



AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00pm

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82309733444>

Meeting ID: 823 0973 3444

Passcode: 374237

OR

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US

6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval ACTION
3. Chair Announcements INFORMATION
4. Reports: INFORMATION
 - 4.1 FVRL COVID-19 Response/Organizational Report
 - 4.2 Branch Reports – Cascade Park and Vancouver Mall
 - 4.3 Ridgefield Community Library and Operations Center – Updates
5. Consent Agenda ACTION
 - 5.1 Minutes Approval: January 19, 2020 meeting
 - 5.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Kelly Smith
 - 5.3 2020 Public Works Contracts (list)
6. Business ACTION
 - 6.1 FVRL Operations Center Construction Agreement (AIA A103) ACTION
 - 6.2 Yale Valley Library District Operating Agreement INFORMATION
 - 6.3 Vehicle Usage Policy – First Reading INFORMATION
 - 6.4 Annual Board retreat INFORMATION
7. Board comments
8. Setting of next regular meeting – Monday, March 15, 2021 (Virtual)
9. Adjournment

1007 E MILL PLAIN BLVD. VANCOUVER WASHINGTON 98663 • 360-906-5000 • www.fvrl.org

Library locations: Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson,
Three Creeks, Vancouver, Vancouver Mall, Washougal, White Salmon Valley, Woodland, Yacolt, Yale



FEBRUARY 2021 - ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

1. COVID-19 Service & Staffing Response

- Responding to new Phase 1 and 2 guidelines for libraries - issued 1/25, revised 1/29
- Investigation and Advocacy re: vaccine opportunities and requirements
- Planning to start Library in 5 in late February
- Preparing for next level of Library to start in Phase 2

2. Operations Center Update

- Walkthrough with insurance counsel
- Asbestos abatement
- Review of building by City of Vancouver

2018-2020 Strategic Priorities

- **Supporting Student Success**

Continuing work with school districts as requested

- **Building Connected Communities**

Mural Project for Cascade Park Community Library with Clark County Mural Society

- **Fostering a Culture of Innovation**

Calling patrons who have not used the library since March 14, 2020

Chromebook lending model/remote assistance pilot

WA State Library Grant for boosted wifi

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

- Washington Public Library Directors Meeting (weekly)
- Legislative Committee call with Public Libraries of Washington (weekly)
- Urban Libraries Council (bi-monthly Director's call)
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation Board Meeting (monthly)
- Yale Valley Library District Board of Trustees Meeting (monthly)
- ALA Midwinter Virtual Meeting (Jan. 22-25)
- Clark County Nature Network Meeting
- Columbia River Economic Development Association Annual Meeting
- Library Friends' meetings - Washougal, Ridgefield
- Municipal Research and Services Association class - Updates to OPMA and PRA
- Columbian Clark County Economic Forecast Forum
- Statewide Broadband Council

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

Statement Of Revenue - Calendar Year 2021
For the Month Ending January 2021 (With year-to-date totals)

	2021 Budget (Approved 12/20)	January 2021 Revenues	All Revenue Received thru January 2021	Year - to - Date Annual Budget Percent	
Property Taxes					
311.10	Property Taxes - Clark	\$23,469,214	\$68,458	\$68,458	0.29%
311.10	Property Taxes - Skamania	\$664,136	\$29,706	\$29,706	4.47%
311.10	Property Taxes - Klickitat	\$1,196,404	\$34,655	\$34,655	2.90%
311.10	Property Taxes - Cowlitz	\$326,395	\$494	\$494	0.15%
	Total Property Taxes	\$25,656,149	\$133,313	\$133,313	0.52%
Other Taxes					
311.11	Other General Tax	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
318.20	Leasehold Excise Tax	\$92,000	\$2,461	\$2,461	2.68%
	Total Other Taxes	\$92,000	\$2,461	\$2,461	2.68%
Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts					
332.00	Federal in-lieu of Taxes	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
333.00	Grants through ESD 112	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
336.02	State In-lieu of Taxes	\$0	\$6,543	\$6,543	0.00%
334.84	State Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
335.05	State Forest Boards	\$170,000	\$4,307	\$4,307	2.53%
338.72	Yale Valley Library Dist	\$730,000	\$233,033	\$233,033	31.92%
338.72	INET City of Vancouver (PEG)	\$61,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
338.72	Contracts - Clark County Jail	\$500	\$500	\$500	100.00%
	Total Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts	\$966,500	\$244,383	\$244,383	25.29%
Charges for Services					
341.60	Equipment Use Fees	\$20,000	\$118	\$118	0.59%
347.21	Non-Resident Borrower Fee	\$2,000	\$223	\$223	11.14%
347.90	Lost / Damaged Material Fee	\$5,000	\$625	\$625	12.49%
347.50	Collection Agency Referral Fee	\$5,000	\$70	\$70	1.40%
	Total Charges for Services	\$32,000	\$1,035	\$1,035	3.23%
Miscellaneous					
361.11	Investment Interest	\$177,000	\$14,427	\$14,427	8.15%
362.00	Rental Income	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	0.00%
367.09	Restricted Contribution - GD	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
367.10	Gifts/Contributions	\$3,351	\$505	\$505	0.00%
369.90	Library Friends Groups' Reimbursements	\$660,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
369.90	Library Foundation Reimbursements	\$2,136,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
369.40	Insurance Reimbursements	\$1,500,000	\$1,921,832	\$1,921,832	128.12%
369.90	Miscellaneous	\$8,500	\$18	\$18	0.21%
367.11	Private Grants	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	0.00%
369.90	Postage Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
369.90	Other Miscellaneous - E-Rate	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
395.00	Sale of Assets	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%
	Total Miscellaneous	\$4,701,851	\$1,936,782	\$1,936,782	41.19%
	Total Operating Revenue	\$31,448,500	\$2,317,975	\$2,317,975	7.37%
	Transfer in from Reserves	0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
	Total Revenues and Transfer from Reserve	\$31,448,500	\$2,317,975	\$2,317,975	7.37%

1/12 months = 8.33%

Jan.-Dec. 2021 Fiscal Year

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Statement of Expenses - Calendar Year 2021
For the Month Ending January 2021 (With year-to-date totals)

<u>Bars</u>	<u>Description</u>	2021 Budget (Approved 12/20)	January 2021 Expenditures	Year-to-Date Totals thru January 2021	Year to Date Annual Budget Percentage
Personnel					
572.00	Wages	11,563,314	894,692	894,692	7.74%
572.24	Benefit - Medical	2,501,458	212,734	212,734	8.50%
572.24	Benefit - Dental	306,644	23,385	23,385	7.63%
572.24	Benefit - Life, LTD, STD	132,891	8,118	8,118	6.11%
572.22	Benefit - PERS	1,459,354	113,429	113,429	7.77%
572.21	Benefit - FICA	871,318	66,721	66,721	7.66%
572.25	Benefit - L & I - Workers Compensation	117,603	5,236	5,236	4.45%
572.25	Benefit - PFML	17,941	1,313	1,313	7.32%
572.28	Unemployment Expense	10,000	0	0	0.00%
	Personnel Subtotal:	16,980,523	1,325,628	1,325,628	7.81%
Supplies					
572.30	Supplies	400,000	44,129	44,129	11.03%
572.35	Small Equipment (FF&E)	500,000	10,719	10,719	2.14%
572.38	Technology	525,000	17,859	17,859	3.40%
572.33	Professional Collection / Tech	300,000	7,384	7,384	2.46%
	Supplies & Small Equipmt/Tech Subtotal:	1,725,000	80,091	80,091	4.64%
Library Books / Materials					
572.34	Library Books & Materials	2,400,000	89,347	89,347	3.72%
572.39	Electronic Resources	1,400,000	15,467	15,467	1.10%
	Library Materials Subtotal:	3,800,000	104,814	104,814	2.76%
Other Services / Charges					
572.41	Professional Services	1,238,000	82,744	82,744	6.68%
572.42	Communications	419,400	24,319	24,319	5.80%
572.43	Training / Travel	108,000	99	99	0.09%
572.44	Advertising	29,000	545	545	1.88%
572.45	Rentals / Leases	519,200	81,798	81,798	15.75%
572.46	Insurance	223,700	-7,525	-7,525	-3.36%
572.47	Utilities	408,500	24,877	24,877	6.09%
572.48	Repairs & Maintenance	775,000	11,120	11,120	1.43%
572.49	Misc / Dues / Printing / Other	131,200	9,156	9,156	6.98%
572.50	Intergovernmental Services	2,500	240	240	9.60%
	Other Charges & Services Subtotal:	3,854,500	227,373	227,373	5.90%
Capital Outlay					
572.62	Buildings / Non-Owned	2,000,000	0	0	0.00%
594.62	Buildings / Owned	2,000,000	339,799	339,799	16.99%
597.62	Yale Project	730,000	92,820	92,820	12.72%
594.64	Machinery & Equipment	196,477	5,444	5,444	2.77%
	Capital Outlay Subtotal:	4,926,477	438,063	438,063	8.89%
Reserved Amount					
572.41	Professional Services-2021 Projects	0	0	0	0.00%
		0	0	0	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures:		\$ 31,286,500	\$ 2,175,969	\$ 2,175,969	6.95%
Total Reserved Projects		162,000	0	0	0.00%
Grand Total All Expenditures:		\$ 31,448,500	\$ 2,175,969	\$ 2,175,969	6.92%

January is the 1st month of the fiscal year. Year-to-date budget percentages should be at 8.33%, representing 1/12 months.

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Public Meeting**

January 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ATTENDEES: All participation was virtual per Governor's proclamation #20-25.2.

Board Members: Kelly Smith, Jane Higgins, Kate Maple, Kelsi Gilkey

Excused: Brian Carrico, Sandra Day, Mary Ann Duncan Cole

Administrative Team: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director; Lynne Caldwell, Collection & Technology Services Director; Dave Josephson, Facilities Director; Justin Keeler, Outreach & Community Partnerships Director; Amy Lee, Public Services Director; Tak Kendrick, Communications & Marketing Director; Carrie Greenwood, Finance Director; Lee Strehlow, Human Resources Director; Recording: Sami Bretherton, Executive Assistant

1. AGENDA

MOTION: Kate Maple moved and Jane Higgins seconded approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith welcomed the Board and community members and appreciates their attendance.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Executive Director's Organizational Report and FVRL COVID-19 Response

Shelley and the FVRL Administrative team reported on the work the library district is doing to continue to serve our patrons and support our employees during the pandemic.

Shelley would like to convene a Facilities Committee Meeting this month. Smith thanked the staff for challenges during this difficult year.

3.2 District-Wide Branch Report

Shelley and Lee gave an overview of the work of the branches district-wide.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes Approval – December 14, 2020 meeting

4.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Jane Higgins

Higgins thanked the Administrative Team for the reserves explanation and is glad that we had one. Thank you to the Finance Team for their year-end work.

MOTION: Kate Maple moved and Kelly Smith seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 2021 Work Plan

Shelley and the Administrative team presented an overview of FVRL’s Strategic Priorities and projects on the docket for 2021.

5.2 Vehicle Usage Policy

This is the first reading of this policy and would be the creation of a new policy. Should the policy be in the Personnel Manual or should it be a separate policy? Board members are asked to please read the draft policy with that in mind. The second reading will take place at the next Board meeting.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Written comments were received from Kirk VanGelder, Eduard Goncharuk, Richard Rylander, Elya, Andrew Jonke, Marisha Milaya, Cilla Matson, Margo Logan, Dennis Fuqua, Anatoliy Ladunskiy, Gary Wilson.

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Gilkey thanked the staff for their hard work during this Covid pandemic. She appreciates our efforts for community engagement even though we can’t be out in our communities.

Smith noted that the Board had received a number of comments from the public for this meeting. Some were specific to our budget and she wanted to ensure the public that FVRL is an open book and happy to address any questions. Smith wanted to assure the public that we act in the best interest of the community. Thank you to the public for participating in that way. The Board of Trustees reads all of the comments received.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (virtual).

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Approved:

Kelly Smith, Chair

Date

Jane Higgins, Vice Chair

Date

BOARD COVER WORKSHEET

BOARD DATE: **February 16, 2021**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Warrant Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Void/Cancel Amounts</u>
Accounts Payable			
January 6, 2021	111413-111449	71,931.70	
January 15, 2021	111450-111490	68,092.64	
January 20, 2021	111491-111545	506,856.48	
January 27, 2021	111546-111597	473,368.86	
Total Accounts Payable Warrants Issued		1,120,249.68	

Accounts Payable EFT Payments			
January 8, 2021	EFT00826	375.00	
January 22, 2021	EFT00827-EFT00831	40,271.61	
January 29, 2021	EFT00832-EFT00857	21,421.14	
Total Accounts Payable EFT Payments		62,067.75	

Accounts Payable Voids and Cancels			
January 15, 2021	111365		37,839.84
			37,839.84

Total ADP ACH Auto Pull			
January 7, 2021		316,450.54	
January 7, 2021	State Family & Medical Leave	1,840.51	
January 7, 2021	Federal	103,257.63	
January 7, 2021	Oregon	3,338.55	
January 22, 2021		299,044.73	
January 22, 2021	State Family & Medical Leave	1,738.26	
January 22, 2021	Federal	96,487.85	
January 22, 2021	Oregon	3,133.58	
Total Payroll Direct Deposit Transfers		825,291.65	

ACH EFT Transfer			
January 14, 2021	Unclaimed Property	2,291.17	
January 25, 2021	WA Department of Revenue	7,005.16	
January 26, 2021	Kaiser	16,543.81	
January 28, 2021	Kaiser	52.00	
January 11, 2021	WA Dept of Retirement	6,291.85	
January 15, 2021	WA Dept of Retirement	93,957.03	
January 19, 2021	WA Dept of Retirement	414.64	
January 26, 2021	WA Dept of Retirement	6,228.26	
January 27, 2021	WA Dept of Retirement	87,678.81	
Total ACH EFT Transfers		220,462.73	

Subtotal FVRL General Fund Warrants, Transfers, Direct Deposits, Voids	2,228,071.81	37,839.84
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Total Funds to Approve for Disbursement		2,190,231.97
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Finance Director Reviewed Carrie Greenwood

Date 2/15/2021

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Approval of Claims

As of

February 16, 2021

As required by RCW 42.24.080 and RCW 42.24.090, vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District and those expense reimbursement claims which have been certified as required, have been recorded on a list and made available to the Board of Directors for approval.

As of this date, February 16, 2021, The Board of Directors, by a _____
 vote does approve for payment the following vouchers, warrants, voids, and electronic transfers issued
January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021

Accounts Payable Warrants Issued	Numbers	<u>111413</u>	Through	<u>111597</u>	<u>\$ 1,120,249.68</u>
Accounts Payable EFT Payments		<u>EFT00826</u>	Through	<u>EFT00857</u>	<u>62,067.75</u>
Accounts Payable Warrants Voided	Numbers	111365			<u>(\$ 37,839.84)</u>
Payroll Warrants Issued	Numbers	_____	Through	_____	<u>\$ -</u>
Payroll Transactions Voided	Numbers	_____			<u>(\$ -)</u>
Payroll Direct Deposits Issued	Numbers	<u>1/7/2021</u>	Through	<u>1/22/2021</u>	<u>\$ 825,291.65</u>
Electronic Fund Transfers Completed					
<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Date</i>			<i>Amount</i>	
Unclaimed Property	1/14/2021			2291.17	
WA Dept. of Revenue	1/25/2021			7,005.16	
Kaiser	1/26/2021			16,543.81	
Kaiser	1/28/2021			52.00	
WA Dept of Retirement	1/11/2021			6,291.85	
WA Dept of Retirement	1/15/2021			93,957.03	
WA Dept of Retirement	1/19/2021			414.64	
WA Dept of Retirement	1/26/2021			6,228.26	
WA Dept of Retirement	1/27/2021			87,678.81	
					<u>\$ 220,462.73</u>
Subtotal FVRL General Fund Warrants, Transfers, Direct Deposits, Voids					<u>\$ 2,190,231.97</u>
Total Transactions for Approval					<u>\$ 2,190,231.97</u>

 AUDITING TRUSTEE

 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vendor 2020	Description	Amount	Contract Dates
Columbia West Engineering	Yale Library	4,500	Aug thru Oct
Johansson Architecture	Yale Library	30,200	Feb, April, June
Pacific Tech Construction	Yale Library	500,000	July, Sept, Nov
Contract Flooring & Interiors	BG Remodel	7,700	Jan
JRT Mechanical	BG Remodel	8,100	April
Contract Flooring & Interiors	CP Refresh	147,000	Feb, Mar, May
JRT Mechanical	CP Remodel	7,300	April
Kaski Electric	CP Remodel	21,300	March
Lile International	CP Remodel	9,300	April
NW Remodel and Design	CP Refresh	15,700	Feb
Hacker Architects	WD Library Design	226,650	Jan, April, July, Sept, Nov
Sitts & Hill Engineers	WD Surveying	10,900	April and May
Johansson Architecture	RI Remodel	214,454	Jan thru Dec
City of Ridgefield	RI Remodel	25,000	Aug and Sept
Union Corner Construction	RI Remodel	1,117,305	Sept, Oct, Dec
US Assure	RI Remodel	14,400	Oct
OTIS Elevator	GD Library	22,285	Dec
Western Construction	GD Remodel	74,300	March and April
LSW	OC	36,500	Dec

**Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2021-04
Operations Center - Recovery Status**

To: Board of Trustees
From: Amelia Shelley
Date: 02/16/2021

Subject: Operations Center Repairs and Claims Report

On October 3, 2020, a City of Vancouver (COV) water main was broken by a sub-contractor during the installation of a new waterline as part of the VITA Elementary School project. The ensuing flood filled the Operations Center, with as much as eight feet of water in the garage area and three feet throughout the rest of the lower level. The damage caused made the building unusable and all staff have been relocated to temporary offices until the building is repaired. FVRL is engaged in working with our insurer to repair and restore the building. The COV owns the building and FVRL has a lease through 2021, with a possible extension of ten years.

Key Points:

- Board declared an emergency on Oct. 9, 2020
- Liberty Mutual has completed its assessment, made partial payment
- Waiting on final list of other losses (furnishings and equipment)
- Union Corner Construction engaged for repair and restoration services
- LSW engaged for architectural design support
- Power restoration should be complete soon
- HVAC system components installed in March
- Asbestos abatement, demolition
- Hoping for partial return to the building this summer
- Still pending - operational/construction final agreement with VPS
- Working with FVRL counsel on agreement

Overview:

On the night of the flood, Nutter Corporation (the subcontractor who broke the pipe) called ServPro to assist with reclamation. As time was of the essence, we consulted with our insurer who confirmed that ServPro would be an acceptable firm to engage for the clean up. For approximately one month following the incident, ServPro cleaned up the water, removed damaged equipment, materials and furnishings as well as mitigated some of the damage such as soaked plaster walls, removed flooring and glue, and managed the removal of some low level asbestos contamination. They also packaged and froze more than 200 boxes of damaged public records that were sent to Tennessee for reclamation. Liberty Mutual has questioned a portion of Serv Pro's fees that are still under review.

Financial recompense to date:

FVRL has received a partial reimbursement (\$1,921,831.69) for damages to the building of \$1,150,029.48 and \$774,302.21 for mitigation less our \$2500 deductible. We have also received a \$100,000 advance on costs related to relocating to temporary offices. We are still waiting on a final accounting for our material losses and our contractor is working with the insurer on the damage estimate. We have not yet been reimbursed for the lost furnishings, equipment and fixtures as well as books and other materials lost in the flood.

Repair status:

In partnership with the COV, FVRL has been able to restore power to the building. This has been a much more challenging process than imagined due to the age of the building and necessary changes to the system to bring it up to code. On January 28, FVRL provided a tour of the building for counsel for the subcontractor's insurance company (Traveler's) and for Liberty Mutual. A portion of the site tour included a forensic inspection of the damaged pipe.

Next Steps:

FVRL has been working with our insurer, Liberty Mutual on assessing damages and determining needed repairs. A preliminary report on damages has been shared with FVRL's general contractor for comment and a meeting with Young and Associates (the assessors) to determine any areas of difference. We are still waiting on TOSCO, the firm assigned to assess damages to furniture, fixtures and equipment, to provide a final report and estimate.

FVRL has asked Union Corner Construction to determine necessary repairs based on the list provided by Liberty Mutual and determine if the estimating is adequate to cover actual costs. FVRL has also engaged LSW Architects to design new ADA restrooms required to be upgraded by code. There is also flooring, drywall, electrical, data, ceilings, and other issues that need to be addressed. FVRL is in conversation with COV about the future uses for the building and how needed repairs and other decisions might impact future uses.

Requested action:

Approval of Resolution 2021-5 to allow the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with Union Corner Construction to undertake the repair and restoration of the FVRL Operations Center.

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
RESOLUTION: 2021-5**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AGREEMENT ON
FVRL'S BEHALF WITH UNION CORNER CONSTRUCTION FOR REPAIRS TO THE
FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY OPERATIONS CENTER.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) was held remotely on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 attended by a quorum of the Board of Trustees for the conduct of such business; and, after due consideration and deliberation, the following resolution was duly passed by a majority vote of all Trustees attending.

WHEREAS, the FVRL Operations Center is located at 1007 East Mill Plain Blvd. in the former Vancouver Community Library building built in 1963 and leased to FVRL by City of Vancouver (COV), and

WHEREAS, Vancouver Public Schools (VPS) began building an elementary school behind the Operations Center on COV-owned property in August of 2018 with Robertson and Olson Construction as general contractor, and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2020, Nutter Corporation (a subcontractor to Roberson and Olson) was working on construction of the school and broke a COV water main, causing a significant flooding of the Operations Center and rendering the building unsafe for occupancy, and

WHEREAS, FVRL's Board of Trustees declared a state of emergency on October 9, 2020 and FVRL immediately engaged Union Corner Construction to assist with the recovery and restoration of the damaged Operations Center, and

WHEREAS, FVRL is ready to begin work on the building and wishes to enter into a contract for construction services with UCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreement on FVRL's behalf with Union Corner Construction to serve as the General Contractor for flood repairs and restoration of the FVRL Operations Center.

Adopted this 16th day of February 2021.

Approved: _____
Kelly Smith, Chair

Attested: _____
Sandra Day, Secretary

Date: _____

**Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2021-05
Yale Valley Library District - Intergovernmental Agreement**

To: Board of Trustees
From: Amelia Shelley, FVRL Executive Director
Date: 02/16/2021

Subject:

Yale Valley Library District (YVLD) was formed in 2004 and is its own independent taxing district with a five member board. Early in 2004, YVLD contracted with FVRL to provide service to their District's residents. Initially, that service consisted of a bookmobile stop, and in 2015, transitioned to lobby service at the Yale Elementary School and books by mail. Since the start, FVRL has provided all administrative services for YVLD and meets monthly with their Board.

For the last sixteen years, YVLD has set aside timber revenues to support a capital fund to build a library for their district's residents. That effort has come to fruition with a new building nearing completion and slated to open later this Spring. As part of this transition, the existing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between YVLD and FVRL needs to be updated to cover the costs of operating a building and provide additional staffing, as well as continue to support the existing administrative services.

Key Points:

- Yale Valley Community Library will operate as a FVRL branch
- Staff will be FVRL employees, represented by unions
- FVRL will pay all overhead costs, review annually
- YVLD will pay any expenses outside of annual agreement
- Designed to be self-service (Yacolt model)
- Staffed at 20 hours a week

Overview:

FVRL serves as YVLD's library provider. The YVLD Board stands at the threshold of realizing their dream of building a library for their residents in the community of Ariel. FVRL has been instrumental in bringing this dream to fruition through five years of assisting with this effort including design development, project management, planning and implementation. The next phase is FVRL managing the day-to-day operations of the new library. The current plan is to hire two 20-hour employees to facilitate library services. Until the pandemic is over, the library may offer limited service but eventually hopes to be a self-service branch styled after the library in Yacolt.

In creating a new IGA, FVRL is taking into consideration the many costs involved in operating a facility. A draft of the new agreement has been created with the assistance of Attorney Daniel Gottlieb, who determined that there are no state statutes concerning libraries that might inhibit

the change in this relationship. Exhibit A reflects a list of basic overhead costs we believe will need to be spent to operate the new library. FVRL believes that the first year will create a benchmark for actual costs that can be applied in future years. For the first year these costs are based on estimates with the ability to make adjustments for subsequent years. Exhibit B reflects the on-going administrative services that FVRL provides to YVLD.

Action Requested:

Staff are asking Trustees to review this agreement and be prepared to approve it at their March 2021 meeting.

Appreciation:

I wish to recognize Facilities Manager Jay McCuiston who has served as Project Manager throughout the process and put in countless hours to ensure we have a great final product. I also want to acknowledge Woodland Branch Manager Jennifer Huan has served as the Community Librarian and her staff who have provided exceptional service to Yale over the past few years. On a monthly basis, Finance Director Carrie Greenwood provides financial oversight for the Board and Sami Bretherton provides administrative support. Amelia Shelley serves as YVLD's administrator, and assists them with Board meetings, policy development, library practices and represents FVRL at the table. The new library has also benefited from the assistance of Collections Manager Jan Johnston and IT Manager Bob Beck, as well as Communications and Marketing Director Tak Kendrick and Collections and Technology Director Lynne Caldwell.

**AMENDED AND RESTATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR LIBRARY OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
between
FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
and
YALE VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT**

THIS Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Library Operational and Administrative Services (this Agreement), dated _____, between the FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT, an intercounty rural library district (FVRL), and the YALE VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT, a rural partial-county library district (YVLD)

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, FVRL operates libraries in Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties and in the City of Woodland in Cowlitz County; and

WHEREAS, YVLD was created to provide library services for its residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an existing Agreement for Library Services, dated _____, 2010, between FVRL and YVLD, FVRL provides the residents of YVLD with resources and library services generally available throughout the FVRL service area, and furnishes library services to the extent deemed reasonable and equitable by the FVRL Board of Trustees in view of its regional service responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, YVLD has recently constructed and developed a new library facility in Ariel, Washington known as the Yale Valley Community Library (the Library); and

WHEREAS, FVRL and YVLD desire to update their existing agreement to include changes reflecting the addition and operation of the Library;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits to be derived, the parties hereto agree to amend and restate the Agreement to read as follows:

SECTION 1. LIBRARY CARDS AND PRIVILEGES

1.01 FVRL will issue library cards to the residents of YVLD following the same guidelines, policies and procedures as for residents of FVRL.

1.02 Holders of the FVRL library cards issued pursuant to this Agreement shall be entitled to all of the privileges of library use accorded to the residents of the FVRL service area, and such library cards may be used at any FVRL location.

SECTION 2. LIBRARY SERVICES

2.01 FVRL will operate the Library on behalf of YVLD. Services provided at the Library pursuant to this Agreement will be commensurate with those provided at other FVRL locations. All FVRL policies and procedures shall apply to YVLD patrons.

2.02 FVRL will supply the Library with a collection of materials to circulate to patrons including but not limited to books, DVDs, kits, audio books, electronic devices and other formats.

2.03 All materials in the Library will be part of FVRL's collection and may float to other locations as they are requested by other FVRL patrons. There is no guarantee that a specific item will be available in the Library in perpetuity. Exceptions may be made for items associated with local history.

2.04 FVRL's Collections Policy shall guide the acquisition and retention of all materials at the Library.

SECTION 3. LIBRARY PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

3.01 FVRL will provide to YVLD the operational support services for the Library as set forth in Exhibit A.

3.02 FVRL agrees to hire and maintain a workforce to staff the Library for a minimum of hours per week. They will be represented by FVRL's employee unions for their respective positions.

3.03 FVRL will pay the salaries and benefits for persons employed at the Library, and they will be considered employees of FVRL and shall be supervised by FVRL.

3.04 FVRL will set a schedule for the Library employees in alignment with FVRL's other libraries and within the collective bargaining agreements of FVRL's unions.

3.05 FVRL's Personnel Manual and other terms of employment will supersede any verbal or written agreements made with Library staff by the YVLD Board or by members of the Friends of the Yale Valley Library District.

3.06 FVRL will provide regular courier deliveries to the Library twice a week. Schedule to be determined by the need and volume of materials requested.

3.07 FVRL will provide regular maintenance support to the Library through its Facilities Department and staff.

3.08 Emergency repairs, long-term maintenance expenses and damage caused by acts of vandalism, nature or unexpected incidents at the Library shall be solely covered by YVLD. FVRL shall be named as an additional insured on all YVLD insurance policies.

SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

4.01 FVRL will provide to YVLD administrative support services, including those necessary to maintain YVLD as a rural partial-county library district, as set forth in Exhibit B.

4.02 YVLD will cause the Cowlitz County Treasurer, serving as Treasurer to YVLD, to forward all YVLD revenue (property tax, timber revenue and any other revenue) on a monthly basis to the Clark County Treasurer. The Clark County Treasurer will establish and maintain a separate fund for YVLD.

4.03 FVRL will process and pay all bills for YVLD as outlined in this agreement. FVRL may seek reimbursement for any payments made on behalf of YVLD that exceed the compensation paid by YVLD pursuant to this Agreement; provided, that all non-contractual expenses must be approved by the YVLD Board prior to reimbursement.

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION

5.01 For each calendar year that this Agreement is in effect, YVLD shall pay FVRL a fee equal to 100% of the amount levied for YVLD by Cowlitz County for collection in that year.

5.02 Each subsequent year's fee due under this Agreement will be based on the prior year's levy amount multiplied by 101%.

5.03 FVRL will provide an annual accounting to YVLD's Board in October of each year as a basis for determining whether the amount of the fee payable in that year needs to be adjusted or reduced as it relates to actual costs and to establish a budget for the following year.

5.04 Annual fees payable by YVLD to FVRL under this Agreement shall be paid in two approximately equal installments, each due after the property taxes are deposited by the Cowlitz County Treasurer into the YVLD fund established in the Clark County Treasurer's office, but generally no later than July and December of each year.

5.05 YVLD may receive grants, donations and other revenues intended to fund and support the Library separate from the levy amounts described in this Agreement. Those funds will be paid to and held by the Clark County Treasurer, and considered to be reserved for Library expenses as determined by the YVLD Board.

SECTION 6. TERM OF AGREEMENT

6.01 This Agreement commences upon signature of all parties.

6.02 This Agreement will remain in effect until either party requests termination of the Agreement. Either party must give six (6) months' notice to the other party, in writing by certified letter, of its desire to terminate this Agreement.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY AND CONTINUANCE

7.01 The provisions of this Agreement are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any section or other portion of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Agreement. Further, this Agreement shall be construed and applied as a continuation of the provisions of the Agreement, if amended, insofar as applicable, and the repeal of any part of the Agreement shall not be construed as affecting such continuous application.

SECTION 8. INDEMNIFICATION

8.01 To the extent permitted by law, YVLD shall indemnify and hold harmless FVRL and its officers, directors, trustees, agents and employees from any and all demands, claims, causes of action, losses, damages, liabilities, obligations, remedies, penalties, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of, pertaining to or in connection with (i) any acts or omissions of YVLD, its successors, assigns or agents subsequent to the date of this Agreement with respect to or in relation to the Library or any of the improvements, equipment or furnishings therein or any of the services provided pursuant to this Agreement, (ii) YVLD's breach of any representation or warranty made herein and (iii) any failure by YVLD to comply with any and all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations that govern or pertain to YVLD and/or any of its activities, actions, duties and responsibilities.

8.02 To the extent permitted by law, FVRL shall indemnify and hold harmless YVLD and its officers, directors, trustees, agents and employees from any and all demands, claims, causes of action, losses, damages, liabilities, obligations, remedies, penalties, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of, pertaining to or in connection with (i) any acts or omissions of FVRL, its successors, assigns or agents subsequent to the date of this Agreement with respect to or in relation to the Library Facility or any of the improvements, equipment or furnishings therein or any of the services provided pursuant to this Agreement, (ii) FVRL's breach of any representation or warranty made herein; and (iii) any failure by FVRL to comply with any and all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations that govern or pertain to FVRL and/or any of its activities, actions, duties and responsibilities.

SECTION 9. WASHINGTON LAW

9.01 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Washington. Both parties agree that any judicial dispute shall be brought in Clark County Superior Court of the State of Washington.

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT

YALE VALLEY LIBRARY
DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD CHAIR

DRAFT

EXHIBIT A

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO YALE VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT

The following is a list intended to be inclusive of all operational support services for the Library to be provided by FVRL to YVLD pursuant to the Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Library Operational and Administrative Support Services between FVRL and YVLD, dated _____, 2021:

Staff Expenses

Wages and Benefits for personnel
Staff training and support
Transportation or mileage to and from Ariel (as necessary)

Materials and Supplies

Books, media and other materials
Cleaning and custodial supplies (as needed)
Office supplies
Courier service
Access to digital and eResources

Repair and Maintenance

Custodial services
Regular maintenance (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, alarm, security systems, etc.)
Grounds maintenance

Overhead expenses

Insurance (property, liability, etc.)
Utilities (electrical, trash, etc.; utility accounts will be in FVRL's name)

Monthly and annual expenses

Communications (internet and mail box)
Copier and printer lease
Security monitoring
Software and database licensing

EXHIBIT B

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR YALE VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT

The following is a list of administrative services to be provided to YVLD by FVRL pursuant to the Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Library Operational and Administrative Support Services between FVRL and YVLD dated, _____, 2021. This list is intended to be illustrative and not all inclusive:

Support to the Board of Trustees

- Attendance at board meetings
- Publication of meeting notices to website and paper of record
- Copies of agenda and any other documents
- Financial reports
- Email addresses (@fvrl.org)
- Research and interpretation of laws related to libraries (RCW 27) – including any legal fees
- Taxation information
- Errors & Omissions Insurance
- WLA Conference registration and associated conference attendance costs, i.e. hotel, food, transportation.
- Miscellaneous board expenses, e.g. printing, supplies
- Data collection and analysis

Annual Budget Preparation and Publication

- Calculation of annual levy
- Notification to Cowlitz County officials of resolution and levy
- Publication of annual budget

Accounting Services

- Accounts Payable including warrant disbursement
- Accounts Reconciliation
- Monthly financial statements
- Audits

Community Relations Activities

- Attendance at community events
- Flyers and other graphic services
- Website maintenance and updates
- Program support

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2021-06
Vehicle Usage Policy

To: Board of Trustees

From: Amelia Shelley

Date: 02/16/21

Subject: New Policy related to operating District vehicles

Key Points:

- Clarifies requirements and standards for operating library vehicles
- Identifies need for planned maintenance and replacement

Overview:

Currently, driving a FVRL vehicle is covered in the Personnel Manual under *Use of Library Vehicles*. There have been several instances over the past few years where additional clarity around the responsibilities of drivers would have been helpful to provide clear expectations and guidance, particularly when dealing with accidents. The FVRL Personnel Manual needs to be modified to provide additional guidance and will be expanded upon to meet this purpose.

Action Requested:

In combination with FVRL's Personnel Handbook (attachment A), develop a policy that clarifies the responsibilities of staff who drive for FVRL

Advantages:

Provides direction from applicable RCWs

Disadvantages:

None

ATTACHMENT A - Excerpt from FVRL Personnel Manual

Use of library vehicles

FVRL maintains a fleet of various types and sizes of vehicles to support the transportation needs of a 4,200-square-mile district. Staff are expected to use FVRL vehicles for FVRL-related travel when a vehicle is available.

The following expectations regarding use apply:

Eligibility and allowability

- Any FVRL employee with a driver's license in good standing and sound driving skills may check out and operate an FVRL vehicle.
- FVRL vehicles are for official use only.
- For insurance purposes, all drivers are required to provide, in advance of first use of an FVRL vehicle, their current driver's license number and information about any accidents or moving violations in the previous three years. They must report any new driving infractions (work related or personal) to Human Resources as they are incurred. Records will be verified through the district's insurance carrier or by a Human Resources staff member.
- Non-employees are not permitted to operate FVRL vehicles but may ride in vehicles as passengers when on library business. Picking up hitchhikers is prohibited.
- Employees are expected to exercise highly responsible driving practices when using FVRL vehicles. Unsafe, reckless or illegal driving of FVRL vehicles is prohibited.
- Employees are required to pay for all parking or traffic tickets incurred while driving an FVRL vehicle.
- Smoking in FVRL vehicles is prohibited.
- Personal use of FVRL vehicles is prohibited except with advance written approval of the FVRL Executive Director.
- Any approved personal use of FVRL vehicles, including transportation to and from work, is considered taxable by the Internal Revenue Service and must be logged and reported.
- All employees who regularly drive FVRL vehicles will be required to participate in training at regular intervals.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

Library Vehicle Usage Policy

DRAFT - 02/11/2021

PURPOSE

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) maintains a fleet of vans, trucks, bookmobiles and passenger vehicles for use in the daily operations of the library. This policy is intended to direct the use and operation of any library vehicle. Any employee driving on behalf of FVRL is a representative of our organization and expected to follow all driving rules and regulations.

POLICY

This policy applies to the driver of any vehicle owned or leased by FVRL driven by authorized employees for official library business including travel between locations, travel for assigned duties, travel for meetings or training, and travel as a condition of employment.

Personal use of library vehicles is strictly prohibited per RCW 46.08.065 for any activity other than taking a required break or mealtime or in an emergency. When a library vehicle is taken to out-of-town meetings, conferences or workshops, employees may use the vehicle for other reasonable purposes if they have no other form of transportation. **Specific rules for operating library vehicles are outlined in Chapter 2 of the FVRL Personnel Manual.**

FVRL's Facilities and Fleet Division will be responsible for maintaining any library owned or leased vehicle in a safe and sound working condition through regularly scheduled maintenance and repair. When necessary, Facilities and Fleet will recommend replacement of vehicles based on need and availability of funds.

DEFINITIONS

Official library business is defined as activities such as purchasing library materials and supplies, maintenance and repair functions, transport of library materials and property between library facilities and program locations, the transport of library personnel (employees, board members) to library related events, meetings and conferences, workshops, and seminars, and the delivery of library materials to homebound residents and bookmobile patrons living in the library's district and other tasks.

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Director is responsible for the administration of this policy, for establishing administrative procedures and rules for its implementation and for making the policy available to the public.

SEVERABILITY

The Board of Trustees hereby declares its intention that the provisions of this policy are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, chapter, title or other portion of this policy, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the policy, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

CONTINUANCE

The Board of Trustees hereby declares its intention that the provisions of this policy shall be construed and applied as a continuation of the provisions of the policy, as amended, insofar as applicable, and the repeal of any part of this policy shall not be construed as affecting such continuous application.

Applicable law: [RCW 46.61 Rules of the Road](#), [RCW 46.08.065 Publicly Owned Vehicles to be Marked](#), [RCW 43.19.637 Clean-fuel Vehicles - Purchasing Requirements](#)

Relevant policies: Personnel

Board approval:



Annual Board Retreat March 15, 2021

Scheduling challenges

Virtual format

Agenda Items

Strategic Planning

Ethics and Responsibilities Policy

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement and Lens

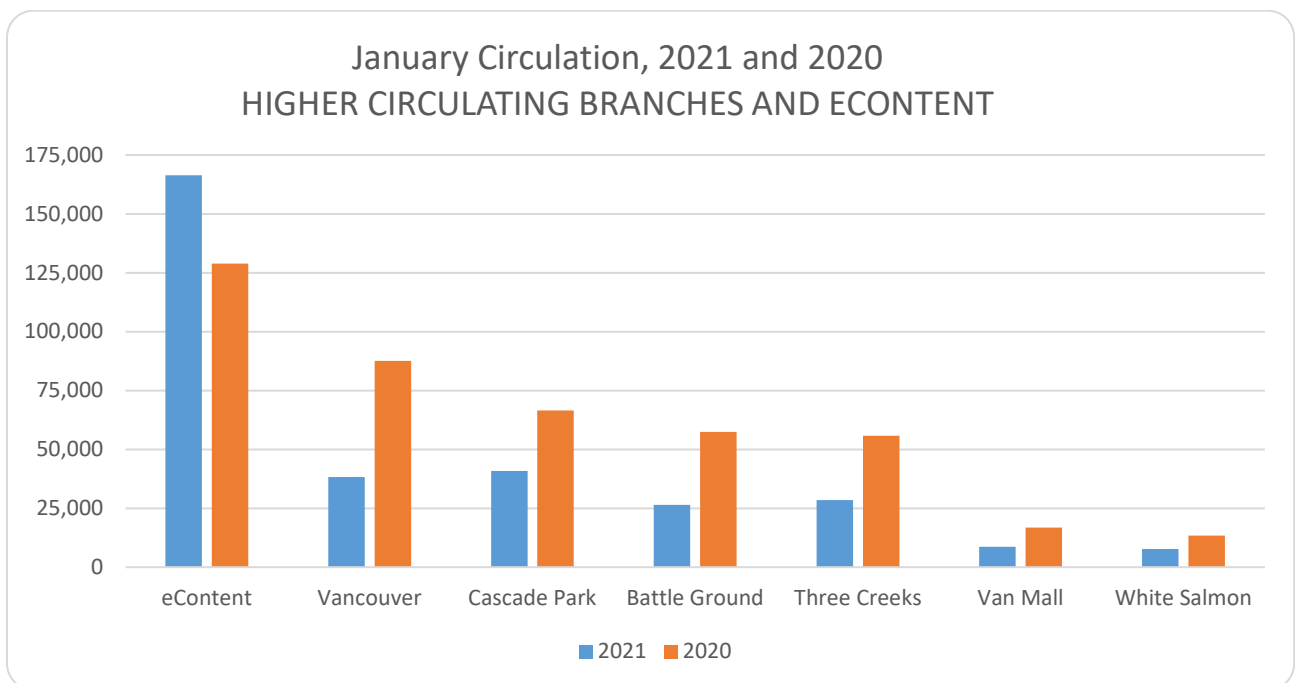
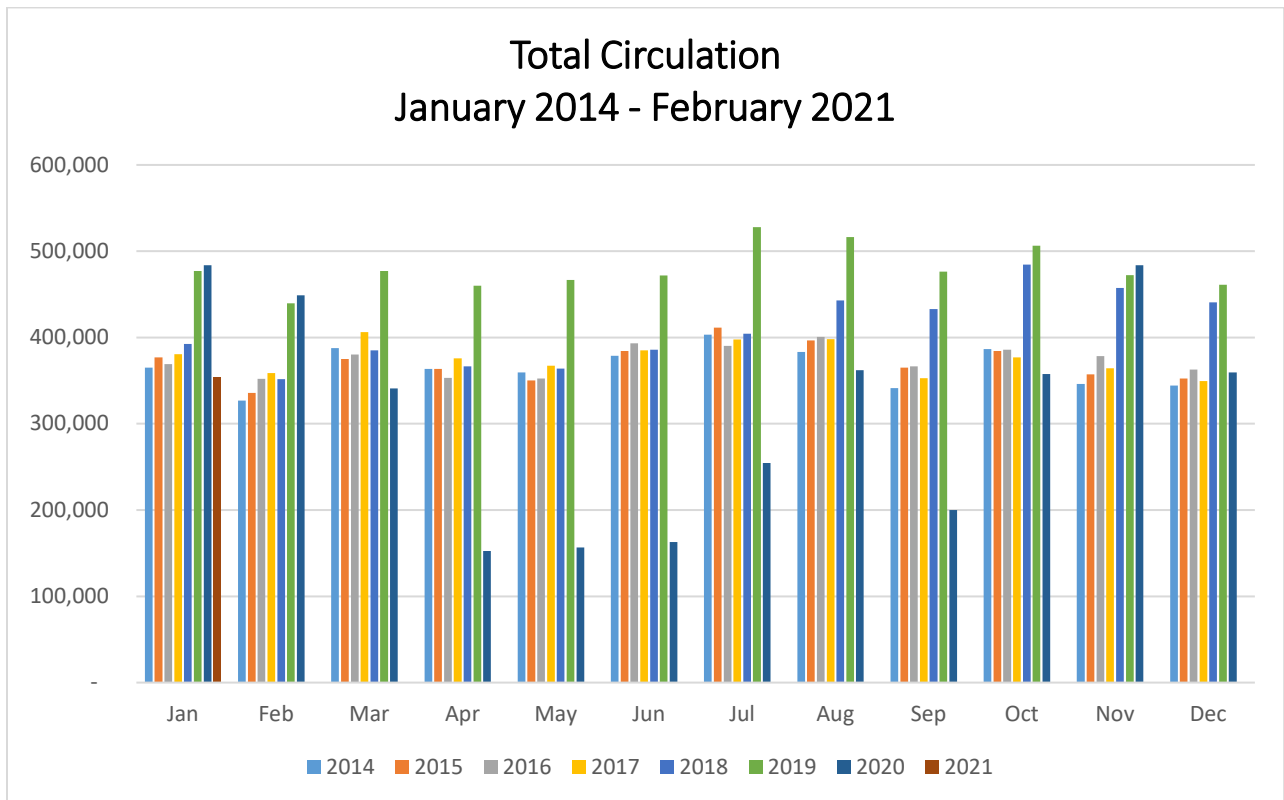
Other?

Public participation

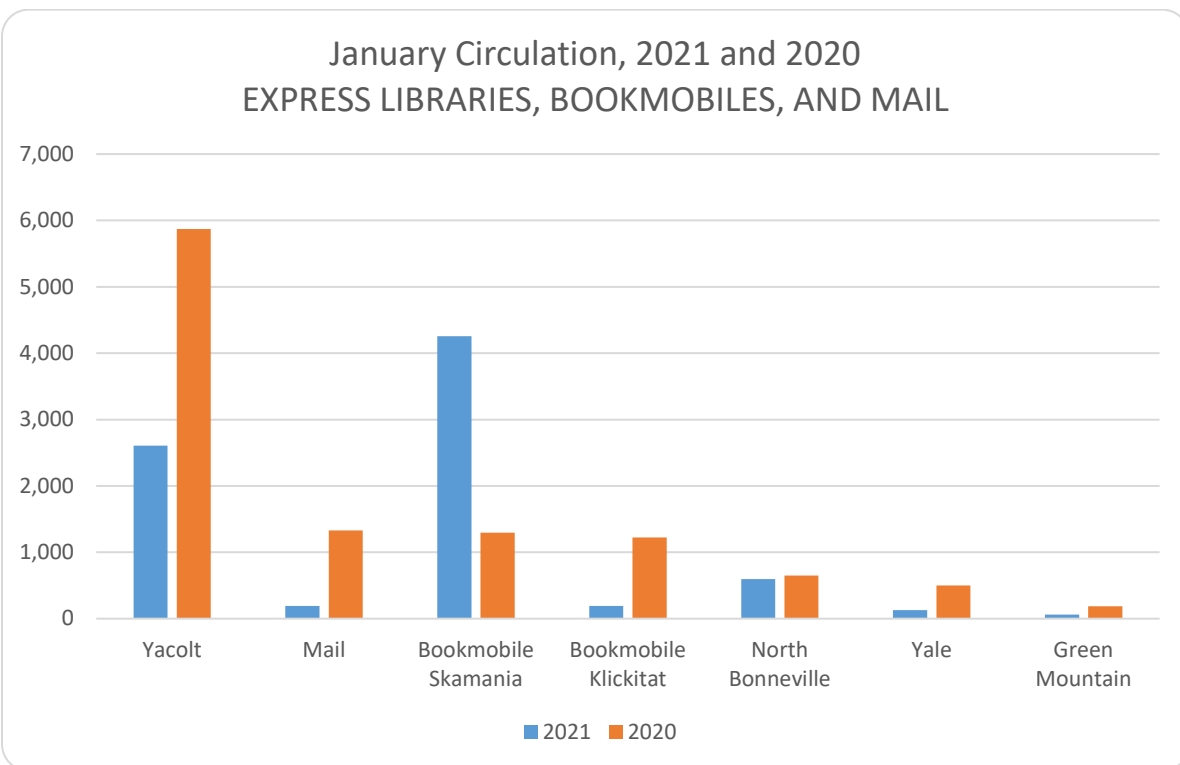
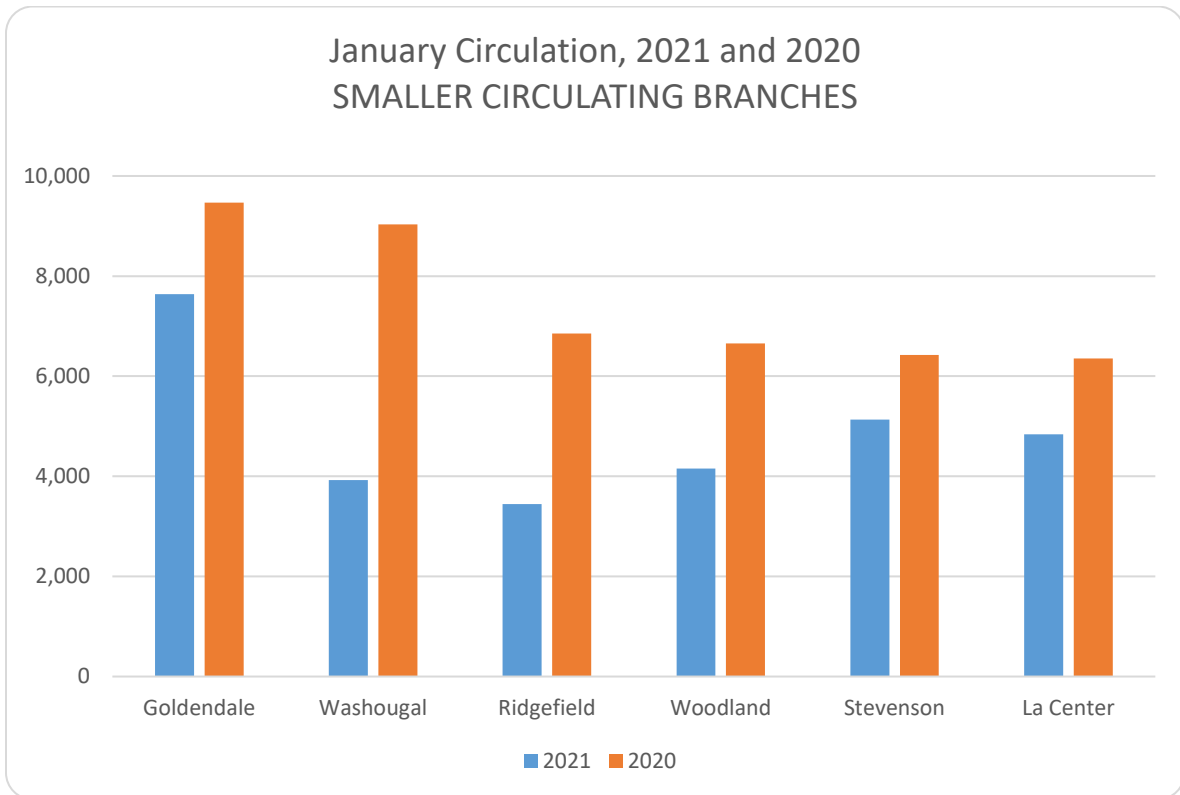
Library Foundation

	January Circulation			YTD Circulation		
	2021	2020	Change	2021	2020	Change
Battle Ground Community Library	26,479	57,478	-53.93%	26,479	57,478	-53.93%
Cascade Park Community Library	40,880	66,598	-38.62%	40,880	66,598	-38.62%
La Center Community Library	4,842	6,354	-23.80%	4,842	6,354	-23.80%
Ridgefield Community Library	5,130	6,424	-20.14%	5,130	6,424	-20.14%
Three Creeks Community Library	28,506	55,839	-48.95%	28,506	55,839	-48.95%
Vancouver Community Library	38,217	87,635	-56.39%	38,217	87,635	-56.39%
The Mall Library Connection	8,647	16,787	-48.49%	8,647	16,787	-48.49%
Washougal Community Library	7,638	9,467	-19.32%	7,638	9,467	-19.32%
Green Mountain Library Express	60	188	-68.09%	60	188	-68.09%
Yacolt Library Express	2,607	5,873	-55.61%	2,607	5,873	-55.61%
Clark County Total	163,006	312,643	-47.86%	163,006	312,643	-47.86%
Woodland Community Library	4,157	6,656	-37.55%	4,157	6,656	-37.55%
Yale Library Express	130	502	-74.10%	130	502	-74.10%
Cowlitz County Total	4,287	7,158	-40.11%	4,287	7,158	-40.11%
Goldendale Community Library	3,928	9,030	-56.50%	3,928	9,030	-56.50%
White Salmon Valley Community Library	7,706	13,482	-42.84%	7,706	13,482	-42.84%
Klickitat County Bookmobile	193	1,328	-85.47%	193	1,328	-85.47%
Klickitat County Total	11,827	23,840	-50.39%	11,827	23,840	-50.39%
North Bonneville Community Library	594	651	-8.76%	594	651	-8.76%
Stevenson Community Library	3,445	6,855	-49.74%	3,445	6,855	-49.74%
Skamania County Bookmobile	209	1,221	-82.88%	209	1,221	-82.88%
Skamania County Total	4,248	8,727	-51.32%	4,248	8,727	-51.32%
District-wide renewals	214	318	-32.70%	214	318	-32.70%
Mail	4,258	1,297	228.30%	4,258	1,297	228.30%
InterLibrary Loan	37	723	-94.88%	37	723	-94.88%
Misc Total	4,509	2,338	92.86%	4,509	2,338	92.86%
Downloadable eBooks	68,584	52,492	30.66%	68,584	52,492	30.66%
eMagazines	2,861	4,737	-39.60%	2,861	4,737	-39.60%
Downloadable & streaming audiobooks	55,034	44,784	22.89%	55,034	44,784	22.89%
Downloadable & streaming music	29,624	21,299	39.09%	29,624	21,299	39.09%
Streaming video	10,374	5,580	85.91%	10,374	5,580	85.91%
eContent Total	166,477	128,892	29.16%	166,477	128,892	29.16%
TOTAL	354,354	483,598	-26.73%	354,354	483,598	-26.73%

Circulation – February 2021



Circulation – February 2021



Washougal READS to tackle issues of racism, police brutality

camaspostrecord.com/news/2021/jan/21/washougal-reads-to-tackle-issues-of-racism-police-brutality

January 21, 2021

Jan. 27 discussion focuses on Angie Thomas' novel, 'The Hate U Give'

By [Doug Flanagan](#) | January 21, 2021 9:29 am | [comments](#)



Washougal High library media specialist Hillary Marshall (top row, center) and Washougal library manager Rachael Ries (top row, right) lead a discussion about the novel "All American Boy" in November 2020, as part of the Washougal READS program. (Contributed photos courtesy of Hillary Marshall)

([Doug Flanagan](#)/Post-Record)

Washougal READS will discuss the book "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.

Hillary Marshall was first introduced to the concept of a community-wide book group during her time in Brazil in the mid-to-late 2000s, when the school she worked at invited people from all around the area to participate in a two-day book conversation event.

"I was like, 'Wouldn't it be so cool to get a whole city reading like that?'" said Marshall, now a library media specialist at Washougal High School.

More than 10 years later, she brought the concept to East Clark County with the creation of Washougal READS, a community book discussion program that focuses on culturally relevant and diverse topics such as social justice and racial equality.

The discussions are held online, led by Marshall and Rachael Ries, branch manager of the Washougal Community Library.

“This was always my dream,” Marshall said. “I wanted to get the entire city of Washougal reading, and with COVID giving us these close quarters, the only way we can access each other is through Zoom, (and) it puts us all on the same level playing field.”

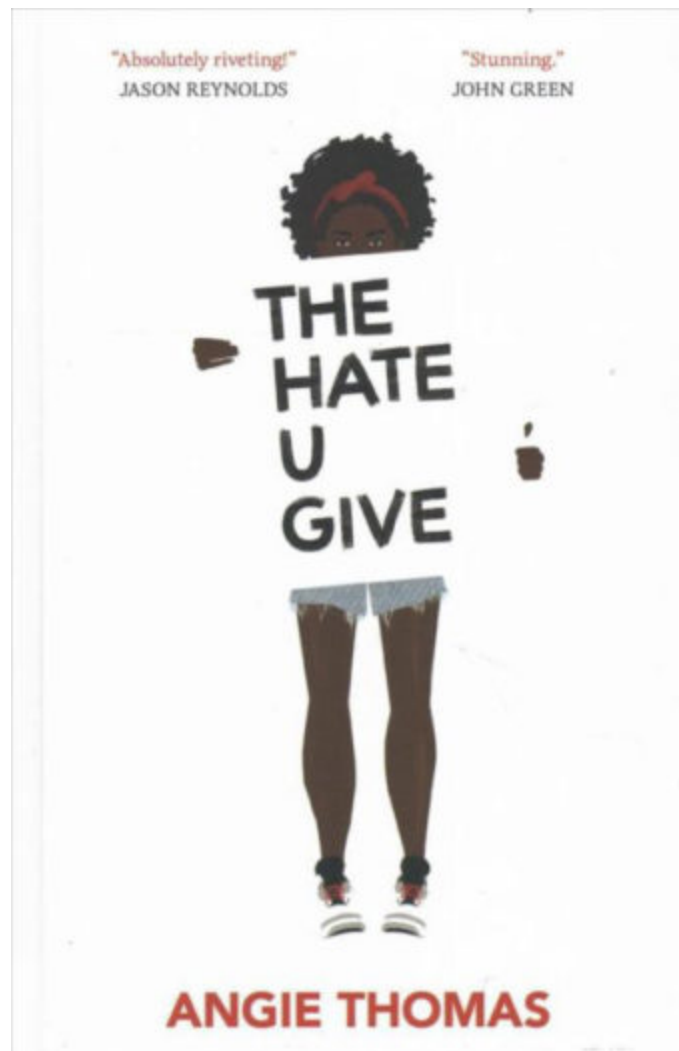
Ries thought that the program “would be a natural fit” for the Washougal library.

“We had done other programming around the protests in Portland,” she said, “but we thought this would be a great way to have people in our community read some books and be able to discuss the themes in those books, which apply to current social situations.”

The idea for the program came from one of Marshall and Ries’ previous partnerships, a “cross-generational book study” group consisting of students from the WHS Wild Panther Book Club and adults from a Washougal Community Library book club. Together they read and discussed “All American Boys,” a novel by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely about a Black teenager who is assaulted by a white police officer.

“That was super successful on both sides,” Marshall said. “As the community changed over the last few years and more social justice issues started coming up, I just wanted to encourage (people to read) more diverse books.”

In March 2020, Marshall submitted an application for Washougal High School to become a chapter of Project Lit, a grassroots literacy movement empowering readers and leaders in more than 1,700 schools and communities around the world.



“Project Lit encourages reading diverse books from authors of color around topics that have typically been taboo,” Marshall said. “When I was accepted as a brand-new Project Lit chapter at Washougal High School, of course I reached out to Rachael and said, ‘These are the books that are on the list. How many book kits does the Fort Vancouver Regional Library have?’ That’s where (Washougal READS) started. (We said), ‘Maybe we can do this together to get the whole city going.’ It’s always kind of been in the works since that initial cross-generational book study.”

The group began in September 2020 with Trevor Noah’s book, “Born a Crime.” It followed with “Scythe” by Neal Shusterman in October 2020; “All American Boys” in November; and “With the Fire on High” by Elizabeth Acevedo in December 2020.

The group’s next scheduled discussion is set for Jan. 27, when it will discuss “The Hate U Give,” Angie Thomas’ novel about a teenage girl who grapples with racism, police brutality and activism after witnessing her Black friend murdered by the police. Marshall and Ries invited Sergio Olmos, a reporter for Oregon Public Broadcasting who extensively covered the social justice protests in Portland last summer, to participate in the discussion.

“I live in downtown Portland, and the social justice movement really hit me,” Marshall said. “This summer I did a lot of reading, and I just said, ‘Where is my sphere of influence? Where can I make a difference? Where could I support our communities of color?’ I said, ‘Well, why not try this? I’m really good at getting books in people’s hands and talking about them.’ That’s why it felt right. And Rachael and I have such a strong partnership, I knew that we would do this very well together.”

Despite its name, the group is open to anybody from any city who would like to participate. People can register on the Fort Vancouver Regional Library’s website.

“We’ve had school board members attend, teachers attend, students attend,” Marshall said. “(This program can) build community. Every time you can connect, whether you connect with the story or are sharing about a story and sharing a little bit about yourself to the community, you’re building those bridges. Washougal is a very tight-knit community, and we have a lot of people in the community who are willing to talk to young people and be part of the discussion. It’s been really interesting.”

“People have questions, and they don’t always understand everything,” Ries added. “(This program provides an) opportunity for people to voice questions or ask for information in a safe environment and go forward. It’s a way to honestly interact and hear from other people and become more informed. Maybe they’ll take the next steps themselves, joining other groups or reading further. That’s what we’re hoping, that they’ll continue to educate themselves and participate.”

Marshall said that while the first four sessions have been “very positive experiences for everybody,” she highlighted November’s discussion as particularly revelatory. At that gathering, two Washougal police officers shared their thoughts about ‘All American Boys’ and answered questions from the other participants about a variety of topics, including the nature of their training and the concept of “defunding the police.”


Their honesty and authenticity made for a vastly better discussion, according to Marshall and Ries.

“The police officers were excellent,” Ries said. “They were candid. They came in wanting to participate in the discussion without hiding anything. They were fully present and added to what the group was able to talk about. They helped to give a full-sided picture of police brutality, one of the main themes in that book. It was a hard conversation, so it was important to have all players at the table.”

Ries said that by “encouraging discussion and dialogue,” the program can help to “build a better community.”

“It’s important because (a lot of people) need an entry point,” Ries said. “There’s different levels of awareness and education around Black Lives Matter and diversity and inclusion and what we’re dealing with in society among our social circles. These particular books are great because they appeal to a broad audience, and you don’t necessarily have to know a lot to get started. Anyone can read them, learn something from the themes and have a discussion.”

League of Women Voters of Clark County help citizens get involved in the redistricting process

 clarkcountytoday.com/news/league-of-women-voters-of-clark-county-host-help-citizens-get-involved-in-the-redistricting-process

Jacob Granneman

January 27, 2021

Partnership with FVRL and the state allow for virtual workshops on getting involved

CLARK COUNTY — The League of Women Voters of Clark County (LWV) in partnership with the Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL) will kick off a series of classes on redistricting on Feb. 16.



The free, 90-minute online workshop will feature information about how the redistricting effort, which is scheduled to begin this spring, will impact residents, and how members of the public can participate in the process.

“Only 800-900 people testified during the last cycle,” said Judy Zeider, the civics education chair with LWV. “This time, the goal is to have 2,000 people testify, and also have them really focused on the criteria and the issues the commissioners are going to be looking at.”



The League of Women Voters on a national level is putting forward educational resources on how citizens can become involved in the redistricting process in their states. Photo courtesy of the LWVUS

The workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be hosted on the FVRL online platform. You can register at this [link here](#).

Redistricting is the process of drawing electoral district boundaries which occurs once every 10 years on the heels of the completion of the U.S. Census. In states where there is more than one congressional representative, the census tallies are used to reconfigure district lines. Washington is among the states that takes public testimony as part of the process.

Issues like gerrymandering, in which legislators create somewhat absurd district lines to better suit their political party or base, will also be explained so as to educate class-goers on how to recognize such districting. The workshops will make use of the readily available online mapping tool known as [Dave's Redistricting](#) to visually explain the process as well.

“Wherever you are on the political spectrum, I think we all want the candidates we like and support to have a fair chance at winning an election,” Zeider said. “If they’re good at putting out their points and can convince voters, we don’t want our districts so lopsided one way or another, that you really don’t get good people throwing their hat in the ring.”

In March, the League of Women Voters of Washington will hold two sessions to provide training to members of the public who want to testify before the state redistricting commission. Details about the training offered at the two-session Speak-up School meeting on March 6 and 20 will be available at the Feb. 16 workshop.

Workshop to explain redistricting process in Southwest Washington

 columbian.com/news/2021/jan/27/workshop-to-explain-redistricting-process-in-southwest-washington

Calley Hair



Do you have questions about how the process of redrawing electoral districts works? The League of Women Voters of Clark County and Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries will host a free, virtual workshop explaining the work of the Washington State Redistricting Commission.

The 90-minute session will feature information about how the redistricting process will impact residents in Southwest Washington and how the public can participate.

Redistricting occurs once every 10 years to reflect updated population counts following the U.S. Census. The last redraw — certified in 2011 — changed the political makeup of Washington's 3rd Congressional District, extending the boundary to the east into rural Klickitat County and eliminating some of Thurston County to the north.

The upcoming redistricting process is scheduled to start in the spring. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to testify.

The online workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 16. To register, visit <https://fvrl.librarymarket.com/washington-state-redistricting>.

The following month, the League of Women Voters of Washington will hold two additional sessions to provide training to members of the public who want to testify before the state redistricting commission. Details about those sessions — scheduled for March 6 and March 20 — will be available at the Feb. 16 workshop.

Workshop on redistricting set for Feb. 16

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The League of Women Voters of Clark County is set to hold a workshop on the work of the Washington State Redistricting Commission at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The free, 90-minute workshop is hosted by the League of Women's Voters of Clark County and Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and will feature information about how the redistricting effort, scheduled to start this Spring, will impact residents and how members of the public can participate in this process.

Redistricting is the process of drawing electoral district boundaries. It occurs once every 10 years, following the completion of the United States Census. In states where there is more than one congressional representative, the census tallies are used to reconfigure district lines. Washington is among states that take public testimony as part of the process.

According to a release from the league, in March the League of Women Voters of Washington will hold two sessions to provide training to members of the public who want to testify before the state redistricting commission. Details about the training offered at the two-session Speak-up School meetings on March 6 and 20 will be available at the Feb. 16 workshop.

For more information, contact Judy Zeider, Civics Education chair, at jmzeider@aol.com.