

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

*February 10, 2003*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. at Fire Station 83 in the community meeting room. King moved the meeting immediately into executive session to discuss personnel matters and union negotiations. He reconvened the regular meeting at 6:10 p.m. and noted that no action was taken during executive session.

**II. PRESENT**

Vice Chair Jerry King presiding. Board members: Marilyn Breckel, Ellis Dunn, Shirley Morgan, Karen Peterson and Elena Smith. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Associate Director; Candy Morgan, Associate Director; Doreen Turpen, Associate Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Associate Director; Teresa Torres, Cascade Park Community Librarian and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Others staff and citizens attending: Jack Burkman, Liz Cebula, Rae Clark, David DiCesare, Jean Kent, Marilyn Lewis, Ed Miller, Pat Plambeck, Rick Smithrud, Carl Sofie, Tom Vogt and Amy Wright.

**III. AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**IV. MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 13, 2003 meeting were approved as mailed.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of the Board, King thanked the Friends of Cascade Park Community Library for the meal they provided prior to the meeting.

King also noted that Chair Merle Koplan is out of town and not able to attend tonight, so he is filling in for her.

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**VII. BUSINESS**

A. Expenditure Approval

S. Morgan said she thinks it's wonderful that the library is now able to more easily process refunds for patrons when their lost books are returned. She was impressed with the number of refunds that were included in this month's bills.

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

C. Personnel Committee Report

Breckel said that the Personnel committee met a little over a week ago. She reminded everyone that salary increases were deferred until revenues for 2003 were certified from the counties. Now that the revenues have been confirmed, the committee recommends that the board set the salary increase for salaried staff at ¾ percent effective January 1, 2003.

**MOTION: Marilyn Breckel moved and Shirley Morgan seconded that, effective January 1, 2003, salaried staff (excluding the library director) shall receive an across-the-board increase of ¾ percent, and if eligible they will receive a step increase as usual; staff will also continue to receive their medical and other benefits paid by the library. The motion carried unanimously.**

Breckel recommended that the board go back into executive session at the end of the meeting to further discuss the director's salary, before making a decision. King agreed, noting that the board did not have enough time to finish their discussion.

D. Resolution 2003-3: Surplus

King said that the board routinely reviews this type of resolution for surplus items no longer needed by the library. S. Morgan asked what happens to items that are being phased out. Duitman said that we have surplus sales and that the next one will be in May or June. King noted that quite a few people come to our sales and it's a good way to discard things that are no longer useful to the library.

**MOTION: Ellis Dunn moved and Marilyn Breckel seconded approval of Resolution 2003-3, declaring library items as surplus and authorizing a sale of surplus items. The motion passed unanimously.**

E. Policy Committee Report: Public Records Policy

King said that state law requires almost all records to be public and that we've had procedures for this for some time. This policy sets certain guidelines as to how requested items would be provided. Ziegman further explained that the library has been receiving more public records requests and so this policy just sets forth details on what items are considered public records and how they would be provided. It includes how costs for copying, postage and time would be applied.

Dunn asked about the wording, "payment must be received prior to mailing information." He wondered how staff would know how much to charge for time. Ziegman said that in some cases, it might take very little time to gather and copy the documents, in which case we wouldn't need to charge for time. In other cases we'd be able to estimate the time. Ziegman said that we would not want to send out the information and then spend time trying to get payment for it. We could estimate high and then provide a refund where applicable.

King agreed that charging for copies seems fair because the cost shouldn't be borne by the general public – it should be borne by the person requesting the material. Ziegman said that staff time spent gathering the documents has not been reimbursed and in some cases it amounts to a lot of time – and the public bears this cost.

**MOTION: Marilyn Breckel moved and Elena Smith seconded approval of the Public Records Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

F. Policy Index

Ziegman explained that the titles for some of the library's policies make it difficult for indexing. The revised index proposes different titles for some of the policies. It doesn't change any of the text of the policy; it just makes the policies easier for staff and the public to look up in the index.

Breckel explained some of the changes that would be made, including changing the policy name for "Policy Appeal Rights" to "Appeal Rights for Policies" and "Policy on Borrowing Privileges" to just "Borrowing Privileges."

**MOTION: Shirley Morgan moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the revised Policy Index. The motion carried unanimously.**

**VIII. REPORTS**

A. Communications

Sue Vanlaanen's written report is attached.

Vanlaanen shared that all three new bookmobiles will have their graphics applied this week. Attached to her report are images of the bookmobile design. She also passed around a photo of the designs being applied, as of 2 p.m. today.

S. Morgan asked how the designs are being applied. Vanlaanen explained that it's a self-adhesive vinyl wrap. The installers use a heat gun to make the design more pliable to stretch over rivets and seams.

Vanlaanen commended Graphics Coordinator Jeanne Heikkinen for her outstanding work on the bookmobile design. Although a consultant was hired to help in the process, Heikkinen took the ideas generated from meetings with the consultant and put together the final product.

The library's new mascot is the "otter" and Vanlaanen shared a stuffed otter as an example. Staff will work with a Portland puppeteer to design a costume. In a humorous aside, she noted that Dunn has volunteered to be the first to wear the otter costume.

Vanlaanen also shared news about the next Altrusa Service Award (full details and the nomination form are included in her written report).

B. Community Library Services

Candy Morgan's written report is attached. C. Morgan acknowledged that if we had a large enough Cascade Park branch, we would be meeting at the library instead of at the fire station.

Some preliminary statistics for the Cascade Park branch were shared. The branch's circulation continues to increase and is up 4.3 percent over last year.

Cascade Park Community Librarian Teresa Torres was introduced. Torres introduced Friends of Cascade Park Community Library who were present: Marilyn Lewis, who is Chair; also Pat Plamback, Liz Cebula, Rae Clark and Jean Kent. Torres acknowledged the Friends for all their work on book sales and other projects and thanked them for coming tonight. C. Morgan also thanked the Friends for their support.

When the Cascade Park branch opened, C. Morgan said that it seemed impossible that there would be space to host a program inside the branch,

other than a children's program. She said that Torres has found creative solutions that make it possible to have some adult programs there.

C. Morgan shared details about the Yale Committee in Cowlitz County and an upcoming May 20, 2003 ballot (see her report, under "Woodland"). Someone had suggested that they consider changing the boundaries to the Cowlitz County portion of Fire District 7. This would exclude much of the Weyerhaeuser timberland in the precinct. C. Morgan reported that the suggestion was not accepted since it would set a precedent for boundaries of future expansion for the rural partial-county library district. She explained that she just wanted the board to be aware of this situation, and asked if she could consider the arguments well taken? King said yes.

The "Tales of Terror" teen writing contest books are published.

C. Morgan also noted that a new overdue schedule has been implemented. This change already appears to be effective in getting the overdue books back faster.

Ziegman said that he quickly glanced at the January circ stats. Circulation is up 5 percent district-wide. Last year we were up 11 percent. Part of last year's increase could be attributed to the new Three Creeks branch, but as we go into the second year with Three Creeks we continue to experience increases in circulation.

C. Morgan said that the exterior signs are finally up at Three Creeks and they are very large and visible. Staff noticed a big jump in library visits immediately following the signs being installed. About 30 of the people who attended an Inquiring Mind program raised their hands when librarian Caryn Sipos asked if they came because they saw the signs and realized the library was there.

King noted that Cascade Park would have 10 times more space with a new library. They would likely have a lot more circulation with a new, larger space. C. Morgan shared a story about how there was a program going on at Cascade Park and the parking lot was full. Torres happened to be outside at the moment that someone who pulled in was looking concerned because she could not find a parking space. Torres went up to the car and the patron said she was there to get a book that was on hold. So Torres went into the library, retrieved and checked the material out to the patron and took it out to the patron who still waited in her car.

C. Support Services

Duitman said that she doesn't have a written report, because the bills are being paid, payroll is going smoothly, the Information Technology and

Facilities departments are doing their usual projects and everything's going well.

D. Vancouver Activities

Doreen Turpen's written report is attached.

Turpen acknowledged Vancouver staff for their organization and efficiency during the recent Dynix crises.

Youth Volunteer Corps and Americorps volunteers joined together on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to create a reading area outside the Vancouver Community Library. The Youth Corp will also work with staff to launch two programs in March (full details are in her report).

Turpen also noted that assistive technology software and equipment have been installed in the Vancouver branch. The workstation tables are adjustable and more accommodating to patrons who need it.

E. Greater Vancouver Building Project

Ziegman introduced Jack Burkman, who is the City of Vancouver's nominee to fill the position that Dunn will be vacating. Ziegman explained that when a library board position expires, the law allows the incumbent to remain in the position until a replacement can be found. Dunn has been a wonderful board member and Ziegman said that we're sorry to lose him.

Ziegman explained that he would like to use this time to share some thoughts and have a discussion about the bond measure. Staff have been actively preparing for the bond measure for about 1½ years now. There is definitely no question about the need for the bond measure. A great deal of research and background information has been compiled and it is very clear that larger libraries are essential for Vancouver. Ziegman expressed concern, however, about the timing of the measure.

He listed several positive factors, including:

- We have strong support from community leadership
- We have strong support from the City of Vancouver. The City is allowing us to keep the current Mill Plain site and will provide land at the Firstenberg Community Center at no cost.
- We have strong support from Friends of the Library and the FVRL Foundation
- We know the library is very popular

Negative factors for the timing include:

- We continue to see a very difficult economy and the economy hasn't gotten better over the last 6 months to 1 year

- We have the highest unemployment in the country
- The State is facing a deficit of \$2.4 billion
- There is great uncertainty among our public about the possibility of war
- The stock market continues to suffer

Ziegman said that staff have been considering these factors for a while. While area school district measures have passed recently—some with quite a wide margin—the King County and Sno-Isle library districts did not pass their bond measures.

Ziegman expressed concern that citizens who would otherwise vote yes for us would turn the measure down due to the current state of the economy and the possibility of war. He reminded those present that it costs about \$100,000 to open the polls, and so we don't want to do this too often.

Staff are still in 100 percent “information campaign” mode and will continue to be in that mode regardless of whether the board decides to continue with the ballot measures in May or to postpone to a later date. Staff will still give presentations, distribute flyers, and share information from now until whenever the board decides to go. Ziegman suggested that the board consider the bond's timing over a period of 2 weeks, and during that time everyone could discuss this with their friends and family and those who might vote on the measure to find out whether we should continue as planned or delay. He stressed that by no means would he suggest we don't need a bond measure. The needs of the public will only increase where the library is concerned.

King noted that we couldn't take action on this tonight. We don't have to give final notice to the auditor until 45 days prior. He agreed that we should have a public meeting in a couple of weeks. He added that he would be very disappointed if we didn't proceed with the bond measure now. We just agreed to do this at the last board meeting. Since then, we've had some good news that the school districts passed with over 60 percent. There's good community support for the library. He thinks the board should discuss this and be very frank about it. The decision would be made after due consideration and at a public meeting. He added that it is quite a surprise and a change from where we were a month ago. But this is a big decision and he said it's very important that we give all the thought we can to it, including talking with our friends and community contacts. Our main library was built in 1963, following a 1962 passage of a bond measure. Our county population was a lot less back then.

Dunn said that there is no such thing as a good time to propose a tax increase to the public. But, when the public recognizes a need, then he

thinks we need to follow through and propose a tax increase to meet their needs. The public has clearly told us they want bigger libraries. But they have also indicated that they're very satisfied with the service the library provides.

Dunn said that library staff could give training on how to run a business without a computer. He noted that our computers were down recently but we didn't close our doors. He's been in stores where they couldn't sell him anything with computers down.

Dunn said he thinks we should put the measure on the ballot in May if the war is off. He said we could wait 2 weeks to see what happens.

Smith pointed out that she is not a Clark County resident. She asked whether the people who voted for the school levies are the same ones who would be in the Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA). King said that they are not congruent, but the district we'd form is entirely within those two school districts. Smith said that this could be one indicator, although King expressed that they are not exactly the same thing.

Breckel said she supports having a public hearing in two weeks while continuing to gather information for the board to help them in considering this issue. Peterson also agreed to this.

S. Morgan expressed concern about waiting two weeks to hold a special public meeting on this topic. How active would the campaign be during that time? The voting public may not be aware of some of the space issues, and if we decide to continue as planned then we need all the time we can get to get information to the voters.

Peterson said that given the tremendous amount of economic stress, the bond measure might feel like indulgence to some, or that "extra piece."

S. Morgan stressed how important it is to decide very soon on the timing, especially if we decide to go forward with the measure. If we wait, she expressed concern that we'd cut our chances every week we delay.

King said that people are relying on the library more now due to the economic times. It's a refuge to many. If people are out of work, they need entertainment and places to go that don't cost a lot. King agreed with S. Morgan's suggestion that we hold the special public meeting as soon as possible and suggested that we have the meeting next Tuesday.

S. Morgan asked for clarification that if we don't have the special meeting, then we'd proceed with the measure as planned? Ziegman said yes. A special meeting would be needed to delay the measure.

King said that it is very important that the ballot measures pass and that he wants more discussion on it and that public comment could be taken during the meeting.

Smith said she's not confident in guessing how people will vote. People would likely speak on both sides. But if the question is just *when* (and not *if* we should have a ballot measure), then it's confusing as to why there's a concern people wouldn't vote for it right now. She said that this discussion shows that there is doubt about the timing. King agreed, but noted that the public appreciates that we put a lot of consideration into this.

Peterson said that there are some ways that concerns can be used in developing a campaign (for example, explaining how much less it would cost than the school measures). She also said that there is risk in presenting information so far in advance that people get tired of hearing it. She also expressed concern that our situation could be the same or worse than it is now, 6 months or 1 year from now. The longer we wait, the more concern we could build.

S. Morgan said it's a consideration of the current climate, which has changed since we made our initial decision. The question is how much the current climate will affect the potential of the bond. She keeps going back to the longer we put off a full blown effort, the fewer people we are able to reach with information, the fewer people we'd engage in the campaign. She said that the lack of time for the campaign concerns her more than the current climate. The campaign will not be as effective if we don't have enough time. If we have a concern, and want to discuss it, she'd be more comfortable delaying the measure past May.

Smith said it seems prudent to her to wait, as these are serious times. King said that he doesn't think things will be different next year, though. If the bond wasn't successful, we'd be right where we are now except we'd consider having another one again the following year. S. Morgan agreed, adding that the schools have repeated measures when unsuccessful the first time and their volunteer base has grown and gotten better with the second measure.

Peterson said the longer we delay, the later construction would start while space problems remain.

Smith said she'd like to hear more staff members talk about this. Ziegman agreed that maybe hearing other comments would be good right now, since the board had not reached consensus yet. He noted that we wouldn't

lose any time campaigning, as we're continuing with all speaking appointments.

DiCesare said that what we're hearing when we go out is that we are in an extraordinary time. The possibility of war has had an impact. When we were looking at it last year, the economy was just starting to swing back up. Now the market is down even lower than before.

DiCesare has reviewed ballot measures around the area. While 9 have passed, 14 were defeated. There is a train of thought that says this county gets its information from Portland. We had high returns when Oregon's Measure 28 failed. Citizens in this community said we're not going to let that happen here. We would need to pass this with a 60% vote, which is very difficult to do. And we have supporters who question whether we can reach that number right now. DiCesare said he tends to look at this in numbers and sees that about 300 votes could decide the issue, which gets to be a very tight number. Everyone has been anguished with this because they have spent a lot of time on it and it's a very difficult call. The question is when do we have the best time to succeed? We have tried to eliminate all the issues that might make it so people would vote no, including setting the sites. The existing market conditions are different than they were in November. His hope is that the war issue will be resolved by the fall or next February. Whatever we decide, we need to make it clear to our supporters that it's a question of timing, not whether or not we should go. He said that people we know who are supporters are asking if this is a good time.

DiCesare said that we did a public opinion survey in January 2002. When we asked people what they thought about the library, they said we do a great job and that they're very satisfied with the service. So we have a difficult time establishing need to them. King said they do love our service, but there are lines to the computers and extreme crowding.

Turpen said that as she went out and talked to key supporters, the red flag for her is their first question, "Is this the right time?" She's worked on library measures various times in her career and worked with other communities who have struggled for years. But she's found that when the time is right, we will know it because the community will be behind it. Maybe waiting a little longer will allow for better timing. She stressed that the community needs to step forward and give the push—not staff and not the board.

King invited citizens to comment on this topic. Marilyn Lewis said that the need is very clear, especially in Cascade Park. The branch is like a little one-room school trying to accommodate huge growth. She said that they do a marvelous job and are like the "little library that could." It's so

overused and crowded. She said people in east Vancouver understand the need. Maybe it wouldn't be evenly supported across the county, but she thinks residents in Cascade Park would be strong supporters.

Pat Plambeck asked why we feel that the war issue impacts the library. Ziegman said that if the war is going on and we're trying to run a campaign, it will be hard to get as many people's attention –it's clearly a distraction. Also, these kinds of issues tend to make people more conservative with their money and resources.

Another citizen said if we wait until next February, what happens if things are even worse then? Do we delay again? King said that he doesn't see us delaying any further at that point.

Peterson asked if delaying the measure means we would we have to wait until next spring. King said it could be next fall. S. Morgan reminded everyone that we decided to go with May 2003 because nothing else would be on ballot.

Jack Burkman noted that the retail season during the last three months shows that people are choosing not to spend much at this time. The bond measure would be asking them to spend money. He sees that the community is responding by tightening their belts. This is a signal about the direction of the community.

King thanked citizens for their comments.

**MOTION: Elena Smith moved and Shirley Morgan seconded that the board hold a special public meeting on Tuesday, February 18 at 6 p.m. at a location to be announced, to discuss the timing of the bond measure. The motion carried unanimously.**

Breckel said she will be out of town next week and reminded everyone that Koplan will still be out of town. Ziegman suggested that board members who won't be present submit their comments in writing, after having some time to think about it.

F. FVRL Foundation

Rick Smithrud noted that the Foundation's audit is still underway and everything seems to be going well. The feasibility study is about half finished. Plans for the Foundation's annual dinner are also moving along. Additionally, we have received funds from Clark County Pride that will provide for a deposit collection.

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ziegman noted that the Board's packets contained information about the Washington Library Association conference, to be held April 9-12 in Yakima. He asked Board members to contact Becky Pettigrew if they plan to attend.

The library's final audit was also included in the packet. Ziegman acknowledged that the library passed the audit with flying colors.

Duitman and Ziegman are members of the WLA legislative planning committee and will be in Olympia on Thursday for a meeting. Ziegman noted that they will be meeting with 7 of the legislators that afternoon. Issues they will discuss include elected trustees, the State Library budget, a filtering bill and an open public meetings bill. One of the provisions in the open public meetings bill is that library boards could only make decisions in their most populous counties. If the bill should be adopted as presented, all of our board meetings could only take place in Clark County. S. Morgan asked how many library districts in the state this would affect. Ziegman said it would be a difficult provision for all districts. He added that we really do appreciate our ability to meet in each branch area during the year.

**X. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ed Miller said he works at the Vancouver Mall branch. While everyone is glad to hear circulation continues to increase, he asked that we remember all the work that is behind it. Increased circulation means lots more work for staff. He asked the board to consider this during union negotiations.

Amy Wright said she has worked for the library for quite a while. She knows people like the good service we provide. She really appreciates the medical benefits and the pay raises that the library has given in the past and asked the board to please consider this for the future.

Pai Trued said she agrees with what the other staff said. She works at the new Three Creeks branch and appreciates the benefits and would appreciate a little bit of a raise this year.

Pat Plambeck said that in her view, people who are pleased with our great library service would likely give us their vote of confidence.

**XI. BOARD COMMENTS**

S. Morgan said she enjoyed the dinner and thanked the Friends of the Cascade Park Community Library again for providing it.

Dunn said that he is a child of the Depression and the Dust Bowl. He's said he's probably been as poor as anyone in this room has ever been. His mother was a widow with 2 children to support in the dry lands of Texas. She never

complained about taxes. He has trouble listening to people who live in opulence and complain about the heavy burden of taxes.

Turpen noted that the Vancouver and Three Creeks libraries are booked next Tuesday, so we do need to find an alternate place for the special meeting. Pettigrew will find a location and notify everyone.

**XII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 10, 2003 at Three Creeks. An executive session will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by the public meeting at 6 p.m.

King recessed the meeting for a short break at 8:05 p.m. He reconvened the meeting and moved it into an executive session at 8:10 p.m. The public meeting then reconvened at 8:23 p.m. King noted that no action was taken during the executive session.

**MOTION: As Chair of the Personnel Committee, Marilyn Breckel moved that the salary of Executive Director Bruce Ziegman be increased by \$285 per month, to an annual total of \$115,220, retroactive to January 1, 2003. Ellis Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

*These minutes were approved at the 3/10/03 meeting.*

## FVRL Board Report

Sue Vanlaanen, Associate Director-Communications  
February 10, 2003

### Bookmobile graphics

Innovative GrafX Solutions began installation of the first bookmobile "vinyl wrap" this morning in the VA truck bay. Plans are to complete all three bookmobiles this week.

Attached is a color printout of the final design. Kudos for the quality and attractiveness of the design go to our own Jeanne Heikkinen, who took on the task of finishing the design as we'd envisioned it and producing the largest format project ever!

We'll bring the finished Clark County bookmobile to the March 10 board meeting at Three Creeks Community Library so meeting attendees can see it in 3-D and also take a look at the interior. I'll be sending out a district-wide news release announcing the new bookmobiles later this month.

### General information video project

We're wrapping up the taping sessions with just a few more scenes to capture, and beginning the editing process to mesh the script draft with footage. I'm hoping to have this project completed and the tape "ready for prime time" in early March. The finished video will be about 10 minutes long and will provide a broad overview of the district and the services we provide. We'll use the video when we visit community groups to do presentations, for new employees, and as a "loop tape" at community event booths.



### Otter mascot program

I'm delighted to announce that we're moving ahead with design of a full-size otter costume in anticipation of launching the FVRL mascot program this spring. The costumes will be constructed by Portland-area puppeteer Steve Overton. We'll also purchase hand-held otter puppets for use in story times and other programs. When we're ready to present the library mascot to patrons, we'll tentatively draw attention by holding a "name the otter" contest. (Meanwhile, I'm referring to our river otter as "Lute" - short for its Latin name *lutra canadensis*.)

### Altrusa Library Service Award

Save the date! The second annual Altrusa Library Service Award dinner will be held Thursday, April 24 at the Water Resource Center. This year's speaker will be Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, who we expect will draw a good crowd to hear him present his perspective on the value of libraries in the state. Nominations for the award are open now with a deadline of Feb. 28. One of the guests of honor at the dinner will be the 2002 award winner, our own Sean McGill, Washougal Community Librarian. A copy of the award nomination form is attached.

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY SERVICES**  
**REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD**  
**February 10, 2003**  
**Submitted by Candace Morgan**

Some January 2003 highlights from branches and other Community Library Services Departments:

**Cascade Park**

You have a preliminary fact sheet for 2002. Once again the statistics are amazing for a building and staff the size it is – they circulated 36,592 items per staff member as compared to 33,343 last year.

Cascade Park staff continue to be actively involved with the schools. Teresa Torres (Community Librarian) did three READ programs in January and continued her once-a-week Parents as Partners program with ESD 112. At this program there is a conversation time with parents after the stories while the children play with toys provided by the ESD and the Library. Teresa also served as a literary judge for Hearthwood's Reflections contest.

Ryan Ellis (Circulation Supervisor) visited Illahee and taped an announcement about the bookmark contest. The students have been coming in and telling Ryan that they saw him on "TV."

**Three Creeks**

The Three Creeks Friends sponsored a 2-day celebration of the branch opening. Fred Meyer and Albertson's donated 10 sheet cakes, 21 round cakes and 76 cupcakes. They distributed the birthday goodies at a table in the lobby and gave out lots of information about the library and the Friends.

The staff noticed a significant increase in traffic into the library as soon as the new signs were up. Ninety-three people attended the Inquiring Minds Program, *From the Streets of Rome to the Provinces of an Empire*, presented by Tames Alan. Caryn Sipos (Community Librarian) asked the audience how many people discovered the existence of the library when the signs were installed and 30 people raised their hands.

Bridget Cain-Bushman (Assistant Community Librarian) was a part of the Washington State delegation to the national kick-off of the Lewis and Clark celebration. She expects to make use of the many contacts she made for FVRL's Lewis and Clark programming. Her attendance was partially supported by a Washington State Library Continuing Education Grant.

The Three Creeks staff received the *Above and Beyond* award for surviving the first year with good spirits, good grace and excellent service to the public.

**Ridgefield**

Jenine WhiteCastle was selected as Ridgefield Circulation Supervisor. She will begin work in March after she returns from vacation and moves to Clark County from White Salmon where she worked as the White Salmon Circulation Supervisor.

January featured three programs co-sponsored by the Library and the Friends. At the "First Annual Arts & Culture Fair" at the Liberty Theater, Amy Lee and her family,

along with two dancing lions presented a Chinese New Year Program. Ann O'Reilly (Community Librarian) reports that the dance was accompanied by massive drums and followed by a parade of the audience of eighty or more around the theatre. The Tames Alan Inquiring Mind program on ancient Rome was also held at the theatre to an appreciative audience.

An Author's Tea was held in the Library to honor the students of Union Ridge and South Elementary Schools who have created books in the Publishing Centers at the schools with the help of grants and PTA funding. The tea was attended by approximately 75 children, parents and grandparents.

### **White Salmon**

Two groups of 30 students each from the Hood River Horizon Christian School visited the branch this month. They were given a tour of the library, information on FVRL's on-line resources, book talks and library cards. The Lyle 21st Century after-school group also visited this month.

Thanks to the DIS supervisors for making it possible for Chris Hughey to help out with story times and coverage resulting from Jenine WhiteCastle's (Circulation Supervisor) move to Ridgefield.

### **Goldendale/Klickitat County Bookmobile**

You received the *Books in the Woods* article from the Woodward resident in your news distribution. In case you didn't know, Woodward is a sustainable living community in the community of Klickitat.

### **Woodland**

Geraldine Veenstra (Community Librarian) is pleased to have been contacted by the program coordinator of the assisted living facility in Woodland. They are planning a special program before open hours to re-acquaint them with the library. Pam Keck has been hired as a Library Assistant. She was previously a substitute.

The Yale Committee for library service has decided to call themselves the "Let's Read Committee." The meeting with the Cowlitz County Commissioners was very positive and the letter from the Library Board was well received. They are beginning the petition gathering process for a May 20, 2003 election. It was suggested that they consider changing the boundaries to those of the Cowlitz County portion of Fire District 7. This would exclude much, but not all, of the Weyerhaeuser timberland in the precinct. The suggestion did not come from the County Commissioners, but from a supportive individual who thought it might make it easier to win the election. The Yale group did not accept the suggestion since it would set a precedent for boundaries of a future expansion of the rural partial-county library district. They are also aware that this would be an equity issue since timberland is taxed throughout the FVRL library district.

### **La Center**

Work continues at the site. The next steps will be the external fire escape and half-street improvements. They plan to begin discussions with the City of La Center soon about the parking lot. Library staff will be part of these discussions.

### Young Adult Services

Trish Segal (Coordinator) presented a workshop to the Directors of Volunteer Programs Association (DVPA) to discuss the importance of building relationships with teens to build assets. The workshop was part of Trish's participation in HopeWorks.

Trish accompanied Heidi Jones and Judy Bane (Goldendale Library Assistants) to school visits at the Lyle Middle/High School. Heidi & Trish talked to 60 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students about the bookmark contest as well as giving book talks while Judy provided bookmobile service.

Trish also attended the Woodland Friends meeting to talk about summer reading and to ask them to support their local YAAB. They contributed \$250 for teen summer reading and agreed to let the teens fundraise under the auspices of the Friends.

The book containing the *Tales of Terror 2002 Short Story Contest Winners* has been published.

### Children's Services and Family Literacy

Jacquelyn helped out branches this month by doing story times in Vancouver Mall, Woodland, Vancouver and Stevenson.

### Technical Services and Collection Development

The transition to electronic selection and ordering continues. Jackie Youngblood (Collection Development Manager) reports that they have almost completely eliminated the printing and handwriting of order cards. The major exceptions are non-print and non-English languages materials, which are not well represented in the electronic selection tools.

Library users have frequently complained because they believe we have too few copies for titles with many holds when, in fact, we have ordered additional titles and they did not appear in the catalog. As a result of the implementation of Dynix Acquisitions, complete copy information is now available as soon as the order is placed. A January 24 report revealed that the number of titles appearing on the Purchase Alert decreased from 600 to 474.

Yvonne Iverson (Technical Services Manager) reports that they have ordered 1,072 titles (4,412 volumes) and received 210 titles (1,540 volumes) using Dynix Acquisitions.

### Circulation and Project Management

On November 1, 2002, we changed the timing of the overdue notices. First notices are now sent when an item is 7 days overdue rather than 14 days overdue. The second notice is sent at 3 weeks overdue instead of 5 weeks. The final notice is now at 5 weeks overdue instead of 8 weeks. Brenda Cameron (Circulation Manager) did some snapshot statistics at the beginning of November and again at the beginning of February, three months after the change. The percent of total circulation that represented overdue items decreased over 16%. It looks as though sending notices gets items returned faster. Brenda will check the data over the next few months to see if the trend holds.

### Stevenson / North Bonneville / Skamania County Bookmobile

Once again the local Eagles' Auxiliary #1744 donated \$300 to purchase large print and audio materials for the Stevenson Community Library.

Gretchen L'Hommedieu provided her safari photos for a *Photo Journey Through Kenya and Tanzania* exhibit. About 50 people attended the opening reception.

### **Battle Ground**

For a number of years Battle Ground has had two book discussion groups. One met in the Library on Thursday night until branch hours were expanded, the other met in the home of a Friend. The evening program shifted to the 1<sup>st</sup> and Clark building, but that proved difficult for members who have trouble with stairs and the morning group was outgrowing its home setting. This month both discussion groups moved to Mallard Landing Assisted Living Center. Jackie Spurlock (Community Librarian) reports that, not only did this newly opened center welcome the book discussion groups, they provide coffee and hot water for tea. Special thanks to Friend Marjorie Thomas who made her home available for at least five years for the morning discussion group.

In the aftermath of the tragic accidental shooting death of Battle Ground resident 10-year-old Emily Randall, Sue Barrows (Assistant Community Librarian) created a display of children's books on grieving in the children's area. They were all quickly checked out.

Tames Alan's living history presentation on ancient Rome (earlier in Ridgefield and Three Creeks) drew an audience of over 75 people in Battle Ground. Evidently it is not a problem to repeat such programs in Clark County. The program was co-sponsored by the Library, Friends and the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).

The Literacy program continues to thrive and grow. The GFWC and the Friends will cover the cost of textbooks for the training of additional tutors that Clark College will provide at the 1<sup>st</sup> and Clark Building. Both the *Reflector* and *The Oregonian* have sent reporters to gather information and photos about the program. The articles should run in the next several weeks.

### **Vancouver Mall**

Barbra Meisenheimer reports that they have been fully staffed for five months. The Friends had a very successful book sale. Thanks to a suggestion from James Phelps (Development Officer) they put higher prices on the books worth more than the standard price. Every one of them sold.

**Vancouver Community Library  
Board Report - January/February  
February 10, 2003  
Doreen Turpen**

Programs:

Forum at the Library has two programs scheduled in February. One will explore noise and air quality as it relates to the Portland International Airport. The other program will look at the varying viewpoints on Iraq of area religious leaders.

The Vancouver Services to Senior's Committee held a slide show about building the railroad through the Tillamook forest on January 26. Even though it was on Superbowl Sunday it drew 33 participants, mostly men.

Poetry events included a celebration of William Stafford. This has become an annual event. We also held our regular monthly open mic and our poetry workshop.

Youth Services Department sponsored an event featuring a real race car. Children were able to have their picture taken behind the wheel of the car and then return to the library for refreshments and craft activities. This Saturday event was very popular with young children and their parents. It drew 110 participants. Vancouver Y.A.A.B. assisted with the program.

January "Teen After Hours" program featured the "unveiling" of the third decorated table for Vancouver's Teen area. This table top was created by youth from the School for the Deaf. Several staff members from the school came to see the tabletop. We had arranged for a sign interpreter and she was busy throughout the evening. Vancouver Y.A.A.B. members were actively involved in planning this event.

Services:

Teamwork played a big role in keeping the day with no Dynix from becoming a crisis. When staff learned that the computers would be off-line, they immediately rearranged work, developed contingency plans, rearranged work schedules, and prioritized work efforts. The result was a minimal impact on the public. The backlog created by the down-time was cleared up by the middle of the following day. I am very proud of the way staff worked together to handle this situation.

Vancouver staff have been working with staff from the Youth Volunteer Corp to develop two pilot programs that will be offered in March. The two programs are "Reading Buddies" and "Computer Buddies". Reading Buddies will match teen readers with younger readers each Saturday during March. The goal is to improve reading skills by offering reading encouragement and practice. The Computer Buddy program will provide one-on-one computer assistance by teens for adults. The program will be held on Sunday afternoons. Computer Buddies will also be asked to assist in classes provided by the library .

DIS staff have developed training materials for three new computer classes. These classes will begin in March. The classes are: WebPac Instruction (replacing the old classes on use of our catalog), Internet Basics, and PC Basics. The classes will be geared to assist users to get the most out of use of the Internet and PC software offered at the library.

Staff for the Diversity Grant Project are starting to conduct focus groups with Spanish speaking members of our communities. Prior to this, project staff have gathered information from service providers. The first focus group was held in Vancouver with the assistance of Catholic Community Services. More focus groups are scheduled in February and March for other communities.

We have installed assistive technology software and equipment in Vancouver. Our assistive technology workstation includes a fully adjustable table, PC with a large monitor, and adaptive technology software. We are using two products. Zoomtext enlarges text and images on the screen and JAWS "reads" text. The next step will be to test the workstation with people in the community and to modify the workstations and software settings with their input.