

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

November 4, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at the First and Clark Building in Battle Ground. King moved the meeting immediately into executive session to discuss union negotiations. He reconvened the regular meeting at 6:09 p.m. and noted that no action was taken during executive session. He also shared that Chair Marilyn Breckel would arrive shortly.

II. PRESENT

Vice-Chair Jerry King and Chair Marilyn Breckel presiding. Board members: Ellis Dunn, Jerry King, Merle Koplan, 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; Jackie Spurlock, Battle Ground Community Librarian and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Others staff and citizens attending: David DiCesare, Rick Smithrud, Anna Cross, Alex Mintz, Nettie Pullella-Barca, Karen Williams, Sharon Hruby, Doris Gressitt and Dave Olsen.

III. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. MINUTES

The minutes were approved as mailed.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Alex Mintz said that he knows there is a continuing effort to get a new, larger library in Battle Ground and that a new library is still greatly needed. He said that it's an important issue and that they can get community support for it. Mintz said he hopes that the Board can be patient and continue to support the effort for a larger branch. King responded that the Board is very interested in getting a bigger library space for Battle Ground. Once the community is ready to go forward, King said that the Board would be supportive of their efforts and would meet with them to talk more about it.

Nettie Pullella-Barca said she agrees with Mintz's comments. While the First & Clark building is nice to have, Pullella-Barca would like to obtain a larger library as soon as possible—perhaps they could try a bond measure next November. She said that more space is needed for books and programs.

Ziegman said along with the Board, library staff are also supportive of larger facilities for Battle Ground. Staff are working with the Battle Ground School District and the City of Battle Ground to see if land at Main and Parkway might become available. It has taken some time and Ziegman noted that library staff are anxious to get something going too. He agreed that November 2003 might be a good time.

VII. BUSINESS

A. Expenditure Approval

Koplan noted that there were bills for many books, CDs, cassettes and videos this month.

MOTION: Merle Koplan moved and Ellis Dunn 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: Merle Koplan moved and Marilyn Breckel seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2003 Board Meeting & Retreat Dates

Proposed meeting dates for the coming year were discussed. Ziegman noted that La Center is on the list as the new branch will likely open in the fall.

Smith asked if there was any reason for having meetings at certain times of the year in certain locations? Ziegman said that some branches have special programs during certain times of the year, such as Stevenson's "Artists of the Gorge" exhibit in October. Smith shared concern about driving long distances during the winter months. Ridgefield, Woodland and Battle Ground are the farthest distances to drive from Skamania and Klickitat Counties and travel can be difficult that time of year for people coming from upriver. She proposed having meetings in the Vancouver area during the winter. Ziegman said that we would work with staff at branches to see what might work for the communities and bring a new draft schedule back to the Board next month.

It was tentatively agreed that the Board retreat would be held March 20-21. Several locations were suggested and will be pursued.

D. Formation of Nominating Committee for 2003 Officers

King turned the meeting over to Chair Marilyn Breckel.

Breckel explained that a nominating committee would need to meet prior to the December Board meeting, which is when nominations would be made. Elena Smith and Jerry King volunteered to be on the committee.

IX. REPORTS

A. Community Library Services

Candy Morgan's written report is attached. C. Morgan thanked the Friends of the Battle Ground Library for the food they provided prior to the meeting. She agreed with those present that the community needs a larger library. Circulation has increased over 350% since the branch opened in 1959. More details about the branch are included in her attached report.

Special recognition was given to Nettie Pullella-Barca for her work related to the Pat Redjou Memorial Literacy program. Both a literacy program and an ESL conversation group have been initiated in Battle Ground with the help of Pullella-Barca.

C. Morgan asked about the recent raffle conducted by the Battle Ground Friends. Sharon Hruby said that during the raffle drawing, Friends President Karen Williams was asked to read the name aloud. It just so happened that Williams' own name was the name drawn. Hruby noted that Williams very graciously declined as winner and asked that another name be drawn. The woman who won the raffle went to the library today to pick up the quilt and shared with staff that she had just found out her brother has terminal cancer. It was expressed that perhaps this quilt would bring this patron some measure of comfort.

Williams noted that the quilt was just lovely and she thanked those that helped by purchasing tickets. Over 700 tickets were sold.

Community Librarian Jackie Spurlock invited everyone to stay after the meeting for a tour of the First & Clark building.

C. Morgan mentioned that effective November 1, changes were made to the overdue schedule as part of our ongoing steps to encourage patrons to return books in a timely fashion (details are in her report, attached). Ziegman asked about the percentage of email overdue notification versus telephone notification. C. Morgan said she would look into obtaining that information.

B. Vancouver Activities

The Vancouver branch is very busy this fall with programming. Turpen noted that this is due to the fact that more staff members are now involved in programming. Committees that had originally thought they could offer a program every quarter are now offering them monthly.

Turpen also shared that the new Outreach supervisor position was filled recently. Koplan said that in our outreach efforts, our most important goal right now should be to make the community aware of the library services that are available through the Internet. We need to make sure that the schools, kids and parents know about the many licensed databases that they have access to remotely.

Turpen noted that the Outreach supervisor is mainly responsible for the bookmobile, services to homebound citizens and our deposit collection. She also hopes to have the supervisor working with community groups, such as the literacy group at Clark College.

Other details from Turpen's report are attached.

Ziegman noted that Sue Vanlaanen would be sharing more about the library's efforts to inform the community.

C. Greater Vancouver Building Project

DiCesare provided an update on the project. The second Design Symposium was held October 24-25 at the Center for Educational Leadership. This symposium focused on the Vancouver Community Library. About 70 people attended the 2-day symposium and 30 people stayed through the evening to work with architects on three alternatives for a new library. DiCesare explained that the first design concept included some of district operations in both the old and new building. The second option had a new library completely separate from the Operations Center. A third option proposed finding a completely separate location for the Operations Center. Those attending expressed interest in community meeting space, building partnerships to effectively use the space and creating a library that is attractive enough to be a destination.

The architects are now working on finishing the schematics and will provide them in color very soon. We will be displaying these concepts in the community to get additional feedback.

Ziegman noted that Spurlock attended the Cascade Park symposium to look for ideas for Battle Ground. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and interest generated and now there are many more people aware of the issues and supportive of the efforts.

Spurlock asked what role the Friends of the Library had in getting the symposia set up. DiCesare said that district staff worked with the branch's librarian, Friends and others in the community to identify who they thought would be appropriate to invite. Among those invited to the symposia were representatives from neighborhood associations, schools, community organizations, businesses, city/county government and many citizens at large. Essentially, the idea is to get representatives from the

various parts of your community to participate. Ziegman added that a staff person and an architect were assigned to sit at each table. He felt that the symposia helped to develop a good partnership between the library and the community.

King asked when the design concepts would be available. DiCesare said that they should be available later this week and will be advertised and accessible from our Web site.

It was also acknowledged that the Foundation provided the food for the symposia.

Koplan said that it is critical to get people beyond our normal core of supporters involved in the project.

DiCesare shared two concepts that came out of the symposia. The first is a recognition of the library as the “3rd place” – not home, not work, but the other place that people gather. The other concept is what he called the “wow” value of the building; people seemed to want the building to make a significant statement about the community. Citizens expressed a desire to have a building that would engage and welcome people as they come inside. This idea seemed to generate a lot of interest and excitement with those who attended the symposia.

Dunn said that he attended the Vancouver symposium and cannot say enough about how important it was that we had the right representation there. He said it was a very successful endeavor. People were satisfied with how it turned out, felt that it was their library and were supportive of it.

D. Support Services

Duitman reported that the library has received a clean audit. Ziegman commended Duitman and her staff for their outstanding work. Breckel said she attended the audit exit interview and that it went very well.

Other details from Duitman’s report are attached.

E. Communications

Vanlaanen showed the board a color copy of the district-wide newsletter that will be distributed to all homes and businesses in our service area by the end of next week. This newsletter will provide our patrons with an update on library services and will begin to get the word out about the Board’s new Internet policy.

Other details from Vanlaanen’s report are attached.

F. FVRL Foundation

Smithrud’s written report is attached.

Koplan asked about the feasibility study. Smithrud explained that the Foundation has hired a consultant to conduct a feasibility study that will help us learn about our community's fundraising potential for new libraries.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ziegman gave an update on the Public Access TV Board. At the beginning of 2002, the library district was invited to be part of a joint project that would once again bring public access television to Clark County. Our board approved our participation and so the district now appoints two people to the 7-member Public Access TV Board.

The TV Board has named our public access television FVTV (Fort Vancouver Television). They have leased office space at 100 E. 19th Street and will open to the public on December 1st. They will be open Monday through Saturday. In addition to letting people record shows, they will offer orientations and will have camera, editing and production classes available on a cost-recovery basis. The Telecommunications Commission (formerly Cable Commission) paid for their initial setup and ongoing expenses have been paid by the City of Vancouver and Clark County. Eventually, FVTV will run on a cost recovery basis.

Ziegman noted that the legislative session is just around the corner. The first library legislative planning session will be held November 22. Both Duitman and Ziegman are part of the committee. They will talk about issues of interest to libraries, including ongoing funding concerns for the Washington State Library.

The district is providing management training to its supervisory staff and the first session was conducted recently. Ziegman noted that the training went very well and offered a number of good lessons on management. The sessions will be spread out over this winter and spring.

The Friends of Val Ogden will be holding a retirement event for Val on December 8th. Ziegman plans to attend. He invited Board members to contact Pettigrew if they need registration information.

Ziegman applied for membership to the Library Council of Washington. This group counsels the State Library and Secretary of State regarding spending of federal funds for libraries. King noted that if we lost our state library, libraries could lose federal funding. We would also be the only state in the Union without a state library. He added that our state has gone through wars, depressions and many other upheavals since Washington's constitution was written in 1853, and during all that time the state library managed to survive.

XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

As President of the Friends of the Battle Ground Community Library, Karen Williams thanked the board for their support. Although the community has not been successful yet in getting a larger library facility, she said that she knows it's

not through lack of support by the board and staff. She commended those who have been supportive of these ongoing efforts, including Nettie Pullella-Barca, Anna Cross, Sharon Hruby and Jackie Spurlock.

XI. BOARD COMMENTS

King said that he attended the design symposium and thought it was a wonderful experience. His table had a very interesting discussion. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

Ziegman acknowledged that Battle Ground has one of the most dedicated groups of Friends in this district. Even though they have faced many obstacles over the years, they continue their efforts to achieve better library space. Koplan said that any new ideas that are generated with the library project in Vancouver would be shared with Battle Ground.

Hruby asked what the district plans to do with the current Cascade Park building, once a new facility is built? Ziegman said that selling the building and land would free up some funds to help operate larger buildings. The district also has part of its operations in another facility (called the "Operations Center Annex") and building a larger Vancouver library would allow room to reunite all of district operations. This would also end the lease for the Annex. Hruby asked if the current Cascade Park building was truly modular and could be moved? Ziegman said that it was designed as a modular structure, but that moving it would likely be very costly.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 9, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodland School District Community Meeting Room. An executive session will begin at 5 p.m.

Breckel asked that staff keep their reports brief, if possible, should we have bad weather.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the December 9, 2002 Board meeting

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY SERVICES
REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD**

November 4, 2002

Submitted by Candace Morgan

Some October highlights from branches and other Community Library Services Departments:

Battle Ground

We can't have a Board meeting in Battle Ground without acknowledging once again how much a larger library is needed to serve the community. A summary of the growth experienced in the community from 1959, when the current building was opening, and 2001 is attached. Add to that the fact that from 2001 to 2002, the population of the City of Battle Ground increased 10.6%, the highest percentage in the Library District. FVRL, the Battle Ground School District and the City of Battle Ground continue to work on the practical, legal and transportation issues that must be addressed before it is possible to determine if there is a way for a larger library to be built at the current library site.

In the meantime, the availability of the 1st and Clark Building for programming has helped considerably. Battle Ground's second [Live@Your Library](#) program, featuring author Jane Kirkpatrick, was attended by 45 people.

The Pat Redjou Memorial Literacy program, co-sponsored by the Friends and the Library continues to develop. Nettie Pullella-Barca has set up a literacy room upstairs in the 1st & Clark Building with tables and chairs; maps, posters, and a clock on the wall; and a few dictionaries and other learning materials. Clark College's Literacy Program and the Friends have donated literacy materials to the library for the program. Some will be cataloged and some will be made available at the 1st & Clark Building as browsers. Nettie has also started an ESL conversation group. A typical conversation group meeting includes about eleven people who speak Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Ukrainian as their native languages.

The Battle Ground Young Adult program continues to grow. Battle Ground had 476 teens participating in the 2002 program, an increase of 62% over 2001. They earned 398 incentive prizes, an increase of 53%. Battle Ground's teen summer reading had more participants, earning more prizes, than any other FVRL branch. Battle Ground's YAAB members, working with Genevieve Winters and Lynn Fike (Library Assistants) constructed a scarecrow family reading a book, on the branch's exterior porch area. They did not win either of the two prizes offered by the Chamber of Commerce, but they were told they came in third. Jackie Spurlock (Community Librarian) was pleased that the Battle Ground area had entrants at all the grade levels in this year's Tales of Terror teen story writing contest. Joe Walla, a Lewisville Middle School eighth-grader was one of the winners.

Last April the Board authorized expenditures to make the crowded conditions at the Battle Ground library more workable for library staff. Jackie Spurlock and the Battle Ground staff worked with Dennis Sword and Buddy Barrett from Facilities to plan this project. The branch will be closed from Saturday, December 7th through Friday, December 13th. They will get a new circulation desk and new cabinets and shelving in the workroom. Because this branch has wireless connections for its computers they will be able to move them out of the construction zone and continue to check in books from the book drops, shelves and mail holds.

The Battle Ground Friends of the Library continue to provide significant support for the library. They sponsor programs, provide food, purchase equipment for the branch, and promote the library in the community. They always find a way to meet challenges. For example, Jean Kirkpatrick got lost trying to find the 1st and Clark building for the [Live@theLibrary](#) program. She was 40 minutes late. Friend's President Karen Williams saved the evening by reading to the audience from one of Kirkpatrick's books.

Woodland

An article on plans for a new Woodland Community Library appeared in the October 29 - November 4th edition of the Lewis River edition of the *Reflector*. The next day a library patron contributed \$1,000 to the Library Building Fund. Rich Simpson, Building Committee Chair, communicated to the committee that based on the fact that the donation came in about 6 hours after the paper was delivered, they have need to put in 6,000 additional hours of fund raising (@ 8 1/2 months) to reach their goal of \$1,000,000. The Building Committee will make a presentation to the Library Board about their plans at the December meeting, which will be held in Woodland.

Each of the branches participating in the Diversity Grant have commented on the positive impact that Mario Campeon's (Grant Coordinator) networking efforts have had in their communities. They also note how effective he is in helping to make connections between library staff and the Hispanic community so that the effect of the grant should live on after it is completed. Geraldine Veenstra's (Woodland Community Librarian) experiences are representative of these efforts:

Mario and I have met with local leaders in the Hispanic community and spent a day touring the migrant camps and visiting other housing projects, interviewed with Father Jerry of the local catholic church and Rosa of the community service center and their plans for a new building. On Sunday (November 3) he and I attended a bilingual mass and spoke with the congregation in the coffee hour after the service. Today we meet with the food bank administered by Rosa's organization to request the attendance of Latino people for our focus groups. I have also worked with the schools on this initiative and invited new Hispanic library users to speak with Mario. We have a growing group of people who are interested in participating in the study and I am learning a lot. Use of the library by Latinos according to my undocumented estimates is up by 25%. It was wonderful to meet parents of children who use the library at mass. They were surprised to see me and asked if I was still going to be at the "yellow building:

Ridgefield

FVRL and the Ridgefield Community Center Association have jointly paid to purchase and install awnings over the Library and Community Center windows and the Center's back doors. They were installed in time for the third annual Birdfest. As in the past, the library sponsored a program for Birdfest. Jan Robinson demonstrated bird-related origami. In addition, at the suggestion of Birgitta Stone (Friends treasurer and library substitute), the Friends offered refreshments in the library during the Fest.

Neva Fowzer, Ridgefield's Circulation Supervisor, is joining the Vancouver Circulation staff as Outreach Supervisor. We will miss her in Ridgefield, but since many of her duties will be related to Bookmobile and other outreach services in North Clark

County, we do not feel that we have really lost the benefit of her creative ideas and dedication to excellent library service.

The Ridgefield Friends have lost their storage place for books. As they search for another they are helping out others. They gave the left over boxes from their booksale to La Center and they are contributing current donations to the YAAB Multi-media sale.

Washougal

The branch presented a "make-something-ugly-for-a change" program on three Saturdays. Sean McGill (Community Librarian) reports that one attendee made an astonishing good copy of the head of Shrek, the ogre, complete with dentures for his teeth. A local resident, who is a master falconer, came to the library after the first program and said he was impressed that the library would present a paper mache program. He offered to do a program about falconry and goshawks, which has been scheduled for December.

A Skamania School teacher delivered Tales of Terror entries to the Washougal branch after the deadline. Sean turned this unfortunate circumstance into a positive event. He went to a school assembly on October 28th, thanked the entrants for writing the stories, reported that he had read and enjoyed them all and gave each a handful of international chocolates.

Three Creeks

The most exciting news is that Three Creeks is finally fully staffed! We are crossing our fingers. The first Super Saturday program, Exotic Insects, attracted 205 children.

Cascade Park

Teresa Torres (Community Librarian) reports that Cascade Park patrons who are aware of the recent Design Symposium are eagerly awaiting the design concepts being developed.

Collection Development and Technical Services

Epixtech provided three days of Dynix Acquisition System training as the first step of our migration to that product. Acquisition Library Assistants Bev Borge and Kim Heupel, as well as TSD Supervisor Lori Hetzler are practicing with the product. Based on the training and the practice experience, we are developing a list of issues to be addressed and decisions to be made.

Jackie Youngblood (Collection Development Manager) reports that orders are being prepared to purchase CDs using \$6,400 raised so far by the Foundation based on the letter from Ridgefield student McKenzie Cullen. As Jackie commented - one person can certainly make a difference.

Children's Services / Family Literacy

Jacquelyn Keith (Coordinator) presented two READ sessions at the Healthy Steps Women's and Children's Center (Southwest Washington Medical Center). She was very pleased that there was a dad for every mom.

Jacquelyn arranged for staff who schedule performers for children's programs to attend the Performers Showcase in Salem, sponsored by the Children's Division of the Oregon Library Association. She also planned a Children's Services Planning Day, held at Stevenson. In addition to representatives from each FVRL branch, staff from Hood

River County Library, Mid-Columbia and North Central Regional Library attended to share program and craft ideas.

Circulation Services

Effective November 1, Brenda Cameron (Coordinator) made changes to the overdue notice schedule calculated to encourage patrons to return materials faster. First notices will now be produced when items are 8 days overdue. The interval between the three notices we send will now be 14 days. TeleCirc attempts to call patrons the day before the notice is produced. If the patron is successfully notified, a notice is not printed. If a patron has requested e-mail notices, the print notice is delivered that way. The old schedule had notices starting at 14 days overdue with a 21-day interval between notices. Brenda will be monitoring the effects of this change.

Young Adult Services

The 4th annual Tales of Terror Short Story contest concluded this month. There were 227 entries, up from last year's 159 entries. We had teens from all over the district participate this year. The winners were as follows:

7th Grade

Ashley Waldron, Wy'East Middle School--Winner
Fanny Domijan, Henkle Middle School--Runner-up

8th Grade

Jesse Belvin, Henkle Middle School--winner
Joe Walla, Lewisville Middle School--runner-up

9th Grade

Adi Robertson, Trout Lake School--winner
Karlen Burris, Heritage High School--runner-up

10th Grade

David & Stephen Pick, Legacy High School--winner
Joshua DeWeese, Klickitat High School--runner-up

11th Grade

Megan Drake, Heritage High School--winner
Sarah Hardin, Evergreen High School--runner-up

12th Grade

Jon Marlo, La Center High School--winner
Joshua Kidwell, Heritage High School--runner-up

Special Mention

Vanessa Westerlund & Jennie Hubbell
Fort Vancouver High School 10th Grade

White Salmon Valley

The October program schedule included an a photography exhibit by former FVRL staff member, Christine Brigner, an Inquiring Minds Program, a teen cartooning workshop, a gourd workshop, Candidates night, and a Halloween /El Dia de los Muertos program, as well as the adult book discussion group and regular storytimes. I will include the details of the *El Dia de los Muertos* program because it demonstrates a success in our goals to connect the library with the Hispanic community.

The program was presented in cooperation with the Henkle Middle School and Columbia High School ESL classes. Approximately 150 community members (about 2/3 Spanish speakers) attended. Jennifer Hull (Community Librarian) expresses special thanks to Jose Maya and Lorraine Hernandez, the respective ESL teachers, for helping plan and present the program; and to Betsy Petrick, teacher of the Clark College ESL class for encouraging her students (along with their families) to join in. The evening started out with a short welcome and introduction by library staff, followed by a puppet show by the HMS ESL students (using skeleton puppets they made in class). Jenine WhiteCastle (Circulation Supervisor) told a spooky/funny story; Jose and Jennifer read *My Aunt Otilia's Spirits* in English and Spanish; and Lorraine led the group in "The Chocolate Song". The evening concluded with a variety of Halloween and Day of the Dead crafts. Refreshments included Mexican hot chocolate and "Pan de Muertos", traditional bread from Don Betos (the local Mexican market) as well as apple juice and Halloween candy.

Vancouver Mall

Barbra Meisenheimer (Community Librarian) was certainly speaking for many staff when she wrote, "October was so busy we didn't have time to think scary thoughts". Nevertheless, Vancouver Mall participated in the Westfield ShoppingTown celebration. They gave out 491 old summer reading buttons and 1,138 bookmarks to the trick-or-treaters.

In an unusual program Traci Maesner (Library Assistant) helped a group of school age children write their own *Legend of Boogachilly*. IT provided a laptop and screen, the kids made suggestions and Traci typed it up. While the participants made masks to show that they thought Boogachilly looked like, Sean Scott (Assistant Librarian) made copies of the story for each child to take home.

La Center

Work continues on the building funded by the Colf family and Colf Family Foundation. The focus now is preparing the parking area for winter. The Brick Sale is going well. The La Center High School Class of 2002 is using leftover class trip money to purchase bricks with the names of all the graduating seniors. A La Center High School senior, Jon Marlo, was a winner in the Tales of Terror contest.

Stevenson, North Bonneville and Skamania / Klickitat Bookmobile

As usual the Artists of the Gorge is the highlight of October in Stevenson. The opening reception on October 1st was a festive, well attended event. There were 106 entries, of which 63 were juried in and displayed. Artists from 14 Gorge communities were represented in the show, with most from Stevenson (13) and almost as many from Hood River (12). A total of 53 artists participated in the Exhibition. The Friends of the Library provided a generous spread of refreshments. Attendance at the reception was close to 200. Four teens from Stevenson's YAAB, led by Cynthia Dominik (Library

Assistant) helped serve the refreshments along with members of the Friends. The programming throughout the month in conjunction with the Exhibit were also very successful.

**Vancouver Community Library
Board Report
September/October/November
November 4, 2002
Doreen Turpen**

Programs

Forum at the Library addressed the future of higher education at its September program. In October they co-sponsored three candidate events, including the Baird/Zarelli debate. The November topic looks at making documentaries through one filmmaker's perspective and features Beth Harrington.

Live @ the Library programs held in Vancouver to date have included two authors and a poetry program. The final author program is scheduled for November 14.

The Vancouver Author committee hosted a writer's workshop in September featuring Pat Rushford. Over 60 people participated. They have another writer's workshop scheduled for Nov. 23.

The Vancouver Senior's Committee has presented programs on Internet auctions and beginning genealogy. Their next program will be another before hours open house and will include a free blood pressure clinic performed by nurses from the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington.

Youth Services Department has a full line-up of storytimes and has resumed Bonkers for Books. Staff dropped one of the toddler storytimes in order to add a lapsit program. The monthly Discussion Junction parent/child book discussion continues to have good participation. Science Sleuths drew over 120 participants. They spent the evening making Gak (something like "flubber") and conducting experiments on absorption and ones that showed that air has weight. Participants included at least two cub scout troops. Every participant received a copy of *Bill Nye, the Science Guy*. Funding for the free books for Science Sleuths and Discussion Junction came from a donation to the Foundation for the use of Vancouver Community Library to increase family reading.

Teen 'Scape is a new teen program offered at Vancouver Community Library. It is held weekly and provides an opportunity for teens to gather, play games, eat, and casually learn something about the library.

We have been able to expand our program offerings through co-sponsorship with other organizations. One example of co-sponsorships were the candidate forums which were primarily organized by the League of Women Voters and by WSU-Vancouver. Another example of this relationship is the upcoming program entitled: "York Black Explorer of the Lewis & Clark Expedition." This program was brought to the community by the Corps of Engineers. They needed a good venue, which Clark College is providing, and a means of reaching the general public, which is something we can provide.

Services:

We have recently added new on-line databases. One product called "LearnATest" will allow patrons to prepare for the GED, U. S. Citizenship, ASVAB, SAT and many civil service tests online. This product is currently available in each branch library but will be added to our Remote Patron Access page soon. HeritageQuest and the Sanborn Maps have recently been added to our Remote Patron Access page. HeritageQuest provides access to census data and other resources that are helpful to genealogists. Sanborn maps provide historical data on property. These two products have already been well received by the genealogical community and will be promoted by them.

VCL staff have been working on grant funded programs, such as the Diversity project, and district initiatives, such as the search for the replacement to Pharos and preparation work for a new integrated automation system.

We were also involved in the two Design Symposia. We had a couple of staff at the Cascade Park program and all the Vancouver department heads participated in the Vancouver Design Symposia.

The Circulation Department is close to having all supervisor positions filled for the first time since the beginning of the year. One position recently opened because the incumbent moved to a position in the business office. We have recently hired Neva Fowzer to fill a position that previously was assigned to DIS and was vacated earlier this year. We took advantage of the vacancy to reexamine placement of the position and responsibilities and moved the position to the circulation department. The position was responsible for the Homebound Service. By shifting it to Circulation we are able to put all "outreach" services in one unit. These include the Homebound service, Clark County Bookmobile, and deposit collections.

Library Friends

The Friends held their fall book sale on October 26, 27, and 28. The netted over \$6,000 from this sale. Over \$2,000 was from "Bob's Corner", a section where specially priced books are displayed. The area was previously called the Booktique, but the name was changed to honor Bob Burns who passed away earlier this year. Bob pioneered the research on donated books for Vancouver's friends group and found multiple ways to get higher values from those items.

Date: November 4, 2002
To: Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees
From: Patty Duitman
Subject: Support Services Report

ACCOUNTING

The audit is complete and the library received a clean audit.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Internet/Print Management – We had demonstrations from two of the vendors that submitted proposals. We are currently in the process of checking references, and the evaluation team will convene again on Friday, Nov. 8 to decide which vendor we will enter negotiations.

HUMAN RESOURCES/ADMIN SERVICES

Union negotiations and the union classification study continues to be the emphasis of the HR department.

FACILITIES

Battle Ground: The branch will be **closed 12/7 - 12/13** for renovation of the circulation and staff workroom areas. Some of the fixtures are currently being built in-house and other will be contracted.

Bookmobile: The interior layout has been confirmed and construction of the first unit is in process. Graphic design details should be complete this week. We expect delivery of the first unit in mid-December to early January.

General Maintenance: Major pruning of trees and shrubs was done in Stevenson and more work is being done in Goldendale this week.

Vehicles and buildings throughout the district are being prepared for winter conditions.

FVRL Board Report

Sue Vanlaanen, Associate Director-Communications

November 4, 2002

“It’s *your* library!” campaign

Our "Not just for GEEKS any more!" campaign focused on teens is in full swing, with C-Tran bus ads, movie theater screen slide ads in three Clark County theaters, and various print ads that will reach this age group. We're distributing posters to all branches for use inside the branches and for distribution in schools and out in the community. I'm working with Caryn Sipos, Renny Troupe and Trish Segal on production of five 30-second video spots promoting the library with a Hudson's Bay High School advanced video class. We'll make tapes of the spots available to all schools within the library district that do video morning announcements or have video playing capabilities. A big treat for this campaign was the inclusion of an article about our ad campaign in the November issue of *American Libraries*, the nationally distributed magazine of the American Library Association. (Copy of article attached.)

“Postal Customer” mailer

The Fall 2002 newsletter will be mailed out by the end of this week to more than 166,000 residential and business addresses across the district. (Photocopy attached.)

District general information + bond measure information video

We'll begin collecting footage next week for a 10-minute, general information video describing the district and the services we provide. This video will replace the now out-of-date general info piece created in 1996. With the addition of a brief bond information segment at the end, the video will be particularly useful as we go out into the Vancouver community to talk about the district and the upcoming bond election.

FVRL children's program mascot

We recently solicited suggestions from all FVRL staff members for an animal or character the district might "adopt" as its mascot for children's library programs. The mascot would be used to identify the library to children, promote programs, and attract families to participate in events, based on our observation of the magnetic, popular appeal to children of full-size character visits to branches by Clifford the Big Red Dog and Arthur. We received 25 suggestions from staff, including bookworm, chinchilla, raccoon, Pegasus, otter, cat, kangaroo and dragon. A small committee of staff members will make a selection in the next few weeks. We'll then work out how to create the mascot in several useful scales, from hand-held puppet or figure to an adult-size costume, and how to integrate the mascot into programming and promotions.

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

November 4, 2002

La Center Casinos Grant

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has notified the FVRL Foundation by phone that it will be receiving a grant from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund. The grant will be for \$10,175, which will help pay for a reference collection for the future La Center Community Library. Written confirmation of the grant should arrive in the next week or two.

Westfield Shoppingtown Gift

Westfield Shoppingtown Vancouver has agreed to provide a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's "2003 Bookmark Contest". Sponsorships help pay for the cost of printing 61,000 entry forms, posters, bookmarks, newspaper advertisements and other expenses.

Books on CD Campaign

After two months, the Books on CD mailing is continuing to generate returns. As of November 4, the mailing has had 97 returns with gifts totaling \$8,020.

Battle Ground Friends Open Account

In October, the Friends of Battle Ground Community Library transferred \$7,716.43 to open an investment account with the FVRL Foundation. The Foundation offers individual investment accounts to the Friends groups as an extension of its own investment activities. The objective is to provide the Friends with better long-term returns on their investments. The Battle Ground Friends will receive monthly statements showing any activity with their account.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The FVRL Foundation is in the process of submitting a Letter of Inquiry to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Letter of Inquiry reflects a request for funding for the La Center Library Building Project. The Gates Foundation should respond, positively or negatively, within 6 to 8 weeks. If approved a more formal grant proposal would be submitted at that time. If funded, a portion of the grant would be used to purchase and install an elevator in the La Center Library.

FVRL Foundation Begins Work on Feasibility Study

The Foundation has contracted with The Alford Group to conduct a Feasibility Study for a capital campaign. The Feasibility Study will take 6 to 12 weeks to complete and involve personal interviews with 40 individuals. Results of the Study will help determine the best way to prepare for a campaign, the appropriate size of the campaign, the best messages to use in the campaign, and the philanthropic climate of the community.