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 Airoldi, 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.