

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.)
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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.

1. Call to order and introductions	1 min
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2. Approve/modify agenda	1 min
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3. Public comment	3 min
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This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments.
Remarks will be limited to three minutes.

4. Consent agenda (see packet materials)	5 min
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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.

- **Communications and FYI**
- **Minutes:** July 21, 2026: Regular Board Meeting
- **Library performance & activity measures:** July 2026
- **Financial reports**
 - Claims: July 2026
 - YTD report: July 2026
 - 2nd Quarter Donation report
 - 2nd Quarter Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources

5. Reports	10 min
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- Board Chair
- Library Board members
- City Council liaison
- Friends of Bellingham Public Library
- Library Director (see packet materials)

Time check:

3:50

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 6. Central Library renovation update | 10 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Operations; Caleb Savage, Public Works Project Manager; Carol Rofkar, Public Works Assistant Director – Internal Services | |
| 7. 2nd Quarter Action Plan report (see packet materials) | 5 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director | |
| 8. 2027 Budget development & strategic planning update (see packet materials) | 10 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director | |

Time check: 4:15

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|--|--------|
| 9. Fundraising Committee update | 5 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kendra Bradford, Trustee | |
| 10. Day Center update | 10 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director; Deborra Garrett, Trustee | |
| 11. Trespass appeal update (see packet materials) | 5 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director; Deborra Garrett, Trustee | |

Time check: 4:35

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| 12. New business | 3 min |
| 13. Agenda items for next meeting | 2 min |
| 14. Adjourn | |

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 360-778-7220 in advance of the meeting.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Lecture Room, Central Library, 210 Central Avenue Bellingham, Washington



Communications & FYI

August 2026 Board Meeting

- *United Way Whatcom County* | ALICE report overview | [WHO IS ALICE?](#)
ALICE report | June 10, 2026 | [ALICE in Whatcom](#) (2024 data)
- *Whatcom County, WA* | July 29, 2026 | [Whatcom County Snapshot on Homelessness 2026](#)
- *The Spokesman-Review* | August 4, 2026
[Voters show support for increased property tax for Spokane County District libraries*](#)
- *The Seattle Times* | August 5, 2026
[Seattle library levy passes with nearly 3 in 4 voters' support*](#) (see page 1 & 7)
- *Cascadia Daily News* | August 6, 2026
[With logging imminent, Bellingham's oldest homeless encampment empties out*](#)
- *South Whidbey Record* | August 7, 2026
[Sno-Isle Libraries levy wins approval from voters](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News* August 12, 2026 [Bellingham cancels purchase of Roosevelt building for day shelter*](#)

* Article is linked to the NewsBank database. To access, you will need to log in with your Barcode Number and Password/PIN.

**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – Central Library Lecture 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: Kristy Van Ness, Kendra Bradford, Deborra Garrett (via phone)

City Council Library Liaison: Not present

Library Management Staff: Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Katrina Buckman, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg, Madeline Rosenvinge, Hillary Thomsen

FOBPL Representative: Treasure Samuel, Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaisons

Guest Presenter: N/A

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Vice Chair, Kristy Van Ness.

Approve/modify agenda: Kendra Bradford moved to approve the agenda. Deborra Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: None

Consent agenda: Rebecca Judd noted that the quarterly reports will be discussed at the August meeting. Deborra Garrett moved to approve the June 16, 2026 Regular meeting minutes and the June performance and activity measures and financial reports. Kendra Bradford seconded. Motion carried.

Board Chair report:

- None

Board member reports:

- None

City Council liaison report:

- None

Friends of BPL report: Treasure Samuel, on behalf of Carole Comeau announced that the next Book Sale, "Books & Brewing" will take place on August 1, from 12-5 at Wander Brewing. The September sale is scheduled for September 24-26.

Library Director report: Rebecca Judd welcomed new Library Administrative Assistant Hillary Thomsen and thanked Madeline Rosenvinge for her two years of service. Rebecca shared that a library group walked with the City in the Pride Parade earlier this month. Coming up, the Children's Craft Fair at Lee Memorial park will be held on July 31. Next month the ALICE report from United Way will be included in the Board packet.

Central Library Renovation Update: Caleb Savage shared that the renovation design is 90% complete and the bidding package is nearly finalized. The asbestos/abatement discussion continues through August so hazardous protection can be added to the bidding package. The bid packet is expected to be published at the end of August.

2027 Budget development update: Rebecca Judd explained that this is the third year of budget reductions, and with this 3% reduction exercise we are below the low level of service for materials. Department Head review of department budgets with the Mayor's Office will take place July 30 and Aug 13. The 2027 Budget proposal goes to City Council at the end of September. Carol Comeau asked about appropriate timing for Friends of BPL advocacy related to the budget cuts.

Level of Service, Staff Total FTE — Action item: Rebecca Judd referred to page 43 of the packet, showing the 2018 standard, and the new Staff Total FTE Level of Service proposal, based on revised open hours. Kendra Bradford motioned to approve the revised Staff Total FTE Level of Service. Deborra Garrett seconded; motion carried.

Bellingham Public Library Service Level — Cost and Funding Options: Rebecca Judd provided an overview of ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Office regarding long-term funding strategies and alignment with the proposed Regional Fire Authority (RFA). She discussed the recent meeting on July 14 with Mayor Lund, Forrest Longman, Janice Keller, Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness, Bethany Hogle, Annette Bagley and herself - during which the group reviewed service level goals, operational and capital needs, and potential capacity created by the RFA. Trustees discussed messaging, the importance of community investment, and timing for Friends advocacy. Rebecca will meet again with the Mayor on August 11 to review additional financial modeling and prepare recommendations. Treasure Samuels also mentioned community perceptions of school district librarian cuts and the importance of emphasizing the Library's role as a vital public resource.

Fundraising Committee Update: Rebecca shared that the Capital Campaign Committee had their most recent donor engagement event at the end of June; the next one is July 28. Kendra Bradford will take over representing the Trustees in this committee. Current fundraising totals will be reported next month.

Day Center update: No update.

Director review update: Deborra Garrett shared that she and Shirin Deylami will have an update next month.

New Business: Rebecca Judd shared we have a trespass appeal request. Per Library procedures, an appeal committee will be established—Deborra Garrett and Shirin Deylami will be part of the appeal committee. We have 30 days to respond with a decision.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Quarterly reports
- Mayor's office update
- Police Department presentation

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – August 18, 2026 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Performance & Activity Measures - July 2026

Holdings - Number of materials in the library's collection					
Holding Type	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Physical copies added to the collection	1,195	1,191	11,111	8,612	-22.5%
Electronic copies purchased by BPL	9	49	716	497	-30.6%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	-357	-302	-14,142	-17,317	22.5%
Total physical holdings	-	-	180,774	175,201	-3.1%
Total electronic holdings available to BPL	-	-	169,400	192,470	13.6%
Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)	-	-	350,174	367,671	5.0%

Circulation - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan					
Physical Materials Circulation	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Central Library Adult	39,567	34,685	272,447	245,466	-9.9%
Central Library Youth	43,497	39,686	283,257	255,033	-10.0%
Sub-Total Central	83,064	74,371	555,704	500,499	-9.9%
Fairhaven Branch Adult	5,001	4,741	34,217	34,000	-0.6%
Fairhaven Branch Youth	2,959	3,288	19,826	20,322	2.5%
Sub-Total Fairhaven	7,960	8,029	54,043	54,322	0.5%
Barkley Branch Adult	4,608	4,375	31,665	32,579	2.9%
Barkley Branch Youth	5,505	5,339	34,747	34,053	-2.0%
Sub-Total Barkley	10,113	9,714	66,412	66,632	0.3%
Bellis Fair Branch Adult	1,440	1,674	9,575	9,982	4.3%
Bellis Fair Branch Youth	2,004	1,772	13,443	12,128	-9.8%
Sub-Total Bellis Fair	3,444	3,446	23,018	22,110	-3.9%
Bellingham Technical College Adult	20	52	270	271	0.4%
Bellingham Technical College Youth	0	3	38	10	-73.7%
Sub-Total BTC	20	55	308	281	-8.8%
Whatcom Community College Adult	114	111	1,270	917	-27.8%
Whatcom Community College Youth	11	11	184	84	-54.3%
Sub-Total WCC	125	122	1,454	1,001	-31.2%
Western Washington University Adult	177	196	1,907	1,656	-13.2%
Western Washington University Youth	95	113	497	810	63.0%
Sub-Total WWU	272	309	2,404	2,466	2.6%
Total Physical Circulation	104,998	96,046	703,343	647,311	-8.0%
Digital Materials Circulation	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Kanopy - Video Streaming	1,851	2,097	14,013	13,964	-0.3%
WA Anytime Library Overdrive - eBooks and eAudiobooks	40,336	41,050	285,136	288,366	1.1%
Overdrive- eMagazines	7,385	8,323	53,879	63,514	17.9%
Total Online Circulation	49,572	51,470	353,028	365,844	3.6%
Total Digital and Physical Circulation	154,570	147,516	1,056,371	1,013,155	-4.1%
Holds Activity	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Holds shipped and shelved	50,774	67,742	356,612	459,588	28.9%

Services					
Visitors (Door Counts)	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Central Library	32,163	28,293	228,808	197,871	-13.5%
Fairhaven Branch	3,192	2,965	22,774	24,142	6.0%
Barkley Branch	3,181	3,036	18,767	19,196	2.3%
Bellis Fair Branch	1,957	2,026	13,904	13,888	-0.1%
Total Persons Visiting	40,493	36,320	284,253	255,097	-10.3%
New Borrowers Registered	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Central Library	580	446	4,052	3,838	-5.3%
Fairhaven Branch	50	21	259	209	-19.3%
Barkley Branch	40	27	203	169	-16.7%
Bellis Fair Branch	41	24	289	258	-10.7%
Total New Borrowers Registered	711	518	4,803	4,474	-6.8%
Programs - Library sponsored or co-sponsored	Jul-25	Jul-26*	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Programs	113	91	777	747	-3.9%
Attendees	2,558	2,387	18,865	23,339	23.7%

Electronic Resources					
Website Visits	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Website Visits - Number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org	42,893	44,587	294,968	314,383	6.6%
Bibliocommons Visits - Number of visits to online catalog	27,715	32,204	181,037	199,107	10.0%
Total Website Visits	70,608	76,791	476,005	513,490	7.9%
Computer Usage - Number of sessions	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Central Library - Adult & Teen(30 terminals)	3,317	3151	23,866	20,963	-12.2%
Central Library - Children (3 terminals)	126	75	655	572	-12.7%
Fairhaven Branch (7 terminals)	244	279	1,589	1,991	25.3%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	126	164	908	987	8.7%
Bellis Fair Branch (4 terminals)	129	155	917	1,027	12.0%
Total Computer Usage	3,942	673	27,935	25,540	-8.6%

Community Partnerships					
Friends of BPL	Jul-25	Jul-26	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD % Change
Volunteer Hours	300	354	3,169	3,414	7.7%



Board Claims, July 2026

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 AUGUST 18, 2026, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

General Fund Claims		
Interfund Claims		
Description	Vendor	Amount
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	20,125.58
Facilities allocation (Central)	City of Bellingham Interfund	12,906.82
Facilities allocation (Fairhaven)	City of Bellingham Interfund	7,060.40
Fleet Rent Allocation and Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,770.00
Radio Communications Allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	609.41
Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	9,740.95
Technology Replacement Allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,954.51
Telecom Charges	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,024.54
Total Interfund Claims		\$64,192.21
Physical and Digital Collection Materials Claims		
Description	Vendor	Amount
Books	Amazon	362.87
Periodicals	Cascadia Daily	144.00
Books and preprocessing	Ingram	15,979.30
DVDs, CDs, Audiobooks, and Preprocessing	Midwest Tape	1,361.95
Ebooks and Eaudiobooks	Overdrive	3,472.29
CultureGrams	Proquest LLC	203.29
Periodicals	Seattle Times	1,778.40
Total Physical and Digital Collection Materials Claims		\$23,302.10
Equipment, Supplies, and Services Claims		
Description	Vendor	Amount
Barkley Janitorial	Action Cleaning Service	812.00
Supplies; Minor Equipment; First Aid	Amazon	282.68
Hotspot Service	AT&T	37.48
Bellis Fair Branch lease	Bellis Fair Mall Territories	5,357.00
Pest management	BioBug	147.42
Natural gas service	Cascade Natural Gas	307.87
Banking/Credit Card Fees	City of Bellingham	26.89
Water/Sewer/SSW service (Central)	City of Bellingham	2,520.97
Water/Sewer/SSW service (Fairhaven)	City of Bellingham	415.16
Barkley & Bellis Fair branch water/cooler rentals	Clearwater Systems	37.54
Copies	Copiers Northwest	28.31
Security Monitoring	Guardian Security	327.36
Copier leases and copies	Kelley Create	2,686.10

Fuel	Nelson-Reisner	239.36
CAT/ILL/FIRSTSEARCH	OCLC Inc	31,292.02
Paper and tissues	ODP Business Solutions	174.94
Electric (Central)	Puget Sound Energy	7,794.26
Electric (Fairhaven)	Puget Sound Energy	1,140.55
Postage	Quadient	883.90
Bellis Fair Janitorial	Sealx	1,275.30
Digital subscription	Seattle Times	39.92
Viewscan	Technology Unlimited	340.39
Borrower notices	Unique Management	249.80
Hotspot Service	Verizon Wireless	1,600.40
Q2 Borrower Notices; Orbis	WCLS	4,333.43
Boiler permit fees	WSDO	101.40
Total Equipment, Supplies, and Services Claims		\$62,452.45
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS		\$149,946.76

Gift Fund Claims		
Description	Vendor	Amount
Family Program Supplies	Amazon	77.70
Summer Reading Signs	Applied Digital Imaging	339.57
Bellis Fair temp space lease	Bellis Fair Mall Territories	1,500.00
Books	Book Depot	903.26
Audiobooks	Midwest Tape	559.55
TOTAL GIFT FUND CLAIMS		\$3,380.08

Total General Fund & Gift Fund claims	153,326.84
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Budget to Actual, July 2026

58% YTD

GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO ACTUAL				
GENERAL FUND REVENUES				
Description	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Grants	3,163	0		
Print and Copy Fees	12,515	15,000	2,485	83%
Lost, Damage & Non-resident Borrower Fees	5,568	11,100	5,532	50%
Miscellaneous Revenues	718	0	(718)	
Total General Fund Revenues	21,963	26,100	4,137	84%
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
Description	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	3,030,322	5,115,262	2,084,941	59%
Interfund	1,050,465	2,103,588	1,053,123	50%
Physical and Digital Collection Materials	365,494	613,465	247,971	60%
Equipment, Supplies, and Services	323,905	594,164	270,259	55%
Total General Fund Expenses	4,770,186	8,426,479	3,656,293	57%
GIFT FUND BUDGET TO ACTUAL				
GIFT FUND REVENUES				
Description	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Donations	101,583	400,000	298,417	25%
Total Gift Fund Revenues	101,583	400,000	298,417	25%
GIFT FUND EXPENSES				
Description	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Gift Fund Expenses	45,025	400,000	354,975	11%
Total Gift Fund Expenses	45,025	400,000	354,975	11%

QUARTERLY DONATION REPORT FOR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DONATIONS			
2026 - 2nd Quarter Donations to Library Gift Fund			
Date	Donor	Amount	Purpose
4/30/2026	Misc Donations 4/1/2026-4/30/2026	\$ 128.82	Unrestricted
4/10/2026	Karin Schmitt	\$ 100.00	Renovation
4/14/2026	WCF Youth Philanthropy	\$ 5,000.00	Renovation
4/29/2026	WCF Fairhaven	\$ 8,000.00	FH Fireplace
5/31/2026	Misc Donations 5/1-5/31/2026	\$ 12.55	Unrestricted
6/23/2026	Misc Donations 6/1-6/23/2026	\$ 3.10	Unrestricted
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 500.00	Teen Programming
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 2,500.00	Adult Programming
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 1,500.00	All Staff Learning Day
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 1,500.00	Staff Recognition & Wellness
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 1,000.00	Community Outreach
6/30/2026	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$ 3,000.00	Library Branded Clothing for staff
Total 2nd Quarter Donations to Library Gift Fund		\$ 23,244.47	
2026 - 2nd Quarter Donations to Whatcom Community Foundation (WCF)			
Date	Donor	Amount	Fund
6/30/2026	Over 80 Individuals	\$ 20,710.00	Central Library Renovation
6/30/2026	1 Individual	\$ 25.00	Materials
6/30/2026	3 Individuals	\$ 140.00	Unrestricted
6/30/2026	Individual - \$15 Monthly	\$ 30.00	Central Library Renovation
6/30/2026	Individual - \$20 Monthly	\$ 60.00	Central Library Renovation
6/30/2026	Individual - \$25 Monthly	\$ 75.00	Unrestricted
6/30/2026	Individual - \$50 Monthly	\$ 150.00	Central Library Renovation
6/30/2026	Individual - \$50 Monthly	\$ 150.00	Library Giving Day Fund
6/30/2026	Individual - \$50 Monthly	\$ 150.00	Unrestricted
6/30/2026	Individual - \$100 Monthly	\$ 300.00	Unrestricted
Total 2nd Quarter Donations to WCF		\$ 21,790.00	
Total 2nd Quarter Donations		\$ 45,034.47	

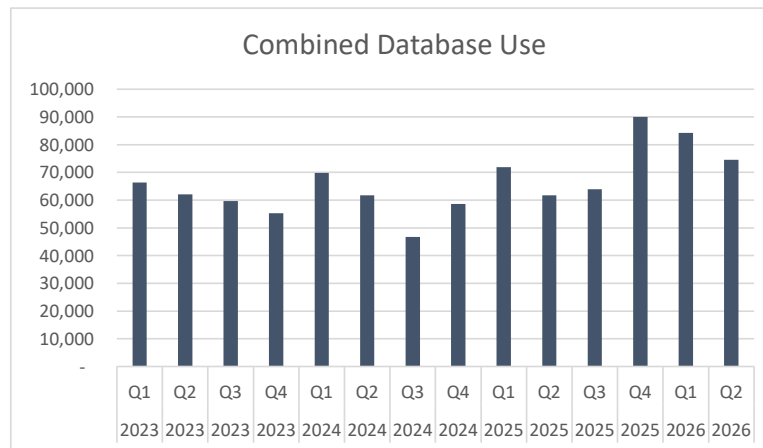
FUND BALANCES			
2026 - 2nd Quarter Library Gift Fund balances (as of 8/10/26)			
Date	Fund	Balance	Funding Source
8/10/2026	Library Gift Fund	\$ 194,513.15	Variety of Designated Funds
Total 2nd Quarter Library Gift Fund balances		\$ 194,513.15	
2026 - 2nd Quarter Central Branch Renovation COB Project Fund Contributions (as of 8/10/26)			
Date	Fund	Balance	Notes
8/10/2026	Central Branch Renovation Project Fund	\$ 1,237,330.00	
Total 2nd Quarter Renovation Project Fund Contributions		\$ 1,237,330.00	
2026 - 2nd Quarter WCF Gift Fund balances (as of 8/10/26)			
Date	Fund	Balance	Notes
8/10/2026	Designated Endowment	\$ 83,916.94	
8/10/2026	Fairhaven Capital	\$ 117,349.89	
8/10/2026	Fairhaven Branch Materials	\$ 5,795.64	
8/10/2026	Materials	\$ 17,412.46	
8/10/2026	Unrestricted	\$ 882.03	
8/10/2026	Library Giving Day 2024	\$ 191.26	
8/10/2026	Central Library Renovation	\$ 1,307,137.72	
Total 2nd Quarter WCF Gift Fund balances		\$ 1,532,685.94	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		\$ 2,964,529.09	

Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources

Vendor	Database	Metric	2025	2025	2026	2026				Year-to- Year %
			Q1	Q2	Q1				Q2	
			TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL	
Candid	Candid Search #	Profile & Grant Views	241	553	433	281	86	158	525	-5.1%
Data Axle	Reference Solutions*	Detail Record Views, Downloads, & Prints	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	
EBSCO	Consumer Reports	Page Views	10,183	9,029	8,120	2,693	2,239	2,113	7,045	-22.0%
EBSCO	Ethnic Diversity Source	Requests	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	
EBSCO	NoveList Plus	Requests	87	124	153	4	9	7	20	-83.9%
EBSCO	NoveList K-8 Plus	Requests	-	35	16	-	-	44	44	25.7%
Gale	Gale databases	Item Requests	444	409	5,434	552	1,463	391	2,406	488.3%
Gale	ChiltonLibrary.com	Retrievals	238	261	191	58	64	48	170	-34.9%
Grey House	Weiss Financial Ratings	Page Views	481	1,873	384	102	67	89	258	-86.2%
Library Ideas	Freegal	Songs Streamed or Downloaded	27,676	25,489	37,859	10,205	11,981	11,332	33,518	31.5%
LinkedIn	LinkedIn Learning	Video Views	2,915	2,163	3,621	1,562	1,279	1,219	4,060	87.7%
Mango	Mango	Sessions	1,555	1,506	2,314	652	485	513	1,650	9.6%
NewsBank	NewsBank	Documents Viewed	11,293	13,231	14,341	5,636	5,579	4,137	15,352	16.0%
ProQuest	Ancestry Library Edition #	Document Views	2,383	966	1,593	571	208	1,838	2,617	170.9%
ProQuest	CultureGrams	Pages Viewed	9,693	815	2,143	557	71	26	654	-19.8%
ProQuest	HeritageQuest	Records Viewed	476	346	704	244	173	771	1,188	243.4%
ProQuest	US Newsstream & US Dailies	Retrievals	930	1,104	4,971	854	972	717	2,543	130.3%
ProQuest	Newspapers.com - West	Retrievals	3,335	3,779	2,016	1,202	566	670	2,438	-35.5%
TOTAL			71,930	61,690	84,296	24,892	25,156	23,915	74,488	20.7%

No remote access

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





DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR August 18, 2026

This month, I want to share a difficult but important update regarding local homeless services that will reshape our approach to public service at the branches during the upcoming Central Library renovation. At their August 10th meeting, the Bellingham City Council declined to move forward with purchasing 2020 Pacific Street, officially canceling that plan for the proposed Day Center. The decision followed the mid-July withdrawal of the initial operator, Road2Home. Despite subsequent efforts by City staff, no other local organization was able to step in on such short notice before the purchase agreement expired at the end of August. This development, which was recently covered by the *Cascadia Daily News* on August 12th, is deeply disappointing news, especially for our unhoused neighbors who will not have access to vital indoor refuge. While this is a challenging setback for our community, the City team remains committed to pursuing options to realize a future daytime shelter solution. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

WELCOME & INCLUDE

1% for the Arts Update: The 1% for the Arts jury for the Central Library renovation convened and reviewed a roster of 80 artists. Ultimately, the jury felt the roster was full of amazing artists, but their work does not match the needs for the project. Following the recommendation of the Bellingham Arts Commission, an [RFQ for artists/artist teams for the Central Library remodel](#) specifically was released on August 14, with a close date of September 18. Please help spread the word! (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

Bellis Fair Multipurpose Room: We are in the process of developing signage designs and getting cost estimates for the Bellis Fair Multipurpose Room, with the goal of having signage installed by the end of September. Children's programming will begin using the space on Wednesdays, starting Sept. 23. Programming for adults will begin utilizing the space in November. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Mobile Crisis Outreach Team Endorsement Means Faster Response Times: The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT), reached out to the Library to let us know that they received an endorsement from the Washington State Health Care Authority which has allowed them to significantly increase their hours and their response times. MCOT provides support to people who are having a crisis due to mental health and/or substance use anywhere in Whatcom County with optional follow-up support up to 2 weeks. They are available 7 days a week 8am-Midnight and are working towards increasing overnight staffing so they can respond 24/7. To access services, anyone can self-refer, call on behalf of a concern for a family member/ friend, or as provider refer a client at 1-800-584-3578. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Hotspot Provider: Earlier this year we learned of a new service provider for mobile hotspots. Mission Telecom is a T-Mobile Mobile Virtual Network Provider (MVNO) that serves schools, nonprofits, and libraries. They offer unlimited data plans for \$7 per month per device. Because that's \$3/mo. less than the provider we had been using for T-Mobile data service, we decided to try them out. In June we converted 11 hotspots from Mobile Beacon to Mission Telecom, and things have been going well. We are converting our other 21 eligible devices in September. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

READ & LEARN

Children's Craft Fairs: The library held a successful Children's Craft Fair in Lee Memorial Park on Friday, July 31 from 11am - 1pm. Over 50 booths of kids set up and sold their handmade jewelry, toys, artwork, baked goods and more. If you missed it, our second Children's Craft Fair is coming up on Friday, August 21 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Bellis Fair Mall. Note that all items are priced \$5 or less and this is a cash-only sale. Many thanks to Children's Librarian Bernice Chang for coordinating both events. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)



Book Club Social, Feb. 6, 2027: The Bellingham Public Library will host its second Book Club Social on Saturday, February 6, 2027 at the Hotel Bellwether Ballroom, welcoming up to 250 expected attendees. Building on the success of the November 2025 gathering, this event will feature more local authors, a participant book swap, and improved ways for guests to connect with local book clubs. Popular elements are returning, including a Book Buffet, a crowd-generated "Books We Loved" list, and a Choose Your Own Adventure experience where attendees can visit tabling organizations, craft a "Light in the Dark" lantern, and enjoy treats and cozy beverages. We're grateful to The Friends of Bellingham Public Library for making the return of this beloved event possible, as well as to the following businesses donating cakes for the event: Haggen, Community Food Co-op, Saltadena. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

INFORM & INVOLVE

Summer Reading Prize Partners: As we wrap up our thank yous to the many businesses who contributed Summer Reading prize coupons this year, here are a few more quotes from the business operators about why they support the program:

- "All of the staff really enjoy seeing kids come in with their reading coupons. We try to display all redeemed coupons for at least a few months. A lot of our staff, myself included, are pretty avid readers." – Emmalyn Smith, Ruckus Room
- "As a kid growing up in a rural county, the summer reading program was a very big deal. My family would drive an hour to redeem my summer reading prize. This goal setting and incentivized learning made a huge impact on my education. I learned my family and community valued learning, and that reading had rewards beyond the page." – Shirlee Jones, owner, Shirlee Bird Café

- "The Bellingham Public Library's Summer Reading Program sparks curiosity and keeps young minds engaged in learning all summer long. In being part of this program as a community partner we share this step towards our mission by helping celebrate the joy of discovery and encouraging kids and families to stay curious, creative, and connected to their community." – Abby Whatley, Director of Programs, Spark Museum of Electrical Invention
- "All of us at Yeager's love to support all the kids through your reading program, and love seeing what they pick out in our store for their reading achievements!!" – Chrissy Moore, Yeager's Toyland

(Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Media Coverage: Cascadia Daily News recently ran two articles related to book clubs in Bellingham and Whatcom County:

- [Modern book clubs are vulnerable, bold and buying up the attention economy](#)
- [A guide to Bellingham area book clubs every day of the week](#)

(Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

THRIVE & GROW

Materials Purchasing and Processing: Ingram is developing a new backend system for their pre-processing department. Consequently, the onboarding queue for these services is currently paused, and we have not yet received our specific placement in line. The service tier we anticipate contracting for is expected to resume onboarding new libraries in January. Separately, in early July, Ingram reported a data breach involving the theft of some customer contact data, which was subsequently posted on the dark web. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Renovation News: We recently received our last cost estimate based on 90% complete construction documents. The estimate confirmed that our design remains within our planned budget, with some room for furniture and shelving, and a bit of cushion for some unknowns like hazardous materials abatement. This is wonderful news! We will put the project out for bid including the base scope and two alternates in early September. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Operations)

Fairhaven Fireplace: The gas fireplace on the main floor at Fairhaven has been out of service for a few years. This feature has been sorely missed by patrons and staff during the winter months. Thanks to donated funds held at Whatcom Community Foundation specifically designated to support the Fairhaven Branch Library, we were able to purchase and install a new electric insert to replace it. Installation was completed last week, and we look forward to seeing cozy flames during the damp and cold season! (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Operations)

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Judd

2026 Annual Action Plan DRAFT

The **2026 Annual Action Plan - Renovation Edition** charts Bellingham Public Library's path as we modernize the Central Library, with careful oversight of timelines, budget, stakeholder coordination, and quality. Renovation-specific initiatives ensure staff support and uninterrupted service, while non-renovation priorities such as strategic planning, 2027 budget development, and citywide projects are gathered under Thrive & Grow, highlighting our ongoing commitment to a resilient and vibrant library for the community.

WELCOME & INCLUDE: We offer welcoming, safe places and experiences, where connections and understanding flourish.

- Support staff through the Central Library renovation with regular updates, collaborative planning, and opportunities for input to maintain connection across locations.
- Prepare branches for increased patron traffic by coordinating staffing, security, and safety procedures.
- Provide wellness resources, flexible scheduling, and team-building opportunities to manage workload and disruption.

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

- Design, plan, and implement a temporary service model ensuring continued access to holds pickup, research & referral help, meeting spaces, public computing, and browsing.
- Expand branch hours, adjust workflows, and allocate staff to manage increased usage at Barkley, Fairhaven, and Bellis Fair.
- Explore off-site programming, pop-up services, and downtown engagement opportunities.

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

- Provide programming for all ages with staff support in temporary spaces.
- Maintain patron access to collections through temporary storage and adjusted workflows.
- Support staff with training, equipment, and guidance for programming and collections in temporary spaces.

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

- Design, plan, and implement a comprehensive communication plan for patrons, media, community organizations, and City departments covering renovation milestones, service changes, and reopening timelines.
- Lead a major donor campaign to raise the final \$1.5M of the \$3.5M capital goal for the renovation, engaging partners and the community to support enhancements to the Central Library.
- Center youth voices by creating intentional opportunities for youth input to inform Central Library renovation design priorities.

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

- Collaborate with City and County stakeholders to advance planning for a long-term day shelter space, ensuring BPL is welcoming to all while advocating for a broader, compassionate community response.
- Advance sustainable funding strategies for operations and capital needs, including review and update of Level of Service standard for open hours.
- Develop 2027 operational and capital budget requests.
- Implement staff learning hours to support ongoing professional development, skill-building, and knowledge sharing across all roles and work groups.
- Select new materials vendor and set-up preprocessing workflows
- Implement Citywide initiatives including Workday software, Teams phone migration, website accessibility compliance improvements, and updated City document retention procedures.



Goal

Bellingham Public Library level of service increases from below "Low" to "Medium" with a "High" level for materials.

Support Bellingham Public Library **Level of Service Needs**

Investing in the Bellingham Public Library is an investment in the well-being of our entire community. Libraries act as a vital safety net, empowering every resident – of every age, identity, income, and aspiration – every single day.

Maintaining appropriate levels of library service for a growing city requires adequate and sustainable funding for operations and capital. Bellingham Public Library currently functions below the low level of service standard, with all locations closed evenings and Sundays, and branches open only 4 hours per day in minimal square footage.

56%

- 47,000 computer sessions for those without access to technology
- 500,000 in-person visits to free and welcoming spaces
- 1.8 million items checked out

of Bellingham residents actively utilize the library

80%

- Highly trained staff offer vital, FREE children's programs – encouraging early literacy and fostering interpersonal connections
- The Library provides more than 1,000 in-person programs per year

of a child's brain develops between 0-3 years of age

Why Now?

Increased general fund capacity is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a healthier, more vibrant community. Expanding library access directly aligns with the core community values outlined in Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan.

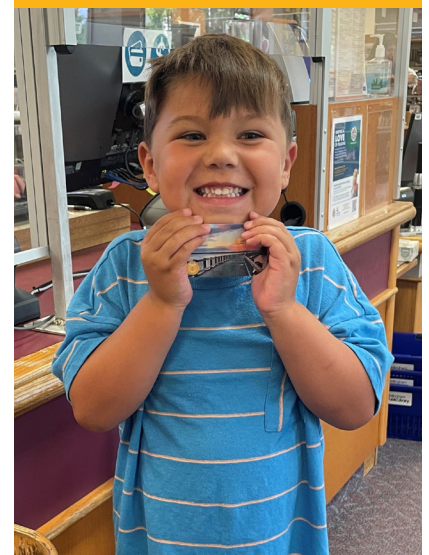
Securing appropriate, long-term library funding over the next 10 years means:

- **Restoring Essential Services:** Reversing recent operational budget and service cuts.
- **Expanding Operating Hours:** Opening all locations on evenings and Sundays to accommodate working families and students.
- **Prioritizing Early Literacy:** Growing physical and digital resource collections for lifelong learners, starting with our youngest readers.
- **Transforming Public Spaces:** Upgrading the Central Library exterior, renovating Fairhaven, and expanding neighborhood branches in Barkley and Bellis Fair.
- **Meeting City Goals:** Fulfilling the 2017 City Council directive and the Board of Trustees' 10-year goal to elevate Bellingham to a "Medium" service level with a "High" standard for materials.

Funds Needed

Operating:
\$550K/year for 10 years

Capital:
\$3M/year for 10 years



What Bellingham Has to Say:

"The Bellingham Public Library is our greatest public asset."

"The Bellingham Public Library, its books, services, staff, ambiance is one of the threads of a healthy life for the community in general, and for me personally."

"I work at a nonprofit that serves people with developmental disabilities. In my work and professional life, the library is a vital community resource."

"My library card is the most used card in my wallet."

"Increasing hours of operation is important for working people who want to check out real books."

"I would love if the library could keep pace with e-copies of current books—like National Book Award winners, Booker Prize winners, etc."

"I find the open hours at Barkley Branch to be problematic. Would really prefer it be open at consistent hours on weekdays (e.g. 10-2 every day instead of some days 10-2 and some days 2-6)."



"The library is incredibly valuable to our community in a myriad of ways. When the economy slows down and people have fewer financial resources, the library is there for them."

"The library system is one of the most important services our tax dollars pays for that allows all folks, regardless of their circumstance, to live a full life."

"Libraries are one of the only public places that a person can exist without the expectation of spending money and that is crucial—I know y'all do a lot more than you're expected to do and just wanted to extend my sincere gratitude for being such a safe harbor for houseless folks, providing services to people without access to technology, and simply being a warm/welcoming space for people to hang out and spend time in."

"I love Bellingham libraries! The only thing I am really dissatisfied with is the limited hours at the Fairhaven branch. It makes it hard for both families and individuals to spend time there... if I could have one wish for the library it would be to change that!"

"Public libraries are the intellectual and social heart of healthy communities. I would like to see our Public Library expanded and improved, more meeting spaces, more books (particularly art books), more reference materials, more computers, and more periodicals. I would gladly see an increase in my property tax to build a new library and add to its collections and staff."

"Because I work 8am-5pm and do not drive, it is very difficult for me to utilize print resources and the library facilities as they all close at 6 pm and I can't often make it to a branch before then. I would love to see evening hours expanded at the Central Library at least a couple days a week so more people are able to utilize the print collections and resources."

"A robust library system, much like a robust public transportation system, is important to me even if I rarely use it. I want to live in a community that pools our tax dollars to provide resources that we can all freely share. That is how we can help our neighbors."



Trespass Appeal administration procedure – proposed revisions 8/18/2026)

1. When a written appeal is received within 30 days of the trespass
 - a. The Library Director forwards the appeal to the Library's legal liaison
 - b. The Library Director convenes a review committee consisting of the Library Director, the Library's legal liaison, the Head of Public Services, the Head of Security, and the two members of the Library Board of Trustees policy committee. Voting members of the review committee consist of the Library Director and two members of the Library Board of Trustees.
 - c. In consultation with the Library's legal liaison, the Library Director responds to the individual making the appeal within 7 days of receipt, and communicates:
 - i. The appeal has been received
 - ii. A review committee has been formed
 - iii. A decision will be made and communicated in writing within 30 days of receipt of the written trespass appeal
2. When the review committee has reached their decision:
 - a. In consultation with the Library's legal liaison, the Library Director will communicate the decision to the individual making the appeal:
 - i. citing the reasons for the decision
 - ii. indicating that the decision is final
 - b. The Library's legal liaison will notify the Board of Trustees about actions taken by the review committee
 - c. The Library Director will update police and the incident report if the appeal results in changes to the trespass.

[For website] Appealing a Trespass

- An appeal must be made in writing to the Library Director within 30 days of the trespass date and should include reasons for requesting an appeal
- An appeal must contain an email address or mailing address for a response
- An appeal must be submitted by email to libraryadmin@cob.org, or mailed to:

Bellingham Public Library c/o Library Director
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
- Late appeals will not be considered