

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

*October 9, 2006*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at Stevenson Community Library.

**2. PRESENT**

Chair Jerry King presiding. Other Board members: Jack Burkman, 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: Marilyn Butler, Anna Cross, Cynthia Dominick, Jane Higgins, Carol Keon, Chris Hughey and Rick Smithrud.

**3. AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting were approved as emailed.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of the Board, King thanked library staff and Friends of Stevenson Community Library for the meal they generously provided prior to the meeting.

**6. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2007 BUDGET**

King moved the meeting into a public hearing on the 2007 budget at 6:04 p.m. He noted that the Budget Committee had reviewed the draft preliminary budget with staff.

Budget Overview

Ziegman said the first part of the budget document contains the same type of information that it has for the past few years: the Mission, values and principles, service fundamentals and goals. It also includes the Strategic Plan. Ziegman went over the pages that provide an overview of revenues and expenditures. Revenue for 2007 will be 1% greater than the previous year, plus new construction estimated at \$500,000. Ziegman said the district received a little over \$600,000 in new construction this year, but staff is estimating more conservatively for 2007.

Clark County recently did a reassessment causing home values to go up an average of 30%. However, there is a 1% cap on revenue for governments. The assessments caused our levy rate to drop. Ziegman said our levy rate will drop to approximately 34

cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation next year, while our statutory limit remains at 50 cents. If we hold a levy lid lift election in the future, Ziegman said it is unlikely we would try to collect the full 50 cents because that is too big a jump in revenue.

Ziegman explained that the revolving fund is the cash that must carry us over until we once again receive funding from tax revenue. It is not a reserve fund. He noted that rising interest rates mean the library will receive more in this area than it did the previous year. He also said he expects we could receive more timber tax than what is budgeted but we've estimated conservatively just in case.

The district has always budgeted to cover full employment but full employment is almost never achieved. We are able to budget our expenses a little bit over revenue since our personnel costs always come under, which causes us to break even or come under expended at year end. Ziegman said the budget proposes an anniversary step increase and an across-the-board increase (similar to a cost of living adjustment) of 3.2% for all eligible employees. This increase is very close to the CPI. Duitman said as of this afternoon, we've checked with six other libraries in the state and they are giving between 2.7% to 4% to their employees for cost of living increases.

Ziegman said the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is dramatically increasing its employer contribution in 2007, which will cost FVRL \$260,000 per year as an ongoing expense. He said there will be a slight decrease in the actual costs for employee benefits next year. This is an update from what is printed in the preliminary budget.

The company that provides the library district's 401a retirement investment is going to discontinue the service. Ziegman explained that this is the benefit the library provided for a period of time because PERS had dropped its rate; when PERS raised their rates back up the library stopped adding funds to it. Employees will have options for what to do with their funds.

Burkman, who is chair of the budget committee, said the committee discussed the staff increase and wanted to make sure the library was in line with what is being offered throughout the rest of Washington State. At the time they reviewed the medical costs, it was up 0.25 percent. Their overall thought was to spend conservatively. He said we want to continue to monitor how much expenses go up since our revenue only increases about 1% each year.

E. Smith verified who was on the budget committee (it consists of Jack Burkman, Bill Yee and Rose Smith). E. Smith said about 60% of our budget is spent on salaries. She said that a 3.2% increase in wages means people at the top will get more than those earning smaller wages. Everyone pays the same amount for gas and a gallon of milk. If we were really trying to be conservative, E. Smith said we'd try to make it more even. She said she doesn't approve of the present approach.

Yee asked about performance reviews and pay levels. Ziegman said supervisors are very consistent about formal performance reviews for union employees because this is a requirement of the union contract. Supervisors try to do the same with non-union staff but it's not always as consistent. Employees must also pass a probationary period during their employment. Pay raises are given across-the-board and by anniversary step rather than based on someone doing better than someone else.

King asked what time of year new positions are usually added (if there are new positions). Ziegman said it's either at the beginning of the year or after the April budget amendment. King asked if we were back to the employment level we were at before the layoffs several years ago. Duitman said we are back to that level and just a little over, as some adjustments have been made to FTEs.

Koplan asked where the union contract fits in with the budget. King said last year's agreement carries through to this year. Burkman clarified that the across-the-board increase given to non-union employees applies to union staff as agreed in the contract. He said this is something that could always be bargained differently in the future. E. Smith asked if it was done this way in consideration of fairness. Yee said a problem with wage compression develops over time if you start giving a flat dollar pay increase to employees; everyone ends up making the same after a while. E. Smith said it's not that she doesn't think people at higher wages don't deserve it; it's just that people making less don't get much of a raise even though they're working really hard.

Koplan noted the difference between revenue and the budget expenditures and asked if it would be better to present it more realistically in terms of anticipated personnel expenses. E. Smith asked if it's better to follow a pattern. Burkman said it's a philosophy: do you over-budget on personnel to leave yourself some room, or do you budget it too tightly and end up going over? The library district has chosen to leave some room to avoid potential problems. Yee said it shouldn't be a surprise because you have to hire in order to put yourself over budget. Ziegman said that Duitman monitors the library's cash flow and notifies him if we've reached full employment or if we will be closer than usual for any reason. He said we would not let ourselves lose that difference in revenue versus expenditures. The news of our decreased benefits costs already makes up some of the difference. He assured the board that staff would monitor it closely to make sure we don't have a problem. Yee agreed that it's unlikely the district would reach full employment for the year. Burkman said that if it's cut too close we're managing it too tightly and there's no room.

E. Smith noted the goals that are included in the budget document, in particular the one about providing a sufficient number of adequately sized libraries. She asked if it was okay to proceed with action on this budget before a discussion is held about funding for a larger Battle Ground library facility. King and Burkman both agreed that there was not anything project-oriented in this budget that could be traded off as funding for a larger Battle Ground library. The budget provides operating funds for the district. Ziegman agreed that this budget is fairly status quo from the previous year for operations. Funds that will be discussed in late October are outside of the operating

budget. E. Smith said she thinks it's important to point out whether there's anything we're preventing ourselves from doing at a later date due to lack of knowledge or communication. She said she felt this has happened in the past and asked for assurance that there's nothing in here that would do that. King said he didn't think there was any problem with that in the 2007 budget and that the board would have a meeting about the Battle Ground library on Oct. 30. Koplan also agreed that the budget only provides funds to operate the libraries and that there is not a huge increase in any category compared with the previous year. E. Smith confirmed that passing this particular budget in no way negatively impacts anything for Battle Ground and King agreed.

#### Citizen Comments

King invited citizens to share their comments on the preliminary 2007 budget. No comments were offered.

**MOTION: Jack Burkman moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of Resolution 2006-7 (Budget Resolution #07-01), adopting the 2007 budget for Fort Vancouver Regional Library District. The motion carried unanimously.**

King closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

### **7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Marilyn Butler welcomed everyone to Stevenson and said she appreciates being able to sit on the other side of the table as a retired library board member. She congratulated the district on passing the bond measure for larger Vancouver libraries. Butler said the larger libraries are a benefit to Stevenson as well, with additional books and resources available in the system for all patrons. King said the library's book budget has only been able to increase a small amount each year partly due to a lack of space for new books. Ziegman said that the bond measure includes funds for many new books and other materials.

### **8. BUSINESS**

#### A. Expenditure Approval

**MOTION: Bill Yee moved and Merle Koplan 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: Bill Yee moved and Elena Smith seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **9. REPORTS**

#### A. Community Libraries Report

Mary Devlin's written report is attached. Devlin announced that the new Woodland and La Center Community Librarians would begin their positions soon. Also, the main library has filled the Interlibrary Loan Manager position.

Stevenson Community Librarian Chris Hughey welcomed everyone. She noted that the roof is being repaired and has caused the library to have to close due to dust, but it should reopen in a few days. She invited everyone to vote for their favorite art work in the people's choice award of the Artists of the Gorge annual exhibition, currently on display. Hughey also showed samples of the library's soon-to-be installed new carpet.

Hughey introduced Stevenson Library Assistant IV Cynthia Dominick, who helps with the library's programming. Dominick talked about programs they offer to "tweens," which is the age group between kids and teens (ages 9-12). Book discussion groups are very popular with this age group. Dominick said they tried offering it to teens but there was not as much interest. Thanks to funds provided by the FVRL Foundation, she said they are able to offer food at all the tween meetings. The tweens wanted to do something to thank the Foundation for their support. They decided to do a basket for the Foundation's annual dinner auction. The tweens used money they'd earned during their book sale. Dominick held up some of the books the tweens are reading in their discussion group and said that they are learning lots of good things.

King thanked staff for these reports. He also noted that the 2007 budget includes \$15,000 for a new deck at the Stevenson library, which is contingent on receiving additional grant funds from SWIFT.

Devlin noted that the district is almost ready to go live with wireless filtered Internet access at the White Salmon library, following some final tests. Over the next year or so, the district hopes to provide wireless service at its other locations.

#### **B. About the District: Circulation Services**

Circulation Services Coordinator Brenda Cameron gave a special report about her department. Her department includes six staff members and they are part of the Access and Programs group. Cameron said she has been employed with the district since 1987. Joey North is the new Circulation Specialist and Cameron said he came from Spokane County Library District and has familiarity with our district's new automated system. The Associate Floater works 24 hours per week at all Clark County branches, filling in for librarians and supervisors as needed. There are also Page Floaters that help shelve materials in the branches.

Cameron spoke about the behind-the-scenes work involved in managing library card records. New patron records are entered at the libraries' public service desks. Cameron's staff makes sure records were added correctly. This includes verifying that the rule about home library choice was handled correctly (if the patron lives in Camas, for example, their home library must be Camas because Camas is a contracting library). They also run statistics on the records including an annual patron count. They make sure records are coded correctly and correct any typos. City limits are checked to make sure patrons are coded to the city or county

correctly. If patrons don't use their library card in over 3 years, they are deleted from the database. Cameron said it's sad to see these records go, but we don't want to keep old data that is not being used. Cameron said that in 2006, a total of 22,432 new patrons were added throughout the system.

Cameron shared several handouts (attached), one of which shows screen captures of an example patron record as viewed by staff. She explained how the different fields are used. The coding helps staff to count patrons based on different criteria.

Statistics that are included in Cameron's handout were also mentioned.

Yee asked if the database keeps a history of all the books he's read. Cameron said it does not. Ziegman added that some patrons have wished the system was able to retain this information as reading records for themselves.

Ziegman explained that state law specifically prohibits patron records from being available for public requests. He said the library occasionally receives requests from law enforcement officers and others, but we are very careful about following the law in this matter. King asked if the system keeps some connection between patron records and what is checked out. Cameron said that for a short time some history might be kept. For example, a book record will show for a short time which patron it had been checked out to.

Burkman said that getting more email addresses from patrons would save the district money from printing and mailing notices. He thought perhaps more than 30% of our patrons have an email address they could give us. Cameron said the library requests this information during a patron's annual update, but also it's amazing how quickly even a new email address will bounce. Patrons frequently change their email.

E. Smith asked if patrons with blocked records that have not used the library in three years would also be deleted from the system. Cameron said she works with Duitman to try to collect the overdue materials or fines from those patrons. Yee asked for clarification on who would be deleted after three years. Cameron said patrons with absolutely no use during that time, including any use of our online databases, are deleted. She said that if someone returns after three years and their card is no longer valid, staff is able to quickly add them back into the system and can use the patron's existing library card.

Carol Keon asked if a circulation record is kept for each book with details about how often it was checked out and the last time it was checked out. Cameron said the records do contain that data and more. Chesbro explained that this information is used to make decisions about weeding and to evaluate whether more materials are needed in a subject area. Chesbro said she will give a presentation that includes this subject in a future "About the District" report. Keon asked if a patron could find out the popularity of a particular book from these records. She explained that

when she was studying Welsh, she wanted to know how many people checked out a particular Welsh book from the library. Chesbro said currently that information isn't available to the public from the online catalog, however you could make a public records or reference request to obtain it. Cameron added that in the future, there will be a list of most popular titles that the public would be able to see. Keon said she was happy to be able to see she was the only person who checked out the Welsh textbook in San Diego.

A cartoon video clip called "Overdue" was played. It's a humorous cartoon about a library "police" officer who tries to retrieve long overdue materials from patrons.

Koplan asked for an update on the impact of tighter rules for overdue materials. Cameron said it has resulted in fewer blocked patrons and more books are being returned. She expects even more materials will be returned with the implementation of collection agency use on Nov. 1.

King thanked Cameron for her report and commented on the tremendous amount of information this department must track.

#### C. FVRL Foundation Update

A written report from Foundation Director Rick Smithrud is attached. Koplan said the Foundation's annual fundraising dinner event on Oct. 5 was a celebration of all the libraries but especially of the recent bond measure that passed. She said that 650 people attended the dinner, which was held in two rooms at the Vancouver Hilton. The silent auction had many wonderful items to bid on. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the dinner immensely. The featured speaker, illustrator/author Mark Ludy, gave a humorous and entertaining speech. Koplan noted that the author drew cartoons along with his signature during the book signing.

Koplan said that they do not yet have the final dollar amount for what was raised. Smithrud added that several silent auction items are yet to be sold.

Smithrud agreed that everyone seemed to have a great time at the dinner event and some stayed late to get their books signed. He said many contributions were made. Three of the sponsors called afterward to say how much they enjoyed the event and signed on as sponsors for next year.

Peterson asked if next year's speaker had been determined yet. Smithrud said a selection had not been made, however they are pursuing several ideas. Peterson and King commended Smithrud and others involved in the dinner for putting on such a great event.

#### 10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ziegman said that he took some vacation time recently, after having put in many long days at the library and then helping with the election campaign during his personal time. Many others also worked very hard on this election. He said this election wasn't

just the third try; it was the third year in a row with elections in 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 1996, there were two elections for larger library facilities that did not pass. Ziegman said that larger libraries will benefit the entire district with increased collection sizes and overall improved service.

King said he was one of the people that called the district in 1996 after the first failed election, encouraging the district to try again. He said he's glad we kept trying because everyone will benefit from the new libraries.

**11. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Vanlaanen noted that when the library district built the present main library, which opened in 1963, it also took three tries before a bond measure passed to fund it.

**12. BOARD COMMENTS**

R. Smith thanked Devlin for including the public in the interviews for the new La Center Community Librarian. She said she attended the interviews and was pleased that there were two good candidates. Many Friends members attended and good questions were asked. R. Smith thought the format of the interviews helped people feel comfortable asking their questions. She said she was pleased with the librarian that was selected and looks forward to meeting her. E. Smith asked Devlin if the public is always included in the community librarian interviews. Devlin said that she always includes the public in addition to having a number of staff groups that interview the candidates. Devlin provides each candidate with four questions in advance so they can prepare and feel more comfortable for the public interviews. After that, she opens it up to questions from the public.

Burkman expressed his appreciation for the FVRL Foundation's dinner event. He said it was a phenomenal event with an energized and captivating speaker.

**13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 13, 2006 at Ridgefield Community Center. A special meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30, 6 p.m. at Battle Ground City Hall regarding funding for a larger Battle Ground library.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

***These minutes were approved at the Nov. 13, 2006 meeting***

## Community Libraries Report For September 2006

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- The White Salmon staff learned a great deal about banned and challenged books while locating titles for two displays commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Banned Book Week. They said it was an eye-opening experience to learn what titles were being challenged (some real surprises) and the wide-ranging reasons for the challenges. Staff also enjoyed engaging community members in an ongoing conversation as displays were perused by patrons. The culminating event was an excellent presentation and discussion lead by Candy Morgan called *Should You Read Banned Books? Is Your Freedom to Choose in Jeopardy?*
- On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Battle Ground library was filled with children and parents participating in activities and games related to the popular *American Girl* book series. The beautiful weather allowed some of the activities, like jump rope, to be held outside. Everyone reported having a wonderful time.
- Cascade Park repeated their successful bubble story time. Using leftover bubble solution from the Bubble Festival, story time took place outside on tarps and featured stories focused on bubbles and bath time. After story time, tubs of bubble solution and a variety of bubble implements were set out for the children to enjoy.
- “Adventures in Space” with NASA ambassador and former teacher Les Hastings, proved a big hit at the Stevenson branch. The audience enjoyed films about Pluto, space exploration, and the autumnal equinox. Friends of the Stevenson Library served star, rocket, and space ranger cookies.
- Several branches reported great activities related to pirate day.

Three Creeks’ pirate program attracted just over 200 scallywags to enjoy stories, games, and fun.

A pirate program with stories and crafts drew a large number of children and families to the Vancouver Community library. Three YAAB volunteers (including Dominic, the famous pie eating contest winner) dressed as pirates and helped with the activities.

A pirate program at Washougal attracted exuberant children (even drawing some of them away from the Internet terminals). One lesson learned was that if little boys make cardboard swords they will want to use them on one another. So, instead of letting them run amok, they were taught the niceties of sword fighting which helped contain the exuberance.

- At Vancouver Mall, Justin Keeler and Erica Rhodes put together a wildly successful Star Wars Jedi Academy program. Many of the kids came in costume and learned Jedi mind tricks (if they were successful they received a piece of candy – all were successful!) and made light sabers and droids. The Friends purchased several books to be given away as prizes.

- Goldendale's September art show featuring local artist Marion Newton was viewed by over 200 people this past month. Newton's work has broad appeal, depicting scenes of nature and people from areas all around the world. In October, Goldendale's gallery will feature another local artist, Arlene Larison. Larison's abstracts are a fun contrast to Newton's realism. Many people have commented that it is nice to be in the Camplan Room when art is on display.

## YOUNG ADULTS

- Sixteen teens attended the YAAB meeting at Battle Ground. It was challenging to find room for such a large group, but exciting to have so much young energy for the new school year. The group was enthusiastic about upcoming projects such as making a scarecrow for the annual Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Contest and passing out candy for the "Halloween on Main Street" event.
- White Salmon's Teen Pizza Party & Silk-screening event was very successful! Over 30 teens came to eat pizza, play games, and silkscreen. Twelve seventh and eighth grade teens were very interested in YAAB and filled out volunteer applications. The teens also helped silkscreen/decorate aprons (purchased by the FOL) for library purposes. During the party, names were drawn to determine the winners of the TSR savings bonds, donated again by Helping Hands of White Salmon. Danielle Rich won the \$100 award and Robin Swanhuysen won the \$200 award. Robin completed the most reading this summer with 11 journals.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Gwen Scott-Miller represented FVRL and Three Creeks Library at the Public Safety Complex Open House on September 23. Police, Fire, Transportation and other local and state agencies were represented. Gwen handed out over 500 FVRL flyers and stickers to children and adults.
- The La Center book discussion group has grown over the summer. They are now using every chair in the building. The group read Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* – this is the only time in two years that everyone loved the book.
- Jenine WhiteCastle (Ridgefield) provided library materials for the first of two community outreach events sponsored by the city to welcome new residents to Ridgefield. The event was September 25 at the Bellwood Heights development.
- 40 to 50 students from Excelsior High School, an alternative high school in Washougal, came to the Washougal library to get library cards and check out materials on the Vietnam War. Sean McGill placed holds on materials from other branches so the library could meet this demand.
- Chris Hughey made a presentation to the North Bonneville City Council Sept. 26 regarding an outdoor sign for the North Bonneville library. The council unanimously accepted the proposal and complimented the library on the design.

## **EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS**

- Genevieve Brown and Karen Holcomb (Battle Ground) created a beautiful display in the library's display case to accompany the American Girl program. They solicited antiques from staff to represent different time periods in American history. The display generated a lot of interest and comments from patrons.

## **STAFF**

- La Center library staff members were busy preparing for the new librarian interviews. They were all excited to be part of the hiring process and are thrilled with the choice of Rebecca Rose as the new La Center Librarian.
- Cyndy Volk and Jurinda Swingruber from La Center and Jenine WhiteCastle from Ridgefield attended the Stories by the Sea Storytellers Program in Newport. They came away with many new ideas to use in their own storytelling.
- The annual Youth Services meeting was held in the Stevenson gallery September 14th. Twenty-six members of the youth services staff voted on 2007 summer reading incentives, shared books and craft ideas, and evaluated the 2006 summer reading program.
- Lee-Anne Flandreau was hired as Interlibrary Loan Manager starting October 16. She is currently a reference librarian at Forest Grove Library and will bring good experience with ILL and reference services.
- Abbie Anderson accepted the Woodland Community Librarian position and will begin on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Woodland staff participated in the hiring process.
- Julie Marr is the new Executive Assistant in the Business Office. She will be working with Mary Devlin, Doreen Turpen, and Karin Ford. Julie's arrival means that Jessie Kovis can concentrate on the new job as Administrative Analyst.

## **BOOKMOBILES**

- The Skamania County bookmobile kicked off its fall schedule with a new stop at North Bonneville's Hamilton Park retirement center. Residents are very happy to see the bookmobile and are making good use of it. The schools are also enjoying visits, with many new students signing up for library cards.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

- Fourteen teen volunteers helped with the American Girls program at Battle Ground. Julianne Hudson reports: "A big hooray for all of them! The program was a huge success thanks to all the volunteer help that we had. We were short staffed that day and unable to get substitute coverage so they really saved us."

## **LITERACY & ESL**

- A mother came to the Washougal library for one of the Tuesday morning Building Blocks sessions. The children only spoke Spanish and the mother wanted them to come to story time to help them with their English skills. She was shown bilingual picture books and read one. When the family left they checked out everything the branch had that was in both Spanish and English.

## **FRIENDS**

- Battle Ground Friends President, Jane Higgins, was honored as a Citizen of the Year by Fargher Lake Grange on September 30. Jackie Spurlock was asked to introduce her. Jane received a plaque in recognition of her work with the new Battle Ground library project, and put in a pitch for the project to the members in attendance.
- The Friends of Stevenson Community Library have spent many hours preparing for the October Artists of the Gorge reception and exhibition. Members hung artwork, proofread the program and labels, decorated the library, and organized food and a silent auction.
- The Washougal Friends met September 14th to complete the annual report to the Foundation. They chose October 14th as the book sale date. Merrie Thompson agreed to take on the treasurer's role since Janet Alder was been hired by FVRL as a page and could no longer be the Friends Treasurer.
- The Ridgefield Friends are preparing for the BirdFest Birder's Marketplace on October 14 & 15. Along with extolling the virtues of the library, their membership drive during the event is highlighting a prize drawing from among the current member names.

## **DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS**

- The drawing for two savings bonds (\$100 & \$200) donated by Helping Hands of White Salmon was held at White Salmon's Teen pizza party and silk-screening event on September 23rd. Helping Hands has contributed savings bonds for the past several years to enhance the teen summer reading program and to encourage local teens to do more reading during the summer months.
- Battle Ground received \$170 this month in memorial contributions. A total of \$995 in memorial contributions to the building fund has been received since July 1, 2006.

## **TIDBITS**

- A new Cascade Park patron said she discovered the library because she had been stopped by the police. Being new to the community, she had not learned where the library was. While the police officer was writing out the ticket, the patron saw the library sign. She

was happy to discover the library and feeling it was a serendipitous event she was not perturbed at getting the ticket.

- At Battle Ground, a little girl brought in the following handwritten letter, decorated with flowers and the headline "To the Library":

Dear Library,

I liked the summer reading program. Thank you for having it. I also like checking out books.

Thank you for everything.

From: Laura Stimson

- Teddy Cole, retired Goldendale Librarian, celebrated her 75th birthday with a lovely garden party on September 23rd. The weather was perfect. Teddy was surrounded by family and friends, old and new.
- Baby Book Walk! A 10-month old boy took his first step at White Salmon's baby story time. His mom said she had been trying to encourage him to walk by holding various toys out of his reach, but she had never tried holding a book out of reach. As Heidi Henning was reading "Big Bugs" to the group, Eli walked up to touch the pop-up butterfly. Exciting times for the little babies!
- The Washougal library is growing Tales of Terror contestants! Blake Klantchnek, a 12 year old in sixth grade, saw the entry form and was crushed when he saw the grade limitation. He began to write a story anyway. He also invited a friend of his to write a story as well. Sean McGill told him about a Scholastic writing contest and the two boys are looking for an artist to help them create a contest winner.

**Date:** October 9, 2006  
**To:** Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees  
**From:** Patty Duitman  
**Subject:** Operations Report

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## **ADMINISTRATION**

- Released an RFP for a Financial Advisor for the Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area and FVRL
- Completed budgets for Yale Valley Library District and Three Creeks LCFA

## **ACCOUNTING**

Audit completed. Bruce and Patty will be meeting with the State Examiner in mid-October for exit conference. We are not expecting any major problems.

## **FACILITIES**

Facilities work for the past month includes:

Carpet cleaning done at the Three Creeks and Cascade Park libraries.

### **Goldendale**

Amphitheater cleaning and re-caulking  
Gutter repair and cleaning  
Exterior deck repairs and sealing  
Main exterior door re-finishing  
Exterior metal work painting

### **White Salmon**

Neon open sign installed  
Donation plaque installed on White Salmon library exterior (planting care)

### **Vancouver**

Parking lot re-stripped.

Completion of 110 work orders

## **COMPUTER SERVICES**

- Currently testing wireless access for the public at the White Salmon Library
- Upgraded several major systems (OCLC, Sub-finder, Adobe Acrobat, Track-it [CS project management system])
- Preparing for phone system upgrades in Vancouver and Goldendale

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Open enrollment starts Oct. 30.
- Next new hire orientation scheduled for Oct. 27

**FVRL Board Report**  
Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director  
October 9, 2006



## Dewey's a winner!

Dewey, our entry in the Clark County Historical Society/Museum's "Extreme Scarecrow Makeover" contest, tied for the Mayor's Award.

Dewey was created by a small group of library district employees (Melinda Chesbro, Tami Miller, Christina Cain and myself). He took up residence in the main library display case during September so visitors could see him and place their votes for their favorite scarecrow. He was just one of about 25 scarecrows on display at various businesses and agencies around town.

Dewey participated in a silent auction but we haven't yet heard how much he earned for the museum or who his lucky owner was.



## Video welcomes newcomers

We were contacted recently by Always Better Productions, a Vancouver-based video production company, about an opportunity to be featured *at no cost* in their Web site targeting for newcomers to Clark County.

Www.VideoInformationNetwork.com, which is now under development, will offer streaming video clips to showcase local businesses and agencies -- much in the same way Welcome Wagon introduces newcomers to local resources.

Owners Craig and Nancy Roblewsky are hoping to provide an easy-to-use, visual introduction to local resources.

The company taped an interview with Bruce a few weeks ago, right after the Vancouver bond victory. They're also planning to get "generic" library footage and another brief interview at Three Creeks sometime in the next few weeks.

The Clark County page currently has clips posted from Vancouver School District, Unique Gift Ideas and the Farmers Market. Visit the site at <http://www.videoinformationnetwork.com/PAGES/clarkcountyvideos.html>.

## Updated district fact sheet

Attached document includes 2005 statistics.



# FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Serving Clark, Skamania, Klickitat Counties and the City of Woodland in Cowlitz County ▪ Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director

## District Fact Sheet

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<b>District established</b>	1950
<b>Area served</b>	4,200 square miles
<b>Population served</b>	410,080
<b>Active registered borrowers</b>	207,235
<b>Counties served</b>	Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties, and the City of Woodland and Yale Library District in Cowlitz County
<b>Governance</b>	Seven-member Board of Trustees with representation from Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties
<b>Funding</b>	94 percent from property taxes at a maximum allowed rate of 50 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation
<b>Branches</b>	Thirteen community libraries: Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson, Three Creeks, Vancouver (main library), Vancouver Mall, Washougal, White Salmon Valley, Woodland
<b>Bookmobiles</b>	Three vehicles serving the district; based at Vancouver, Stevenson, and Goldendale Community Libraries
<b>Employees</b>	317 (includes regular employees and substitutes)
<b>Collection size</b>	823,897 volumes (books, subscriptions, videos, books on audio tape and CD, etc.). Includes approximately 9,000 periodicals in either electronic or print format.
<b>Annual circulation (items checked out)</b>	3.12 million in 2005
<b>Patron visits</b>	1.8 million in 2005
<b>Services</b>	Circulating collection, research databases, reference and research services, telephone information services, community outreach, books by mail for those who find it difficult to come to the library, bookmobile service, remote access online services, Web site ( <a href="http://www.fvrl.org">www.fvrl.org</a> ), cultural and educational programs for all ages, early learning programs, inter-library loans, Internet access, and Nonprofit Resource Center.
<b>Reference questions</b>	230,108 in 2005
<b>Volunteers</b>	1,437 volunteers gave 22,163 hours of their time to the library district in 2005.

Updated October 9, 2006

Board Report  
October 9, 2006  
Access and Programs Division

### Staffing changes

Maria Lowe is now working half-time as the Interim Teen Coordinator. She will continue to work part time supporting the Youth Services/Family Services coordinator and working for Vancouver Youth Services Department. Maria's first task involves coordination of the Tales of Terror writing contest.

Several people and departments have stepped forward to assist with teen services. Vancouver staff are hosting the Tales of Terror party at the end of the month. Holly Cote, from Three Creeks is helping at the Juvenile Detention Center. Jessie was extremely helpful with the Tales of Terror contest; we had several tasks to get underway before the interim position could be filled.

Our new Administrative Assistant, Julie Marr, began work October 2. Jessie is now able to start her position as Administrative Analyst. She is working on several assignments already, including the creation of maps showing the election results.

### Training

Jacquelyn, Amy, and I participated in a two-day Sirsi workshop on the Rooms module. We were impressed with the functionality of this new product and the way we can use it to integrate web access, our databases, and our catalog.

### Community Involvement

Amy was invited to be one of the panelists on a Diversity presentation. She shared about Chinese culture and provided communication tips to local child care providers. Jacquelyn participated in the planning and implementation of the Cultural Conversation program in September.

### Professional Involvement

The Governor's support for early learning and her education task force has resulted in a very active political environment for those providing services to our youngest citizens. Washington Learns committee members held a public hearing in Vancouver recently. I provided testimony at the hearing. We will participate in a team representing Clark, Klickitat and Skamania Counties at the Governor's Early Learning summit in November. We have been active participants in planning within our SELF collaborative.

# **Foundation Director's Report**

## **Prepared by Rick Smithrud**

October 9, 2006

### **2006 Authors & Illustrators Dinner**

The Foundation held its annual Authors & Illustrators Dinner on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Approximately 650 guests attended the fundraising event, which included a silent auction, raffle, dinner program and donation appeal. This year's featured speaker was Mark Ludy. Mark is an illustrator and author of children's books. He gave an enthusiastic and heart-felt presentation. In addition, Mark stayed after the event and inscribed books purchased at the event until 11:45 p.m. Although final numbers are still pending, more than \$110,000 has been receipted so far.

### **2006 SWIFT Grant Application**

The Foundation is working with the Friends of Stevenson Community Library to prepare for a site visit by the SWIFT grant review committee. Although not yet scheduled, the site review will take place sometime in October. The Foundation and the Friends of Stevenson Community Library have submitted a grant request for \$15,000 to fund a new outdoor deck on the west side of Stevenson Community Library. If funded the new deck would provide 800 square feet of additional patron space for the Stevenson branch. Final decisions on the grant awards will be made in December.

### **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington**

The Foundation has submitted a grant to the Community Giving Fund at the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington seeking \$15,000 for FVRL's 2007 Summer Reading Program. The Community Foundation had previously approved a Letter of Inquiry outlining the grant proposal in August. If funded, the grant would pay for children and teen summer reading prizes in 2007. A final decision on the grant application is expected in December.

### **2006 Fabulous Furniture Raffle**

The Foundation is selling 2006 Fabulous Furniture Raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$1 each. The winner of the raffle will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate to Koplan's Home Furnishings. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Friends of Three Creeks Book Sale at the Three Creeks branch on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Proceeds from the raffle will support FVRL's 2007 Summer Reading programs. The Foundation is looking for volunteers to help sell raffle ticket as well as ticket buyers. If you are interested in buying or selling some tickets, please call Casandra at 699-8846.

### **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.