

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

**Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, Washington  
Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA** **TIME (approx.)**

---

*We acknowledge that we gather on territory that has been the traditional and ancestral homeland to the Lhaq'temish (the Lummi People), the Nooksack People, and other Coast Salish tribes of this region Since Time Immemorial.*

*We honor our shared responsibility to this land and these waters, we commit to learning from Indigenous wisdom, and we strive to repair and deepen our relationships as neighbors and friends.*

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>1. Call to order and introductions</b>   | 1 min |
| <b>2. Approve/modify agenda</b>   | 1 min |
| <b>3. Public comment</b><br>This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments.<br>Remarks will be limited to three minutes.   | 3 min |
| <b>4. Consent agenda (see packet materials)</b><br>All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved in a single motion. A trustee may ask that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Communications and FYI</b></li><li>• <b>Minutes:</b> September 19, 2023: Regular board meeting</li><li>• <b>Library performance &amp; activity measures:</b> September 2023</li><li>• <b>Financial reports</b><br/>Claims: September 2023<br/>YTD report: September 2023<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Donated Funds review</li></ul> | 2 min |
| <b>5. Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Chair</li><li>• Library Board members</li><li>• City Council liaison</li><li>• Friends of Bellingham Public Library</li><li>• Library Director (see packet materials)</li></ul>   | 8 min |

**Time check: 3:45**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <p><b>6. National Friends of Libraries Week, October 15-21, 2023 – Action Item (see packet materials)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Board Proclamation; Rick Osen, Board Chair</li> </ul> | <p>5 min</p>  |
| <p><b>7. 2024 Rates &amp; Fees – Action item (see packet materials)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Judd, Director</li> </ul>   | <p>5 min</p>  |
| <b>Time check: 3:55</b>  |               |
| <p><b>8. Planned Giving project update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristy Van Ness, Trustee</li> </ul>  | <p>15 min</p> |
| <p><b>9. 2023-2024 Mid-Biennium Budget Modification update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Judd, Rebecca</li> </ul>   | <p>5 min</p>  |
| <p><b>10. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Action Plan review (see packet materials)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Judd, Director</li> </ul>  | <p>10 min</p> |
| <b>Time check: 4:25</b>  |               |
| <p><b>11. New business</b></p>   | <p>3 min</p>  |
| <p><b>12. Agenda items for next meeting</b></p>  | <p>2 min</p>  |
| <b>Time check: 4:30</b>  |               |
| <p><b>13. Adjourn</b></p>  |               |

**Accessibility:**

The Bellingham Public Library Lecture Room is ADA accessible. Elevator access to the lower floor is available at the Central Avenue entrance. If you require a sign interpreter or other accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours' notice. For additional accommodation, contact the Administrative Assistant at 778-7220 in advance of the meeting. Thank you.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Lecture Room, Central Library, 210 Central Avenue  
Bellingham, Washington**

**Libraries protect the freedom to read - Local - Cascadia Daily News (WA) - October 6, 2023 - page 1**

October 6, 2023 | Cascadia Daily News (WA) | Rebecca Judd, Rick Osen, Christine Perkins, Rodney Lofdahl, Guest Writers

In the United States, the freedom to read is granted to everyone. It is protected in the First Amendment to the Constitution, and it is protected by public libraries.

The freedom to read means everyone has access to information as a foundational principle of our democracy. Everyone is welcome at the public library, and everyone should feel represented in the materials offered. Library staff strive to reflect a diversity of viewpoints in the materials available.

On a national scale, the library profession has its own Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the American Library Association in 1939. Over the decades it has been amended and reaffirmed. The language, particularly noteworthy during National Banned Books Week, reads:

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve, should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and

confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

While these rights may seem obvious to some, there is a long history of public attempts to overrule them. At present, censorship has become a renewed concern throughout the nation and within Washington state.

We stand with Washington's State Librarian Sara Jones and Secretary of State Steve Hobbs in proposing 2024 legislation to "strengthen community libraries' autonomy to provide material from wide-ranging viewpoints without fear of suppression."

As Jones outlined in a recent Seattle Times article, "A local library's goal is building a collection to broadly represent views and perspectives, in a variety of formats, for a wide range of ages, and with content reviewed for selection by professional sources. The community also recommends purchase of books and materials they need."

In Bellingham and Whatcom County, our public libraries guard the freedom of individuals to choose their own reading materials through our collection policies. These policies are approved by our Boards of Trustees and endorse the Library Bill of Rights, as well as the U.S. Constitution and Washington's state constitution. Through these policies, public libraries promote access to information for everyone according to their interests.

During Banned Books Week (Oct 1–7, 2023) and every week, the Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System celebrate, honor and protect our local community's freedom to read.

Rebecca Judd is Bellingham Public Library director; Rick Osen is chair of Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees; Christine Perkins is Whatcom County Library System executive director; Rodney Lofdahl is chair of Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees.

**OPINION**

**GUEST ESSAY**

# Great Books Will Always Be Their Own Best Defense

Oct. 2, 2023



Credit...Martin Parr/Magnum Photos



By [Margaret Renkl](#)

Ms. Renkl is a contributing Opinion writer who covers flora, fauna, politics and culture in the American South.

During my grade school years in the early 1970s, I read everything. Books, of course — books about dogs and teen detectives and gruesomely martyred saints — but also the morning newspaper and the evening newspaper, a long-dead relative’s ancient encyclopedias, my father’s Reader’s Digest, my mother’s Southern Living. In the time-honored tradition of nerds everywhere, I read the backs of cereal boxes with the same rapt attention that I devoted to “Old Yeller” and Nancy Drew. If there were words before me, I read them.

By sixth grade, I had exhausted the school library’s appealing options and moved on to the county bookmobile. When children’s books proved too short to hold me through the long, unoccupied days of summer, I started choosing books from the adult sections, too — just to have enough to read until the bookmobile came back. The driver, unsure how to manage this wondrously ecumenical but often wildly inappropriate range of titles, asked my mother to sign a form that gave me permission to check out anything I cared to read.

My mother didn’t hesitate to sign it and then paid no attention to the books I chose. If she had, she would have discovered that tucked among books like “Dracula” and “All Creatures Great and Small” and “The Complete Poems of Edgar Allan Poe” were titles like “The Stepford Wives” and “Valley of the Dolls” and “Jaws.” I doubt Mom would have been thrilled to discover that in learning about great white sharks, I was also picking up some unexpected information about what adults in the midst of an extramarital affair could do with their hands in the front seat of a moving car, but the subject never came up.

As [Banned Books Week](#) gets underway, I’ve been thinking again about that bookmobile. My parents were Goldwater Republicans who sent their children to Catholic school. And yet for them, the very idea of policing my reading was laughable. What parent, left or right, doesn’t want to raise a reader? My parents trusted that I understood the difference between fiction and my own life, and I did.

Among today’s conservatives, this attitude is almost impossible to imagine. During the 2022-2023 school year, PEN America, an advocacy organization that defends free expression, recorded 3,362 instances of book banning, an increase of 33 percent in just one year. “Overwhelmingly, book bans target books on race or racism or featuring characters of color, as well as books with L.G.B.T.Q.+ characters,” notes [the organization’s report](#).

Although some liberals want books banned, too — for them, it’s [often classic titles](#) like “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and “To Kill a Mockingbird,” which treat race in a way that is problematic — most bans are [instigated by conservatives](#) who increasingly target not just school libraries but [classroom book collections](#) and [public libraries](#) as well.

These efforts are taking place within the context of a much larger Republican tyranny of the minority.

Book bans belong to the same categorical crime against democracy as denying red-state citizens the full range of medical care available to the citizens of blue states. The same crime against democracy as denying L.G.B.T.Q. people their full civil rights. And the same crime as [rewriting textbooks](#) to avoid the reality of white violence against Black people. Republicans are doing everything possible to prevent an entire culture from moving toward inclusiveness, diversity and freedom. And their terror campaigns can be very effective.

Libraries have always been welcoming places for Americans, particularly American children. A library is a safe space for exploring the full range of human experience and human thought, all under the supervision of knowledgeable and loving adults. Librarians are the heroes who love books and the human beings who read them and who know how to help the readers find the books they need.

You wouldn't know any of that from the culture wars. Without defining what is meant by these terms, laws have been enacted in the red states that would send librarians to prison for "providing sexually explicit, obscene or 'harmful' books to children," notes [an analysis by The Washington Post](#). "I've been called a pedophile. I've been called a groomer. I've been called a Communist pornographer," one librarian [told Xochitl Gonzalez of The Atlantic](#). The attacks have been so relentless and so demoralizing that some 300,000 teachers and librarians [have left the profession](#).

It's important to note that [most Americans](#) — including a majority of Republicans — support teachers and librarians and oppose book bans. The attacks are the work of a minuscule minority of conservatives. When The Washington Post analyzed 986 complaints against specific books filed during the 2021-22 school year, it found that a majority were issued by [the same 11 people](#). (You read that right: 11.) Across the red states, hundreds of popular titles have been removed from public school and community libraries, in many cases [on the basis of a single complaint](#).

Americans are finally beginning to fight back, and the pushback isn't coming only from advocacy organizations like the American Library Association and PEN America. [Authors and artists](#) are fighting back. [Students](#) are fighting back. [Parents](#) are fighting back. If everyone who opposes book bans got involved, the whole effort would die overnight. Book banners do not have numbers on their side.

They don't have reality on their side, either. These days, books exist in forms that cannot be reduced to ashes. If your library is no longer allowed to offer a particular title, there's a good chance you can get it online from the [Digital Public Library of America](#), which just began an initiative called the Banned Book Club. Banned titles are available through [a free e-reader app](#).

The relationship between writer and reader is a unique form of intimacy. Every reader brings to the reading a self that is marked by time and place, a self that can never be replicated, not even on a second reading. Conservatives who presume to understand how a particular book will affect a particular child profoundly misunderstand how children actually read, how anyone reads.

In the end, great books will always be their own best defense. Imaginative literature survives not by merely communicating information and even less by attempting to inculcate a worldview. A truly great book tells a story that allows readers to place themselves, safely, in the larger world.

Human beings are storytelling creatures, and reading books is one way we come to understand our part in the entire, expansive, miraculous human story. A book reminds us that we are not alone, that our own lives, which too often feel small and insignificant, are part of a story that can be terrible and full of pain but also astonishing and often magnificent. Children instinctively understand that truth about the books they read, whether their parents want them to or not.

[Margaret Renkl](#), a contributing Opinion writer, is the author of the books "[Graceland, at Last](#)" and "[Late Migrations](#)." Her next book, "[The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year](#)," will be published this month.

*The Times is committed to publishing [a diversity of letters](#) to the editor. We'd like to hear what you think about this or any of our articles. Here are some [tips](#). And here's our email: [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com).*

*Follow The New York Times Opinion section on [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(@NYTopinion\)](#) and [Instagram](#).*



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – Fairhaven Branch Library, Northwest Room**  
**3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

---

**Board Members Present:** Rick Osen, Jim McCabe and Kristy Van Ness  
**Board Members Absent:** Rebecca Craven  
**City Council Library Liaison:** Kristina Michele Martens  
**Library Staff:** Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins  
**FOBPL Representative:** Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaison  
**City Staff:** Sarah Chaplin, Assistant Senior City Attorney

**Call to order and introductions:** Regular session was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen.

**Approve/modify agenda:** Kristy Van Ness moved to approve the agenda. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

**Public comment:** No comments.

**Consent agenda:** Jim McCabe moved to approve the August 15, 2023 Regular meeting minutes and the August 2023 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Kristy Van Ness seconded. Motion carried.

**Board Chair report:**

- Rick reported that the meeting will end with an Executive Session to determine the name(s) to recommend to the Mayor for filling the Board vacancy. No further agenda items will be addressed after the Executive Session.
- Rick thanked Kristy, Rebecca Craven and Rebecca Judd for reviewing a record number of applications (18) and selecting those to interview.
- Rick mentioned that the City's contract negotiations with Miller Hull for Central Library architectural services are nearing a conclusion. First meetings with the consultant team are expected for mid-October.

**Board member reports:**

- Kristy reported that she and Rebecca Judd attended a Trustee training held at the Burlington Public Library with State Librarian Sara Jones. Rebecca added that there were trustees from Mt. Vernon, La Connor, Burlington, and Sedro-Woolley in attendance.
- Jim recalled past Sister City exchanges with Tateyama, Japan and Port Stevens, Australia. Jim was inspired by a visit to the Vaasa Library in Finland in 2018. He suggested a library visit exchange with a Sister City.

**City Council liaison report:**

- Kristina reported that after a month-long break, the September 11 Council meeting was spent catching up on business.
- Kristina congratulated the Library for getting through the first steps in establishing behavioral health specialists at the library. This is a good step in the right direction.

**Friends of BPL report:**

- Carol reported that the September book sale to be held in the Lecture Room and lower lobby begins Wednesday, Sept 20. Wednesday and Thursday are full price days; Friday is half price; Saturday is fill-a-bag day. Masks are encouraged.
- The Friends have two new board members: Wendy Westgate (Member At-Large) and Jane Brooks (Publicity and Member At-Large).

**Library Director report:**

- Rebecca reported that King 5 and Q13 Fox News have reached out to discuss the behavioral health specialist position. An interview with King 5 was scheduled with Rebecca and Malora Christensen, from Whatcom County Health and Community Services.
- Rebecca mentioned that the joint State Library/Goodwill/Veterans Administration digital navigator grant was not selected for funding.
- Rebecca congratulated all the staff who worked on the 2023 Summer Reading program. It was a great success – and wonderful to see so many activity sheets posted in the Children’s Library.
- Rebecca noted that preparations are underway for Banned Books Week, October 1-7.
- Rebecca mentioned that John Danneker, the new Dean of Libraries at Western, has joined the Whatcom READS board.
- Rebecca noted that one of the Burgeon Group interactive wall panels has been installed in the Children’s area at Fairhaven Branch. Bellis Fair Branch panels are scheduled for installation in October.
- Rebecca thanked Jen for all of her project work on the air quality sensors. They have been installed in all four Fairhaven Branch bathrooms. The Central library installations are currently underway, followed by Barkley.
- Rebecca noted that we received a \$20,000 donation from a long-time patron through the Whatcom Community Foundation. The donation is for a variety of collection materials.
- Jen provided an update on the freight elevator – the backordered part has been received and work has re-started. She noted that she hopes it will be back in service by the end of October.

**Planned Giving project update:**

- Kristy reported she is working with Rachel Myers on editing documents. Rebecca Judd added that Bainbridge Island Library shared their planned giving documents.

**Policy update:**

- Board of Trustees Bylaws: Rick recommended that this update and reorganization of the Bylaws be removed from the set of Library Policies.
- Rick provided two additional suggested updates:
  1. Date of Approval at the bottom of the bylaws should be changed to reflect today's date, if approved today.
  2. Appendix 3, Public Comments: suggest combining bullets 3 & 4 to read, "All meetings of the Board are open to the public, and public comment is accepted during the public comment period on the agenda. There is a three (3) minute limit for an individual to make a public comment. Total comments are accepted for a maximum of 30 minutes at each meeting, unless otherwise ruled by the Chair."
- Rick made a motion to approve the updated Bylaws and appendices, including the changes provided at this meeting. The Bylaws will no longer be part of Library Policies. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

**Strategic Plan 2020-2024 discussion:**

- Rick began the discussion by noting that our current Strategic Plan was completed at the end of 2019 to cover a time-period of five years, 2020-2024. Those who took part in its development can remember what an undertaking it was.
- Rick proposed an extension of the current plan for two more years to take it through 2026, for the following reasons:
  - At the outset of the plan's time frame, the Covid pandemic hit and severely affected both library operations and library staffing for at least two years, thus inhibiting implementation of the plan.
  - Board membership and leadership will be turning over. It would be helpful to get new insight into the planning process with new Board members taking part.
  - The library renovation will demand a lot of attention over the next two years, especially for library management and also for the board.
  - Updating the Materials and Hours Level of Service standards needs to be completed, which will also take time and upon completion will aid in planning direction.
  - The two-year extension aligns with the city's biennial budget process.
  - Our current plan was meant to be flexible. The strategic directions of Welcome & Include, Access & Opportunity, Read & Learn, Inform & Involve, and Thrive & Grow are just as valid today as they were in 2020.
- Jim commented that, in the process of developing the current Strategic Plan, staff and board reviewed 17 Strategic Plans from across the nation. He added that the pandemic changed things and it will take some time to see the effects of the changes. He said he would be happy to extend the current plan.
- Kristy appreciated the thought that new trustees be included in the next process and agreed that updating the LOS standards is critical.

- Rebecca Judd talked with Rebecca Craven prior to the meeting and Rebecca C. was also supportive of extending the current plan.
- Rick moved to extend the current 2020-2024 Strategic Plan through 2026. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- No new business.

**Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Facilities Committee update

**Executive Session:**

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:15 p.m. to determine a recommendation to the Mayor for the Trustee vacancy. The group decided on a candidate to recommend. They returned to Regular session at 4:41 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned** at 4:41 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting – October 17, 2023 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.**

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

**Bellingham Public Library**  
**Performance & Activity Measures, 2023**

	September		Year to Date			YTD comparison 2023 with 2019
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2019	
<b>Holdings</b> - Number of materials in the library's collection						
Physical copies added to the collection	1,712	2,698	18,969	18,735	22,780	-16.73%
Electronic copies purchased by BPL	380	267	1,767	1,285	916	92.90%
Physical copies withdrawn from the collection	(314)	(6,933)	(20,011)	(17,926)	(17,004)	17.68%
Total physical holdings			180,970	173,880	183,386	-1.32%
Total electronic holdings available to BPL			150,746	125,368	85,157	77.02%
<b>Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)</b>			<b>331,716</b>	<b>299,248</b>	<b>268,543</b>	<b>23.52%</b>
<b>Circulation</b> - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity						
<b>Central Library</b>						
Adult	41,032	49,402	378,225	437,868	517,427	-26.90%
Youth	41,488	47,085	390,242	396,458	428,935	-9.02%
<b>Sub-Total Central</b>	<b>82,520</b>	<b>96,487</b>	<b>768,467</b>	<b>834,326</b>	<b>946,362</b>	<b>-18.80%</b>
<b>Fairhaven Branch</b>						
Adult	5,022	1,232	45,485	10,015	65,530	-30.59%
Youth	2,269	552	21,583	6,773	25,018	-13.73%
<b>Sub-Total Fairhaven</b>	<b>7,291</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>67,068</b>	<b>16,788</b>	<b>90,548</b>	<b>-25.93%</b>
<b>Barkley Branch</b>						
Adult	4,531	1,475	41,202	12,280	50,255	-18.01%
Youth	4,100	1,340	38,315	11,284	33,916	12.97%
<b>Sub-Total Barkley</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>79,517</b>	<b>23,564</b>	<b>84,171</b>	<b>-5.53%</b>
<b>Bellis Fair Branch</b>						
Adult	1,202		5,468	0	0	
Youth	1,789		8,682	0	0	
<b>Sub-Total Bellis Fair</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Bellingham Technical College</b>						
Adult	0	0	183	0	537	-65.92%
Youth	0	0	36	0	101	-64.36%
<b>Sub-Total BTC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>-65.67%</b>
<b>Whatcom Community College</b>						
Adult	94	0	1,497	0	2,748	-45.52%
Youth	48	0	605	0	856	-29.32%
<b>Sub-Total WCC</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>-41.68%</b>
<b>Western Washington University</b>						
Adult	143	0	1,272	0	4,302	-70.43%
Youth	16	0	363	0	2,342	-84.50%
<b>Sub-Total WWU</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,644</b>	<b>-75.39%</b>
<b>Sub-Total Physical</b>	<b>101,734</b>	<b>101,086</b>	<b>933,158</b>	<b>874,678</b>	<b>1,131,967</b>	<b>-17.56%</b>
<b>Online Services</b>						
Kanopy	1,814	1,538	14,703	15,366	2,313	535.67%
WA Anytime Library Overdrive	36,505	31,430	328,838	279,653	194,657	68.93%
Overdrive Magazines	2,790	1,946	17,796	19,112	21,060	-15.50%
<b>Sub-Total Online</b>	<b>41,109</b>	<b>34,914</b>	<b>361,337</b>	<b>314,131</b>	<b>218,030</b>	<b>65.73%</b>
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>142,843</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>1,294,495</b>	<b>1,188,809</b>	<b>1,349,997</b>	<b>-4.11%</b>
<b>Holds Activity</b>						
Items placed on hold shelf	48,749	47,966	455,424	449,510	419,792	8.49%
<b>Services</b>						
<b>Persons Visiting</b> - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries						
Central Library - Curbside	33	47	322	7,643	0	
Adult	33,996	30,408	300,220	217,694	356,979	-15.90%
Youth	6,641	6,657	70,851	48,330	97,564	-27.38%
Fairhaven Branch	4,637	4,965	42,499	38,112	61,267	-30.63%
Barkley Branch	3,573	3,204	34,259	24,490	42,645	-19.66%
Bellis Fair Branch	1,812	0	11,260	0	0	
<b>Total Persons Visiting</b>	<b>50,692</b>	<b>45,281</b>	<b>459,411</b>	<b>336,269</b>	<b>558,455</b>	<b>-17.74%</b>
<b>Website Visits</b>	39,930	36,587	364,729	328,505	369,416	-1.27%
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org						
<b>Bibliocommons visits</b>	22,585	14,233	155,895	124,720	110,330	41.30%
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons						
<b>Total Website Visits</b>	<b>62,515</b>	<b>50,820</b>	<b>520,624</b>	<b>453,225</b>	<b>479,746</b>	<b>8.52%</b>
<b>Computer Usage</b> - Number of sessions						
Central Library						
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)	3,433	3,014	27,607	16,976	47,381	-41.73%
Childrens (3 terminals)	34	43	429	273	1,314	-67.35%
Fairhaven Branch (6 terminals)	185	206	1,758	1,336	4,731	-62.84%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	147	121	1,342	922	2,693	-50.17%
Bellis Fair Branch (4 terminals)	103	0	441	0	0	
<b>Total Computer Usage</b>	<b>3,902</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>31,577</b>	<b>19,507</b>	<b>56,119</b>	<b>-43.73%</b>
<b>New Borrowers Registered</b>						
Central Library	1,946	2,215	6,266	5,859	5,575	12.39%
Fairhaven Branch	40	39	302	265	459	-34.20%
Barkley Branch	28	25	318	206	307	3.58%
Bellis Fair Branch		0	298	0	0	
<b>Total New Borrowers Registered</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>7,184</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>6,341</b>	<b>13.29%</b>
<b>Programs</b> - Library sponsored or co-sponsored educational, recreational, or cultural programs						
Programs	54	76	776	468	948	-18.14%
Attendees	793	1,519	18,201	10,839	22,762	-20.04%
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	**	395	3,868	3,340	5,106	-24.25%

\*\* not available yet

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Library Trustees**

**SEPTEMBER 2023 CLAIMS**

LIST OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Materials, Equipment and Supplies</b>		
Books; DVDs; supplies; masks	Amazon	2,248.54
Planners	At-A-Glance	44.86
Books	Baker & Taylor	35,370.71
Networking meal	Bellingham City Club	25.00
Books	Center Point Large Print	103.01
Patron emergency water	Chef'Store	14.78
Water (Barkley & Bellis Fair Branches)	Culligan	61.80
Acrylic displays	Displays2Go	143.49
Poster	The First Cat in Space	23.00
Patron emergency supplies	Fred Meyer	18.87
Polk Directory	InfoUSA	635.39
Mendery supplies	Kapco	102.90
Bellis Fair copiers	Kelley Connect	5,624.96
Early Learning Center supplies	Lakeshore Learning	367.97
Wonderbooks	Library Ideas	1,039.54
Plant pots	Lowe's	62.60
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	3,212.04
Supplies & planners	ODP Business Solutions	438.04
Cash drawer return	POSGuys	(63.82)
Vehicle fuel	Reisner Distributor	340.46
Books	Thomson Reuters	560.32
Interlibrary loan supplies	ULINE Shipping Supplies	326.94
Books	Village Books	51.05
Copier & receipt paper	WCP Solutions	1,122.27
Bellis Fair chairs	WorkPointe	1,376.76
	<b>Materials, Equipment &amp; Supplies Sub Total</b>	<b>\$53,251.48</b>
<b>Services and Interfund Charges</b>		
Barkley Branch cleaning	Action Cleaning	710.30
Bellis Fair Branch cleaning (3 months)	Advantage Building Services	4,432.98
Signage	Applied Digital Imaging	155.04
Hotspot service	AT&T	18.24
Preprocessing	Baker & Taylor	10,170.77
Membership & webinar	Bellingham City Club	59.00
Banking & credit card fees	City of Bellingham Interfund	18.90
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	15,807.43
Facilities Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	53,113.15
Fleet Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	820.00
IT Service allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	28,350.29
Postage	City of Bellingham Interfund	647.80
Qualified Energy Conservation Bond sinking fund	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,517.00

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Library Trustees**

**SEPTEMBER 2023 CLAIMS**

Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,225.33
Technology replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,182.02
Telecom Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	2,340.87
Playbook ad	City of Bellingham Parks department	975.00
Printing	Copy Source	96.78
Water cooler rental (Barkley & Bellis Fair Branches)	Culligan	11.97
Bellis Fair remodel - final bill	Forma Construction	2,119.34
Graphic Design	Katrina Lyon Design	280.00
Copier leases and copies	Kelley Connect	1,433.77
Bellis Fair Branch waste service	Keter Environmental	103.60
Spanish proficiency testing	Language Testing International	73.00
Preprocessing	Midwest Tape	415.58
eBooks, eAudiobooks	Overdrive Inc	11,915.55
Bellis Fair internet service	Pogozone Wireless	367.49
Directors' Retreat	Public Libraries of Washington	75.00
Security services	Risk Solutions Unlimited	5,000.00
Digital subscription	Seattle Times	39.92
Staff & patron surveys	Survey Monkey	1,016.69
Barkley Branch operating costs	Talbot Services LLC	533.33
Microfische machine lease	Technology Unlimited	339.46
Borrower notices (3 months)	Unique Management	646.50
Interlibrary Loan postage	USPS	30.92
Hotspot service	Verizon Wireless	1,480.37
B&O Taxes	WSDO Revenue	5.41

---

**Services and Interfund Charges Sub Total    \$158,528.80**

---

**Gift Fund**

WECU Summer Reading books	Amazon.com	583.69
Books	Baker & Taylor	251.50
Adult Summer Reading prizes	ban.do	113.15
Interactive wall panels	Burgeon Group	30,331.50
Banking & credit card fees	City of Bellingham Interfund	8.50
Teen Summer Reading prize	Edaleen	15.00
Teen Summer Reading prize	Fred Meyer	25.00
Adult Summer Reading prizes	Frostbeard	23.95
Teen Summer Reading prize	Mallard Ice Cream	40.00
Adult Summer Reading prizes	Out of Print	150.11
WECU Summer Reading books	Scholastic	1,132.39
Teen programming supplies	Temu	51.20
Adult & Teen Summer Reading prizes	Village Books	190.00
Teen programming supplies	Walmart	90.65

---

**GIFT FUND OUTLAYS Sub Total    \$33,006.64**

---

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS    \$211,780.28**  
**TOTAL CLAIMS    \$244,786.92**



**Library - Budget to Actual - General Fund**

**September 2023 75% YTD**

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
<b>Revenues</b>				
Grants	0	0		
Print and Copy Fees	9,560	15,000	5,440	64%
Lost, Damage & Non-resident Borrower Fees	6,304	16,100	9,796	39%
Fairhaven Auditorium Rental Fees	2,575	5,000	2,425	52%
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,449	0	(1,449)	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>19,888</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>16,212</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Salaries and Wages	2,278,381	3,280,705	1,002,324	69%
Personnel Benefits	1,075,225	1,604,842	529,617	67%
Physical Materials, Equipment and Supplies	417,092	542,422	125,330	77%
Services, Digital Materials and Interfund	1,794,746	2,295,374	500,628	78%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,565,444</b>	<b>7,723,343</b>	<b>2,157,899</b>	<b>72%</b>

**Library - Budget to Actual - Gift Fund**

**September 2023 75% YTD**

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
<b>Revenues</b>				
Donations	57,517	150,000	92,483	38%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>57,517</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>92,483</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Gift Fund expenses	70,351	50,000	(20,351)	141%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>70,351</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>(20,351)</b>	<b>141%</b>

**Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources**

			2023						
Vendor	Database	Metric	Q1	Q2	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q3	% Change
			TOTAL	TOTAL				TOTAL	Q2 to Q3
Candid	<b>Foundation Directory Online#</b>	Profile Views	413	235	131	98	8	237	0.9%
Data Axle	<b>Reference Solutions*</b>	Detail Records Viewed, Downloaded, and Printed	26	196	-	1	-	1	-99.5%
EBSCO	<b>Auto Repair Source</b>	Sessions	74	80	37	29	23	89	11.3%
EBSCO	<b>Consumer Reports</b>	Page Views	8,538	8,302	3,287	3,124	3,533	9,944	19.8%
EBSCO	<b>Ethnic Diversity Source</b>	Requests				-	-	-	
EBSCO	<b>Novelist Plus</b>	Requests	232	1,951	821	665	1,024	2,510	28.7%
EBSCO	<b>Novelist K-8 Plus</b>	Requests	149	539	202	97	-	299	-44.5%
Gale	<b>Gale databases</b>	Item Requests	2,909	1,009	176	52	139	367	-63.6%
Grey House	<b>Weiss Financial Ratings</b>	Page Views	1,607	1,522	295	350	198	843	-44.6%
Library Ideas	<b>Freegal</b>	Songs Streamed or Downloaded	25,260	28,979	8,927	8,766	8,664	26,357	-9.0%
LinkedIn	<b>LinkedIn Learning</b>	Video Views	3,369	3,679	922	961	988	2,871	-22.0%
Mango	<b>Mango</b>	Sessions	869	902	265	244	248	757	-16.1%
NewsBank	<b>NewsBank^</b>	Documents Viewed	9,733	10,595	3,153	3,217	3,800	10,170	-4.0%
ProQuest	<b>Ancestry Library Edition#</b>	Document Views	1,798	1,559	547	1,139	519	2,205	41.4%
ProQuest	<b>CultureGrams</b>	Pages Viewed	9,523	456	1	-	112	113	-75.2%
ProQuest	<b>HeritageQuest</b>	Records Viewed	986	649	68	550	400	1,018	56.9%
ProQuest	<b>US Newsstream &amp; US Dailies</b>	Retrievals	121	527	145	154	143	442	-16.1%
ProQuest	<b>Newspapers.com - West</b>	Retrievals	852	860	723	534	287	1,544	79.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>66,459</b>	<b>62,040</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>19,981</b>	<b>20,086</b>	<b>59,767</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>

# No remote access

\* In-Library stats only. Remote access counted to WCLS

^ In-Library and some remote stats. Other remote access counted to WCLS

## QUARTERLY DONATION REPORT for LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### 2023 - 3rd Quarter Donations to Library Gift Fund

Date	Received from:	Amount	Purpose:
7/14/2023	Individual	\$1,000.00	
7/31/2023	July misc donations	\$1.36	
8/1/2023	Whatcom Community Foundation	\$8,645.95	Library Giving Day distribution
8/19/2023	Willows book group	\$208.00	
8/31/2023	Individual	\$50.00	
8/31/2023	Highline Construction	\$300.00	
8/31/2023	August misc donations	\$77.60	
9/5/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$500.00	In memory of Julianna Guy
9/29/2023	Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc	\$5,000.00	
9/30/2023	September misc donations	\$26.05	
TOTAL		\$15,808.96	

### 2023 - 3rd Quarter Donations to Library Funds at Whatcom Community Foundation

Date	Received from:	Amount	Fund
7/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
8/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
8/22/2023	Celedo Fund	\$2,000.00	Unrestricted
9/10/2023	Anonymous	\$100.00	Unrestricted
9/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
9/19/2023	Individual Living Trust	\$20,000.00	Materials
9/27/2023	Individual	\$100.00	Designated Enowment
TOTAL		\$22,275.00	

### 2023 - 3rd Quarter Gift Fund balances

<u>WCF</u>		
Bragg - Muldrow Endowment - Spendable portion		\$473,556.43
Bellingham Public Library Designated Endowment Fund		\$66,197.88
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Capital (\$121,627 designated for Fairhaven Branch capital improvements)		\$127,565.60
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Fairhaven Branch Materials		\$6,579.08
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Materials		\$32,306.15
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Unrestricted		\$45,843.58
Library Giving Day (contributions minus administrative fees)		\$35.69
TOTAL		\$752,084.41
<u>Library Gift Fund</u>		
(Variety of designated funds including \$260,016.07 in WCF distributions)		\$326,783.27
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,078,867.68



## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR October 17, 2023**

On October 16 the City Council will be voting on Kendra Bradford's appointment to the Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees. This vote is the final step in a competitive, months-long recruitment process to fill the Board vacancy. Welcome to Kendra! We look forward to working with you and learning from you in the years to come. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

## **WELCOME & INCLUDE**

**Welcoming New Library Staff:** We have been hiring! Katrina Buckman recently accepted the position of Head of Public Services, with a start date of December 1. She is coming to us most recently from WCLS, where she served as the North Fork branch manager. We look forward to welcoming Katrina to our management team in this newly funded position. Also in Public Services, Andy S. was hired to fill the vacant Public Services Clerk position beginning November 1. Congratulations to Andy! Over in Operations, we recently wrapped up an internal process to fill a vacant 25-hour Library Assistant position. Congratulations to Lori who moved into this position at the beginning of October. Other Library Assistants who expressed their interest through this process will move into 25-hour positions as vacancies arise. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director and Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

**Behavioral Health Support Specialist:** The County-issued RFP for an embedded Behavioral Health Support Specialist at BPL closed on Oct. 3 with estimated award notification on Nov. 1. Hannah Fisk (MSW, LICSW) Program Specialist at Whatcom County Health and Community Services will be our point of contact for the contract. On Oct. 6, we held our first planning meeting at the Library with Hannah to talk about best practice, and how to make this initiative a success. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

**Fairhaven Auditorium:** On Monday, Oct. 16 the Bellingham City Council will consider agenda bill 23881 presented by the Parks Department to establish parks and recreation department facility use fees. The rates include a new fee structure for the Fairhaven Library Auditorium, which is being brought under Parks Dept oversight as a recreation facility, during hours the Fairhaven Library is not open to the public. Details are available in the [agenda packet for the Council's Parks and Rec Committee](#). (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

## **ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY**

**Middle School Book Clubs Resume!** Teen Services Librarian Jennifer Lovchik restarted her monthly book groups at each of the four public middle schools: Fairhaven, Kulshan, Shuksan and Whatcom. Hooray for teens talking books! Jennifer will continue to go to each of the schools monthly through the end of the school year. (Bethany Hوجلund, Deputy Library Director)

**At-home Covid Tests Available for the Public:** Thanks to a partnership with Whatcom County Health and Community Services, we now have at-home covid tests available for the public at each of our branches. Patrons may ask at the desk for a box which contains five at-home tests with a limit of one box per patron. Additionally, the tests have an FDA-approved extended expiration date of 12/2023. We are happy to help positively impact health outcomes in our community. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

## READ & LEARN



**Construction-themed Storytime with Highline Construction:** On Wednesday, October 18, we are teaming up with Highline Construction to bring a construction-themed preschool storytime to the Bellis Fair Branch from 12:05 – 12:35pm. Attendees will hear construction-themed stories and sing construction-themed songs with Children's Specialist Mande Palmer and then have an opportunity to get in a real excavator and ask questions. Thank you to Highline Construction for bringing this fun opportunity to our community! Highline Construction also made a generous monetary donation for the purchase of children's books about

construction vehicles. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director) **Photo: Tera Contezac, Office Manager at Highline Construction and Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director**

**Partnership with Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA):** We will be raising chum salmon in the Children's section of the Central Library this winter! Through an exciting collaboration with NSEA, we will receive a 55-gallon aquarium in late November/early December and begin the process of preparing and cycling the water. At the end of January, we will receive our chum eggs, all permitted to be released at Whatcom Creek. Until the end of March, we will be caretaking the salmon by regularly feeding, testing and changing the water, and watching them grow! On March 30, the project will conclude with a community release party at Whatcom Creek. We are just beginning to plan the engagement and programming offerings for children and families (more details soon!) and are thrilled to bring the experience of hatching salmon and learning about a salmon's lifecycle to our library community. Thank you to the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association for being our partners on this journey, and for providing us a \$5,000 stipend to support additional books, resources and programming for the community. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

**Burgeon Group Interactive Panels:** The panels have been installed in the children's areas at the Bellis Fair Branch and at the Fairhaven Branch. Labels will be placed near the panels thanking Library Giving Day Donors, and the Friends of the Fairhaven Library for providing funds to make this purchase possible. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

**Photo: New panels installed at Bellis Fair Branch**



**Overdrive Magazines:** Overdrive recently overhauled how it presents magazines. Instead of 'borrowing' magazine issues with a check-out period, patrons can either 'read instantly' or 'Keep for 7 Days'. For magazine titles they can now 'Subscribe'. Issues kept, and titles subscribed, appear in a new section of your Shelf called 'Magazine Rack'. The Magazine Rack section doesn't appear until you have something kept or subscribed. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

## INFORM & INVOLVE



**Indigenous Peoples' Day:** On Oct. 9, BPL and WCLS partnered with WECU to produce a video featuring WCLS cultural liaisons Joshua Olsen and Coreen Kurtz. The [video](#) was featured on the WECU social media pages and shared by the Libraries. The content discussed the importance of Indigenous Peoples' Day and included library book recommendations. BPL also promoted information about the Indigenous Peoples' Day evening event at Wex'liem

Community Building that was sponsored by the Community Consortium for Cultural Recognition, of which the City of Bellingham is a partner. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

**Media Coverage:** A [King5 TV story](#) aired on Sept. 22 related to the Behavioral Health support services to be embedded at the Central Library in January. On Oct. 6, in honor of Banned Books Week, a guest commentary in the Cascadia Daily News by Rebecca Judd, Rick Osen, Christine Perkins and Rodney Lofdahl featured BPL and WCLS commitment to [protect the Freedom to Read](#). (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

## THRIVE & GROW

**Security Site Assessment:** We have contracted with a security consultant at RP Strategies, LLC to conduct a site assessment to evaluate our security procedures, training needs, equipment needs and response to behavioral incidents. We'll receive a report with detailed recommendations to guide future decisions. The two-day site visit is scheduled for the end of October. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

**Air Quality Sensors:** Air quality sensors have been installed in all Library public restrooms. The sensors will provide alerts when air quality strays outside of normal parameters, allowing staff to respond to issues as they arise. The past couple of weeks have been spent allowing the sensors to acclimate to the spaces. We are currently creating our first set of guidance material and procedures for staff. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

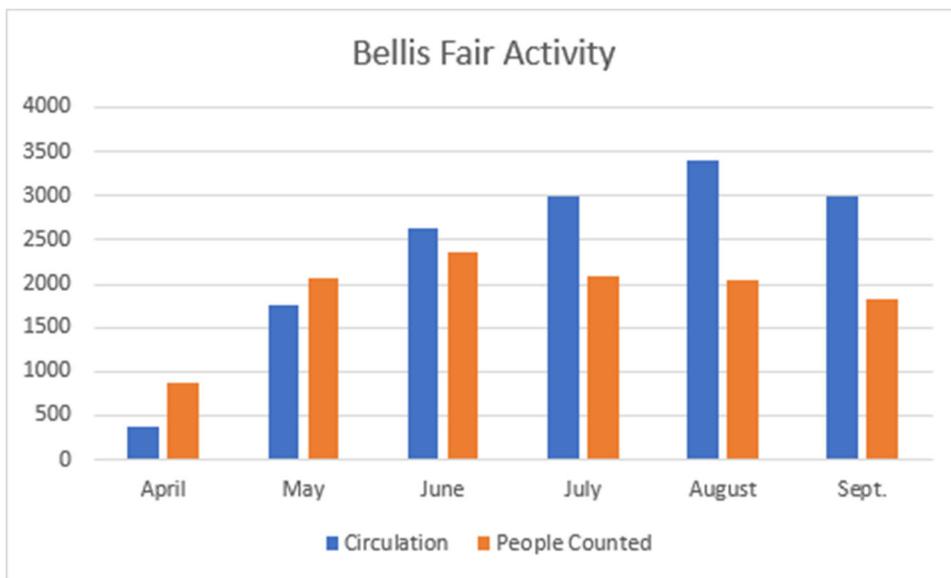
**Main Floor Restrooms:** Public Works found a potential solution to the hardware/mechanical issues with the main floor restroom doors. After concluding the research phase, they will order and replace the hardware on one door (the one that is non-functional). We'll see how the new system holds up in our high-use environment, and plan for a future replacement of the hardware on the other door if we have a positive experience with the first. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

**Elevator Updates:** Work on the freight elevator is progressing now that all the necessary parts have arrived. We currently expect that the project will wrap up in late October, with the elevator being

returned to service once the final inspection has been completed. In addition, Public Works has received a proposal from a contractor to remedy the identified issues with the main public elevator door. This work will not start until work on the freight elevator has concluded. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

**People Counters:** The devices for our new people counting system are being installed this month. We are switching from a 'beam-break' system that counts interruptions to an infrared light, to a system based on overhead 3D-video that counts people moving in and out of a defined area. Privacy is ensured because the video never leaves the devices – the computing is done on-device, with only the counts sent to a server. The new counters are reported to be substantially more accurate, and we're looking forward to no longer having to manually record counts from some of the older sensors. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

**Bellis Fair Branch:** The pilot Bellis Fair branch library has been open for just over 5 months. In Q3 we saw increased circulation, but actually decreasing visitor counts compared to Q2 when evaluated by open-days. It will only take a little more circulation for it to become our patrons' 5<sup>th</sup> most-used branch (after Central, Fairhaven, Barkley and Ferndale/WCLS). It's currently 6<sup>th</sup> behind WCLS' Lynden branch, but perhaps not for long! (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)



Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Judd



## **A Resolution Commending the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library October 2023**

**Whereas**, the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library is an all-volunteer non-profit organization, dedicated to their mission of supporting and advocating for our library; and

**Whereas**, the Friends raise money for library needs, sponsor programs for all ages, encourage community support for the library, and support literacy by making free reading materials available and offering inexpensive materials at regular book sales; and

**Whereas**, our Friends' long-time support of the Bellingham Public Library is an example of the vital role volunteers play in our community; and

**Whereas**, our Friends' dedication is a demonstration of their commitment to the library and the library's mission to connect our community with each other and the world; and

**Whereas**, our Friends provide funding for the Library's summer reading program, Whatcom READS, Books for Babies, and other programs, as well as new initiatives such as digital storytelling; and

**Whereas**, many improvements and enhancements in our library have only been possible because of the support provided by our Friends; and

**Whereas**, we join libraries across the nation in celebrating their strongest and most dedicated supporters -- their Friends organizations -- during National Friends of Libraries Week October 15-21, 2023 and throughout the year.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved that** the Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees joins the library staff and the Bellingham community to commend our Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and urges everyone to join us thanking the Friends for all they do.

**Passed by Library Board action this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.**

*Rick Osen, Chair*

*Jim McCabe, Vice-Chair*

*Rebecca Craven*

*Kristy Van Ness*

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY RATES and FEES  
Effective January 1, 2024

Library Board  
October 17, 2023  
Item #7  
2024 Rates & Fees

<b>DRAFT</b>		
Library Rates and Fees are set by the Library Board of Trustees		
Description	Fee	
<b>Fees</b>		
Non-Resident borrower fee	\$52/year	
Senior Non-Resident borrower fee	\$26/year	
Visitor fee	\$5/month	
Photocopies/Print copies		
Black and White	.15/page	
Color	.50/page	
Lost and Damaged Library Materials	replacement cost	
Collections fee	\$10	
<b>Facility use rates</b>		
Fairhaven Branch Auditorium - now managed by Parks Dept		

**2023 Annual Action Plan: Quarter 3 update, July - Sept 2023****WELCOME & INCLUDE: We offer welcoming, safe places and experiences, where connections and understanding flourish.**

- Invest in developing and implementing staff-led Library Basics training to ensure that all staff have the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver welcoming and inclusive service
- Hire and onboard new Head of Public Services as part of Library's management team
- Research best practices and software for community meeting spaces at Central and Fairhaven

**ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY: We connect people with opportunities and resources to solve problems and help them achieve their aspirations.**

- Increase accessibility for all patrons, with a focus on recruiting bilingual staff, improving translation services, and improving access for patrons with visual and hearing impairments

**READ & LEARN: We inspire a lifetime of reading, learning, curiosity, and discovery.**

- Train all Public Services staff in effective and responsive Readers' Advisory

**INFORM & INVOLVE: We provide information and activities to stay abreast of community issues and events, fostering informed, active participation in civic life.**

- Partner with city and community leaders to foster public education and involvement in issues that matter
- With WCLS. Migrate to new platform for email and text notifications

**THRIVE & GROW: We are a valued community partner and trusted city service, playing a central role in Bellingham life.**

- With Public Works, hire architect and complete design work for Central Library renovation