013 season kicks off
The Library’s new manager is no stranger to U.P.

Even though she probably is a new face to most University Place citizens, Lynne Zeiher started her career with Pierce County Library over 19 years ago supervising several branches including University Place. During those years, she also served as the manager of many of the branches around the County, including 17 years at the Gig Harbor branch. Most recently she worked on various special projects at the Library’s administrative center, all the while hoping to find her way back to a branch like U.P. Lynne started as the Branch Manager in U.P. on Oct. 1.

Returning to University Place is particularly satisfying not only because it is a great new building with many special features, but also because the staff and people in U.P. are really wonderful. Her goal is to have continuous improvement and excellent customer service for all of the U.P. community.

In her first days at the library, Lynne began to make connections with the U.P. community by participating in United for U.P., the Christmas Tree Lighting Committee and U.P. Library Friends groups. One of her goals is to meet with more of the groups, businesses and organizations in the U.P. area so that the Library can be more receptive to the community’s needs.

Lynne’s "claim to fame" in the library world is as the creator of the PCLS Library Book Cart Drill Team that began in 1996 and has appeared in many parades throughout the County, including several Duck Daze parades. After her book "Library Book Cart Drill Team Manual" was published, teams began popping up around the country. They became so popular that the American Library Association has a national competition at their annual conference.

Ms. Zeiher has a BA from Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, NC, 1974, and a MLS (Masters of Science in Library Science) from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 1978. She is a Member and Youth Exchange Officer of the Gig Harbor MidDay Rotary.

She is married to a retired computer tech rep and considers herself a dog lover, currently owning a Clumber Spaniel and a Clumber/Springer mix. Lynne is a major Harry Potter fan and has visited the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando, FL.
South Puget Sound News

October 1 kicks off Pierce County Library’s sixth annual card drive

October 1, 2012

During Pierce County Library System’s sixth annual library card drive—Oct. 1-31, 2012, get a free library card and enter to win a Kindle Fire HD.

Small, but mighty. That is how a Pierce County Library Card could be described considering everything the card gives you access to. There are free services including access to more than one million books, movies and CDs. The card gives you access to e-books, audiobooks and songs to download. During the Pierce County Library System’s sixth annual library card drive, if you get a free library card you can enter to win a Kindle Fire HD.

People who already have a library card may enter the drawing to win a Kindle Fire HD, by bringing a friend to a library and getting them a card. Military personnel and families may enter the drawing by showing their military ID.

“This library is very necessary,” said Amanda Love, mother of six and a Tillicum resident. “It gives me a connection to my community and I get knowledge, entertainment and see my neighbors all in one happy place.”

Currently 261,000 people have Pierce County Library cards giving them access to books, movies and online help from professional homework tutors and job coaches, computers, credible, reliable information from online e-sources—Consumer Reports, Morningstar Investment Research Center and Chilton car repair. Library card holders even receive passes to the Museum of Glass, Tacoma Art Museum and Washington State History Museum.

People who live in or own property in unincorporated Pierce County, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Edgewood, Fife, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Milton, Orting, South Prairie, Steilacoom, Sumner, University Place, or Wilkeson; as well as people who live on a military base, tribal land or national park in the county, can get a free library card. Through a borrowing agreement with Puyallup, Roy and Tacoma Public Libraries, residents in those cities may also get free cards.

Adults and kids can get a card online 24/7 or at one of 18 libraries during open hours. Also, yes, there’s an app for that. People with smartphones can use a card app from either http://keyringapp.com/ or http://cardstar.com/ and take their library card everywhere on their phone.

Pierce County Library’s sixth annual card drive runs October 1 – 31, 2012. Make sure you pick up your library card today. It’s small, but it’s mighty.
New improvements are slated for the Key Center Library and should start near the end of this year.

Something else community-oriented has recently been added to the construction agenda.

The Pierce County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Key Center Library are garnering public support to help fund some upgrades the allocated $250,000 budget does not cover.

According to Mary Getchell, Pierce County Library marketing and community relations director, the foundation and Friends are seeking an additional $33,270 to pay for improvements to the branch meeting room in time to coincide with their scheduled three-month window of construction.

Getchell said the popular room is heavily used and the timing is right to flip the spot into something grand.

"We use it for our events, our programs, our story times and activities like that. The community also uses the room for various free activities," she said.

Getchell wants to see the meeting room transformed into a flexible, high-use community space. With donated funding coming in, the groups want to add new carpet and paint, wheeled tables and chairs, a youth computer station and a "cyber bar" where people can plug in laptops and electronic devices and have Internet accessibility.

The funded library improvements will benefit many, but the foundation and Friends are working together on the extra project as a mutual purpose.

"We truly believe this space is important for the community and we know it’s important for the kids. There really isn’t a place for the kids to go after school so we want to identify that meeting room space to be a Monday through Friday after-school concept," she said.

During similar (but more expensive) library upgrades in University Place and Lakewood, Getchell said community members graciously donated in $20 to $1,000 increments and made a huge difference in the projects’ completion.

"The library is a community library. We want to make these improvements in the meeting room and in order to do that we need the community support. If we can get them to help this particular element, that would be incredible," Getchell said.

At the time of this report, they have raised more than $10,000.

For information or to donate call the Key Center Library at (253)548-3309 or the Pierce County Library Foundation at (253)548-3460.
Get Ready for College, Study for the SAT at Sumner and Bonney Lake Libraries

This October, both Sumner and Bonney Lake branches of the Pierce County Library will be offering free workshops to help high school students prepare for college.

- September 27, 2012

Getting ready for college can be overwhelming - and expensive.

Locally, the Pierce County Library wants to help.

Both the Bonney Lake and Sumner library branches will host free college prep courses, led by tutors from Kaplan Pre-College Test Prep. They will walk students and their parents through test strategies, practice tests and college essay construction.

Workshops will include a "10 Question Challenge," where students will try 10 tough SAT or ACT questions and learn 10 winning strategies to help them succeed on test day. When it comes to the nerve-wracking college application essay, parents and students will learn from tutors what college admission officers are looking for.

What about the SAT? A free, full-proctored SAT practice test will be administered at the Sumner Library- it helps students learn the ropes before the actual test. Tutors will also coach students through SAT strategies, with tips and techniques to get a higher score.

Here's the schedule:

**BONNEY LAKE LIBRARY**

- Saturday, Oct. 13, 1 – 2:30 p.m. College Application Essay
- Saturday, Nov. 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m. 10 Question Challenge

**SUMNER LIBRARY**

- Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. SAT Practice Test
- Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. SAT Strategies 101

Related Topics: Bonney Lake Library, SAT practice, SAT prep, Sumner Library, Tutor, and college preparedness
Lakewood Arts Commission Supports National Literacy Month

Lakewood Patch

13 September
Tomorrow, September 13, 2012, 9:00 am

Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA | Get Directions »
FREE

Lakewood Arts Commission Supports National Literacy Month

by Phil Raschke and Katrina Redding

The Lakewood Arts Commission has joined with the Lakewood Library and the Lakewood Barnes & Noble to promote September as National Literacy Month!

From September 4th-30th, the Arts Commission invites all Lakewood residents to visit the Lakewood Library or Barnes & Noble at Lakewood Towne Center to enter a drawing and win prizes donated by local businesses.

To enter, fill out the Entry Form at either location and tell us your three favorite fiction or non-fiction books. Check the box indicating your age group, as prizes will be awarded to each group, and leave your contact information (this will not be shared and will only be used to contact prize winners). When completed, place your Entry Form in the drop box. It's that easy!

When visiting the Lakewood Library be sure to see the National Literacy Month display. Posted on the display will be the top three books of several local area residents. It should be fun to see what they selected and compare them to your selections.

On Tuesday, October 2nd at noon there will be a drawing for prizes at the Lakewood Library. You do not have to be present to win. Prizes have been donated by RAM restaurants, Taco Del Mar, Barnes & Noble and the Lakewood Playhouse.

So don't wait: enter today because "Lakewood is a City that Reads".
Get Money-Saving Meals Tips At Lakewood Library On Oct. 30

LWD Patch

The Three-Month Pantry presentation will provide a bounty of ideas to save time, money and energy, and prepare for emergencies

- By Brent Champaco
- Email the author
- October 17, 2012

Money-saving tips for meals will help people cook up ways to fill their shelves during a free event at Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Road S.W., on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

The Three-Month Pantry presentation will provide a bounty of ideas to save time, money and energy, and prepare for emergencies. Beverly Pogue and Chelli Pogue, from Clear Path Organizing, will help participants plan menus, keep within a budget, and make the best use of their food.

FRIENDS of Lakewood Library sponsor this free event. All are welcome, and the event is designed especially for 50+, empty nesters or people too busy to cook.

Related Topics: Clear Path Organizing, Lakewood Library, friends lakewood library, and pierce county library
Firefighters, Police and Soldiers To Tell Their Stories at the University Place Library

Users are invited to meet these community helpers and learn about their jobs later this month through November.

- By Brent Champaco
- Email the author
- October 18, 2012

Local firefighters, soldiers and police will share their stories during free story times at University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W.

All ages are invited to meet community helpers and learn about their jobs.

**Wednesday, October 31, 10:30 a.m.**
Firefighters - A fire truck will roll in for hands-on learning about firefighting with West Pierce Fire & Rescue.

**Wednesday, Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m.**
Soldiers - 16th Combat Aviation Brigade soldiers will demonstrate how they use a military vehicle in their service.

**Wednesday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m.**
Police Officers - Members of the University Place Police Department will show all about what they do in the course of their work.

Related Topics: 16th cab, Combat Aviation Brigade, Fire, JBLM, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Library, Police, and University Place
Key Center Library Closed Thursday Due to Smoke
Gig Patch

After a smoldering fire at the Key Center Library, the facility is closed Thursday due to smoke and a power outage.

- By Akiko Oda
- Email the author
- October 4, 2012

The Key Center Library is closed Thursday due to smoke and a power outage from Wednesday’s fire, according to the Pierce County Library System Marketing & Community Relations Director Mary Getchell.

Around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, a smouldering fire was reported inside the library.

Getchell said they were forced to close the facility on Wednesday after Key Peninsula firefighters extinguished the fire.

No one was injured. Getchell said the extent of the damage is still unknown.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Look for updates on the library reopening on the Pierce County Library System website.

Related Topics: Fire, Key Center Library, and pierce county library system

---

Key Center Library is Back Open Today
Gig Harbor Patch
Oct. 5, 2012

The library in Key Peninsula is open after being closed due to smoke from a fire.

The Pierce County Library System released the following message Friday morning:

Key Center Pierce County Library is open today, Oct. 5, following being closed for the past one and a half days. Key Center Library was closed from smoke from a fire in the building the library shares with the adjoining health center.
Library promises robust collection next year
Budget: Reductions to come in spending on materials, improvements
Last updated: October 23rd, 2012 09:31 PM (PDT)

With significant reductions in property values countywide, the Pierce County Library System is projecting to trim $2.4 million in revenue from its 2013 proposed budget and an additional $600,000 in expenditures to make up for a $3 million shortfall.

Clifford Jo, finance and business director for the system, said it would still leave the budget unbalanced by about $84,000.

“We still have work to do before the first budget public hearing Nov. 14,” Jo said.

Three primary strategies have been proposed by library managers to help to close the majority of that gap. They comprise reducing spending on books, DVDs, e-books, music and other materials; replacing the long-running bookmobile service with a more efficient van service directly to schools; and decreasing spending on capital improvements.

Reductions in books and materials will save the system just more than $1 million. A change in the bookmobile service will save $255,000, and a decrease in capital improvements will save $308,000, meaning the system will transfer less than it normally does from the operating budget to the capital expenditures budget.

“We have some funds left over in our capital funds that we can use,” Jo said. “We’re not going to be spending in the capital fund as much as we have in prior years. We’re done with the big projects.”

In addition, Jo said an allocation of $807,000 in cash reserves will be taken from 2011 savings in the operations budget to mitigate any layoffs that would otherwise be necessary. Also, efficiencies incorporated in 2012, like not filling temporary or vacant positions, will be carried into 2013. That would be an additional $360,000 in savings, Jo said.

Lisa Bitney, reading and materials director for the library system, said reductions in books and materials will equal about 3 percent in spending.

“We normally spend about 16 percent of the budget on materials,” Bitney said.

In planning the 2013 budget, Bitney said her staff began to reassess the collection.
"We started out by surveying both branch staff and customers by what is important to them," Bitney said. "We started thinking how we could be incredibly creative. We started from scratch and rebuilt the collection based on a lot of data and input, and decided how much money we needed to support this collection."

One change to the library’s collection that has saved money is the Lucky Day books, defined as popular books or New York Times Bestsellers that are in high demand. Library users can’t place a hold on them or renew after its three-week checkout period.

"Because it is such a highly quick turnaround, it’s allowing us to purchase fewer copies of the bestsellers," Bitney said. "They turn over so quickly."

Bitney also is excited about the new Collection HQ software, which enables the system to track which genres of books are popular at each of the 18 different branches.

"We’re trying to profile community branches to make sure the collection on the shelf reflects the community’s needs," Bitney said. "What we’re buying fits into what the community wants."

Bitney said the library system did not perform across-the-board cuts.

"We reduced in areas that didn’t have really strong circulation," Bitney said. "We’ll have plenty of bestsellers and movies that people want. We’re confident that we’re going to provide each branch in 2013 with a good collection."

The library system has a collection that totals 1.2 million.

The library’s Board of Trustees will vote to approve the 2013 budget at the last of two public hearings set for Dec. 12.

Reporter Andrew Fickes can be reached at 253-552-7001 or by email at andrew.fickes@puyallupherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @herald_andrew.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/10/24/v-printerfriendly/2342581/library-promises-robust-collection.html#storylink=cpy
October 3 Luncheon

It's almost time for the Chamber's monthly member luncheon!

October's guest speaker is Dr. Steve McCammon, Fife Public Schools Superintendent.

When: Wednesday, October 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Emerald Queen Casino Ballroom
5700 Pacific Highway East
Fife, WA 98424

RSVP by Monday, October 1: Register online at our Events Calendar
Call (253) 922-9320
Or email awilliams@fifechamber.org

Pierce County Library System's Card Drive

The Pierce County Library System is holding its sixth annual library card drive from October 1-31. Sign up for a free library card during this time and you'll be entered to win a Kindle Fire HD.

There are an array of free services for cardholders, including:
- Access to more than one million books, movies and CDs
- Online help in real-time from professional homework tutors and jcb coaches
- E-books, audio books and songs to download
- Credible, reliable information from online e-sources
- Passes to Museum of Glass, Tacoma Art Museum and Washington State History Museum

Adults and children can get a card online for free at any time, or at one of 18 libraries. People who already have a library card may enter the drawing to win a Kindle Fire HD by bringing a friend to a library and signing them up for a card. Military personnel and
families may enter the drawing by showing their military ID.

For more information on the card drive and to sign up for a library card, click here.

Thanks Again To The 2012 Golf Classic Sponsors!

Thank you to all the sponsors, players and volunteers who made our 5th Annual Chamber Classic such a huge success!

Please click here to see our wonderful sponsors.

We appreciate your support!
Key Center Library to Close This Winter for Facility Improvements

GIG Patch

While the library is closed, residents may come on board the Explorer Kids’ Bookmobile at Key Peninsula Civic Center and check out books, movies, audiobooks and other items.

- By Patch Staff
- Email the author
- October 16, 2012

To bring customers improved service, Key Center Pierce County Library, located at 8905 KPN, Lakebay, will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 14 – Wednesday, Feb. 27.

While the library is closed, residents may come on board the Explorer Kids’ Bookmobile and check out books, movies, audiobooks and other items. The bookmobile will be at Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road.

- Monday-Wednesday, 12-6 p.m.
- Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**

People can also use computers for free inside the civic center, on a first come, first served basis for up to an hour.

- **Monday-Wednesday, 12-5 p.m.**
- **Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**
- **Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

During the closure, workers will make the lobby area into usable library space, add computers and a movie machine and speed up Wi-Fi access.

To help make over the meeting room, people may join [Friends of the Key Center Library](#) and [Pierce County Library Foundation](#) to help create a vibrant space and place for students to read and study and an area for the whole community.

*Editor's note: Information from Pierce County Library System.*

**Related Topics:** [Closure](#), [Key Center Library](#), and [pierce county library system](#)
Pierce County Library System says ‘thank you’ for being a Friend

South Puget Sound News

October 19, 2012 By News Room Leave a Comment

Friends of Pierce County Library System and Pierce County Library Foundation are the backbone that keeps the Library System running and humming throughout Pierce County communities. Oct. 21-27 marks National Friends of Libraries Week which recognizes and celebrates friends and foundation groups for volunteering time and resources to help support libraries.

“Pierce County Library’s Friends and Foundation provide immeasurable support and help in all 18 of our libraries,” said Neel Parikh, executive director for the Library. “They help extend offerings and allow staff to give better and more service to the hundreds of thousands of people we serve. They also give a voice in the community and share information about services. I salute and thank them.”

Friends groups support their community library in many areas such as raising funds through book sales and other activities, and advocating and raising awareness about library services, needs and goals in the community.

In 2011 Friends of the Libraries contributed $81,400 for library needs. Last year FRIENDS of Lakewood Library donated funds to Lakewood Pierce County Library to add great places for children to learn and play. Friends of the South Hill Library contributed money for early learning spaces, which includes a castle-fort and puppet theater to foster children’s imaginations.

Last year the Foundation awarded $229,959 to bring books to children in day care centers and helped give people resources and skills to compete in the job market. The Foundation connects vital literacy and information resources beyond the scope of tax-based funding and seeks funding from charitable foundations, businesses and individuals.

Along with other recognition, to celebrate National Friends of Libraries week, Pierce County Library’s Board of Trustees is issuing a proclamation at its Oct. 17 meeting.
“Libraries have changed through the years, with the main mission remaining the same—to be a welcoming place for everyone and an information and idea source for all,” said Barbara Trimble, a member of Friends of the University Place Library. “Budgets often cannot stretch to cover all needs, so volunteers step in and donate their time and talents to raise funds to help our communities.”

To join a Friends group and support a local library visit any Pierce County Library. People may also drop off used books, movies and magazines at any library, and Friends of the Libraries will use them in their books and materials sales. To donate to the Foundation or apply to become a Foundation Board of Director visit www.piercecountylibrary.org search site: Foundation.
'Lakewood is a City that Reads' Contest Big Hit

Posted on October 15, 2012

Contest winners (L-R) Yuliya Legkun (13-20 group), Michael Stevenson (21-49 group) and Aubriana Edelmam (under 12 group) during award of prizes at Lakewood Library on October 10. Not in photo is winner Theresa Heller (50 plus group). Photo by Phil Raschke.

By Phil Raschke, Lakewood Arts Commission

Over 270 Lakewood area residents participated in the "Lakewood is a City that Reads" contest conducted by the Literary Committee of the Lakewood Arts Commission. The Lakewood Library and Barnes and Nobles were co-sponsors and official entry locations.

The contest was part of the "September is National Literacy Month" promotion. Contest asked Lakewood area residents to list their three favorite books whether they be fiction or non-fiction and then place a mark in one of the four listed age categories. Prizes for each age category were donated by Lakewood Playhouse, Barnes and Nobles, the Lakewood RAM restaurant and Taco Del Mar.

The "21 to 49" age group was the category with the most entries. This group had 88 entries and the most popular books in that group were "The Hunger Games" trilogy, "Twilight" series, "Harry Potter" series and "To Kill a Mocking Bird". The "50 Plus" age group had 71 entries and was the second highest entry group. Their favorites included "The Kite Runner" and "50 Shades of Gray" as well as "To Kill a Mocking Bird".

The 13 to 20 group had 59 entries and listed "Hunger Games" and "Twilight" as their favorite reads. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and "Junie B. Jones" were the favorites of the Under 12 group which had 53 entries.
Contest winners by age group were:

Age 12 and under....Aubriana Edelmann
Age 13 to 20....Yuliya Legkun
Age 21 to 49....Michael Stevenson
Age 50 plus....Theresa Heller

Prizes were awarded to the winners on October 10 at the Lakewood Library.

Based on the success of this year's contest, the Literary Committee of the Arts Commission is looking forward to participating in the program again next year.

Also, the Lakewood Arts Commission would like to give a very special thank you to our loyal sponsors and to Suzi Riley for her production assistance.
Write in the Valley Launches 'Chapter 4' of Writer Workshop Series

BLK SUM Patch

Join the Sumner Arts Commission at the fourth annual Write in the Valley workshop on Sat., Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- September 10, 2012

Upload Photos and Videos

Editor's Note: This is a press release from the City of Sumner.

Budding authors and anyone who loves to read are invited to join the discussion as local authors answer questions about writing and publishing.

Write in the Valley returns on Saturday, September 29, 10 am – 2 pm. Hosted by the Sumner Arts Commission, this fourth year (or Chapter 4) of the popular event brings together readers, published writers and those interested in writing. Participants can choose how involved they would like to be.

The event itself invites all book lovers of all ages the chance to meet and mingle with published authors. Held at the Sumner Senior Center, cost is $10 at the door. Seating is limited, so participants are encouraged to arrive early.

Published authors will share their experiences in a Question & Answer session with participants. Then, the authors will be available for more one-on-one discussion and signing of books.

This year’s guest authors include:

- Jason Black, editing and manuscript revisions;
- Megan Bostic, young adult fiction;
- Jeanne Matthews, Dinah Pelerin mystery series;
Rebecca Morris, adult nonfiction;  
Mike Lawson, the DeMarco political thrillers, top ten author of *The Seattle Times*;  
Karen Robbins, children’s picture books;  
Susan Schreyer, Thea Campbell mystery series and co-president of the Puget Sound Chapter of Sisters in Crime.

"Readers love books and stories so much that sometimes, it’s a bit of a mystique to meet the people who create this world for us," said Sumner Arts Commissioner Lisa McNamara, who is also Sumner’s librarian at the Sumner Pincree County Library. "It’s fun to hear their personal stories as they explain the journey that led them to be authors."

Those participants aspiring to join the ranks of published authors can take advantage of two additional opportunities that Write in the Valley offers. First, they can gain feedback on their writing from published author and Sumner Arts Commissioner Judy Kimball.

Participants submit their writing by Friday, September 21, and their works are reviewed in one-on-one appointments during the event. Participants may submit up to 10 pages for critique by Friday, September 21. Participants can e-mail submissions to richnjudy.7@msn.com with subject line “WITV4” or mail submissions to Sumner Arts Commission, Attn: Sally Abrams/Critiques 2012, City of Sumner, 1104 Maple Street, Suite 250, Sumner, WA 98390.

In addition, participants can enter a writing contest as part of Write in the Valley. Writers have until Friday, September 21, to enter. They may send in stories that are up to 750 words, written in first person, have a main character plus two other characters in the story, and includes dialogue.

The setting is at a book signing in a large book store. The author is well-known (but may write under a pseudonym). The bookstore is crowded; music plays in the background. The main character has been waiting most of the evening to have his book signed; the store is about to close. It’s vital that the main character gets this book signed/meets the author because . . . ??? The genre is open and may be mystery, romance, comedy, suspense, thriller, fantasy, paranormal, etc.

The winner will be announced at the event on September 29. Submissions may be sent to Sumner Arts Commission, Attn: Sally Abrams/Contest 2012, City of Sumner, 1104 Maple Street, Suite 250, Sumner, WA 98390.

Additional information about Write in the Valley is available online at [www.ci.sumner.wa.us](http://www.ci.sumner.wa.us).
Everything's Coming Up Daffodils As Festival's 2013 Season Kicks Off
Bonney Lake Sumner Patch

Royalty selections at 24 high schools across Pierce County mark the start of the festival's 80th year -- and these high-school seniors are no ordinary princesses.

- By Jennifer Chancellor
- Email the author
- 10:00 am
Upload Photos and Videos

Editor’s note: This is the first of a two-part series about The Puyallup Valley’s famed Daffodil Festival.

~~~~

Here they go again.

This week marks the start of a new season for the Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival. There are princesses to crown; a coronation to plan; and, next spring, a parade to celebrate the majestic yellow flowers synonymous with Pierce County.

The festival started in 1933 as a tribute to the Puyallup Valley Flower industry and has grown to be one of the largest festivals and parades in the nation. The Grand Floral Parade held every April travels through Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting. The Daffodil Queen and her court are the festival’s official ambassadors—as well as ambassadors to Pierce County.
It's a big responsibility, and not just for the princesses. It takes a lot of work to keep this 80-year-old tradition going—and evolving.

The princess selections at 24 high schools across Pierce County started Wednesday at Puyallup High School and will conclude on Nov. 27 at Chief Leschi High School. White River will select its princess on Thursday; Bonney Lake on Nov. 5; and Sumner on Nov. 7. All selections begin at 7 p.m. at the schools.

"I’m really excited," said 2013 Daffodil Festival President Brad Stevens. "It looks like we're going to have a great court, and we’ve got a lot of good things planned. I’m super excited about the direction the festival is going and the way we’re going to be able to serve our community."

A lasting impression

During each selection, the school’s 2012 princess will take her final bow in famed yellow dress and tiara. It means so much to the girls that they are willing to fly home from colleges on the east side of the mountains—or in other states.

"It’s a bittersweet time," said Steve James, the Daffodil Festival’s executive director and official photographer. "You have to say goodbye to the girls who you have spent all year with, but you get a fresh crop of girls who are excited.

"You know what they’re in store for—but they have no idea."

When winter rolls around, the real work begins. The 24 girls will officially become princesses at the Promenade in February, and the queen will be crowned in March.

And then there are the regular visits to the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA; the trips to Pierce County Libraries to read to children; the Santa Parades; the annual Princess Tea and so much more. The 2012 court collectively did 200 appearances or activities and participated in 25 parades, including one last weekend in Leavenworth and one this weekend at Issaquah’s Salmon Days.

"We’re going all the time," said 2012 Festival President Susan Maguire, who has been a Daffodilian since 1997. "But that is the thing we do—try to put the word out not only about the Daffodil Festival and our parades, but about Pierce County and the great things we have going on in Pierce County."

So why would a teenage girl be drawn to such a role, especially during the stress of senior year and over the summer as she prepares to head off to college?

"It is a lot of hard work, but it’s rewarding," said Stevens, a 10-year Daffodilian. "The direction is going more and more toward the community service aspect. You heard (2012 Stadium Princess Savannah Fry) tonight. She didn’t want to give it up. She put in a lot of hours and did a lot of things, but she felt rewarded."
No ordinary princesses

James said the royal court being named official ambassadors to Pierce County in 2012 has brought legitimacy to the festival. Since taking on the added responsibility, the festival boosted the court's public appearances from 40 a few years ago to more than 200. And nearly all of those activities involved the region’s littlest residents.

But it wasn’t that long ago that children thought the girls were simply dressed up as Disney princesses--Belle, to be specific, given the yellow dresses.

“It has taken two years to rebrand it and reeducate people about what the Daffodil Festival is about,” said James, who has been in his role for about 18 months. “We do the same things we did before, but now there’s an added component of community service.

“Children know who they are now.”

James said that the 2012 court did an appearance at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in conjunction with the Tacoma Public Library. They were there with the costumed characters--but the little kids were far more dazzled by the princesses.

“I could hear kids running up saying, ‘Mommy, Mommy, it’s Daffodil Princesses!’” he said. “They were approaching the girls before the costumed characters. Two years ago, that would not have happened.”

"All about the kids"

Those involved with the Daffodil Festival agree that the best part is being part of the girls’ journey as they flourish as princesses, as leaders and as people.

“I enjoy working with the girls and seeing the way they grow,” said Stevens, whose wife and daughter were both Daffodil Princesses. “We are able to help them develop as future leaders.”

Maguire agreed.

“I’m all about the kids and giving them opportunities,” she said. “And we keep evolving. We believe very strongly that the Daffodil Festival is service-giving back to the community.”

James said he considers the princesses to be “full-time ambassadors and part-time huggers.”

“They’re such role models to kids,” he said, adding that the notion that the Daffodil Festival is a pageant couldn’t be farther from the truth. “Pageants have their purpose ... but what these girls do is far different. I always say to them, ‘If what you do defines who you are, make sure what you’re doing is what you want to be known for.’

“These girls are community servants and leaders ... They’re out there, loving our kids, and being role models and examples.”
COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter: OSPI
September 21, 2012

Dear Neel Parikh,

On behalf of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the OSPI ELA Internal Committee, we sincerely thank you for your participation as a member of the Washington State Comprehensive Literacy Team starting in the fall of 2010. Based on your extensive expertise and background in literacy, you and other literacy leaders were selected to represent our state and provide feedback on the new Washington State Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

The purpose of this plan and supporting resources is to guide birth to grade 12 literacy practitioners, community, families and caregivers as they build and sustain comprehensive literacy systems preparing our students from cradle to college. The five researched-based components: Standards, Assessment, Instruction, Leadership, System-wide Commitment (SAILS) is the foundational core to the plan’s structure and anchors the birth to grade 12 comprehensive literacy plans. SAILS provides a systemic model for improving instruction. This ground breaking work will help build capacity with two goals in mind; Goal 1: Provide access to experts and research-based resources to enhance Washington’s understanding of a comprehensive literacy system birth through grade 12, particularly in the general education classroom. Goal 2: Support Washington’s efforts to build knowledge, experience, and understanding of the relationship between language acquisition and literacy.

Your participation as a team member will establish the direction of literacy for the state of Washington. Thank you for your 3 year commitment to excellence in literacy. We appreciate your help and look forward to continued literacy collaboration in the future. The importance of the State Literacy Team cannot be overstated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Luisa Sanchez-Nilsen
OSPI, Teaching and Learning
Elementary Reading Specialist
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington

Presents This

Certificate of Recognition

To

Neel Parikh

For Participation on the Birth-Grade 12 State Literacy Team 2010 - 2012
Presented on September 21, 2012

Superintendent Randy Dorn
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Luisa Sanchez-Nilsen
OSPI, Elementary Reading Specialist
OTHER LIBRARIES

- Libraries to stay closed through at least Monday
- Library News
- UW Tacoma Tioga Library grand opening Oct. 3
- As long as it’s just like Bookmobile
- What’s Seattle’s head librarian reading?
- Banned Book Week: What you need to know
- Library turns page with new director at the helm
Libraries to stay closed through at least Monday

Tacoma: Switch in technology causing 'unexpected' problems

LEWIS KAMB
LAST UPDATED: OCTOBER 24TH, 2012 12:23 AM (PDT)

A technology upgrade was supposed to keep Tacoma Public Libraries closed for three days this week, but due to "unexpected and continuing problems" with data transfers, all library branches will remain shuttered through Monday afternoon, library officials say.

The libraries have been closed since last Monday. They were originally expected to reopen Thursday.

Operating on an aging system, the city’s libraries are undergoing an update of its main software system that contains patron, catalog and purchasing records and operating systems.

Transferring the data was expected to be complicated, but early test-rounds proved successful, library director Susan Odencrantz. Regardless, Innovative Interfaces – the California-based vendor handling the project – hasn’t so far been able to successfully make the switch.

"The final upload of data experienced quite a few problems," Odencrantz said. "It has failed twice, and we’re now on our third try, which is almost unheard of."

The vendor is now trying yet another data upload, set to be completed early Friday. Library staff then must test the system to make sure it is properly running – a process that takes about a day.

"Hopefully, it will work," Odencrantz said. "But if it doesn’t, we do have a fallback plan and we won’t let this go on beyond Monday."

The fallback involves simply reverting to the library’s old software system and reopening the branches to patrons, she said.

Innovative Interfaces has been working on aspects of the system transfer since last year under a five-year, $600,000 contract, library officials said. The vendor provides software systems to thousands of libraries of all types in over 50 countries.

lewiskamb@thenewstribune.com
© Copyright 2012 Tacoma News, Inc.
Library News

Starting in January, all Seattle Public Library branches will be open on Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Hooray!

Central Library will still be open noon to 6 p.m.

On a somewhat related note: Don't forget about SPL's museum pass program, which allows you to visit many local museums for FREE.
The University of Washington Tacoma will celebrate the grand opening of the Tioga Library Building next month. The new four-story, 40,000 square foot building boasts additional library stacks and student study space, and is connected to the university’s original library by a pedestrian skybridge. The grand opening ceremony will be held at 1907 Jefferson Ave. on Weds., Oct. 3 between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. To RSVP for the event, click here.

UW Tacoma Tioga Library Grand Opening. (IMAGE COURTESY UW TACOMA)
As long as it's just like Bookmobile

My understanding is that the Everett City Council is considering a proposed budget cut for 2013 in which the Bookmobile for seniors and other homebound library patrons will be eliminated if a satisfactory less expensive alternative delivery method can be found.

The Bookmobile offers needed intellectual stimulations to housebound patrons; so if it's absolutely necessary to cut funding for the Bookmobile, please ensure that the alternative method will be as practical and foolproof in making deliveries as the Bookmobile has been doing.

Kal Leichtman
Everett

> MORE HEADLINES
Book City: What's Seattle's head librarian reading?

Marcellus Turner heads up Seattle's library system. With all those books at his disposal, which ones is he checking out to read at home?

By Valerie Easton

October 25, 2012.

Marcellus Turner started out in 4th grade shelving books in his school library in Mississippi. Fourteen months ago, he became the Director of the Seattle Public Library System, and he now oversees the Central Library and 26 branches that circulated 11,572,778 items last year. When MT, as he's known by friends and library staff, went to his first Seafair parade last summer, he was delighted to see that so many of the people lining the streets were reading while waiting for the parade to start.

Val Easton: Do you have a book or two you've re-read over the years and will no doubt read again?

Marcellus Turner: I'm a big fan of Patrick Lencioni; I'm re-reading Getting Naked right now. He writes management books with great titles. Another one I like is Death By Meeting. They offer a whole different way of thinking about how you work with people.

VE: Have you read a truly great book lately? One you'd unhesitatingly recommend to friends and colleagues?

MT: Company by Max Barry, a novel set in Seattle.

VE: Do you get books from the library? Buy them? Download them?

MT: Before I came to Seattle, I lived in the Denver suburbs and listened to audio books while I commuted. I'm more urban here... now I'm a books-on-the-nightstand kind of guy. When I travel I check out electronic books to read on an iPad with Kindle access.

VE: How long is your library queue?

MT: It's pretty short. I need to transfer my long written list to my library holds list. I walk over to Barnes and Noble on my lunch hour and hustle back with book titles to add to my queue.

VE: Do you read genre fiction?

MT: I love suspense, but only books by David Baldacci. I guess I find authors I like, more than genres. I've also gotten caught up in Philippa Gregory's historical fiction set in Tudor England. She writes compelling and intricate plots The Other Boleyn Girl, was my first exposure to her work. I've read every one in Alexander McCall Smith's series The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency.

VE: When and where do you settle down to read?
MT: At home I read in bed. I like to read when I fly, and I always have a book or magazines in my book bag to read when waiting for a meeting to start.

VE: Did you read a lot when you were a kid?

MT: I'm very much geographically challenged because I always read in the car when I was young. I never paid attention to where we were going. I remember sitting on the floor, facing backwards, with the book resting on the car seat and the dome light on so I could see to read. When I was growing up, I always surrounded myself with friends who read and we enjoyed trading books.

VE: What do you plan to read next?

MT: I'm resolved to read the books on my own bookshelf. I've moved a lot and always carry all these books around with me. And David Baldacci has a new book out... (The Innocent, April 2012).

VE: As a librarian, what's your advice for us?

MT: Read for the pure pleasure of it.

Valerie Easton started her career as a librarian shelving books at Lake City Library when she was in high school. Now she writes full time, and has authored five books, including The New Low Maintenance Garden and her newest title Petal & Twig. She writes a weekly column and feature stories for Pacific Northwest magazine in the Seattle Times. A lifelong reader, there's nothing she loves more than discussing books.


© 2012 Crosscut Public Media. All rights reserved.

Printed on November 02, 2012
Banned Books Week: What You Need to Know
GIG Patch

Censorship is alive and well, as highlighted by Banned Books Week—and you might be surprised by who the most vocal challengers of books are.

The importance of the First Amendment and the concept of "intellectual freedom" might not always be readily apparent to most kids, but Banned Books Week is a great opportunity to make those lessons come alive for children—and adults.

*Banned Books Week* is held annually during the last week of September (Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2012). The week is an occasion for libraries and bookstores across the U.S. to help folks realize just how real and ongoing a problem censorship is.

More than 11,000 books have been challenged (though not necessarily successfully *censored*) since 1982, the inaugural year of Banned Books Week. According to the American Library Association (ALA), the vast majority of challenges to books are *initiated locally by parents,* likely in well-meaning attempts to protect their children.

Last year, there were 326 challenges reported to the ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom, based on everything from offensive language, to violence, insensitivity, religious viewpoint and sexual explicitness. In addition to those challenges, the ALA estimates that as many as 60 to 70 percent of challenges may go unreported.

Over the past year, the **10 most challenged titles** were:

1. *ttyl; ttfn; l8r, g8r* (series) by Lauren Myracle
2. *The Color of Earth* (series) by Kim Dong Hwa
3. *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins
5. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
6. *Alice* (series) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
7. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
8. *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones
9. *Gossip Girl* (series) by Cecily Von Ziegesar
10. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Among banned and challenged classics you’re likely familiar with are:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *Ulysses* by James Joyce
- *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Animal Farm* and *1984* by George Orwell
- *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

If you’re interested in celebrating Banned Books Week as part of a lesson for your kids—or simply to feel like a rebellious reader—check out these additional resources:

- **Mapping Censorship**, a visual representation of places books have been challenged in the US, created from cases documented by the ALA and the Kids' Right to Read Project
- **Virtual Read-Out**, a worldwide celebration of the freedom to read, featured on a dedicated Banned Books Week YouTube channel
- State-by-state listing of BBW events
- Banned Books Week on Facebook and Twitter
- Free BBW downloads from the ALA, like badges and Facebook cover art

**TELL US:** Do you think books should be banned from schools, bookstores or libraries?
Library turns page with new director at the helm

TIM WADHAM: Author, columnist has background with Spanish-language programming

BY ANDREW FICKES of the Herald

After it celebrated 10 years of service to the community earlier this month, the Puyallup Public Library is starting a new chapter in its evolution.

Tim Wadham started Sept. 4 as the library's new director.

"This is my dream job," said Wadham, the former assistant director for youth and community services at the St. Louis County Library in St. Louis, Mo. "I was looking to become a library director, and this library is truly the heart and soul of the community. I love the fact that the library is the centerpiece in the park across from city hall."

Originally from Utah, Wadham said he was looking also for an opportunity to get back west.

"There is a lot of potential to this library," he said. "This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for me to build the library of the future."

When former library director Gay Ulh opened the Puyallup building in 2002, she had a vision that embraced new technologies and ensured a diverse mix of programming and services would be available to all people, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Wadham said he plans to continue to embrace that goal.

"I want to make sure that our library stays on the cutting edge with the technology it has," he said.

Wadham said the Puyallup Public Library has done everything right.

"I want to learn the system and how the library works and also get to know staff before I make any specific changes," he explained.

Wadham has a diverse background. He has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a master's in library sciences from Brigham Young University, as well as a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Texas.

He said his passion is in books and programming for Spanish-speaking audiences and also in early childhood literacy. He is a nationally recognized author of several articles in library and publishing journals, a children's picture book, "The Queen of France," and two books which cater to library directors on how to build a quality collection of Spanish-language children's materials.


When he arrived in Puyallup, Wadham connected with Puyallup City Council members and city staff. Mayor Rick Hansen said Wadham's initiative to reach out quickly was impressive.

See LIBRARY, Page A6
Tim Wedham, the new Puyallup Public Library director, holds the children's book "Tomas and the Library Lady," While he served as the youth services coordinator for the Maricopa County Library District in Phoenix, Wedham commissioned and developed a play based on the book. It was performed for more than 70,000 children.

"He shows a lot of energy and passion for the library," Hansen said. "I'm really excited that he is here!"

Carol Hopkins, the children's librarian, said she's excited to work with Wedham.

"I'm excited to see what ideas he will bring," she said.

Wedham said he is committed to the Puyallup Public Library for the long-term. "I want to become part of this community," he said.

"The citizens paid a lot for this library, and I want to see them get all the value out of it that they put into it."
WHAT'S HAPPENING

• University Place Parks & Recreation moves to the Civic Building
• Keep simple majority for County Council tax votes
• 'Business is UP' on UPTV, YouTube
• Employers brace for higher health care costs
• SR-167's $1.9 billion price tag prompts funding challenge
• University Place flagpole kerfuffle comes to end
• University Place budget includes no new services, fees or taxes
• Town Center: Work continues but frustrations remain
• Pierce County Council Oks tax break for Parkland development
• Lakewood budget may sting
• City of University Place occupies space in its civic/library building
University Place Parks & Recreation moves to the Civic Building

Posted on October 7, 2012

By Linda Seesz

After weeks of work and planning, the University Place Parks & Recreation Department has made its move to the Civic Building in Town Center. Located now at 3609 Market Place West, Suite 101, office hours for the department will continue to be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the same as City Hall offices.

Settling into their new home on Market Place, the department’s offices are accessible from the lobby of the Civic Building, directly across from Frog n Kiwi Café. The Recreation staff are excited about their other new neighbors, too: the University Place Police Department and the U.P. Branch of the Pierce County Library System. They are looking forward to the ease and convenience the site will bring to their customers with proximity to these other services, as well as ample parking and a more visible storefront.

Telephone numbers and contact information for the Parks & Recreation Department will remain the same, so give them a call at 253.460.2530, email ParksandRec@CityofUP.com, or stop by at their new location just to say “hi” and check out the new place.

More information about the City of University Place and the Parks & Recreation Department is available at www.CityofUP.com.
Editorial

Keep simple majority for County Council tax votes
Last updated: October 5th, 2012 12:24 AM (PDT)

Stop us before we tax again – even though we haven’t raised taxes in eight years and have no plans to do it anytime soon.

That’s what the Pierce County Council seems to be saying with Charter Amendment 40 on the Nov. 6 ballot.

A council majority is asking that voters change the county charter so that a supermajority of members – five out of seven – would be needed to approve new councilmanic taxes and increases. Currently, only a simple majority of four is needed.

It should stay that way. If voters approve the charter change, it would allow a minority of three council members to call the shots.

Given voters’ perennial support for statewide ballot measures requiring a supermajority vote for taxes in the Legislature, county voters might be tempted to approve the charter change. But allowing a minority of council members to veto tax proposals is undemocratic and could make it hard for future councils to react with flexibility in addressing budget problems.

If the council had been abusing its taxing authority in recent years, supermajority proponents might have a point. But that hasn’t been the case; the council has exercised admirable budget restraint and shown a willingness to make tough decisions that some other local governments haven’t. (Yes, Tacoma, we’re talking about you.)

Proponents’ main argument in favor of the supermajority is to send a message to the Legislature: Don’t cut funding to county programs and expect the county to pick up the slack with new taxes. We wonder how many of those making that argument also support tying legislators’ hands with the two-thirds supermajority of Initiative 1185.

County Council members are elected to make decisions that might not be popular but are needed to continue providing the services residents expect. In a representative government, the council should be able to do that by simple majority.

If a supermajority were truly needed, the issue should be addressed through the charter review process – after due deliberation by citizen freeholders. That review will next take place in 2015.

Voters should reject this charter change and leave the question to their elected freeholders and a less politicized process.
Suburban Times

'Business is UP' on UPTV, YouTube

Posted on Oct 4, 2012

U.P. City Manager Steve Sugg and Kevin Berg of SEB, Inc. speak with Assistant City Manager Mariza Craig about their Town Center project – the Clearview Building – and even mention an anticipated date when the building is planned to be ready for occupancy. The Bergs chose this location in University Place specifically because of the energy and synergy that will be created by the various uses in the Civic Building, and the desirability of the University Place community. Several of the Bergs’ other developments are shown, giving the viewer an idea of the quality and caliber that can be expected of the University Place project when it is completed. Watch the segment on YouTube or daily at 5:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Employers brace for higher health care costs
Oct 24, 2012 - 09:43 AM

Concern about the ways in which federal health care reform will drive up costs for Washington employers dominated discussion during a forum in Bellevue hosted by the Association of Washington Business.

More than 200 people attended the 2012 AWB Health Care Forum, including dozens of representatives of small- and medium-sized businesses.

In addition to higher costs, business leaders expressed concern about the number of unanswered questions relating to the health care law and Washington's new Health Benefit Exchange.

"How can we afford this?" moderator Jeff Gingold, managing attorney at Gingold Law Firm, asked a panel of state legislators, Health Benefit Exchange board members and business owners. "Is there a cost-effective way of doing this without saddling taxpayers with the cost into the indefinite future?"

The concerns mirrored those found in a new report released at the forum. The report, "The State of Health Care in Washington State," reveals an industry that's vital to the state's economy and yet one that's facing numerous challenges, including a thicket of regulation, skyrocketing costs and a looming work force shortage.

It's the second in a series of reports from AWB and its nonprofit affiliate, the AWB Institute, examining the health of various Washington industry sectors. It is the result of a two-month listening tour conducted this spring with health care-related employers throughout the state.

Key trends identified in the report include:

• Over-regulation is driving health care employers to dedicate staff to regulatory compliance, detracting from patient care.

• Costs are out of control for a variety of reasons, including inadequate reimbursement from federal programs, an increase in uncompensated care, fraudulent billing practices, defensive medicine, and a lack of knowledge on the part of consumers.

• A work force shortage – postponed by the weak economy – is looming as the aging of the baby boomer generation leads to more retirements and an increase in demand for health care services.

The forum included in-depth discussion of these and other challenges facing employers, as well as ways employers can help shape the creation of the Health Benefit Exchange.

Although many details remain to be decided, it appears that the exchange will wipe out existing health plans for small employers, increasing cost and limiting choice for consumers.

"Washington business leaders were hoping a state Health Benefit Exchange would lead to more competition and lower costs, but the direction in which it is moving will deliver just the opposite," said Gary Chandler, AWB's vice president of government affairs.

Chandler called on employers to contact their elected representatives and tell them that Washington needs to maintain a vibrant health care insurance market outside of the state exchange.
State Route 167's route through Fife will help ease the traffic jams at key routes to Interstate 5 ... someday.

City officials say the completion of the "final link" between SR-167 and the tideflats will bring the most changes to the city since the opening of I-5 some 50 years ago. But the timeline of the change is a bit in flux since projections put the cost at about $1.6 billion but will all but end the days of commuter cars battling with container trucks for space on the city's roadways.

"It's a freeway that has got to be completed," Washington State Department of Transportation Regional Manager Kevin Dayton said. "And is to the community a very important linkage."

Work to finally connect SR 167 directly to the commercial traffic associated with shipping operations on the waterfront has been planned, discussed and studied for decades, with the route being finalized with a "Record of Decision" in late 2007. Engineers have been working out the details ever since, while the state has been purchasing right of ways along the route as money becomes available. About 70 percent of the path for the road extension has been purchased as transportation officials seek ways to pay for the rest along with the actual construction of the road itself. The entire project is set to include four miles of six-lane highway between Puyallup and I-5 followed by two miles of four-lane highway between SR 509 and I-5 and new interchanges at SR 161, Valley Avenue East, I-5, 54th Avenue East and SR 509. Side work of the project would be the addition of two weigh stations and two park-and-ride lots.
Both the Washington State Legislature and Department of Transportation consider the completion of SR-167 to be a top priority for the region and the state as well as with the City of Fife, the Port of Tacoma, neighboring cities, Pierce County and the Valley Cities organization and other economically focused entities, both public and private. But money is tight for such a large project. That means a toll system is being studied much like the second Narrows Bridge did years ago.

"To build the entire corridor, the project will need approximately $1.9 billion in additional funds for design, right of way and construction," according the state estimates. "Although the signing of the 2009-2011 transportation budget on May 13, 2009 provided $63.4 million in right of way funding for the project, there is no construction funding at this time. Until additional funding is identified, construction dates will remain undetermined." The state only has $159 million earmarked for the project so far. "Everything seems to revolve around money," Dayton said.

State Route 167 is the primary freeway connecting the Kent and Puyallup River valleys to the Tacoma metropolitan area. The Kent and Puyallup area holds the second largest distribution center on the West Coast. Almost half of the regional truck traffic from the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma are destined for this area. The highway's original planned route ran from Renton to Tacoma, but construction halted near Puyallup in the 1980s as engineers worked from north to south with available money. The SR 167 extension, which is projected to carry some 100,000 cars and trucks a day once completed, is a critical missing link in the state's highway network. Its completion is expected to improve safety and reduce congestion along local roads and freeways in the surrounding area.

The smoother traffic flows and shorter driving times would, projections claim, fuel job growth to the tune of $10.1 billion by increases in shipping businesses the Port of Tacoma's international cargo and other operations - an expansion that is contingent on good transportation connections to move the freight to and from the docks. Public hearings are in the works for October with a final report to the Legislature due in December.
University Place flagpole kerfuffle comes to end
6-1 vote: $20,000 project to go near civic building
CHRISTIAN HILL
Last updated: October 17th, 2012 09:09 AM (PDT)

The U.S. flag will fly in front of University Place's civic and library building early next year.

In front of a larger-than-usual crowd, the University Place City Council settled on the project's location and funding Monday night following a yearlong, emotionally charged debate.

The flagpole will be 50 feet tall and erected on the east side of a public plaza close to the civic building.

Some council members said they were at fault for allowing the issue to turn into a flap.

"We majorly screwed up on this," Councilwoman Caroline Belleci said.

The city will pay for the project from $20,000 it had budgeted for Town Center development expenses that were later deemed ineligible to be used for that purpose.

Public Works and Parks Director Gary Cooper said Tuesday that Jan. 1 is the earliest the project could be completed. The city is required to put the work out for competitive bid, and it will take weeks to receive the bronzed flagpole, install it and light it, he said.

Plans first called for the flagpoles in front of the current city offices at Windmill Village to be moved across the street when University Place officials eventually move into the civic building -- a date that is yet to be set. Councilman Javier Figueroa pushed to erect a flagpole sooner. He cited federal code that requires the American flag be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of public institutions.

Figueroa claimed the civic building, though still largely empty, met that criteria when the University Place Pierce County Library opened in February 2011.

The council couldn't agree on where to put the flagpole or how to pay for the project.

University Place resident Ruthann Reim McCaffree and city arts boosters raised concerns about installing it next to Bridgeport Way, one of the locations being seriously considered. They said it would block the view of a bronze duck sculpture, dedicated to the memory of Reim McCaffree's late husband, Terry Reim, a UP civic booster.

Supporters of that site, however, said the flag would be more visible closer to Bridgeport.

The council convened a task force of three council members, including Figueroa, and other community members, including Reim McCaffree. They recommended two sites for consideration by the full council: one near the civic building, favored by McCaffree, and another near Bridgeport Way, favored by Figueroa.
The council voted 6-1 to erect the flagpole near the building. Bellucci voted no. She said it’s premature to erect the flagpole until UP decision-makers relocate from Windmill Village – a move that isn’t guaranteed. The police and parks and recreation departments are the only city offices currently in the building.

Some have suggested the city risks giving priority to a local tribute over a sacred American symbol. Bellucci disagrees.

“This has nothing to do with patriotism,” she said. “This has to do with civic operation.”

She added she should have done more to nip the controversy in the bud.

An earlier vote Monday evening to erect the flagpole closer to Bridgeport Way failed 4-3. Council members Eric Choiniere, Chris Nye, and Mayor Ken Grassi joined Bellucci in voting no.

Choiniere supported the location near the building because he said there’d be a future debate about moving the duck statue if the flagpole were erected next to it.

“Do you really want to go through this all over again? Because I certainly don’t,” he said.

Grassi said having three council members on the task force was a poor decision and that the recommendation should have been turned over completely to the community. He said the city has been “humiliated and embarrassed” by news coverage of the flag debate.

Councilwoman Denise McCluskey agreed having three council members on the task force was a mistake and added that she is “very heartbroken over the division that this has caused.”

Full UP council OKS debt restructure

The University Place City Council voted unanimously Monday to refinance a massive debt payment coming due on the Town Center project next year.

The proposal will break up into 25 annual payments a $12.4 million bill that is due by Dec. 1, 2013. A state audit of UP’s books from 2011 found the city doesn’t have the ability to make the big single payment.

The city has been paying interest-only on the debt, and refinancing would allow it to begin paying down the principal. The bonds will be sold next month.

There was no discussion before the unanimous vote. Council members had examined the proposal during a prior study session.

The city also will refinance $1.8 million it owes to develop Cirque Park to take advantage of lower interest rates.

Councilman Kent Keel said afterward that his excitement about refinancing is tempered by the fact that University Place is pushing its debt obligations down the road. He said the city needs to be more prudent in the future.
University Place budget includes no new services, fees or taxes
CHRISTIAN HILL
Last updated: October 23rd, 2012 05:47 PM (PDT)

The City of University Place’s proposed 2013-14 budget boils down to two fundamentals: maintaining city services and paying down debt.

No new programs or services, taxes or fee increases are proposed. The city plans to hire a single part-time employee to help at the senior center.

“It’s a pretty simple budget compared to some prior years,” Finance Director Eric Faison said.

But the two-year spending plan does include the first revenue boost from a major professional golf tournament, and it brings back a benefit for city employees:

• It contains early revenue tied to the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay. The city expects admission taxes to grow by $540,000 in 2014 from advance ticket sales for the tournament.

• It gives employees three “merit” days. These paid days off, which the city last doled out in 2010, are a gesture to recognize the city hasn’t granted employees merit or cost-of-living adjustments since 2009. That year, UP had to lay off 30 percent of its staff due to a looming budget shortfall.

The city has 48 full-time-equivalent employees. It also contracts with the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department for its police force of 15 deputies, one investigator and one secretary.

UP’s proposed operating budget will fall from $26.6 million in 2013 to $24.1 million in 2014, primarily due to anticipated spending on Town Center improvements in the first half of the biennium. The city’s total budget for the two-year period is $65.3 million.

The City Council vote with the biggest implications came last week when it authorized refinancing a $12.4 million payment due on Town Center debt next year; the city will now pay annual installments over the next 25 years. The bond sale could occur as early as next week.

UP doesn’t have a lot of wiggle room in its spending plan due to debt obligations and a stagnant tax base. State law caps at 1 percent the increase in property taxes cities can receive each year; all property taxes collected in UP go to pay its police contract.

The city does expect an increase in sales tax revenue, mostly from the massive upgrade of the county’s wastewater treatment plant.
The 17-year-old city of 31,000 residents owes more than $50 million on debt and loans to construct Town Center, purchase city offices, acquire and develop parks and improve streets. The city will pay down $3.6 million of debt in 2013 and nearly $4 million the following year.

The City Council made some slight budget adjustments during a study session Monday night. They included hiring a part-time employee for the senior center for $11,400 a year; the center now has one employee.

Council members also budgeted $5,000 each for business recruitment, U.S. Open marketing, snow and ice removal, and increased traffic control for the city’s Duck Daze event. The additions total $71,900 for the two-year period.

UP will reduce the City Council budget by $40,000 and dip into reserves to pay the remaining costs.

The budget does pave the way for street improvements. The city will improve Bridgeport Way from 54th Street to Chambers Lane with bike lanes, sidewalks, lighting and center islands.

The budget also contains two other grant-funded projects: adding sidewalks to 19th Avenue from Bridgeport Way to Mildred Street, and improving Mildred from 19th to Regents Boulevard, a joint project with Fircrest. The city also will use grant dollars to construct bike lanes and sidewalks on Beckonridge Drive from Cirque to Grandview drives, and 27th Street from Grandview to Bridgeport Way.

The city will continue to invest in its Town Center mixed-use development in a continuing bid to attract private-sector interest. Due to the weak economy, the spending plan assumes no tax revenue from the project, which will turn 10 years old next year.

Last year, the city secured nearly $4.9 million in bond proceeds that will be repaid using a slice of the state sales tax that Washington officials agreed to divert to the city. The city has spent some of the money inside the underground parking garage and for street-level parking, crosswalks and sidewalks. The city has budgeted the remaining state sales-tax funding in the coming two-year period, though it hasn’t identified further projects.
Town Center: Work continues but frustrations remain

BY BREA NNE COATS
Dirt may be moving at the University Place Town Center, but frustrations throughout the business community over the project have remained.

“I think it’s ridiculous. My taxes are being wasted every day on that project. They should be embarrassed,” said Patricia Mannie, owner of Patricia & Co. “Now look at the project. It’s a huge mess and it’s a big disappointment.”

Part of what is driving Mannie’s frustrations is that nearby cities have managed to attract retailers and restaurants during recent years.

“I drive to Gig Harbor and Lakewood to do my shopping because (of) the stores they have there,” she said.

While frustrations remain about the project, Mannie said that with new City Council members in place, she is hopeful University Place will attract more businesses that can contribute to the local economy.

David Dagley, co-owner of Jonz Catering, said the Town Center project hasn’t had a positive or negative impact on his business.

“It’s just a building I drive by,” he said. “I’m not sure it’s the best way for the community to invest its money.”

But, like Mannie, Dagley is hopeful about the future of the project.

“Anything that could draw more traffic into the community is good for my business,” he said, adding it would be great if the project became a shopping destination. “(But) there hasn’t been any indication that will occur.”

However, city officials would argue otherwise.

“The big news is we have $12.5 million dollars in private construction going on,” said Steve Victor, University Place’s city attorney. “Obviously, we want to get development done, but there is no panic. We can wait out the difficult economy and get the quality development that was the intent.”

City Manager Steve Sugg said while University Place is content with incremental progress, he understands that people are always going to want to see more.

“We are holding steady. The city is in good financial shape,” Sugg said. “We have the ability to hold. As the economy improves, this thing will pick up. Right now, we are just in a slow, steady course.

The project that did help show some members of the community that there is light at the end of the tunnel is a mixed-use, five story building on Town Center Lot 8.

SEB Inc. is building the project above the city-owned parking garage. The company plans to include 12,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor. The other four floors will house about 100 apartment units.
As of Oct. 17, construction was happening on the second and third floors of the building. Stephen Berg, president and owner of SEB, said work should advance to the top of the project toward the end of November.

He also said that SEB typically only builds apartment units in its developments. But, to follow the city’s design standards for Town Center, the company is willing to branch out.

“We are very positive on the City of University Place as an extremely desirable place to live,” Berg said.

As far as attracting retail tenants for the ground floor, he said the company hasn’t been pursuing that aggressively.

“We are focusing on getting the building in its rough shell completed so we can begin to show potential retailers what the space might look like,” Berg said.

SEB has first rights to Town Center Lot 10 and Victor said the city is working with the company to determine whether construction can take place on that lot, too. However, he said the city is not planning to build a parking garage on that lot like it did on Lot 8.

“We are trying to figure out what could make that project go,” Victor said. “They would like to keep going and move the crane to the other side.”

Victor said his focus has been on the core of the Town Center, but he would like to see the city attract anchor tenants for a couple of its large outer lots. However, it’s been difficult to target companies that want to lease space because they don’t typically have the means to build.

Melanie Kirk-Stauffer, founder of Dance Theatre Northwest, said she envisions the Town Center having a community atmosphere, and even considered moving her nonprofit there.

However, the city and the developers are reserving the opportunity for retailers, she said and hadn’t put together any type of plan for the upper floors for nonprofits to consider.

But Kirk-Stauffer still holds out hope that the Town Center will be a community hub that will support both the economy and the arts.

“I’m trying to be optimistic about what it could be. I still think there is a lot of opportunities and many options that could be looked at,” she said. “I know our council is doing the best they can to pull that project back together.”

So, while frustrations remain, most business owners are looking forward to the future of Town Center.

“Mistakes have been made and disagreements have been had, but we have to look past that,” Kirk-Stauffer said. “There’s no point in wasting energy over that stuff.”

*Writer Breanne Coats can be reached at bcoats@BusinessExaminer.com.*
Pierce County Council OKs tax break for Parkland development
Near PLU: Development will get 12 years tax-free; small business unhappy
STEVE MAYNARD
Last updated: October 31st, 2012 09:45 AM (PDT)

The Pierce County Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a 12-year property tax exemption for a residential development meant to change the face of Parkland.

Construction on a $20 million project to build 104 apartments, plus office and retail space, a block from Pacific Lutheran University is expected to start in January and finish 12 months later, said developer John Korso.

The four-story project, called Garfield North, has been controversial not only because of the tax break that will help drive it, but also because the development is displacing seven small businesses. Owners of one business are critical of how developers have treated them.

Council member Dick Muri, R-Steilacoom, said Garfield North will be the best thing that's happened to Parkland in a decade, bringing jobs and "a higher quality of life."

Councilman Stan Flemming, R-University Place, said the project will further revitalize the neighborhood around PLU.

State lawmakers this year approved a 12-year property tax exemption on the values of new residential housing on Garfield Street. It's a tool cities have had for years.

"In order for the project to make sense financially, the tax abatement was a necessity," said Korso, president of Tacoma-based Korso Construction.

Garfield North aims to attract PLU professors, staff members and other professionals to live near campus instead of in downtown Tacoma or Seattle.

The tax exemption starting in 2015 applies to only the residential portion of the 127,000-square-foot project. The exemption would create an estimated annual tax burden of at least $239,000 spread across county taxpayers, according to the bill's fiscal note.

But developers don't expect an overall loss in property tax revenue from current levels because the land and retail space would be taxed.

In addition, $15 million in construction costs are expected to generate $1.4 million in sales tax.

The council voted 7-0 Tuesday in favor of the tax exemption. In August, it had designated the Garfield neighborhood as a larger target area for the multi-family property tax exemption.
The tax break is contingent on 20 percent of the units being rented as affordable housing.

The development is a partnership of PLU, Korsmo Construction and Affinity Investments of Tacoma.

Judi Brown, who co-owns Getting Personal Imprinting with her husband, DJ, reiterated Tuesday her previous criticism.

“The developers who are receiving this very large tax abatement have in my estimation handled tenant relations poorly with those small businesses who were operating on the street,” Brown told the council.

In an interview, she said, “Our main frustration in all of this is the underhanded nature and the flip-flop communication we’ve been getting from (developers) since last spring.”

Brown said changing demands in move-out dates have caused her to pay rent for two locations since August. Her business is relocating to Lakewood by the end of its lease in January.

Affinity Investments president Kirk Rector cited a lack of firm dates with Pierce County, the financing market and the development plans.

“Unfortunately, we have not been in the position we wish we could have been to give them more concrete information as to the development’s start dates,” Rector said.

Two businesses moved on their own. Rector said his company offered relocation assistance to the others.

Three businesses remain: a tax service, hair salon and the Browns’ trophy-engraving shop.

Rector said the developers will pay the final three months of the Browns’ lease – a total of $4,650 – without a signed agreement the two parties disagree on.

“I’ll take that,” Judi Brown said.
Lakewood budget may sting
Proposal: Higher taxes, fees and layoffs would cover for sluggish economy
CHRISTIAN HILL
Last updated: October 22nd, 2012 09:11 AM (PDT)

With a lagging economy pretty much keeping a lid on the city’s chief sources of revenue, Lakewood leaders are turning to higher taxes and fees as well as some layoffs to balance the budget over the next two years.

The 2013-14 budget proposed by City Manager Andrew Neiditz calls for a new street-upkeep fee and an increase in electric and gas utility taxes. It also would raise fees to license a business, build a home and reserve a picnic shelter at a city park.

Pierce County’s second-largest city would slash three positions and reduce a fourth position to half-time from full time. There are no new hires proposed.

Neiditz said he hopes the proposed layoffs “will be the last round of reductions after some difficult years.”

The city has shrunk its workforce by a total 23.5 positions in the last several years. The proposed budget would pay for nearly 241 full-time-equivalent positions.

No cost-of-living adjustments for any employee are included in the new budget, but merit and longevity pay increases would continue.

The City Council, which is in the midst of a series of workshops to dig into the budget’s details, has the final say. The budget’s adoption is scheduled for Nov. 19 after a public hearing two weeks earlier. The budget takes effect Jan. 1.

Total spending in the general fund is virtually unchanged in the coming biennium compared to the current year: around $34.5 million annually. The general fund pays for most city services, including police protection.

Minimal increases are budgeted for property and sales tax revenues, the fund’s two biggest sources. The city projects to receive $9.2 million in sales tax in both 2013 and 2014 – a $200,000 increase from the current year and evidence that budget managers aren’t expecting a robust recovery soon.

“We’re just not seeing the kind of growth and rebound in the economy that we would like to see, which makes for difficult decisions and a difficult budget-setting for the next biennium,” Finance Director Choi Halladay said.
The city proposes to increase the tax it assesses on electric and gas utilities from 5 to 6 percent. This is expected to raise another $277,000 in revenue each of the next two years.

Lakewood already taxes garbage, cable and telephone providers at the 6 percent rate. It's unknown at this time how much utility bills would jump for the average household if the tax increases are approved.

The budget also includes revenue from the transportation benefit district the City Council formed in August to provide funding for street maintenance. The council hasn’t settled whether it will assess a fee on the annual license renewal or a property tax levy.

Mayor Doug Richardson has vowed that the council would send any tax or fee to the ballot, although state law allow cities to assess a $20 fee without voter approval.

The budget calls for the district to raise an estimated $350,000, or six months of revenue, from the $20 fee in 2013, and another $700,000 for all of 2014.

Again, it will be up to the council to decide whether to assess a tax or fee and the amount.

A host of fee increases are being considered.

Neiditz’s current proposal calls for the annual cost of a business license to increase from $45 to $60. The cost of building permits would jump 7.5 percent.

Lakewood officials said fees haven’t been raised for several years, and the proposals are in line with what neighboring communities charge.

“We tried to raise the fees, but not go too high,” Community Development Director David Bugher said.

The proposals are before the planning advisory board as they draft recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

Another advisory board has already recommended a variety of park and recreation fee hikes:

- Special-use permits to reserve space at a city park for an event drawing 500 or more visitors would double from $500 to $1,000.

- Youth soccer teams not run by the city would pay $25 more to use fields for league matches.

- The fee to reserve a large picnic shelter at Fort Steilacoom Park for a half-day would increase from $85 to $100.

Grant funding from the federal stimulus that paid for three Lakewood police officers will expire next year, and the city would pick up that total cost of $305,000 annually for the next two years.
The proposed budget continues Lakewood’s investment in efforts to recruit new businesses to grow the city’s tax base. It also extends work with Joint Base Lewis-McChord and neighboring communities to address the impacts of the military’s rapid growth on streets, housing, schools and social services.

The city would fully fund its Community Safety Resource Team program, which teams police officers, code enforcers and legal advisers to combat nuisances in Lakewood neighborhoods, for another two years.

The city proposes to hand pink slips to its long-range planner and an assistant city attorney. The city would eliminate another vacant assistant city attorney position. The city’s human services coordinator would work half-time instead of full time.

In February, the city laid off four employees and eliminated four other vacant positions to help close a shortfall in the current budget of about $1 million

“It (the workforce reduction) certainly has taken its toll on workload and morale, but we believe we are moving forward and providing good, quality services with good, quality employees to the citizens of Lakewood,” Neiditz said when he unveiled his budget proposal on Oct. 1.

The city’s total budget, including capital, grant and law enforcement seizure funds, would grow from an estimated $50.6 million in the current year to nearly $67 million in each of the next two years. The bulk of the increase is due to $16 million in grant funding the city will receive for street improvement and stormwater projects.

Projects include improvements to Bridgeport Way between 75th to 83rd streets, South Tacoma Way from State Route 512 to 96th Street, and Steilacoom Boulevard from Custer Road to 88th Street.

Christian Hill: 253-274-7390
cchristian.hill@thenewstribune.com
@TNTchill

IF YOU GO

What: A public hearing on Lakewood’s proposed 2013-14 budget.

When: Nov. 5, starting shortly after 7 p.m.

Where: Council chambers of Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St. SW.

More information: The proposed budget can be reviewed online at cityoflakewood.us/government/departments/finance.
The City of University Place has landed a new tenant for prime retail space in its civic and library building: the City of University Place.

UP officials have moved their parks and recreation department into the ground-floor space at the front of the building in Town Center that it wants to lease for retail use. It opened for business at its new location last Friday.

City Manager Steve Sugg said the relocation is temporary, ending when the city’s broker can find a business. He said the new location gives the department more space than it had at Windmill Village and makes it easier for residents to learn about and sign up for programs.

“Let’s benefit our community while waiting for a tenant to move in,” he said.

It’s apparent from comments by Sugg and Jeff Kraft, the broker hired to lease the space and sell the Town Center properties, that it was deemed unlikely the city would land a tenant over the next few months.

Sugg said there’s “not much activity right now,” and officials don’t know when retail activity will pick up again. Kraft said there has been “mild interest” in the space and noted he’s seeing incremental improvement in the retail market.

Kraft said the move makes perfect sense.

“From a city budget standpoint, why not use the space you already have?”

He said the move also gives the city the luxury to pick the tenant that offers the best fit for the mixed-use development instead of feeling pressure to take the first offer that comes along.

The city spent about $28,000 to make modest improvements to the space that can be used by a future tenant, Sugg said.

Parks and recreation manager Todd Smith said his department likes and needs the increased visibility at the new location. Because of budget cuts, the department gets little city support and relies on fees to continue offering its programs and perhaps expand them in the future.

The department has four paid employees and offers youth sports leagues, adult fitness classes and senior citizen trips.

“We are dependent on our participants,” Smith said.
The department is across from the Frog n Kiwi cafe and indoor kids play area, the building’s first retail tenant, and on the same floor as the Pierce County Library branch.

Smith said his staff is discussing using some of the additional space for programs.

In December, the University Place Police Department moved into the second floor of the civic building. The city contracts with the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement services.

Sugg said there’s no plan to move other city departments into the building until the Windmill Village property that houses current city offices is sold. It’s unknown when that will occur.

The new address is 3609 Market Place W., Suite 101. Office hours for the department will continue to be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. Its phone number remains 253-460-2530.

Showing 7 comments

- Whyaduck

Public funded spin, spin, and more spin....
it seems using some that space for a public merry-go-round would be fitting...

- Shane Gray

With the past down sizing of the parks department why now do they need additional space? Mr. Kraft said the move also gives the city the luxury to pick the tenant that offers the best fit for the mixed-use development instead of feeling pressure to take the first offer that comes along. Sorry Mr. Kraft the city needs to feel the pressure to get someone in there. Get rid of Jeff Kraft and find someone else that does not have so many self competing interest. The city does not have the luxury to pick best fit tenants, we are in a budget crisis and need to get the space rented to whom ever has the means to pay the monthly rent. You can bet that the owner of the adjacent apartment building is not going to be picky on who he rents his retail space too. Don't you think $28,000 in improvements could not have waited for possible lease negotiations with a possible tenant?

- harleyrider1

Typical city management. It was "only" $28,000 dollars. Now, if the person that made that decision (Suggs) had to pay it out of his own pocket, he wouldn't have done it. Why? Because you don't just spend $28,000 because it is in the bank.

Suggs - wake up. This is real people's money. It is not yours. The government here is us. Real people. Stop the spend, spend, spend when the city already owes $60-MILLION dollars thanks to this thinking.
lefty_coast

Conversation over-heard in hallway of UP City Offices:

"Hey, I know where there is some vacant space we can get REAL cheap."

"Doesn't matter how cheap, we simply don't have the money."

"Doesn't matter. The landlord is a fool, and I will bet we can convince him to let us try it first. Then once were there, who will want to rent the space."

"Hey, not bad. Let's try it. What do we have to lose?"

-----
The kicker is, once the Parks and Rec people have the larger space they will need the larger space. So even with a good tenant, the City will still need more space to maintain service levels.

jrh98409

Parks & Rec. hahahaha

thewestside

Why is this news? What this tells me is the city can't get a tenant for the Towne Center no matter what they do so let's occupy the space ourselves.

tacomajoe

Step One: City of UP charges itself 1 million dollars per month in rent.  
Step Two: City of UP writes itself 1 million dollar check each month.  
Voila - 12 million dollars in additional revenue annually. Budget problem solved. Next!