Happy New Year!

Resolutions aside, here is a list of 2005 priorities for me – and this library – this year. It’s an ambitious TO DO list.

# Listening to, and hearing, what the citizens of Bellingham have to say about how their public library can best serve their information needs.

# Planning strategy for an active and improved library presence in the community.

# Continuing to review trends in demographics, library automation, architecture, and library services to assure we are planning for current and future library users.

# Planning for the 2006 Budget and the years beyond.

# Opening negotiations with the library labor unions.

# Studying Bellingham Public Library’s relationship with Whatcom County Library System.

# Developing our current main library space into a “welcoming” library, given space and building restrictions.

# Working with staff to meet their development and continuing education needs in order to provide outstanding service to our customers.

# Studying our current library practices and implementing efficiencies wherever we can. We hear so often about “doing more with less” – less funding, fewer staff. We will grapple with this reality of the times in which we live.

What is missing? What priorities do you envision for this library that are not on this list? Let me know. Together with the citizens of Bellingham, the Library Board, and the library staff, we will achieve good things in 2005.