



King County Library System Director's Report July 2011

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Bellevue City Council approved an agreement that allows KCLS to use Ashwood Park during the **Bellevue Library** garage expansion. At the same meeting, Library Advisory Board Chairperson Loretta Lopez gave an annual report on the Bellevue Libraries. She focused on the need for communication to patrons as there will only be fifty parking spots available during construction. KCLS has provided information on public parking lots in the area as well as public transportation options. Arrangements have been made for staff to park off-site and patrons are being encouraged to choose alternate library branches for holds pick-up.

The City of Renton is moving forward on both the downtown **Renton and Renton Highlands Libraries**. Community and Economic Development Director Alex Pietsch will present an update to the Board at the July meeting and KCLS is ready to begin work on the design process. The Renton Highlands Library will be part of a mixed-use development planned by the Renton Housing Authority that will include housing and a park. KCLS is also talking with Renton officials about the location and development of a new Skyway Library. While Skyway is not part of the City of Renton, it could eventually annex.

The **City of Tukwila** selected Senior Housing Assistance Group (SHAG) to develop Tukwila Village. SHAG is amenable to the idea of a standalone library and has agreed that it can be located on the corner of South 144th Street and International Boulevard. KCLS has selected Perkins+Will Architects to work on the design phase when it begins.

City of Kenmore officials were beaming as more than 2,000 people streamed through the doors of the new **Kenmore Library** on Saturday, July 9. The street in front of the building was closed and the event was so successful that some officials began contemplating other community events to host at the Library.



Cub Scout Pack 622 presents a folded U.S. flag to Bill Ptacek and Board President Judge Richard Eadie during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The long-awaited groundbreaking for the new **Duvall Library** took place on Thursday, July 14. More than 200 people braved overcast skies and light rain to turn out for the event. Mayor Will Ibershof and King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert were among the dignitaries on hand to mark the occasion. Excavation is well under way and the Library is anticipated to open next summer.

OPERATIONS

KCLS is pleased to report that Deloitte will provide \$75,000 in pro bono consulting to help KCLS develop tools to evaluate the effectiveness of librarians and service provision. While it is difficult to quantify every aspect of a librarian's job, general indications of how time is spent and the impact of activities will be useful in determining capacity as KCLS prepares for the System-wide rollout of Future Services. Thank you to KCLS Foundation Board member Emily Rollins who championed the effort to secure assistance from Deloitte.

Construction has finally started on the **Lake Forest Park Library** expansion. Although the process got off to a slow start, the project should be completed in six months. The Library is anticipated to open during the holidays.

As reported last month, the Pomegranate Center in Issaquah awarded KCLS one of four **Gathering Places** grants to create a literacy garden on the grounds of the Mercer Island Library. Community meetings have been conducted and work has begun. Initial clearing is complete, hard landscape elements will be installed in August and final landscaping will happen in September. The garden will provide spaces for story times and feature elements for children to learn about the environment. The grants are funded by Tully's Coffee.

More than 50 people attended the final public meeting for the **Federal Way 320th Library**. Participants had generally favorable comments about the exterior design and KCLS was encouraged to build as much parking capacity as possible. The audience also responded favorably to the announcement that in lieu of opening a temporary facility during construction, the Federal Way Library will have extended open hours instead. Given that the Federal Way Library was recently expanded, has ample parking and is within proximity to the Federal Way 320th Library, it makes sense to utilize the existing facility.

Circulation was down 7% for the month of June and 5% for the year compared to 2010 but there are a few notable exceptions. Library2Go circulation is up 15% and circulation of downloadable eBooks continues to be more than double over last year. While catalog use is down 58% from last year, visits to **kcls.org** are up 9%.

More than 40,000 kids have signed up for the **Summer Reading Program** compared to 42,500 at this same time last year. Last year's program had a record number of participants, ending with more than 47,000 total sign-ups.

Ever since the **Snoqualmie Library** opened in 2007, the building has not had physical access to I-Net, a fiber optic network which connects almost all KCLS libraries along with approximately 300 public facilities in King County. Consequently, the internet connection at the library has been far less robust than other KCLS branches resulting in slower response times, more downtime and limited wireless access. With the development of Snoqualmie Ridge, the City of Snoqualmie invested in an infrastructure around the new area, including the Library, to provide access to the City's fiber optic network. City officials wanted King County to either reduce the City's monthly access fee to I-Net in exchange for KCLS' joint use or have KCLS pay for half of the City's monthly I-Net access fee on top of the standard monthly I-Net charges that would be incurred by KCLS for Snoqualmie Library I-Net access. Thanks to efforts by the Snoqualmie Library Advisory Board, an agreement principle was reached in which KCLS will pay a one-time fee for proportional compensation for installation of the network infrastructure.

OTHER

KCLS was the talk of the town at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans. Staff in attendance received numerous congratulations for KCLS being named **2011 Library of the Year**. In addition, Cluster Manager **Angelina Benedetti** received the prestigious Allie Beth Martin award, the **Sammamish Library** was named a Landmark Library and materials produced by the **Community Relations** and **Graphics Departments** took top prizes at the Best of Show Awards for five print/promotional pieces: Hello packets in seven languages, 2010 Year in Review, Take Time to Read Booklists, Inside KCLS newsletter and InfoToGo cards.

King County Library System Foundation

Literacy Learning Libraries

The Foundation is pleased to announce that four scholarships have been awarded to KCLS staff members who are expanding their knowledge, skills, and horizons as they pursue their Masters of Library and Information Science degrees. "The KCLS Foundation Board of Directors is honored to provide support to these talented and committed staff members in their pursuit of their degrees," said Kathy Brown, Board President and retired Boeing attorney who chaired the Scholarship Committee this year. Other committee members included fellow Board members Merrill Chertok, Microsoft Library Site Manager and Ann Polk Ewel, Director of Library Services at the Overlake School; KCLS Human Resources Manager Kathy Tarli, Public Services Specialist Amber Slaven and Jeanne Thorsen, KCLS Foundation Executive Director. Since 2002, the KCLS Foundation has provided 52 scholarships totaling \$75,000. Recipients may use the funds for tuition & fees, books, supplies, computers, child care, transportation and other expenses associated with their program.

The lack of parking during construction of the Bellevue Library parking garage prompted the KCLS Foundation Board of Directors to look for an alternate site for the March 2012 Literary Lions Gala. After reviewing valet parking and shuttle bus options for 400 guests, staff recommended moving the event to a hotel. While the Board's preference is to host the event at the Bellevue Library, board members supported the move. Information on the location, keynote speaker and program details will be available later this fall.