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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library District Purchases Property For Future Woodland Community Library

FVRL Board approves purchase to replace current 100-year-old building

VANCOUVER, Wash. – Fort Vancouver Regional Library District has found a future home for the Woodland Community Library.

On Friday, May 19, the library district finalized the purchase of a property located at 828 Goerig Street, Woodland, WA 98674, for a price of \$1,001,714.34. The 2.4 acre property is located at the intersection of Goerig and Lakeshore Drive, just a few blocks from Woodland Middle School.

At a FVRL Trustees meeting held the previous Monday, May 15, the trustees unanimously approved for FVRL Executive Director Amelia Shelley to finalize the purchase of property in Woodland designated to build the new library. The library has been looking for a new location for the Woodland Community Library following a series of studies and a pre-design workshop in 2013 and 2014 which identified the need for a new facility to replace the current 100-year-old building located on Park Street.

“We’re excited to complete this important first step in providing a modern library for the people of Woodland,” said Shelley. “The library’s role has grown beyond books, resources and programs to depend on other library services such as access to meeting and study rooms, as well as internet access and computers. By building a new library in the center of Woodland we will be meeting those needs while providing a space that will be adaptive not just to new technology, but also responsive to the changing needs of a growing community.”

Next steps

The new property currently houses the Woodland Funeral Home, who will lease back the location from FVRL while they look into relocating their business. The district is not planning on repurposing the existing funeral home



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Fort Vancouver Regional Library District www.fvrl.org

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building as it is not large enough to meet the community's needs and is not ADA accessible. Instead, FVRL will construct a new 10,000 square foot library plus parking at the location, and intends to subdivide and sell the unused portion of the property.

Now that the site has been secured, FVRL will work with community partners and the public to fully map out the community's needs in the new library and develop a full budget. The district will continue to work with the FVRL Foundation and Friends of the Woodland Community Library to establish a plan for fundraising including seeking grants and other opportunities.

Rick Smithrud, executive director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation noted, "Having selected a site is great news. It sets the stage for the community and local businesses to come together and show their support for building a new library. I can't think of a better investment than creating a library that will provide benefits to everyone for years to come."

Changes to library policy allowing more access for kids, non-residents

In addition to the finalizing the purchase of the new Woodland property at last Monday's meeting, FVRL's Board of Trustees approved changes to the Library Privileges policy that are designed to provide more access to library services.

The first change allows minors – regardless of where they live – the ability to check out up to three items as well as access to all online resources. FVRL hopes for this change to allow youth who live in areas outside the district – such as those living in Cowlitz County outside of Woodland city limits – access to materials without concern for their family's ability to pay for a non-resident card.

In addition to the change for minors, the trustees voted to simplify the formula used to determine the fees for non-residents to use library services. Previously, the formula calculated the fee based on property tax divided by service area population times average household size, creating a financial barrier to access. Instead of a household fee, use is now calculated on an individual basis. The new annual fee for an individual non-resident card will be \$44.

Both changes will be rolled out by June 1.

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About Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

Established in 1950, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) provides a vast range of information and cultural services to more than 464,000 Southwest and South Central Washington citizens in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, and the city of Woodland and Yale Valley Library District in Cowlitz County. FVRL provides a collection of more than 750,000 items, online library services at www.fvrl.org, two bookmobiles, telephone information services, 24/7 online help, outreach programs, and 15 public library locations: Community Libraries in Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson, Three Creeks, Vancouver, Washougal, White Salmon Valley and Woodland; The Mall Library Connection at Vancouver Mall; and Library Express facilities at Yacolt and Yale.

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Library locations: Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson, The Mall Library Connection, Three Creeks, Vancouver, Washougal, White Salmon Valley, Woodland, Yacolt