

Some thoughts on our library.

As a real estate agent here in Woodland I have been asked to write a letter with my thoughts on our library here in town. The iconic building has been in the same location for at least eighty years as my husband remembers it looking as it does today in the late thirties. A question frequently asked is do we have good schools and do we have a good library system so I know firsthand the importance of this organization. Fortunately I am able report that being under the Ft. Vancouver Regional Library District umbrella we have nearly immediate access to most books if one cannot find them on our local shelves.

The Woodland Library offers children reading programs which seem to be very popular on those days it is offered. I notice the computers always have someone using them and at times one must reserve time. When the time comes that we can finance and have a new library constructed here in town expanding the Wi-Fi, E-book, electronic and other digital resources will be one of our most popular assets. We will need a large community room where all sorts of functions may be offered and if that room were to include kitchen services some cooking classes could be offered along with classes in new motherhood for example possibly joining forces with the Red Cross to offer their expertise. I have read of a library that offers a teen zone, after school activities, yoga and even aerobic classes. Speaking of classes a larger building enables those of us with vivid imaginations to roam free and we can dream of a steady stream of users in and out of our new building with expanded hours including at least Saturdays.

We are a resilient institution and will continue with our humble environment as we have for nearly a century here in our small town. Although described as a "small library" (10,000 or less population area) we continue to evolve serving the needs of our community with pride.

We have all grown up with a library in our lives whether it is in school, a small town or a metropolitan library like the Multnomah County system in Portland. I am sure each one of us reflects upon our relationship with the hushed atmosphere where we have gleaned much information and enjoyed vicarious travels throughout the planet and universe, enjoying new characters waiting to enter our lives when we turn the cover of a new book.

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