

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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EILEEN SIMMONS, EDITOR

MEET PRESIDENT THERESA

This year, I will be serving as president of Friends of the Everett Public Library. I worked in libraries for over 30 years before retiring in 2015 from Everett Public Library. Throughout my career, I have seen the difference Friends of the Library groups make at their libraries. That is why I am proud to take on this role.

Thank you all for your continued support of Friends of the Everett Public Library. Your membership allows us to provide monetary support for important programs where public funds fall short and makes a statement that you believe the library is important to our community.

All members are welcome at meetings, generally scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Main Library, 2702 Hoyt Avenue.

If you are interested in being more involved, or have questions about FOEPL, please e-mail me, Theresa Gemmer, at FOEPLpres@outlook.com.



Theresa Gemmer and friends

WILL YOU BE A LIBRARY ADVOCATE?

There are a number of ways to support the work of the Friends. Many of our members write a check every year. Others volunteer at special events, and some attend the monthly meetings.

But there's another way to support your library, and that is through advocacy. When the state legislature considers laws that impact libraries or the City contemplates budget cuts, it's important that Everett residents let their representatives know what is important to them before decisions are made. When the City was contemplating budget cuts several years ago, there were more people speaking in favor of retaining golf courses than people speaking on behalf of the library.

To insure the library users are aware of issues that may impact services they value, the Friends are creating an email list of people willing to call or email state or local representatives when the need arises. If you are interested in being on this list, please email us at FOEPLpres@outlook.com. We will not share your information with others, nor will we add to your inbox with unnecessary emails.

GRANTS ENHANCE LIBRARY SERVICES

The Everett Public Library and the Friends have a history of using grants to enhance services and programs. This year the library received grants, listed below, from the American Library Association (ALA) and the Washington State Library (WSL).

The ALA's **Great Stories Club (GSC)** provides materials and training to conduct book discussions with small groups of underserved youth. EPL was chosen to facilitate three different GSC discussions, and Youth Services librarian Jesse O'Dunne is coordinating the project.

The grant provides multiple copies of each book, and participating teens get to keep them. The books are by con-

temporary authors, address issues of race, culture, equity, and identity, and have high teen appeal.

Currently, the EPL Great Stories Club is active at Cascade High School through a collaboration with school librarian Amalia Pimenta. For the 2019-2020 school year, sites will include Sequoia High School, Cocoon House, and the Denney Juvenile Justice Center.

Virtual Reality in Libraries

The Washington State Library's "VR in Libraries" project has loaned an Oculus Rift and Oculus Go kits to the Everett Public Library for use in public programs through June of 2019. VR use and applications have grown steadily over the past few years. While games

and other forms of entertainment are prominent uses of VR, the technology also offers unique and immersive educational opportunities. The Library will offer patrons a variety of VR educational experiences that



include a journey through the bloodstream (The Body VR), a tour of the White House (The People's House), and a visit to the International Space Station (Mission:ISS), as well as interactive, immersive environments like Oculus First Contact.

Check the Library's events calendar for VR programs.



EVERGREEN BRANCH UPDATE

The Evergreen Branch is expected to reopen in late 2019. To minimize the disruption of services caused by the long closure, the library has taken some of its programs on the road—closer to the people who need them. One example is the Great Stories Club at Cascade High School (see first page).

In another example, ChildStrive is hosting one of the library’s weekly storytimes during the remodel. This storytime is for families with children ages 5 and under and is followed by a half-hour of playground time. Time: Fridays at 9:30am. Location: ChildStrive, 14 E Casino Rd. Building C. Please see the library’s calendar of events to confirm specific dates.

FRIENDS GROW CONTRIBUTION TO BRANCH

The Friends play an important role in the Branch remodel. Although the City is providing the basics, the Friends are raising money for the special touches needed for our diverse population. To date, the Friends have raised just over \$48,000, thanks to organizations such as the EverTrust Foundation, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, the Howarth Trust, the Tulalip Tribes, and many individuals. We will add public computers, a laptop lab, and early learning toys and games. Please consider increasing your membership donation to help make the branch an even more vital part of our city.



OPEN DATA FOR EVERYONE @ THE LIBRARY

Many of us interact with open data every day without even realizing it. When you check the weather online, use GPS-guided directions, or check the health inspector score for a restaurant, you’re using government-produced open data. Open data can be used for any purpose, and it is always “machine readable” – which means that anyone can download it and use it with other computer programs like Excel or Tableau, or even put it in an app for your smartphone.

In 2017, the library began exploring the possibilities of open data, thanks to a state grant, and now the City of Everett

is in the process of implementing its own open data platform in response to Mayor Franklin’s directive on Community Engagement and Inclusion and the Envision Everett 2037 report.

The City’s open data portal has the potential to increase transparency and create an inspired, empowered, and engaged community. The library will be a critical part of the City’s adoption of open data by holding public information meetings about open data. Library patrons may also use the public Internet computers or Wi-Fi to interact with the open data portal or arrange for a Book-a-Librarian

session to ask questions about using the portal one-on-one with an Adult Services Librarian.

The city’s portal will launch in late spring/ early summer of 2019. Learn more about the open data portal, or even request a particular dataset you’d like to see on the portal at <https://everettwa.gov/1978/Open-Data>.



Join the Friends; support the Library. Your contribution makes a difference.

Friends of the Everett Public Library P.O. Box 5654, Everett, WA 98206 or www.epls.org/friends