Board Reports
## 2014 Board Calendar of Work

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| January 8     | • 2014 Board Calendar of Work  
• 2014 Operational Changes for Efficiencies and Savings  
• Succession Planning - Essential Competencies Needed for Executive Position | • Monthly Dashboard  
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| August 13     | • 2015 Budget: Budget Calendar and Process  
• 2015 CPIU | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report |
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| September 10 | • 2015 Budget: Estimated Revenue and Expenditures  
• Capital Facilities Plan | • IRS Tax Form 990 Final Review  
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Library Activities

- DuPont Library to celebrate 10th Anniversary on May 10
- Go ‘Wild’ for the 2014 Pierce County READS book
- Pierce County Library System recognized for food collection
- Emergency Food Network e-Newsletter (May 2, 2014)
- Adults have GED, college entrance exam options on Key Peninsula
- Enjoy National Poetry Month with events at the Lakewood Library
- Meet author Maggie Lenox at University Place Library on April 11
- Pierce County Reads events at the DuPont Library
- Tillicum Library Events for April
- Citizenship classes at library
- “Check out” your energy use with help from your library
- Kapow! Zap! Free Comic Books Offered
- Easy as Pi (article written by our own Alex Byrne, PCLS youth services librarian)
- Sew Friends Meets Every Monday at UP Library
- Community Conversation
- Babies and books
- Library printers explore new dimension
DuPont Library to celebrate 10th Anniversary on May 10

Friends of the DuPont Library invite the community to an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. on May 10 to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary. The celebration will offer refreshments, face painting, music by Larry Juhnke and caricatures by artist Frank Frazee.

The Friends group began raising money for the library in 1999, before they had a building, and have raised more than $45,280 to date. Since DuPont Pierce County Library opened in 2004, the number of customers has grown from 1,625 to 6,192.

In the past year, DuPont has lead Pierce County Library's 18 locations in providing proctoring services, with a total of 208 test sessions at the library.

DuPont Pierce County Library is located at 1540 Wilmington Drive.

The DuPont Library. Photo credit to Chris Tumbusch.
Go 'Wild' for the 2014 Pierce County READS book

Go "Wild" this spring with Pierce County Library's seventh annual one book program: Pierce County READS. Now through April 25, thousands of people will come together as a community and read the New York Times best-seller and award-winning "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail," by Northwest author Cheryl Strayed.

Strayed begins her memoir when she thought she had lost everything. With no experience or training, she decided to hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington. Told with suspense and style, "Wild" powerfully captures the terrors and adventures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened and ultimately healed her.

Learn something new with hands-on events

Pierce County Library and local organizations and businesses teamed up to offer 56 free events tailored around the book. Learn to plan and take outdoor adventures, pick up tips for hiking and backpacking, discover birds and wildlife, hear stories from local authors, and create through book art, photography and memoir writing.

Meet 'Wild' author Cheryl Strayed

Author Cheryl Strayed will speak and sign books during a free event at 7 p.m. on April 25 at the McGavick Conference Center at Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

Flash Fiction (Or Not) Writing Contest

Fancy yourself a writer? New for Pierce County READS this year is the Flash Fiction (Or Not) Writing Contest, which runs now through April 2. In 750 words or less, write about travel, nature, hiking or a personal journey. The prize is two free tickets to Pierce County Library Foundation's donor reception with the author (a $250 value).

Pierce County READS 2014 is presented by Pierce County Library System and The News Tribune, and sponsored by KeyBank Foundation and The McGavick Conference Center, along with 24 private and public community partners. For more information, visit www.piercecountylibrary.org.

Take a Walk!

Explore your local parks on a free guided bird walk at the Adriana Hess Wetland Park on the 2nd Mondays of each month from 12-1:30 p.m. Next dates: April 14 & May 12. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair from us. Participants usually see or hear 20-30 bird species on these walks, and it's a great introduction to birding. No experience necessary. The trail is a short gravel loop that is ADA-compliant. Explore backyard habitats, the 'naturalized' storm water retention pond, and Morrison Pond Wetlands. More info at 253.565.9278.
Puyallup Herald

**Pierce County Library System recognized for food collection**
By HERALD NEWS SERVICES | The Herald | April 16, 2014

On April 16, the Pierce County Library System was presented The Silver Spoon Award from the Emergency Food Network in the category of Substantial Collection Effort.

The award recognized the Pierce County READS Food Drive, which consistently collects thousands of pounds of food at multiple locations for the emergency food system.

Helen McGovern-Pilant, executive director for EFN, presented the award to Neel Parikh, executive director for the library system at EFN's recognition breakfast.
Emergency Food Network e-Newsletter (May 2, 2014)

On April 16, Emergency Food Network honored individuals and businesses at our Recognition Breakfast for their dedication to helping hungry children, adults and seniors in Pierce County.

In addition to honoring these amazing individuals and businesses, we raised more than $40,000! This will result in 240,000 meals on the tables of those in need! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many hungry individuals and families.

Silver Spoon Awards
Franciscan Foundation
LaborWorks
Pierce County Library System
Rogers High School Key Club
Tacoma Public Utilities
Transportation Club of Tacoma
Trinity Lutheran Food Bank

David P. Ottey Lifetime Achievement Award
Associated Ministries

Retiring Board Members
Jim Brock
Jim Whitacre

Corporate Partners
Bank of America, Boeing Company, Chuckals, City of Lakewood, DaVita, Financial Insights, Franciscan Health System, Gig Harbor Sportsman's Club, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, Joint Base Lewis McChord, KeyBank, LaborWorks, MultiCare Health System, Murray Pacific Corporation, Pacific Lutheran University, Pierce College, Pierce County Government, Pierce County Central Labor Council, Quaker Oats Pepsico, Rotary Club District 5020, Schnitzer, Simpson, Snuffin's Catering, Tacoma Pierce County Association of Realtors, Teamsters Local Union No. 117, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Transportation Club of Tacoma, Tucci & Sons, Waste Connections
Adults have GED, college entrance exam options on Key Peninsula

Schools: Pierce County library, TCC offer instruction

By KAREN MILLER of the The Peninsula Gateway March 19, 2014

There are several adult education services available on the Key Peninsula this spring.

A class from Tacoma Community College will be held at Red Barn Community Center. For individualized tutoring, the Key Center branch of the Pierce County Library System will have a team of three tutors available on Thursday mornings.

Rosina Vertz of the Key Center library said the tutoring will be about more than GED success. It also will look to get students ready for community college entrance exams and high school completion.

Jerome McCourt, who taught at TCC for 43 years, is one of the library’s tutors. As an educator, he mainly taught English, but he also taught critical thinking and reading.

“I always loved teaching, and the only thing I didn’t like was having to grade students,” McCourt said.

He said he had a hard time labeling students, but tutoring is different.

“It’s more like coaching, rather than teaching,” McCourt said.

Tutoring allows McCourt to boost students’ confidence, give them advice and monitor outcomes.

“It’s really rewarding to see the progress they make,” he said.

Tutor John Ellickson said the topics are not limited to any subject or program. The three tutors want to help broaden adult education options on the Key Peninsula, he said.

“I don’t want to limit this to the GED program or any college program,” Ellickson said. “I would like to keep it broad. All three of us (tutors) want to provide whatever services we’re capable of providing to anyone who’s interested.”

Tutoring will be available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the library, 8905 Key Peninsula Highway N., Lakebay. To make an appointment, call 253-548-3309.

The TCC class hosted by the Red Barn center will run through the college’s spring quarter and begin March 31. It will cost $25 to register.

Reporter Karen Miller can be reached by email at karen.miller@gateline.com.
Enjoy National Poetry Month with events at the Lakewood Library

South Puget Sound News | April 1, 2014

The month of April marks National Poetry Month. In honor of this month-long event the Lakewood Pierce County Library has two poetry classes scheduled led by poet Joanne Clarkson.

A class on Poem Making will take place Monday, April 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participants will experience exercises in sound, form, voice, image, memoir and story, and will receive inspiration from favorite poets using different styles and subjects. Participants will also learn writing prompts and suggestions to keep the muse singing.

Then on Monday, April 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., participants who attended the Poem Making class will have an opportunity to present a poem or draft they have created during the two week interval between the classes. Participants in the ‘Poetry Forever’ class will share a poet they have discovered or admired, and gain information and strategies for publishing, reading, displaying and otherwise sharing the gift of poetry.

These free events are sponsored by the Friends of the Lakewood Library.

The Lakewood Pierce County Library is located at 6300 Wildaire Road S.W., Lakewood, WA, 98499. Their phone number is 253-548-3302.
Meet author Maggie Lenox at University Place Library on April 11
South Puget Sound News | April 4, 2014

Meet author and early childhood educator Maggie Lenox at 10:30 a.m. on April 11 at the University Place Pierce County Library, located at 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100. This free event is sponsored by Friends of the University Place Library.

Lenox shares a story time with her book, “Who’s at Your School?” The colorful rhyming story introduces children to school staff members through their job titles and roles. Interactive text provides a tool for teachers and parents to help transition their young students into the new experience of school.

Lenox has worked in the education field for 20 years, including teaching preschoolers in the Head Start program for 13 years. She has two children and four grandchildren, and resides near University Place, Wash. with her husband Bill.
Pierce County Reads events at the DuPont Library
South Puget Sound News | March 30, 2014

Award winning author Langdon Cook will be at the Pierce County DuPont Library on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his book, The Mushroom Hunters.

Reviews on this award-winning book are something to take note of. Not only did Amazon.com pick it as one of the Best Books of the Year, but the Publishers Weekly finds it “intrepid and inspired, The Wall Street Journal calls it a “rollicking narrative…delivering vivid and cinematic scenes on every page.”

The Seattle Times says:

*Like Susan Orlean in “The Orchid Thief,” Seattle author Cook shines a light on a shady subculture operating at the seam between wilderness and commerce. Like author Michael Pollan, he knows that every bite of food these days has a complex, often unsavory backstory. Like the late Hunter Thompson, he not only goes along for the ride with the shifty characters he’s writing about, but drives the getaway car.*

On Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m., photographers can gain a basic understanding of outdoor photography and learn how to capture great images with nature photographer Greg Farley during the class Wildflower and Waterfall Photography. This event is geared towards adults only.

These events are two of 56 free events that are centered around the Pierce County Reads program which this year features the book “Wild” by Cheryl Strayed.
Tillicum Library Events for April

Pierce County Reads is still in full bloom! Come into the library to enter a drawing for a free, autographed copy of "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed, or enter our local drawing for a free, refurbished Color Nook. Ask library staff for details.

Wednesday, April 8 @ 11:00 AM - "The Job Doctor - This WorkSource workshop will be conducted as a drop-in for resume help and other job related questions! WorkSource job search specialists will be available to answer questions and assist job seekers as needed."

Saturday, April 12 @ 2:00 PM - Build Your Own Birdhouse! This program is intended for adults and families with children ages 8 and up. Please contact library staff to sign up for this program.

Saturday, April 19 @ 1:00 PM - Find out what the newly released DVD title will be for this month! Free popcorn and drinks will be provided along with door prizes for early arrivals!

Friday, April 25 7:00 PM - PC Reads Author Event - Cheryl Strayed, author of "Wild" will be the speaker at this event which will conclude PC Reads for 2014.

Free beginning computer classes - Wednesday, April 9 @ 10:30 AM - computer lab;
Wednesday, April 23 @ 10:30 AM - computer class. Please contact library staff to sign up for these classes. Jeanine Adams, Community Branch Supervisor, Tillicum Pierce County Library, (253)548-3591, www.piercecountylibrary.org

"If you think that telling a suicidal person they have a lot to live for is helping - you've got a lot to learn!!" – Randi Jensen, mental health professional, author and national leader in suicidology. In this free community training, you'll learn how suicidal thoughts begin and how to help someone in an educated, goal-directed way. Training is April 4. Limited to 30 registrants so it may be too late but here's the contact info.: rjirb@comcast.net, 306-719-1894

The Camp Murray Gate-relocate final traffic report is scheduled for the May 1st TWNA meeting as well as an update on the Madigan Access project. Sidewalk improvements may be completed almost the entirety of Union Ave. Construction for the bridge will start at the earliest the fall of 2014, according to Desiree Winkler, Lakewood's Transportation Division Manager. Also, do you know who might have a claim to the yellow ribbons on Freedom Bridge as they will need to be removed for construction during which time access will be limited. Ribbon information? Contact Winkler at 253.983.7795, dwinkler@cityoflakewood.us.
Citizenship classes at library

Permanent Pierce County residents can learn about becoming a citizen and prepare for the citizenship exam during free classes with Pierce County Library. Participants will study U.S. history, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens while improving their English at the same time. Classes will take place on evenings and Saturdays. To sign up, attend a required information session at Tacoma Community House, 1314 S. L St., in Tacoma:

- 5:30 p.m. April 10
- 10 a.m. April 18
- 10 a.m. May 2
- 10 a.m. May 30

Information session includes a general program overview, complete intake and eligibility screening as well as registration for an English language level testing appointment. Bring photo ID or driver's license and Green Card.

For more information, call 253-383-3951 or email citizenship@tacomacommunityhouse.org.

The classes are made possible by a partnership between Pierce County Library and Tacoma Community House. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Grant Program provides funding.
Get more for your money with windows and insulation

Know your power to save. Tacoma Power has increased its rebates by 20% on energy-saving windows and insulation now through June 30 this year.

You'll stay more comfortable at home all year while saving money on your home improvement projects today and on your electricity bills later.

When you replace less efficient windows and insulation, you can get up to $4,000 plus an extra 20% and a zero-interest loan to cover remaining costs.

Work with a participating contractor and they'll ensure you get the maximum rebates available and help with any paperwork, too.

Visit KnowYourPower.com/20 or call (253) 502-8377 to learn more about this special promotion. U*

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Replace that grungy old showerhead and save money

Have you looked up at your showerhead lately? If it looks gross with greenish grime, it's probably not just outdated, it could also cost you more money than you realize.

By installing new, WaterSense energy- and water-saving showerheads, a family of four can save about $60 on electricity and 3,600 gallons of water each year. You'll find many styles, finishes and options to choose from in local stores.

The best news: You'll still enjoy a great shower.

Tacoma Power offers instant discounts at the register. You can get up to $6 off each showerhead you buy. Save now and later; just look for the orange Switch & Save stickers or tags.

Visit KnowYourPower.com/shop for a list of participating stores. U*

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Energy-Saving Fun Fact

Switching one incandescent light bulb to an energy-saving LED saves enough energy to charge nine smartphones for one year.

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Get instant discounts on LEDs and CFLs

Get instant discounts on light emitting diode lights (LED) and compact fluorescent lights (CFL) in local stores.

With Tacoma Power's instant discount, LEDs can cost as little as $10. LEDs last about 25,000 hours, and many are dimmable.

Whether you choose an LED or CFL, you'll save energy and money, and will find many options to

Tacoma Power still offers the same great savings on CFLs at the register—many are less than $1 in local stores and last about six times longer than standard light bulbs.

Look for the orange Switch & Save stickers on these energy-saving products. Visit KnowYourPower.com/lighting to find participating locations and more information. U*
Kapow! Zap! Free Comic Books Offered

Libraries, South Sound comic book shops will make giveaways for Free Comic Book Day on May 3.

by Randy Woods
Editor

On Saturday, May 3, participating comic book specialty shops and some libraries across Pierce and King counties will be giving out comics for free, celebrating the comic book industry’s annual event Free Comic Book Day.

This 13th annual Free Comic Book Day is being celebrated around the world with a record-high 60 comics titles that will be available for free.

In the South Sound region, the closest participating shop to University Place is Tacoma’s Atomic Comics, at 4020 S Steele Street, which will provide giveaways for some purchases, hourly door prizes and store coupons for those waiting in line, which often begins in the wee hours of the morning.

People attending the event often dress up in their favorite superhero costumes, including members of Tacoma-based costuming club, Northwest Mutant Academy.

“It’s by far the biggest, coolest event of the year for us,” said Shane Ziemei, owner of Atomic Comics. “We tend to get well north of 1,000 people.”

Some other participating stores in the all-day May 3 event will be Fantasium Comics and Action City Comics in Federal Way; Hills of Comics in Auburn; Olympic Cards in Lacey; and Danger Room Comics in Olympia.

Libraries are also getting in on the fun. Starting at 10 a.m., branches of the Pierce County Library in University Place, Lakewood, Milton-Edgewood, Steilacoom and Sumner will offer a free comic book to all kids age 9-12, while supplies last.

Free Comic Book Day is a great time for comic fans, and those who have never read a comic, to discover new types of stories and amazing artwork found in comics that are great for both kids and adults.

This year’s list of free comics includes mainstream titles such as: “Teen Titans Go!” “Archie,” ”The Simpsons,” “Hello Kitty,” ”Hellowboy,” ”Guardians of the Galaxy,” ”Grimm Fairy Tales” and ”Transformers,” in addition to other new titles and characters that can be discovered for the first time.

For more information about Free Comic Book Day, visit freecomicbookday.com. You can see all the comics that are going to be available for free, plus get a sneak peek at some of the pages. To find a store to celebrate Free Comic Book Day, go to comicsshoplocator.com.

Reaching Out to Military

In its ongoing effort to seek opportunities to bring public library service to members of the armed forces and their families at Joint Base Lewis McChord, the Pierce County Library System has taken part in a newcomers orientation and 16 additional events.

During these events, library staff signed families up for library cards and provided information about online and downloadable resources. Some of these resources included homework help for students; assistance with genealogy websites; computer classes; car repair manuals; job and business assistance; school-age suggested book lists; and a link to the library’s military connections website.

In addition, the nonprofit Tacoma Community House, which provides services and assistance for the local immigrant community, recently named Pierce County Library as Partner of the Year in recognition of commitment and service to their organization and program participants, specifically through citizenship classes and resources. The Emergency Food Network will present the library with the Silver Spoon Award for its support of EFN Food Drives.—Kit Thompson

Madjdi Earns Accolade

by Kit Thompson
Community contributor

Behrooz Madjdi, reference associate for Pierce County Library System, received outstanding mention for the Library Journal’s 2014 Paralibrarian of the Year Award. Madjdi is one of two recipients of the recognition.

During his career, Madjdi has grown from fulfilling a reference service role to being a pivotal arm of business services. One of his many contributions is the Job and Business Center program, six locations and an online service to support job-seekers and small businesses in the county.—Kit Thompson is a content writer for the Pierce County Library System.
We’re surrounded by computers these days. They make our telephone calls, they process our money, and they deliver us high- (and low-) quality entertainment through books, apps, movies, music, or blog posts.

Computer and Internet access are requirements of our modern lives. Some schools are taking note of this, using computers in the classroom or rolling the purchase price of a laptop or tablet into the cost of tuition.

Libraries have been providing computer and Internet access to their users for decades. There are never enough computers to go around, and the time limits on access that get adopted in the name of fairness often make it more difficult for people to accomplish tasks that can take the computer-savvy hours to do correctly, like applying for jobs or writing resumes. Library computing resources are tied up in the library building on desktop computers. We offer wireless access . . . inside the building, for those who are able to afford and bring their own devices. Some libraries have gone so far as to offer laptop checkouts, but they’re usually restricted to in-building usage. That makes sense, because no library wants to have to explain why their $500-a-pop computers all walked out the door without being checked out and why they have no idea where they are now. In restricting access to the building, though, we only can help those who come to the building and stay. It’s not really a way to get computing resources out into the community.

Then, in 2013, the Raspberry Pi Foundation (http://www.raspberrypi.org) completed the Model B, a $35 Linux computer the size of a credit card intended to make it easy to teach students in the United Kingdom to program. It doesn’t have a whole lot of horsepower under the hood (the processing equivalent of the original Xbox or a first-generation Pentium), but it’s perfect for a library looking to find a way to get computing resources out into the community. As long as the target household has a television (according to Nielsen Media, in 2011, there were already an average of 2.5 televisions per household in the United States [http://nielsen.com/us/en/newsroom/2011/fact-sheet-the-u-s-media-universe.html]), the Pi can be hooked up to it and computing can be done at home, on a user’s schedule, instead of a library’s. This makes the Pi a perfect centerpiece for a low-cost, low-risk computer check-out program.

WHY PI?

In addition to the cost, the Raspberry Pi has some advantages over traditional Windows or Macintosh machines.

- **No Windows!** Site licensing fees can get complicated quickly, whether you’re in a small or a large library system. Don’t add more seats to your license fee, paying Microsoft (or Apple) when you don’t have to. Most Linux-based operating systems also come packaged with Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs), so the experience to the user can be configured to look like a Windows computer. You can also find and install packages that can read and write Microsoft Office-compatible files, create images, record video, and perform other functions that people do on their Windows/Mac PCs daily.

- **Multipurpose.** A Raspberry Pi also has input-output pins that make it possible for users to write either programs that use only the computer or use real-world objects and their data. If you’ve been thinking about makerspaces, you may have a burgeoning crew interested in creating things on a computer. Having “outgrown” their Arduinos, they want to slap sensors on things and collect data, or otherwise are curious about the world around them, and the Raspberry Pi can be the central processor for those kinds of projects.

- **Powerful video.** Despite its small size and relative lack of raw computing power, the Pi can output high-definition video and graphics to compatible televisions and projectors. You’ll need to purchase some video codecs to fully unlock the ability of the Pi to play back video, but they’re pretty cheap (about $3 per codec). So not only can students create a presentation or a video using a Pi, they can then take the computer itself where they want to go and output it on a projector or television.

- **Small power footprint.** The Raspberry Pi needs about the same amount of power as a high-end smartphone. With an
IN BRIEF

Sew Friends Meets Every Monday at UP Library

After Bates Tech College eliminated its sewing classes, a group of former attendees found a new place to meet: the University Place Library meeting room.

The group is called Sew Friends and meets twice a month on alternating Mondays. As a retired home economics teacher, I assist any who ask, as does anyone who has an idea.

The meeting is really a sewing lab with quilters and hand sewers and apparel makers. Beginners and advanced all enjoy working together. The next booked dates are April 14 and 21, and May 12 and 19. Set-up begins at 11:30 a.m. For more information, email limezella@gmail.com.

—Tina Tyler is organizer of Sew Friends.
please join us for a...

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

We Want to Listen to you!
United Way invests funds in our community each year. We want to make sure we are making the right investments. So tell us. Join us for a community conversation. You talk and we listen to what you have to say about our community.

All participants will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card!

Tell Us:

- What is great about your community?
- What are the needs or challenges of this community?
- What type of community do you want for you and your family?

Refreshments provided. No child care.

Registration recommended but not required

Dates & Locations

Thursday April 17
Milgard HOPE Center
10402 Kline St SW,
Lakewood 98499
Chief Leschi Rm. A & B
5:30-7:00 pm
RSVP Now

Monday April 21
Pierce County Library
Lakewood
6300 Wildaire Rd. SW,
Lakewood, 98499
1:30-3:00 pm
RSVP Now

Tuesday April 22
Pierce County Library -
Parkland/Spanaway
13718 Pacific Ave S
Tacoma, 98444
7:00-8:30 pm
RSVP Now

Thursday April 24
Tacoma Christian Center
Celebration Hall
3511 McKinley Ave
Tacoma, WA 98404
6:00-7:30 pm
RSVP Now

Tuesday May 13
Pierce County Library
Lakewood
6300 Wildaire Rd. SW,
Lakewood, 98499
7:00-8:30 pm
RSVP Now

Friday May 16
Pierce County Library -
Parkland/Spanaway
13718 Pacific Ave S
Tacoma, 98444
9:00-10:30 am
RSVP Now
Babies and books

Youth services librarian Naomi Smith reads a book to 1-year-old Jacob Sebold during a Baby Play and Learn program at Pierce County Library System's Parkland-Sparks branch. The program is for young children — newborns to 2-year-olds — and their parents to interact through storytelling, songs and other activities.

A 10 — APRIL 2, 2014

WWW.DISPATCHNEWS.COM
Library printers explore new dimension

Education: Gig Harbor branch of Pierce County Library to host 3-D demonstrations

By KAREN MILLER of the Peninsula Gateway March 5, 2014

A row of printers sits in the front of the Pierce County Library's Gig Harbor branch. But it's not making typical copies. A pair of plastic owls, a box and Abraham Lincoln’s face are just a few of the things that have been printed there.

The four 3-D printers are a gift from Afinia 3-D Printers, SpaceClaim and Friends of the Gig Harbor Library.

The library branch will host events this spring to show the public the opportunities available with 3-D printing.

Demonstrations will be held:

• 4 p.m. March 5
• 5 p.m. March 12
• 6:30 p.m. March 19
• 6:30 p.m. April 9
• 2:00 p.m. April 29

The demonstrations will discuss the different types of 3-D printing, the history of it, and a demonstration of the printers in action.

Beginning in June, the library will offer hands-on classes.

Reporter Karen Miller can be reached at 253-358-4155 or by email at karen.miller@gateline.com. Follow her on Twitter, @gateway_karen.
Communications

- Note to Neel Parikh from Dona Ponepinto, CEO of United Way
- Email from a customer complimenting two tutorials on the Library’s website under the section “My Account”
- Email from a customer who enjoyed attending the PC Reads event on Friday, April 25, 2014
- Email exchange between a customer and Jaime Prothro, Customer Experience Manager regarding public meeting room policies
- Email exchange between a customer and Petra McBride, Executive Assistant to the Director re public comments at Board meetings
Dona Ponepinto
President and CEO

Neele-

What a delight it was to meet with you this past week. I wish we would have had more time! I was absolutely fascinated by the behind the scenes tour of the library system. Who knew?

Thank you as well for your candor about UW. I really appreciate hearing about how UW is perceived - the good & not so good. I want you and others to see UW as an authentic community partner as we move forward. Again - I really enjoyed our visit. In partnership - Dona.
From: B. Klavano
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 3:17 PM
To: director@pcl.lib.wa.us
Subject: new card holder

Hello, I'm new to the library system. I just watched the 2 tutorials on 'my account' and the search system. They were very well done. I appreciated the simplicity and shortness. I found the answer to 'how to renew'. I did have to watch it a 2nd time to be sure I had the steps in mind. However, the whole tutorial was only 1 minute so it was OK. I thought it great that you had the length printed so I knew what I was getting myself into. Thank you. B.
Subject: Pierce County Reads

We attended Cheryl Strayed's 'Read' last night and found it so interesting. These are fabulous events and we are so pleased to have these types of programs in our community. Thank you.

Thank you for all you have done, that we may all read.

L. Bristow
On Apr 15, 2014, at 7:52 AM, "Matt D'Angelo" wrote:

Hi-

I noticed an advertisement for a workshop on the above date between 1030 AM and 12PM. The ad appeared in the News Tribune and appears to be a sales pitch for "estate planning services" and avoiding paying for nursing home care by moving assets. Without regard to the dubious ethics of this "workshop" it seems as if this violates the prohibition on using the library for commercial soliciting. Please let me know who is in charge of making this decision to allow it so I can understand why this is being allowed. Time is of the essence since the law firm sponsoring this would need time to make other arrangements to sell the estate planning services.

Matt D'Angelo

From: Jennifer Patterson
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Matt D'Angelo
Cc: Pierce County Library Dir; Jaime Protho; Sally Porter Smith
Subject: Re: Wednesday May 28 Presentation Violates Library Policy

Hi Matt,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I am on vacation this week but I have forwarded your message to the Customer Experience Director and the Customer Experience Manager who oversees the Lakewood Library. They will investigate and get back to you when they have additional information. Thank you!

Jennifer Patterson

On Wed, Apr 16, 2014 at 3:49 PM, Jaime Protho <JProtho@piercecountylibrary.org> wrote:

Matt:

Thanks so much for taking time to about the upcoming event at Lakewood Library on May 28, 2014. I appreciate your candor and further explanation of your concern that this event is intended to actively promote the speaker's business in lieu of providing the community with information.

I had an opportunity to look into the overall intent of the event and Mr. Michaels has shared with us that his presentation is centered on long-term planning and elder law. His intentions are not to bolster his business but to use his education and skills to provide information to the public. We have reinforced that our meeting room spaces cannot be used for commercial activities (buying or selling) as part of the meeting for commercial monetary gain. There are times when businesses can provide valuable and beneficial information to the community, and based on our investigation we are allowing
the program to continue. However, we are going to have a library staff member attend the program because we want to ensure that the information is presented in the spirit of education and we will remain attentive to your concern. I have discussed our conversation about the event with my supervisor, Sally Porter Smith, who appreciates your passion and concern about this topic. Reviewing how meeting rooms are used is part of the Library's responsibility and the Library does engage in the type of review we discussed above. Over time, the Library has restricted people from using the meeting room because they do not meet the meeting room guidelines. We look at it as part of our work and appreciate you notifying us of your concern. Thank you.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns. Again, I appreciate your time this morning.

Jaime Protho | Customer Experience Manager Pierce County Library
3005 112th St E | Tacoma, WA 98446-2215 | TEL: 253.548.3425 | FAX: 253.548.330

On Wed, Apr 16, 2014 at 4:14 PM, Matt D'Angelo wrote:

Jaime-

Thanks so much for ensuring the library meeting rooms are used in keeping with a spirit of learning and informing. I am so encouraged by your response and the actions taken to keep commercial activity outside the library. If there is any feedback from the staff member who attends the event, let me know. As I said this morning, the library is among the most valuable assets the community has. You are doing a wonderful job in so many ways. Keep up the good work.

Matt D'Angelo

From: Matt D'Angelo
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Petra McBride
Cc: Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson; Jaime Protho
Subject: Re: Wednesday May 28 Presentation Violates Library Policy

Ms. Protho-

Can you confirm what staff member attended the meeting this morning at Lakewood? I also ask that the staff member give a written report summarizing the appropriateness of using the space for this purpose. That would also be useful for passing along to Ms. McBride to add to the FYI packet for the upcoming board meeting. In addition, any pamphlets or information sheets that were given out by the speaker should be passed along as well. It's important this be done today, as the impressions of the staff member are fresh and will not clouded by the two week lapse until the board meeting.

Matt D'Angelo
From: Jaime Protho
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:16 PM
To: 'Matt D'Angelo'; Petra McBride
Cc: Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson
Subject: RE: Wednesday May 28 Presentation Violates Library Policy

Hi Matt:

The Lakewood Manager, Kim Archer, will be attending the meeting that occurs next month, on May 28. I have asked her to provide us with a briefing on the presentation.

Thanks,

Jaime Protho | Customer Experience Manager Pierce County Library
IMPORTANT
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS!!
Congress passed a harsh new law recently....And this law changes the landscape of asset protection

Speaker and Sponsor of the Workshops,
Robert L. Michaels,
Attorney at Law, of Smith Alling, P.S.

Has been an Elder Law/Estate Planning Attorney for 30 years and helps local families take decisive legal actions to protect their estates and their future. During the workshop he will reveal Legal Steps You Should Consider Right Now to Legally and Effectively Protect Your Assets

HERE IS SOME OF WHAT YOU WILL LEARN...

How to protect your assets from nursing home costs — you may be able to save more than you would expect...even if your loved one is already in a nursing home.

One of the most important legal documents you need — and the three things it should contain.

Why traditional estate planning may not work — and the life-care planning steps you should be taking instead.

How to avoid being disqualified for Medicaid coverage — by properly structuring gifts.

How to help ensure your estate provides an inheritance for your heirs...and supports your nursing home-bound spouse.

How to qualify for "hidden" veterans benefits to help you stay at home.

Learn about the new changes in the Medicaid laws — and the steps you need to take right now so protect your finances.

Learn how gifting money to your children can disqualify you from Medicaid — unless it's done just right.

How retirement plans can be decimated — and how you might be able to protect them.

Some of the biggest mistakes families of nursing home residents make — and how you can avoid them.

Learn how a Living Trust can ruin your planning opportunities for Medicaid.

Find out how you might be able to qualify for Medicaid — without spending down.

Learn how to find the right Nursing home — and how to get good care there.

AND MUCH MORE!

ATTENDANCE IS FREE
but seating is limited. Call today for your reservations at one of the following Workshops 800-576-1876 or 253-627-1091.

SPECIAL BONUS
Attendees will receive a FREE "Consumer's Guide to Medicaid Planning and Division of Assets" (Limit one Guide per household)

Wednesday April 30, 1pm - 2:30pm
Villas at Union Park
2010 S. Union Ave., Tacoma

Wednesday May 28, 10:30am - 12pm
Lakewood Public Library
6300 Wilshire Rd. SW, Lakewood
Hi-

I noticed that the library board is meeting mid-May. At that time I would like to discuss adjusting the meeting room policy. Do I have to submit this for agenda purposes?

Matt D'Angelo

On Thu, Apr 17, 2014 at 11:19 AM, Petra McBride <PMcBride@piercecountylibrary.org> wrote:

Good day, Mr. D'Angelo,

The next Board meeting will be held on May 14, 2014. Public comments are heard immediately following the Call to Order at 3:30 PM. I suggest you arrive a few minutes early to sign up on the Public Comments Roster outside the Board Room prior to the meeting. The meeting is held on the second floor of our Processing and Administrative Center located at 3005 112th St E, Tacoma WA 98446.

Thank you,

Petra McBride | Executive Assistant to the Director
Pierce County Library System Direct Number: 253.548.3420 Main Number: 253.548.3300
www.piercecountylibrary.org

On Thu, Apr 17, 2014 at 1:39 PM, Matt D'Angelo wrote:

Ms. McBride,

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public comments. That isn't my purpose in writing to Ms. Prothro. My goal is to have the issue of library policies and procedures surrounding meeting rooms assigned to the formal agenda. In that way the board can have the policy in front of them, as well as information gathered by the library staff who attend a presentation at Lakewood library by a local attorney. Along with that, we could possibly hear from the staff on how the decision to allow this was made and on avoiding the appearance of commercial activity in library meeting rooms. It would also be informative for the board to have a copy of the calendar so we can compare events like author readings and public service groups and see if this type of activity is really in the public interest. I have already aired my personal point of view and am pleased with the response. Now I would like a more formal airing and gathering of information to avoid using the library improperly, and give guidance for the future. A public library is a vital expression of public virtue and the common good. This "workshop" is an obvious detriment to those concepts, as it's premise is shifting a personal
responsibility onto the public at large. Any "workshop" advocating asset manipulation to qualify for a benefit meant for the neediest is neither virtuous or good. Holding it at a care facility, as I saw in the News-Tribune ad was self-serving, but not my concern. Holding it at a public library draws me as a patron to object vigorously. If this were being presented by a DSHS worker to ensure that those eligible were getting proper consideration that would be acceptable on it's face. I am unwavering in my belief that this is thinly veiled commerce, and ethically dubious, and it should be obvious on the basis of the advertisement.

If there is a procedure by which this item can be added to the agenda, please direct me to it. If there is not then I will begin contacting the board members individually to ask it be added. This is likely to be cumbersome, so time is of the essence.

Matt D'Angelo

From: Matt D'Angelo
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 10:39 AM
To: Petra McBride
Cc: Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson; Jaime Prothro
Subject: Re: Wednesday May 28 Presentation Violates Library Policy

Ms. McBride,

I saw the FYI packet on your website for a previous meeting on 9 April. This is the place I would like the issue placed and according to the website you are the contact person for that. It looks to be standard practice to have clippings pertaining to the library included in the packet. If the advertisement isn't already included, please do so. Several people, including Ms. Prothro, were emailed a copy and can pass it along to you if needed.

As I said before, my aim is to have this as a formal agenda item at the May 14th meeting. If it isn't part of your duties to help me with that, or only board members can add items in that way, let me know post-haste. Time is of the essence and public comment time does not answer my concern adequately.

Matt D'Angelo

On Fri, Apr 18, 2014 at 3:32 PM, Petra McBride <PMcBride@piercecountylibrary.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. D'Angelo,

As is standard practice, the advertisement you are referring to is already included in our FYI packet for the May 14 meeting. In addition, your correspondence with myself and Ms. Prothro will be included in the Communications portion of the FYI packet.

Agenda items are determined by the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees. It will be during the public comment portion of the meeting that your concern will be heard by the Board, who will take your statements under consideration when determining the next course of
action. Based on this process, it is not feasible to have your concerns formally placed on the May 14 agenda. I hope this explanation of our procedures provides the clarification you need.

I have attached a copy of our Meeting and Conference Room Board Policy and our Public Meeting Room Policies and Procedures for your reference.

Should you decide to attend the meeting and make a public comment, please refer to my previous email dated April 17, 2014.

Kind regards,

Petra McBride | Executive Assistant to the Director
Other Libraries

- Amazing Reading Nooks: Create Cozy, Inventive Reading Havens in Your Library
- Cleveland Public Library Pushes Out 54 Early Literacy Stations
- Kansas Boy Gets New Hand, Created at a Library Makerspace
- Libraries are dying? Think again
- Human League
- 5 ways to save money using the PUBLIC LIBRARY
- Libraries Seek High-Speed Broadband
- What 21st-century libraries can learn from this 19th-century institution
- ‘Netflix for libraries’ coming to Sno-Isle
- Kiosk-Only Decision by Board Is Disappointing
Amazing Reading Nooks: Create Cozy, Inventive Reading Havens in Your Library

Chelsey Philpot

Why is it that people “curl up” with books? Whether a bibliophile chooses to fling her legs over the side of an armchair, huddle close to a friend, or make a haven from a large cardboard box, the places she chooses all reflect the same idea: There is something about the act of reading that calls out for a safe, snug, and comfortable spot.

Perhaps it’s only when your body, whether you’re five or 85, feels sheltered that your imagination is free to inhabit the world you find in the pages of a novel.

In the reading areas and nooks pictured here, some spaces and furniture are the products of complex architecture plans and methodical design. Others, such as window seats and bean-bag chairs, are seemingly simple in comparison, but no less welcoming. You’ll find a wide visual range of all types of spaces in this sampling—along with DIY tips and notes from architects and librarians about what makes a great reading spot for children and teens.

Inspired by Nature

Bringing the outdoors indoors is a reliable strategy for creating appealing spots to nestle and explore, as these designs show.
Sensational Structures

Child-scaled shelters—such as the pirate ship and mini-house pictured here—feed the imagination while providing an appealing refuge for young patrons.

Do It Yourself

You don’t need a large budget to create reading areas with a big allure, as Karen Whiteside and Nicolette Lennert, co-creators of “The Classroom Creative” blog, prove. Inviting interiors “can be done on a dime,” says Lennert. “Ask parents, shop clearance racks, and, of course, hit garage sales and thrift shops for books.”

Eight DIY Tips

• “Score carpet squares, giant pillows, bean bags, and, especially, kid-sized lawn chairs and kiddie pools on summer clearance!” suggests Lennert.

• Have kids bring sleeping bags in for D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) time. Lennert did this with first-graders, and the classroom was “pin-drop silent.”

• String holiday lights and sheets between bookcases to create a comfy tent.

• Add a few pillows to a blow-up pool to create an oasis.

• Decorate using old hardcovers.

• In general: pillows, pillows, pillows!

• Check out independent bookstores and children’s museums for ideas.
• Comb Pinterest for inspiration.

See larger images with captions.

Echo Your Environment

Does your library reflect a sense of place? This range of designs by CK Design International, based in Sydney, Australia, takes note of neighborhood and regional features, whether cultural or natural. “Our clients like us to find something that adds to the local identity and is different from other libraries,” says director Cecilia Kugler.

The West Ryde Library, located in a Sydney suburb, was completed in 2005. A local miniature train park inspired the theme.

Carving out a Haven

It can be a challenge to create reading hideouts in a high-traffic public area, but the Queens (NY) Library has accomplished just that—and achieved “what I call ‘nookdom,’ or creating the feeling of being in a nook,” says Queens Library operations project manager Gillian Miller. For instance, “We try to include deep window seats where we can.” The right lighting and colors also make spaces feel inviting. “For every child, there is a different ‘great’ space,” adds Miller. “It may be the ability to gather their friends around a good picture book. Or, it is the feeling of being able to disappear into the text and block out everything else.”

See larger images with captions.
A Core Design Element: Books

In these reading areas at New York City libraries, playful design features create the sense of delineated areas within large, flowing spaces. Books are always the anchors, however. "We love books and we love to read," says architect Jennifer Sage of Sage and Coombe Architects, which has designed numerous reading rooms for the New York Public Library (NYPL) system. "And anything that encourages children to do the same will surely enrich their lives, offer them intellectual satisfaction, and prepare them to meet challenges ahead."

See larger images with captions.

Caves and Pods

An innovative overhaul transformed a portion of the Madison (WI) Central Library into a sleek, sprawling children's area with naturalistic motifs. Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Architecture's (MSR) reconstruction of the 45-year-old, 95,000 square-foot facility earned the American Public Works Association, Wisconsin Chapter, Project of the Year Award for 2014.

See larger images with captions.

Going Mobile

For grown-ups, a vehicle takes you somewhere else. But for many kids, a boat or passenger car or
truck is a destination in itself. What better place to park one’s self and crack open a book!

See larger images with captions.
Cleveland Public Library Pushes Out 54 Early Literacy Stations

Lauren Barack

Before time is up on the Dora the Explorer game—a game four-year-old Isabel loves—she'll jump to something else, excited to play and completely unaware that she's part of a literacy experiment at Ohio's Cleveland Public Library (CPL).

"She has fun with the keys," says Isabel's father, Pedro Anaya, who accompanies his only daughter to the library every other week. "On certain games it asks for her name, and she wants to put it in."

Isabel is just one of the thousands of Cleveland children (ages 2–8) that CPL is trying to entice with a mixture of games and education lesson plans through the 54 new Early Literacy Stations the library is installing across its 27 branches, says CPL's chief technology officer (CTO) Rod Houpe.

"It's the whole gamification idea," says Houpe. "The children can embrace that."

Public libraries are increasingly looking for ways—like through gamification—to support early learners from preschool age children to those in third grade. Through offering reading clubs and other educational programming, libraries can support student learning outside of school, and the CPL is just one library system, out of many, actively looking to increase its partnerships with local schools.

"We have been trying to strengthen our relationship with Cleveland Public Schools," says Cindy Lombardo, CPL's deputy director.

According to a March 10 article on Cleveland.com, the Cleveland school district confirmed that "it considers 1,000 students—about 40 percent of the third grade—unlikely to meet standards [to move onto fourth grade] without help and is planning to send them to summer reading school to catch up."
“There is a huge concern [for] what will happen to these kids and the ones coming up behind them,” says Lombardo.

The Early Literacy Stations are one part of the CPL’s push in closing the education gap. The touch screen computers come preloaded with games that span multiple curriculum areas—from reading to graphic arts to STEM subjects to music. Although Isabel prefers games with *Dora the Explorer*, students can choose from 60 other gaming options.

Houpe says the interface is very simple to understand, so librarians aren't handed the burden of walking students through the how-to process. Having the literacy consoles preloaded with age-appropriate content also saves the library from having to create its own material, or vet each program.

Instead, the programs are created by the educational content company AWE, which began designing software for early learners originally when one of its clients, the Free Library of Philadelphia, expressed its frustration with “managing its education software for its youngest clients,” according to AWE’s web site.

Getting feedback from how students perform on literacy programs is essential with documenting any improvement—or lack of. That’s one reason why CPL invested more than $137,000 in the stations; they now have the ability to record and report data on each user. While that feature is currently turned off, CPL says they hope that this data will be available to both CPL—and schools—by this fall.

To Isabel's father, spending time on the stations is a way to help his daughter get an early start using digital tools, a skill he believes will be core to her success as she grows.

"Everything is about computers," he says. "In the future, everyone will have a tablet instead of writing out their homework."

Houpe sees this technology as one way to close the achievement gap.

"The technology is not going to be the end all," says Houpe. "But, if we can start building metrics, we can start to see an outcome and extend the students' educational day without their thinking they're extending their day."

Kansas Boy Gets New Hand, Created at a Library Makerspace

By Carolyn Sun

Nine-year-old Matthew is the owner of a brightly-colored prosthetic Robohand that was created several months ago in the MakerSpace of the Johnson County Library in Overland Park, KS. Matthew, who is adopted, was born with partial fingers on his right hand due to a birth condition called limb difference.

He'd always been a self-confident kid, according to his mother, Jennifer, whose father had been born with the same condition. But, after they moved to Miami County, KS, two years ago, Matthew endured the spotlight of being the new kid as well as relentless questions about his hand from classmates.

"Social stigma was starting to creep in on him," she says.

However, Matthew didn't want a commercial prosthetic hand, which can cost up to $18,000. Even with insurance, Jennifer, a single mother of three children, could not afford it.

The genesis of Matthew's prosthetic hand came from one of Matthew's teachers who'd sent Jennifer a link to Robohand, a cost-effective model of a prosthetic hand co-created by South African Richard Van As, who'd lost his own fingers in a workshop accident, and theatrical artist, Ivan Owen back in November 2012. A 3-D printer version was designed in January 2013 with how-to instructions available online.

When Matthew first saw photos of the Robohand, "He was immediately excited, says his mom. "I think it was the fact it was colored and looked like something that could be made from LEGO's."

The Johnson County's Central Resource Library boasts a 3-D MakerBot printer in its MakerSpace located right next to the library's information services desk. The MakerSpace opened last March, and in addition to the MakerBot, contains Apple desktops and audio and digital recording equipment. On the library's MakerSpace website, the suggested projects for MakerSpace are diverse and DIY, from websites and musical recordings to shower curtain rings and chess pieces.

When Matthew's mom went to work studying the prosthetic hand design, she soon realized it was beyond her skills. She reached out to 16-year-old Mason Wilde, a family friend's son who'd helped her eldest son with computer programs in the past and had, last year, built a computer from scratch.

Mason, a student at Louisburg (KS) High School, had coincidentally been sitting out football season due to a concussion and had been encouraged by his doctor to "seek enrichment—and the opportunity to enrich others—outside of football" according to his mother, Kelly Wilde.
"I've always been fascinated by machines and engineering feats," he says, "so when I was given the opportunity to work with a 3-D printer and build a hand, all while helping a family friend, I jumped on it."

All in all, the Robohand project took Mason five hours of labor over a span of three weeks.

Meredith Nelson, a reference librarian at Johnson County’s Central Resource Library, has been teaching introductory MakerBot classes (on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays) since the MakerSpace opened last March. She teaches the basics of how the MakerBot works, how to download and slice a file, and how to 3-D print.

Nelson, a self-proclaimed “Maker-Librarian,” had no prior experience with 3-D printing before the MakerBot’s arrival. She mastered it through trial-and-error.

"I took [the printer] apart about 75,961 times," she says, "The first time it jams, you freak out and don’t know how or where to open everything. After that, you just roll your eyes and do it."

Nelson says MakerSpace and its advanced equipment and skills software has attracted new patrons to the library who’d previously thought they had little use for it.

"Many people, who only saw the library as a place for books or quiet study, have realized we can be more."

At present, Matthew is able to pick up a pencil and is working on writing legibly. He refers to his hand as “the future.”

"The main thing that Matthew can do with the hand is be a center of attention for a cool thing," says his mom, "not a what-happened-to-your hand thing."

Mason, who plans on pursuing mechanical engineering career in the future, intends to make more Robohands for Matthew as he grows.

Carolyn Sun is a former public school teacher and freelance reporter who covers gender equality and child labor.
In honor of National Library Week, CNN iReport is asking people to share photos of their favorite libraries. Share your best photos here.

(CNN) -- Like many visitors in Seattle, Glenn Nagel found himself in the city trying to avoid the rain. After wandering around, he eventually made his way to the Seattle Public Library to escape the dreary weather.

Little did he know that stepping into Seattle's Central Library would spark his curiosity. The library's geometric glass and steel interior with its sprawling "books spiral" grabbed a hold of him.

"It's just an incredible building," he said, still remembering his awe during that 2013 trip. "I spent an hour and a half just taking pictures, and while doing that, I was getting the idea that I should visit other libraries."

This past year, Nagel has traveled to 12 libraries across the United States, photographing their shelves and hallways like an explorer. He's one of many people discovering a renewed fascination with libraries. He and other iReporters shared photos of libraries they visited with CNN iReport for National Library Week, observed April 13-19 this year.

Despite the expansive digitalization of information, the use of public libraries remains popular, according to Cathy De Rosa, vice president for the Americas and global vice president of marketing at OCLC, a nonprofit computer library service organization.

"It surprises people," she said, explaining there's a presumption amongst the public that libraries are becoming increasingly irrelevant.

But despite enduring budget cutbacks and being forced to reinvent their services in the face of the ubiquitous Internet, public libraries remain staple institutions in various communities. There's been an increase in the use of public libraries in the U.S. over the past decade. Services such as public computers doubled in usage in the past 10 years, and libraries saw a circulation increase of 2.46 billion materials in 2010, the highest ever reported, according to a report by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Some libraries bring in more than just patrons. They are also popular amongst tourists, drawing visitors by the tens of thousands, if not millions.

The Seattle Public Library system, for example, attracts more than 7 million people through its doors each year. "The Central Library is one of the most beautiful modern buildings in Seattle, and it really celebrates the people," said Andra Addison, a spokesperson for the library.

Smaller libraries matter, too

Americans strongly value the role of public libraries in their community, according to findings by the Pew Research Center. In fact, 94% of people polled in 2013 said that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community.
Jennifer Roberts, a writing teacher, agrees. She spent many summer days with her daughters, Lucy and Miriam, visiting their local library in Grants Pass, Oregon. But in 2007, all the libraries in Josephine County closed down for a number of reasons.

It devastated her daughters who were then 7 and 5. "Lucy told me she was really sad she wouldn't get to 'visit the books,'" Roberts said, remembering her daughter sobbing at the news.

Roberts was determined to find a way to help reopen the libraries in her area. The community banded together to raise $300,000 in 18 months. They even got a matching grant from Josephine County, which helped the libraries reopen.

The experience helped Roberts rediscover the value of her local library. "I actually didn't grow up visiting many libraries," she said. "I didn't discover that wonder until I was much older. Perhaps that's why they seem so magical to me now."

'Libraries reflect who we are'

Robert Dawson wanted to capture the value of public libraries through his lens. He spent the past 18 years photographing libraries and interviewing people who work and use them. In his recently published book, "The Public Library: A Photographic Essay," which includes hundreds of photographs of libraries in 48 states, Dawson says he was drawn to libraries because they are vital part of a community's ecosystem.

"Often times, a library reveals things about a community. It was really sad to see a closed library when I was passing through the Mississippi Delta," he said, explaining how that was one of the poorer regions he visited.

"I am not a librarian, but 18 years of doing this, you peel away things," he said. "It's interesting how libraries reflect who we are, and what we share.

Barbara Stripling, president of the American Library Association, says libraries are also incredibly transformative. These spaces offer not only information but also provide resources and opportunities to socialize.

Some libraries are "becoming more of a community sharing, learning, conversation space," she explained. Programs such as the Chicago Public Library's One Book, One Chicago, an initiative adopted from the Seattle Public Library, aims to rally virtual community engagement around monthly book selections.

Take a tour of the world's most exquisite libraries

Others are rebranding themselves as places where people can explore their passions. Programs such as Geek the Library, which is part of OCLC, partners with libraries to promote the idea that everyone "geeks out" about something, and a local library can help you recognize your special passion.

Through his 18 years of documenting libraries, Dawson says he's seen many of them adapt and transform for their communities. Some took on new daily roles, such as teaching people to write resumes or providing social services.
"In San Francisco, they have a dedicated social worker, especially for the homeless," he said. Others became safe havens.

"When I was in Detroit, it one of the hottest days on record, I walked into a library. There was this huge guard at the front, the air conditioning was blasting, it was packed, and everyone was reading. And I sort of got it -- it was a place of shelter."

Olaf Eigenbrodt, librarian and senior head of user services and adviser for planning and construction at State and University Library Hamburg in Germany, says there are three main reasons why libraries continue to be popular today: They are information hotspots; they are places communities can gather; and they provide learning collaboration.

They even provide an element of comfort. "Libraries tend to become more cozy, relaxing and communicative places. Other than public spaces like museums, they have a certain private character, which makes them a living room for their community," Eigenbrodt said.

Dawson thinks a part of people's fascination with libraries is sort of irrational, too, but in a good way. He attributes our love for libraries to our childhood memories. "I think a lot of it goes back to being a kid. There's an emotional connection that is somewhat unique. A lot of kids discover libraries with their parents when they are younger," he explained.

That affinity can be partially psychological, according to De Rosa of OCLC. "I would find it difficult to find 10 people in a crowd who didn't have a positive experience in a library. That's a personal thing," she said. "It's why libraries continue to be relevant."

Addison, from the Seattle Public Library, says the most alluring factor of a public library is simple -- it's free. "Where else can you go that offers all this for free? Whether you're in a three-piece suit or a three-day beard, you can go into a library and be welcomed."

CNN's Daphne Sashin and Margaret Blaha, special to CNN, contributed to this story.
LOCAL CITIES MAXIMIZE SERVICES BY REACHING OUT TO INVEST MORE PEOPLE AND IDEAS IN THE COMMUNITY.

HUMAN LEAGUE

BY TED KATAUSKAS
LAST SEPTEMBER, a local television news station aired graphic footage of a patron being “sucker-punched by a street kid” outside a bar in Spokane’s downtown business and entertainment district, suggesting that altercations between homeless youth and downtown visitors were escalating in frequency and intensity. Almost overnight, the city had something of a human services crisis on its hands.

“The violent act has seized Spokane’s attention, arousing fear and stoking downtown Spokane’s reputation as a dangerous place,” a Spokesman-Review crime reporter noted in a front-page story published shortly after the incident. “Newfound worries of roving bands of young thugs plying the streets with violent intentions have been lodged in the heart of Spokane.”

Then the reporter wondered more broadly, “How dangerous is downtown?”

An examination of federal crime statistics provided a clear answer: not very. Violent crimes in downtown Spokane had dropped by 4 percent compared to the previous year, which had seen four homicides (compared to zero in 2013). The reporter concluded that Spokane’s growing unease with its downtown was unfounded. And, the story suggested, the city needed to do something about it.

“If a city gets a perception ... people will stop coming downtown,” observed the president of Spokane’s city council. “Whether it’s real or not, we need to nip it in the bud.”

To that end, the council debated bolstering the city’s sit-lie ordinance and enforcing it more aggressively. But Frank Straub, Spokane’s new police chief, cautioned that although arresting and jailing nonviolent street people might create the impression that the city was dealing with the problem, it would do little to address the root of the matter.

“What we have to do as a community is agree to what is the social norm for downtown,” he told the Spokesman-Review. “How do we all of us, regardless of our perspectives, our backgrounds, our economic status, how do we share that space in a manner that is equitable to all of us?”

Straub’s solution: a downtown community court that would pair repeat offenders accused of nonviolent crimes (from public urination to graffiti, known as “quality of life” offenses) with human service providers that could help identify and address the root causes for the misbehavior (such as mental health or substance abuse issues). The program would then give offenders a chance to make amends for their misdeeds by logging hours of community service instead of serving jail time.

“It can and it should and it must happen before next spring,” Straub vowed, committing himself—and his city—to a timeline for implementing a downtown community court. “I don’t want to be in the business of incarcerating people, except those people who...
truly are highly active offenders who deserve to be incarcerated. ... I think those street people have every right to sit and enjoy Riverfront Park, just like the Frisbee players do.”

**S**

**TRAUB FIRST BECAME** a believer in the community court system as deputy commissioner of training at the New York City Police Department in the 1990s, while simultaneously earning a doctorate at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In 1993, at the same time Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s administration began to test the “broken windows theory” of policing (which posits that ignoring petty crime like graffiti and turnstile hopping is as deleterious as not fixing broken windows on an abandoned building, which only begets more broken windows and creates a sense of lawlessness and neglect), the city established the Midtown Community Court as a demonstration project in addressing low-level crime plaguing Times Square. As the first such entity in the nation, the Midtown Community Court melded punishment with compassion, sentencing nonviolent offenders to perform community service in exchange for receiving social services.

“I watched the success of the court in terms of dealing with quality-of-life-type crimes, focused around homelessness, prostitution, graffiti, and youth crimes,” Straub says. “The community court recognizes that it is possible to identify individuals and the underlying circumstances and causes of their criminal involvement and to seek opportunities for them. Is it drug or alcohol abuse? Is it a lack of parenting skills? Is it a lack of education or joblessness? When we focus on those issues, we have the ability not to use incarceration as the be-all and end-all of criminality. We can pull people from the criminal justice system and have them contribute to the vitality of the place where they live.”

The Midtown Community Court was so successful in reducing not just quality-of-life crimes but also incarceration rates that it spawned the Center for Court Innovation, a Manhattan-based public/private consulting firm and think tank that has helped dozens of cities nationally and worldwide launch more than 70 community courts, including the Seattle Community Court. Since opening in 2005, Seattle’s court has served 3,000 offenders who have performed more than 50,000 hours of community service valued at $500,000, receiving help from 35 community service organizations that have partnered with the court. A 2009 Justice Management Institute study of recidivism rates among the city’s community court participants found that the average number of new offenses dropped by 66 percent per offender in the 18 months following community court intervention. Additionally, the mayor’s office of policy and management estimates that by reducing recidivism and incarceration rates, the community court saved the city more than $1.5 million in its first three years of operation.

So in late 2013, as his newly adopted city was grappling with what to do about the growing sense of lawlessness in its inner core, Straub, less than a year into his tenure as Spokane’s police chief, contacted the Center for Court Innovation and began meeting with the city’s attorneys and judges. Together, they explored the idea of establishing a downtown community court.

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**BRIDGING THE GAP**

**Q&A WITH ALAN BERUBE**

Alan Berube, senior fellow and deputy director of the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program, talks about what city leaders can learn about suburban poverty from his new book and what electeds need to know about America’s widening income inequality.

**What was the genesis of Confronting Suburban Poverty in America?**

Back in 2006, we did some research looking at where poverty was located, and for first time we saw that more poor people were living outside cities than inside cities. So we decided to explore that story and travel to these places and update America’s notion of what a poor place is.

**One of the communities you profiled in your book was Tukwila. Why Tukwila?**

We spent some time in Tukwila in large part because of the work the Road Map Project is doing in South King County, which we found to be a very interesting model for how you get smaller cities to work together on the challenges low-income students face in achievement. And Tukwila is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the nation by virtue of being a major site for refugee resettlement, with a lot of low-income families relocating from Seattle due to affordable-housing pressures.

For a lot of reasons, poor families were ending up in Tukwila, but the city and the school board clearly show a commitment to helping these families integrate and achieve upward mobility.

**Is that unusual?**

Unlike many other places in America that might shun the poor out of fear that if they do something for the poor they’ll just attract more poor people, Tukwila seemed to embrace its role as something of a portal community for a lot of folks from around the region and around the world.

**What other challenges do smaller and suburban communities face when it comes to confronting poverty?**

They don’t have the analytical staff that a big city might have to figure out what’s going on and why—they just have the time to try to deliver the services they’re trying to deliver and raise the taxes that they have. One tendency, particularly in places where the demographics are changing rapidly, is that you tend to attribute the problems...
“How do we deal with the street population in the downtown area, a group of people who in many ways are disconnected from the community and end up engaging in primarily low-level crimes like car break-ins, vagrancy, graffiti, and public urination?” Straub recalls. “We started talking about these issues and how having a community court located downtown would give us a good alternative to having my officers go and arrest these individuals and have them spun out of jail very quickly. With such a short turnover, there’s no connection with social services. It’s a constant revolving door. We wanted to interrupt that process.”

Spokane’s chief librarian offered a conference room in the downtown library, already a congregating place for the city’s homeless population, as a venue for the court, and the city contributed $10,000 to install computer networking equipment for service providers. Representatives from 66 human services agencies from around the city attended the first organizational meeting and pledged to be available to meet with offenders. Municipal Court Judge Mary Logan volunteered her services and cleared her docket on Mondays, when the court would be in session, opening for business on December 9.

“We all went through training to understand the culture of poverty, because that is the population this community court is serving,” says Logan, who, prior to settling in Spokane in 1996, served as assistant city attorney for 13 cities along the coast of central California. “It’s a credit to this mayor and this council that they recognized that this is the Inland Empire, that a steady stream of people come to live here, but they don’t have the means to have a place to live—a population that needs to be supported.

“Community court is only one component of this. It really does take an entire city’s resources to focus down on these particular issues,” she adds. “By doing this, we are also saying, ‘You’re not just a resident here, you are a citizen. We hope you take pride in the city in which you live, and you, too, will want to help it be a positive place for everybody.’ So it is an acceptance on both ends of the spectrum, not just by those who have, but by those who have lost out and have not. How do we create an environment that is welcoming to all, instead of turning a blind eye on the problem? The City of Spokane is not turning a blind eye.”

OR IS THE CITY OF SEATAC, which is dealing with social equity and human services challenges wrought by an influx of immigrants and refugees—some seeking asylum from the globe’s most politically unstable and war-ravaged places (largely East Africa and the Middle East)—and a burgeoning Latino population priced out of Seattle’s real estate market. As a result, SeaTac's
population of 27,667 rivals New York City's in diversity, with 17 percent of residents identifying themselves as African American (compared to 3.6 percent statewide), 14.5 percent as Asian (7.2 percent statewide), and 20.3 percent as Hispanic (11.2 percent statewide). More than 40 percent speak a language other than English at home (compared to 18.2 percent statewide).

Many of these same residents also know what it means to have not. Fully 17.1 percent of SeaTac's population is living at or below poverty level (12.9 percent statewide), a 150 percent increase since 2000. And that degree of need leads to health-related challenges: life expectancy is two years lower in SeaTac than the King County average (81.9), with substantially higher rates of risk factors (from smoking to obesity) and hospitalization or death due to chronic disease (from asthma to diabetes). Yet nearly a quarter of SeaTac's population lacks health insurance (compared to 13 percent countywide).

With so many of its residents struggling, the city devotes 1.5 percent of its annual general fund revenues ($450,000 in 2013) to human services expenditures, a far higher share than many comparable cities. But it's not enough.

"There's never going to be enough money," says Colleen Brandt-Schulter, SeaTac's human services manager. "I strongly believe it's a very small percentage of people who 'live off the system.' Most people want to be self-sufficient, so it's up to us to think upstream about what's causing poverty in the first place and how we can give people an economy. ... To me, that's what human services is: it's about providing services that people need that are effective and accessible and culturally relevant. It's also about making time to think about policies and finding partners that can help us address some of the bigger issues, so maybe we don't have to have as many of these intervention services."

One of those partners is Urban Food Link, a planning firm specializing in food access issues. With a Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant from the county health department, Urban Food Link mapped the city's retail food outlets and in 2011 published a report, "The Food Landscape in SeaTac, Washington," noting that the city had but one supermarket. Not only that: due to the sprawling airport from which the city derived its name, that supermarket was effectively inaccessible to much of the population. Moreover, Urban Food Link counted twice as many fast food restaurants and convenience stores as supermarkets, small grocery stores, and produce vendors combined. It also identified several areas with "growing gaps": low-income areas located more than a half-mile from the nearest supermarket.

The City of SeaTac is using the report to inform an update of its comprehensive plan, endorsing proposed zoning changes that would spur the establishment of farmers' markets; the opening of miniature grocery stores in underserved areas of the city; the introduction of community gardens; and the creation of a Food Innovation District, an area ripe for urban food-sector investment where entrepreneurs from the immigrant and refugee community could launch a cluster of small food-oriented businesses. Already Urban Food Link offers training to would-be food entrepreneurs interested in everything from opening a food cart and challenges to the new: we've got all these people showing up here, they're poor, they're putting a burden on our city and our services.

**But what's the reality?**

Often what's going on is a change in the economic status of a much longer-standing population in the community. It's not that poor people are picking up from big cities and moving to the suburbs; it's the economic transformation of suburbs that have lost certain industries and where low-wage jobs are growing. You tell another story when it comes to big cities in an inequality study that recently made a splash in the *New York Times*.

The genesis of that very short study was that in 2013 a number of big-city mayors—de Blasio in New York, Walsh in Boston, Murray in Seattle—campaigned on the issue of addressing inequality in their places. I was motivated to put a little bit of data behind the debate. And what did you find? That cities are more unequal than the rest of the country. I don't think that's a surprise to most people. Ever since the development of suburbs, cities have been home to larger shares of the rich than the poor.

**How does Seattle compare to other big cities nationally?**

In Seattle, rich people are very rich, but economically poor people are better off than poor people in many other big cities. Yet in Seattle, inequality is a very hot debate right now. One way you can be unequal is that there's no place in your city for your poor people to live; you don't have affordable neighborhoods and housing for low-income people. It's hard to tell what the story is in Seattle exactly: is it that low-income people are doing really well, or is it that they've just moved to South King County?

**Why should city leaders pay attention to poverty and inequality?**

I don't think in and of itself that having more wealthy than poor people in a city is a bad thing. It's an issue of whether you can continue to provide residential and job opportunities in the bottom half of the distribution. And it's not just a moral question. What makes wealthy workers want to live in a city? It's services and amenities like good restaurants and grocery stores and quality child care and a nice lawn. All of those things need lower-income, less-skilled workers. You need labor to benefit from what it means to live in a big city.

**What's the message you'd like to leave ringing in the ears of city leaders?**

The way we thought about our metropolitan areas over the past five decades is changing before our very eyes. Our perceptions have to catch up, but more importantly, our policy tools have to catch up, too. We have to start thinking about this stuff not at the suburban level or the city level but at a regional level. Cities and suburbs have to view themselves as an economic ecosystem and use that ecosystem to address the issues of poverty and inequality. No one community can or should be able to do this on its own.
to permitting to creating a business plan.

"Investing in the food sector addresses a lot of different issues," says Urban Food Link's Tammy Morales. "It addresses health disparity and economic disparity while providing economic support and better opportunities in general. It's not just for low-income individuals. It's recognizing that in most cities, food actually is an important driver of the economy. People just don't think about it."

To further address the health disparity that exists in SeaTac, the city has partnered with nonprofit Global to Local (a partnership between HealthPoint, King County Public Health, Swedish Health Services, and the Washington Global Health Alliance), which is in the process of replicating a successful pilot project in neighboring Tukwila, a community whose demographics mirror those of SeaTac where the nonprofit hosted "community cafe" meetings promoting civic engagement that were conducted in Arabic, Amharic, Eritrean, Somali, and Spanish. From these meetings, Global to Local (G2L) recruited two "community health promoters" from each ethnic community, leaders who serve as liaisons to city hall and conduct grassroots health-focused outreach to members of their community. By promoting services like a "Connection Desk" staffed by students from the University of Washington and Seattle University (certified Affordable Care Act enrollment officers), in just three months these facilitators helped 900 South King County residents obtain health insurance for the first time. Another program, sponsored by AT&T, provided more than 50 residents with free smartphones loaded with a diabetes management app, remotely monitored by caseworkers at a local clinic.

G2L's Alma Villegas is excited to do all of these things again in SeaTac. But she was just as encouraged by the turnout of non-English speakers who, due largely to the nonprofits outreach efforts, attended a recent town hall meeting at a Tukwila middle school hosted by the city of Tukwila. The goal of that meeting was to gather public input about the redevelopment of International Boulevard as an urban center known as Tukwila Village; similar outreach efforts in SeaTac will help guide development around the Angle Lake light rail station that's slated to open in late 2016.

"This is a perfect example of one way cities can conduct outreach in their communities," Villegas says. "It's about meeting people where they are. The perception is that we have these meetings and nobody comes, so people aren't interested. That's just not the case. For most cities, the outreach tends to be limited to fliers that are printed only in English, and the assumption is that everybody can read them. It needs to be culturally appropriate."

For SeaTac's Brandt-Schulter, it's about maximizing her city's potential.

"When I think about the assets in our community, it's not just financial assets; it's about human capital, celebrating the diversity that exists in your community," she says. "Just because you are struggling doesn't mean that you don't have innovative ideas in your head... The premise of this work is that all voices matter, and that the more voices you have at the table, the more innovative and creative and promising our solutions become."

Meanwhile, back in Spokane, the police chief's proposed solution to that city's downtown image problem, community court, has convened every Monday since December 9. In its first two months of operation, 115 nonviolent offenders were diverted from the revolving door of the city jail, and instead logged 151 hours of community service valued at $1,418.26. In that same time, violent crime downtown decreased by 36 percent year over year.

"Overall what we're seeing is a safer downtown. We're seeing more and more restaurants, bars, and retail locations opening up, and we've got enhanced pedestrian traffic," Straub says. "One of the things I emphasized when we started to get involved with this process was that it really doesn't take a big expenditure of funds, but what it takes is a big expenditure of commitment and a willingness to collaborate."

It also takes innovative ideas, such as in the case of a prodigious Spokane tagger who appeared before Judge Logan's bench in the downtown library's conference room one Monday.

"I said, 'This library has a community wall where public art is for sale,'" Logan recounts, "and I would love to see your art on a legal canvas hung in that hallway, or in the art gallery at city hall.'"

So instead of mandating jail time, in addition to requiring the defendant to seek treatment for drug addiction and to perform restitution in the form of service on the city's graffiti abatement team, the judge has been talking to one of the court's adult education service providers about the prospect of sending the tagger to art school.

"A security person from one of the downtown hotels told me that if we can help one person, we can make a change," Logan adds. "It's raising the quality of life for everyone and recognizing that we all deserve a good place to live... I hope there will be proof in the pudding, and we can expand this to other locations to continue that positive application-of-service provision. It's accountability with consequences. You get something, and you give something in return."

On both sides of the bench, for Spokane and its street kids, that something is hope.
Find it on Pinterest here.

*This post is written by Kerri, our Rite Aid, WinCo and QFC expert here at Queen Bee Coupons. She lives on Camano Island (Washington) with her husband and their five beautiful children! She is not only awesome at saving with coupons, but she does cool things like U-Pick apples or taking frugal weekend trips to save creatively – while having fun with the family!*
As a former librarian, I've always been a huge public library advocate. However, it wasn't until my husband and I recently did a budget check that I realized how much money being avid library users actually saves us each year.

You may have already discovered the library's money-saving benefits (which means I may be preaching to the choir here) but here is how our public library saves my family money:

1.) We don't buy books. This might be hard for some families, but although we are insatiable readers we don't buy books. Occasionally a book comes along that we want to own but otherwise all our books are borrowed from the library. When I go to Costco I love to browse both the adult and the children's book section but instead of purchasing what interests me I grab my phone and take a picture of the title. When I get home I pull out my phone, log onto my library's website and put the book on hold. We've saved hundreds of dollars not only on pleasure reading material but also cookbooks, how-to books learning-to-read books and more.

Along the same lines, when my kids bring their book order forms home from school I give them a pen and let them circle the books they want to “order”. Again, we log onto our library website and put the titles on hold. Purchasing books is saved for special occasions like birthdays and Christmas or the rare activity book that needs to be marked.

2.) We don't buy movies and we don't have cable. We put the same idea into practice for movies as we do for books. If we see something we want to watch, we order it from the library instead of buying it. Between the library and what is offered on Amazon Prime (and the occasional Redbox freebie) we have more than enough to watch. Our library also has many television dvd series which has allowed us to not have cable. Granted, we aren't big tv watchers but everything we've been interested in watching has always been available within our library system.

3.) We don't have magazine subscriptions. When I realized that every magazine that we subscribed to was available at our library I began to let our magazine subscriptions run out without renewing them. At the beginning of every month I place a hold on the magazines we enjoy and then we receive them as they become available. For my kids, having “their” magazine waiting for them on the hold shelf at the library is just as exciting as seeing it arrive in the mail box. For me, this also has the added benefit of not having to store or recycle magazines when we're finished with them.

4.) We buy less music. My husband is a huge music lover so we haven't stopped buying music (iTunes cards are a favorite gift around our house) but using the library's music collection has definitely decreased the amount we spend on music. We're able to enjoy a wide variety of music and expose our kids to all sorts of music genres without spending a cent.

5.) We participate in library activities. We have five children which means that many family activities end up being prohibitively expensive (the last time we went to the zoo it costs us over $75 and that was without food or parking!). We love to get to the beach or go hiking in the warmer seasons but during the colder months when there are fewer outdoor options we often participate in free library activities. We've listened to singing groups, practiced origami, made crafts and learned about astronomy all for FREE at the library. Participating in library activities and programs has saved us a lot of money as we've substituted them for more expensive family outings.

I don't think it's possible to entirely determine how much money our public library saves us each year but I think it's safe to say we save hundreds if not thousands by turning to our library for much of our educational, recreational and social needs. If you're not a library user – and you're looking for a way to shave some money off your budget this year - the library is a great place to start. Even just saving in one of these areas frees money up for something else in your budget.

What about you? Are there other ways the public library saves you money? We'd love to hear!
Libraries Seek High-Speed Broadband

New York Times | By JADA F. SMITH APRIL 17, 2014

WASHINGTON — The federal E-Rate program has been a boon for schools and public libraries across the country, helping them acquire Internet access and telecommunications products at affordable or vastly discounted rates. But the sleek new computers, laptops and tablets do not mean much without high-quality broadband service to match.

At a public hearing on Thursday held by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the group said there was an urgent need to equip libraries with high-speed access to information. Without it, they say, the nation’s “opportunity gap” is growing.

“When people can’t apply for jobs or access government services because they don’t have access from home, public libraries must be there for them,” said Linda Lord, a librarian in Maine. “Where else are they going to go? Police station? Town hall? I don’t think so.”

Though 62 percent of libraries offer the only free computer and Internet access in their communities, only 9 percent say they have the high-capacity connections needed to support the computers, Wi-Fi and technological training necessary for an increasingly paperless world. Some libraries connect to the Web at speeds that barely allow them to stream video services — less than 3 megabits per second — though many are now operating at up to 10 mbps. The goal is to upgrade all connections to at least 100 mbps.

Chris Jowaisas, a senior program officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has long partnered with public libraries to help fill the funding gaps, said that all people now had access to technology through their libraries. “It’s time to turn our attention to a new vision,” he said, “ensuring that people have access to all the opportunities technology has to offer.”
Library groups and advocates are calling for updates to the E-Rate program that include greater enrollment efficiency and a bigger effort to include Native American and tribal libraries in the program as well.

The connectivity problems in both libraries and schools have also caught the attention of President Obama, who promised to provide better broadband service for about 20 million students, with libraries getting an upgrade to their systems.

The Federal Communications Commission is restructuring the E-Rate program to double the amount of money it devotes to adding high-speed Internet connections in libraries over the next two years, doubling the money for broadband service, to $2 billion.

But the challenges brought on by the struggling broadband infrastructure are already here.

Gary Wasdin, executive director of the Omaha Public Library System, said his branches filled up with people using public computers to sign up for health care on the new insurance exchanges.

“For the last two months of sign-up, over 1,000 people came to our libraries to find out more about their insurance options and to sign up for insurance,” Mr. Wasdin said. “This was a wonderful example of how people come to libraries. Not just for computers and not just for Internet access. They came to us for support.”

A version of this article appears in print on April 18, 2014, on page B4 of the New York edition with the headline: Libraries Seek High-Speed Broadband.

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What 21st-century libraries can learn from this 19th-century institution

By Angela Tung April 12, 2014
Angela Tung is a writer in Oakland, California. She is the managing editor at Reverb Technologies in San Mateo.

Like most library students, I learned about the Dewey Decimal System, the Library of Congress, and the father of the American public library, Andrew Carnegie. But I also learned about the necessary transformation of the library in the 21st century.

In order to survive, it was hammered into our brains again and again, a library has to be more than just a “brick and mortar” receptacle of books. It needs to be a technical hub, a community center, a place you might go instead of Starbuck’s.

So I’m happy to see libraries as “more than books” so often in the news today, whether it’s lending out tools and fishing poles, providing recording equipment for aspiring musicians, or offering classes and even a chance for community members to earn their high school diplomas.

However, while these ideas may seem new, they’re long part of a forgotten piece of American history: the settlement house. Namely, Jane Addams’s Hull House of Chicago.

Jane Addams was born the youngest of nine children to a well-to-do family. Her father, John Addams, was a member of the Illinois Senate for 16 years and a friend of Abraham Lincoln’s, and while her mother died when Addams was only two, she was forever inspired by memories of her mother’s kindness to the poor.

With her father’s encouragement, Addams first attended college at the Rockford Female Seminary, then at the Woman’s Medical College of Philadelphia. Although she didn’t complete her degree due to the health issues, she continued her voracious reading habit, eventually stumbling on the idea of starting a settlement house.

The settlement movement began in the 1880s with the “goal of getting the rich and poor in society to live more closely together in an interdependent community.” The first settlement house, Toynbee Hall, was established in London in 1884. Addams visited Toynbee Hall in the late 1880s and described it as “so unaffectedly sincere and so productive of good results in its classes and libraries.”

In 1889—the same year that the first Carnegie library was built—Addams founded Hull House in Chicago, the first settlement house in the U.S.

Hull House offered a variety of services that seem like precursors to the services that libraries are providing today. Like the Arizona libraries that have added public health nurses, Addams and her Hull House co-founder Ellen Gates Starr “volunteered as on-call doctors when the real
doctors either didn’t show up or weren’t available.” They also “acted as midwives, saved babies from neglect, prepared the dead for burial, nursed the sick, and sheltered domestic violence victims.”

Volunteers “held classes in literature, history, art, domestic activities (such as sewing),” and practical courses such as bookbinding, “which was timely—given the employment opportunities in the growing printing trade,” which sounds a lot like the free computer classes offered by many public libraries today.

Hull House also provided music lessons (to the likes of a 10-year old Benny Goodman) and helped usher in the Little Theater movement, giving roots to the famed Chicago improvisational theater scene, which would give rise to The Second City.

Of course Carnegie libraries offered an invaluable service—the democratization of knowledge—but where Carnegie libraries provided book knowledge, one could argue that organizations like Hull House provided life knowledge.

Unfortunately in 2012 Hull House was forced to close due to bankruptcy. While settlement houses still exist today, their purpose has changed, focusing instead on “early education, youth guidance and crime intervention, senior programs, and specialized programs for young people who have ‘aged out’ of the foster care system.”

This is where public libraries have stepped in and hopefully can continue to do so. Perhaps as more libraries go digital, this will be free up resources to provide more services and learning opportunities in a different way — in the way of Jane Addams’s Hull House.

We welcome your comments at ideas@qz.com.

'Netflix for libraries' coming to Sno-Isle

By Julie Muhlstein, Herald Columnist

Say you want to hear the “Frozen” sound track, the Lorde album, or “The Phantom of the Opera.”

Maybe there's time to catch up on movies. Did you get around to seeing “The King's Speech”? Or listen to “12 Years a Slave” on an audiobook.

It's all free, a wealth of entertainment and information — if you have a smartphone, tablet or computer and a Sno-Isle Libraries card.

On Thursday, Sno-Isle Libraries launched a new partnership with Hoopla Digital, a service that works with libraries to provide online and mobile access to movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks. By signing up with a Sno-Isle library card — a personal identification number is needed — people can borrow, instantly stream and download thousands of titles.

The content is available by downloading Hoopla's free mobile applications for Android or Apple devices, or online at www.hoopladigital.com.

Unlike regular books or e-books checked out through Sno-Isle Libraries, the collection's titles are always available.

“If a new Grisham book came out, there might be 10 copies and 150 holds. Our program is simultaneous access. There's no waiting,” said Jeff Jankowski, founder and owner. “It really empowers the card holder. There is no gatekeeper.”

There are time limits. “Each format is different,” Jankowski said Wednesday. For a film or TV show, users can keep it three days. The limit is seven days for music albums, and 21 days for audiobooks. An automatic return feature means no late fees.

Hoopla Digital, which has been called “Netflix for libraries,” is part of Midwest Tape, LLC, an Ohio-based company that has distributed audio and video products to libraries since 1989. More than 250 libraries already use Hoopla, among them the Boston Public Library, the Los Angeles Public Library, and in our state, the Pierce County Library System, Spokane County Library and others.

Jankowski said Hoopla works with 150 content providers, among them the Warner Music Group, Warner Home Video, MGM, BBC Worldwide and NBCUniversal.

“We don't charge the library any annual fees or subscription fees. The only time there's a charge is when somebody borrows an item,” Jankowski said. Those charges — which depend on contractual agreements with content providers — are shared by Hoopla and the libraries using the service.

“People have a universe of things to choose from,” said Jim McCluskey, collection development assistant manager for Sno-Isle Libraries. “If they wish to borrow something, that's the point the library would pay.”

McCluskey didn't say the cost to the library per item borrowed. He said it would be covered by the library system's material budget. “We are trying it this year, and we will see about continued funding,” he said.
Jankowski is proud of Hoopla's offerings. "It's changing all the time, and we're adding new titles every week," he said.

Already, there's a lot to enjoy.

"We have an eclectic mix, with 12,000 video titles — 'The Big Lebowski' to Deepak Chopra. And 80 percent is not available on Netflix," said Jankowski, adding that Hoopla has many offerings that aired on PBS. There are 12,000 audio books, not only best-sellers such as "Divergent," but nonfiction and educational titles.

Music is Hoopla's largest collection, with 150,000 albums. "We have new music the same days the stores have it," Jankowski said. "Coldplay is coming out with a new album May 19, and we'll have it on Hoopla the same day. You can get an entire album to see if you want to buy it."

Libraries have come a long way since I rode my bike to the Spokane Public Library's Manito Branch to check out books.

"We want to offer people as many choices as we possibly can, whether it's a novel they hold in their hand or listen to through their phone," McCluskey said.

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About hoopla

The Hoopla Digital collection of movies, TV shows, music and audio books is available for free through Sno-Isle Libraries. Borrowers may keep a movie or video three days, music for seven days, and an audio book 21 days. Learn more at www.sno-isle.org or www.hoopladigital.com

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Julie McDonald Commentary: Kiosk-Only Decision by Board Is Disappointing

By Julie McDonald | Posted: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 12:08 pm

Like others, I was disappointed when Timberland Regional Library trustees decided last week to give the Toledo community only a kiosk rather than a library.

I realize TRL faces budget constraints. What I don’t understand is why the two board trustees from Lewis County didn’t advocate on behalf of the no-cost option presented by Toledo resident Mike Morgan before Wednesday’s meeting.

He suggested Timberland could work with Friends of the Toledo Community Library to create a library without a paid librarian — install a kiosk with computers to borrow and return library items, access online courses and conduct research via the Internet, and browse newspapers, magazines and periodicals. Extra furniture and duplicate copies of books now in storage could be just as easily kept in Toledo, where patrons could use them.

“The biggest obstacle will be running a library without paid staff,” Morgan wrote.

But it happens successfully in Rochester, although it failed in another community after two years, primarily because of internal strife and lack of handicapped accessibility, said Emmett O’Connell, a Thurston County representative on TRL’s board.

When she talked about creating a Capital Facilities Plan, Corby Varness, a Grays Harbor County representative, said the board needs “innovative other ways to do libraries.”

“We do need to think outside the box,” she said.

Morgan’s proposal does just that, but it wasn’t even discussed. The board acquiesced to a Facilities Committee report presented by Lewis County representative Regina King.

“As stewards of the public’s resources, and looking closely at the library district’s budget, it would not be prudent to dedicate staff, library materials, and all the services that come with a library building without corresponding costs to existing services,” King read.

“We are sorry as our hearts say to do it, but the extensive needs of the current library system coupled with completing the work of our strategic plan require that we not commit at this time.”

That’s disappointing, especially when the owners of the former Toledo Pharmacy offered a library building, a local family agreed to remodel it, and the city offered to maintain it.

“True, we have to think about the Capital Facilities Plan, but if the plan comes out to say this is really where we should have a library and the building is gone, what then?” asked Rebecca Connolly, a TRL board member who lives in Thurston County.
"We can't do anything about it," Varness said.

Connolly and Hal Blanton, of Packwood, voted against the kiosk-only proposal, while King, Varness, O'Connell, Mason County’s Stephen Hardy, and board President Bob Hall of Pacific County voted in favor of it.

When Blanton asked whether installing a kiosk might be a step toward establishing fuller service later, Varness responded, "I don’t think we can say that."

Later, Hardy quoted a prominent professor as saying “the reason every enterprise exists is very simple; it’s to employ people and to stay in business.”

Whoa! Taxpayers created TRL to provide library services, and if doing so required employing people, so be it.

In 2013, according to its action plan, the library system invested money in staff development, training, out-of-state conferences, all-staff retreats, webinars and more, which is great — if you have extra money to do it. But providing services should come first.

Timberland executive director Cheryl Haywood will meet with Toledo Mayor Jerry Pratt to discuss placement of a kiosk. “At this meeting, I will be listening to the mayor’s suggestions for possible kiosk locations and other potentially ‘creative’ solutions,” she said.

Kudos to TRL for cosponsoring mystery author J.A. Jance’s visit Thursday to the Fox Theatre, where nearly 250 people heard her share how she incorporates life experiences into her writing. Jance also will speak in Chehalis this summer when the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall visits the Veterans Memorial Museum.

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Julie McDonald, a personal historian and former journalist who lives in Toledo, owns Chapters of Life, a company dedicated to preserving family stories. She may be reached at memorybooks@chaptersoflife.com.
What’s Happening

- Tablet Use for Tots
- Charles Wright Academy hosts Parenting in the Digital World workshop on April 9
- Port Townsend school librarian: Kids still love to read regardless of medium
Tablet Use for Tots

by Kelly Rogers Flynt – Published April 3, 2014 Seattle’s Child

An interesting study at Seattle Children’s Hospital looks at the use of tablets and other similar electronic devices by young children. In 2011, Dimitri Christakis, M.D., MPH, and a panel of experts, supported the American Academy of Pediatrics’ stance that discouraged the use of any media by children younger than 2. However, in a new opinion essay, Christakis believes that stance should be updated to differentiate between traditional media and new technologies such as the iPad and other tablets.

The difference, he says, is in the way children interact with tablets versus traditional media. When watching movies on television, children are passive participants. Tablets are different because they provide a way for the child to participate in the entertainment and learning. The other benefit of tablets is that with so many apps available and new ones being created daily, there are many choices for every skill level as the child grows.

Christakis is currently leading new research at Seattle Children’s Research Institute to explore the possible benefits and risks of young children using tablet devices. He believes that 30 to 60 minutes a day using age-appropriate apps may be beneficial. For more information on these studies and other research happening at Children’s Hospital, visit their blog at http://pulse.seattlechildrens.org.

See more at: http://www.seattleschild.com/article/is-tablet-use-ok-for-tots#sthash.jYUOidf4.dpuf
Charles Wright Academy hosts Parenting in the Digital World workshop on April 9
By Melissa Rohlfis | South Puget Sound News | March 25, 2014

What’s going on in the digital life of your child?

Please join educators and technology experts Holly Gerla and Sam Harris, both faculty members at Charles Wright Academy, for the annual “Parenting in the Digital World” workshop, scheduled for April 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Find out about the “hot topics” of the moment, review current research and trends in the realm of kids and technology, and ask questions. Parents and caregivers are invited to participate in our “digital village” by sharing their experiences.

This year, we welcome certified parent coach Emily McMason. While we regularly talk with students about their lives online and digital behavior, Emily’s expertise and training will help parents get into more sensitive interpersonal discussions with their kids about privacy, identity, boundaries, difficulties they may encounter online, good decision making, and helpful parenting advice that invites kids to share more with us, not less. Whether they tell you or not, kids still look to the adults in their lives for guidance, especially when it comes to deciding what is appropriate or not. Your voice matters!

Port Townsend school librarian: Kids still love to read regardless of medium
By Charlie Bermant
Peninsula Daily News
PORT TOWNSEND — Even with all the distractions, kids still love to read, the Blue Heron Middle School librarian says.

"These days it is hard to get kids to pick up a physical book," said Charyl Brady.

"But they are reading on their phones and their iPads and their computers, and there is probably more reading going on than in years past."

Reading is celebrated this week with the Read Across America campaign sponsored by the National Education Association and is celebrated with varying degrees of enthusiasm depending on the individual school, Brady said.

Brady dressed up as the "Cat in the Hat" for the occasion, and books by Dr. Seuss were part of the program.

"We want to get kids to read, and using Dr. Seuss' birthday is incorporated into this," she said.

Seuss, whose real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel, was born March 2, 1904, and died in 1991.

But the day was about more than just one author.

At Blue Heron, several classes were read to, followed by a book giveaway in which the kids were given a choice of books to take home.

About 200 books were given away and were purchased by Title 1 funds, Brady said.

Ann Healy-Raymond, who was hired in September as the Port Townsend School District-wide librarian, said that some children like to read more than others.

Something that is often determined by their first interaction with a book.

"Some kids develop a love of reading at an early age while others discover the magic later on," she said.

"They always remember the books that made them readers, which is in some cases the first book they read on their own, and in others, something their parents read to them."

Healy-Raymond said that kids often develop a strong interest about a specific topic, such as dinosaurs, and want to read everything they can find about the subject.

"We get the kids to talk about the places in their mind where they wouldn't have been able to go without a book," Healy-Raymond said.
"While there are a lot of things that are competing for their attention, we teach them how being alone with a book and their thoughts is very special."

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