

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

March 12, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jack Burkman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at Woodland Grange and moved the meeting into an executive session to discuss real estate. Executive session ended at 5:00 p.m. with no action taken. Burkman convened the regular meeting at 6:02 p.m.

2. PRESENT

Vice Chair Jack Burkman presiding. Other Board members: Jerry King, Bonnie Reynolds, Rose Smith and Bill Yee. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Mary Devlin, Community Libraries Director; Doreen Turpen, Access and Programs Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director; Melinda Chesbro, Content Management Director; Karin Ford, Vancouver Community Librarian and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Abbie Anderson, Cathy Ardanaz, Anna Cross, Alex Fox, Barbara Karnis, Doren Keith, Jacquelyn Keith, Colleen Lindsay, Rick Smithrud, Erin Thoeny, George Thoeny, Peggy Thoeny, Kathi Wheeler and Rita Yowell.

3. AGENDA

Burkman deferred the agenda item regarding an Interlocal Agreement between FVRL and the City of Vancouver for the East Vancouver Library until a later meeting. The agenda was approved as amended.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Feb. 12, 2007 meeting were approved as emailed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burkman thanked Friends of Woodland Community Library for the wonderful dinner they generously provided prior to the meeting. He also expressed how much everyone enjoyed the conversation and opportunity to visit with the Friends.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. BUSINESS

A. Expenditure Approval

MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Bill Yee seconded approval of the accounts payable, payroll and payroll payables as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORTS

A. Special Report from Yale Valley Library District

Kathi Wheeler, a trustee of the Yale Valley Library District (YVLD), shared an update on contract services FVRL provides to the Yale Valley. The YVLD formed in 2003 and has contracted with FVRL for service since that time. In 2004, FVRL began providing bookmobile services every other week. Bookmobile service was increased to weekly visits in 2005. Wheeler said it's terrific that the service is now weekly because that makes it more visible and regular weekly visits are easier for patrons to remember. The bookmobile driver also presents storytimes at the Yale School, followed by a trip up to Cougar and then back to the Yale School to pick up books that have been dropped off by patrons.

A regular book discussion group has formed in Yale. In January, Battle Ground Community Librarian Jackie Spurlock presented a program in Yale about her trip to Iran. Wheeler said it was a marvelous program. A local author recently presented a program in Yale about her book. Abbie Anderson has been presenting a program called Tales of Sunnier Climes. They are now considering a program series for this Fall.

Wheeler said FVRL has been very generous about allowing the bookmobile to come for special programs, for example their community bazaar. She said the Yale community is very glad to be a part of FVRL, and that in fact people from outside their area often say how lucky Yale is to have these services. Wheeler also expressed that the books by mail service means a great deal to their community.

Burkman thanked her for her report and noted that she is a powerful advocate. Wheeler said their area has grown and more people will realize what a good deal it is to have this service in their community.

Duitman said she works with the Yale board and it's been a pleasure working with them. Two of their board members will be attending the Washington Library Association conference again this year.

B. About the District: Children's Services

Children's Services and Family Literacy Coordinator Jacquelyn Keith gave a special presentation. She provided several handouts containing statistics depicting growth in children's services during the past 10 years that she has worked with FVRL. Keith explained the impact of Children's Services on other departments, including Accounting, Communications, Graphics, Content Management, Purchasing and the Facilities couriers. The Foundation supports a number of their programs, including the "Hello, Baby" bags and Discovery Kits. Volunteers help collate and sort program materials.

Keith shared several posters related to the Bookmark Contest. One was a framed poster of the 1987 winners when the program was first held. She gave each board member a poster containing this year's winners. Keith acknowledged The Columbian for donating a full page of ad space for displaying the winners. She also noted that one of this year's winner

lives in Woodland. This year's eight winners were selected by staff out of 6,318 entries from across the district.

Other highlights Keith shared about Children's Services included:

- The Brain Stations are relatively new and are in all branches. They contain links to selected Web sites appropriate for children, on a variety of topics to help kids with research or for recreation.
- The statewide and local focus on Early Literacy is relatively new. A grant several years ago allowed the district to hire a temporary person, Doreen Tannenbaum, to get us moving forward on Early Literacy projects. Keith noted that FVRL had not received many grants for children's services prior to when she started; since then there have been federal and state grants and involvement with many local partnering entities.
- The "Hello, Baby" bag program has been very successful and involves multiple community partners.
- Leap pads are available for use by children at a majority of our libraries now.
- The Sophie the Otter mascot costume is being worn by staff and volunteers for library programs and community events.
- Keith showed the board examples of several "kits" that are currently being used in the district.
 - Story Kits are used by staff for storytime programs and include such items as puppets, craft ideas, fingerplays and about 5 story books, all related to a theme.
 - Lapsit Kits were developed through a grant and are used by staff for programs with children under age 2. These kits contain board books, flannel board stories, puppets, and other materials.
 - Discovery Kits were developed with a grant and can be checked out by families at a number of Family Resource Centers, HeadStart and several other locations. We are planning to begin making them available to daycare providers soon. These themed kits contain 10 books, resources for parents, games, music and other items. We do not have plans to check these kits out to patrons at this time, as it takes great deal of staff time to check in and clean the materials. Smith asked how many Discovery Kits have been created and Keith said there are about 160. The kits cost anywhere from \$200-400 each to put together, not including the staff time to create them.
- READ program funded through the FVRL Foundation started in 1995. This program involves library staff hosting programs within a school. During the program, parents interact with a librarian or reading specialist while another library staff member is telling stories to the kids. Afterward, everyone gathers together for another story followed by a craft. The program used to be conducted over four sessions, however it was determined that it was difficult for parents to commit to four sessions and so staff have condensed it to one night. At the end of the program, each child goes home with a free book, thanks to funds provided by the FVRL Foundation.
- FVRL is now certified as STARS trainers.

- Keith acknowledged Ziegman and Turpen for their involvement in statewide initiatives.
- Summer reading signups have increased from 8,098 in 1997 to 17,048 in 2006.
- In 1997, a total of 19 weekly storytime programs were offered across the district. This has increased to 55 weekly programs now. This includes programs offered in the community, such as Read & Plays and Building Blocks.

Burkman expressed amazement at the degree of change over the past decade. He said he didn't think we'd added more people since then. Keith noted there are more patrons that speak other languages coming into our libraries today, especially after they've become familiar with library services through the Read & Plays that are held in Family Resource Centers.

C. Community Libraries Report

Devlin's written report is attached. She highlighted that we've started doing "Respect, Service and Safety @ Work" training. Ten employees received "trainer" training on this topic. Since then, two programs have been conducted by some of the staff trainers. It will continue to be offered so that all staff receives the training. The training addresses safety and prevention of escalation of situations we don't want. Devlin also noted that five librarians attended a Rural Libraries Retreat in late February. The librarians expressed to Devlin that it was a valuable experience that provided opportunities for networking and connections with others who work in rural communities. It was also expressed to Devlin how much they value being part of a district; some of the rural librarians that attended were on their own.

Devlin introduced Woodland Community Librarian Abbie Anderson. Anderson shared news from the Woodland library. Anderson noted that she began in her position there on Nov. 6, 2006 and said it will take some time for her to get to know her community well. She said she loves being in Woodland. It's a small town that's growing and changing rapidly. They have almost 5,000 residents. In 2006 they served nearly 75,000 visits to the library, so clearly they are serving residents more than once. She estimated that this means they receive 297 visits per day or 36 per hour. The branch has a staff of 3.6 FTE. Anderson noted that prior to being hired there, Woodland had shared a librarian with the La Center library.

Anderson reported some of the Woodland library's service statistics for 2006:

- 6,839 reference questions were asked
- 47,665 items were checked out
- 3,976 packages were mailed to patrons
- 118 programs were attended by 4,642 patrons

She noted that these activities are all occurring in 2,376 square feet. She said to imagine having nearly 75,000 people visit your home in one year.

Anderson shared some of her background, which includes a strong interest and training in story telling. She participated in Read Across America. Anderson also reported that she has joined the local Rotary and attends Chamber of Commerce functions. She noted that

Woodland also has a dream of a larger library, and shared her ideas about what a future partner library might be like.

Burkman expressed appreciation for Anderson's enthusiasm and said it will serve the community well.

D. Update on VLCFA Building Project

Ziegman shared progress on the Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area (VLCFA) building projects. The first meeting with the architects for the Eastside Vancouver Library was held on March 9. This was to begin the discussion about the building program. In attendance were Jerry King as a board representative, a citizen representative from East Vancouver and a number of library staff. There was also a session related to early learning components for the new library that had several others joining us: Karen Peterson from WSU Vancouver, Laurie Cornelius from Clark College, and Jacquelyn Keith. The group also spent some time walking around the land at the Firstenburg Center. Ziegman noted that Bill Yee would be at the next architect meeting since King is unavailable that day.

On March 21 from 7-9 p.m., the first community meeting will be held to discuss the new library. It will be held in the Rose Besserman Room at the C-Tran Transit Center on 164th Street. Ziegman said the meeting will be widely advertised. There will be another community meeting on April 24. Ziegman explained that these meetings are part of the pre-design phase of the project, to gather input about the types of services that will go inside the building.

King said the March 9 architect meeting was impressive and that he appreciated the many good ideas that came out of it. He expressed his regret at having to miss the next one. Ziegman complemented Turpen and the project team for their work organizing the meeting. King noted that the booklet the team put together was very well done too.

E. Update on Battle Ground Building Project

Ziegman said he just had a long interview with Marvin Case of The Reflector, who is writing a story related to the project. Case has also contacted several others involved in the project, including Don and Jane Higgins and Dennis Pavlina. Ziegman said the original plan was for Pavlina to build a 25,000 square foot building of which FVRL would have 13,000 square feet. The rest of the building Pavlina would lease. If the tenants left, FVRL would have the first right of refusal to expand into the additional space.

The new plan is for Pavlina to build a stand-alone 13,000 square foot building and leave the rest as vacant land that the library could expand onto at a later date. Ziegman explained why this newer plan is better:

- It solves issues related to timing. For example, with the first plan the library may at some point be ready to expand but a tenant occupying the space could prevent it. Or a tenant may be exiting the space but the library may not fiscally be ready for expansion.
- We would have to remodel an existing space to make it fit our needs, which could be less desirable than building something from scratch that fully meets the needs of the library.

Ziegman said these factors have persuaded him to work with Pavlina on an agreement to leave the rest of the space as vacant land for future expansion.

Turpen has been working with others to develop a building program for the new library. Fundraising efforts continue with good success. Ziegman introduced Anna Cross, a long time active member of Friends of Battle Ground Library. Cross shared a plaque for the Stepping Stone Society. The plaques are available for \$360 each. Scott Collard did the design. Bob Heck will do calligraphy of each person's name on the tile. She also noted that The Columbian is going to interview her about the building project.

King asked about the next pancake breakfast hosted by the Friends. Cross said the breakfast would be held at Mallard Landing Assisted Living Community on March 17 from 9-11 a.m.

Burkman thanked Cross for sharing these details and also Ziegman for his report.

F. FVRL Foundation Update

Smithrud shared news from his written report, which is attached.

He brought with a full set of the winning bookmarks from the Bookmark Contest, which he shared with the board. Pacific Office Automation printed and donated 60,000 entry forms for the contest. Evergreen School District packaged them for us. iQ Credit Union provided the cost of the bookmark printing. Devlin explained the process the staff uses to judge the entries, which final judging during a Branch Day meeting where librarians from all the branches are present.

A new date for the Authors & Illustrators Dinner was announced; it will be held on Tuesday, November 6 at the Vancouver Hilton. Rick Steves will be the speaker and will also do a travel workshop in the afternoon. Tickets are \$60 each or you can purchase a full table of seats for \$600. Sponsorship forms were provided to board members.

Smithrud acknowledged Anna Cross and Friends members for their work on the Stepping Stone Society. He also mentioned that the Friends will be holding a raffle for a large quilt designed and pieced by Mary Goodnight.

Board members were invited to attend the Friends Fair on April 21 at the Water Resources Education Center. The workshop begins at 10 a.m.

Smithrud stepped out of the room briefly to take a phone call that he had been expecting. When he returned, he shared news he'd just learned from the Meyer Memorial Trust. The Meyer Trust has decided to award the full \$250,000 grant we've requested for the Battle Ground Library Building Project. An exuberant applause followed his announcement.

G. Other

Duitman said that the next Staff Development Conference has been set for Tuesday, September 4. This is the day after Labor Day; all libraries and bookmobiles will be closed for both those days. The conference will be held at Clark College. Duitman explained

that this is the only date Clark College is available to us. The college is the most appropriate location due to its meeting room capacity for our large staff and also its classrooms that allow for break-out sessions.

Anderson said she neglected to mention what a joy it is for her to work with community members from Yale. She said she also truly enjoys their enthusiasm for library services.

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ziegman expressed his pleasure at learning we have received the Meyer Trust grant. This is the largest grant one of our libraries has received. He congratulated Smithrud on his efforts in preparing the grant materials. There was another excited applause.

An agenda for the board retreat is being prepared. The retreat will include discussion of the supplemental budget. Ziegman noted that the budget committee met with staff recently to review a draft proposal and that a more developed proposal will be presented to the full board prior to the retreat. He also said that a policy committee meeting would need to be held to discuss the next policies due for review.

Duitman, Ford and Ziegman attended the recent Library Legislative Day event in Olympia. Ziegman shared information about bills the legislature is considering that could impact public libraries:

- There is a bill being considered that would allow libraries and fire districts that pass levy lid lifts to maintain the higher tax rate for six years before it begins to decline, which is what cities and counties already have in place.
- SB5522 relates to the City of Renton, which wishes to annex a portion of unincorporated King County, including a branch of King County Library District. The Library District and City were already in amicable negotiations about the library but the bill was introduced anyway. If the bill passes, the City would automatically acquire the library, including the building and staffing. Ziegman said this bill takes away what has previously been handled as a local decision. King asked how the bill would affect us and Ziegman said that while it does not now affect us, it could eventually be expanded to include the rest of the state. He said that library supporters do not think this is in general a good way to handle a local situation and have therefore opposed it.
- A bill related to a new Heritage Center is in the Rules committee. This bill would allow the Secretary of State's office to increase fees and from those proceeds fund construction of a new Heritage Center Building on the Capitol Campus. Included in the Heritage Center would be the State Library, State Archives, and the State Capital Museum. Ziegman noted that the State Library was moved off capital grounds several years ago due to state funding issues. It would be good to have it back on the campus grounds so students, legislators and other government officials could make better use of it.

The City of Washougal did not win their bond measure for its new Civic Campus, which would have included a new city hall, library and senior center. Ziegman said that the City plans to return to the drawing board and may consider another ballot measure several years from now.

The library received great press in the March 11 issue of The Columbian. In the Life section there was an article about staff meetings that featured several FVRL staff. Inside that section

was the large ad featuring the Bookmark Contest winners. There was also a regular feature about new books available in the library, and a notice about a library program.

Ziegman expressed what a marvel it was that Wheeler and others in the Yale Valley were able to achieve the vote to get library services several years ago. Cowlitz County has tried several times and not been able to. Wheeler said she is not sure it would happen again if they ran it now; she feels they were lucky to win it. She's heard from people who have moved into their community recently that they didn't expect to have library services. Wheeler again said how fortunate she feels.

Secretary of State Sam Reed will be visiting Clark County on March 14. While he's in the area, he will read a story at the Woodland library's Book Babies program at 11 a.m., followed by a tour of the La Center library at 11:45 a.m. Ziegman plans to join Reed at the tour, along with Margaret Colf Hepola, who was instrumental in saving the old hospital building so it could be made into a library.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Anna Cross thanked all those that worked on the Meyer Trust grant for the Battle Ground library. She also thanked everyone who has helped with the project all these years.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

King shared some history about the about the former State Library building (when it used to be on the Capitol Campus). It was built in 1950. Fifty years later there was talk about closing the State Library. He thinks it's a good idea to bring it back onto campus. Ziegman noted that the former State Library building is now a cafeteria. King said that the first State Library building was built in 1854.

King also encouraged board members to attend future Library Legislative Day events.

Burkman gave acknowledgement to staff for the article that appeared in the Columbian related to staff meetings. When he picked it up, he saw a friendly group of people who work well together and are enthused. He said that means a lot.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the library board's annual planning retreat, held April 9-10, 2007 at the White Salmon Valley Community Library. Although the full meeting is open to the public, citizen comment will only be taken during the April 9 evening portion of the meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the April 9, 2007 meeting

Community Libraries Report For February 2007

PROGRAMS

- The Book Mark Contest was a big success. There were 6318 entries from all over the District. Branches report that they had lots of interest in the contest and that they received favorable comments from the schools and the public.
- Craig Lesley, author of *River Song* and other books, spoke about the flooding of Celilo Falls and its effect on the native tribes of the area. The program, held in the Vancouver library, was part of a series sponsored by the Center for Columbia River History and public libraries along the river.
- Sean McGill (Washougal) presented programs at the Hathaway BRIDGES site the first three Tuesdays in February. Washougal is holding a trivia contest based on the following books: *Eragon*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Bridge to Terabithia*. BRIDGES students read the books (provided by FVRL), answer the questions, and enter into a raffle for hardback editions of the books. Letters explaining the program have been sent to the Jemtegaard and Cape-Horn Skye sites along with the trivia questions.
- About 75 children and parents attended Battle Ground's Magic Tree House program. Stations throughout the branch offered a variety of crafts and activities based on the popular children's book series. Genevieve Brown did an outstanding job planning and presenting this program with assistance from other staff and many volunteers. One mother reported that her son skipped a birthday party to attend this program!
- Goldendale started their Friday night Film Discussion series for adults. They're showing a series of documentaries with discussion of current social topics like alternative energy, global warming, prison corrections systems and wildlife conservation. Suggestions for future series include: academy award nominees and book-to-film titles.
- Jewell Foederer's "Knitting 101" on February 6th launched the first of three sessions at the Woodland library. Response was so positive that they had to reserve the Community Center to accommodate all the registrants. The group will continue with informal monthly meetings in the library as "The Narrative Knitters."
- Erica Rhodes (Van Mall) and friends welcomed in the New Year with a Chinese New Year program. A dragon parade traveled from the library, passing the Big Five Sporting Goods store and J.C. Penny before returning to the library. Erica wore a big dragon's head and all the kids followed her under a long piece of red cloth. They made lots of noise playing instruments. People came out of the stores to watch and some took pictures with their cell phones. Amy Lee found two volunteers to come to the program to write the children's names in Chinese.
- Stevenson continues to provide many programs for the BRIDGES after-school students, both at the library and in the local elementary schools. Judy Larson and Cynthia

Dominick led the groups in bookmark contest activities, and led fun and exciting programs about codes and ciphers, poetry and Japanese culture.

- The Yale book group discussed Richard Russo's *Empire Falls*. Everyone agreed it was a very rich read.
- La Center's new Toddler Storytime has become as popular as their Preschool Storytime. Parents are pleased that the books and activities during the Toddler Storytime are age appropriate. The older children can now sit down for the longer storytime without all of the interruptions brought on by the little feet becoming bored and wandering.
- "Metal Cowboy" performer Joe Kurmaskie was a hit with his audience in the Stevenson library gallery. Many patrons bought copies of his books to be signed.
- Ridgefield held its annual Dolly Dessert program with over seventy in attendance. The Friends always provide refreshments, and this year they also provided the entertainment. Friends' Secretary Nancy McQuillan, a professional storyteller, involved the kids in several stories. In addition, Friend Nancy Roberts, who also volunteers with the Foreign Exchange Student program, brought Florian Hillson, a talented 15-year-old German student. Nancy emceed while Florian played the guitar and sang with the group.
- White Salmon had their first Pirateology program (based on the book of the same name). It was a great success thanks in part to the help of some dedicated YAAB members who came in pirate costumes to set the ambience. One of the YAAB members, Sarah Ellsworth, entertained the audience with a pirate story (told in 'pirate-talk'). She also taught the kids about various pirate customs. Four other YAAB members helped the kids make their own Jolly Roger flags. Carl Sofie (Facilities) and his wife, Inez, were the hit of the program with their airbrush 'pirate' tattoos for all attendees and helpers. All 45 of the pirate books on display were checked out following the program. Thank you to Heidi Henning for planning and facilitating this fun program.
- Washougal sponsored a *Charlotte's Web* program that offered crafts, games, and food. One of the games involved fishing using magnets hung from poles to catch fish with paperclips in their mouths. Sean says it was wonderful to see two little pre-school aged boys take over that station, making sure that everyone who cast a line caught a fish (or several).
- Stevenson's Food for Thought group discussed *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. The haunting story about a child who was conceived to serve as a donor for her cancer-ridden sibling provoked an intense conversation.
- The Woodland book group discussed Tobias Wolff's *Old School* this month and had a wonderful time savoring this very literary coming of age story.
- Van Mall had their first collaborative program with the mall. Barbra Meisenheimer did a special Valentine's Day storytime in the mall's play area. Westy (the mall's mascot) visited with the children and listened to the stories. Afterwards, several of the families came to the library to make Valentine's cards to send to our soldiers in Iraq.

YOUNG ADULTS

- Goldendale's Friday Club is going strong with regular attendance of 10 to 15. Last Friday, they had 21 for the club activities! In addition to chess and writing, the PAL leader arranges for different types of presentations each week on topics such as leadership, library research, journalism and civics. The afternoon always ends with games for everyone, including Scrabble, Clue, Boggle, and, of course, chess.
- The Battle Ground YAAB discussed their favorite books and music and made plans for their upcoming Open Mike and Game Night (March 10).
- Cascade Park held a teen game night. Several of the teens have been involved with YAAB for about four years and one of them reminded the group that they had not played the Skittles game in a couple of years. The reintroduced game which offered a great way to break the ice and get the teens playing other games with each other.
- The Tween group at Stevenson discussed Madeleine L'Engle's classic novel, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Jackie Spurlock attended Battle Ground Mayor John Idsinga's State of the City address at City Hall. The mayor spoke in glowing terms of the many new projects around the city including the new library under development at Battle Ground Village.
- North Bonneville is promoting tax materials. The materials are on display in the City Hall lobby with signs to let patrons know they can download additional forms from the library terminal in the lobby. The library's schedule, information about the tax forms, and a list of Friends activities are posted in the monthly city newsletter.
- Abbie Anderson continues to attend Woodland Rotary and Chamber of Commerce meetings each week (schedule allowing) while also keeping up with the activities of the City Council.
- The Horizons poverty project in Goldendale has reached a new stage. Naomi participated in community "study circles" for 5 weeks, discussing the causes of poverty particular to the community and brainstorming action ideas for addressing these causes. A strong consensus to strengthen Goldendale's resource networking and communications systems came from the discussions. The library will host the next action meeting at which the group will outline the next steps to take.
- Tina Smith (Vancouver) taught a business information seminar as part of a series of seminars for small businesses sponsored by Winters & Associates and The Vancouver Business Journal.

- Heidi Henning (White Salmon) visited the Early Headstart class to present a story time for students and their parents. A Headstart helper interpreted the stories since the majority of the attendees spoke Spanish. Two new library cards were given out and four Spanish Hello Baby Bags were distributed. Sheri from EHS expressed her thanks for the Spanish-language Hello Baby Bags. She said they have been a "real blessing."
- Jackie Spurlock read Persian poetry (in English) with Goudarz Eghtedari reading the original Persian at the Barnes & Noble poetry group. A musician playing santur (a type of Persian lute) accompanied the reading. Sean and Michelle McGill (and baby Cora) were among the audience.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

- Stepping Stones are on display at the Battle Ground library. These are for people who make a contribution of \$360 or more to the Battle Ground building fund. They are silk screened by Collard Design, and the donors' names are being calligraphied on each tile by Scott Peck. A local flooring business donated the tiles.
- Ms. Moore, a regular Washougal patron, offered to display her quilts in the library. Unfortunately the Washougal Library has no wall space big enough to hang quilts. Ms. Moore explained that she really wanted to have the quilts out where people could touch them. She said that she had learned to quilt by reading the library's books on the topic and she had put together her first quilt sitting in the library. Washougal displayed the quilts with a sign saying "please touch" along with a variety of quilting books. This display has drawn quite a bit of attention and the quilting books are going out regularly.
- In connection with White Salmon's Celilo Falls program series, local artist Carol Wild-Delano generously offered to display her series of large graphite drawings documenting an afternoon with Alvis Smith, Sr., an octogenarian Warm Springs resident and fisher on the Columbia River. The series is entitled, "An Afternoon with Alvis." Also in connection with the Celilo Falls program, the library borrowed the Maryhill Museum "Traveling Trunk" exhibit that features a wealth of Native American artifacts.

STAFF

- Sam Wallin (IS) visited Battle Ground to demonstrate NoveList and to get the staff started with instant messaging. Sam was a knowledgeable and engaging trainer, and the branch hopes to have him back soon.
- Several librarians attended the Rural Libraries Retreat Feb. 22-23. Abbie Anderson (Woodland) said she came away refreshed with new ideas. Jennifer Hull (White Salmon) said the retreat offered a great opportunity to network with other staff from small libraries in the state—outside and within the FVRL district. Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) said she renewed several old friendships with librarians from the north Peninsula, reconnected with people she had met at the bookmobile conference in Ohio, and met some new people with wonderful ideas. Ann O'Reilly (Ridgefield) said that the small size of the conference gave the attendees a chance to exchange ideas and experiences, especially in regard to drawing new users to the library and advocating for the library. Chris Hughey

(Stevenson / North Bonneville) said she came away with valuable information and contacts.

- Tom Taylor visited the Ridgefield library to assess and streamline the reference collection. Staff decided to interfile most of the reference materials with the circulating collection. This will make it easier to use the whole collection to answer questions and will make reference materials more accessible for everyone.
- Preparations to launch the new “Respect, Service and Safety @ Work” training involved all the trainers. Initial training sessions begin in March.

LITERACY & ESL

- Vancouver’s conversation circle leader has started using a series of wonderfully animated PowerPoint-displayed lessons on pronunciation for 15 minutes each week. Each lesson comes with worksheets, and both facilitators and students like it a lot.

FRIENDS

- The La Center Friends have agreed to become a Sister Library to the Placitas Community Library in New Mexico. This group contacted the Friends after hearing about their success in raising funds to have their own community library. It promises to be a great exchange for ideas.
- The Stevenson Friends met to finalize their proposed budget and to set up a special February “romance” booksale. The Friends were recipients of hundreds of brand-new paperback romances. They developed a creative display with hearts and crepe paper, and are selling the books at bargain prices.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- The Casino Community Giving group in La Center recently purchased chairs/roller for the library. With the size of the La Center book discussion group, the branch previously had to gather chairs from all three stories of the library so everyone could sit down.
- Ayme and Chris Hooper of White Salmon, parents of one-year-old Charlie Hooper, came up with a very fun and generous idea. In Charlie’s birthday party invitation they recently sent out to friends and family, they included the following statement—“Through the generosity of many, Charlie does not need any gifts. We have set up a fund for children’s books at the local library and Charlie would be honored to have you donate to the “Charlie Hooper’s 1st Birthday Fund.” Charlie’s parents had arranged the fund prior to sending the invitation and also asked donors to make their checks payable to the FVRL Foundation. What a great idea!
- Donations have been received for the following “Naming Opportunities” for the new Battle Ground library: GFWC (General Federation of Women’s Clubs Battle Ground chapter) has chosen a collection topic, “Countries” for their naming opportunity. Altrusa

of Clark County chose a study room for their naming opportunity. Both of the study rooms are now taken. A donor chose an outdoor bench as a naming opportunity.

- Battle Ground Friends netted \$27,508.66 from the 2007 Ben Franklin dinner. Twelve Stepping Stones (\$360 donation) were generated at the dinner. The 2008 dinner will be on January 29th.
- Long-time White Salmon patron and avid reader Louise Thomas passed away recently. Jennifer Hull reports that the library is honored to learn that the family designated the White Salmon library for memorials in honor of Louise.

FACILITIES

A display case funded by the Friends and an anonymous donor is in place in the Ridgefield library lobby.

TIDBITS

- Holly Cote (Three Creeks) received the following email from a former TC teen volunteer:

Hi Holly! Hope you've been doing well. I haven't had much time to stop by the library, but I just wanted to tell you that I got in Lewis & Clark Law School here in Portland! It was my number one choice! :)

Thank you so much for all the times you recommended great books to me and allowed me to volunteer at the library in high school! I think it really aided me with not only becoming a better person, but also better prepared for college and now, law school.

*All the very best,
Marina*

- Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) says that the holidays often bring out generosity in their patrons. They love getting cookies and candies but this year on Valentine's Day they received a dozen roses! A patron presented the roses to the employee at the desk. When Teresa heard about the generous gift, she was able to catch the patron in the parking lot and thank her. The patron told Teresa that she loves the library so much she just wanted to show the staff by giving them roses.

Michael West, a regular Washougal patron, noticed Sean McGill playing a quick game of MAGIC: The Gathering (a card game) with Blake, another regular patron who is now in junior high. Michael said his son played MAGIC too and would have him come in and introduce himself. When Michael's son came to the library, he and Sean started talking and it turned out that he really wanted to put together a group to play Dungeons and Dragons. Acting as a conduit, Sean hooked him up with Blake and for the last two Saturday's these two (and several friends) have spent a quiet afternoon role-playing.

Board Report
February 2007
Access and Programs Division

Projects

More than 6300 children participated in this year's Bookmark Contest. The winning bookmarks were featured in the Sunday Columbian (March 11 edition).

Discovery Kits are now available for check-out to Child Care providers throughout the district. Most of the kits were originally funded through grants and they have been available primarily through locations where grant activities were taking place. We are now able to make them more widely available. Yvonne established cataloging standards for the kits and cataloged them. Basic entries are "shadowed" in the catalog, which means the record is available so the kits can be checked out and tracked through our system, but it is not visible to the public. Kits will be marketed directly to child care providers through our workshops and training, and by branch staff.

We received The Public Library Association annual report and have nearly completed data entry. When this report is published it includes data from most public libraries in the country. It provides a way for libraries to see comparative data and locate libraries serving similar populations. Jessie has made assignments for the annual report that will be submitted to the Washington State Library. The report we send to WSL ultimately becomes part of a federal statistics data pool.

Community Involvement

Jacquelyn, Heather, and I continue to be involved in the SELF collaborative. I am participating in the work group that is looking at restructuring the collaborative. Jacquelyn is participating in three work groups that were formed to work on grant proposals for the Clark County Early Learning Fund. Heather is involved with maintaining materials and the distribution network for the Early Learning Clearinghouse.

Jacquelyn and Heather conducted Every Child Ready to Read training for ESD 112 staff. The training included four child care providers who will receive STARS credits for their participation. FVRL is now certified to provide STARS credits. Child care providers are required to attend STARS training in order to achieve and/or maintain certification.

Amy and Jacquelyn represented the library at a meeting sponsored by LiteracyNow at PIC's office. They learned about the origin and use of the state-wide Adult Literacy database and had a chance to share our ECC and Hello Baby programs with the attendees. Most participants were staff from PIC (Partner-in-Career).

Amy is involved with the Latino Community Resource Group and is participating in the preparation for the Latino Resource Fair scheduled for March 25.

Professional Involvement and Training

Most members of Access and Programs attended some part of the Sirsi Superconference. I participated in the Executive Track which involved two days of workshop sessions. This year's theme was on the user experience. Topics included:

- research findings on Internet use
- innovative training approaches to keep staff abreast of new technologies and how they are being used

Amy Lee, Brenda Cameron, and Jessie Kovic attended the main track of the conference. They learned what will be in new releases of the software, they made use of opportunities to talk with Sirsi staff and to advocate for changes in the software, and they participated in workshop sessions applicable to their work responsibilities.

Upon WSL's invitation, along with several FVRL staff and a few community members, Amy traveled to Olympia to participate WSL's Future Search Conference on 2/8/07. She reports that it was an interesting and well-run process, very similar to our Strategic Planning workshop that was conducted at the Water Resource Education Center a couple years ago.

Buildings

Jessie has completed a compilation of demographics and library use statistics for the Vancouver Community Library. This will become part of the VCL Building Program background material.

The "Cheers" Team substantially completed a Building Program for the Eastside library in time for the kick-off meeting with the architects. Dennis did a terrific job of translating the quantities of furniture, computers, and collection that the committee defined into allocations of square feet. Melinda created detailed estimates of collection numbers, float, and preferred shelving heights for the different areas of the library. Our numbers were verified by the architects. I am very pleased with the work of this committee and the progress that we made over the last three months.

Date: March 12, 2007
To: Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees
From: Patty Duitman
Subject: Operations Report

ADMINISTRATION

- Finalized VLCFA Interlocal.
- Working with VLCFA Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel in preparation of May 15th bond sale.
- 2006 financial year end closed out.
- Preparation for supplemental budget.
- Working on Interlocal with the City for the Eastside location.
- Negotiated with architect for the Eastside.

COMPUTER SERVICES

Projects in progress:

- Debugging IP phones installed in Ridgefield and Goldendale.
- SAM client replacement. Working on new client image.
- Starting to think about new PCs for Van Mall remodel.

Projects completed:

- Building Projects area computers and phones installed.
- TrackIt inventory database is completed after doing a complete physical inventory.
- IP phones installed in Goldendale.
- Firewall and router upgrades for Stevenson videoconferencing equipment done.
- Software updated on various servers.

TRAINING

- Respect, Service and Safety Training has started. All staff are required to attend. The last session is scheduled for May 25.
- Staff Development Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 4th at Clark College.

ACCOUNTING

- Completed year-end closing activities.

FACILITIES

- As a result of Dennis Sword being assigned to the building project group, Bud Barrett was named Fleet & Facilities Manager and a new Facilities Maintenance and Repair Supervisor was hired.
- Completed remodel in Vancouver to make room for the building project group.
- Signed contract to have halon fire suppressant replaced in the computer server room.

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

March 12, 2007

Community Foundation for Southwest Washington

On March 1st, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington presented checks from its Community Giving Fund. FVRL Foundation received a \$7,500 grant to help purchase reading incentive prizes for FVRL District's 2007 Summer Reading program. The Foundation also received \$6,200 to support subscriptions and materials for the Nonprofit Resource Center.

2007 FVRL Bookmark Contest

The Foundation recruited a number of sponsors for the district-wide 2007 FVRL Bookmark Contest. Pacific Office Automation donated 60,000 copies of the entry form, Evergreen School District collated the entries into classroom size segments, iQ Credit Union is sponsoring the cost of printing 99,000 full-color bookmarks, and The Columbian is sponsoring newspaper advertising for the program.

La Center Casinos Charitable Fund

The Foundation has received a grant award of \$2,695 from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund to pay for stacking chairs and rolling chair carts for La Center Community Library. These chairs will be used for library programs such as children's storytimes, book discussions, outdoor summer programs, and small group meetings. Prior to receiving this grant, La Center Library staff had to gather wooden chairs from throughout the building to provide adequate seating for programs.

2007 Authors & Illustrators Dinner

The Foundation has a date and location for the 2007 Authors & Illustrators Dinner. The event will be held on Tuesday, November 6th at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The featured speaker will be Rick Steves, European travel guru and public broadcasting's most recognized celebrity. The Foundation is currently looking for Table Captains, Sponsors and Silent Auction donations.

Stepping Stones for the Battle Ground Library Campaign

The Friends of Battle Ground Community Library have produced a brochure for its new Stepping Stone Society. Donors to this giving society pledge \$360 to the Battle Ground Library Campaign and in return receive a commemorative tile that recognizes their thoughtful contribution. The design of the brochure was a gift-of-service by Scott Collard of J.S. Collard Design, the tiles were donated by Chase Wholesale Floors, and Bob Peck has generously agreed to calligraphy the donor's name on the tile.

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation Grant

The Foundation will be submitting an updated version of its grant proposal to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation on Thursday, March 15, 2007. The original proposal, seeking \$100,000 for the Battle Ground Library Campaign, had been suspended until the campaign met the 75% funding threshold.