

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

July 11, 2005

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Karen Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at Three Creeks Community Library. She moved the meeting immediately into executive session to discuss union negotiations. Executive session ended at 5:00 p.m. with no actions taken. Peterson reconvened the public meeting at 6:01 p.m.

2. PRESENT

Vice-Chair Karen Peterson presiding. Board members: Jack Burkman, Merle Koplán, and Rose Smith. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Doreen Turpen, District Resources Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director, Rick Smithrud, FVRL Foundation Director and Debbie Hose, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Caryn Sipos, Megan Dugan, Karin Ford, Jeanne Heikkinen, Karen Johnson, Elaine Gilbert, Marjorie Casswell, Kathi Wheeler, Matt Bellamy and Tom Vogt.

3. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the June 20, 2005 meeting were approved as emailed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Board, Peterson thanked the Friends of Three Creeks Community Library for the meal they provided prior to the meeting.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

7. BUSINESS

A. Expenditure Approval

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

C. 2006-2008 Strategic Plan Proposal

Ziegman explained each goal and objective in a brief overview. He said the process to reach this point has taken approximately 10 months and included input from the public and from staff. The Board approved the goals at the April Retreat and this is the final discussion point to complete the process. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all the district does but rather a focus on specific areas of emphasis. We included one additional FTE, possibly for a technology support position, in the 2006 budget to support the plan but did not lock in a specific job description. Ziegman said we are looking for approval from the Board before committing to any additional resources needed.

MOTION: Jack Burkman moved and Merle Koplán seconded approval of the 2006-2008 Strategic Plan Proposal as presented. After discussion a friendly amendment to the motion was added.

Burkman noted that the Democracy Project is a huge program, but only one program until 2008 does not seem like much under Goal V, Objective 1. Will there be a series to the program? Ziegman answered that we used the Making Democracy Work program as an example because it is a series and wanted to have another program that is similar. Burkman asked how long of a time would the program be available to the public? If this is the model we are going to use, then what should the community expect? Turpen said it depends on the direction the Democracy Project Advisory Committee takes it. It has taken over a year to get this one to the community. The community could get energized and then there could be some spin-off from the program.

Ziegman said he wanted to be cautious and not undertake more than could be accomplished. Unless we could achieve this right now with current resources he did not want to commit. Burkman asked how we could find a middle ground as an objective for patron interaction and participation? Koplán said that, compared to the "commons" interest she heard from the community group, this objective is at a much grander level. It could be as simple as a book discussion group on a hot topic in the commons area where people could gather and talk. Turpen said we are working with other agencies to bridge interaction with people who don't normally see

each other. Peterson said Goal V, Objective 2, could be used as a baseline and change the word "provide" to "increase." Burkman added that on the other objectives there are measurements but not this one. Peterson suggested flipping the objectives under Goal V. Koplan wanted to include 2006 and 2007 in the objective. Burkman said it could be looked at each quarter. Megan Dugan of Three Creeks Community Library said that branches have had programs like Inquiring Minds that would fall under this section. Peterson noted Objective 1 is system-wide and Objective 2 is for localized programs. Koplan stated when one of these programs occurs, it needs to be advertised that it is a community program and invite people to be involved with their community. Even if people cannot attend, they should know the programs are being held. Burkman recommended turning it back to staff for revision.

RESTATEMENT OF MOTION WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Jack Burkman moved and Rose Smith seconded approval of the amended 2006-2008 Strategic Plan Proposal approving Goals I, II, III and IV. Goal V will be revised and submitted at the August 8, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Bond Measure Resolution 2005-4

Ziegman said we are not ready to submit Resolution 2005-4 to the Board. We had hoped to have the complete language ready for tonight. We have been working with County counsel and bond counsel but as yet have not resolved the wording. Ziegman did not want to bring the resolution to the Board before it is at its best. We do need an approved resolution to take to the County Commissioners before July 25 for their next meeting. Ziegman said we would need a special meeting before that time for discussion and approval. The Board agreed to arrange for a special meeting next week. [Meeting scheduled for July 18, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.]

E. Bond Measure Indemnity Clause

Ziegman said that we had not received the information on the bond measure indemnity clause from the County and we want to postpone discussion and action on this until the special meeting next week.

F. Clark County Resolution on Board Appointments

Peterson announced we had discussion on this topic at the June meeting and we just need to sign-off on it now. Ziegman said the County passed a resolution regarding the requirement that two Clark County Library Board positions must be City of Vancouver residents and three positions must be residents outside the City of Vancouver. This resolution was on their consent agenda so there was no discussion. There isn't a grandfather

clause for incumbents included in the resolution. The County Administrator stated that this residential requirement is intended for future appointments only. Ziegman's concern is that future County Commissioners could read it differently. Koplan noted they did not deal with other concerns like a member moving out of the area or to another county, annexation or loss of continuity. Burkman observed that they are the appointing body and it is their call.

MOTION: Jack Burkman moved and Rose Smith seconded approval of the Clark County resolution for Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board appointments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. REPORTS

A. Branch News

Caryn Sipos, Three Creeks Community Librarian, said Mary Devlin's written report is included in the packet.

Sipos said Three Creeks Community Library had their fourth annual dog wash and made just under \$100 for their Teen Summer Reading program. The dogs ranged from a Chihuahua to an Irish Wolfhound.

Sipos attended a WSU workshop in June to get information on the improvements that comprise the Salmon Creek Interchange Project. They had an interactive map and showed future traffic flow close to the side of the library. Duitman added they are going to close the off-ramp to 134th from I-205 and make the exit at 139th from I-5. The residential street next to the library and some of the houses along it will be removed. From a meeting with Public Works we learned construction would be right up to the sidewalk around the library. There will be four lanes, posted at 35 MPH. The little road in back of the library will only allow a right turn, going in and out. The project is schedule for completion in 2013.

Sipos said due to the additional shelves that Three Creeks installed and the three page positions now shared among Clark County branches, we were able to get caught up on shelving our books.

Sipos wanted to thank the Three Creek Friends for giving the library money to purchase puppets, CDs, a walker with a book basket and a digital camera.

Ziegman said that, at FVRL's request, Elders in Action visited Three Creeks Community Library, Vancouver Community Library and Vancouver Mall Community Library to audit the libraries for accessibility,

layout, restrooms and friendliness. All three branches passed, scoring perfectly on staff friendliness and helpfulness. They had practical recommendations like a place to sit out of the weather while waiting for a ride. A suggestion for the Three Creeks library was to replace the button that opens the door automatically. The button is small and the paint had worn off. New buttons have already been ordered for installation.

B. Hello, Baby! Bags

Turpen reported that 3,000 Hello! Baby bags were distributed last month throughout the district. There is a coupon in the bag for people to come back for an additional book. Thirty-four coupons have already been returned for the third book. Turpen relayed a story about a Vancouver Mall Community Library patron who said she had never thought before about reading to a baby. The patron asked if babies really understand. Staff said there is benefit to reading to babies and invited her to a baby story time. The patron returned the following week excited that her baby had responded to her reading to him. The patron shared her experience with friends with babies and they went to the library to get their own book bags.

Four hundred of the book bags went to Crossroads Community Church and were distributed in one morning. One FVRL staff member who attends that church said that Pastor Ritchie promoted the book bags and FVRL during each morning service. This is good publicity to show the library is reaching out to the community.

Turpen thanked the FVRL Foundation for providing funds to support the Hello, Baby! book bags and materials. The Foundation allocated funds to carry us through June 2006. Ziegman added this is a costly project and the funds were raised from the 2004 Authors and Illustrators Dinner.

C. Migration Closure

Duitman said we are preparing for the implementation of Sirsi, our new catalog. In order to install the software, we will need to go off-line for three days and close libraries district-wide for one day. We will be off-line September 19 through 21 and closed on September 22. The first day Sirsi will be available for use is September 23. We will be able to check books out during the three days but will not be able to check books in. The day we are closed will allow us to check in the backlog of books and to make sure everything is functioning properly. We will do a public service announcement and ask patrons not to return items during that time. Staff is being trained now and Admin Team will be trained and available in the branches to help patrons. Koplán noted she is pleased the library will only be closed for one day.

Ziegman said one new feature of Sirsi is "Tell Me When," which allows a person to enter an author or subject and whenever the library receives anything in that category the patron will be notified. It is "simple and cool!"

D. Summer Reading Update

Turpen said we are not far into the summer reading program and already have 2,775 teens signed up. This is an increase of 775 from last year. Signups for children's summer reading is currently at 12,650. Last year we had a total of 13,642. Over 6,000 incentives have been given out in the children's program. That means that over 30,000 hours of reading were recorded by the end of June.

White Salmon Valley Community Library reported their youngest Summer Reading participant is six months old (the parent reads to the infant). Megan Dugan showed the selection of prizes. Popular items are glow-in-the-dark dragons. Some children are collecting them to create a "dragon army."

Turpen commended staff for organizing Summer Reading. Christina Cain, Graphics Assistant, has done magic with pulling the artwork together for the reading logs. Vanlaanen said she looked at other libraries' examples at WLA and our materials show wonderful creativity in how we've used the Upstart artwork elements. Thanks again to the FVRL Foundation for purchasing the prizes. Summer Reading posters are displayed in the branches and include acknowledgment of funding by the Foundation.

E. FVRL Foundation

Rick Smithrud's written report is attached.

J. A. Jance was last year's Authors and Illustrators Dinner keynote speaker. She is launching a nationwide book tour for her newest novel in Vancouver. Barnes & Noble has agreed to contribute a portion of the proceeds from all books sold on July 28 and 29 to the Foundation. The only requirement is you must present a voucher that will be available at the store. Jance also agreed to host a breakfast workshop on Friday, July 29 at Foster Auditorium at Clark College. All proceeds will go to the Foundation.

This year's Authors and Illustrators dinner will be held on Thursday, September 29 at the new Hilton Hotel in Vancouver. Save-the-date postcards have been mailed. Sharan Newman will be the featured speaker.

There will be a silent auction for many wonderful gifts. There is still an opportunity for those interested in donating a gift or serving as a table captain.

The Library Foundation has contributed \$60,000 to Citizens for Better Libraries to support the November 2005 library bond measure election.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ziegman introduced Matt Bellamy, a local 3M representative. His company has donated Post-It™ notes for the library bond measure campaign. Bellamy plans to play an active role in the upcoming campaign.

Ziegman announced he received a wonderful letter from Carol Mackey expressing appreciation for the great help she received from Jeanne Heikkinen in the Graphics Department. Heikkinen helped with a teen Summer Reading book list for Evergreen School District.

Several staff attended the First Citizens Award celebration honoring Steve and Jan Oliva. The library received many acknowledgements during the event. We are fortunate to have Jan as the PAC co-chair for the bond measure.

Ziegman spent time at the Sirsi exhibit while at ALA in Chicago last month. He said the public would definitely benefit a lot from the change to Sirsi.

Admin Team did a walk-through of the Firstenburg Community Center recently. It will be a great location for the Cascade Park Community Library. We are meeting with the City's architect this week to see what their plans are that will impact the library site.

The sign raising for the future Battle Ground Community Library will be Thursday, July 14, at 2:00 p.m. near the library site at the Battle Ground Center development.

Governor Christine Gregoire will visit Vancouver Community Library on Thursday, June 21 to attend a toddler story time at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, she will speak at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Hilton. Ziegman said her visit is an honor for us.

Ziegman announced the WILL Conference (Workshop in Library Leadership) is scheduled for September 14 through 16 in Olympia. This conference is held every two years for library board of trustee members and library directors. Duitman will do a program on basic budgeting for board members at the conference. Koplan said we are putting together a board handbook and should include a segment saying it is mandatory for new board members to attend the conference during their terms.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

Koplan recommended informing the people who gave input on the strategic plan that the Board has passed Goals I through IV. Vanlaanen said we have been communicating with them as we have progressed. Ziegman said we would communicate with them the action the Board has taken.

Koplan shared she recently spent time with her grandson and found a wide variety of materials at the library appropriate for first graders. They got CDs to listen to and a stack of books that were just what he wanted. The FVRL Web site has a wonderful reading collection and games to play. Vanlaanen said Tumblebooks appeals to children of that age group. R. Smith said she has Tumblebooks at her business and it has made a positive impact. Ziegman said that might be another business service angle for the library to consider.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 8, 2005 at Vancouver Community Library in Library Hall. An executive session will begin at 4:00 p.m. and the public meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. [Location changed to the La Center Community Center, 214 E 4th Street in La Center, Washington.]

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the August 8, 2005 meeting.

BOARD REPORT
District Resources
July 8, 2005
Doreen Turpen

System Migration:

We are in a very active phase of migration implementation. District resources staff have worked on training outlines, assisted with the staff training that began this month, performed data analysis, reviewed the test data transfer records, and continued to work on data clean-up. Running the test data transfer allowed us to see what data matched up between our current system and the new system. Our bibliographic and item data transferred with no errors. This is very good and represents the attention to detail and knowledge of data structure that I consistently see from staff.

Tom attended the iBistro customization workshop with Melinda and he is working on the process of customizing our catalog to best meet the needs of our patrons.

Staff report not only on what they accomplish, but they also frequently comment on things they observe from Sirsi as a company that can be applied to our operations. For example, they observed the success of using a live web program as a training tool. They are also noting the effective help desk techniques used by Sirsi and are incorporating some of those techniques into our tracking systems.

Staffing:

The page pool continues to be a great place for entry into our system and movement into other positions. Two pages are moving on to other positions with the district; one was hired for the mailroom, the other was hired for a position at Vancouver Mall. Evelyn Ernst will fill one of the vacancies. She is currently employed as a page substitute. The other position has been posted internally.

We have an intern working with Trish this summer. Katherine Adams has assisted with a number of teen programs and she is working on projects, such as compiling YA Book Discussion guides for the branches.

Programming:

This was a busy month for Teen programs. Trish worked on a community event called SpringFest. The event was held at the Marshall Center. Next year it will be held at the Firstenberg Center and Cascade Park staff plan to be involved with the planning and event activities.

The 2nd annual Backlight Film Festival had 16 entries and drew 113 film devotees to the premier at the Kiggins Theatre. Gary Hubbard from Kiggins and volunteers from FVTV have contributed greatly to the success of this program.

Summer Reading is in full swing. So far 2,775 teens have signed up which is 775 more than last year at this time. Vancouver staff made a number of school visits to promote the program and

sign-ups at the branch reflect that effort. Battle Ground Cinemas made special movie passes for the program so area teens can experience their local movie theater.

Sign-ups for children are also on a good pace. As of June 30 there were 12,650 children signed up. This compares to a final count of 13,642 in September of 2004. Approximately 6072 incentives have been given out, which means that over 30,000 hours of reading were recorded by the end of June.

District Support:

Trish and Jacquelyn helped organize a pool party at the Goldendale Public Pool to kick off summer reading. Attendance was more than double that at last year's event.

Tom continued his outreach to branches with visits to White Salmon and Woodland. In White Salmon he provided a demonstration of the iBistro catalog and Workflows. These demos provide an opportunity for staff to start seeing the capabilities of our new system and to get questions answered. When he visited Woodland he focused more on introducing the temporary branch librarian to the reference collection and other reference tools.

We received word that a grant application to the state was approved. We are partners in a Readiness to Learn project that will be funded with federal funds administered through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). ESD 112 will administer the grant. Our portion will allow us to provide Read and Play programs and continue community outreach in Clark County.

We turned on the e-mail notification feature this month. With this feature we will alert patrons that their items are due three days in advance of the actual due date. The notice provides information on how to renew items.

Brenda worked with Patty on the RFP for a collection agency. An agency was selected and we will soon begin the steps to get set up with the agency.

The first 3000 Hello! Baby bags have been distributed to our community partners who have committed to getting them into the hands of families. Jacquelyn has worked with branches throughout the district to assure that the bags are widely available. We are starting to see evidence that the bags are getting out into the community. In the first two weeks of the program thirty-four coupons were redeemed in branches for the third book. This compares to a total of 25 coupons that were returned over a three-month period when we ran a similar program several years ago.

One staff member reported:

“I gave a Hello! Baby bag to a mother of a 3 month old. Her response when I showed her the books: “Oh, I never thought about reading to a baby. Do they really understand the books?” I explained the benefits of reading to babies and invited her to our baby storytime. She came to storytime the next week thrilled at how her son had responded to the baby faces in the books. She told a few of her friends with babies about the book bags and they have come to the library to get one.”

Other:

Brenda, Jacquelyn, Meg, and I attended the American Library Association Conference in Chicago. This conference is so large that we each attended separate workshop sessions. Program content ranged from “how-to” sessions, to policy, to projections by futurists. The vendor exhibits are an important element of the annual conference. We took advantage of opportunities to talk with current vendors about their services and to learn of new vendors and new products. The annual conference is a valuable learning opportunity.

The new Harry Potter book will be on sale Saturday July 16. The publisher requires us to hold the book until the publication date. Since that date falls on a Saturday we have made special arrangements to move the book from technical services to Vancouver so we can start filling the holds on the release date. We currently have 437 holds on the 86 copies we purchased. In addition to the regular print edition we purchased the large type edition and CD and cassette formats.

Community Libraries Report For June 2005

PROGRAMS

Goldendale's adult book discussion groups, which normally run September through May, insisted on continuing informal meetings through the summer. So many individuals in both the groups wanted to keep reading and discussing that when Teddy Cole, former Goldendale librarian, volunteered to moderate the group and make book selections for the three summer months Naomi Fisher was happy to accept.

North Bonneville's new summer schedule kicked off June 1 with a "summer hours party" featuring cookies, cupcakes and lemonade. Thirty-five community members stopped by to browse, enjoy a snack and visit with staff and neighbors. Attendance at the branch has been up all month.

Summer Reading has taken off and the branches report many children and teens signing up. Comments about Summer Reading programs include:

- Summer Reading completely takes over the Battle Ground library during June and July. Families look forward to it from year to year, and eagerly come in during the first few weeks of June specifically to sign up. Parents often tell staff what a wonderful offering it is, and how much it helps keep their children's reading skills up over the summer.
- Summer Reading sign-ups at Vancouver Mall have already surpassed their 2004 total by 72. This is due to Kim Carroll's extraordinary work in visiting the schools. Between her visits to the elementary schools and Barbara Meisenheimer's visits to the middle schools, they have talked to over 4,000 students, teachers and parents.
- La Center's Summer Reading is under way with up to 30 attendees at Tuesday story times and over 100 for Friday programs. Due to space constraints, summer programs are held outside, and, as luck would have it, it rained the day of the first program! The La Center Grange was very helpful by offering the library the use of their facility for the library's programming needs.

Stevenson authors and library employees Kim Antieau and Mario Milosevic hosted a June 21 program, "Entanglements," celebrating 25 years of marriage and writing. Both spoke about their creative processes, and read from their recent work. Mario, an assistant II at Stevenson, had his third book of poetry, Love Lines, just published. Kim, who selects adult fiction for FVRL, recently released Counting on Wildflowers, a collection of essays.

The June 16 Vancouver Forum at the Library, "From Fast to Slow Food," had an excellent turnout. The panelists represented farmers' markets, Burgerville, the Slow Food movement, local farmers, and an extension program that involves city children in growing food. Evaluations of the program were all positive.

White Salmon had an unexpectedly good turnout for the first of their 3-part book discussion series on the Middle East. Past turnouts for similar sessions had been between 5 and 8 people, but 20 attendees showed up to discuss Islam: A Short History by Karen Armstrong. The group

was lead by volunteer Diane Allen, who has a degree in African and Middle Eastern History. This is a topic many people expressed a need to learn more about.

White Salmon held a teen Mystery Night after hours on Saturday, June 25. Twenty-five teens attended, making three teams attempting to solve the who-done-it. Teens pre-registered and were mailed their character descriptions ahead of time. They arrived at the library in character (and in costume) and stayed in character until the mystery was solved.

Y's Care (the Headstart program connected with the YWCA's homeless family shelter) had their monthly Family Night program at Vancouver this month. Seventeen families were represented, with a total of 34 people. While not all families are homeless, they are all low income and all of the children are considered "at risk." Vancouver staff signed up all the children for Summer Reading, gave each child a free book (paid for from the Shaw fund), and used materials from a discovery kit to talk about borrowing books and using the family resource centers.

ZAP (Zoo Animal Presenters from the Washington Park Zoo) brought animals and at-risk teens to the Washougal Library June 30. The teens told participants about the animals as they rotated from station to station in an interactive program that encouraged gently touching the animals.

STAFF

Caryn Sipos (Three Creeks) attended the ALA Annual in Chicago. She is currently serving as a member of the YALSA Popular Paperbacks committee which helps her keep current on YA topics, titles and interests. She has also received approximately \$5000 of free books and galleys; YALSA staff estimate reading committee members will receive \$10,000 of free materials during a two-year commitment.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ann O'Reilly (Ridgefield) presented a summary of the Ridgefield Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Committee's background and ongoing plans to commemorate the bicentennial at the Ridgefield Junction Neighborhood Association's annual meeting.

Anna Johnson (substitute librarian for Bridget Cain-Bushman in Woodland) and Cyndy Volk (Woodland / La Center circulation supervisor) attended the June 21 Woodland Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Oak Tree restaurant. Bridget has been attending Chamber events regularly, so after Anna introduced herself and told the group about Bridget's adoption news (a collective "awwwwww" ensued), she highlighted the Summer Reading program and encouraged Chamber members to sign up their young family members. Among other agenda items, the Chamber discussed Woodland's booming housing expansion; they have 300% more new houses planned than this time last year. The changes in the size of the community are sure to impact the library in the future.

Anna's (Woodland) first week coincided with the city's annual Planter's Days festival, a summer tradition that draws almost as many people to Woodland as live there. The parade on Saturday June 18th, the highlight of the festival, attracted an estimated 8,000 people! The library staff and two teen volunteers marched in the parade behind the FVRL Bookmobile. They handed out candy along the parade route, and the kids were very excited to see the "library ladies."

Ryan Ellis (Cascade Park) visited 11 schools and talked to 1741 kids! By the end of June they had over 1300 signed up for Summer Reading---many of them saying “Yeah this guy came to our school and told us about it.”

The KCAZ book committee is actively promoting networking opportunities and resources for writers and artists in Klickitat County. A reception held for writers allowed the group to promote more writers’ circles, meetings and workshops around the county, and to gauge support for a writers’ retreat or conference sometime in the future. Two more writers’ circles (critique groups) are likely to be formed after the gathering. Naomi (Goldendale) often promotes the library’s printed and electronic resources for writers at meetings such as these.

Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) worked with Mountain View High School on “Thunder Reads,” a booklist of suggested titles for students to read over the summer. Titles were solicited from YAAB kids, as well as students and teachers from MVHS. Each student left for the summer with a handbook that included Summer Reading sign up instructions.

Washougal’s Olde Towne Neighborhood Association sponsored a bicycle parade in conjunction with Washougal’s Frontier Days. The library and Salvage Safari (a local business) provided supplies for bicycle decoration. Twenty-one people decorated bicycles and 14 kids rode in the parade that would not have been able to otherwise.

BOOKMOBILES

Cynthia Dominik (Stevenson) had a great turnout with the first bookmobile Summer Reading story time at Glenwood. Nineteen children enjoyed the program.

Marie Moser (Stevenson) toured three potential bookmobile stops in the Bingen area, and reported favorably on the locations and parking. They will be talking with Jennifer Hull (White Salmon) and the City of Bingen this month to finalize the locations.

YAAB

Goldendale’s YAAB group wants to continue meeting and discussing books through the summer. Since this is the first successful YAAB group they have had continue for more than a couple months, Susan Kerwin & Naomi Fisher did not want to disrupt the momentum. Susan has picked titles with teens and will lead the discussions.

Three Creeks had 23 at their last YAAB meeting and all had a good time. They have 2 teens that are counting down to their 20th birthdays and wondering how they will sneak into the YAAB meetings. They have been here for 4 years and have both finished a year of college yet they still make time for the library.

LITERACY & ESL

The June Vancouver conversation circles had 40 adult participants, 30 children, and 54 volunteer hours. One participant who has made amazing progress is a woman from Ghana. She has been participating since the beginning of the Vancouver English Conversation Circle and has gone

from being totally illiterate (in English and in her native language) to being comfortable with conversational English. She understands simple questions and is starting to read and write. (She also receives some tutoring from a former ECC volunteer.) At one of the June Circles, this woman was overheard conversing with a woman from Taiwan who has good reading and writing skills but lacks confidence in speaking. The woman from Ghana shared how far she had come in overcoming her language problems and urged the Chinese woman to not be discouraged.

FRIENDS

Three Creeks Friends gave the library money for puppets, CD's, and a walker with a book basket, among other things.

Ridgefield's Friends have donated \$600 for the purchase of books.

The La Center Friends held a book sale in conjunction with the Herb Fair and have also spearheaded a new project: a welcome bag for new members in the community.

Under the leadership of Friends member Heidi Zimmerman, the Battle Ground Friends are selling quilt raffle tickets for the drawing to be held on July 17 at the end of the book sale. So far they have sold about \$1100 worth of tickets. Friends Board member Gay Angelos organized several members of her church to sell quilt raffle tickets in four locations around town on Saturday June 18. They sold almost \$300 worth of tickets.

Woodland Friends group's biannual book sale coincided with their annual Planter's Days parade. Held in an office building on the parade route, the sale was a big success. The Friends earned about \$500 in two days, and lessened their book donations backlog considerably.

DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

Jane & Don Higgins report that the Battle Ground library now has 16 Cornerstones (people or businesses who have donated or pledged \$1000 or more).

Susan and Tom Haines continue to donate \$50 each month to the Foundation for children's books for White Salmon. Artists Janet Essley and Diane Gadway donated \$90 from the proceeds of their May "Skylace" gallery show to the Friends.

TIDBITS

A rainy start to summer vacation, combined with the first Summer Reading event and visits by several pre-school and school-age groups (scheduled and surprise visits) resulted in near record numbers of Vancouver patrons on Monday and Tuesday, June 27-28. The "people counts" were over 2300 each day (normal daily average is 1500). Also, staff at the Information Desk and the Youth Services desk answered more than 330 questions each day (average for a June day is 215).

Naomi (Goldendale) was at Maryhill Museum when she heard from friends about a "walking advertisement" that the library has in the form of a local winemaker. Terrence Atkins, who runs Waving Tree winery in Maryhill, raves about the library and how he was able to learn

winemaking and open up his winery because of the books he checked out from the Goldendale Library. Self-taught using library books, he now runs a successful and popular local winery.

Shirley Morgan (Foundation) went to the Battle Ground branch on June 10 to photograph some children who were there visiting with their classes. She grouped them in and around the library's train and took several digital shots that the Foundation will be able to use for library promotions. (Parents of all the children signed release forms for the shoot.)

The Annual Three Creeks Dog Wash washed 13 dogs on a very rainy day and made \$90.00. Dogs ranged from a Chihuahua to an Irish Wolfhound!

The Columbian did a feature article on the Baby Book Bags. A staff writer and photographer visited Michele's Swaddler program (Vancouver Mall) for pictures and interviews.

The La Center library had its one-year anniversary! In their first year, they had 34,758 patron visits and 79 programs (attended by 4,300 patrons). These programs included story times, young adult groups, adult book discussions and Summer Reading programs.

White Salmon had their youngest participant ever to complete a reading log for their Summer Reading program — Moses Henning, 6 months, completed his first five hours of being read to by his parents Heidi (WS staff member) & Coby Henning.

FVRL Board Report

Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director

July 11, 2005



Summer Reading materials a 'sell-out'

The "1/4 bag side" Safeway paper grocery bag ads began appearing in Oregon and SW Washington stores in June, and are still in use in many stores. This \$5,000 advertising value for the multi-state, artwork-sharing library cooperative was quite a coup for us, since other libraries report they've been trying unsuccessfully for years to get free ad space on Safeway bags.

Graphics has completed a second print run on Summer Reading packets, for a grand total of about 20,000 packets prepared for branches. The first run of 17,800 packets was largely distributed by the end of June, including 2,800 to Three Creeks participants.

2005 New York Times Librarian Awards

Once again, FVRL has been asked to be a distribution point for the annual New York Times Librarian Awards. This award originated as just a local New York City competition, but was expanded several years ago to open it up to all MLS-degreed librarians in public libraries across the United States. The original competition was the model for the annual Altrusa Library Service Award program held in Clark County since 2002. Nominations for the New York Times award, which carries with it a \$2,500 prize for winners in New York City and six regions, are due by September 2, 2005. Forms are available through the FVRL business office or online at www.nytimes-community.com.



DISCOVER -- Tips from District Information Services

News and background on

LONDON BOMBINGS

- [BBC News](#)
- [London Times online](#)
- [FVRL resources on terrorism](#)



Web site responds to 'hot news'

Thanks to quick turnaround by District Information Services staff, the "DIScover" box on the district's home page has been responding to breaking news topics over the past few months, including Mount St. Helens volcanic activity, Pope John Paul II's death, and the London bombings last week. The entries typically include links to reliable online news sources plus a

catalog search for relevant FVRL titles. When there aren't large news events going on, the space features scheduled resource topics, such as "do-it-yourself," nutrition, calendar events such as summer solstice and National Rose Month, and ongoing trends such as the Slow Food movement.