

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

June 19, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Karen Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Goldendale Community Library.

2. PRESENT

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

Other staff and citizens attending: Nancy Barron, Ruth Bruns, Teddy Cole, Anna Cross, Naomi Fisher, Jane Higgins, Susan Kerwin, Avery Morgan, Jeannette Nance, Bob Seborer, Rick Smithrud, Judy Thomas and Sara Wu.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peterson thanked Friends of Goldendale Community Library for the delicious meal they generously provided prior to the meeting. The rest of the board and staff also expressed their appreciation for a really great meal.

4. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the May 8 and May 23, 2006 meetings were approved as emailed.

E. Smith noted that she was not able to hear when she participated via telephone at the May 23 special meeting, and that she felt she was not included in the discussion during the meeting. Ziegman said staff would look into the technical problem with the telephone for future meetings. Board members expressed their concern and apologies to Smith as well.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bob Seborer expressed his disappointment with the board's decision to filter the Internet and said this is censorship. He said that a number of years ago, a citizen was displeased that a certain book was available in the library. The citizens came to a library meeting and they also picketed. He said that the board members at that time didn't give in to the pressure. Seborer said that the library board defended the right to have the book even if it was something that was offensive to

everyone. He said our country seems to be going through a stage where many people are willing to give up freedoms for what they believe will be security. He paraphrased a quote by Ben Franklin: "Those that are willing to give up freedom for security have neither." Seborer said that pornography is rampant in our country and if people don't get it in here they will get it out there.

E. Smith said she appreciates Seborer's comments and the letter that the Friends sent. She expressed her support for the citizens of Klickitat County. Burkman said that he appreciates hearing Seborer's perspective, but that he has his own perspective on this issue and that sometimes we will just have to disagree.

7. **BUSINESS**

A. Expenditure Approval

MOTION: Jack Burkman moved and Bill Yee seconded approval of the accounts payable, payroll and payroll payables as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area Expenditure Approval

Burkman asked when we anticipate expending the rest of the money in this fund. Ziegman said the bonds will be paid off by the end of 2008, but if there are proceeds left at the end of 2008 then there would be some expenditure after that time. Duitman added that the fund currently has \$120,000 to \$150,000 available in it and will be used to reduce the debt service. Koplan said this amount of funds is appropriate because we wanted to make sure have enough to cover the needs of the new building.

MOTION: Jack Burkman moved and Merle Koplan seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **REPORTS**

A. Special Report from Goldendale Young Adult Advisory Board

Susan Kerwin, Youth Services coordinator for the Goldendale library, introduced Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) member Avery Morgan. She said that Morgan has been with the YAAB group for several years. Meetings are more structured now than they once were and include book discussions and planning for teen events. There will be a Teen Mystery Night in July. This program was offered once before and was very popular, so the teens voted to offer it again. They are also doing a fundraiser at their book sale. Kerwin said that the staff gets input from the teens on what to purchase for the young adult collection, and help with finding different ways to interact with teens. Peterson asked Morgan how many are in the teen group. Morgan said they have about 5 regular people, but as many as 9 teens come to the meetings. Some have been

there for quite a while. Koplan asked Morgan what she's currently reading. Morgan said she is reading *Far North* right now. Fisher asked Morgan what she has learned from being a YAAB member that she can apply later on. Morgan said she's learned about meetings and how to run a meeting. Peterson thanked Morgan and Kerwin for the update. Koplan said that the Teen Mystery Night sounds like a lot of fun, and that their YAAB group is bound to get more members after teens hear what fun it is.

B. Community Libraries Report

Mary Devlin's written report is attached. Devlin introduced Goldendale Community Librarian Naomi Fisher.

Fisher explained more about the YAAB group. She said that when staff started putting together a YAAB group 4-5 years ago, it was difficult to get it going because they did not have the right mix of staffing or staff time back then. Once Kerwin joined the staff and some extra hours were added, the program was able to blossom. She said that often more than 9 come to the teen programs – sometimes up to 11 teens.

The teens gave advice to staff about the incentives for summer reading. They also helped advertise the program with signs and by word-of-mouth. This has helped boost statistics for the program. Also, Fisher said that there are 14 schools in the area and normally the staff visits 4-5 schools in the late spring. This year, however, they visited 11 schools in 12 working days. They provided so many sign-up packets for summer reading that they ran out before their official "sign up" party was held.

The sign up party is a cooperative effort between the library and Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with the opening of the swimming pool. The kids get in free if they show their library card or sign up for one. This year, 78 kids participated in that program. About one-third of the kids had not yet signed up for summer reading. Fisher said this is a great outreach opportunity. To date, she said that a total of 400 youth and teens have signed up for summer reading through the Goldendale library.

Fisher invited everyone to come to their annual Ice Cream Social on August 17. They usually have between 250 and 500 people on their lawn for this popular event.

Goldendale Friends of the Library members were introduced. Fisher shared information about a local book, *Bluelight to Pucker Huddle: Discovering Klickitat County*, which was published by the Friends group. Ruth Miles Bruns and Nancy Barron are the editors. The library offered many workshops for writers over the course of a year to help strengthen its community of writers. Fisher acknowledged Teddy Cole for being the heart and inspiration of the book. Burkman said he has the book and the

stories in it are fantastic. He said you pick it up and then can't put it down. Koplan said this is a wonderful achievement. Bruns said more than 100 writers and artists contributed to the book. Sara Wu said the Friends had 2,000 copies printed.

Peterson thanked the staff and Friends for hosting the board meeting and expressed how glad she is to be here.

C. First in a Series: About the District

Turpen gave a special report about the district. She said her report provides an overview of the district and future reports will focus on a department.

Only 19 states have laws that allow for library districts. Most rely on a municipality or a county for library services. Peterson asked if districts tend to be in the western part of the country. Turpen said there are many in the Midwest. Oregon and California do not have them. Ziegman noted that Washington has had library districts since 1950 and FVRL was one of the first.

Among the benefits that Turpen talked about are the shared collection and subscription databases that are often too expensive for small independent libraries to afford. FVRL has fairly stable revenue so that we are not always cutting hours like smaller libraries often have to do. We have a delivery system that brings the materials you want closer to your home or work (whichever library is convenient within our system).

Extended hours are another benefit, with service via telephone until 9 p.m. and on Sundays, plus via computer 24/7. We also provide a knowledge base that gets transferred out to branch staff. Interlibrary loan service is available. Turpen said that the Goldendale library had over 800 interlibrary loan requests filled in 2004.

Peterson asked if there's a way to track checkout and return patterns, for example if materials are checked out at one location and returned to another. Turpen said there should be in the future with a new product we've installed called Director's Station. Koplan asked if we can see by zip code which library people are using. Turpen said we are able to do this but she is striving to find a breakdown that more closely matches the geography around the branches, because zip codes overlap some of the library service areas.

Turpen explained that another benefit to patrons using the library district is the predictability of services and practices. For example, the same checkout rules apply across all the district's libraries. Many patrons use more than one FVRL location and so this is a benefit to them.

The district is able to more efficiently use its tax dollars in planning services and programs because of the economy of scale. This includes services such as the online Catalog, telecommunications and technology. The library district doesn't have to compete with police and fire for funding. This allows us to focus on programs and services. We can use funding where it's needed for such things as upgrades, painting, carpeting and the bookmobile purchases several years ago.

A more diverse collection is another benefit. Also, some ideas that come out of one community can be expanded to others. An example of this is the English Conversation Circles that started in Battle Ground but were soon expanded all around the district.

Diverse programming is also a benefit and this is supported by the Friends and the community. For example, you can go to Ridgefield for programs on nature and bird watching, to Goldendale for their annual Ice Cream Social, to Woodland for history events.

Many libraries have community contacts that bring benefits back to the library. For example, Goldendale has a connection with the Maryhill Museum and so the library is able to provide free museum passes to check out. Turpen was contacted by the Center for Columbia River History about offering programs on the history of Celilo Falls, which we will provide in this area.

Turpen said that the Columbia River connects us. Sophie the River Otter is our new mascot.

Peterson suggested placing Turpen's handout on the internet as its own button. Vanlaanen said she would do this.

D. FVRL Foundation Update

Smithrud was unable to attend, so Koplán gave a report in his absence.

Koplán encouraged everyone to sign up as table captains for the Foundation's Authors and Illustrators Dinner scheduled for Thursday, October 5. She also encouraged people to attend the Riverwalk event on Saturday. Proceeds for the walk will help underwrite the cost of kids Summer Reading prizes. Koplán said she saw some kids that were very excited about the prizes that include stickers and blow up frogs.

Other details shared by Koplán are in Smithrud's written report, attached.

Ziegman said that the Foundation will be taking action on their budget tomorrow. The fiscal year is July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Each year the

Foundation has designated a Library Executive Director's discretionary fund. This provides about \$100,000 of direct benefit to the library, including support of teen programs, summer reading, special events, grant writing, books for the Juvenile Detention Center, the bookmark contest, Hello Baby bags and more. The Foundation provides a lot of support to the library and the Friends of the Library. Their main fundraiser is the Authors and Illustrators Dinner. Koplan noted that they also help fund the Discovery Kits, which are invaluable to families and daycares.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ziegman said that a district-wide mailer went out a few days ago with news about various library projects.

Ziegman said he has been spending time on preparations for the September 19 election, which includes meetings with Vancouver City Council and the Clark County Commissioners to get the measure on the ballot.

For a number of years now, ALTRUSA of Clark County has given an award to a library employee within Clark County. A few FVRL staff members have received the award in previous years. This year the award went to Darlene Downey, a librarian at Harmony Elementary School within the Evergreen School District. Of the ten finalists, five were FVRL employees.

Ziegman said he sent out a memo to staff explaining his thoughts behind some of the recent changes that have been made. He said he would also send the memo to the library board.

An early learning design symposium was conducted in early June. Ziegman said that the results will be very useful in designing new libraries, but also some of the ideas can be used in existing ones where there is space. Early learning experts were gathered together to talk about the library's role in early learning. It included representatives from Clark College, WSU Vancouver, local schools, child care providers, architects and others. Ziegman said that the representatives from Clark College and WSU Vancouver were especially up to speed on early learning theory and the direction of early learning. Ziegman said he would send out some notes on this to the board in the next few weeks. He noted that Peterson participated on behalf of WSU Vancouver, as did another WSU professor.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

Peterson noted that there would be a Born Learning event at Esther Short Park following the Riverwalk event on Saturday. She said that the library is partnering with many others in this event to support families and early literacy.

Koplan said that she attended the Vancouver City Council meeting when action was taken on the library's bond measure, as did Burkman and King. Koplan said that King did a very good job speaking on behalf of the library and we can be proud of him as our chairman. Burkman noted that there was a lot of support from the council.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 10, 2006 at Three Creeks Community Library.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the July 10, 2006 board meeting.

Date: June 19, 2006
To: Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees
From: Patty Duitman
Subject: Operations Report

ADMINISTRATION

Started working on the 2007 budget

Have been working with the City of Vancouver, Clark County and Bond Counsel to get proper documents created for action by the City, the VLCFA and the Clark County Board of Commissioners.

Continue to work with the Strategic Plan Goal II committee to design a building and collection template for new and remodeled facilities. The committee is hoping to have a tool available this summer.

FACILITIES

Facilities work for the past month includes:

Vancouver

- Completed staff moves in the Operations area
- Installed new carpet in Library Hall
- Re-painted walls in Library Hall
- Completed Internet desk modifications
- Completed staff room painting
- Carpet cleaning/floor waxing
- Public restroom tile clean/seal
- Replace staff room refrigerator

Ridgefield

- Refinished front exterior Benches

Additional

- 100 plus work orders & special event tasks

COMPUTER SERVICES

Our big project in May was the staff areas being rearranged in the "ballroom area" in the Vancouver building. This involved moving old computers, installing some new ones, new data cabling, and phone cables.

Another project this month was moving the monitors on top of the desks for the Vancouver public Internet stations. With two facilities staff and four CS staff it took about 2½ hours to complete the 13 stations. The others branches are planned to be converted throughout June and July.

Several people have requested blogging software for their use. CS has setup the blog software, Wordpress on a server and is working with people to evaluate/test it.

Computer replacements in the branches continue and will do so for the rest of the year.

There are still a few printers left to replace – hope to get those done in June.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Currently working on: Supervisor Manual, Emergency Plan-Health, and conducting hiring training.

Receiving resumes for Foundation Assistant, Administrative Analyst and the Woodland and La Center librarian positions

Subs:

Subfinder: With the new equipment negotiation, Sherry was able to successfully negotiate reducing the annual license fee by \$629!

Volunteers:

Currently have 2 work experience people (20 hours week)

Paulie - Business office/Vancouver

Cameron - Mainly literacy program

20,000 teen and kids summer reading packets completed in 2 weeks

FVRL Board Report

Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director

June 19, 2006

District newsletter delivers

192,711 FVRL newsletters were delivered to district mailboxes the week of June 12. This was a four-page, two-color folded "postal patron" piece that communicated eight short pieces of information:



- Internet filtering ON for all
- Vancouver to vote Sept. 19 on library buildings
- Battle Ground Friends make progress on new building
- Larger library proposed for Washougal
- Sophie the river otter assumes mascot responsibilities
- Citizens help district set goals (strategic planning)
- Summer Reading runs June 1-September 15
- New database helps investors (Morningstar™)

We immediately started getting feedback as soon as the newsletter began to arrive in mailboxes. A number of citizens called or sent emails thanking the district for the new filtering policy, and we also received calls with questions about the Vancouver bond measure. I personally received positive feedback about both the Battle Ground building article, and the strategic planning mention. We're planning to do at least one more similar mailing this summer.



It's here!

We had the great pleasure last week of receiving delivery of 15,000 copies of a beautiful new "Every Moment Counts" tabloid.

As with the 2004

publication of the same name, Graphics Coordinator Jeanne Heikkinen did a simply wonderful job of taking the text I wrote and edited and the design ideas I provided, and working in adorable photos, lively colors, rich textures, and a very attractive layout.

The publication will soon be appearing in doctor's offices, FVRL libraries, "Hello, Baby!" book bags and many other places parents and caregivers frequent in Clark County.

Phone directory listing

Due to the ongoing challenges of getting our phone directory listings correct, the 2007 Clark County DEX Yellow Pages will feature a display ad for our library listing, rather than the standard phone listing. This will allow us to fully control the accuracy of the listings, and make it much easier to make changes in the future that are independent of the company's account listings of FVRL phone numbers.

Phonebook listings are a persistent problem across the district. The reason for the inaccuracies has to do with the many layers of various phone directory companies purchasing ads from each other, making it difficult -- if not sometimes impossible -- to determine the origin of a listing.

Community Libraries Report For May 2006

PROGRAMS

- Goldendale held a four-week series of knitting workshops. Friends donated yarn and needles for beginners, and a volunteer knitting teacher brought in patterns and taught the basics. The group loved the program and may continue as an informal weekly knitting group.
- Representatives from the Washington State Library and Tom Taylor (FVRL) visited La Center to provide a program on genealogy resources. It was well attended and people have requested a follow-up program in the fall.
- Michele Taylor (Vancouver Mall) held a “Kindergarten, Here We Come” program. This was designed to connect local school districts with the caregivers of children ages 3-5 who will be entering kindergarten in Washington. Special thanks to the representatives of the Battle Ground, Evergreen and Vancouver school districts, Heather Rhone and the Early Learning Strategic Planning Committee for their commitment to this program and to Jacquelyn Keith and the READ program for providing books for the families.
- About 30 children participated in Goldendale’s Mother’s Day craft program, making sun-catchers out of dried flowers and creative frames.
- The Highstrung! String quartet performed for the BRIDGES after-school program in the Stevenson Elementary gymnasium. The group was a huge hit with the students and kept them enthralled. The musicians answered many questions and allowed the children to hold and study the instruments. Following the program, several youngsters were spotted following the quartet down the hallway asking for autographs.
- Washougal’s annual Doll Tea Party was May 20th. A teen performing community service through Clark County’s Restorative Justice Program did set up, made tea, took photos, arranged craft supplies, and helped with cleaning up. The staff appreciated his help very much.
- Goldendale hosted volunteer presenters who put on a travel slideshow about Sri-Lanka featuring tsunami-ravaged areas, recovery efforts, historic sites, tea plantations and more. It was an in-depth look at a very interesting country.

SUMMER READING

Summer Reading promotions are taking place district-wide. For example:

- Ryan Ellis and Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) have been visiting schools to promote summer reading. Ryan has done the majority of the visits and is very popular with students and teachers. One child was so excited after meeting Ryan, that he begged his mom to take him to the library that day so he could see Ryan again.

- Three Creeks began their Summer Reading school visits in mid-May. Staff members are visiting students everywhere they are invited.
- Bridget Cain-Bushman and Jurinda Swingruber addressed an assembly at the Woodland Intermediate School and talked about Summer Reading. Jewell Foederer and Jurinda entertained classes of students from the Woodland Primary School with selections from “‘You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You’ Nursery Rhymes and Fairytales” and got everyone excited about Summer Reading. After seeing the completion prize possibilities the kids voted for their favorites. They favored prize were ice cream coupons from the Woodland McDonald’s, followed by frogs and shark tooth necklaces.

YOUNG ADULTS

- La Center and Woodland offered Henna/Mendhi tattooing programs to their YAAB groups. Jurinda Swingruber did a wonderful job demonstrating the art and discussing the different cultures’ use of this ancient art form. The teens had fun giving each other multiple tattoos and even gave Jurinda and Bridget tattoos. It was very “cool” and the teens requested that the library repeat this program in the fall.
- Heidi Henning (White Salmon), with the help of other staff and adult volunteers, held an interactive mystery program for teens, Murderous Melodrama for Teens. Twenty participants, divided into three teams, investigated a series of clues and statements by suspects to solve the “who-done-it.” The winning team members won free movie passes to the Hood River Cinemas (which had been generously donated to the library).

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Ann O’Reilly had the opportunity to show Lynn Cornelius, the Gee Creek Watershed Coordinator, several of the library’s Electronic Resources. Lynn is working on a United States Fish & Wildlife Service project from a base in the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and he was very happy to learn about the Sanborn maps, the Foundation Directory Database, and local history resources. Ann was also able to refer him to several members of the Heritage Committee with direct knowledge and experience in his areas of interest.
- Battle Ground Youth Soccer used the library’s Internet computers to conduct signups for fall soccer. On three different days in May they made Internet reservations and families came in to sign up, assisted at the Internet by the person who reserved the time. As it turned out, the club’s software didn’t work as well as expected so many people registered on paper. However, they all enjoyed being at the library, and the branch felt it was a very successful interaction with the public.
- For the second year in a row, the World Class Kayak Academy brought their whole school (14 students and five teachers) to the Battle Ground Library for a couple of days in May. This is an accredited traveling college prep high school focused on kayaking. It takes students all over the world for kayaking adventures combined with education. The students had just returned from two months in Chile and Argentina and were in the area for the Oregon Cup competition in Estacada, Oregon. The students spent two days in the

Battle Ground Library studying for tests and writing papers on their laptops. They said they came to the library because they like it and because it's close to Lewisville Park where they were camping.

- Maria Lowe, Lorraine Badurina, and Anni Cothorn (Vancouver) staffed the FVRL information booth at the annual two-day Sturgeon Festival at the Water Resources Education Center. More than 1100 people attended the event. A Vancouver YAAB member made an appearance as Sophie, delighting the children present. Staff promoted summer reading, electronic resources, and services useful for families.
- Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) met again with SELF as part of their advisory committee. They discussed cultural competency and how to bring cultural awareness to the people who work with birth to 5 year olds.
- The Clark County Health Department director, John Wiesman, requested advice from FVRL about how to organize their staff library. Karin Ford (Vancouver) provided this help, and as a result of the consulting visit Information Services manager Tina Smith will make a presentation in June on FVRL's electronic resources and interlibrary loan services to the Health Department managers.
- The windows of the Ridgefield library displayed works by three local classes as part of Art Walk, which features art throughout the downtown area. The walk was in conjunction with the Ridgefield Art Association's annual Show and Sale.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

- White Salmon had a stunning and thought-provoking show in the gallery during May. A local WS artist, Janet Essley, showed two series of paintings: Five Elements and Endangered Species.
- Arthur Sims' art show opened in the Stevenson gallery on May 16. Community members enjoyed a reception and a chance to visit with Sims and discuss his depictions of Americana. The show runs through June 16.

STAFF

- Bridget Cain-Bushman (Woodland / La Center) resigned from FVRL. She will be Branch Manager of the Belmont branch (Multnomah County Library)
- Jodi Blackwood presented a Telephone Etiquette workshop for the Three Creeks' staff.
- Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) attended a workshop in Yakima on Outreach to Hispanics. She came away with ideas for cooperative efforts and with tools for building lasting relationships with all types of service target groups, not only Hispanics. Sheri Feinstein (Vancouver) attended a Spanish language outreach workshop in Longview.

BOOKMOBILES

- Four new community stops were added to the Clark County bookmobile schedule for the summer: Firstenburg Community Center (every Sunday), Hazel Dell Albertson's (alternating Wednesdays), Amboy Market (alternating Thursdays), and Fruit Valley Quick Stop market (alternating Fridays).

VOLUNTEERS

- Ridgefield volunteers of all ages enjoyed the Ridgefield Volunteer Open House. They were especially pleased to have FVRL's Volunteer Coordinator, Sherry Braga, join them. Sherry's enthusiasm and gracious appreciation of their work sent a very positive message.
- About 30 volunteers from Battle Ground's literacy program, YAAB, and Friends attended the annual Battle Ground Library Volunteer Reception on May 2. Doreen Turpen and Sherry Braga attended and the Battle Ground Rose Festival princesses addressed the group. The Foundation provided refreshments and local businesses contributed door prizes.

FRIENDS

- Vancouver Friends contributed \$500 towards the purchase of DVDs.
- The Three Creeks Friends are buying two padded benches, one for the Large Type area and another for the library entry area.

FACILITIES

- Ridgefield's re-siding is nearly complete. Facilities has re-attached several electrical boxes and the Lions Club will paint the exterior.
- When warm weather hit this month the Stevenson library had hundreds of ants hatch out of the ceiling and fall onto the adult fiction reading section and the circulation desk area. Eddie Rosen (Facilities) climbed a very tall ladder, removed tiles and vacuumed nests and debris. The problem has moderated considerably.

DONATIONS, GRANTS AND BEQUESTS

- David Baillie of Lyle donated \$1,000 for the purchase of books for the White Salmon Branch. This is Mr. Baillie's third donation of this size in as many years.
- Carol Mackey, media specialist at Mountain View High School, informed Cascade Park that the Washington State Library awarded the school library and the Cascade Park library a "Connecting Learners to Library" grant. The title of the grant is "Catching the

Reluctant Male Reader” and each library receives \$1000. Cascade Park will use the grant to add to their sports and YA collections.

- Altrusa Club of Clark County and SWIFT will be recognized as the first two Battle Ground Friends fund-raising Capstones. Each has contributed \$10,000 or more.
- The Battle Ground Garden Club donated \$500 to the library project in memory of Florence Robison.

TIDBITS

- Stevenson recently had two college students thank the library. One has had his exams proctored at the library for two years, just passed his final test, and is very grateful to the library for the opportunity to obtain a degree through distance learning. The other frequently used the library to study for nursing exams, often sitting in the gallery so that she could concentrate in a quiet area. She sent the library a note announcing that she had passed her boards and said that she couldn't have done it without the library's support. Incidentally, she also met another young mom at a library program and now has child care for her toddler. The library truly is serving as “commons” for many young parents in this rural area.
- One of the Battle Ground Book Babies mothers told Sue Barrows that they decided to meet on their own at a city park during the program's June break. The group bonded at the library and created a small community among themselves. They care enough about the program and each other to keep it going even when the library isn't holding the program.
- A man walked up to the gate at the Vancouver Mall Library one morning, looked in at two staff members and said, “Has anyone told you lately what a fantastic group you library people are?” He smiled, said “Have a good day,” and left.
- A Vancouver Mall patron wanted to make a donation of \$5. He found he had a \$10 bill and staff offered to make change for him. He declined and donated the \$10, saying that FVRL is the best library system he has ever used.
- A Battle Ground Realtor is selling a home on SE 4th Street in Battle Ground. His publicity flyer about the house emphasizes the fact that the house is a “short walking distance to the new Battle Ground Center complex” and features the conceptual drawing of the new library.
- A Battle Ground patron dropping off book donations told Jackie Spurlock that the Battle Ground Library is close to her heart. Four years ago she used library computers to research jobs and to type her resume. She subsequently got a well-paying job in Portland that she loves and she feels grateful to the library for being there for her.

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

June 19, 2006

2006 Authors & Illustrators Dinner

FVRL Foundation has started selling tables and tickets for its annual Authors & Illustrators Dinner on Thursday, October 5, 2006. This year's dinner and silent auction will be held at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The featured speaker this year will be children's illustrator and author Mark Ludy. The dinner committee is expecting this year's event to "sell out" with 950 to 1,000 guests. If you would like to host a table or know someone who would, please have them call Casandra Franzen at 360-699-8846 and reserve their tickets or a table as soon as possible. A special reception for Table Captains will be held on Thursday, June 22 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton

Friends of Woodland Children's Playhouse Raffle

The Friends of Woodland Community Library completed their Woodland Playhouse Raffle at 6 p.m. the Woodland Planter's Day Festival on Saturday, June 17. The raffle featured a children's wooden playhouse as first prize. Second prize was a \$150 gift certificate to Skamania Lodge. Third prize was a \$75 gift certificate to Gulliano's Pizza in Woodland. Marisa Vossen, a realtor at Windemere Real Estate in Woodland donated the playhouse and paid for local advertisements promoting the raffle. As of Saturday afternoon, more than 2,800 raffle tickets had been sold for \$1 each. Jon Randall, who works at Stewart Title in Woodland, won the playhouse.

RiverWalk Fundraiser

The Foundation is selling tickets to the 2006 RiverWalk on Saturday, June 24. The walk will start at 9 a.m. at Esther Short Park in Vancouver. You must have a ticket to participate in the walk. Tickets are \$10 each. You can purchase tickets from Casandra at 360-699-8846. If you cannot participate in the walk yourself, consider buying a ticket for a friend, relative, or one of the library's teen volunteers. Proceeds from RiverWalk ticket sales will help underwrite the cost of FVRL's Children's Summer Reading prizes.

J. A. Jance is coming back to Vancouver

New York Times bestselling mystery author J.A. Jance is coming back to Vancouver for a book signing appearance at the Vancouver Barnes & Noble on Monday, July 31, 2006. Jance will make brief comments at 7 p.m. and sign books immediately after her presentation. Barnes & Noble has agreed to contribute a portion of all sales made on July 31, if the purchaser displays or mentions the FVRL Foundation Book Fair voucher.

Authors & Illustrators Dinner Silent Auction

The Authors & Illustrators Dinner Committee is seeking donations for the silent auction that is held in conjunction with the dinner. If you would like to contribute something or know someone who does, please contact Rick or Casandra at the Foundation at 699-8846. Attached is a copy of our wish list and a gift-in-kind donation form.