

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees.

The Library Board of Trustees will participate in the July Board Meeting remotely through an online web-based meeting platform. Per Washington State Proclamation 20-28, in-person attendance at meetings is prohibited at this time.

The Board meeting will be streamed live via Zoom at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21. You may view the meeting from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device from the following link:

<https://cob.zoom.us/j/91689044189?pwd=MjVmS3l6MlFDb2lZRklwc1U3NWUwUT09>

Meeting ID: 916 8904 4189

Password: 7323

For Technical Assistance please contact Katie @ knbray@cob.org

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 253 215 8782 OR +1 669 900 6833 OR +1 312 626 6799 OR +1 929 205 6099

OR +1 346 248 7799 OR +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 916 8904 4189 Password: 7323

Please note there will be no public comment taken at the meeting. Instead, community members are respectfully asked and encouraged to submit comments by e-mail to librarytrustees@cob.org.

AGENDA	TIME (approx.)
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- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Call to order and introductions | 2 min |
| 2. Approve/modify agenda | 1 min |
| 3. Public comment (from email)
Per Washington State Proclamation 20-28, in-person attendance at meetings is prohibited at this time. Please note there will be no public comment taken at the meeting. Instead, community members are respectfully asked and encouraged to submit comments by e-mail to librarytrustees@cob.org . | 5 min |
| 4. Consent agenda
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">• Communications and FYI• Minutes
June 16, 2020: Regular board meeting• Library performance & activity measures
June 2020 | 5 min |

- **Financial reports**
 Claims: June 2020
 YTD report: June 2020

5. Reports	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Chair • Library Board members • City Council liaison • Friends of Bellingham Public Library • Library Director 	
	Time check: 3:53
6. COVID-19 update:	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director and staff 	
7. Facilities update	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Osen, Board Chair 	
8. 2021-2022 Budget update	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director 	
	Time check: 4:23
9. New business	2 min
10. Action items for next meeting	1 min
	Time check: 4:26
11. Adjourn	

Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom meeting
Bellingham, Washington

If you require a sign interpreter or other hearing accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours notice. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

Black Lives Matter speakers told whites to educate themselves. Here's how to do it

BY ROBERT MITTENDORF

JULY 04, 2020 05:00 AM



Dozens of people attended a social-distanced vigil in Bellingham, Wash., Friday afternoon, May 29, 2020, in solidarity with Minneapolis and to seek justice for George Floyd, the black Minnesota man killed in police custody Monday, May 25. BY WARREN STERLING

In speeches at marches and rallies for Black Lives Matter over the past several weeks, Black activists and other people of color have urged white Americans to educate themselves about the pervasiveness of racism and bigotry in society.

Megan Scott of Bellingham told The Bellingham Herald that Black Americans can't keep explaining systemic injustices — from overt discrimination to microaggressions — to their white friends and colleagues.

“I understand that it comes from a place of genuineness,” Scott said in an interview. “But it does put a lot of pressure on people of color to hold their hand.”

Scott was one of several speakers at the June 6 rally at Maritime Heritage Park, which drew 5,000 or more people.

She encouraged everyone to learn about inherent biases and the harm that they can do — to have empathy and understanding.

“In my speech, I urged people not to get distracted. The answer to that is education,” Scott said.

LIBRARIES TAKE THE LEAD

Local libraries took the lead in early June, using their websites and social media to suggest books that address racism and stories that feature characters who are Black, Native American, Hispanic and other people of color.

Libraries were closed because of the new coronavirus pandemic, but more e-book audiobook titles were made available, including “How To Be An Anti-Racist,” “White Fragility,” “Dear Martin,” and “Black Enough.”

“Since June 1, the library has seen 3,000 checkouts of titles from this list,” Bellingham Public Library Director Rebecca Judd told The Herald.

Now, library patrons can reserve books and other materials online or by phone and arrange for curbside pickup.

And for the first week of June, the Bellingham Public Library became a temporary memorial — with flowers, posters and candles from Whatcom County residents who were saddened and angered by the death of George Floyd in police custody.

“I’m really grateful that our library system connects our community to ideas and information,” said Christine Perkins, director of the Whatcom County Library System.

“I can start to educate myself, and I can do that by reading. I can take some time to learn what it’s like to be a person of color in America,” Perkins told The Herald in an interview.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

Both the Bellingham and Whatcom County [library websites list suggestions](#) for books, movies and other resources for learning aimed at all ages.

Several titles [are always available online for download](#), and digital copies of movies are available [through the library’s Kanopy service](#).

“We believe the library is the heart of our community, providing physical and emotional space for conversation, growth, and intercultural understanding,” the Whatcom County Library’s website says. “We are working to become better stewards of this community space and to serve every resident of Whatcom County with care and respect. We believe we are stronger together.”

READING LISTS

Scott suggested four books that address current issues of racism in society:

- “Women, Race and Class,” by activist and former college professor Angela Davis, which examines how people of color were left behind in the women’s suffrage and reproductive rights movements.
- “Are Prisons Obsolete?” also by Davis. Here, she argues for reforms that include “decarceration” and rehabilitation.
- “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” by Michelle Alexander, which paints the prison system as a modern “racial caste” system.

- “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism,” by Robin Diangelo, which addresses the issues that make white people uncomfortable and defensive when they are forced to discuss systemic racism.

Judd offered a selection of books for adults, teens and children, and the library has [a section for recent African-American fiction](#).

“The Bellingham Public Library is committed to providing materials, to read and listen to, that explore structural racism in our community and nation,” Judd said.

- Adults: “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” by Robin Diangelo; “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates; “How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi; “I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness” by Austin Channing Brown.
- Teens: “New Kid” by Jerry Craft; “Monster” by Walter Dean Myers; “Dear Martin” by Nic Stone.
- Tweens (upper elementary/early middle school): “What Lane?” by Torrey Maldonado; “One Crazy Summer” by Rita Williams-Garcia; “Brown Girl Dreaming” and “Harbor Me” by Jacqueline Woodson.
- Younger children: “The Day You Begin” by Jacqueline Woodson; “Separate is Never Equal” by Duncan Tonatiuh; “All Are Welcome” by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman; “We’re Different, We’re the Same” by Bobbi Kat and Joe Mathieu.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Bellingham-area writer Clyde Ford [spoke to the Bellingham City Club](#) on the topic “Let’s Talk About Race.”
- Acclaimed writer Kwame Alexander [discusses “How to Raise and Teach Anti-Racist Kids”](#) in an online town hall.
- Streaming service Netflix offers a Black Lives Matter section with films such as “13th” and “LA 92,” along with a section for LGBTQ dramas.
- A June article in Smithsonian magazine offers [dozens of suggestions](#) for understanding racism.
- On Facebook, [the Brown Bookshelf](#) offers books and other media for teaching tolerance.
- Find [acclaimed books with an LGBTQ theme](#) at Lambda Literary.
- The American Indian Library Association Awards website [features books that represent Native American](#) and other indigenous people.
- Pura Belpré Awards [honor the first Latina librarian](#) at the New York Public Library.
- Coretta Scott King Awards were established in 1970 to [honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Bellingham Central Library main floor remodel underway

Curbside services continue to be available during construction

by Janice Keller, Communications Director / July 13, 2020 (Monday)



Bellingham Public Works crews are dismantling furnishings as the Central Library main floor remodel project begins.

Bellingham Public Library and the Public Works department are working with Tiger Construction and RMC Architects to remodel the main floor of the Central Library located at 210 Central Avenue. The changes planned in the [Central Library Main Floor Remodel project](#) will improve patrons' use of this busy facility, which received 630,000 visits last year and has not seen a major renovation since 1985.

Project construction began today (Monday, July 13). This project involves remodeling the nearly 20,000 square-foot main floor where adult and teen collections and services are located. Changes will include improvements to public seating and the addition of study rooms, converting the lighting to LED technology, incorporating more efficient book-handling systems, adding two public restrooms, and providing additional open spaces and a more open concept.

Library curbside pickup services – which were initiated to make library materials available while the library is closed to patrons due to COVID-19 restrictions -- will continue with minimal disruption during the project. Patrons can request library materials and pick up these items by following the directions on the Library's website at www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/curbside. Library users may see small impacts to parking around the library from construction-related staging and deliveries. All Bellingham Public Library locations are currently closed to visitors, with reopening of facilities coming in later phases of the Governor's [Safe Start plan](#).

The construction schedule for the main floor remodel project is subject to change in response to community health and safety requirements that may arise due to COVID-19. All contractors implementing City construction projects at this time are required to follow a health and safety plan for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Please visit the [Central Library Main Floor Remodel webpage](#) or contact the Library Administration at (360) 778-7323 or via the [Ask Us! online form](#) to learn more about this project.

Media Contacts

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www.cob.org/news



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – Zoom Meeting
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, Rachel Myers, Rebecca Craven, Jim McCabe and Vernon Johnson

Library Staff: Rebecca Judd, Katie Bray, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins

Others Present: Hollie Huthman, City Council Liaison

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen.

Approve/modify agenda: Jim McCabe moved to approve the agenda. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: No email comments.

Consent agenda: Rick referenced the Seattle Times article included in the packet, [Disconnected in isolation: How the coronavirus pandemic shed light on the digital divide](#), which highlights an important issue we are addressing. Jon outlined how he tested the drive-up WiFi access at Central and Fairhaven and steps that are in process to improve WiFi so that it has broader drive-up accessibility. Jim McCabe moved to approve the May 19, 2020 Regular meeting minutes and the May 2020 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Rachel Myers seconded. Motion carried.

Board Chair report: Rick reported that he and Rebecca Judd had a short Zoom meeting with the Mayor last week.

City Council approved additional funding for the Library remodel project at the June 8, 2020 meeting. The project will be funded with REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) dollars and will include seven alternates. Rick added that there was enthusiastic Council support for the Library.

Rick thanked the management team for their hard work on the 2021-2022 Budget reduction exercise (report coming later), commenting that this is difficult work. He said the team made

a solid case for the need to maintain Library services and illustrated the adverse effects of cuts.

Rick asked Trustees to begin thinking about Trustee recruitment as Rachel's second term will be up at the end of the year. He would like to post the opening in August so that the Board can get a recommendation to the Mayor by December.

Board member reports: Rachel stated she was proud of the Library's decision to make so many anti-racist materials available with no holds. Bethany added that these are digital materials available through WA Anytime Library. BPL librarians, in collaboration with WCLS, identified fifteen titles that are available in an anytime-checkout model. In two weeks, there have been 2100 checkouts, primarily *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo and *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

Rebecca Craven echoed Rick's thanks to Rebecca Judd and the management team for their work on the budget exercises.

Damani thanked Rebecca Judd for coming up with a sensitive way to move the George Floyd memorial from along the front of the Library to the flag plaza.

City Council liaison report: No report, but Hollie invited Trustee questions at any time on Council issues.

Friends of the Library report: In Faye Hill's absence, Rebecca Judd reported the Friends held a board meeting last week. They discussed impacts of Phase 2 & 3, as well as the remodel: the Friends will miss at least two book sales. They voted to pull from their reserves to fund \$45,000 for the Library for 2020. Funding will go towards remodel furnishings, hotspots, wifi routers, staff development, book club kits, Whatcom Reads and Books for Babies. Rebecca expressed gratitude to the Friends for their generosity.

Rebecca added that the Library is unable to accept book donations during Phase 2.

Library Director report: Rebecca thanked the management team for their enormous effort getting ready for Phase 2. The Library opened return bins at Central last week and began curbside service this week.

Rebecca thanked Damani for acting as liaison for the community group who organized the George Floyd memorial.

Rebecca reported that Cindy Aden, who has been a terrific advocate for libraries, is stepping down from her State Librarian role to take on a teaching position at the University of Washington iSchool.

Rebecca also commented on the *Disconnected in Isolation* article mentioned by Rick. She highlighted a quote at the end of the article: "The reason we're concerned about the digital divide is not because of the digital divide in and of itself, but because it fosters other divides... It fosters educational divides and economic divides and health outcome divides."

Rebecca added that she and Jon attended a Connect Whatcom broadband meeting, a new county-wide initiative to address digital equity and access.

Covid-19 update: Rebecca Judd reported that, with Phase 2, our call center hours are expanded to Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Central return bins are open, and curbside service from Central has begun. Jen detailed how curbside service works and explained that we have a dedicated phone line specific to curbside services. On the first day we received 550 calls and checked out 1350 items to 200 patrons. Last week, prior to curbside service beginning, we processed and placed 7000 holds on the shelf, adding to the 3000 already shelved. Jon has been coordinating a staggered release of hold notices so that staff are not overwhelmed with too many patrons calling for pick-up at the same time.

Rebecca continued that staff are making plans for the pivot needed for Phase 3, which will include patron computer access.

Rebecca has applied for three Cares Act grants through the Institute of Museum and Library Services:

- 1) 20 Verizon hotspots and \$8,000 in connectivity (for ten months of access)
- 2) PPE, up to \$3,000 for curbside bags and quarantine boxes
- 3) People's Perspective outreach

The grant applications will be reviewed on June 19.

Rebecca Craven asked if the Library is providing PPE for staff. Rebecca Judd responded that the City has a supply of masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer which we purchase out of our department budget. She added that staff have also sewn masks for staff use.

Remodel update: Rick commented that we will have an update once the contract has been signed with the vendor, Tiger Construction. How the remodel will coordinate with Phase 2 and 3 will be a discussion point.

Bethany reported that, with the help of the Public Works department, the middle mezzanine closed stacks have been cleared of thousands of pounds of old metal shelving, along with broken chairs and many miscellaneous items that had been stored for decades. This created room for materials from the main floor to prepare for the remodel.

2021-2022 Budget update: Rebecca Judd explained the Mayor requested that all departments funded by the General Fund prepare proposals outlining the impacts of 5%, 10% and 15% budget reductions. These proposals, along with an introduction, have been submitted to the Mayor's office. The Mayor will do an initial budget review mid-June through July. In August, departments will be notified of the Mayor's prioritizations with a final review in September. The budget proposal will be presented to City Council on October 1.

People's Perspective: Rebecca Judd shared the [Peoples' Perspectives](#) web page hosted by WCLS. The goal of the project is to preserve for future generations a multi-media archive of the county's Covid-19 experience. The website showcases a variety of opportunities to contribute including voice recording, photography, Dear History letter writing, zine diaries,

interviews and more. Rebecca has also reached out to the UW iSchool for a student intern to help with research and development for digital archiving. There is the possibility of a second internship in the fall for implementation of the archive.

New Business:

- No new business

Action items for next meeting:

- Covid-19 update
- Facilities update

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – July 21, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. – location to be determined

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

DRAFT

Bellingham Public Library Performance & Activity Measures, 2020

	Year to Date				% of change YTD
	June-20	June-19	2020	2019	
Holdings - Number of materials in the library's collection					
Physical copies added to the collection	2,169	2,254	9,822	15,352	-36.02%
Electronic copies added to the Consortium collection by BPL	110	124	1,047	541	93.53%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	(9,166)	(714)	(17,227)	(4,081)	322.13%
Total physical holdings			175,448	193,263	-9.22%
Total electronic holdings in Consortium available to BPL			96,623	92,824	4.09%
Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)			272,071	286,087	-4.90%
Circulation - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity					
Central Library					
Adult	11,691	54,365	165,099	338,812	-51.27%
Youth	7,268	47,707	133,629	271,543	-50.79%
Sub-Total Central	18,959	102,072	298,728	610,355	-51.06%
Fairhaven Branch					
Adult	228	7,206	20,574	43,323	-52.51%
Youth	39	2,871	7,307	15,622	-53.23%
Sub-Total Fairhaven	267	10,077	27,881	58,945	-52.70%
Barkley Branch					
Adult	127	6,002	16,686	32,493	-48.65%
Youth	77	4,200	10,915	21,413	-49.03%
Sub-Total Barkley	204	10,202	27,601	53,906	-48.80%
Bellingham Technical College					
Adult	5	64	128	421	-69.60%
Youth		10	42	91	-53.85%
Sub-Total BTC	5	74	170	512	-66.80%
Whatcom Community College					
Adult	22	293	888	2,007	-55.75%
Youth	7	115	229	609	-62.40%
Sub-Total WCC	29	408	1,117	2,616	-57.30%
Western Washington University					
Adult	22	477	1,333	3,134	-57.47%
Youth	20	278	930	1,706	-45.49%
Sub-Total WWU	42	755	2,263	4,840	-53.24%
Online Services					
Kanopy (Soft launched May 2019)	1,875	303	9,237	637	
WA Anytime Library Overdrive	32,861	21,902	172,079	127,054	35.44%
RBdigital	3,084	2,052	19,484	14,103	38.16%
Sub-Total Online	37,820	24,257	200,800	141,794	41.61%
Total Circulation	57,326	147,845	558,560	872,968	-36.02%
Holds Activity					
Items placed on hold shelf	29,458	45,083	154,833	271,029	-42.87%
Services					
Persons Visiting - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries or visit remote website					
Central Library					
Adult		37,589	101,447	232,216	-56.31%
Youth		10,815	25,134	61,076	-58.85%
Fairhaven Branch		6,767	16,695	40,132	-58.40%
Barkley Branch		4,732	10,936	27,137	-59.70%
Total Persons Visiting	0	59,903	154,212	360,561	-57.23%
Website Visits	36,845	38,430	205,364	248,777	-17.45%
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org					
Bibliocommons Visits	8,353	12,145	54,655	71,245	-23.29%
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons					
Total Website Visits	45,198	50,575	260,019	320,022	-18.75%
Computer Usage - Number of sessions					
Central Library					
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)		4,910	12,817	30,985	-58.63%
Childrens (3 terminals)		144	363	881	-58.80%
Fairhaven Branch (6 terminals)		539	1,193	3,065	-61.08%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)		328	782	1,754	-55.42%
Total Computer Usage	0	5,921	15,155	36,685	-58.69%
New Borrowers Registered					
Central Library	171	540	1,936	2,529	-23.45%
Fairhaven Branch		52	130	264	-50.76%

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 JULY 21, 2020, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	VENDOR	AMOUNT
ADMINISTRATION		
Database overlay	Bibliocommons	9,784.57
Self-checkout software	Bibliotheca	9,183.92
Toy cleaning products reimbursement	Bernice Chang	50.76
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	7,859.00
Facilities Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	49,265.72
Fleet Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	757.94
Purchasing Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	77.95
Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,570.83
Technology replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,417.16
PPE supplies	City of Bellingham Warehouse	1,261.49
Mendery supplies	Demco	1,156.78
Copier lease and copies	Oasys Inc.	664.71
Office supplies; copier paper; toner	Office Depot	875.03
Barkley operating costs	Talbot Services LLC	533.33
Microfische machine lease	Technology Unlimited	339.14
B & O taxes	WSDR	0.54
	ADMINISTRATION Sub Total	\$86,798.87
TECHNICAL SERVICES		
Book processing	Baker & Taylor	3,564.99
ILL & tech services	OCLC	2,167.63
	TECHNICAL SERVICES Sub Total	\$5,732.62
LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS		
Books	Baker & Taylor	12,617.56
Books	Center Point Large Print	145.90
Periodicals	Ebsco Subscription Services	(205.40)
Books	Gale	(250.94)
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	8,374.11
eBooks, audiobooks	Overdrive Inc	11,119.89
Databases	Proquest	1,606.99
	LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS Sub Total	\$33,408.11
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$125,939.60
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$125,939.60

Library - Budget to Actual - General Fund

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Revenues				
Charges for Goods and Services	3,859	22,100	18,241	17%
Fines and Penalties	621	(0)	(621)	(1,552,500%)
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,422	45,000	40,578	10%
Total Revenue	8,902	67,100	58,198	13%
Expenses				
Salaries and Wages	1,175,653	2,714,652	1,538,999	43%
Personnel Benefits	551,261	1,383,303	832,042	40%
Supplies	319,111	792,364	473,253	40%
Other Services and Charges	546,328	978,168	431,840	56%
Capital Outlays	0	200,000	200,000	0%
Total Expenditure	2,592,353	6,068,487	3,476,134	43%

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR July 21, 2020



The Lecture Room is transformed to the Library's materials processing center

What a month it has been -- and that's saying something in our COVID-19 reality. Since the June board meeting, Library staff have emptied the main floor, relocated collections and work spaces, shifted operations to the lower floor, processed tens of thousands of items, and answered thousands of calls. In addition, we engaged in Library-wide REACH (Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage) training to begin the intentional work of addressing bias in ourselves and our organization. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated, flexible, and thoughtful staff, as well as our colleagues in ITSD who worked many overtime hours to manage equipment and workstation moves. We also thank our partners at Public Works, Janice in the Mayor's office, and the four staff members from Parks and the Museum who were deployed to the Library to help us manage our backlog of check-in. It's been an enormous Library and Citywide effort. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

WELCOME & INCLUDE

Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage: Staff participated in REACH (Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage) Zoom training facilitated by Masa DeLara, Heather Jefferson, and Julie Mauermann. These three-hour trainings, entitled "Exploring Equity and Cultural Humility," provided rich and personal learning opportunities for staff members to explore themes of identity, equity, culture, racism, and personal action plans. This training helped to lay a foundational basis upon which we as an organization can work to create spaces and systems where all community members belong. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

Curbside success: Our curbside holds pickup service has been met with much enthusiasm from the community. Four weeks into offering this service, and the number of users continues to exceed our expectations. It is a daily challenge to keep up with incoming call volume and outgoing bag volume. We were missed! (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

Library Clerk Jenni Johnson surprised staff with this digital sign message of thanks



Curbside instructions in ASL: Suzanne Carlson-Prandini, Michelle Becker, and Jennifer Vander Ploeg worked with The Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center (HSDC) to create a Curbside Service instruction video in American Sign Language. The video is available on our website: <http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/curbside>. Thank you to Joel at the HSDC for this critical collaboration; we are thrilled to be able to have the information available in ASL. (Bethany Hوجلund, Deputy Library Director)

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Teen belonging: Teen Librarian Jennifer Lovchik is hosting teen programming virtually this summer. Based on feedback gathered from the weekly middle school book groups she held this spring, she is offering six different programs, some weekly and others bi-weekly. She reports 36 teens are attending these programs, ranging from Zoom Scavenger Hunts, to Dungeons & Dragons, to book discussions. This is an innovative and critical way to provide teens access to the Library and a community of their own during the pandemic. (Bethany Hوجلund, Deputy Library Director)

Hot Spot lending: We are only a few steps away from circulating Wi-Fi hotspots, so patrons will be able to borrow the internet! The ten devices purchased with 2020 Library Giving Day funds have arrived, and they are in the final stages of processing. In even more-exciting news, Rebecca applied-for and [unofficially] received a CARES Act grant from the State Library for twenty Wi-Fi hotspots and ten months of data service for each. Between Library Giving Day, CARES Act funding, and money allocated by the Friends of the Library, we will be able to eventually offer fifty hot spots for public lending over the next year. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Statewide Broadband committee: Jon McConnel and I were invited to participate in a newly formed Broadband Advisory Committee hosted by the Washington State Library. The kickoff meeting was held on July 6. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

READ & LEARN

Always Available: The “always available” digital titles on the Anti-Racist Reading list continue to be in high demand and reflect our community’s desire to learn more about the history of racism in our nation, as well as antiracist practices and actions. Over 3,700 copies have been checked out by community members since the beginning of June. (Bethany Hوجلund, Deputy Library Director)

Simply-E: Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System have agreed to participate in a program organized by the Washington State Library to make a new ebook/audiobook platform available to library patrons in Washington. It will allow us to acquire digital materials from multiple vendors and present it all to patrons in a single app called SimplyE. It is an open-source platform created by the New York Public Library, and the Washington State Library’s instance is hosted by Lyrisis, a non-profit library services provider. When BPL and WCLS launch SimplyE, our patrons will be able to access most of our Washington Anytime Library content through the SimplyE app (all but Kindle ebooks), as well as content the State Library has licensed from BiblioBoard. The Digital Public Library of America also has public domain content available through the system, as does NYPL. We’ll be able to purchase titles from the Digital Public Library of America Exchange, a new marketplace for e-content that should increase competition and provide some downward pressure on prices and push-back against unfavorable licensing terms. We are in the early stages of working with Lyrisis to integrate our ILS

for patron authentication, and do not yet have a go-live date. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

INFORM & INVOLVE



WCLS.ORG/COVIDPERSPECTIVES

Peoples' Perspectives - COVID-19 in Whatcom County: Peoples' Perspectives has garnered a lot of inspired publicity over the past month, and we extend a sincere thank you to Communications manager Mary Vermillion at Whatcom County Library System for her efforts. Please be sure to visit www.wcls.org/covidperspectives to learn more about this county-wide initiative, to contribute your own story, and to encourage others to participate. As part of this project, Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System have created "Dear History" – an opportunity to write and submit your letter to the future. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

City of Bellingham Zoom moderators: Public Services Librarian Katie Bray moderated the July 15 Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee (MNAC) Zoom meeting, ensuring it ran on schedule and smoothly. Thank you to Katie for stepping in to fill a critical City need during this time. (Bethany Hogle, Deputy Library Director)

REALM (Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums) study: A national study is underway to learn how long coronavirus remains infectious on the surface of common library materials. The results of the first set of tests have been [published](#) – with the finding that the virus was not detectable on five types of materials after three days. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

CARES Act funding: The Library has received two CARES Act grants distributed through the Washington State Library: a \$3,000 grant for PPE and an \$8,000 grant for twenty Verizon hot spots with ten months of internet service each. We will use the PPE funds to offset costs of curbside bags, quarantine boxes, and gloves. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

THRIVE & GROW

Staffing update: We're thrilled that Theresa Keith will be extending her stay at the Library in a new role. Theresa will be taking over the Library's main Facebook and Twitter accounts, photographing the remodel progress, and assisting Jennifer Vander Ploeg with multiple remodel projects. Thank you to teen services librarian Jennifer Lovchik for continuing our Instagram presence and to children's librarian Bernice Chang for maintaining the Children's Facebook page. We also thank Bernice for her exceptional work keeping us connected with our community on social media over the last four months.

Current vacant positions include: Head of Communications, Children's Services Librarian (second of two Children's Librarian positions), Specialist 2, and multiple Library Assistant positions. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

Curbside notices: As mentioned last month, when we resumed circulation services, our revised service model had a pain-point related to Holds notification. The solution we tried did end up working: using the City's preferred email marketing tool MailChimp to send notices by email and

text. We meted-out notices in batches to slowly work through a backlog while keeping the rate at a level Public Services could manage. We're now through the backlog and have transitioned back to Polaris notices, edited to better fit with quarantining returns. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Main Floor renovations begin: Our staff have proven their resilience and flexibility in this highly changeable time. We were four weeks into a brand-new service model, when we up-ended everything and moved all operations to another floor to make room for main floor renovations. Library, ITSD and Public Works staff did an amazing job of literally moving mountains to empty the main floor in less than ten days.

Renovations began on Monday, July 13. Demolition, which includes removing furniture, walls, lights, and flooring, will last for five weeks, followed by electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and shelving work.

We were thrilled to partner with Public Works and Lighthouse Mission Ministries to relocate outgoing main floor furniture to the new Drop-in Center (called Base Camp). The remaining furniture will be sent to surplus. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)



Library furniture has a new life and home at Base Camp

Preparing collections for the Remodel: To prepare for the remodel, many library collections needed to be moved quickly. This also included some major collection changes, such as relabeling and interfiling the adult oversize collection into regular non-fiction. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the many collection moves, and especially to Amy Lathrop and Shari Emley in Collection Services for their quick work in merging and relabeling collections. They are also making sure every item has a barcode on the outside to be ready for the arrival of the Automated Materials Handler. (Bethany Hogle, Deputy Library Director and Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Judd