

## Pierce County Library FYI Packet

### Pierce County Library in the News

- [Talented teens express creativity in library's writing and art contest](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Take a swing at U.S. Open events with Pierce County Library](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [New feature lets Pierce County Library customers request purchase of e-titles](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Bonney Lake High, Glacier Middle School students place in Pierce County Library art contest](#) (The Bonney Lake-Sumner Courier-Herald)
- ['Get Smart' with expanded technology resources at Pierce County Library](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Tacoma and Puyallup students win big in library card design contest](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [South Hill Library pilots new Christian fiction collection](#) (The Puyallup Herald)—Front Page
- [Free tech help for veterans from Pierce County Library System](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Free tech-readiness courses for unemployed starting at Pierce County libraries](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Mini-golf tournament finals at University Place Library](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [Chambers Bay author Blaine Newnham at University Place Library](#) (The Suburban Times)
- [New Pierce County Library director delights in life on open seas](#) (See attached PDF)

### What's Happening

- [Legislative support will expand STEM degrees at UWT](#) (The News Tribune)
- [Subscription library to offer not just books — quiet, too](#) (The Seattle Times)

# New Pierce County Library director delights in life on open seas

By Andrew Fickes

Staff writer May 4, 2015



Georgia Lomax, the Pierce County Library's executive director, is an accomplished sailboat racer. This past January, Lomax participated in the U.S. Sailing World Cup in Miami. Her 25-foot vessel, The Valkyrie, is moored in Tacoma along the Thea Foss Waterway. LEE GILES III — Staff photographer [Buy Photo](#)

Last July, Georgia Lomax, a Sumner resident and executive director of the Pierce County Library System, performed a feat few people can master: She and a team of seven other sailors competed on a 46-foot sailboat named New Haven, traversing thousands of ocean miles between Victoria, British Columbia and the island of Maui.

The team finished third overall in the Vic-Maui, going up against more than 20 competitive sailing teams.

“You need to be in good shape to compete,” Lomax, 56, said. “Sailing is a mental game. There is a lot of strategy involved, paying attention and trying to guess what your competitor is doing.

There are so many elements that aren't in your control. You have to learn how to use those elements in your favor. It's a puzzle and a game."

During the Vic-Maui, fortunately, the elements were in the team's favor.

"The weather on the Vic-Maui was incredibly good," Lomax said.

Last winter, Lomax and her sailboat teammate, Alexia Fisher, competed in the U.S. Sailing World Cup in Miami, a qualifying event for the U.S. Olympic sailing team. They finished well enough to be appointed to the U.S. Olympic development team, which basically qualified them as alternates.

For more than 20 years, Lomax has delved deeply into her passion for sailing, much like you would a good book.

In fact, it was a book that she checked out on how to sail, while working as executive director of the Flathead County Library System in Montana, which put her on this path.

"I started sailing in Kalispell, Montana on Flathead Lake," Lomax said. "I always wanted to sail."

During her time in Montana, Lomax came across a Venture 21 sailboat. She purchased it from a private seller. The people selling the boat were also getting into competitive sailing and were seeking out people to start a team.

"I bought a boat and checked out a book on sailing," she said.

Two years later Lomax replaced her Venture 21 with a 25-foot Catalina sailboat called The Valkyrie. The name came with the boat and Lomax says it's bad luck to change the name.

All this time while sailing competitively, Lomax has also enjoyed an award-winning and highly impactful career in managing library systems.

Lomax, named a "Mover and Shaker" by the "Library Journal" in 2010, joined the Pierce County Library System in 2006 as deputy director.

Last November, she was promoted to replace retiring director Neel Parikh. Lomax is the fourth executive director in the library system's 68-year history.

Lomax docks her 25-foot Catalina sailboat at the Foss Harbor Marina on Tacoma's waterfront. On any given weekend and many evenings she sails locally both leisurely and competitively.

Much of what is necessary in sailing is also applicable to managing the fourth largest library system in Washington state, she said.

“Being attentive, adaptable and flexible (like in sailing) is critical in library management,” the 56-year-old explained. “Sailing is also about teamwork. Libraries wouldn’t do what they do without great teams.”

Lomax is at the helm at a time when libraries everywhere are grappling with staying relevant in the digital age. She said her job moving forward is to work with the diverse communities of Pierce County to determine what individuals and families need to succeed.

“Libraries aren’t about the books, the computers, the help they provide,” Lomax said. “Libraries are about what you do with those things that we provide. The look of a book will change and evolve. Part of what is cutting edge is staying current on what’s out there.”

Much like a sailor must heed to the winds, the weather and the current, Lomax is doing the same at steering the library system — anticipating what’s coming next on the horizon, to ensure library patrons have the right tools for success.

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## **Join The Conversation**

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**2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALENDAR OF WORK**

Date	Strategic/Policy	Routine
<b>January 14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 Board of Trustees Calendar of Work</li> <li>• Board Code of Conduct/Ethics</li> <li>• Leadership Academy</li> <li>• Employee Communication Survey</li> <li>• Compensation Study</li> <li>• E-Rate Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Statement</li> <li>• 2015 Legislative Day</li> <li>• STAR Libraries</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b><i>Jan 30-Feb 3 American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Chicago IL</i></b>		
<b>February 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Open at the Library Preview</li> <li>• Open Hours</li> <li>• Annual Branch Service Plans- 2014 Evaluation</li> <li>• 2015 Library Legislative Day</li> <li>• Trustee Policy on Ethics, Conduct and Responsibilities</li> <li>• Strategic Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Statement</li> <li>• 2015 Legislation Related to Libraries</li> <li>• 2015 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement</li> <li>• PC Reads Preview</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> <li>• Introduce New R&amp;M Director</li> </ul>
<b>March 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fife Library Update - Surrounding Development</li> <li>• Trustee Vacancy Process (Al Rose's term exp. 7/20/15)</li> <li>• Meaningful Metrics</li> <li>• 2015 Work Plan/Strategic Planning Process</li> <li>• Employee Engagement Survey</li> <li>• Employee Communications Work Plan</li> <li>• Leadership Competencies/Development</li> <li>• Compensation Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Statement</li> <li>• PC Reads Update</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> <li>• WLA Presentations</li> <li>• Library Legislation</li> </ul>
<b>April 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 Reciprocal Borrowing Report</li> <li>• Strategic Planning Process</li> <li>• Fife Library Update - Surrounding Development</li> <li>• E-Rate Program</li> <li>• 2015 Laptop Labs</li> <li>• Trustee Vacancy Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b><i>April 15 - 17 Oregon Library Association/Washington Library Association (OLA/WLA) Conference, Marysville WA</i></b>		
<b>May 13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 Year-End Financial Review</li> <li>• Repositioning Card Drive Resources</li> <li>• Trustee Branch Visits</li> <li>• Trustee Vacancy Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• ULC Innovations Initiative</li> <li>• IRS Tax Form 990</li> <li>• Summer Reading Program</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> <li>• PC Reads Results</li> </ul>
<b>June 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 Capital Projects – Year End Report</li> <li>• 2015 Mid-Year Budget Process</li> <li>• Legal Counsel</li> <li>• Trustee Vacancy Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• Our Own Expressions</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b><i>June 25 -30 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, San Francisco CA</i></b>		

Date	Strategic/Policy	Routine
<b>July 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Operating Budget</li> <li>♦ Capital Improvement Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• IRS Tax Form 990 Final Review</li> <li>• Evaluate Electronic FYI Packet</li> </ul>
<b>August 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Budget: Budget Process and Calendar</li> <li>• 2016 CPIU</li> <li>• 2016 Labor Negotiations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b>September 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Budget: Estimated Revenue and Expenditures</li> <li>• Long Term Capital Project Projections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• Library Card Campaign</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b>October 21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Revenue and Expenditures Draft</li> <li>• 2016 Materials Budget Summary</li> <li>• 2016 Preliminary Levy Certification</li> <li>• 2015 IPD for 2015 Property Tax Levy</li> <li>• 2016 – 2019 Cash Flow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Statement</li> <li>• Set 2016 Board Meeting Schedule</li> <li>• Pierce County Library Foundation Annual Report</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b>November 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Public Hearing Regarding 2016 Budget</li> <li>• Review of Draft 2016 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Review And Approval To Certify Property Taxes To Be Levied For Collection in 2016</li> <li>• Review Of Regular 2015 Capital Improvement Budget And 2016 Capital Improvement Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• <i>Resolution</i>: Schedule of Recurring Meetings</li> <li>• Summer Reading Program Report</li> <li>• United Way Day of Caring</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>
<b>December 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Public Hearing Regarding 2016 Budget</li> <li>• Resolution to transfer a portion of the fund balance of the general fund to the capital improvement fund</li> <li>• Resolution to Adopt 2016 Budget</li> <li>• Resolution to Adopt 2016 Capital Improvement Fund Budget</li> <li>• Motion to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2016 (if needed)</li> <li>• Resolution to set 2016 wages for non-represented staff</li> <li>• 2016 Election of Officers</li> <li>• Negotiate 2016 Executive Director Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Dashboard</li> <li>• Monthly Financial Report</li> <li>• <i>Resolution</i>: Cancellation of unredeemed warrants</li> <li>• 2016 Insurance Renewal</li> <li>• Executive Director Activities</li> </ul>