Board Reports
## 2014 Board Calendar of Work

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Library Activities

- Pierce County Library seeks executive director
- Library executive director search underway
- South Sound Library Summer Reading Programs
Pierce County Library seeks executive director

Bonney Lake-Sumner Courier-Herald
Jun 7, 2014 at 10:42AM

Recruitment for Pierce County Library System’s executive director is open now through July 24.

Applications will be handled by Bradbury Associates/Gossage Sager Associates. Semi-final interviews via Skype take place Aug. 4 to 5. Final interviews with the library’s board of trustees will be held locally Aug. 21 to 22. The library will host an open public forum with the final candidates on Aug. 22.

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

Pierce County Library is the state’s fourth largest library system. The library serves unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns through 18 branch locations, a 24/7 virtual library and myriad community services.
Library executive director search underway

South Puget Sound News
Jun 6, 2014

Recruitment for Pierce County Library System’s executive director is open now through July 24, 2014. View the listing here. Applications will be handled by Bradbury Associates/Gossage Sager Associates.

Semi-final interviews via Skype take place Aug. 4-5, 2014. Final interviews with the library’s board of trustees will be held locally Aug. 21-22. The library will host an open public forum with the final candidates on Aug. 22, 2014. Details to follow. The library hopes to make an offer by the end of August and have the new executive director on board before the end of the year.

Neel Parikh, the library’s executive director of 20 years, retires Nov. 1, 2014. Pierce County Library is the state’s fourth largest library system. The library serves unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns through 18 branch locations, a 24/7 virtual library and myriad community services.

Despite $7.5 million in budget cuts during the economic downturn, there were no reductions in open hours or major cuts to service.
Library reading programs are a great way for kids of all ages (even pre-readers) to keep their skill sharp and earn fun prizes, too! Registering is as simple as heading to your library and signing up! Here’s a preview of area programs with links to more information. I’ll have a separate post on retail store reading promotions.

This year, all the area libraries are doing a science based theme-Fizz, Boom, Read! A few systems haven’t yet announced final details, so I’ll be updating this post. For now, this should give you the links you need and enough to share for those of you putting together resources for classes and groups.

Puyallup Public Library Program begins June 16th, but kids can register now. All participants get free coupons and passes, and early finishers get an invite to library night with the Rainiers. Kids can also enter to win more prizes at the library. Link includes details on all the
featured programs. I’ll include as many in our calendar as possible. New this year: The option to track reading minutes online!

**Pierce County Library** Begins June 21st. Programs for toddlers, kids, tweens, and teens. Details aren’t up yet, but in the past, kids and teens have been able to, “Read down,” up to 5.00 of fines after 10 hours of reading. Just 5 hrs. of reading earns a prize-including zoo or Trek tickets. Readers who record 15 hours or more are entered to win big prizes. Variety of fun programs will be scheduled.

**Tacoma Public Library** Sign up began May 31st. Program runs June 14-August 9th. Last day for prize selection is August 23rd. The zoo party is August 16th. Sign up at the library or online. Prizes for everyone who completes the program, including zoo tickets good for the 16th. In the past there have also been weekly drawings for other prizes and a Grand Prize for a big ticket item. I’ll update you if I get more scoop. Programs for teens and grown-ups, too! Variety of in library programs planned, including magic shows with Jeff Evans and a touch a truck story time.

**King County Library System** Kids can earn prizes and “Virtual,” badges. Record minutes online. Summer reading, “Handbooks,” coming to libraries soon-check back. Lots of fun programming. This year’s info. will be announced soon. Program should be similar to last year’s

**Kitsap** Participants earn free books, a t shirt, and a ticket to the Kitsap County Fair. Great, kids’ entertainment all summer; be sure to download and print out the free activity calendar. Download a tracker or record minutes online.

**Timberland Regional** Tons of fun, in-library science programming and performances. The rest of the program details will be announced soon.

**Photo Credit**

Don’t forget, thanks to reciprocity agreements, if you have a card for one library, you can pretty much get one for every other library. So, feel free to double dip in your summer reading fun if you can keep track of all that (I know we can’t)!

If you’re in the Tacoma area, be sure you’ve also registered for the **free, community reading program for preschoolers at your nearest elementary school**. The official deadline was June 1st, but I’d give it a shot. Many other area groups will also be doing excellent story time events this summer, and I’ll have the scoop on all those, too. For a list of summer reading programs offered by retail stores and restaurants, head here.

Now, let’s talk summer reads for grown-ups! I’d love to hear what you’d suggest I take to the beach. If you’ve got a good suggestion, leave a comment!

- See more at: [http://www.soundsfumom.com/2014/06/03/south-sound-library-summer-reading-programs/#sthash.ttBwoz3c6c.EQ9E5yl.dpuf](http://www.soundsfumom.com/2014/06/03/south-sound-library-summer-reading-programs/#sthash.ttBwoz3c6c.EQ9E5yl.dpuf)
Communications

- Email exchange between a customer and Petra McBride, Executive Assistant to the Director, re regarding public meeting room policies
- Email from Carrie Lynn Kyser, Program Coordinator, Global Campus Proctoring Services at Washington State University, re their proctoring requirement
- Confirmation letter sent by Neel Parikh to City of University Place Assistant City Manager Eric A. Faison
- White House Maker Faire
From: Petra McBride  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 12:14 PM  
To: 'Matt D'Angelo'  
Cc: Jaime Prothro; Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson  
Subject: RE: June 11 Board Meeting  

Good Day Mr. D'Angelo,  

I wanted to inform you the June 25 meeting you referenced in your past correspondence has been canceled. If I can assist with anything further, please let me know.  

Kind Regards,  

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

From: Matt D'Angelo  
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 11:22 AM  
To: Petra McBride  
Cc: Jaime Prothro; Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson; Pierce County Library Dir  
Subject: Re: June 11 Board Meeting  

Ms. McBride,  

That makes perfect sense as regards the date. Both times I viewed the board packet I stopped scrolling after the consent agenda. My mistake was in reading the adjournment section and thinking the packet was finished.  

The rest of the matters-what needs to be modified and why and so forth still need addressing. The meeting date is looming and I want to be fully prepared for it. The memo is very vague regarding what Ms. Prothro observed and any specifics about the presenter's willingness to change whatever was objected to. Those would be critical for me to have before the next presentation. That might satisfy my concerns and this issue can be put aside.  

Matt D'Angelo  

On Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 9:36 AM, Petra McBride wrote:  

Mr D'Angelo,  

I must explain the reason for the changed date on the memo I had attached. I pulled the document from a file that has the date field updated each time it is opened. This was an oversight on my part. The original document was indeed included in the Board packet and is dated June 3, 2014. Also, the memo can be found in the June 11, 2014 agenda packet on page 33.  

Again, I apologize that in sending you the document I didn't realize the form field was activated on the date line.  

If you need further clarification, please contact me again.  

Kind Regards,  

Petra McBride | Executive Assistant to the Director | Pierce County Library System
Hi-

I appreciate the information and the copy of the memo. This memo could not possibly have been in the agenda packet for the June 11 board meeting. It wasn't written until June 18th. I reviewed the packet in the days before the June 11 meeting and just now. It wasn't included then and still isn't. It appears that the memo was written after I sent the inquiry asking why there was no presentation. The seminar was held on May 28. Is it possible that there is a memo missing? Please help me to understand the discrepancy.

Ms. Prothro has identified "elements that will require some modification before the presenter conducts a second meeting scheduled for June 25th." What exactly needs to be modified and in what way? If those concerns were relayed in writing to the presenter please forward a copy to me. If they weren't, how can we be sure these "elements" won't just be in the upcoming presentation? June 25th is fast approaching and time is of the essence. The memo is of little value in helping me to judge if these "modifications" address my concern regarding commercial solicitation.

Matt D'Angelo

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On Wed, Jun 18, 2014 at 4:49 PM, Petra McBride wrote:

Good day Mr. D’Angelo,

The agenda items typically have corresponding memos addressed to the Board which are found in the Board Agenda Packet for that particular meeting. Not all agenda items in the Officers Report section have presentations associated with them. As mentioned in the meeting, the Customer Experience Team is reviewing the policy and procedures and will bring their recommendations before the Board at the August meeting.

I have attached the memo relating to the Lakewood Library Meeting Room that was in the June 11, 2014 Board Agenda Packet for your review. All Packets are posted on our website at least 3 days prior to the upcoming meeting. You can find them here: Board Agenda Packets<http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/board-trustees/board-agenda-packet/Default.htm>.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Kindly,

Petra McBride | Executive Assistant to the Director | Pierce County Library System

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From: Matt D'Angelo
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 10:55 AM
To: Jaime Prothro; Petra McBride; Sally Porter Smith; Jennifer Patterson; Pierce County Library Dir
Subject: June 11 Board Meeting

Hi-

I was hoping to get your feedback at the June 11 Board Meeting on the commercial use of library meeting rooms. It was on the agenda but no presentation was made. Did you write or submit a report regarding the meeting room policy? As this unfolds, please excuse my unfamiliarity with the process and keep me apprised.

Matt D'Angelo
Pierce County Library System:

The most important policy for proctored exam taken at on-site proctors for WSU Global Campus courses is that all exams must be monitored during the duration of the exam. At no time can the student be out of the proctor’s view.

In recent correspondence with staff at the University Place Library, they indicated that they cannot guarantee that a student will be monitored for the entire proctoring session. We did review the proctor responsibilities for the Pierce County Library System, and read that proctors will be performing other duties while proctoring an exam. Since that means the student could be left unattended, we are going to remove libraries in the Pierce County Library System from our approved proctor list.

If we adjust our policy and requirements in the future, we will reevaluate all our approved proctors. We appreciate the time and efforts of the Pierce County Library System librarians who have proctored exams for WSU. Please notify all your branch libraries of this change, in case they need to relay these changes to any patrons. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Kind Regards,

Carrie Lynn Kyser
Program Coordinator
Washington State University
Global Campus Proctoring Services
P.O. Box 642761
Pullman WA 99164-2761
GCPS: (509) 335-0827
Direct Phone: (509) 335-1311

This communication may contain privileged, non-public or other confidential information. If you have received it in error, please advise the sender by reply email and immediately delete the message and any attachments without copying or disclosing the contents.
June 11, 2014

Eric A. Faison
Assistant City Manager
City of University Place
3715 Bridgeport Way West
University Place WA 98466

Dear Mr. Faison:

This letter confirms Pierce County Library agrees to the placement of a donated piano in the University Place atrium with the understanding the piano is owned by the City and covered by the City’s insurance policy.

We appreciate the fact that, on occasion, the City will allow the Library to use the piano.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Neel Parikh, Executive Director
Pierce County Library System
May 31, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: White House Maker Faire

Dear President Obama:

The mission of libraries is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation locally and globally. Library maker spaces mobilize communities around STEM learning initiatives, foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and create universal access to ideas and information. Maker spaces benefit libraries by expanding the educational resources available to citizens, reinvigorating the library experience, and increasing community engagement. Library maker spaces benefit citizens by allowing them hands-on engagement opportunities, opening access to modern software and hardware resources that allow citizens to design, create, and make almost anything they can dream up. Libraries are a perfect venue for making because they are open to all; truly democratic institutions. Libraries think globally, but are inherently local, designed to respond to the changing needs of their communities. Library maker spaces bring people together to collaborate, to remix, to participate in the creation and re-creation of their culture.

We support your call for, “an all-hands-on-deck approach to science, technology, engineering, and math... to make sure that all of us as a country are lifting up these subjects for the respect that they deserve.” Maker spaces in libraries can contribute to this effort, allowing everyone to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills and facilitate opportunity for collaboration and community engagement that will aid in the next generation of STEM jobs. They provide access to tools (from books to 3D printers) and, most importantly, ‘access to each other’. Library maker spaces are powerful informal learning spaces that give local community members the ability to create, hack, and make their future.

As the leaders of libraries, we want to do our part to make the most of these opportunities. As the White House prepares to hold its first-ever Maker Faire, each of our institutions is committed to promote Making, including:

- Creating or adapting space to support making in our facility
- Investing in tools and technology to enable making
- Creating and supporting professional development opportunities for practicing employees to deepen knowledge, facilitate, and engage in a meaningful way with making activities
- Hosting community engagement events that enlist students and adults in making
• Participating in regional efforts to create a vibrant Maker ecosystem that involve companies, investors, skilled volunteers, state and local officials, universities, museums, schools, after-school programs, labor unions, and community-based organizations

Additional information about the steps that our libraries and museums are taking to embrace Making is attached. We look forward to working with you and your Administration to make this effort a huge success.

Most respectfully,
MAKERSPACE DESCRIPTION

(Please identify the target audience and age group, if applicable. Describe how your MakerSpace supports active learning, connection to STEM learning, entrepreneurship and innovation.)

OUTCOMES (Please describe positive outcomes accomplished. Achievements may range from acquiring new skills to creation of a new product.)

EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO: dsawicki@urbanlibraries.org BY FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014.
Questions? Contact Donuta Sawicki, 312-676-0999.
Other Libraries

- Silverdale Library sites down to two
- Vote to strengthen libraries
- Turning a new page
- Central Skagit library district moves forward
- Library ballots arriving in mail
- Vote yes for Valley libraries
- Study reveals Ridgefield, Woodland need new libraries
- Four ways to celebrate SPL Central Library’s 10th year
- Send ballots in by Tuesday
- Landmarks: Heath library branch now corporate headquarters
- Ridgefield, Woodland libraries get design priority
- CKCC wants new library built on community campus
- Digital Bookmobile to make local stop
- Everett budget cuts public meetings May 8, 13
- Budget cuts to pool, library creating public buzz
- Funding, hours slashed at Washington State Library
- Library district retains architects
- Bellingham Whatcom libraries offer technology community - and books
- Spokane County voters pass one library measure, not another
- Keith, a volunteer contractor, helps with Port Townsend Public Library move
- Libraries' choice: Change or fade into oblivion
- Letter: Explore your local library branch
- Sno-Isle Libraries: Camano Island Library frequently asked questions
And then there were two.

It seems that that’s the number of options now being considered for the location for a new Silverdale Library. Although there was a public open house last Thursday, to discuss three options for the library, one of those locations was taken off the table the following day.

Originally, three locations were under consideration, those being on the Central Kitsap Community Campus, property near the Silverdale United Methodist Church and land owned by the Port of Silverdale in Old Town.

But at the same time that library officials and the Central Kitsap Community Council (CKCC) were taking comments on the three locations, commissioners for the Port of Silverdale voted to withdraw the port’s property from consideration.

"Kitsap Regional Library is disappointed that the Port of Silverdale voted Thursday night to withdraw a piece of property in Old Town Silverdale from consideration as a site for the new Silverdale Library," said Jeff Brody, director of community relations for the Kitsap Regional Library.

"KRL has been working with Port Commissioner Lawrence Greaves and Port Attorney Phil Best for almost six months to identify the scope of a possible partnership by which KRL could build a library on land the Port owns in Old Town. That property was among the three options that KRL presented to the public Thursday night at a town meeting on the new library."

Brody said he was caught off guard at the port’s decision.

Greaves said Monday that the decision was an economic one.

"It’s unfortunate that we were meeting at the same time as the CKCC," he said. "When we met we looked at figures presented to us by the port’s attorney and it became obvious that we would be losing a significant amount of income if we were to go forward with plans for a library on the property. We just came to the conclusion that it wasn’t in the best interest of the port to lose that income."

In all, Greaves estimated that the port would lose up to $6,000 a month from rental income to businesses that are now located in that block. He said the library was only offering $1 a month for rent.

"Even if we were to locate those businesses on a second story, above the library, we would be a year to 18 months without that income," Greaves said.

One business owner whose business would be displaced if the library had been built on the port property spoke out at the meeting last Thursday.

Elizabeth Barnes, owner of Elizabeth’s House of Wax, said she didn’t think it was the right location for the library.

"If this was the site selected, six businesses would be eliminated," she said. "Those businesses bring customers to Old Town to the restaurants and other businesses. A library would not contribute to the economy."

Several others at the meeting, not knowing that the location would soon be taken off the table, thought it was just the right location. The property would be waterfront and they liked the idea that families could take children to the library, visit the nearby park, and enjoy the scenery.

Of the locations that are still under consideration, the Central Kitsap Community Campus was favored by some who said it would be great to have a library within walking distance of the YMCA. They noted that plans for a performing arts center would create the campus that had been envisioned years ago.
Others worried that with three public buildings on the campus, there would be parking issues. They said building the library at the Silverdale United Methodist Church site on Ridgetop Boulevard made more sense because there was more room for parking.

Brody said the KRL would like to build a 10,000 square foot building, all on one-story to cut down on the need for more staff. The current library is about 5,000 square feet and has not been increased in size since 1980. They will have to have from 35 to 40 parking spaces wherever the library is built. They need to have access to the latest fiber optics technology to support the computer systems needed in a new library and they would like to have it on or near a Kitsap Transit bus route. They hope to use natural lighting and have large windows and be on or near the Clear Creek Trail.

Brody said while talks have taken place, there have not been any confirmed offers and the library has not entered into any contracts. What library officials want, is to hear from the public before making a decision on the site for a new library.

He said some previous suggestions including the Kitsap Mall, a new Greaves Way shopping center in the planning, the Jenny Wright CK School District Administrative Center, the current Silverdale Post Office and several other retail sites had been looked at, but for various reasons would not work. "With the mall, the new owners want to rent it to retail at retail rates," he said. "And school district has told us that they have no surplus property and don’t plan to move out of Jenny Wright."

What is clear, Brody said, is that when a decision on the site is made by the library’s board of directors, the community needs to come together and support the fundraising efforts for the library.

A previous levy for a library failed in 2010 and Brody said the library doesn’t have funding in its budget to build a new Silverdale Library without cutting services at all of its other libraries. Just how much a new library will cost will depend on the particulars of its location, its size and its design.

Central Kitsap County Commissioner Linda Streissguth was at the meeting last week and said she is committed to working with the Central Kitsap Community Council and the library to find the best location. He said there are challenges with the Central Kitsap Community Campus, including what to do about the existing buildings.

"Having a library on the campus has been a part of the vision since it was conceived," she said. "But we need to address the C-STOCK building and the sheriff’s office. We need to look at the entire site and everything that is located there and create multi-year plan."

Josh Hopp, board member of the C-STOCK theater, said they were interested in possibly co-locating with the library in a "more modest performing arts center."

He referred to plans by another group called the West Sound Performing Arts Center that wants to build a large theater on the community campus.

Brody said the library will continue to take public comments for several weeks. He said the KRL board hopes to pick a location by June.

To register comments go to the library’s website www.krl.org, or www.surveymonkey.com/silverdalelibrarysite. He said the Port property site on Lowell Street is still listed on the survey as an option and cannot be removed from the web tally.
Vote to strengthen libraries
March 23, 2014 in Letters, Opinion | by Sean Morrow The Spokesman-Review

In April, residents in the Spokane Valley area will have an opportunity to vote on issues that could strengthen and improve our Spokane County Library District. Voting yes will provide two new libraries, one to replace the aging Valley Library and a new facility on Conklin Road, as well making improvements to the Argonne Library.

Despite technology changing the way we consume news, read books and interact with one another, our Spokane County Library District continues to reinvent itself in order to stay relevant, proving to be a true asset to our community.

In recent years, there have been increases in programs for children and adults, librarians trained to help navigate the complexities of health care reform and, with the recent addition of the Microsoft IT Academy, job-seekers young and old can learn the skills needed for an ever-changing job market.

As the father of two elementary school children who have access to all of the latest in technology at home, it still amazes me that one of their favorite places is the library.

Though only residents in proximity to these new and upgraded facilities will get to vote, a yes vote will only strengthen our entire library district and community.

Sean Morrow
The Current

Turning a new page

The library capital facilities bond set for April ballot would overhaul Valley library scene

By Craig Howard
CURRENT CONTRIBUTOR

The plot is a familiar one — a local library district places a capital facilities initiative on the ballot with hopes of rallying the community and adding buildings to an underserved area.

In 2008, the storyline took a sour turn for the Spokane County Library District as nearly 55 percent of voters rejected a $33.4 million bond that would have funded a new Valley Library, an extension of the Argonne branch and a new site in the Greenacres area. Proponents say the ballot measure suffered from a perceived connection to a Spokane Valley city center being proposed in the same U-City vicinity of the new Valley Library.

This year, SCLD officials are hoping the latest capital narrative ends on a more cheerful note.

Next month, voters across the Spokane Valley area will weigh in on the question of forming the Spokane Valley Library Capital Facilities Area as well as passing a $22 million bond. The SVLCFA would be defined by the cities of Spokane Valley and Millwood as well as unincorporated areas of Spokane County that encompass the Central Valley, East Valley and West Valley school districts.

The city of Liberty Lake, which has its own municipal library, is excluded from the vote.

Ballots for the April 22 election will be mailed out April 2. The SVLCFA needs a simple majority, or any margin over 50 percent, for approval. The bond, however, requires a super majority of at least 60 percent to pass. If approved, it would mean an increase of 14 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value over the next 20 years — or about $21 a year on a home valued at $150,000.

If passed, the bond would fund a new Valley Library on part of an 8.4-acre parcel located to the west of Balfour Park on Sprague Avenue near Herald. Proceeds would also mean the addition of a branch on Conklin Road near Shelley Lake in the eastern part of the Valley. With the construction of a new Valley Library, SCLD administration would move to the old site on Main Avenue near Pines Road from their current offices at the Argonne branch, opening that site up for additional library space.

Prologue

Tim Hattenburg remembers a time in the mid-1950s when there were no buildings between the Valley Library and Sprague Avenue. Now the venue is tucked back behind several layers of commercial structures leading up to the Valley’s main thoroughfare.

A member of the SCLD Board of Trustees, Hattenburg said the district researched more than 20 sites when first discussing potential locations for a new Valley Library three years ago. Former SCLD Executive Director Mike Wirt had the idea of approaching the city of Spokane Valley about purchasing property that the Pring Corporation owned near Balfour Park. SCLD was interested in the land, but did not need the entire 8.4 acres.

The city eventually bought the land from Pring in October 2012 for $2.5 million and followed it up with the formation of a park/library conceptual site plan that featured an extension of Balfour Park and a new Valley Library. The executive summary of the document states that the purpose “was to develop a master development plan for combining a proposed new branch library with a new city-owned park.”

SCLD’s purchase of 2.82 acres from the city in the Balfour area was finalized in January at a price tag of $877,206.

“The city has been very helpful and positive,” Hattenburg said. “They had plans of expanding their park system anyway, and this would be the ideal area. To be able to purchase that site at this time was just an

See LIBRARY, page 7

ON THE COVER

SUBMITTED RENDERING

A new Spokane Valley Library would be built adjacent to an expanded Balfour Park if the April capital facilities bond passes. The rendering pictured on the cover is conceptual, as the library would seek patron input during the building design process.
LIBRARY
Continued from page 6

ideal time for the board.”

While the Spokane Valley City Council has refrained from officially endorsing the vote in April, Mayor Dean Grafo said a new Valley Library “would be a great complement to that area.”

“As a representative of the city, I have to remain neutral, but I support this 110 percent personally,” Grafo said. “I think good libraries and schools are part of the infrastructure of our community. I know from attending the informational meetings that there is a tremendous amount of interest. I think it would be a great thing for the community.”

Chapter One:
Building ballot buy-in

Just ask officials in the Central Valley or East Valley school districts — the majority of local capital facility bonds have suffered dismal defeats at the ballot over the last decade or more. On the bright side, SCLD passed bonds in 1988 and 1996 while earning 55 percent of the vote in 2010 for a levy lid lift.

“I think the challenge is people who just don’t know about it,” said Jane Baker, SCLD communications specialist. “Once you tell them about it and tell them what’s happening, then I usually hear a positive response.”

Rick Lloyd is serving as chair of a group called Citizens for Valley Libraries that will be encouraging voters to support the SVCLFA and the bond. His wife, Mary, was part of the SCLD Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2013.

“It’s about what the issue is and what the perception of the issue is,” said Lloyd, who donated time to the citizens’ campaign leading up to the 2008 vote.

Lloyd said the group will concentrate on marketing placement in print media, billboards, yard signs and bus benches while focusing on a “contiguous message.” They also hope to have a one-sheet available to distribute at local retail sites. The key, Lloyd said, is to make sure voters understand “the value of what they’re getting for their tax dollars.”

While no official opposition camp has emerged yet, Hattenburg said campaigns such as those spearheaded by local businessman Duane Alton in previous school bond votes might actually help the district’s cause.

“I’m looking at it this way — if they do oppose it, I’m thinking it will be a positive because we’ll get more publicity,” he said.

Chapter Two:
Location, location, location

Purchase of the Conklin property was approved in 2007 by the SCLD board for $455,000, primarily to address the underserved area of Greenacres and east Spokane Valley. The branch would be 10,000 square feet with room for future expansion.

Nancy Ledeboer, who replaced Wirt as SCLD executive director in 2012, said the Conklin branch has the potential to be “a community gathering place serving the surrounding neighborhoods and schools.”

“My vision for the library is that it will serve as a community hub where people come to borrow books, share information and participate in community life,” Ledeboer said. “If voters approve funding, we will work with the community and an architect to design a building that reflects this vision.”

The Valley site would benefit from being situated on a well-traveled road like Sprague, Baker said. Hattenburg added that the blend of library and greenspace is only in place at the Moran Prairie Library on the South Hill, one of 10 SCLD branches.

“It’s centralized, and it’s only about a mile west of the current Spokane Valley Library,” Baker said. “We’d still have an equal distribution around the Valley as best as we could. The property was too big for just the library, so to be able to work with the city and expand the park was a unique situation.”

SCLD’s interlocal agreement with the city was established in October 2012 and includes a condition that the city would recoup the land and SCLD’s money would be returned if a capital initiative does not pass within the next five years.

Chapter Three: Valley volume

When the question of refurbishing the existing Valley Library crops up, SCLD officials point out that an upgrade would cost 80 percent of the price to construct a new building. The site would also be closed for a year during the renovation.

Originally built in 1955, the Valley Library was expanded to 24,000 square feet in 1986. Hattenburg notes that the proposed Balfour site of 30,000 square feet has been scaled back from the 50,000-square-foot project proposed in the 2008 bond.

An average of 900 library patrons visit the Valley site each day, part of a record 1.3 million visitors to SCLD branches in 2013. More than 700 community meetings were held at the Valley Library last year.

While the branch is clearly popular, Hattenburg said the current facility has its share of issues.

“Parking is limited — we have to lease parking for staff across the street,” he said. “When it snows and rains, the roof leaks. For the programs SCLD provides, there is not enough space. One small elevator is the only access to the conference room in the basement. There are a lot of longtime Valley librarians who get that message and see that.”

Epilogue

With the vote approaching, Ledeboer and Baker have been presenting the district’s case to service clubs, business groups and other organizations. The district will also hold community open houses in March at the Valley and Argonne branches as well as Greenacres Middle School. Some architectural drawings are part of the presentations, but Baker stresses that “none of these buildings are finalized.”

“These are just drawings of what it could be like,” she said. “We want feedback from the public when it comes to actually designing the buildings.”

The $22 million in bond funds would cover design work, construction, taxes and fees for all three sites — a good deal according to library allies like Lloyd.

“If we wait, it may well cost more in the future,” Lloyd said. “Prices for land, materials and construction are the lowest they’ve been in years. A library is about people making a marquee investment in their own community.”
Central Skagit library district moves forward

By Kimberly Cauvel | Posted: Thursday, March 20, 2014 8:00 am

A new property tax in the Sedro-Woolley School District will take effect in April, a year and a half after voters approved the measure to support a rural library district in the area.

Like the Sedro-Woolley City Library that serves city residents free of charge, the new Central Skagit Rural-Partial Library District will serve residents in the areas of the school district outside city limits. Once established, the idea is those residents will no longer need to pay for a city library card, available for $56 per year, or at six-month, three-month and senior discount rates.

The district includes 400 square miles between the Whatcom and Snohomish county lines but excludes the incorporated areas of Sedro-Woolley, Lyman and Hamilton.

In March 2013, the Skagit County commissioners appointed Rich Weyrich, Mindy Coslor, Chris Silves, Ahmik Hindman and Lyn Torset to serve on the district’s five-member board.

Skagit Valley College Director of Library Services Mindy Coslor serves as the chair.

“We’ve done an awful lot of work since we were formed,” Coslor said.

Since their first meeting in April 2013, the board has established bylaws, a budget and a website and secured a business license.

In September and October, the board held four public focus group meetings.

“We were trying to understand the need of the communities and bring it back to how the library can help meet those needs because libraries are not just about books,” Coslor said.

At a rate of $0.50 per $1,000 property value, Dave Thomas with the Skagit County Assessor’s Office estimates the new tax will bring the district about $788,110 in 2014.

The board anticipates the district will receive its first chunk of change when tax payments are due April 30.

It is now in the process of hiring its first paid employee — a director who will be tasked with getting online and physical library services up and running as soon as possible.

“The public is anxious and eager to see services, so we really want to see services as quickly as possible,” Coslor said.
La Conner Regional Library Director Joy Neal, whom the board contracted for help with the hiring process, said the district is right on track.

“The first year is getting the board up and running, getting all the policies in place,” Neal said. “That director will be the first step in getting their services provided.”

The board hosted public forums with two final candidates for the position Monday and Wednesday. It hopes to select a candidate following its Thursday meeting and put them to work in May.

“I hope to see services by the end of the year, but I can’t commit the director before we’ve actually had a chance to plan with whoever the director is,” Coslor said.

The board anticipates online resources will be a “quick win” established before the physical library can open.

“We’re planning a full service library with books and media, children’s books and magazines,” Coslor said. “But libraries today also include online resources. It’s very easy to get library databases and e-books up and running because they don’t take a lot of space.”

— Reporter Kimberly Cauvel: 360-416-2199, kcauvel@skagitpublishing.com, Twitter: @Kimberly_SVH, facebook.com/bykimberlycauvel
Library ballots arriving in mail

Spokane Valley Online
04/04/2014 | By MIKE HUFFMAN, Managing Editor

With ballots showing up in mailboxes in anticipation of the April 22 $22 million library bond vote, momentum, say supporters, is building.

That’s good news for the Spokane County Library District, which has taken a different approach at getting a new main Valley branch built. In 2008, 55 percent of voters said “nay” to a new library at University City along with renovations to the Argonne branch and a new Greenacres library. While there had been some initial confusion at the results – Valley folks had almost always been voracious supporters of their libraries – many believed that the city of Spokane Valley’s plans to construct a city hall nearby (under the auspices of the larger, and quite controversial, Sprague/Appleway Revitalization Plan to create a downtown area at that spot) sunk the $33.4 million bond request.

With a new City Council, SARP a distant memory and a new city of Spokane Valley/SCLD partnership in the works, the board has been hopefully reset, supports say.

The Citizens for Valley Libraries – there seems to be no formal “vote no” camp – has been actively raising awareness for its “One Future, Two Votes, Three Projects” campaign. In a nutshell, the aging Spokane Valley Library at 12004 E. Main, would become an administration building. Voters will be asked to form a Spokane Valley Library Capital Facility Area, whereby voters who live in the SVLCFA boundaries would have the ability to fund the construction projects in that specific area.

The second vote would be for the actual $22 million bond, which would pay for a 30,000-square foot library at Sprague Avenue and Herald Road. It would also fund a new 10,000-square-foot facility on Conklin Road in Greenacres and a 6,000-square-foot expansion of the Argonne Road branch.

Both votes require a simple majority to pass.

Bond repayment would take place over 20 years at 14 cents per $1,000 in assessed property valuation and the owner of $150,000 home would pay $21 in 2014.

The city/SCLD partnership came about after library representatives told the council two years ago that the Pring Corporation was willing to sell 8.2 acres of land on the north side of Sprague at Herald to be developed as a site for a new library and an expanded Balfour
Park to the east. After a series of negotiations and public meetings, the city bought the land for $2.5 million in October 2012.

The library board, in turn, OK’d the purchase of 2.5 acres of land for $877,206.

However, for the library to be built, both ballot questions must gain the approval of voters on April 22.

The area that would be included in the SVLCFA encompasses the cities of Spokane Valley and Millwood, along with unincorporated areas of in the Central Valley, West Valley and East Valley school districts. The city of Liberty Lake would be excluded, as it has its own library system.

If the vote passes in April, an architect would be hired to design the new library and construction would follow in 2015 for the new library on Sprague with an opening in 2016.

Construction of the Conklin Library would follow, and the expansion of the Argonne Library would come last with an anticipated 2017 completion date.

More information can be found at scld.org/about/2014-bond.
Vote yes for Valley libraries
The Spokesman-Review
March 23, 2014 in Letters, Opinion| By Gail Sherrodd

The Spokane Valley libraries provide an outreach to our community in many different ways. Libraries aren’t just about books anymore. These libraries provide digital library materials, classes for tech gadgets, children’s reading programs, tax help for seniors, resources for parents and teachers, and much more. Over 900 people use the Valley library Main Branch each day.

To improve and continue this valuable resource, a construction bond will be put before the voters April 22. Three exciting projects are planned: a new library on Conklin Road in Greenacres, a new library at Sprague Avenue and Balfour Road, and a library expansion at the Millwood branch on Argonne Road.

For more information about these projects go to www.spokanevalleylibraries.com. Plan on attending one of the informational meetings about this bond issue. Meetings are: Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at the Argonne Library; Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. at Greenacres Middle School; and March 26, 4-7 p.m. at Spokane Valley Library.

Please join me in voting yes for Valley libraries.

Gail Sherrodd
Study reveals Ridgefield, Woodland need new libraries

Battle Ground library expansion also recommended by FVRL

A study commissioned by Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) calls for building new libraries in Ridgefield and Woodland at an estimated cost of $3.75 million apiece. The report also calls for expanding the Battle Ground Community Library, with land acquisition to cost about $165,000.

Those were among 40 potential projects suggested by Vancouver consulting firm BergerABAM, which spent the past year researching needs throughout the library district. The goal was to find out how to provide better access to services and collections for the 448,000 residents in four counties served by the district, according to FVRL spokeswoman Sue Vanlaanen.

Construction is a long way off, she said, if it occurs at all. The library district could contribute $500,000 to both the Ridgefield and Woodland facilities, but the rest of the cost would have to be paid through other sources, the study determined. BergerABAM’s study put much of the financial burden on city residents, with a $1,150,000 voter-approved bond recommended in Ridgefield and a $970,000 bond in Woodland.

The firm said almost half of the construction cost should come from donations by individuals or corporations – $1.9 million for the Woodland project and $1.7 million for Ridgefield. The study called philanthropy “a critical component of the funding framework.” Other funding sources could be state capital grants, local real estate excise taxes and impact fees, the consulting firm said.

Woodland’s need for a new library stems partly from what the study called the “unsatisfactory” condition of its current building. Woodland Community Library was built in 1909 and was remodeled in 1998. It has 2,376 square feet of space and the study suggests 10,000 square feet for a new building.

A high growth forecast in Woodland and the current high level of library use relative to the building’s size were also cited as needs for a new library. The FVRL leases the current site from the City of Woodland.

Justin Keeler, Woodland’s head librarian, didn’t mince words when discussing shortcomings of the present building.
“It’s a fairly miserable situation as far as providing the types of services the community needs,” he said. “It’s not handicap accessible in any stretch of the imagination. The restroom is on the second floor and there’s no elevator. It’s hot in summer and freezing cold in winter.”

There are only four computers with Internet access, and Keeler said patrons often find “hearty competition to get access to that resource.”

He added the library doesn’t have room for events it wants to hold for local residents. Instead, the library uses the adjacent Woodland Community Center, if space is available there on the desired day.

Keeler explained that FVRL has contracted with an architectural firm to set up community meetings to discuss what stakeholders want in a new library, to analyze potential sites, and to start the conversation about how to get funding.

High demand relative to the building’s size also was listed as a reason that Ridgefield needs a new library, along with the city’s high growth forecast. Ridgefield Community Library has 2,055 square feet of space and, like Woodland, should have 10,000 square feet in its new building, the report stated. The library district leases the current space from Ridgefield Community Center.

Sean McGill, Ridgefield library’s branch manager, said more room is needed, especially for children’s story time sessions.

“Sometimes we have 20 kids and their parents, and there’s just not enough space,” he said.

The noise level in the library rises after school when students flock to the library. McGill said that could be solved with a larger facility that has separate spots for different uses, including areas for those who value quiet.

“I’d like to see more accessible technology and a bigger collection” of books, he said.

The Battle Ground library needs to be larger because of the city’s high growth forecast and current high level of demand by residents, according to the study. The library, which is owned by FVRL, was built in 2009 and has 14,000 square feet of space.

The study indicated that La Center Community Library needs to find a location with more certain leasing conditions. The library is now leased from Robert L. Colf and the study says the agreement lacks “certainty on term of use.”
Four ways to celebrate SPL Central Library’s 10th year

By Mary Ann Gwinn
Seattle Times book editor

Lit Life
On May 23, the Seattle Public Library celebrates the 10th anniversary of its internationally famous Rem Koolhaas-designed downtown Central Library. A lot of Seattleites check out books, conduct research, look for jobs and dodge the rain at the downtown library, but I have lost track of the number of gawking tourists I have almost collided with as they gaze, heads up, into the latticework (a quarter of the library’s estimated two million annual visits are made by tourists).

True confession — I have never warmed up to the Koolhaas building. I am a Carnegie library kind of gal — my reading addiction was nurtured in one of Carnegie’s formal, single-story jewels. I do love the clean lines of my neighborhood’s Southwest branch (designed by Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects) but in the downtown library on a gray and rainy day, I feel like I am sealed inside an aquarium.

What this building symbolizes is something I wholeheartedly endorse — the incredibly high level of support Seattle citizens give to their library system (as the citizens of King County have supported KCLS). You only have to ponder budget cuts and shuttered branch libraries around the country to realize what a good thing we have here.

Here's a list of celebration highlights — all events are free:

Joshua Prince-Ramus: Ramus, co-architect of the building, talks about the influence the library has had on other buildings and public spaces. 7 p.m. Thursday May 15, Microsoft auditorium.

Authors Gone Wild: You don’t want to miss this. The Seattle7 Writers group is putting on a show, including music, entertainment, performances, author readings and more by Seattle7Writers and the band The Rejections (and Trailing Spouses). One promised sketch is “Cry Me a River: Worst Reviews from Amazon.com.”


Building the Central Library: a panel discussion on how plans for the downtown library were conceived and executed features Prince-Ramus; former City Librarian Deborah Jacobs; Sam Miller,
Anniversary Day: An all-ages celebration takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 23. For information on this and other events, go to spl.org.

Poetry in the Skagit Valley: In other news, a not-to-be missed event is the annual Skagit River Poetry Festival which kicks off May 15 and runs through May 18. The festival, which offers workshops, poetry readings and other events, will feature A+ authors and poets such as La Conner resident Tom Robbins, Seattle’s Sherman Alexie, poets Robert Haas, Mark Doty, Kwame Dawes, Susan Rich and new state poet laureate Elizabeth Austen, among others. The kickoff event, a fundraising dinner the evening of May 15, features Robbins and Alexie, which sounds like a ton of fun.

On Friday, featured poets and authors will run workshops for high school students in districts around the region; Saturday and Sunday events are open to the public. For a complete list of events, ticket prices and other information go to www.skagitriverpoetry.org.

Mary Ann Gwinn: 206-464-2357 or mgwinn@seattletimes.com. Gwinn appears every Tuesday on TVW’s “Well Read,” discussing books with host Terry Tazioli (go to www.tvw.org/shows/well-read for archived episodes). On Twitter @gwinma.
Send ballots in by Tuesday
Spokane Valley Online
04/18/2014 | By MIKE HUFFMAN, Managing Editor

Those ballots you received in the mail earlier this month? Better get them filled out and returned by Tuesday.

Nearly 75,000 ballots were sent out throughout Spokane County on April 3 – but the main items of interest to Valley-area voters are two ballot questions concerning a new main library branch and Greenacres site along with a new station for Newman Lake Fire and Rescue.

If you received a ballot and saw questions posed by the Spokane County Library District for the April 22 election, you are already living in the proposed Spokane Valley Library Capital Facilities District. This is the area that will fund, via property taxes, the $22 million in bonds to pay for a new Spokane Valley Library at Sprague Avenue and Herald Road, along with a new Greenacres branch on Conklin Road, plus an expansion at the Argonne library facilities. Those served by the Newman Lake fire department will vote on that $1.1 million bond issue.

Ballots can be mailed by Tuesday or deposited in one of the white election drop boxes at local libraries. They can also be taken to STA Plaza, 701 W. Riverside, or the Elections Office, 1033 W. Gardener.

There will also be voter service centers open at STA Plaza, the Elections Office or CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Place, on Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. where questions can be answered and ballots dropped off. Ballot drop boxes will be locked at 8 p.m., and the first round of election results will be available online around 8:20 p.m.

The election will be certified on May 6.

For more information, call 477-2262 or visit spokanecounty.org/elections.
When she was a little girl, Anne Walter remembers climbing the 16 steps leading to the huge front doors of the Heath Branch of the Spokane Public Library at 525 E. Mission Ave.

“It was three blocks from the house where I grew up,” she said, “and I would walk to the library all the time. The sheer size of it, the stone steps. I felt so important going up them and come out with an armful of books. And the books were free! How wonderful that when I was done reading them I could come back for more.”

The joy of those experiences has remained with Walter, a counselor at Franklin Elementary School now serving her second term on the Spokane Library board of trustees. The building holds good memories for many others as well, including Paula Fletcher, who also grew up in the neighborhood and recalls with fondness the kind voice of the soft-spoken librarian in the 1960s, and walking through those big doors and turning left to enter the wonderful room that housed the children’s collection.

The Heath Branch is one of three library branches built with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation in 1914. It cost $35,000 and remained open until 1983. Even after it no longer served as a public library, it functioned as a home for the bookmobile and outreach program. Since 2009 it has been home to the Magnuson Hotels group.

Louis Zittel served as the architect for the building. He is also noted for his design of Spokane’s old city hall, the Mount St. Michael Mission, St. Aloysius Church, Showalter Hall at Eastern Washington University and many more historic structures. Land for the project was donated by Sylvester Heath, whose first home was directly across the street on the site where St. Aloysius School was later built. One of Spokane’s founding fathers, Heath was Spokane’s third postmaster, proprietor of a book and stationery store (which
later evolved into J.W. Graham and Co. stationers) and the developer of a large section of land on the north side of the Spokane River now known as the Logan Neighborhood.

Along with its sister branches (East Side and North Monroe), the Heath Branch is on both the National and Spokane registers of historic places.

The construction is typical of those built in the Carnegie tradition. It is a large one-and-a-half-story brick building with a daylight basement and features a façade with three bays, a central projecting pavilion and huge staircase. There is much terra cotta on the exterior, which probably is its most notable feature. Each corner piece is terra cotta and every window is surrounded by it, giving the overall effect that of a checkerboard complexity.

The library system's two bookmobiles were housed at the Heath Branch in the 1950s. In the 1960s the lower (street) level was remodeled to better service the bookmobiles, and by the 1970s one bookmobile was retired and replaced with a 3/4-ton van as part of an outreach service that allowed mobile carts to be transported to and taken into nursing homes and other locations where patrons had difficulty going outside to the bookmobile.

“I remember the bookmobile parked by the east side door and the outreach vehicle by the west side door, and we would load them appropriately to serve our patrons,” remembered Doug Roberts, now a media specialist in the reference department at the downtown library. It was also in the mid-1970s that the front entrance on Mission was closed and patrons entered the library from the street-level Standard Street side of the building, omitting the need for climbing the steps to the main entrance.

Roberts recalls also that in the 1970s, courtesy of a grant, the library was home to a toy library. Groups could check out the assorted wooden toy tractors and trucks and a variety of games, a popular service for young people.

Though the building has a new life now, very specific books from this neighborhood library still stand out in the memories of those who got their first library card there and nourished their love of reading while sitting in chairs by the tall book shelves. Walter easily gives a list of her favorites, running from simple picture books to “Harriet the Spy,” “Nancy Drew,” “Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret” and then her Stephen King phase. Paula Fletcher goes back quickly to when she was 6 and “A Fly Went By.”

Library memories run deep.
Ridgefield, Woodland libraries get design priority

Portland architectural firm hired for planning

The Reflector.com | Posted in News: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 9:00 am

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) has retained FFA Architecture and Interiors Inc. of Portland to perform pre-design work for potential new or expanded libraries in Ridgefield, Woodland and Washougal.

A facilities study completed in 2013 by planning consultant BergerABAM of Vancouver ranked those projects among the most needed throughout the district.

Work to be performed by FFA Architecture will include gathering data and input about community needs, conducting public and stakeholder meetings and focus groups in each community during the summer, sharing a preliminary report with the public in August, and presenting a final report to the library district’s board of trustees in September, according to a news release from the district.

“We are very pleased to be working with principal Troy Ainsworth and his team at FFA,” FVRL Executive Director Nancy Tessman said in the release. “They bring a wealth of experience with library design and pre-design to our process.

“We were especially impressed by the high level of community involvement they proposed,” Ainsworth said. “This is in sync with our own commitment to find clear pathways forward that work for each of these three unique communities.”

The study, commissioned by FVRL, calls for building new libraries in Ridgefield and Woodland at an estimated cost of $3.75 million apiece. The report also calls for expanding the Battle Ground Community Library, with land acquisition to cost about $165,000.

Those were among 40 potential projects suggested by BergerABAM, which spent the past year researching needs throughout the library district. The goal was to find out how to provide better access to services and collections for the 448,000 residents in four counties served by the district, according to FVRL spokeswoman Sue Vanlaanen.

Construction is a long way off, she said, if it occurs at all. The library district could contribute $500,000 to both the Ridgefield and Woodland facilities, but the rest of the cost would have to be paid through other sources, the study determined.
BergerABAM's study put much of the financial burden on city residents, with a $1,150,000 voter-approved bond recommended in Ridgefield and a $970,000 bond in Woodland.

The firm said almost half of the construction cost should come from donations by individuals or corporations — $1.9 million for the Woodland project and $1.7 million for Ridgefield. The study called philanthropy "a critical component of the funding framework."

Other funding sources could be state capital grants, local real estate excise taxes and impact fees, the consulting firm said.
CKCC wants new library built on community campus

The Central Kitsap Community Council has approved a resolution in support of a new Silverdale Library being built on the Central Kitsap Community Campus.

A majority of the 15-member board voted in favor of the resolution at a meeting of the council Thursday. All 10 of the members attending the meeting voted in support of the resolution. It will now go to the Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees for action which is anticipated in June. It will also be sent to the Kitsap County Commission for its consideration.

Kitsap Regional Library is searching for a new location to build a library to replace its current library which is in Old Town Silverdale. The library plans to build a new building that will double the space it now has, at approximately 8,000 to 10,000 square feet. While the final decision on a location will be made by the library’s board of trustees and the county commission, the council said it wanted to go on record support that the library be on the community campus.

The campus is located near the Kitsap Mall, between Silverdale Way and Randall Way, and now houses the YMCA, the C-STOCK community theater and a community center. A precinct office of the Kitsap County Sheriff’s also is on the campus. The property is owned by the county and it will take the approval of the county commission before anything is added to the campus.
The county also will decide whether to tear down the existing community center and sheriff’s office to make way for new structures.

In the resolution, the council said “site selection is critical to the success of the library. In the council’s view, the Central Kitsap Community Campus provided the best possible site for a new Silverdale Library.”

Reasons listed included its proximity to Central Kitsap High School and junior high schools.

“A campus site gives the library high visibility, excellent access to public transportation and to all necessary utilities. With several access points to the campus, traffic congestion in Silverdale would be minimized,” the resolution stated.

The council’s resolution went on to indicate that it would help oversee the development of the campus and make certain other organizations or options built on the campus would compliment the library. The council acts as an advisory board to the county commission on matters in Central Kitsap.

Prior to the vote, council chairwoman Natalie Bryson said passing the resolution would be a way to let the county know the council’s position.

“The council thinks this is an excellent site for the library,” she said.

In a recent online survey by KRL about where the library should be located, the campus received the most votes, but only by about 40 votes. Second was the property owned by the Silverdale United Methodist Church, on Ridgetop Boulevard. A third option, near the water in Old Town Silverdale was on the survey but was withdrawn from consideration when the owner— the Port of Silverdale — opted not to sell it.

Jeff Brody, director of community relations for KRL, said the library’s board still anticipates making a location decision in June. Following that, there will be a public fundraising effort prior to any construction.

“KRL has been working closely with the county in an attempt to identify the costs and benefits of siting a library on the community campus and we have found Commissioner Streissguth extremely helpful and supportive in providing us with information about the
campus site in time for the KRL Board of Trustees decision, which is scheduled for June 24,” Brody said. “The community campus is still a site under consideration for the new Silverdale Library, as is the site proposed by the Silverdale United Methodist Church.

“In our community survey, which received more than 1,130 responses, the public expressed a level of concern about both of those sites. In the case of the campus, the concern is parking. In the case of the church site, the concern is access from Ridgetop Boulevard, which is considered to be very congested. Neither site received support from a majority of the people taking the survey.”

KRL continues to seek alternatives, Brody said, “so we can be sure that our board has the very best possible set of options to consider when it decides.”

In other meeting news: Tina Nelson, senior program manager with Kitsap County Public Works, updated the council on the Bucklin Hill Bridge Project. She said that due to needing more time to secure federal permits for the project, work on the new bridge over Clear Creek on Bucklin Hill Road will not begin this summer as previously planned.

It will begin either this fall or next summer depending on when all the permits are secured.

“We will start construction when we have enough time where we can work in the water,” she said, noting that that work can only take place from June 15 to Feb. 8, due to environmental regulations because of it being a salmon spawning creek. “If we have the permits in August and can get in there and get enough work down before February, then we will begin this fall. If not, we will wait until the summer of 2015.”

She also gave the council conceptual drawings of what the bridge will look like, including a kiosk that will be built on the north side. There will be a pedestrian crossing signal at the location, near to where the barn is now. And, as part of the plans, there will be places where community members can view the creek below. A community board for posting notices is also planned.

“Just who will maintain it and what its uses will be have yet to be worked out,” she said.

Spokane County Library District will welcome the Digital Bookmobile National Tour on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Place, and May 22 from noon to 6 p.m. at the North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne Road.

The Digital Bookmobile is a 74-foot vehicle equipped with Internet-connected PCs, high-definition monitors, sound systems and portable media players, everything visitors need to learn about the library’s download services.

Cardholders can check out and download digital titles any time by visiting [www.scld.org](http://www.scld.org). The books can be read on a computer or a supported mobile device. At the end of the lending period, the books expire automatically.

For more information, visit [www.scld.org](http://www.scld.org) or call (509) 893-8200.
EVERETT — Taxing residents to maintain Everett’s parks and handing over the local library system to the regional Sno-isle Library system are two major items the city is studying.

These big shifts are among the wide range of ideas being considered to help the city shake its persistent and growing structural deficit. The bottom line to fix the deficit, poised to reach $13 million in 2015, is the city has to either cut services, cut personnel or raise more tax revenue.

Last week the City Council put these ideas under a microscope to see if they’re worth studying.

The public will have the chance to weigh in at two meetings, the first of which is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8 at Evergreen Middle School, 7621 Beverly Lane. The other meeting will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the Jackson Conference Center at Everett Community College, 2000 Tower St.

Weighing the options

Creating a metropolitan park district would let the city levy a property tax of 75 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value.

The move would generate a maximum value of $9 million per year, which would cover almost the entire parks department budget and free those funds out of the city’s general fund, which is the daily operating fund where the structural deficit is mounting.

A metropolitan parks district would result in the largest, most immediate revenue generator among the options discussed last week. Seattle and Snohomish are considering similar tax districts.

Having the Everett libraries be absorbed by the Sno-Isle library system would remove $5 million from the operating budget. It may also stabilize library funding and could even allow for longer library service hours.

The transition would introduce a 50 cent property tax per $1,000 of assessed value charged by Sno-Isle on all its customers. Everett currently does not have a separate tax for libraries. Additionally, the Everett library workers have a union that may not carry over to the Sno-Isle system.
“They have worked very hard not to have a union in their system,” Everett libraries director Eileen Simmons said of Sno-Isle, “so I don’t think they will take that with them.”

People have been asking Simmons what could happen to the city’s bookmobile program, and she reluctantly does not have an answer for them.

Having Sno-Isle Libraries absorb Everett’s libraries requires Sno-Isle Libraries’ approval. It would also have to go to dual votes and get passed by both city residents and those residents part of the Sno-Isle Library System, which encompasses Snohomish and Island counties.

Creating a parks district was praised by council members.

“I think this is one of the most appealing because it’s one of the most progressive taxing measures, so it’s one that I would support,” Councilwoman Brenda Stonecipher said.

Councilman Rich Anderson said that any revenue generated through the parks district would be money the city has never had before.

“We would have actual dollars to show that there is progress in how we provide for our citizens,” he said.

**Other ideas proposed**

Cost-savings in emergency services may be considered as well.

The city could identify ways to have small portions of the Fire Department and the Police Department be handled jointly instead of within their own departments. Other cities have explored the same idea.

The council also looked at imposing fees for false alarm calls, because there were more than 700 false alarms last year that caused fire engines to be dispatched at the expense of the taxpayers.

Another idea is converting Walter E. Hall Golf Course into a smaller 18-hole “executive” golf course and sell portions of the golf course land. Selling land would help cover a $7.3 million debt within the golf fund created when the city renovated American Legion Park in the 1990s.

Other previously proposed ideas include closing the Forest Park Swim Center, which is due for renovation by 2020, and levying utility taxes for garbage and cable TV service.

Budget cuts to pool, library creating public buzz

By NATALIE COVATE | Published May 14, 2014 | The Snohomish County Tribune

EVERETT — Even before entering the public input meeting discussing the city’s structural budget deficit, residents walked past Kathy Christensen, who asked them if they knew that the city was considering closing Forest Park Pool.

Christensen, from Silver Lake, stood outside in the rain on Thursday, May 8 for about thirty minutes before the meeting on potential budget cuts started, handing out flyers advertising the dates of the public input meetings and highlighting the fact that closing the pool is one option being studied by the city to help balance the budget.

She was also collecting signatures for a petition to keep the pool open.

Last week’s meeting was the first of two meetings designed for residents to give their input on things the city should do to fix the structural deficit in the city's budget.

The city faces an increasing deficit because it is spending more than it brings in, and the widening gap has become so unwieldy that the city is looking at serious service cutbacks.

As a result, programs such as the Forest Park Pool and library outreach program might be cut. The city is also evaluating integrating the Everett library into the Sno-Isle library system, which would create a tax increase on Everett residents to match Sno-Isle’s existing tax rate.

The pool being on the budget cuts list is hitting a nerve.

“I feel as though there are few things families can do that are relatively inexpensive,” Christensen said. “I have seven grandchildren. This is their destination spot.”

Cascade High School’s swim team currently practices there. A group of six people with various disabilities at the meeting said that they use the pool for physical therapy, and without the therapy done in the pool, they would not be able to walk.

David and Toni Waller, of Silver Lake, have teenage daughters that learned to swim at the pool. “It would be a terrible loss to the community,” David Waller said. “You can’t run forever, but you can swim for your whole life and stay healthy.”

Christensen also noted that the people working at the pool would lose their jobs.

Operating the Forest Park Swim Center costs the city $410,000 per year. The pool will also need a minimum of $300,000 worth of small-scale maintenance by 2020, money that is unavailable at this time. The pool’s closure was the most common concern among the approximately 80 residents in attendance, but it was not the only thing people were worried about.

Margaret Riddle, of Harborview-Seahurst-Glenhaven, worked in the Everett library for 30 years and has concerns about the proposal to absorb the Everett library into the Sno-Isle library system. “It has a long tradition as a city library,” she said. “There are a lot of questions I would have.”
One question she has is whether the Everett library would be able to keep its union. She also wonders what would happen to the archives in the Northwest Room of the downtown library, which she and historian David Dilgard curated for years.

Allowing Sno-Isle to absorb the Everett libraries would require residents to vote to approve an additional property tax of 50 cents per $1,000 of appraised land value and would remove the Everett libraries’ operating cost from the city’s budget.

Some residents at the meeting simply do not want to see their taxes go up. “We need to live, too.” Kris Williams, of Lowell, said. “If our taxes go up, we won’t be making it. I think there needs to be accountability.”

Susan Kaftanski, who lives in the Port Gardner Neighborhood, attended the meeting because she was not happy with the level of detail for a plan that the city has provided to the public so far. “What will a specific tax cover? Will it cover everything? Just certain items?” she said.

During a presentation by parks director Paul Kaftanski, several people asked what the city is losing or gaining by not taxing Boeing. The question was left open as Paul Kaftanski came with a list of items to study in order to fix the current budget deficit.

The next public input meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 in the Jackson Conference Center at Everett Community College after press time.
The Washington State Library is reducing its hours for the public almost in half, part of the library's plan to meet a $1 million funding shortfall over the next year.

Beginning Monday, the library won't be open mornings, but those who walk into the Tumwater facility will still get help between noon and 5 p.m. each day. The reduced hours are the result of the elimination of two positions.

Officials say 16,875 patrons used the library in person in 2013, for a daily average of a little more than 67 people. Peak usage comes in the afternoon.

The library also handled 7,000 email requests for information, 763 chat requests and 435 queries by phone last year.

“We have been doing planning to address the budget reductions for several months,” State Librarian Rand Simmons said Monday. “Hope springs eternal. We thought it would turn around when the spring came. It didn’t.”

Secretary of State Kim Wyman said her agency’s budget for the library comes from a state account that relies on recording fees tied to real estate transactions. Those revenues started tapering off in November when home loan refinancing slowed, and the result is an expected shortfall of $1 million for the library through the end of the two-year budget cycle.

Wyman said her office didn’t know the funding shortfall was a trend, and not a blip, until February’s recording-fee data came in — which happened in March. The timing meant it was too late to warn the Legislature, which adjourned March 13.

In 2013, lawmakers cut the library’s budget from $9 million to $8.4 million, making it dependent on the recording-fee data. The new shortfall reduces its expected financing to about $7.4 million, and staff cuts could not be avoided, Wyman said.

The secretary of state intends to ask lawmakers for new money during next year’s legislative session, and she plans to ask that the library be financed out of the state general fund again. Cuts over the years have reduced staff from 158 full-time equivalent positions at the turn of the last century to about 63.5 today.

“The State Library staff have become more efficient in their operations over the past 10 years, providing the same general level of services while reducing our employee count by 42 percent,” Wyman said in a statement. “We have reached the point where we must reduce our in-person hours at the central library, at least temporarily, because of additional staff cuts.”

Simmons said the cuts won’t affect popular programs such as the Talking Book and Braille Library in Seattle, and institutional libraries at state hospitals and prisons will be spared.

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The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District has retained FFA Architecture and Interiors Inc. of Portland for pre-design services on library facilities in Washougal, Woodland and Ridgefield.

The decision follows a district-wide facilities study by planning consultants BergerABAM. The facilities study, completed in 2013, ranked library facilities in Washougal, Woodland and Ridgefield as high priorities for either replacement or enlargement. The library district has 16 branches or other outlets districtwide.

Nancy Tessman, the library district’s executive director, said the district considered six proposals for the pre-design work from bidders across the country and one from Vancouver, B.C. It will pay $74,500 for the work, she said.

FFA Architecture stood out because of its considerable experience with rural libraries in Washington and Oregon, and because of its understanding of the district’s desire for strong community involvement, Tessman said. FFA — then known as Fletcher Farr Ayotte PC — was the architecture firm for the district’s Three Creeks Community Library, which opened in 2002, and it has experience with more than 40 library projects over the past 15 years, mostly in Washington and Oregon, according to the library district.

The company’s work will include gathering data and input about community needs, conducting public and stakeholder meetings and focus groups in each community through the summer, sharing a preliminary report with the public in August, and presenting a final report to the library’s board of trustees in September.

The district wants to work with the local communities on a funding plan for library improvements identified in the study process, Tessman said. “Those communities have very small libraries that are not adequate to meet needs of communities now,” she said.

Additional information, including meeting dates and opportunities for participation, will be posted at www.fvrl.org on the Planning and Projects page.

Bellingham, Whatcom libraries offer technology, community - and books

By PAM KIESNER AND CHRISTINE PERKINS

April 13 to 19 is National Library Week, a good time to remind readers that if you're not using your public library, you're missing out - on technology and books! Some examples: nearly 100 eMagazine titles via Zinio (everything from The Economist to Us Weekly), perfect for your tablet or smartphone; thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks via the Washington Anytime Library; and hours and hours of online computer classes (like Excel or Windows Server) via Microsoft IT Academy, recently introduced in libraries statewide and funded by the Washington State Legislature.

Other digital resources include Ancestry.com (available at the Bellingham Public Library, Everson McBeath Community Library and the Lynden Library), Consumer Reports online, web-based test prep services, and Mango Languages. Learn to speak Italian (or Tagalog, Hawaiian, even pirate!). All of these library services are available to you, free of charge, 24/7.

Having trouble figuring out your latest digital device? Both Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County library branches offer tech coaching sessions where library staff and tech volunteers can assist you in downloading eBooks, navigating the internet, using a mouse, or overcoming other technology challenges. With regards to books - we've got those too, several hundred thousand ready for your reading pleasure. Need someone to recommend a good title? Ask any of our friendly staff members for suggestions. If you belong to a book discussion group, you will want to know about library book club kits that contain ten copies of a title and discussion questions; these kits are available to reserve online, and the libraries have close to 200 titles from which to choose.

Recently, your local libraries received grants from the Allen Family Foundation intended to explore ways that libraries serve as community hubs. In Bellingham, this project became the new "SkillShare Space" at the Central Library, where community members may gather and share their expertise with each other, on topics ranging from creative crafting to survival skills and more.

In Everson, the grant provided funds to develop the Nooksack Valley Heritage Center at the Everson McBeath Community Library. In addition to technology and equipment for the public to preserve their family history, the center will be a space for the library to present programming related to the history of our region.

A recent Pew Research poll, "How Americans value public libraries in their communities," shows that 94 percent
of Americans ages 16 and older say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community - and 72 percent live in "library households" where family members have used a public library in the last 12 months. This is certainly true in our area, where library usage continues to be high. On rainy - and sunny - days, your libraries, from Barkley to Blaine and Fairhaven to Ferndale, are community gathering places to meet up with friends, attend an interesting program (see our online calendars for a complete listing of events), find a good read, or bring a child to learn (and play). Everyone’s welcome!

If you live, work, or attend school in Whatcom County you can register for a library card online by visiting yourlibraries.org. Or stop by any Bellingham Public Library or Whatcom County Library System Happy National Library Week! See you at your libraries.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Spokane Valley voters gave a mixed message to the Spokane County Library District on Tuesday, approving a measure to create a library capital facilities district but rejecting a bond measure to pay for two new libraries and renovation of a third.

Initial results Tuesday night showed creation of the district drawing a 59 percent approval vote while the bond received a 54 percent approval vote. The bond requires a 60 percent supermajority to pass.

The $22 million bond would have paid for a new 30,000-square-foot Spokane Valley branch across from the old University City Mall, a new library branch on Conklin Road and renovation of the Argonne Library.

Library Director Nancy Ledeboer said the results were discouraging. “We had a lot of grass-roots support and if it wasn’t enough, maybe it just isn’t what people want,” she said.

It will be up to the district’s board of trustees to decide if the bond should be put back on the ballot for a second try, Ledeboer said.

“I think they’ll want to look at this and maybe just decide this is what voters want, that voters don’t want to tax themselves to invest in new facilities,” she said. “If people don’t want to fund it, then we can’t build. We’ll just have to go back to the drawing board and see what we can do.”

The capital facilities area that was created by voters will last for two years, Ledeboer said. The library district has another deadline to worry about: A signed agreement with the city
of Spokane Valley promised that ground would be broken on a new library by 2017 or the library will sell back the land it purchased from the city.

The new Spokane Valley branch was to be part of the city’s expansion of neighboring Balfour Park.

“They’re committed to building a park there,” Ledeboer said. “Of course, they really wanted a library to be a part of that park.”

In other election results Tuesday, 64 percent of voters in the Newman Lake Fire and Rescue District approved a $1.1 million bond to build a new fire station. This comes after an initial try to pass a $2.2 million bond failed in 2011. The new station will be built at the corner of Starr and Moffat roads on land the Fire District already owns.

An $8.4 million school renovation bond for the Reardan-Edwall School District was rejected with 54 percent of the vote. The bond requires a 60 percent supermajority to pass.

The district is located in both Lincoln and Spokane counties. The bond was passing in Lincoln County with 65 percent of the vote, but only 46 percent of Spokane County voters said yes.
Keith, a volunteer contractor, helps with Port Townsend Public Library move

By Robin Dudley of the Leader | Posted: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 3:30 am

Thanks in part to a hard-working volunteer, the Port Townsend Public Library should return to the Carnegie site by early June.

The Port Townsend Library advisory board toured the facility on April 4 to get an update on construction progress. Board members saw a new book-drop configuration near the main-floor entrance and a planned teen/young adult area. The main book collection is to be housed on the main floor, said Keith Darrock, the library's technical services manager.

The volunteer, Ian Keith, was dusty from working on the removal of part of a wall behind the circulation and information desk. A retired contractor with more than 25 years of experience, Keith has also, as a volunteer, remodeled the Key City Public Theatre and completed improvements at Quimper Mercantile and Jumping Mouse Children's Center. He is also a former Port Townsend City Council member.

A member of the library advisory board, Keith has been doing all of the remodeling work himself at the Carnegie site, with help from Darrock, who "has kept things going," said Beverly Shelton, who came out of retirement last fall to become interim director of the library.

Darrock said Keith has donated 92 hours so far, and at $50 an hour, has thus saved the library $4,600. Darrock estimated that Keith still has twice that many hours left to complete the job.

In order to utilize natural light more effectively, another wall is being removed in the staff workroom, which used to be divided into two rooms and include the staff break-room area. The staff will take breaks next door in the Library Learning Center (aka the Pink House) now, Shelton said.

The new carpet is going to be "vibrant," Darrock said; in color, it is "brickish red, with a green, organic swirl pattern."

New handrails that conform to code are to be installed on the stairs. Upstairs, 12 Internet computer stations are to be situated on three tables; a reference librarian's desk located near the stairway is expected to handle a lot of computer-related questions. The library is also "looking at checking out..."
tablets and having really good wireless in the building," Darrock said. There are also to be three Internet
computers in the teen area downstairs, plus three more computers for accessing the library catalog.

The library's maritime collection is to be housed in built-in bookcases along the wall at one end of the
large, open room upstairs. A map case is to be brought upstairs, and a local trail and map collection
started. Also upstairs will be the periodicals, with a 10-by-4-foot oak communal reading table, Darrock
said. More seating is planned for upstairs than was there before; 31 seats in all.

"People want to be up in this room," Darrock said of the Carnegie building (1913). "This is the hangout
space."

The children's area downstairs is to have 26 seats, plus 19 on the other side.

City manager David Timmons said that Honeywell has offered a $169,000 energy package for updating
heating, ventilation, lighting and energy systems throughout the building that guarantees savings for 16
years. A heat exchanger may be mounted out of sight in the rooftop space between the old building and
the annex.

"We can do those improvements at a later date," Timmons said.

Eight wooden doors that are no longer needed are to be sold, with proceeds going to the Friends of the
Port Townsend Library.

"There's a lot of things that need to be done, but the goal right now is to get moved back in," said Ken
Clow, city public works director.

Since April 2012, the library has been temporarily located in two buildings at Mountain View Commons,
1919 Blaine St., while the Carnegie building underwent seismic retrofitting. In August 2013, voters
rejected a $3 million bond to build a new addition to the historic Carnegie.
Libraries' choice: Change or fade into oblivion

When librarians at the Skokie Public Library near Chicago moved their reference collection online and got rid of the massive print volumes, they suddenly had a lot of newly freed-up space.

Carolyn Anthony, the library's director, also serves on the Skokie Chamber of Commerce. She saw that after the economic downturn, many workers who'd lost their corporate jobs were starting businesses out of their homes. In fact, the fastest-growing segment of the chamber was now start-ups with fewer than five employees — many of them with just a single person running the entire operation, often out of a spare bedroom or home office. Working from home is fine, she thought, but meeting clients in a coffee shop gets old fast.

So she persuaded the library board to finance a project that just five years ago would have been unheard of: a three-room, fully functioning, Wi-Fi-equipped office suite, capable of accommodating more than 50 people. Users who can't afford their own office space reserve it by the hour, swapping a business card for a magnetic keycard.

"This is not really such a stretch, when you think about it," says Anthony, since figuring out what people need most is in libraries' DNA.

As Americans spend more time online, both for work and play, public libraries are struggling to find ways to remain relevant, and they're discovering that they must reinvent themselves in sometimes fundamental ways. In addition to changing how they provide books and other media, they're changing in other ways:

• In Newton, Mass., a Boston suburb, the local library now houses the community food pantry, which supplies food monthly for an increasing number of residents.

• Chicago's public library found that kids were struggling to find help with homework, so every afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., it turns every library branch into a homework help desk.

• Cleveland's library offers classes in 3-D printing, which translates computer-generated designs into one-of-a-kind objects printed from various materials.

• San Francisco's city library and Department of Public Health created a "homeless and poverty outreach library team" to help find housing and other services for homeless patrons who set up camp among the stacks.

• The Los Angeles city library in 2012 became the first to offer an online high school diploma program for adults who had dropped out of school.

"Libraries are now thinking pretty interestingly about where they might fit in," says Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

Rainie was part of a team in March that issued findings showing that 30% of Americans are "highly engaged" with public libraries. People often form deeper connections with their library, they found, during "key life moments" such as having a child, seeking a job or doing research as a student. About one in seven (14%) of the 6,224 people they surveyed have never used a public library.

Rainie likens the "churn and change" taking place in the library world to those happening in print journalism. Librarians are asking themselves how people get information and how they can curate it and get it to them in a smart way.

As with newspapers, a few "deeply innovative librarians" long ago saw the shift coming, he says. "They're excited about it." But there are also many who are slow to change their habits, he says. "There is a strain of librarians that say, 'This isn't what I signed up for.'"

They may be on the wrong side of history. This summer, the keynote speaker at the American Library Association's annual meeting in Las Vegas will be Jane McGonigal, a video-game designer and researcher whose best-selling 2011 book, Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World, suggested that Americans could improve their lives if they played more, not fewer, video games.

After suffering a severe concussion in 2009, McGonigal created SuperBetter, a game that has helped more than 250,000 players overcome health conditions such as depression, anxiety, chronic pain and traumatic brain injury.
In 2011, while searching for a way to make exploring the physical space of a library more appealing, McGonigal created a massive, all-night scavenger hunt in the New York Public Library that invited players to record their thoughts and ideas. It resulted in an instantly published book that each participant took home.

Her invitation, she says, "really shows that libraries are much more engaged in games and technology than people give them credit for."

The Skokie Chamber of Commerce meets in a section of the public library where the reference collection was once kept. (Photo: Anne Ryan, USA TODAY)

Libraries have come a long way in their thinking about how games and reading go together, progressing from early efforts that simply awarded points for borrowing books to more sophisticated undertakings such as collaborative, library-based "game jams" that invite participants to develop original games over a weekend.

Pew's Rainie cites the increased use of games as a way that libraries are expanding their mission and user base. "The definition of 'community' has been up for grabs for a while," he says, "and libraries have deeply been part of the conversation."

But for a few libraries, video-game jams and 3-D printing may be a stretch. Libraries may be service-oriented community organizations, he says, but they also fear straying too far from their core mission of making information available to users. "How far is too far?" he asks.

In Skokie, the office suite, which opened for business in November 2012, has attracted start-ups of all stripes, Anthony says — including a few that clearly misunderstood the ground rules, which discourage sales pitches to the public. She recently got a postcard in her home mailbox advertising an information session at the library space for a new housing development. She told the developers that sales pitches to library patrons weren't quite what the library had in mind.

On the other hand, a regional shoe manufacturer recently borrowed the space to meet with local shoe dealers, since it had no room for demos. The large library meeting room, she recalls, was filled with shoes.

"We said, 'Yeah, that was OK.' "

Read or Share this story: http://usat.ly/1hpU7rP
Letter: Explore your local library branch
Published: March 10, 2014, 6:00 AM | The Columbian

Public libraries are a resource seldom used to their fullest potential by the average citizen. Sure, they borrow books now and then, but many of them are still oblivious to the other virtues the free public library has to offer. In fact, 55 percent of people within the Fort Vancouver Regional Library's boundaries do not even have library cards, according to their last survey, and it is their plan to switch that number around so that the majority are cardholders. But how will they do this?

First off, the awareness of just what the library has to offer needs to be advertised more both inside the library and out. This can be in forms of signs, posters, even ads. Next, they will have to update their website and make it more user friendly as well as perhaps cater to younger, more tech-savvy users. Not many citizens know that the public library offers classes on tax returns and has a free streaming app for movies, shows, and music, and all you need is your library card.

So go on down and get a library card at your closest branch. You'll be amazed at what they have to offer.

Kendra Johnson

Vancouver
Camano Island Library frequently asked questions

**What's happening?**
In an April 22, 2014 vote, Camano Island residents approved funding of a permanent library on the island through a $2.3 million library capital bond.

**When will the new library open its doors?**
Work will begin in mid-2014 and last 9-12 months. The library is expected to open by early summer 2015.

**Where will the library be located?**
The library will be in the former location of Islander's Restaurant at Terry's Corner, 848 N. Sunrise Blvd., near the interim library.

**Will the current library location be closed during work on the new library?**
We have been successful in extending the lease on the interim library space through May 2014. Our goal is to negotiate a month-to-month agreement to keep interim library service in that space until the new library opens.

**What will be different about a permanent library on Camano Island?**
The new 4,900-square-foot library will be approximately 3,000 square feet larger than the interim library. The additional footage will provide space for:

- More popular book and media titles
- Expanded area to drop off and pick up reserved/hold library materials
- Library activities for children, such as toddler, infant and preschool story times
- Quiet study, comfortable seating
- Additional computers for public use

**What will the cost to property owners?**
Search your property tax statement for the assessed value. The cost of the 10-year bond measure is about 9 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value. For the owner of a home assessed at $250,000, the additional capital bond cost is approximately $22.50 per year.

**How long will taxes be collected for the library?**
Ten years. Property tax collection for the library will begin in 2015.

**How will library bond funds be used?**
The library capital bond will pay for property, permits and impact fees, architectural redesign, remodeling, furnishing, equipment and additional library materials.
What’s Happening