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.
100th Birthday Celebration
Schedule of Events
12:00-5:00 pm
July 21, 2013
Pleasant Hill Park
147 Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill

Thanks to our Sponsors
Friends of the Danville Library
San Ramon Library Foundation
Friends of the Brentwood Library
Friends of the Antioch Library
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Outdoor Main Stage</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>DVC Rock Rhythm &amp; Blues</td>
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<td>1:00-1:30</td>
<td>Presentation of Joint Legislative Resolution Honoring the Contra Costa County Library</td>
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<td>2:00-4:00</td>
<td>DVC Rock Rhythm &amp; Blues</td>
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<td>4:00-4:30</td>
<td>The Breeedloves Music Performance</td>
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<td>Diablo Taiko</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>Thomas John Juggling Americana</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Music Performance by Mariachi Monumental</td>
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<td>2:00-2:30</td>
<td>Maori Mo Ake Tonu Dance Troupe</td>
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<td>2:30-3:00</td>
<td>Lindsay Wildlife Museum Presentation: Bubo, the Great Horned Owl</td>
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<td>3:00-4:00</td>
<td>Music Performance by Antioch Music Academy</td>
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<td>4:00-4:30</td>
<td>Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Esther Torres Traditional Dance</td>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Outdoor Demonstrations</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Concord Kung Fu Academy</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>The Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps Flag Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Concord Kung Fu Academy</td>
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Teen Center: Outdoor Courtyard
12:00-5:00 Bricks 4 Kidz Legos© Program

Teen Center: Class Room
1:00-5:00 Meet the animals of the Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Teen Center: Authors & Storytellers
1:30-2:30 Deborah Rose Children's Author
2:30-3:00 Joy Koonin Crazy Quilt of a 1913's Tale
3:30-4:00 Joy Koonin Crazy Quilt of a 1913's Tale

Teen Center: Crafts and Activities
12:00-5:00 Come get crafty with the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Summer Reading Festival, and the Friends of the Lafayette Library

Need help finding something? Ask a volunteer with a pink armband.
County Library 100th Birthday Celebration
Presentation of Joint Legislative Resolution
Honoring the Contra Costa County Library

Sunday, July 21, 2013

1:00 p.m. – Main Stage

Introduction: Barbara L. Flynn
County Librarian

Welcome: Michael G. Harris
Mayor, City of Pleasant Hill

Presentation: Mark DeSaulnier
Senator, 7th Senate District

Representative from Office of George Miller
11th Congressional District

Representative from Office of Assemblmemberson Joan Buchanan
16th Assembly District

Representative from State Library
Karen Mitchoff
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District 4

... and more
Public input sought

SURVEY: System seeks countywide feedback on new strategic plan

Librarians and community members are encouraged to participate in the library's strategic plan process by providing feedback through an online survey.

Librarian Patrick Reimer entertains a group of parents and children during the Storytime program Friday at the Pleasant Hill branch of the Contra Costa County Library system. The system’s online survey can be completed through July 31.

By Theresa Harrington
tharrington@bayareanewsgroup.com

PLEASANT HILL — After librarian Patrick Reimer led young children and parents through stories, songs and other activities Friday, many of them said attending the popular Storytime program is one of their favorite things to do.

"Storytime has been a really great thing for us," said Heather Freeling, a 36-year-old Lafayette resident who brings her 4-year-old son, Sammy, to the Pleasant Hill library program about four times a week. "He asks for it every day.

As the Contra Costa County library system embarks on a new strategic plan to decide its future priorities, the Freelings hope Storytime remains a staple. In addition, Heather Freeling said the feeling of community she and her son get in Pleasant Hill is more important to her than fancier library buildings in other cities.

"My biggest concern is that they prioritize the staff — making sure the staff has an incentive to stay — and not the building," she said. "I think a big mistake is when libraries focus on buildings, and they don’t remember what a library is really meant to be, which is community and books. We sometimes have as many as 60 books out." Other parents at the library said they would like more bilingual programs and a larger variety of books by authors from other countries.

Lori Gannon, 65, of Danville, whose 2-year-old grandson lives in Concord, said her family doesn’t attend Storytime in his hometown because it is held around 1 p.m., which is nap time.

The library's last strategic plan was created in 2006, said Gail McPartland, deputy county librarian. At that time, many cities were assessing their library needs with an eye toward expanding their facilities or building new structures. This time around, McPartland said the library is focusing more on getting countywide feedback through an online survey, 28 community meetings and one-on-one interviews with city and business leaders, among others.

McPartland said the library is focusing more on getting countywide feedback through an online survey, 28 community meetings and one-on-one interviews with city and business leaders, among others.

McPartland and Laura Seeholm, the adult literacy program manager for Project Second Chance, are on a team of library employees that has developed an ambitious strategic plan mission statement.

"Our vision is to lead California in providing easy, equitable access to library services, advancing literacy and reading, and developing technological innovation," Seeholm said.

Last year, the county library system was awarded a National Medal for Museum and Library Service for its innovative services. These include a smartphone app for downloading e-books; a partnership that provides free or low-cost passes to local museums; library kiosks at BART stations; workshops; fairs and a tutoring program that helps illiterate adults learn how to read.

But library administrators don’t want the system and its 27 branches to rest on their laurels. Instead, those developing the plan want to ensure that libraries remain relevant and useful to the community, Seeholm said.

The library system wants answers to these questions:

- Are we meeting your needs?
- What are those needs?
- What can we do better?

The online survey, which can be completed through July 31, asks what the library should focus on as its priorities and the reasons patrons use it. It also asks community members to rate services, programs and materials.

By Wednesday, the library had already received 1,600 responses, McPartland said.

"Even if someone isn’t a library user, their input is still valuable," Seeholm said. "We want to know: What do they think our services should be?"

MORE INFORMATION

Additional details about the Contra Costa County library system, including the strategic plan online survey, are available by calling 800-984-4636 or going to www.ccpl.org. To see videos about the library and survey, along with statistics about growth in circulation and library visits since 2002, go to www.contracostatimes.com.
Library Survey: Give Us Your 2¢

Contra Costa County Library is asking for your input on its services in order to better serve the needs of the community. Your feedback will help us greatly as we work on our new strategic plan.

The link to the brief online survey, which runs until July 31, is cclib.org/mylibrary. Please share the survey link with family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues so they can voice their opinions too.

Town Hall Meetings

Contribute to the future of Contra Costa County Library as we shape our new strategic plan! This summer and fall, each community will be hosting a town hall meeting where residents and stakeholders can share their vision and voice their opinions on the Library and what its priorities and goals should be. For dates, times, and locations of the Town Hall Meetings, please see our events calendar. If your city or town is not yet listed, it will be as soon as the dates are confirmed!

Achievement Award for Library’s Veterans Connect

Contra Costa County Library received a 2013 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for Veterans Connect, a library project that connected county veterans with critical information resources. These resources included Welcome Home events staffed by the County Veterans Service Officer; job recruiters from Google, the FBI, and the County Sheriff’s; library cards to homeless veterans; library books; and a library subject guide.
Talking encouraged
On the record: County residents champion libraries in interviews

Library
Continued from Page 1

grounds,” said Laura Macdonald, the library’s adult
literacy program manager.
“The common thread is
that each pair believes in
the power of libraries and
knows that they can — and
do — make a positive difference
in our community.”
Participants included
teachers, retirees, veterans,
volunteers, adults learning to
read, people influencing
in new libraries, a mother and son, librarians
and foundation members.
Jason Delich, a 92-year-
old member of a Concord
veterans group, talked to
librarian Chris Brown about
veteran programs they
toured up on, paid for with a
library grant.
Delich said libraries
are an excellent vehicle for
reaching veterans in non-
military settings all over
America.
“I fell like I had stumbled
onto some secret back door
to city government,” Delich
said. “We had a ‘Welcome
Home’ event at the
Orinda Library. It was an
amazing, peaceful place.”
Gary Fokorony, who lives
in 10 Cerrito and was a city
manager of Walnut Creek
where the library was built,
talked with Tom Panas
about their effort to raise
money and support for
a new EL Cerrito Library

By Theresa Harrington
tharrington@bayareaunmgrp.com
PLEASANT HILL — To
many people in Contra
Costa County, the local library is like
a home away from home.
Eighteen pairs of friends
and colleagues who treasure
their local libraries talked about
the importance of these
communities hubs last
week for the national
StoryCorps program, which
will archive these interviews in
the Library of Congress. The
county library system is one
of several throughout the country
that could be included in the StoryCorps
project, which began because it won
a 2012 National Medal for Museum
and Library Service.
“The pairs come from all
counties and represent
library patrons in different
distances and with different
interests,” said Natalie Hill, 15,
who is president of the Pleasant Hill Teen
Advisory Group works with Dean Shim, 19, of Pleasant Hill, a former
group member, on organizing how they want to make a poster in both
Japanese and English to promote a library event.

See LIBRARY, Page 5

Natalie Hill, the 15-year-old president of the Pleasant Hill Library
Teen Advisory Group, worked with
Dean Shim, a former
member of the teen group
who is now in college.
But they were working with
other teens this week to
present a community-wide
multicultural “World Party”
on Saturday.
“Whene I’m working in
the teen advisory group, I
just feel like I’m in my ele-
ment,” said Natalie, who
is considering becoming a
librarian. “To me, this is
what I want to do with my
life — educate children and
make them feel like they

MORc INFORMATION
Details about StoryCorps are
available by calling 1-800-855-
4406 or by visiting http://sto-
rycorps.org.
To see videos of Pleasant Hill’s
Natalie Hill talking about why
the library is important to her,
along with a sampling of other
Contra Costa County library
StoryCorps discussions, go to
News Release:
Art Passages Launches Library Exhibit

Date: June 20, 2013
Contact: Betsy Burkhart, County PIO, 925-313-1180
betsy.burkhart@contracostatv.org

Contra Costa Libraries: A 21st Century Look at Our County’s Libraries
Black and White Photography Exhibit features Artist Philip Liborio Gangi

Tuesday, July 9, 2013, will mark the opening of a new photography show highlighting the 26 library buildings in Contra Costa County as the Library continues to celebrate its 100th birthday.

Photographer Philip Liborio Gangi was asked to document the many library buildings throughout the County in less than three weeks. Having been a documentary and street photographer most of his life, the idea of photographing buildings was something different and challenging. Gangi wanted to make it interesting and make an artistic statement, breathing life into the images of buildings. “By shooting in black and white, I was able to give the images a more archival feel to them, something that exists now and will keep on going,” Gangi said.

County Librarian Barbara Flynn noted that the photographs showcase the range and diversity of the Library branches. “The pictures reflect the personalities of the communities where we have brought people and ideas together in our branches countywide,” Flynn noted. “We are excited to have this exhibit run during the celebration of our 100th birthday. From the oldest buildings to the newest, each one has been a home to learning and exploring.”

The public is invited to see the new Art Passages exhibit in the lobby of the Contra Costa County administration building at 651 Pine Street in Martinez. The exhibit opens on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. with a reception and an opportunity to meet the photographer. It will run through August 30, 2013. For more information, visit www.AC5.org, or call the Arts and Cultural Commission of Contra Costa County at 925-646-2278.
El Cerrito Library boosters seek increase in open hours

By Rick Radin  Correspondent  Postec:  05/30/2013 09:53:46 AM PDT  Updated:  05/30/2013 09:53:46 AM PDT

EL CERRITO — A committee working on a plan for a new library in El Cerrito is also pushing the city to provide funding in its 2013-14 budget to keep the current 65-year-old library open more hours per week.

The El Cerrito library is now tied for second to last in hours open for the 18 city-owned branches in the Contra Costa County Library system with 35 hours per week.

Cities get a baseline rate from the county, but can pay extra to keep their libraries open more hours per week.

El Cerrito will consider a proposed 2013-14 budget at the June 4 City Council meeting, with a final budget due at the end of the month.

The New Library Committee wants money for more library hours in the budget.

"Of the 18 libraries, 12 cities fund additional hours and El Cerrito is one of the six that don't fund additional hours," said Tom Panas, a member of the El Cerrito's New Library Committee. "This really ought to change. It's embarrassing."

The libraries in Danville and Orinda are open longest at 60 hours per week, while Antioch, Moraga, Pittsburg and Martinez match El Cerrito's 35 hours. Pinole trails with 24 open hours per week, according to figures provided by the New Library Committee.

The committee is proposing three alternatives, including keeping the library open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, when it is now closed all day, at a cost of $118,027 per year.

A second plan would allocate $25,585 annually to keep it open on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

A third option would add two more evening hours to Thursday's schedule, keeping it open until 8 p.m., at a cost of $26,867.

"Evenings serve working adults well, as they are often busy on weekends with sports, family activities, etc.," according to the committee report.

Former City Manager Gary Pokorny, a New Library Committee member, said he thinks increasing current library hours needs to be a priority.

"They have to find some money in the new budget to increase the hours," Pokorny said. "It's now dark on Wednesday and Sunday."

City Manager Scott Hanin said he would decline comment until the proposed budget is released.

Hanin has told the City Council that money for new programs will be extremely tight again in the next fiscal year.

"The public has spoken out about additional library hours," said Mayor Greg Lyman. "I'm sure it's something that is going to be discussed (June 4)."

According to a 2012 county library report, the El Cerrito branch has 9,805 cardholders, 42 percent of whom are city residents, and more than 11,000 visitors each month.

About 180,000 items are checked out each year and volunteers supplemented library staff by donating 1,114 hours of service in 2012, including such activities as leading book clubs and doing computer tutoring.

The push to increase hours comes at a time when the El Cerrito branch, along with the rest of the county system, is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The El Cerrito Library anniversary party will feature a historical slide show and refreshments from 7 to 9 p.m. June 14.

The slide show will recount the library's founding in 1917 in the city's post office by Fay Breneman, the daughter of a local doctor.

"She got 50 books to start, and she could order new books," Panas said.

A citizens' group moved the library into a home on Fairmount Avenue in 1925, where it remained until the current library opened in 1948 at 6510 Stockton Ave.

The library was remodeled once, in 1960, Panas said.

LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY PARTY  When: 7 to 9 p.m. June 14
Where: El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.
Library to Open on Sundays
By Sophie Braccini

Starting this fall the Moraga library will add an extra afternoon to its hours of operation. The new hours, from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday, are made possible by a donation from the Friends of the Moraga Library, supplemented by the town of Moraga. The group views the new hours as a gift to the whole community—Moraga is the only library in Lamorinda to be closed on Sunday and, according county statistics, Sunday is a very popular day to spend time at your public library.

"We always assumed that it would be too expensive for us to fund additional hours for the library," says Friends' president Nancy Hom, "but when I asked the county how much it would cost to add four hours every week their answer was '25,000 a year.' The board discussed it and we decided to go for it."

The Friends of the Moraga Library is a volunteer group that counts 400 household members. They raise money through membership dues and the popular book sale they hold on a regular basis. The Friends fund programs at the library, buy books, and now will also support four hours of staff time per week. Hom came to the Town Council meeting June 26 to ask the town to pick up the tab for incidental costs, such as utilities, amounting to $4,500 a year; $3,750 for the first partial year.

This was the meeting at which the Town Council would give final approval to the town budget. On the table for the council’s decision were two extras: a proposed $3,000 bump in support of the Spirit Van; and the request for $3,750 from the Friends of the Moraga Library. Council members Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth argued that both should be approved. The other three council members preferred to not raise the town's contribution to the Spirit Van from $9,000 to $12,000 per year. The council approved $3,750 for the Friends.

"It will take about six weeks for the county to organize staffing for the additional hours," said Hom. "We plan to start the Sunday program in September. We believe that these afternoon hours will be used by residents of all ages. On hot days it can be a welcome cool break to read a book or a magazine; it will be a great destination for families on rainy Sunday afternoons, to come and borrow a movie, read together, etcetera."

"I will present a report to the Town Council before the next budget cycle," said Hom. "The continuation of the program will depend on how well attended the Sundays are." In 2012 the Moraga library had 102,000 individual visits that resulted in the borrowing of 192,000 books and materials, a big number for a little library.

The Moraga library is currently open Tuesday through Saturday; daily hours vary, visit ccdlib.org/locations/moraga. html for details.

Reach the reporter at: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
Library Community - Unite!

A clarion call to ACTION was sounded to library advocates at the CPLA workshops in Whittier (March 2) and San Mateo (March 16).

Keynote speaker John Christka (founder of everylibrary.org – a super PAC for libraries) urged the library community literally and figuratively to "Walk Your Precinct". Your library director brings trust and legitimacy. Hone your message so that it resonates with the public such as the library as an educational partner, engine for economic development, and as a social leveler. Always include your natural partners such as business and labor unions, educators and the entire library community including everylibrary.org. Bottom line – winning (without whining) is a team effort for campaigns and in your state capitol and at city hall.

Acting State Librarian Gerald Maginnity talked about a library’s core functions which include: Collect, Preserve, Connect and Create. He stressed that state budget cut backs and the Federal “Sequester” are having a serious negative impact on the State Library’s ability to assist local libraries with financial support and grants.

"Promises Made – Promises Kept" was the theme of Community Relations Coordinator Ann Miller from the Solano County Library at the San Mateo workshop. In 2012, the 1/8 cent sales tax was renewed by the voters for the three library jurisdictions in Solano County which includes Benicia and Dixon Public Libraries by 80%. Since it was first passed, the library has reported annually to the voters how their tax money has been invested in enhanced library services. To win passage took, friends, leadership and money. She reported that data shows voters’ attitudes can be influenced by: a passionate librarian, the transformational power of the library and only marginally by whether the voter is a library user or not. Ann concluded with “Social networks are not always about technology”. Make use of all your library supporters to help campaign and get the message out.

CLA President Derek Wolfram reported that local advocacy efforts will focus this year on “Spring in the District”. Library supporters are encouraged to meet with their legislators as a team. Advocacy efforts will include supporting the $5.0 million funding for Literacy and CLSA (California Library Services Act); along with SCA7 (Senator Lois Wolk’s proposed constitutional amendment to lower the voter approval threshold for library measures from 2/3 to 55%). Additionally, CLA is asking support for SCR 14 (Senate Concurrent Resolution) also sponsored by Senator Wolk which celebrates “National Library Week”. Lastly, support is requested for SB 331 (Senator Carol Liu) which would help all libraries have high speed internet connectivity. Funding for PLF (Public Library Foundation) and TBR (Transaction Based Reimbursement) is not in this year’s budget “ask”. However, they could be in future years’ as they remain part of the CLSA. Derek further stated that the old fashioned method of writing letters to our legislators is still the best way to communicate and show support for the important library issues. Normally, it only takes 30 letters on a given subject to get a legislator’s attention. Imagine what would happen if all members of CLA and CPLA were to write letters?

There was truly a clear call to action at both workshops. Library supporters must work together, “make some noise” and let our officials know that libraries remain as important and relevant as ever.

Written by Alan B. Smith
Contra Costa County Library

Annual Book Giveaway

Used books no longer needed in the collection available to you! While supplies last!

August 12 - August 14, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Open to general public August 16 though August 31*, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(*not open Sundays)

Located at the
Contra Costa County Library Administration
Shipping and Receiving Area
75 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

For more information please contact Library Administration at
(925) 646-6423
or libadmin@ccclib.org

Visit us online at ccclib.org

1913 - 2013
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100 Years of Bringing People and Ideas Together

Books will be sorted into Children's and Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction

Large Selection of paperbacks & hard cover books in all subjects

Please bring your own boxes or bags

This notice is being sent to you at your request, or at the request of someone at your establishment or organization. To make changes to contact information, please email libadmin@ccclib.org
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 25, 2013

AGENDA ITEM #: 9

ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None
May 29 2013

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair Senate Budget Finance Committee
State Capitol,
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Budget Item 6120: State Library – Assembly Version

Dear Senator Leno,

On behalf of the residents of Contra Costa County, I am writing to request that you support Budget Item 6120: State Library – Assembly Version. The Assembly version allocates slightly more than the 2012-13 budget and totals $5 million.

These funds help support critically needed programs throughout California's 183 public libraries, including:

- Literacy programs for over 20,000 adults learning to read at their public library. These programs enable Californians to obtain better jobs and thus improve the economy.
- Improve internet connectivity to many libraries; this will be vital as residents start to use the new exchange to obtain health insurance which can only be done online. For many, the public library is the only place they have access to public computers.

Thank you for your longtime strong support of libraries and education. Over 1,000,000 California residents use their libraries each day. Again, on behalf of the residents of Contra Costa County, please support Budget Item 6120. Thank you.

Best regards,

Shirley S. Peck, Ph.D.
Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission

CC: The Honorable Bill Emerson, Vice Chair Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Chair Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Jeff Gorell, Vice Chair Assembly Budget Committee
Federal Glover, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, Contra Costa County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commissioners
Barbara Flynn, Contra Costa County Librarian