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

- South Hill Library to enhance experience for adult readers
- Bringing everyday people to life for history’s sake
- DIY Fest advertisement
- Farewell reception scheduled for Pierce County Library director
- Familiar book character pumpkin faces at Gig Harbor library
South Hill Library to enhance experience for adult readers

By Andrew Fickes

Staff writerOctober 28, 2014

The South Hill branch of the Pierce County Library, located at 15420 Meridian Avenue, is set to renovate and re-purpose this area of the library into a more user-friendly reading area.

LEE GILES III — Staff photographer Buy Photo

• More information

To Help Out

Patrons of the South Hill Library can make a financial contribution to the project by visiting piercecountylibrary.org/donate and selecting South Hill Library from the dropdown menu. Donations can also be made by a check to PCLF — with South Hill on the memo line — and sent to 3005 112th ST. E., Tacoma 98446.

There is good news afoot for adult readers at the Pierce County Library South Hill branch.
By early March, a new reading lounge area will be featured, complete with relaxing furniture and charging stations for laptop and tablet browsing.

“We’re taking the adult reading area and magazine area and restructuring it for adults,” said Sally Porter Smith, the library system’s customer experience director. “They can read books and plug in their tablet or laptop while their kids are doing homework.”

Smith said the South Hill Library is the fourth busiest library in Washington state. Within the Pierce County Library System, the South Hill branch boasts the highest adult readership.

“In 2013, we checked out 906,000 items,” Smith said. “We have over 31,000 active (library) card holders in South Hill.”

Smith said South Hill is a community of really busy families.

“We want the library to be as convenient and as responsive as possible,” Smith explained. “We want to make it easy and convenient for them and to provide them a comfortable place for them to read.”

A sizable and generous financial gift from an anonymous donor to the Pierce County Library Foundation has now put the library in a good position to add additional furniture and features beyond the original scope of the project.

The anonymous donor asked that the reading lounge be made in honor of Florence Davis, a longtime supporter of the Friends of the South Hill Library. She passed away Sept. 20.

A fundraising campaign that started last spring to help support adult reading enhancements beyond the library’s budget is also $20,000 away from its $150,000 goal.

From Nov. 1-30, the South Hill library will be closed to make time for enhancements to the public restrooms and to replace the building’s worn carpet. During this time patrons will have access to the bookmobile in order to check out and return books. There will also be some computer access. Bookmobile service hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Smith said in addition to the reading lounge, new adult books will be moved to the front of the library close to the lobby for easy self-checkout.

Creation of a large print book section will be made available for adult readers, complete with bench-type seating for easy browsing.

“This makes it much more accessible to them,” Smith added.

Visitors should not expect changes and additions to be made by the end of November; most additions and updates to the reading lounge and other areas will be completed by the end of February into early March.

Andrew Fickes: 253-503-1854 andrew.fickes@puyallupherald.com @herald_andrew

FacebookTwitterGoogle PlusRedditE-mailPrint

Join The Conversation

The Puyallup Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain
Bringing everyday people to life for history’s sake

By Karen Miller
Staff writer, November 5, 2014 | Gateline.com

Tames Alan is a World War I ambulance driver. She’s also from Elizabethan England. She’s also a flapper from the 1920s and hails from Imperial Rome.

Alan, 52, of Lakebay, is living her dream. She runs her own business, Living History Lectures, and performs all over North America in historically accurate costumes.

Every morning she wakes up excited to get to work. With three theater degrees and a history degree, being a historical performer is a mash-up of all her favorite tasks: performing, costuming, researching.

Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula dwellers will have a chance to catch Alan in action this weekend at the Key Center branch of the Pierce County Library.

She’s been touring and performing since 1987. Her main objective is to show, not tell, people about history. She takes on an everyday person in a time period, a contrast to a history that centers on names, dates and battles, she said.

“I try to show people what it was like to live in another time,” she said.

Her latest program is just getting started. Named “Women on the Western Front,” Alan appears in a replica costume of a World War I American ambulance driver working on the front lines. The costume is modeled after one on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Alan said the museum was helpful in the design of the costume, responding to requests for pictures and other information.

Alan plans to highlight the “courage and fortitude,” women displayed on the front lines. She aims to show a side of women in the war not often seen. They weren’t all far behind the front lines — many were right in the thick of it caring for the wounded.

“These women were coming straight out of Edwardian drawing rooms into the horrors of the first world war,” she said.

She shows what people ate and wore. The topic that makes audiences cringe is usually medical care.

In the past, she performed in classrooms more often, but it’s harder for schools to find the funding to bring in enrichment. She also goes into retirement homes, libraries and museums. Anywhere she goes, she wants to get people thinking about the world and the way the world was in the past.
“I know that it hits home and it sticks with people,” she said.

Each performance requires a large amount of research, but Alan doesn’t mind. She loves to research. She knows that she needs to be prepared for questions from the audience about the time period. All that research is the product of collaboration. She’s skeptical about only using the Internet. Additionally, she started researching when the Internet wasn’t prevalent.

Based in Lakebay since 1996, she’s built a special relationship with the library. She said the librarians are familiar with her requests as she dives deep into her programs.

“I use my library well,” she said.

Alan keeps an itinerary of performances on her website, livinghistorylectures.com. She is also active on Facebook, with her own Living History Lectures page that shares photos, facts and upcoming shows.

Karen Miller: 253-358-4155 karen.miller@gateline.com @gateway_karen

http://www.gateline.com/2014/11/05/3472518帶來日常生活的人們的生.html?rh=1
OPENINGS Go West Grand Opening Day at Tacoma Art Museum (FREE) Celebrate the opening of Tacoma Art Museum’s Haub Family Galleries and the stunning new collection of Western American art with free admission, activities, entertainment, a new interactive art studio and more. (Image: ‘Buffalo at Sunset’ by John Nieto.) Saturday, Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

HOT TICKETS Cracking the ‘Nutcracker’ code: Insider guide to productions Whether you want a one-hour show perfect for preschoolers, a full-length classic production, or the details on PNB’s last year of the Sendak-Stowell Nutcracker, we’ve got the goods. Tip: Book soon!

SPECIAL NEEDS Living a Glee-ful life: A special needs event with Lauren Potter ParentMap welcomes families to a special event featuring inspirational Glee actress Lauren Potter along with other speakers and a special needs resource fair. $10 or $20 family of four. Bellevue College. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2–5 p.m.

FESTIVALS + FAIRS Pierce County Library DIY Fest (FREE) Learn from exhibitors and local authors about gardening, farming, keeping animals, household sustainability, handcrafts, living small and other topics for the do-it-yourself crowd. Fruitland Grange, Puyallup. Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Farewell reception scheduled for Pierce County Library director

Staff report, November 5, 2014 | The News Tribune

A public reception for newly retired Pierce County Library Executive Director Neel Parikh will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 6) at Clover Park Technical College’s McGavick Conference Center, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW., in Lakewood.

Parikh retired Nov. 1 after 20 years in the director’s position. She is credited with leading the library through seven annexation elections, one levy election and the opening of four new buildings in what is now an 18-branch library system. In 2013, Pierce County Library earned the National Medal for Museum and Library Service award.

The new library director is Georgia Lomax, who had worked as deputy director under Parikh since 2006.

Familiar pumpkin faces at Gig Harbor library

By Karen Miller

Staff writer, October 29, 2014  | The Peninsula Gateway

This fall, a few familiar faces have popped up in the children’s section at the Gig Harbor library.

Painted pumpkins are made in the likeness of some of the more popular children’s literature characters. There’s a bright red Clifford the Dog, a fanged Bunnicula and an elaborate Rainbow Fish. The pumpkins have been decorated by library staff and volunteers. It was an idea hatched by Youth Services library Holly Smith.

It all led up to a pumpkin decorating contest sponsored by the Friends of the Gig Harbor library last weekend.

Forty-five children and 25 adults turned out to decorate pumpkins with paint, stickers, googly eyes and pipe cleaners, librarian Tamara Saarinen said. Local grocer Harbor Greens provided the pumpkins for decorating, branch manager Joy Kim said.

The event was a success and the library plans on hosting it again next year, library officials said.

The pumpkins will be on display until Nov. 1.

Karen Miller: 253-358-4155 karen.miller@gateline.com @gateway_karen

Clifford the Big Red Dog and Harry Potter greet library visitors during the Halloween season. KAREN MILLER — Gateway photo
Other Libraries

- Puyallup library offers chance to try Minecraft, designer board games at International Games Day
- Tacoma library budget would cut eight positions
- Two letters to the Editor re: Tacoma Library Layoffs
- Software helps Greenfield library track book use
Board game enthusiasts group People Who Like Meeples, shown here at one of their monthly meetups, will be at International Games Day Nov. 15 at the Puyallup Library.

COURTESY PHOTO

For Bart Quicho, it was Carcassonne that got him hooked on board games. Every time Quicho visited the South Hill Mall, he’d stop by the game shop and stare at the tile game that builds a medieval world. Finally, his then-girlfriend got tired of the obsession, and just bought it for him.
Two years later, Quicho says he’s a board game addict — and as the organizer for a local game meetup group, he’ll be showing off a variety of board games Saturday at International Games Day at the Puyallup Library.

Run by the American Library Association with Nordic Game Day and the Australian Library and Information Association, International Games Day has been happening in libraries in 43 countries over the last six years. Thanks to Quicho and his meetup group, People Who Like Meeples, the Puyallup library will not only hold a multiplayer Minecraft and Build Competition, but will offer free gaming time from 2-4 p.m. on a variety of card and board games, from classic to Carcassonne.

“Designer games make you think,” says Quicho. “The rules are simple, but playing them has a lot of depth. They’re easy to learn, hard to master.”

After trying Carcassonne, Quicho realized the game — designed in 2000 by German board game maker Klaus-Jürgen Wrede — wasn’t the Monopoly-style game he’d grown up with. He began to explore more modern games, finding them in the online database BoardGameGeek.com, watching YouTube reviews, and starting the monthly Puyallup meetup group a year ago. He now has about 240 games, with his own inventory on BoardGameGeek.com.

“It’s crazy,” he acknowledges. “It’s gotten out of hand, but I love it.”

Among other things gamers love about designer board games is the use of strategy, unlike many traditional games which rely on luck and dice. Others are thematic, telling a story or providing an experience, like Zombiecide, where players struggle to find weapons and survive in a zombie apocalypse.

If that sounds a lot like a video game, it’s true that both types of games share scenarios. Quicho himself used to be a big online gamer. But, he says, the mechanics of video games and board games differ greatly, and now he appreciates the social, in-real-life aspect of playing board games.

“Because of the Internet, video gamers aren’t there with you,” he says. “Whereas with board games, everyone’s at the table interacting and socializing.”

Among the games Quicho plans to share at International Games Day are Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, and newer titles like Sheriff of Nottingham – as well as Carcassonne. He’s expecting between 10 and 15 of the People Who Like Meeples to be there.

Oh, and a Meeple? It comes from the name of those little man-shaped people used to play Carcassonne and other games.

“You know: man … people … meeple,” Quicho explains. “It’s become a symbol for modern board games.”

International Games Day runs 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian Ave., Puyallup. From 10 a.m.-1 p.m., there’ll be a Minecraft takeover, with a Build Competition in creative mode with prizes. (Ages 7-21, space limited, registration and basic Minecraft knowledge required. Bring your own laptop or use a library one.) From 2-4 p.m., various board and card games will be offered. (All ages, no registration needed.)

More information: 253.841.5454, puyalluplibrary.org, meetup.com/Peoples-Who-Like-Meeple

Rosemary Ponnekanti: 253-597-8568 rosemary.ponnekanti@thenewstribune.com @rose_ponnekanti

FacebookTwitterGoogle PlusRedditE-mailPrint

Join The Conversation
Tacoma library budget would cut eight positions

By Kate Martin
Staff writerOctober 28, 2014

When you find a book on the shelves at any of Tacoma’s eight libraries, chances are you can thank a library page for putting it back in the right spot.

Some of the most experienced of those workers could be gone next year if the City Council passes a proposed 2015-16 budget.

The library director, faced with a mandate from City Manager T.C. Broadnax to make a $400,000 cut without slashing services, has proposed eliminating senior page jobs.

Gone would be eight full-time employees who have nearly 200 years of combined experience and at $13 an hour are among the lowest paid city workers. Remaining to restock shelves would be more than two dozen part-time pages who work no more than 17 hours a week each and don’t qualify for city benefits.

“This is very frustrating,” said Lillian Hunter, president of the library’s board of trustees. “To think it’s not going to affect services in some way is misguided thinking. We need those monies restored to the library budget.”

The senior page positions are the only potential layoffs to emerge so far from an otherwise good-news city budget. City officials are considering adding 110 more workers than were in the budget adopted two years ago.

While reshelving can be done with part-time staff, some say the city has a duty to the senior pages.

The youngest of the senior pages is in her late 40s. The oldest is pushing 70. It’s unlikely they will find another job that also provides full benefits, said Julio Quan, a member of the library’s board of trustees.

Quan said the city has a moral obligation to continue to employ people who have worked for the city for so long.

“It takes time to do it,” he said of the senior pages' job. "It takes a lot of your will to keep doing the same job of shelving books. ... If you are in your 50s, where are you going to get a job? They specialize in shelving books."

The city library budget sits somewhat apart from most of the rest of city government. When the City Council approves the budget, it allocates a dollar amount to the libraries, and the library board decides how it’s spent.

Library Director Susan Odencrantz, who has presided over “several bienniums of layoffs,” said initially that Broadnax asked her what a $1.3 million cut in the library’s budget would look like. In that scenario, the public would have seen reduced hours or closed library branches, fewer youth librarians or cuts to reference staff or the Northwest Room.
Broadnax later gave the library the lower $400,000 target to meet.

“Anything we did was going to impact our staff. It’s a matter of where,” she said. “At this point what the board is trying to do is not make any more service cuts that the public can see.”

Broadnax said avoiding staff cuts by cutting services instead would be the easy route.

“We are not an employment agency,” Broadnax said. “... I’ve very seldom heard any community member talk to me about who does the work. It’s about how long the library will be open and the condition of the library.”

Even with this cut, the public won’t see the impact, Odencrantz said.

“We replace them with half-time people,” she said. “It has to be done anyway. Somebody’s got to shelve those books.”

Dylan Carlson, an official in the union that represents the eight workers, said the pages are the “grunt workers of the library.”

“These folks are the working poor,” Carlson said. “I feel like perhaps they are getting picked on because nobody thought they’d fight back.”

Kate Martin: 253-597-8542 kate.martin@thenewstribune.com @KateReports

Join The Conversation

The News Tribune is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Commenting FAQs | Terms of Service
TACOMA: Library layoffs sure to affect service

Re: "Libraries may shelve cheapest workers" (TNT, 10-29). Tacoma City Manager T.C. Broadnax wants to slash $400,000 from the Tacoma public libraries without slashing services.

Even before I got to that place in the story I was agreeing with Lillian Hunter, president of the library's board of trustees. To think it will not affect services in some way is "misguided thinking," she said.

Broadnax strikes me as the typical thoughtless executive who fails to recognize that it takes people to provide the services he is generously paid to provide.

He says "a community member seldom talks to him about who does the work," it's about whether the service is being performed.

If you have no one shelving books you will soon hear it from your "community members" who will find books strewn all over the library. (Who, however, would miss the services of the city manager and his six-figure assistants?)

Even the union exec paid to represent the pages described them as "grunt workers" and the "working poor," as though they are just above the status of welfare recipient.

They might not be so "poor" if they were paid what they are worth for their productive effort and job loyalty and if the executives produce more to earn their paycheck.

JAMES L. PETERSON
Tacoma
TACOMA: Hypocrisy in library staff cutbacks

Re: "Libraries may shelve cheapest workers" (TNT, 10-29).
Anyone else see the hypocrisy of the mayor selecting "Nickel and Dimed," by Barbara Ehrenreich, for the Tacoma Reads book, yet the city is getting rid of living-wage jobs to replace them with two part-time jobs?
Really? Cutting the lowest-paid employees (eight experienced individuals willing to work for $13 an hour), and leaving the bloated, highly paid upper and middle management intact?
Perhaps no one at the city actually uses the library. Or maybe they just haven't read the book.
DANA L. CLARK
Tacoma
GREENFIELD, Ind. — Some of them are dirty and worn out from years of use. Others have rarely been touched and are considered dead.

From one end of the spectrum to the other, thousands of books at the Hancock County Public Library are under constant evaluation. Loose binding or missing pages? Off the shelf it comes. Never checked out? Into the bargain bin it goes.

Now, new software is helping librarians better manage the stacks. The software, called Collection HQ, has become an important tool to help them better meet local residents' needs. And with an annual budget of more than $800,000 to buy new materials, every bit of information helps.

Take, for example, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians." One day this week, Youth Services manager Cathy Riley held up a paperback copy of the novel - its binding loose, a corner of the cover torn off.

Such grubby, popular books, Riley told the Daily Reporter (http://bit.ly/1xzLOAq), can be hard to keep tabs on.

"We hardly got the chance to see it was grubby because it was checked out again," Riley said.

But Collection HQ raises red flags. It can tell librarians when a book is in heavy circulation and possibly in rough shape.

"The Collection HQ report says, 'The next time they come in, snag them as quickly as you can,'" Riley said.

Some can be repaired. Children's board books can be cleaned. But most of the well-worn books end up in the Friends of the Library book sale. A sale is being held this weekend to raise money for programs at the library. And if a copy of a popular book is retired, the library will order another one (or two or three).

And then there are the "dead" books. These are ones that haven't been checked out in at least four years - probably because there's little to no interest in them.

"Indiana's Academic Standards" - the 2000 edition - is an example. Barbara Roark, assistant director of the library, said outdated editions with old information are no longer useful. Likewise, plenty of hardcover novels are simply outdated. People want the newer books.

But just because Collection HQ says a book is dead doesn't necessarily mean it should be removed. It's important to put some human brain power behind the process as well, Roark said. Classics by William Shakespeare or Charles Dickens are something every library should keep on hand, even if they're not hopping off the shelves, she said.
Librarians gave a presentation on the software this week at the library board meeting. It's been in place for a year, and staff members have mostly been using it to weed out books so far. Now, they'll use it as a tool to help them select new materials.

Jesse Keljo, adult services manager, said the software can aid the library's selectors. These 11 people are responsible for choosing materials the library will acquire. There's a selector for board books for the youngest readers all the way to one who picks video games. The Sugar Creek Branch and Techmobile have their own selectors as well.

Keljo said the software can also pull data from every other library in its system to pinpoint the most popular books throughout the country. The Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond, for example, has the most popular cookbooks.

Keljo said the library already has copies of the most popular books, but it's still helpful to see trends.

Technology aside, selectors still use tried-and-true methods to choose materials. Book reviews are helpful, and Riley said knowledge of the community - including word-of-mouth - is key. Children and teens especially want to see new and trendy items on the shelves.

"Children are visual. If they see old stuff - yuck. If they don't see the stuff they recognize - yuck," Riley said. "They start connecting 'yuck' with the library."

The staff also uses the information to figure out what books are not popular but still have potential of gaining interest. Roark said librarians sometimes pull poorly circulated books into a special display to see if they can revive interest among readers.

The library has $833,000 budgeted for 2015 to buy new materials. Of that, $338,500 is earmarked for electronic media like e-books; $286,000 is going to printed books; $15,000 to periodicals and $193,500 to non-print items, including DVDs and CDs.

Library director Dave Gray said the software - at roughly $7,000 - is worth the investment.

"With the size of the collections and how much we spend, we want to make the best decisions we can," he said.

---


This is an AP Member Exchange shared by the Daily Reporter.
What’s Happening

- Book of the Month club has readers on the same page
- CPTC: President reflects on his first year of tenure
- New executive leader at Rescue Mission
- Eatonville rejects public safety levy
- State revenue up in final 2014 forecast
- South Puget Sound News closed
Book of the Month club has readers on the same page

By Karen Miller
Staff writer, November 5, 2014 | Gateline.com

In downtown Gig Harbor, Mostly Books has been part of the community for decades, even outlasting large retailers.

Judy Park, the children’s and young adult book buyer for the store, says in an age of e-readers, box stores and more, local bookstores are a rarity.

“It would be sad if this bookstore weren’t here,” Park said. “The whole world is filled with box stores.”

But Mostly Books has rooted itself in Harbor life for around four decades, and after the close of giant retailer Borders, many customers have returned.

Park selects books for adults as one of the two book pickers for Mostly Books’ Book of the Month club, which has been around for eight to 10 years, she said. Along with her coworker Donna Bucholz, books are selected for a three- to four-month period. Park and Bucholz each pick two books. The selections are, Park hopes, a discovery for readers.

“They tend to be books that are not bestsellers,” Park said. The caveat is the books must be well-written.

The next cycle starts Jan. 1, but Park and Bucholz are selecting books by Dec. 1 to prepare for orders. There are two ways to pick up books in the club: In store or by mail. Books from in store have 15 percent off the cover price; books that are mailed have free shipping and handling. There are several out-of-state customers, Park said.

The books are wrapped in simple brown paper, to add extra element of surprise for the opener.

Park has been with the store since she retired as a teacher 15 years ago. Previously, she taught kindergarten through third grade at a one-room schoolhouse in rural California. There, she was not only a teacher but a librarian, too, as the school had a very small staff.

Her main goal is finding quality literature for readers of all levels. That’s why she keeps her Newberry and Caldecott award-winning books in stock and sticks with authors she has read. There’s always the classics, too, such as “Babar the Elephant” and “George and Martha.” For teens, she tries to break free from the overly saturated dystopian and paranormal fiction. She tries to find novels for young adults that are either historical or focus on problem solving.

“I usually read everything I bring into the store for young adults,” she said.

In the age of Amazon, Mostly Books offers something altogether different. Park says she tries to recommend books off the beaten path, things that can’t be found in a chain store. If a book isn’t on the shelf, she said, it’s simple to order.

“This little store has hung on,” Park said. “We outlasted Borders ... and we’re still here.”

Karen Miller: 253-358-4155 karen.miller@gateline.com @gateway_karen

CPTC: President reflects on his first year of tenure

NOVEMBER 11, 2014 BY TAWNY DOTSON | THE SUBURBAN TIMES

This September marked the one-year anniversary of Dr. Lonnie L. Howard’s tenure as president of Clover Park Technical College. Since he started Sept. 16, 2013 Dr. Howard has implemented many changes to give CPTC a more strategic focus.

Highlights from the last year under Dr. Howard’s leadership include creating a clear strategic direction for the college, an increase in online and evening courses, the launch of the college’s first bachelor’s degree program, removing the graduation fee and awarding the college’s first honorary degree.

Dr. Howard sat down to reflect on the past year, and to look at where the college has come from and where it will continue to go.

Q: What was your first order of business as CPTC president when you started Sept. 16, 2013?

Dr. Howard: To talk about my vision. Before I started as president I went through and read everything that I could about Clover Park. I began to think about things I had done in my past in terms of some of the successes I had and figured which could be implemented at Clover Park. How could they be improved to help take Clover Park to the next level? In addition to that, what were those components at Clover Park that I could take what I knew and use the existing resources and mesh it together and come up with something that would not only benefit our college, but our community as well.

Q: What was your vision for the college, and has it changed in the last year?

Dr. Howard: My vision from day one has been very clear in terms of our strategic priorities: To increase student success and educational access, to be more responsive to the local community and to business and industry, and as an institution to become more entrepreneurial. That’s why I’m so delighted we’re one of two colleges in the state of Washington to recently receive a $2.5 million grant from the federal government. That’s huge.

Q: What has been your personal highlight of your first year?

Dr. Howard: I just love Ms. Elnora Medley (Cosmetology Program volunteer). She has served the college over 50 years in a volunteer capacity, and prior to my tenure here no one gave her a pat on the back. She was using her own resources, time, money and effort to support our students. With the faculty’s approval, to be able to present her the college’s very first honorary degree, this is the highpoint of my 22-year career.

Q: Why was it important to you to create and personally fund the President’s Scholarship?

Dr. Howard: From my career having worked as a janitor, having walked in the shoes of poverty and really being able to identify with the hardships and obstacles that many students face, I made a personal promise to myself that should I ever rise out of that situation there are two things I would do: 1, I would try to reach back and help as many as I can; and 2, if I ever had additional resources I would commit those resources to help.
Q: What makes CPTC stand out among other two-year colleges?

**Dr. Howard:** Faculty and staff. I have worked at Tier-I research universities, four-year colleges, community colleges and now a technical college. Clover Park really does put students first. It’s more than a slogan, it’s a reality here. That’s what made me want to be a president here. I wanted to be at a college that reflected my own personal and professional values.

Q: How have you faced some of the challenges at CPTC?

**Dr. Howard:** There haven’t been any challenges. To me, to say we have challenges says we almost face insurmountable odds. I see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Q: What does the *Clover Park way* mean to you?

**Dr. Howard:** It’s neighbors helping neighbors. To me, that’s the Clover Park way. No one that comes to our campus is ever a stranger. We have this culture where we want to help each other. For many of our 7,199 students, we might be their last chance. We take that to heart. The Clover Park way is ingrained in all of us.

Q: What are you most proud of?

**Dr. Howard:** I am most pleased about how far we’ve come as an institution in a very short period of time. We have put together a strategic plan that identifies strategic priorities that work. More personally, it’s the level of acceptance that faculty and staff have shown me. I feel like this is my family. We have a great Board of Trustees who work very well together, we have a great leadership team, and amazing faculty and staff. They are the people who really make the magic happen. I’m just delighted to be a part of the team.

Q: With the first year complete, what is your outlook on the second year?

**Dr. Howard:** Year two will begin with an assessment of year one, where we will take a very realistic look at what worked and what didn’t work as well, and where we can improve the process. As a good leader, I need to go outside my concentric circle and really engage the faculty and staff who are in the trenches. That’s what I’ve tried to do with our shared governance model. Regardless of their rank or title, I think each person has an idea to bring to the table.

The post *CPTC President Reflects on His First Year of Tenure* appeared first on *In the Spotlight.*
New executive leader at Rescue Mission

Nov 7, 2014 - 03:35 PM | The Business Examiner

The Rescue Mission in Tacoma announced its new executive director this week. He is Mike Johnson, currently men's shelter and special project director for Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, where he has been for seven years.

“In Mike, we found someone who has strong connections to both the work of The Rescue Mission and to the Tacoma -- South Sound region,” said Rescue Mission board vice chair Kevin Phelps, deputy County Executive. “But even more importantly, we found someone who exhibits a strong connect to the most important group of people -- the individuals we love and serve each and every day at the Rescue Mission.”

Johnson holds a Masters in Ministry from Pepperdine University and Bachelor’s in Bible from Abilene Christian University. From 1990 to 1994, he served in the Army Rangers. He and wife Dena have been married for 23 years and are parents to seven adopted children, three of whom were born in Tacoma.

The new leadership announcement came at the group’s annual Give Hope Luncheon, which also raised some $85,000 to support operations at The Rescue Mission.

Eatonville rejects public safety levy

8:52 pm November 4th, 2014

A request by town officials in Eatonville for more property taxes to pay for public safety is being rejected by voters. In unofficial results from the general election that ended Tuesday, 63 percent of the votes were against it. The measure requires a 60 percent approval to pass.

Of the 1,600-plus registered voters in Eatonville, about 40 percent had returned their ballots as of Tuesday, according to the Pierce County elections department.

The levy would add $342,876 in property taxes in the town to help cover the cost of public safety in 2015. The levy would raise taxes by $2 per $1,000 of assessed valuation and would be collected only for next year, which is when town officials say Eatonville will face a $270,000 shortfall in public safety funding. To continue past 2015, the levy would have to be on the ballot in next year’s election and be approved by voters.

As an example of the additional tax bill for landowners, taxes would have gone up $200 next year for property assessed at $100,000.

Mayor Mike Schaub and other officials have said a long-term, sustainable source of funding for police and fire protection is needed.

To reduce costs, the town has replaced its fire and police chiefs with new chiefs hired on a contract basis from South Pierce Fire and Rescue and the Pierce County Sheriff Department, respectively. The possibility of merging Eatonville’s fire department with South Pierce as another money-saving move has been discussed.
State revenue up in final 2014 forecast

Nov 19, 2014 - 03:21 PM | The Business Examiner

Modest growth in tax revenues forecast as released this morning in Olympia means state legislators won't have a windfall to dispense when they meet in January.

The net forecast change for the current 2013-2015 biennium is up $107.9 million, less than 1 percent above the earlier forecast target.

“We expect the moderate pace of the economic recovery to continue in both the U.S. and Washington economies,” wrote Steve Lerch, chief economist for the state Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. “Factors outside the state account for the high level of risk to the forecast, including slowing Chinese, Japanese and European economies.

A relative burst in real estate sales taxes collected from the elevated level of high-value commercial properties sold is expected to diminish more slowly than thought in September, resulting in a forecast increase of $31 million. Lower oil prices, on the other hand, are having a negative impact on petroleum-related B&O tax collections.

Overall, this final forecast of the calendar year places the two-year total state revenue collections at $33.440 bill, which is 9.1 percent higher than was collected in the 2011-2013 biennium. The ERFC view of the following budget cycle is for $36.319 billion, which is 8.6 percent higher than the current cycle forecast. You can read the whole report here.

C.E.M. Communications L.L.C. has made the difficult decision to shut down South Puget Sound News. Running an online news website requires more staff, capital and energy than the resources currently available. South Puget Sound News grew from nothing to a respected news site that received well over 10K viewers a month. It was double that during breaking news. Readers and some advertisers have supported the site since 2011. That support was greatly appreciated. C.E.M. Communications L.L.C. will continue to operate for smaller projects such as editing or writing press releases and pitching them to news organizations. Small-scale event photography is also available. All of these services are available on a fee basis.

- Be sure to check C.E.M. Communications L.L.C. Facebook page for community event information.