

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2005

August 16th, 2005

Submitted by Pam Kiesner

Summertime

It is clear why people like Bellingham in the summertime. There is so much to do and see. Actually, this activity level does not seem to diminish in fall, winter, or spring – but the summer is...brighter...days are longer...and we can pack more into our days.

Busy-ness

As you use the library and its services, I hope you notice the busy-ness level here as well. It has been revealing to witness popular events in the park behind the Central Library – the children's craft fair and the Friday concerts especially. And, a well-attended "jammies story time" at the Fairhaven branch. Customers continue to line up at our internet stations, information, and check-out desks. Year-round, your library is highly popular and well-utilized.

Efficiencies

To serve you even better, staff is engaged in implementing a plan that incorporates "self pick-up of holds" and "express check-out". If you choose to pick up your holds at the Fairhaven Branch, you experience this self-service already. We will communicate with everyone in more detail as we get ready to roll out this new way of doing business – just wanted to give you a heads-up for what is coming in the fall.

The List

Your Library Director continues to make "getting to know the library/city/community" a priority. Here is a sampling of the previous couple of weeks:

Meetings (topics and people):

- # Labor negotiations preparation
- # R/UDAT (Regional Urban Design Assistance Team) about building design ideas
- # New technologies and their impact on libraries: digitization and wireless
- # 2006 budget "tasks" that are due, such as performance measurements, mission, program description, organization chart
- # Technical Services efficiencies
- # Municipal taxing district legislation
- # Hiring preparation for 2 vacant part-time clerk positions
- # Mike Omura – the architect for the 1983 library remodel
- # Malcolm Fleming, COB Chief Administrative Officer
- # Joan Airoidi, Director of Whatcom County Library System
- # Human Resources-sponsored information session on conflict resolution/mediation
- # Shared policies between the county library system and Bellingham Public
- # City Department Heads
- # John Thompson, editor of *Bellingham Business Journal*

- # Patricia Decker, Director of the Public Facilities District
- # Marty Mulholland, Director of the Information Technology Services Department
- # City Center Action Group – topic: homelessness impact on city
- # All staff meeting following the Library Board meeting
- # Marketing and displays of library materials in the library

Other fun events:

- # Invited Ann Reed, new Bellingham Public Schools Director of Instructional Technology and Libraries to tour the library and meet with our children's and Young Adult staff members
- # Friday afternoon outdoor concerts
- # Children's craft fair
- # Fairhaven branch evening story time
- # BPL staff picnic
- # Tour of water treatment plant
- # Budget Advisory Committee – presentation by the Bellingham Independent Budget Taskforce
- # City Council presentation by Director of Planning on community growth projections
- # City Council executive session on labor negotiations
- # Oh! A weekend on Lopez Island as a result of the Whatcom Land Trust Auction, a Saturday in Edmonds, an outdoor movie at the Bellwether, and a couple of wonderful Bellingham Music Festival concerts.

Promises, promises....

I promised you that I wouldn't list everything each month, and it has been awhile since I did so. Periodically it is good to illustrate what good things are happening and what connections are being made.

Last on my list: I'm looking forward to helping with the Summer Reading Program Awards Ceremony. This important event represents one of the primary reasons we exist. We are growing readers and learners – for a lifetime. The good work all of us do in support of the library – citizens, staff, board members, and Friends pays off in developing *the joy of reading, the discovery of ideas, and the power of information!*

No wonder people love it here.