MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 24, 2012

AGENDA ITEM #: 8

ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.
David Silver is a professor at USF. His subjects include Urban Media, Green Media and Urban Agriculture. In the past 3-4 years he has found a pronounced change in students’ use of all types of electronic media. The title was:


One of his class projects is for students to go on a “Media Fast” for as long as they can, and write up their experiences. Some students can not last longer than an hour. The record is 3 ½ days. Some of their comments have been:

- Well how will I know when the bus will come without using my cell phone to find “Next Bus”?  
- What am I going to do on a bus without my cell phone? (He suggested reading a book).  
- My mother called me 23X when my phone was off. She thought after five times of me not answering that I was dead.  
- For the first time this semester my room mate and I had a conversation — yeah just the two of us.  
- Four of us were talking in the room. Then the cell phones went off with text messages. There I was all alone. It was like the other three girls had mentally left the room.  
- One turned her phone off on a flight from LA to SF. She went to the shuttle bus. The driver said she had to text a message to the company before she could get on. “But I’m here, here is my money”.  
- I felt excited and terrified.  
- I check my phone every second when I have nothing else to do, even though, I know nothing is on it.  
- I was alone with my thoughts. It was weird. I was scarred.  
- How can you workout without listening to music?

He said “technology has become pervasive and many feel it must be with us all the time. Many students have 10-12 applications running all the time. The first 15 minutes is the hardest.”

He suggested one should “Log off, before you blog off”.

At USF they have an acre of land that is used as an organic farm. It teaches the students much about agriculture, food, cooking and so much more. As a take off on Media Fast, he has them locate (without electronic media) one of the SF
Farmers’ Markets. Then they have to go, interview farmers, ask questions and find a vegetable they have never eaten before. They buy it, find a recipe, cook it, eat it and write about their experiences.

He said he needs to teach “Book Technology”. One student turned every page to find a recipe for spinach. She did not know about a book’s index. Another Googled the cookbook from the library to ask what page a recipe would be on.

Then, he believes in bringing the library to the subject matter. He worked with the university library to bring cookbooks etc. out to the area where they sell the produce. At first the librarians were shocked – books outside the library? “But how can we check them out?” Now the librarians have bought into the concept.

His “solutions” include:

- Libraries and librarians need to “Cultivate” Collective Curiosity” or “Host Collective Curiosity”. He then finds the students share their curiosity with each other. And bring the library to the subject.

- Develop alternative information techniques. Escondido CA PL got a grant to develop “How To” videos which is called “Library YOU”. They video tape local experts in such subjects as quilting; along with locally developed podcasts. Then the videos/podcasts are available on the library’s website. It reaches more people via electronic technology than just having videos in the library available to be checked out.

- Increase “Attention Span”. Many class projects now take the entire semester. Thus, students start to think about the subject over a period of time; beyond the next couple of seconds. As a result, they are developing “Seasonal Syllabi”.

Dr. Silver was most interesting and entertaining. If you have a chance to hear him, don’t miss him. He is truly trying to get his students to think. NOTE: A video of this program will be available on www.baynetlibs.org. Also, check out YouTube for some of his video clips.
A Message from the Library Director

by Rickel Sue
For want of a nail the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe the horse was lost...

A proverb

Sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference. In the case of California libraries, what stands between more than $15 million in potential grant funds is a reduction of $15.2 million in funding for the California State Library. While $15.2 million is a tiny percentage of the state’s $137 billion budget, those funds represent a huge investment in California’s public libraries, and Sacramento Public Library in particular.

Since 2000, funds allocated from the State of California to Sacramento Public Library have decreased from $2.4 million to $0 (zero dollars). Part of these funds supported the library’s literacy program, our ability to borrow and loan materials to other libraries, and general support that was used for everything from staff to books to equipment—all designated to improve library services.

The loss of these funds from the State of California has had a real impact. For example, our literacy staff and volunteers touch the lives of our community’s most vulnerable adults. Last year this staff trained and supported 122 literacy volunteers who served more than 200 students by spending more than 8,000 hours teaching them the basic skills that are critical to reading.

In addition, there is a potential loss of federal funds that directly support Sacramento Public Library if these state cuts are not restored. For example, over the past two years, Sacramento Public Library has been fortunate to have received more than $600,000 in federal funds for innovative projects such as our Family Place Center at the Southgate Library, a reading partnership with the Iston elementary school that has improved reading scores by two grade levels, the purchase of 300 Nooks, and our 1 Street: Press—a publishing and writing center for the entire community.

Simply put, if the $15.2 million is not restored to the California State Library, Sacramento Public Library, and every other library in California, loses big time, and that means that the people we serve also lose valuable services and programs.

Friends Action Alert

Please write letters to members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance today. Ask them to restore $15.2 million in state library funding to enable the state to make its required match to receive federal funding for libraries. Their next hearing is Wednesday, May 9 at 4 pm in Room 126. See contact information below.

Assemblywoman Susan Bocila, Chair
State Capitol, Room 2188, Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Bill Berryhill
State Capitol, Room 3141, Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley
State Capitol, Room 2163, Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Brian Nestande
State Capitol, Room 4139, Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Sandre Swanson
State Capitol, Room 6012, Sacramento, CA 95814
Meet the
Friends:
Alice Levine

Alice is a true “mover and shaker” in the Sacramento Public Library community. In 1995 she helped found the McClatchy Friends when McClatchy Library was on the verge of being closed. She’s been the president of the McClatchy Friends ever since. Also active with the System Friends, she has served on the Nominations Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Endowment Committee. Alice states that she is passionate about the free access to materials that is the root reason for the library—that everyone has the right, responsibility and ability to educate oneself to participate in democracy.

As an experienced library advocate, Alice has worked with city council members and county supervisors, as well as library officials and Friends, to keep McClatchy doors open. Alice says this about the Friends: “Although it’s great to use the library, it’s even better to do what we can to keep our libraries strong. By joining the Friends, we can all show that support. The Friends are deeply grateful for the support that Alice has given to the library for so many years.”

A New Day at Central Library

Come visit the Central Friends at “Words Are Cheap: The Central Friends Bookstore,” located on the first floor of the Central Library! We are re-organizing and re-decorating our store to make it more inviting and shopper-friendly. Congratulations to John Grant, who won the “Name the Bookstore Contest.” We are also excited to announce our new “zazzle” account that is set up so shoppers can buy mugs, water bottles, bags, apparel, stationery, and more, with a variety of designs from the Sacramento Room’s archives. Check out all our designs and products at http://www.zazzle.com/libraryfriends.

Happy Birthday, Orangevale Library!

Happy Birthday to the Orangevale Library! The Orangevale Library started one hundred years ago with a collection of fifty books in a private home. Since that time, community support has kept Orangevale alive and thriving through many moves and budget crunches. To celebrate their birthday, Orangevale Library is collecting stories, memories, and memorabilia from community members in preparation for a birthday bash on September 22. If you’d like to contribute, contact Coral Procter at cprocter@saclibrary.org.

Warehouse Volunteer
Shares Books with Children and Community Organizations

by Pat Dansby

Let me first introduce myself: my name is Patricia. I have been volunteering at the Library Warehouse for almost a year. I found out about the Library Warehouse from a retired librarian and principal while visiting a friend at a skilled nursing facility last year. She admired my volunteer work at an elementary school and put me in contact with a mutual friend.

When I worked at the elementary school, I would adopt a classroom, and each student would receive a book during winter and spring breaks to encourage them to read. I would ask my family and friends to donate money or give me children’s books instead of gifts. After volunteering at the Library Warehouse, several schools received books. At that time, a “light bulb moment” happened to me—during the summer, if there were at least two children in a Sacramento County park, I set up my milk crates of books, sorted by subjects, and distributed them.

Then it dawned on me that adults take children to parks, and I asked Warehouse volunteer, Brian, for some adult books, too. He suggested that I get the discards from the bins. Everyone has been happy with this arrangement, and the discard books are being read and enjoyed by people of all ages. I have seen so many people with smiles on their faces! Personal requests have been for non-English books, large print books, National Geographic magazines, self-help, and more. Thank you for letting me share my adventure of discard books with you and for contributing to this project.

Editor’s Note: Pat is instrumental in bringing books to the community. The full list of community organizations that receive books from the Friends is far too long to include here, but some examples are: River City Food Bank, University Dialysis Clinic, Legal Services of Northern California, Wellspring Women’s Center, Father’s Resource Center, St. Francis Senior Manor. Contact Pat at patann53@aol.com.

Needed: Web Designer

The Friends need help to design a website. If you have expertise in this area, please contact Karen Thomas at BetweenFriendsSPL@gmail.com.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  

☐ My Branch Library is:  

(Your local Branch Friends group receives half of your membership dues, if you do not designate a local branch, you will be listed as an "at-large" member, and your dues will support the system-wide Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.)

☐ New member  ☐ Renewing member  ☐ Contact me about volunteering

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:  These benefits are included with membership:

☐ $75 Patron  •  Between Friends Newsletter (6 x year)
☐ $35 Business/Association  •  All Friends Monthly Calendar
☐ $20 Family  •  Insider News & Advocacy Alerts
☐ $15 Individual  •  Members-only preview sales
☐ $10 Youth  •  10% discount at book sales
☐ This is a gift membership from

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible gift in the amount of

☐ In honor of  ☐ In memory of

☐ To be matched by my employer

The Friends Tax ID # is 68-0005250.

Gifts will be directed to your local branch unless no branch is designated, in which case they will support the system-wide Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.

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Please make checks payable to Friends of SPL and mail with this form to:
Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

"Between Friends" is published six times a year by the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.

To help us reduce costs and save trees, become an email subscriber by writing to SPIFriends@gmail.com or calling (916) 264-2880.

Karen Thomas - Newsletter Coordinator
Carrie Settle - Features Editor
Lynn Ester - Copy Editor
Irish Consunji - Production Editor
Denise Watts - Data Coordinator
Mike Willard - E-Newsletter Mailing

Please send feedback about the newsletter or suggestions for future issues to:
SPIFriends@gmail.com

"Like" Friends of the Sacramento Public Library on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter @sacdfriends

Free E-Waste Pick-Up
Contact www.eWaste4Good.com and arrange for free pick-up and recycling. Select Friends of the Sacramento Public Library and a contribution will be made in your name.
**Branch Book Sales**

**Saturday, May 5**
10 am – 3 pm Arden-Dimick Friends Book Sale

**Friday, May 18**
3 – 7 pm Pocket-Greenhaven Friends Book Sale
Friends members only

**Saturday, May 19**
10 am – 3 pm Pocket-Greenhaven Friends Book Sale
Open to all

**Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9**
Belle Cooledge Friends Book Sale during open library hours

**Saturday, June 9**
10 am – 3 pm Friends of the Bookmobile Book Sale in Rancho Murieta, in front of big gazebo.

**June 16 & 19**
Fair Oaks Friends Book Sale, Fair Oaks Library

**Belle Cooledge Friends Fund the Storytime Collection**

The Friends of the Belle Cooledge Library approved funding $3500 towards the startup of a Storytime Collection of books that all Youth Service Librarians throughout the Sacramento Public Library system can draw from when reading to the young people at the various story times and other literacy events held in our libraries. This generous donation will provide multiple copies of high-demand favorites and will be reserved for library staff only. Having this collection will ensure that our youth programs will have copies guaranteed available to them when needed without affecting our patrons. The SPL Youth Service Librarians were polled and a core collection of titles was created from their suggestions. Staff contributed almost 200 volumes from their branch collections. This funding will enable our selector, Chelsea Couillard, to fill in the gaps and create a strong core collection with plenty of copies to meet the needs of the ever-expanding programming schedules throughout the system.

Thank you Friends of the Belle Cooledge Library!

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*Submitted by Vicki Rousseau, Branch Supervisor, Belle Cooledge Library*

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**Friends Warehouse Sale**

Friday, June 1
5 – 8 pm Friends members only

Saturday, June 2
9 am – 4 pm Open to all

Saturday, June 9
9 am – 4 pm Open to all

The Book Den is open every Thursday, Friday, & Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. Gift certificates are available at the Book Den. They will be accepted by the Book Den and the Warehouse.

The Book Den & Friends Warehouse are located at 8250 Belvedere, Suite E, Sacramento. For more information contact fispl@att.net or call (916) 731-8493.

More volunteers are always needed. We can also use paper bags with handles and donations of books, audio books, DVDs, and music CDs. Donations can be dropped off on Wednesday mornings from 9 am – 12 pm or during regular Book Den hours.

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**Between Friends**
Friends Approve Bylaw Revisions
The Friends members met on April 14 at Belle Cooke Library to vote on revisions to the Bylaws. These changes did not affect the way the Board or any of the Friends groups functions. However, they did change the language of the Bylaws to ensure that the Bylaws comply with the current California nonprofit corporation code. Additionally, some changes were made to improve the clarity and consistency of the Bylaws. The revisions were approved unanimously. Friends who attended the meeting were treated to cookies, snacks, and a discussion with Rikiah Sass on “The Future of Libraries”.

Central Friends Sponsor Genealogy Programs
Are you interested in genealogy? If so, you have reason to be thankful for the support of the Friends of Central Library! Their generous sponsorship makes many great genealogy programs possible at the Central Library, including:

May 6, 2012, 1:30-3:00pm: American Migration Trails: Eastern United States
May 20, 2012, 1:30-3:00pm: Using the FamilySearch.org Database
July 7, 2012, 1:00-2:30pm: Beginning Genealogy: Using Records to Tell Your Ancestors’ Stories

More genealogy programs are offered at Central Library throughout the year, with series of classes scheduled in January, May, and September. Classes in Central Library’s computer lab cover topics such as online genealogy and using the Ancestry.com database. You can also set up a 45 minute appointment to meet with a Central Library genealogy volunteer to get individual help with your research. All of these library programs are free, and you are encouraged to attend!

For more information about Central Library’s genealogy programs, please call the library at 916-264-2920, visit the library’s website at www.saclibrary.org/ or visit a library branch in person.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Submitted by Beth Daugherty,
Genealogy Services Librarian

The State of eBooks in the Public Library
By Amy Calhoun, Electronic Resources Librarian
Sacramento loves library eBooks, which are increasing in popularity more rapidly than any other library resource. In fact, library eBook lending has increased over 400% since last year! The popularity of library eBooks is not surprising considering their enhanced mobility and accessibility. Readers benefit from the ability to check out a book even when the physical library is closed. Those with vision impairment have more choices in reading thanks to the adjustable font size options. Sacramento Public Library circulates one of the largest collections of eReaders in the country. Although the public is clearly ready for eBooks from their library, publishers are not on the same page. Sadly, a library cannot pay Amazon or Barnes & Noble for an eBook and then lend it out to library patrons. Libraries can buy a printed book from these companies, place it on the shelf, and lend it out, but digital content is being treated differently by the publishers and companies that manage digital content licensing.

Sacramento Public Library very much wants to offer the same eBooks that we offer in print; however, the publishers’ policies are preventing libraries everywhere from doing so. Please know that Sacramento Public Library is committed to advocating for a change to these restrictive policies, but we need your help.

The following companies currently refuse to sell or license eBooks to libraries: Macmillan Publishing, Simon & Schuster, Penguin Group, Brilliance Audio, and Hachette Book Group. This means that library patrons can’t read eBooks written by James Patterson, Stephen King, Janet Evanovich, Sue Grafton, and many other bestselling authors.

If you would like more information, including a sample letter and the contact information for these publishers, please visit www.saclibrary.org and click on “eBook Emergency.” Let the publishers know that you disagree with their decision to restrict access to information available through the public library based solely on a book’s format and help protect access for all readers.
A Short History of Friends of Sacramento Public Library Advocacy Efforts Since 1993

Compiled by Karen Thomas, Between Friends Newsletter Coordinator

The number one purpose of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation, is to create public support for expanding the goals and objectives of the Sacramento Public Library and its Branch Libraries, and to advocate for them to the extent permitted by law. This purpose dovetails nicely with the SPL's current number one strategic goal: increase positive public awareness, engagement, and ownership of the library.

While the major share of Friends energies has always been focused on raising funds for library programs, materials, and equipment, there have been critical times during the past twenty years when Friends advocacy efforts played a major role in securing public funding and keeping libraries open.

After reviewing 19 years of Between Friends newsletters, I have pieced together a rough history of Friends advocacy activities during this period. Here is a summary:

May 1993 — (1) There is a threat of 18% city cuts; 32% county cuts to the library. Readers are encouraged to sign petitions available at the book sale urging the Board of Supervisors to provide adequate funding for county libraries. (2) Friends members are encouraged to do grassroots lobbying on behalf of the money-stricken SPL on Tuesday, May 4 at Legislative Day sponsored by the Calif. Library Asn.

June 1993 — Enclosed in the newsletter is a petition to Sacto County Board of supervisors rejecting library budget cuts. There is also a page 1 article about FLAC (Friends of the Library Advocacy Committee).

July/August 1993 — Front-page article says "A Friends-sparked outpouring of public support for libraries helped convince the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to scrap a drastic plan to cut 10 of 11 county libraries to two days a week and slash the book budget to zero." and "Library Boosters Send the Word — When the Board of Supervisors took up the county library budget, a legion of library supporters was there, including a Great Dane wearing a sign reading 'Our library system is going to the dogs!' Between 200 and 250 library supporters crowded the county administration building June 28 when hearings opened. They wore 'Support Your Library' buttons. They delivered special petitions with 17,500 signatures of county residents urging the supervisors to fund the library adequately. Earlier, supervisors had received thousands of letters and phone calls, many generated by newspaper advertisements placed by the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library."


June 1994 — Page 1 story: "Action Vital on Library Funding Bill" — urged letters to Governor Wilson asking him to sign S.B. 1448-Robert which would allow communities to assess themselves for library services; City Library Issue on June 7 Ballot — Measure T — establishing homework centers at several branch libraries as part of a crime prevention effort.

The files had only two newsletters from 1995 and none from 1996 so there is not any data from that period.

Feb. 1997 — Page 1 headline celebrates passage of Measure P thanks to Libraries for Our Future Committee, a (group including the Friends of SPL). The measure won in Sacramento City and lost narrowly in the county. There were 2242 Friends members at this time, according to another item in the newsletter.

May 1997 — Libraries for Our Futures citizens committee collaborates with Friends and Foundation to plan campaign for county tax measure to restore library cuts.

July 1997 — Letters to Gov. Wilson sought to approve augmented Public Library Foundation (PLF) appropriation to restore lost state funding to libraries.

December 1997 — Friends Board of Directors vote to allocate $10,000 to Libraries for Our Future (LFOF) for a campaign on behalf of a November 1998 ballot measure to restore lost funding for libraries in the county outside the city of Sacramento.

Jan. 1998 — Story: "LFOF Maps County Funding Cure"

Feb. 1998 — Story: "LFOF Urges Campaign Support"

April 1998 — Story: "Campaign Consultant Tests the Waters for Funding Hike"...Sacramento firm will work with library personnel...survey 400 county voters on their views on additional library services and willingness to tax themselves; total cost of surveys is $19,000.

June 1998 — Story: Poll Results Encouraging for Libraries — 67.8% would support a parcel fee to improve library services in Sacramento County.

Sept. 1998 — Story: "County Library Tax Try Postponed" because there were two other revenue proposals on the ballot and they were afraid that all three would be jeopardized.

December 1998 — Story: Friends Board votes to contribute $10,000 to LFOF In 1999 for 2000 county
initiative and to seek an additional $10,000 from Friends Affiliates.

June 1999 – Story: Friends President Diane Gin urged members to voice their support for a $1 billion library bond issue by calling the Office of the Chair of the state Senate Appropriations Committee...

January 2000 – Story: Library ballot measure plan spurred – now pull by consultants.

March 2000 – Story: Prop. 14 could enhance local libraries – statewide ballot measure on March 7 would provide $350 million in statewide bond money for local libraries. [Note: measure was approved by 59% of voters.]

June 2000 – Story: “County Library Funding Measure Set for Supervisor.”

Sept. 2000 – Story: “Funding measure approved for ballot.”

Oct. 2000 – Story: “Nov. 7 vote could be giant step forward for county libraries.”

Nov. 2000 – Story: “Funding measures on Nov. 7 ballot can help county libraries play ‘catch-up.’”

Dec. 2000 – Story: “We’re not dead yet! – LFOF! Chair – Measure P failed by less than 1%. It got 66% of the votes – up from 58% 4 years earlier.”

Jan. 2001 – Story: “Funding spotlight rests on supervisors” – Libraries for: Our Futures says “library supporters should pack the Board of Supervisors chamber” for public hearings to demonstrate public support for additional funding.

October 2001 – Story: “More Hours for County Libraries” – “Libraries in unincorporated areas of Sacramento County get $500,000 in new funding to boost hours and staffing... Thank you to all of you who wrote to your supervisor or attended meetings in support of this much-needed funding.”

Nov. 2002 – Story: “Ballot Measures will Affect Libraries – VSPFL urges you to vote YES on Measures G and H, and NO on Measure T.”

March/April 2004 – Story: “Sacramento Residents Show Strong Support for Library Funding” – Library Director Anne Marie Gold summaries results of poll showing that 80% of City voters favor extending parcel tax. Mixed results in various parts of county.


Nov. 2004 – Story: “Yes on Measure X.”

Jan. 2005 – Stories: “Library Receives Grant ($7 million for NNT);””Passes Measure X.”

May 2006 – Story: “Vote YES on Proposition 81 – Californians for Literacy & Community Libraries.” [Note: this proposition failed.]

May 2007 – Story on Legislative Lobby Day with focus on obtaining support for SB 156, a $4 billion library construction and renovation bond measure.

This short history shows that advocacy has played an important and ongoing role in the life of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. Given current budget issues at the city, county, and state level, the time is here again to sharpen our advocacy skills and step up to the challenges that lie ahead in making sure that there is adequate funding for all our libraries.

Late in 2011, the Friends of Sacramento Public Library established the Library Education and Advocacy Committee (LEAC), chaired by Pauline Grenbeaux, for the purpose of continuing the important purpose of educating the public about the Sacramento Public Library and advocating on behalf of the library with voters and elected officials. Twenty people attended an advocacy training session at North Natomas Library on March 10. A second session will be held on Saturday, May 5, from 1 to 4 pm at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 7340 24th Street Bypass, Sacramento, 95822. For further information, please contact Pauline Grenbeaux at pggrenbeaux@sbcglobal.net.
RUSSIAN STANDARD
VODKA

The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

PRESENT

The 13th Annual

BEST MARTINI

in the

EAST BAY CONTEST

Monday, June 18, 2012
Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Admission: $25.00 at the door
Includes 2 drink tickets
Must be 21 to attend – ID will be required for all guests
Additional parking available at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane (1st lot, 3/10 mile from hotel)
cce.lib.org/psc or call (925) 927-3250

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GENERATIONS IN JAZZ

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO

PROJECT SECOND CHANCE

A Contra Costa County Library Program helping adults learn to read
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 24, 2012
AGENDA ITEM #: 9
ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None