

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

July 10, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Three Creeks Community Library.

2. PRESENT

Chair Jerry King presiding. Other Board members: Merle Koplan, Karen Peterson, Elena Smith, Rose Smith and Bill Yee. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Doreen Turpen, Access & 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: Megan Dugan, Cynthia Ernst, Greg Flakus, Bill Ganley, Jeanne Heikkinen, Don & Jane Higgins, Chris Hughey, John Idsinga, Mary Lynch, Jan McGary, Jeannette Nance, Alex Reinhold, Gwen Scott Miller, Rick Smithrud, Jackie Spurlock, Ken Topper and LaRay Violette.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the board and staff, King thanked Friends of Three Creeks Community Library for the great meal they generously provided prior to the meeting.

4. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19, 2006 meeting were approved as emailed.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bill Ganley said he is a member of the Battle Ground City Council and came to express his support for the Battle Ground library project. He said he was driving through Battle Ground the other day and noticed the library was holding a program outside. A bigger library is needed. He also spoke about the library's tax rate. The library is able to collect a maximum of 50¢ per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, but the current levy rate is down to 42¢. A levy lid lift election could get us up to the maximum 50¢. Ganley said that this is 8 additional cents that we would be able to collect and for his home that comes to about \$1.30 per month. He said libraries are the real key and as we build new libraries he suggested we also consider doing a lid lift to help operate them. King thanked Ganley for his comments and said we will indeed need to look at this at some point.

Don Higgins said he is co-chair of the Battle Ground Library Building Committee. He said the Three Creeks library meeting room has a maximum capacity of 58 people. The entire Battle Ground library has a maximum capacity of 52 people. The Battle Ground library was built in 1959 and at that time served 3,800 people. Today, he estimates the library serves 50,000 people.

Mr. Higgins said patrons that are turned away because of inadequate parking and space are not well served. He said we all have a common goal to provide library services, but no one has solved Battle Ground's problems of insufficient library space despite 22 years of trying. The Friends of the Library are trying to fundraise the money for a new library building. They've done everything they can to reduce costs and are nearly half-way into the time table to raise the funds. Mr. Higgins said that the community is rallying behind it and the Friends are hosting book sales, pancake breakfasts and auctions, but those efforts can only provide so much. Large donors must carry the heavy load. They are not finding wealthy donors.

Mr. Higgins said that when the library district found surplus money this past spring, he felt Battle Ground was entitled to part of it. He feels this money could jump start the project and reduce costs. Using library district funds and the Battle Ground trust fund, he said we could build the new library's shell. This would also confirm the developer's contribution and would allow construction to begin this year. He suggested that a thermometer partly colored in on the outside of the new building could instigate more donations. Building it now would also reduce inflation and contingency costs. Mr. Higgins said that if the developer loses patience, he could still buy it back and pay 5% annual interest. He asked the board to consider the return on the investment and the costs versus benefits. He said that this is the right thing to do because it would give the project a much-needed push.

King thanked Mr. Higgins for his comments and invited other Battle Ground citizens to speak.

Jane Higgins said she is a retired middle school teacher, president of Friends of Battle Ground Library and co-chair of the Battle Ground Library Building Committee. She acknowledged Battle Ground Councilman Alex Reinhold, who was present. Mrs. Higgins said this is a great time to be part of the FVRL district. Summer is special because of the district's Summer Reading program. She said Battle Ground has more than 3,100 children ages 2-11 plus 500 teens enrolled in summer reading. If the library was completely empty and we gathered all these youth together each would have less than 1 square foot of space inside the library. Mrs. Higgins said we're all working to pass a bond measure for Cascade Park and Vancouver. Two new libraries will make a huge statement about literacy and reading in Vancouver. The FVRL Foundation is planning its Authors & Illustrators dinner for October 5 to be a victory gala. She said the Battle Ground

campaign began before the Vancouver one did. There are architect renderings for the Battle Ground library and they are also breathtaking and speak to the importance of reading and literacy for their community. She said that the library trustees hold the key to success for all the projects. Mrs. Higgins said that talented campaign leaders were hired by the political action committee working on the Vancouver bond measure. She asked that the library board give more attention to the Battle Ground campaign. They are working under a deadline. There is over \$600,000 in contingency and inflation that Mrs. Higgins said wouldn't be needed and wouldn't have to be fundraised if we can start construction now. She said that the library would have a multi-million dollar asset sooner. She assured the board that the Battle Ground Friends would continue to seek funding for completion of the interior and that they are not asking for an opportunity to slack off. She said she believes the board wants success in Battle Ground just as much as the Battle Ground Friends want to see success in Vancouver. She said FVRL is at its best when it is a "family" of family-centered libraries, and that Battle Ground wants their place at the family table. They want to be included in the celebration at the Authors & Illustrators victory party.

King thanked Mrs. Higgins for sharing these thoughts. He invited other citizens to speak or to introduce themselves. Mary Lynch said she's also working on the Battle Ground project and is here to show her support. Ken Topper said he is the Battle Ground Friends Treasure and is anxious to see progress made. Anna Cross said she's been involved with the Friends for a very long time and hopes the board will help out. Jan McGary encouraged the board to support Battle Ground as much as Vancouver. Jeannette Nance said she is Vice President of the Battle Ground Friends and is looking forward to the new library.

King expressed his appreciation to Battle Ground citizens for attending the meeting tonight. He said he knows everyone in this room wants to get a new library in Battle Ground very soon and that there is no question about that. King said he is glad everyone is also supportive of the Vancouver bond measure. He said the entire library district has to prosper together and that includes Battle Ground. We've seen success with library building projects in White Salmon, Golendale and La Center and the district purchased new bookmobiles not too long ago. We know we've got a lot to do in Battle Ground and it needs to be the next thing considered. King said he has already asked Ziegman to figure out the district's current and projected revenue stream along with expected costs so that we can determine how much might be available. We hope to have this information in mid-October, which is the earliest we would have information about our projected revenue for 2007. At that point, King said he would like to have a special library board meeting in Battle Ground so that we can work with you to come up with a good answer. King also acknowledged all the good work that Battle Ground Friends have done, including book sales and parties, of which he has attended several. King said this is a very worthwhile cause and there is no doubt that Battle Ground needs a bigger library. He said that the Friends have the

sympathy, support, understanding and approval of the library board and that we want to come up with a way to meet at least most of what you're asking for, but it needs to be after we have more information in October.

Yee said that in a letter Mr. Higgins sent to the library board, Mr. Higgins said he felt that Battle Ground did not have an advocate on board. Yee said that if you draw the lines a little differently, you will see that you have seven advocates. Yee said he doesn't just represent Stevenson which is where he lives, he represents the entire library district and he supports you. E. Smith said she admires the Friends' perseverance and appreciated the letters Mr. Higgins has written. She said that the thoughts Mr. Higgins and the others have expressed resonate with her personally and she wants to be attentive. She also said she appreciates the efforts of all the Friends members, but especially Mr. and Mrs. Higgins who have communicated with the board a number of times.

7. **BUSINESS**

A. Expenditure Approval

MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Karen Peterson 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

MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Policy Committee: Purchasing, Capitalization and Disposition Policy

Koplan reported about the Policy Committee meeting that was held last week to discuss changes to the Purchasing, Capitalization and Disposition Policy. She noted that a report about the proposed changes was also included in the board's packet. King explained that in the past, public works contracts weren't addressed specifically in the policy and so that has been added. Koplan said some language was removed from the policy that was copied directly from the Revised Code of Washington and the Washington Administrative Code.

MOTION: Merle Koplan moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the Purchasing, Capitalization and Disposition Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Koplan thanked staff for their work on this policy. She also noted that it went through legal review.

D. SWIFT grant for Stevenson Library Deck

King said we had to make a decision right away as to whether to turn in an application for a SWIFT (Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust) grant because of the tight deadline. He said that Ziegman contacted him prior to the FVRL Foundation sending in the grant and that King felt it was okay to proceed and then bring it before the board at the next meeting.

Ziegman said that the FVRL Foundation has applied for a \$15,000 grant from SWIFT, which is the same organization that recently funded \$10,000 for furniture for Battle Ground. He noted that there was a mistake in the memo about this: we would not be replacing an existing deck; we would be building a new deck on a different side of the building. The grant would fund about half of the total project cost. The rest of the cost would be made up by the Friends and the library district. Ziegman said that even though it's not a huge amount, it is money we would encumber without actually having approved the budget for 2007. For this reason it would require board approval.

Yee asked if the grant application had already been turned in? Ziegman said that it has, with the understanding that it can be withdrawn if the library's expenditure does not get the board's approval.

Koplan asked if this was something new that the district and the Stevenson library had come up with or if it was on a wish list for some time. Stevenson Community Librarian Chris Hughey said it has been on their wish list for 20 years but they never had the funding for it. Hughey also noted that the Foundation contacted SWIFT to see if they would consider funding this type of project and SWIFT said yes.

Koplan explained her concern a bit more. She said she wants to make sure we have a list of priorities for projects we'd like to fund. This includes whether the project has been pre-planned and whether it's a particular library's turn so that it is fair to everyone. Ziegman said when we have grant opportunities, we consider our list of projects as well as the criteria for the grant to determine which project has the best chance to receive funding. This one was top choice because it has been desired for so long and is something that SWIFT has an interest in. Koplan said she just wanted to make sure it was not a whim.

E. Smith asked if the new deck would have a roof. Duitman said that it would be partly covered. It would be a traditional deck in as much as it would be braced against the building. Duitman said it would extend out 15 feet and be 50 feet long. E. Smith asked if it would be at ground level and Duitman said only partly because the land slopes down. It would have a ramp and so would be fully accessible. E. Smith asked if the deck on the

other side of the building would be torn down. Duitman said no. Hughey added that the other deck is more of a catwalk and was never intended to serve as a real deck.

King said last week he attended the Battle Ground celebration for the new furniture the library received through SWIFT grant funding. They were able to purchase 24 chairs and a number of nice desks and easy chairs. King said this is a real asset to the Battle Ground library and is a good example of what SWIFT can do for our communities.

MOTION: Bill Yee moved and Rose Smith seconded approval of the grant application for a new deck for the Stevenson Library, which would include a library district contribution toward the cost of the project should the grant be awarded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORTS

A. Special Report about Three Creeks Young Adult Advisory Board
Three Creeks Community Librarian Gwen Scott Miller shared information about their teen programs. This year's teen summer reading program is called Creature Feature. As an incentive to complete the 10 hours of reading and journal entries, the teens can receive either a movie pass or Barnes & Noble gift card. She held up the plastic bin that was full of the journals, showing how many teens had already completed the program. Teens can complete the program more than once. More than 500 teens have been registered.

B. Community Libraries Report
A written report from Community Libraries Director Mary Devlin (who was unable to attend) is attached.

Gwen Scott Miller passed around the summer reading prizes that are part of the children's summer reading program, so that everyone could see what is being given as incentives for the younger kids. Koplan asked which are most popular with the kids. Miller said that the shark tooth necklaces have been a hit as well as the frogs. Koplan asked if they've seen a bigger response this year with these great new prizes. Miller said she started her position in February and so is not sure; however the response has been terrific. She also said she has never seen such great prizes anywhere else. Ziegman gave credit to the FVRL Foundation for helping with the funding for summer reading prizes.

Miller also introduced Three Creeks Circulation Supervisor, Megan Dugan and gave recognition to Friends members that were there earlier in the evening.

C. About the District: Graphics Department

This is second in a series of presentations to inform the library board about the operation of the district. Sue Vanlaanen introduced Graphics Coordinator Jeanne Heikinen. They handed out a “Graphic(s) Novel” that tells the story of the Graphics department. This creative handout introduces the department’s staff, explains their role and the types of projects they complete, as well as providing some statistics.

King said the department’s mission statement on the back is really great. Koplan expressed her appreciation for the creativity used in giving the report. Peterson mentioned one of the Graphics department’s recent projects, the design of the new library cards. She thanked them for their work on it and for allowing everyone to vote on their favorite design. Peterson said she has heard many positive remarks from people about the new cards.

D. FVRL Foundation Update

FVRL Foundation Director Rick Smithrud’s written report is attached. Smithrud handed out vouchers for the Barnes & Noble Book Fair on July 31, which is also when J.A. Jance will make an appearance for book signing. He showed the board two of the books by the author that will be the featured speaker at the Author’s & Illustrators dinner and also provided some handouts. Smithrud thanked the Graphics department for their work on the handouts and other materials.

Smithrud gave an update on the Foundation’s new officers:

- Avril Massey, Chair
- Jane Higgins, Vice-Chair
- Liz Cebula, Secretary/Treasurer

The Foundation has two new board members. Several members have retired from the board. Koplan encouraged the trustees to share any ideas they have with Smithrud, of people they know that might be good Foundation board members.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ziegman reported on several of his activities since the last meeting. He spent time with Vancouver City Council and Clark County Commissioners, as well as city and county staff, in the process of getting the Vancouver bond measure on the September 19 ballot. He gave informational presentations to the Greater Vancouver and Clark County Chambers. In his free time, he participated in sign waving on Independence Day. He also attended the SWIFT event in Battle Ground.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jeannette Nance thanked the FVRL Foundation for helping to fund the “Hello, Baby!” bags. She said that as a new grandmother she got a baby bag and thinks they are really great. She was also glad to learn that Legacy Hospital is handing them out. Nance said this is a really terrific project.

R. Smith asked about the supply of baby bags. Ziegman said there is still a supply available in the community and that the FVRL Foundation has just approved funding that will allow us to purchase more very soon.

Greg Flakus said that the bond measure campaign is looking for volunteers. They need people to help with phone banking, putting up yard signs and would soon need help distributing flyers. Flakus said that the flyer distribution is just putting the information on people’s doors; it doesn’t require engaging in conversation with anyone. He also noted that the Air Academy, which is where they are doing the phone banking, can handle 15-20 people making calls at once. He said the campaign needs all the manpower it can get. King thanked Flakus for this update and said that he plans to give some of his free time to the campaign. King said he was at the sign waving on Independence Day and spoke with many people who passed him on the sidewalk who had not yet learned about the election.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

R. Smith thanked the Battle Ground Friends for attending the meeting. She also expressed her appreciation for the meal that the Three Creeks Friends provided earlier in the evening, saying it was delicious.

Peterson drew attention to information from Turpen’s written report. In it, Turpen mentions the SELF (Support for Early Learning and Families) support of the early learning clearinghouse. Peterson commended Turpen for her leadership role in this project. She drew attention to the clearinghouse web site (www.selfwa.org), which is a valuable tool for families as it provides links to many resources. Turpen noted that the web site was created with loaned help from several agencies.

E. Smith asked if it would be appropriate at this meeting to ask some questions about the letter Ziegman sent to staff regarding recent changes. King said that usually board members just email or call Ziegman with their questions, but that since she brought it up she can talk about it now if she wants to. E. Smith said that her understanding is that Ziegman is responsible for the staff. As someone who works in a public library outside of our district, E. Smith said she thinks it’s important for managers to always think about staff morale. She expressed concern that several things in the letter could potentially lower staff morale. One is the expectation of staff as customers (that staff should not check out their own books to themselves). She said she doesn’t really understand it and couldn’t put together checking out a book with buying something at a grocery store. She also

could not imagine that patrons would object to the staff checking out their own books.

E. Smith said her other concern is the new dress guidelines. She asked if this is just an idea Ziegman had or if it's because there is a problem with the way staff are dressing not meeting community standards? Ziegman said he would not have entertained dress guidelines if it were just an idea he or someone else had; there would be no need if there weren't problems. He felt it was worth the risk to lower staff morale temporarily in order to encourage people to modify the way they dress. He said we have an obligation to present a professional image to the public. Ziegman said it has been implemented for less than two weeks. E. Smith said that what is acceptable in one location may be different for another location and asked if that was considered. Ziegman asked if she had seen the guidelines yet and she said she had not. He said he would send the guidelines to the board; once they see the guidelines, he thought they would agree that they are not very restrictive and could easily be applied everywhere. E. Smith said she attended a girl's school where there was a dress code and that any kind of dress code can be objectionable to some.

Ziegman said that in his last appraisal, the Personnel Committee advised him to take some risks. He's taken several in the past 6 months, such as this one, and he did it because he feels an obligation to set some standards.

E. Smith also asked about Ziegman trying out the term "customers" instead of "patrons" for a time. She said she doesn't like to look at libraries on a business model. She expressed her dislike of using the term customer. There has been a trend in libraries to use it but she said she'll always stay away from it. Ziegman pointed out that at the end of the letter he stated that he was backing off on using customer. He wanted to try it out with the staff to see what people thought about it since they would be the ones to use it with the public. Feedback from staff indicated that generally they didn't like it and so he agrees that we won't use it.

Ziegman addressed the "staff as customer" issue. Even though money isn't changing hands, employees who check out their own books are getting a privilege that isn't given to patrons. We're asking staff not to check out their own books on circulation software. Instead, they are being asked to check out their books as if they are patrons, by having another staff member do it. Ziegman said this is about the fiscal responsibility of the library, not about distrusting staff. E. Smith said she wanted to express herself more after nearly seven years on the board and that's why she brought this up.

King said that as an attorney, everyone he worked with wore a white shirt and a tie. Things change over the years. He wants to see library workers that aren't dressed like they are going to the beach and believes some good attempts have been made here.

Jane Higgins introduced Battle Ground Mayor John Idsinga, who had just arrived. Mayor Idsinga apologized for not being able to get to the meeting sooner. He suggested using the term client instead customer.

Peterson said the idea of customer service is common in the education field where she works. They still use the word student, but the idea of customer service is behind it. E. Smith said patron is such a beautiful word because it implies some kind of support. Koplan said that the beauty of this board is the wonderful perspective each of us brings to it. Koplan expressed appreciation for E. Smith's background and what she brings to the table. Yee said that the library is in competition with other resources our patrons or customers may choose. He said we want to provide the kind of feeling that encourages them to come back and use the library again. Ziegman said that the dress guidelines mostly mean staff cannot wear flip flops and tank tops. It was also noted that a staff committee that included both union and non-union staff helped to put the guidelines together, which King said was a great thing to do.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 14, 2006 at La Center Elementary School.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the August 14, 2006 board meeting.

Community Libraries Report For June 2006

PROGRAMS

- The ZAP (Zoo Animal Presenters) Team from the Oregon Zoo visited the Washougal Library with various reptiles and mammals. The teens on the team shared information about the animals, and kids got to see the animals up close and to pet them. Even the ball python!
- Stevenson's first "Summer Reading for Grown-ups!" book discussion group met for a potluck picnic and discussion of Modoc: The true story of the greatest elephant that ever lived.
- Over 150 children and caregivers attended Vancouver Mall's bi-annual baby and toddler Jamboree. The Friends purchased board books for each child and provided stroller parking out in the Mall area. One child, a regular at Baby Story Time, always comes with his grandma but for this event both of his parents took off time from work to attend.
- High Desert Museum interpreter Kathy Hunt spoke to an enthusiastic group in Stevenson. Kathy's informative talk on river otters was interrupted by a visit from FVRL's Sophie the Otter. Cynthia Dominik, who served on the otter committee, met Kathy during a trip to the museum and persuaded her to do a program at Stevenson. Kathy was happy to do so, and especially because she grew up in Skamania County!
- Vancouver Mall hosted their first Civil War discussion group. One attendee was an avid collector of books and other materials about the Civil War. He shared a lot of knowledge about this time period.
- Goldendale started off the month with the High School Arts Fest, featuring the jazz band and choir concerts. Both shows brought in well over 100 people. This is the final performance of the school year for both groups, so the band director hands out several awards at the concert. This year the kids gave the director an award, too.

SUMMER READING

Summer Reading promotions and programs are taking place district-wide. Thousands of children and teens have signed up. Some highlights:

- Nearly a hundred kids and adults were delighted with Madame Chaos' Mad Science presentation, the kickoff for Ridgefield's Summer Reading Program. Both teens and kids have been signing up at a faster pace than in previous years. Ann O'Reilly also suspects that Ridgefield's 24.1% growth rate is reflected in the number of new faces at the library.
- Crowded conditions, a lack of parking spaces, and long lines still did not prevent over 300 parents and children from having a good time at Cascade Park's summer reading kickoff carnival. A number of teen volunteers helped children fish for prizes out of the fishpond, guess how many skittles were in a jar, and bowl over milk bottles along with

other games. The piece de resistance was face painting by library staff. Parents made a point of telling staff that their children had a wonderful time, despite the crowds.

- Summer Reading began with a bang at Three Creeks. Children and parents have been lining up at the desk to receive their packets and claim their prizes, and books have been flying off the shelves! There are amazing empty stretches in the children's area shelves.
- To promote Summer Reading, Ruth Shafer and Maria Lowe (Vancouver Community Library) visited with over 1900 students, teachers, and parents, both at schools and in the library. The visits all went well and dozens of kids have recognized Ruth and Maria from the school visits.
- Goldendale started their Summer Reading performance series with one of their most popular shows – the Reptile Man. Over 220 kids and adults showed up to see this fantastic performance.
- An extraordinary response to Goldendale's invitation to visit schools resulted in their running out of sign up materials for both kids and teens this year – prior to their official sign-up party at the local pool! From the number of signups of both children and teens, this year promises to be record-breaking for summer reading at GD.

YOUNG ADULTS

- Both La Center and Woodland had “Get Ready for Summer with Tie Dye” programs for teens in early June. At La Center, it appeared that it may be a good teen & parent program -- it was hard to keep parents away!
- Seven new teens came to the Battle Ground YAAB meeting in June, as well as special guest Trish Segal, FVRL Teen Coordinator. Trish did book talks and spoke about her role at FVRL. The kids had a great time and the pizza and snacks were a big hit.
- One of the students in Vancouver Mall's book discussion group at Ft. Vancouver High School is having a short story published in *Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans*.
- The Goldendale YAAB group membership continues to increase. The kids really enjoy the activities, crafts and fundraising, as well as the book discussions and program planning.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Woodland staff walked in the Planter's Day Parade alongside the bookmobile. They passed out 45 pounds of candy along the route.
- The Washougal Library was an active participant in the Book Fair taking at Hathaway Elementary. Sean McGill (Washougal) signed students up for Summer Reading and arranged for Angel Ocasio to perform. Last year was the first year the library participated

in the event and 20 children had signed up for Summer Reading. This year over 70 signed up.

- Last fall, Barbra Meisenheimer (Vancouver Mall) visited Frontier Middle School to hand out library cards. When Barbra went to their end-of-year open house, the school librarian couldn't stop talking about how much her students used FVRL's databases (especially Biography Resources) and used the catalog to put books on hold and to have books mailed to them. The school librarian is very eager to have someone visit the middle school again this fall.
- Members of the Camas-Washougal Soccer Club reserved Internet stations at the Washougal library so that several of their volunteers could help parents sign kids up for the season. When we did this last year only about 20 or so people came in who needed help. This year more than 100 people came for assistance.
- Tina Smith and Sheri Feinstein (Information Services) made a presentation to managers at Clark County Health Department about the library's resources for public health professionals.
- Karin Ford (Vancouver) represented FVRL at a C-Tran focus group gathering information for C-Tran's long-range plan. She also attended the quarterly meeting of the Vancouver Downtown Association.
- Sue Barrows (Battle Ground) and Doreen Turpen attended the June 5th Battle Ground City Council meeting and both spoke briefly. Doreen described the upcoming Born Learning Read initiative and invited the mayor to the June 24th Family Fair in Vancouver, and Sue mentioned local library outreach and programming done to benefit this age group.
- "Sophie" joined Heidi Henning (White Salmon) in this year's community Spring festival. Sophie was a hit and met lots of White Salmon kids.
- Naomi Fisher did her quarterly radio show with the local station. She promoted summer programs for all ages, such as the concert series, summer reading for kids, summer book discussions for teens and adults, the book sale, knitting programs, etc. Naomi had several comments the following week from patrons – "Oh, I can't believe how much the library is doing this summer!"
- Vancouver area branch librarians met to discuss what community groups are being served by the library in the various neighborhoods.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

- The Columbia High School woodworking class has a wonderful display of custom guitars in the process of being built in White Salmon's front display case. The class is taught by Craig Wilson of White Salmon Guitar and the display is a great opportunity to highlight a terrific local high school elective class as well as an extremely talented local artisan.

STAFF

- Teresa Torres (Cascade Park), Ruth Shafer (Vancouver), and Karin Ford (Vancouver) participated in the FVRL Early Learning Design Symposium, an exciting opportunity to collaborate with community partners on how to design libraries that foster early learning.
- Mike Jansen (Three Creeks) was appointed interim Woodland Branch Manager effective July 5th. We appreciate his willingness to do this and the Three Creeks staff's understanding and flexibility.
- Over 300 people attended a memorial service June 24 for longtime FVRL employee Sheila Box-Lee, who died June 19. Sheila began working at Stevenson as a substitute in 1984, and was hired as an assistant II in 1989. She retired in 2002, but continued to substitute occasionally.

LITERACY & ESL

- A new Battle Ground literacy student, a Russian woman, was excited and pleased when her son got a library card (he came to hear about summer reading). She was delighted to learn that she could get one for free too.
- Cascade Park extends thanks to Evergreen School District for their generosity in giving the library space for our various programs. For the second year in a row, ESD is letting the library use a room at the Admissions center so the Conversation Circle can continue to meet during the summer. During the school year, the Conversation Circle meets at Harmony Elementary, but like most schools in the district, Harmony is closed to outside meetings in the summer.

BOOKMOBILE

- Goldendale's new stop at Pueblo del Rio began in June. During the first week of Summer Reading programming, this was one of the best-attended stops. The children are enthusiastic translators for their parents, but as yet not many parents have come into the bookmobile to see what's there. The staff plan to do some extra promotion of the service.

FRIENDS

- The La Center Friends had a table at the Herb Fair and handed out Library and Friends brochures and helped spread the news about Summer Reading at the Library.
- About 125 people attended a benefit concert coordinated by the Battle Ground Friends, raising over \$1000 for the new library. The concert featured a wide assortment of community musicians including the "The Flaming Bows," a classical guitarist, a men's chorus, a honky-tonk pianist and gut bucket player, and many local music students.
- Woodland Friends raised almost \$3000 from the playhouse raffle.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- “Helping Hands” of White Salmon has once again donated two savings bonds (\$200 and \$100) for an end of the summer Teen Summer Reading drawing. Teens get one entry for each reading journal they turn in (no limit) in addition to the regular Summer Reading prizes for their first four journals.
- Goldendale’s summer concert series funded by a \$1000 donation has begun.
- Battle Ground has received several memorial contributions recently, including ones in honor of Helen Stackable, a past member of the Morning Book Discussion group who passed away in June.

TIDBITS

- At Ridgefield library, five-year-old Nathan, on being asked what kind of books he liked best: “Short books!”
- After several years as a wedding chapel, the old Ridgefield library building has become Myrtle’s Tea House & Herbery.
- After school one day, during Woodland’s busiest time, a Chihuahua was discovered roaming the stacks downstairs, having slipped. She had no identification, but was very friendly and cute and obviously not a stray. The staff asked in or near the library if they knew the dog. Several patrons offered to take her home rather than send her to animal control. A staff member’s son ended up taking the dog home with plans to check with the Humane Society and canvass the neighborhood. Soon after, a woman and a rather upset little boy came into the library asking if we had seen their Chihuahua, Roxie. They live near the library and the boy accidentally let the dog out. They were relieved to hear that Roxie was safe and pleased that she was smart enough to go to the library for help. The library offers something for everyone, human and canine!
- A class of first graders from Chief Umtuch brought a wonderful flower bouquet poster to the Battle Ground Library to thank staff for telling them about summer reading and reading them a story.

Board Report
July 10, 2006
Access & Programs Division
Submitted by Doreen Turpen

Note: this report covers portions of May as well as June and early July.

Access & Programs Highlights:

- The third annual Backlight Film Festival moved to a new location this year. Battle Ground Cinema hosted the event. They accommodated an overflow crowd of 158 people by opening a second theater; the films were shown concurrently in each area. This year's festival featured 24 films and included animation, "commercials", music videos, and other formats as well as feature films.
- FVRL participated in a Family Fair that was organized by SELF, the early learning collaborative. The event was held at Esther Short Park on June 24 as part of Clark County's Born Learning campaign. Over 400 people signed up at the event as participants. Overall attendance was much higher as many people skipped the sign-up booth. Sophie enchanted the young attendees and their parents; Michelle Taylor pulled them into storytimes with her bubble-making machine; Bruce and Washougal Mayor Stacey Sellers graciously served as guest storytime readers. The Clark County Bookmobile was present and children could sign up for Summer Reading. The event was quite successful for a first time endeavor.
- Brenda hired Joseph (Joey) North for the new Circulation Specialist position. Joey began work June 1, 2006. One of his first assignments involved cleaning up data that did not migrate cleanly. He updated over 1000 SWMC records that lost their demographic codes when we migrated. He is also adding details of old lost and old damaged billing from Dynix into Unicorn. Once that is completed most staff will no longer need to access Dynix.
- Even though our automated system is quite new we have already completed one major system upgrade. Brenda developed the circulation training for the GL3.0 upgrade and provided several opportunities for staff to get the training. She provided seven group sessions at three locations (Vancouver, Camas, and Three Creeks) and conducted branch training at seven additional locations. A PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of upgrade was posted to our Intranet. Holly organized the numerous upgrade announcements that were sent via e-mail into a circ "blog". The blog helps keep all the related messages in one location. We are looking at "wiki" tools as a way to organize the associated procedures.
- Sirsi's telephone renewal feature was turned on after the 4th of July. Patrons may once again use the telephone renewal line to renew their materials.

Community Connections:

The last week of June was designated as Born Learning Week in Clark County. During that week an Early learning Clearinghouse was launched. The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to provide easy access to information about community resources related to early learning. I chaired a group that was charged with launching the Clearinghouse. We began the task last fall and targeted July 1 as the launch date. The group successfully developed two dimensions to the Clearinghouse. The SELF website was modified to serve as the web-based clearinghouse. It can be viewed at www.SELFWA.org. Another dimension to the clearinghouse are Resource Corners at several locations throughout the County. The Resource Corners include print copies of directories, brochures, and early learning materials. Each Resource Corner also includes public computer access to the SELF website and Internet resources for parents and caregivers. Four library branches (Vancouver, Vancouver Mall, Three Creeks, and La Center) are included among the eight initial Resource Corner sites.

Trish attended the CAM High School graduation ceremony to celebrate with two graduating teens who had participated in her film group. These teens helped start the film festival. Both boys are going to college and are planning to study film. One boy's grandmother came from California to see him graduate. She introduced herself to Trish with excitement, noting that Trish had been a great mentor to her grandson and that the film group meant more to him and his family than Trish would ever know.

Jacquelyn, Heather, and I participated in the Early Learning Design Symposia along with other FVRL staff and the public. Participants were very enthused with the prospects of incorporating early learning into our facilities and they offered many practical and innovative ideas on how to integrate early learning concepts into buildings.

Staff recognition:

The following letter from a parent expresses the importance of our outreach efforts through the Read and Play programs at local schools:

“As much as we enjoy the Read and Play Program I often wonder how to measure the value to ‘my children/family’ beyond the obvious ones like interacting and learning with others on a level they don't get at home....The true value of Read and Play, however, became clear to me during Kindergarten Round-Up 2006 at Silverstar Elementary School.

My middle daughter walked into school for Kindergarten Round-up just like she owned the school. At this point it dawned on me how much Read and Play has prepared her for being a Kindergartener. She was very comfortable with everything the event had to offer as a new experience. She was so excited to see all the kids she already knew since they were in Read and Play together. She has already walked through the school, been to Kindergarten room(s), been in the music/PE areas, visited the library, played on the playground, participated in an ‘actual’ school fire drill and so much more as a result of the Read and Play program.She is a secure 5-year old full of eagerness and happy anticipation. She is so much farther down the road of life than my first child was when she entered Kindergarten and, yet, she has had less experience on so many levels. For that matter, my family and I are also at a much better starting point because of the Read and Play program and those who run this program.

The ultimate ‘measurement of value’ to my family no longer plagues me when I am running around trying to get everyone out the door to Read and Play. Instead my thoughts are on how easy my 3-year old daughter, who has been raised in the Read and Play program since infancy and has 2 more years until Kindergarten, will transition into school when it is her turn.”

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

July 10, 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 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 call Casandra Franzen at 360-699-8846 and reserve tickets or a table as soon as possible. Seating assignments will be made by ticket payment date.

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 percentage of all sales made on July 31, if the purchaser displays or mentions the FVRL Foundation Book Fair voucher.

FVRL Foundation Selects New Officers and Adds New Board Members

The FVRL Foundation's board of directors has selected new officers for the 2006-2007 fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Avril Massey will serve as the board's new chair; Jane Higgins as the new vice-chair, and Liz Cebula will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. In addition, two new board members have been appointed to the Foundation board. Anand Tawker, a retired Hewlett Packard executive and Linda Thomas, an executive with The Management Group, have been appointed to serve three-year board terms beginning July 1, 2006.

2006 SWIFT Grant Submitted

FVRL Foundation has submitted a proposal to SWIFT seeking \$15,000 to help support the construction of a new outdoor deck at Stevenson Community Library. The proposal will be reviewed sometime in September/October and grant awards will be announced in November/December. Last year, FVRL Foundation received the largest of 47 grants awarded by SWIFT's board of directors. The 2005 SWIFT award provided \$10,270 to purchase new furniture for the Battle Ground Library branch.

2007 FVRL Bookmark Contest Sponsors Needed

FVRL Foundation is looking for five generous sponsors to help underwrite the cost of FVRL's 2007 Bookmark Contest. Each sponsor will contribute approximately \$2,000 to receive donor recognition on 67,000 bookmark contest applications and 99,000 bookmarks that are printed showcasing the winning entries. If you know of a company or individual that would like to be a bookmark contest sponsor, please contact Rick Smithrud at 360-906-2323.