

Director's Message

In 2007 the Bellingham Public Library broke all records for library visits and numbers of items checked out, while continuing to add library service to new areas of the community.

We began a successful partnership with the Whatcom Community College Library. Northsiders now have another place to drop off or pick up public library materials, and can even use the college library while there. Thank you, WCC!

During 2007 we continued to plan for the new Barkley Branch. Thank you to Stowe Talbot and the Barkley Company for providing free space to the library. This is a unique opportunity for us and we look forward to providing limited library hours on the East side by Summer 2008!

A big part of the year was spent working with you, the community, at numerous public meetings – to hear your preferences for a new Central Library. Thank you for sharing your opinions and ideas with us. Special appreciation goes to interim Mayor Tim Douglas for his support throughout.

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, thank you for using your library and for telling others about the wonderful services they can receive through the library.

Happy reading and learning!

Pamela Nyberg Kiesner
Library Director

2007 Library Board

David Edelstein, Chair
Faye Hill, Vice Chair
J. Gordon
Vicky Marshall
Marilyn Mastor
John Watts, City Council Liaison

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library Board

President, Christine Walsh
Vice President, Ruby Larive
Treasurer, Catherine Huhndorf
Assistant Treasurers, Richard Zarnowitz and Nancy Newstrom
Secretary, Marcia Leishman

Friends of the Fairhaven Branch Board

President, Marilyn Olsen
Vice President, Pam Went
Treasurer, Claude Hill
Secretary, Faye Hill



Major Friends Projects in 2007

- Ergonomic staff workstations in Children's Library and at Fairhaven Branch
- Barcode duplicating machine
- Six laptop computers for training lab
- Moviemate DVD projector
- Public performance license for movies
- Microfilm scanner
- Summer Reading Kickoff Party
- Storytelling programs
- 7 copies of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows on CD

Thank you, Friends!

Central Library
210 Central Avenue
(360) 778-7323 (READ)

Fairhaven Branch
1117 12th Avenue
(360) 778-7188

WCC Connection
237 West Kellogg Road
at Cordata Parkway
(360) 647-3266



2007

Annual Report

Bellingham Public Library



*Reader Raccoon and friends
at the Junior Ski to Sea Parade*

Power of Information...
Discovery of Ideas...
Joy of Reading!

2007 Fast Facts

Cardholders

45,786 borrowers
8,455 new cards
City population: 75,220

Collection

289,669 total holdings
524 print subscriptions
33 licensed databases

Did you know?

We borrowed 1,751 items for you via Interlibrary Loan in 2007. If we bought these items instead, it would cost \$43,775.

Circulation

1,285,450 checkouts

That's 17 items checked out per capita!

Did you know?

In 2007, our reference librarians answered 78,936 questions; 572 of them via our website.

Visits and Hours

816,302 visits
4,820 open hours
276,987 website visits

Did you know?

Visits increased 9% over 2006.

Programs

594 programs
19,191 attendees



Meeting Rooms

857 public meetings were held at the Central Library.

1,070 meetings were held at Fairhaven Branch.

Budget

2007 REVENUE

General Fund	\$3,037,214
Library Fees	\$116,326
Intergov. Svcs.	\$94,949
Room Rental	\$50,671
Gift Funds	\$7,962
Misc. Revenue	\$29,012
Grants	\$3,435
REET	\$52,614
Total	\$3,392,183

2007 EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Ben.	\$2,165,560
Library Materials	\$470,725
Operating Exp.	\$703,284
Capital Exp.	\$52,614
Total	\$3,392,183

Laying the Groundwork

Our building project took great strides in 2007, as the City Council unanimously approved the Library Board's recommendation to use the existing library site. The Board hired a team of library consultants to gather community input to complete a Building Program Statement, which is a description of the proposed building. Through a public process, we identified what the community wants and needs in a new library, how large it will be, and how much it will cost. Here are some highlights from 2007:



Library Board reviewed 20+ sites; recommended current location.

January

Current site at 210 Central Avenue unanimously approved by City Council.

August

Hired Thomas Hacker Architects and RMC Architects of Bellingham to conduct needs analysis, develop building program and analyze costs.

October 9 and 23

Held Open Houses attended by 100 community members.

November 13 and 14

Hosted Focus Groups of 35 stakeholders representing different demographic and geographic groups.

November

Conducted online and in-person Library Services Survey; received 300+ responses.

December

Analyzed input to prepare final report, for February 2008.

New in 2007

In May we began offering wireless Internet access to supplement our 40 public Internet workstations, which are in use 100% of every open hour.



We welcomed Beth Farley to head our Information and Reader's Services Department in June. Beth was formerly the Head of Reference for Jackson County Library Services in Medford, Oregon.

We partnered with the Whatcom Community College Library to provide a pick-up and drop-off location for North side residents which opened in September.



Children's Services

Summer Reading participants: 2,122
Storytimes held: 323
Storytime attendees: 11,396

A sampling of Children's Library events in 2007:

- Craft Fair
- Fairy Houses
- Harry Potter Week
- Pirate School
- Thursday Night Spotlight
- Twilight Prom
- We Share a Story

