



whatcom county  
library system

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING  
Whatcom County Library System  
January 17, 2023**

Via Zoom and Lynden Library  
216 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lynden, WA 98264

**WCLS Vision:** *An engaged community where curiosity is cultivated, literacy flourishes and democratic ideals thrive.*

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1. 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order.** Quorum determined. Land Acknowledgement.

*We are on the ancestral territory of the Lummi and Nooksack people. They are the original inhabitants of this place. They are fishers, hunters, gatherers and harvesters of nature's abundance, and have been so since time immemorial. We are neighbors and friends, and we are grateful for our numerous opportunities to learn, live and grow together, building lasting relationships so that all may prosper.*

2. 9:05 a.m. **Open Public Comment Opportunity**

*This period is set aside for persons wishing to address the Board. Each person may have up to three minutes for this purpose. Written comments may be submitted to [Em.Olpinski@wcls.org](mailto:Em.Olpinski@wcls.org) prior to the meeting.*

3. 9:15 a.m. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Meeting Minutes
- b. Expenditures
- c. Warrant and Paycheck Voids

4. 9:20 a.m. **Birch Bay Library Update**

5. 9:50 a.m. **Levy Lid Lift Planning**

6. 10:20 a.m. **Trustee Education Planning**

7. 10:30 a.m. **BREAK**

8. 10:40 a.m. **Financial Report and Resolutions**

- a. Finance Committee Report
- b. Small Public Works project award

10. 11:00 a.m. **Staff Reports**

- a. Executive Director
- b. Deputy Director
- c. Youth Services Manager
- d. Community Relations Manager

11. 11:20 a.m. **Performance Measures and Committee Reports**

- a. Performance Measures
- b. IT Services Committee
- c. Personnel Committee
- d. Whatcom County Library Foundation

12. 11:30 a.m. **Announcements and Adjourn**

*Board of Trustees Meetings are open to the public in accordance with RCW 42.30. The Board is currently holding meetings with options for in-person or remote participation. Persons wishing to be provided with an internet link or telephone number to access the meeting are asked to please email [Em.Olpinski@wcls.org](mailto:Em.Olpinski@wcls.org) before 4:00 p.m. Monday, January 16, 2023. Written comments may be submitted to [Em.Olpinski@wcls.org](mailto:Em.Olpinski@wcls.org) prior to the meeting.*



## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/17/2023
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Consent Agenda – Board Meeting Minutes, Monthly Expenditures
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Approval of consent agenda items

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** Move approval of consent agenda items as presented

**Summary:**

Meeting Minutes:

- December 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- December 1-15, 2022 payroll: check nos. 1032527833-1032527838 and voucher nos. 553515-553661 totaling \$206,545.09 and December 16-31, 2022 payroll: check nos. 1032761396-1032761400 and voucher nos. 553669-553816 totaling \$198,231.42
- ACH transactions for employee benefits and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$79,416.07; \$27,900.76 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2022-42G: warrant nos. 1159005-1159033 totaling \$103,751.08
- Claim 2022-43G: warrant nos. 1159297-1159322 totaling \$43,454.91
- Claim 2022-44G: warrant nos. 1159563-1159586 totaling \$262,505.28

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2022-23C: warrant no. 1159034 totaling \$945.00
- Claim 2022-24C: warrant no. 1159093 totaling \$727.62
- Claim 2022-25C: warrant no. 1159587 totaling \$1,149.00

Authorization to Void Warrant:

- Resolution 01/17/23-01 voiding warrant 1154030

Authorization to Void and Reissue Paychecks:

- Resolution 01/17/23-02 to reissue paychecks 1030185257 and 1030386038

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** Expenditures for approval paid from available 2022 budgeted funds.

**Comments:** The Finance Committee has reviewed the General and Capital Fund claims listed above. They reviewed that there were no General Journal entries done in September, October or November.

## Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

December 20, 2022

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### Location

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This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Zoom and in-person attendance at Ferndale Public Library, 2125 Main Street, Ferndale, WA 98248.

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### In Attendance

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**Trustees:** Marvin Waschke, Chair; Lori Jump, Vice Chair; Erika Lautenbach, Secretary; Matthew Santos and Rodney Lofdahl. Absent: None.

**Staff:** Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Geoff Fitzpatrick, IT Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager; Jennifer Rick, Foundation Development Director; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Dana Pallas, Payroll Specialist; Em Olpinski, Administrative Assistant; Neil McKay, Online Experience Coordinator; Sam Wallin, Mobile Services-Distribution Manager; Dianne Mars-Smith, Lynden Manager; Alix Prior, Ferndale Manager; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager; Barry McHale, Public Services Assistant-Mobile Services

**Guests:** Holly Robinson

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### Call to Order

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Marvin determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by a reading of the WCLS Land Acknowledgement.

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### Open Public Comment

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No public comment.

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### Service Anniversary Recognition

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The Board recognized Dana Pallas, Payroll Specialist, for her ten-year service anniversary. Jackie shared that Dana started at WCLS as an Administrative Assistant and then took on payroll duties two years later. In 2016 she transitioned to working solely as Payroll Specialist. Jackie has greatly enjoyed working with Dana and commented that she is very reliable. WCLS employees are able to reach out to her with questions on a multitude of subjects. Dana also brings humor and fun to the workplace, such as with her 'payroll pets' timesheet reminders.

Christine noted that Dana was her first assistant when she started her position as Executive Director with WCLS. As an assistant Dana was thoughtful and proactive. Christine said that Dana manages her work artfully and with grace and kindness.

Dana thanked Jackie and Christine for their remarks. The past 10 years with WCLS have been the best years of her career. She is also thankful that WCLS has helped her make her position work remotely so she can live close to her family.

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## Consent Agenda

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The Consent Agenda included minutes of the November 15, 2022 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as well as the following:

### Expenditures:

#### General Fund:

- November 1-15, 2022 Payroll: Nos. 1032124666, (Voucher Nos. 553201-553349) Totaling \$205,305.43 and November 16-30, 2022 Payroll: Nos. 1032318107-1032318104, (Voucher Nos. 553357-553507) Totaling \$195,483.16
- ACH transactions for employee benefits and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$96,046.66; \$27,809.52 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2022-37G: Warrant Nos. 1156712-1156728 Totaling \$44,981.64
- Claim 2022-38G: Warrant Nos. 1157003-1157014 Totaling \$24,529.31
- Claim 2022-39G: Warrant Nos. 1157633-1157647 Totaling \$94,768.50
- Claim 2022-40G: Warrant Nos. 1158036-1158068 Totaling \$102,399.52
- Claim 2022-41G: Warrant Nos. 1158338-1158359 Totaling \$98,653.60

#### Capital Fund:

- Claim 2022-19C: Warrant No. 1156729 Totaling \$299.74
- Claim 2022-20C: Warrant No. 1157648 Totaling \$3,736.93
- Claim 2022-21C: Warrant No. 1158069 Totaling \$3,858.50
- Claim 2022-22C: Warrant No. 1158360 Totaling \$5,477.12

### Authorization to Void Warrant

- Resolution 12/20/22-15 voiding warrant 1557640

***Lori moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded. Unanimous board approval.***

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## Financial Report and Resolutions: Finance Committee Report

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Jackie reviewed her financial report, including the November Notes and Highlights section. WCLS has received 99% of its property tax levy, and she has no concerns about collecting the full levy. WCLS's 2022 revenues have been mostly as expected. There has been a small increase in revenue from rents and leases, which represents an increase in library meeting rooms being reserved for commercial events. Jackie commented that this is a sign that people are visiting libraries again.

Most 2022 expenditures have also been as predicted. As of November, there is \$1.8 million left unspent in the 2022 budget. By the end of the year, we will likely come close to breaking even.

Jackie recently attended a Department of Retirement System (DRS) webinar discussing Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) contribution rates. With an updated system of funding, there will be no more supplemental charges to PERS Plan 2 and 3 to accommodate a PERS Plan 1 deficit. This will result in a significant decrease in the cost of PERS contributions by WCLS over the next two to four years. Marvin commented that he is relieved by this funding update and is glad less of the onus will be falling on WCLS and its employees.

Jackie then presented the final Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. At November's meeting, the preliminary 2023 budget was approved. Since then, some minor adjustments have been made. The beginning general fund balance has been updated based on year-end projections for 2022. Budgeted revenues in 2023 have increased by about \$42,000 as a result of delayed COVID-19 Non-grant Assistance Funding from FEMA. This, combined with an increase of approximately \$10,000 in expenses, has decreased the projected deficit in 2023 by about \$32,000.

Wages have also been adjusted in the 2023 budget, decreasing spending by about \$25,000. Retirement costs have also decreased, while contributions to employee healthcare plans have increased by about \$11,500 as a

result of coverage changes made during the recent open enrollment period. The amount budgeted for small tools and equipment has also decreased, though some purchases currently being made could be carried over to 2023.

Jackie then reviewed the insurance section of the budget. Following the discussion at November's meeting, flood insurance for all WCLS locations has been added to the 2023 budget. Premiums for the relevant policies come to about \$15,000. Many premiums for other insurance policies did not go up as much as expected, although WCLS's deductible for property insurance increased.

Jackie is still waiting on a quote for cyber insurance in 2023, as Philadelphia Insurance Companies declined to renew our policy. Lori asked if it would be possible to use Whatcom County's cyber insurance. Jackie responded no, because WCLS is a separate organization from the county government. Jackie also recently received L&I rates for 2023, and rates have gone down as a result of having no claims for the past five years.

The 2023 budget will be amended in February once it is clear how the 2022 fiscal year closes. Adjustments will be made in the appropriate areas based on any carry-over expenses. The 2023 Schedules of Fines and Fees is also included in the 2023 budget. No changes have been made to the 2022 schedules, and approval of these schedules is included in the motion to approve the 2023 budget.

***Rod moved to approve Resolution 12/20/22-16, adopting the 2023 General and Capital Fund Budgets, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously***

Jackie then reviewed WCLS's preliminary Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Because of many unforeseen obstacles encountered in 2022, some projects originally planned for 2022 have been delayed. This has resulted in many projects being shifted forward to 2023. Despite the challenges WCLS faced in 2022, several projects included in the 2022 plan were seen to completion, such as updating Island Library's exterior sign and installing a holds pickup box at this library.

Several building and furnishing enhancement projects are currently planned for 2023, including: finishing updates to Sumas Library, updating the circulation and staff work areas at North Fork Library, updating the staff work area at Island Library, and completing updates to teen areas at several libraries, as advocated for by Tamar Clarke, Teen Services Coordinator.

Building repair and maintenance projects scheduled for 2023 include a LED lighting retrofit at Deming Library and installing a backup generator at Administrative Services. Facilities projects for future years are currently less detailed than for 2023. Jackie noted that WCLS is aiming to hire a Facilities Department Head in the next few months who will help shape the plan in more detail. Projects aiming to improve access to WCLS services in 2023 include an expansion of WCLS's library express model. A library express is included in the updates planned for Sumas Library.

Over the next few years, the replacement of several small and midsize vehicles is planned. Reduced use of vehicles throughout the pandemic has extended the replacement date for many vehicles.

In 2023 funds will not be transferred from the general fund to the capital fund. This will result in a net deficit in the capital fund, but the capital fund has a sufficient balance, so this should not pose an issue.

Marvin asked if in 2023 it could be decided to transfer funds to the capital fund later in the year. Jackie answered that if there are surplus revenues in 2023, these could be transferred to the capital fund at the end of the year.

***Matthew moved to approve Resolution 12/20/22-17, adopting the 2023 Preliminary Capital Plan, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

Christine thanked Jackie for her work on the 2023 Budget and the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

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### Levy Lid Lift Timing Discussion

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Christine presented a document discussing considerations for various election dates that WCLS could attempt to put a Levy Lid Lift on a ballot. The cost of putting a measure on a ballot will depend on when WCLS chooses to go out to voters. It would be cheaper to have a measure on a ballot during a primary or general election in August

or November than during a special election in February or April because ballots are already sent to the entire county during these elections, with the county covering a significant amount of the cost.

Erika expressed concern about the jail initiative that will potentially be on the ballot in November 2023. She wondered if the County Council would vote to put any other measures on the ballot for that election. Christine responded that WCLS does not need the County Council's vote to have a levy lid lift placed on the ballot, though WCLS should be mindful, as we would like to retain support from the council long term. Discussion followed about how jail initiatives have been historically divisive, and thus, it could be best to avoid having a measure on a ballot at the same time as the jail.

Several points were made by trustees about the importance of expressing a clear need for funding to the public before asking voters to pass a levy lid lift. Marvin noted that to get a measure passed, it is important to show taxpayers what their money will be getting them. Rod noted that it might be difficult to have a levy lid lift passed when WCLS is running a small deficit. Waiting until after 2023 to go to voters could help make WCLS's need for funding clearer.

Jennifer asked Christine if the Foundation could fund a survey to help gauge public opinion on a levy lid lift. Christine responded that she believes this would be allowed, as WCLS has not put anything on a ballot yet. Christine also mentioned that analysis tools could be purchased to help understand voting behavior.

Christine asked the trustees if they are at all interested in putting a measure on a ballot in 2023. Marvin mentioned that the longer the library goes without a levy lid lift, the more difficult conditions will become. Erika commented that waiting a few more years before going to voters could show a positive message of financial constraint. Rod mentioned that a benefit to going out in 2023 is that the levy would be a fresh issue, and WCLS could still garner support during the summer. However, waiting to go to voters until earlier in 2024 could allow time to craft a clear message of need.

Matthew noted that waiting until 2024 could be an appealing option, as it would allow WCLS to gather more information and resources to gain voter support. He also likes idea of going out at the November 2023 election, because it could allow WCLS to test the waters and gain visibility. However, the trustees expressed interest in not running a levy lid lift campaign at the same time as a jail ballot measure if possible. If the jail effort does not succeed in 2023 and is revisited in 2024, it may wind up that a library levy lid lift and a jail bond measure do share a ballot.

The trustees agreed to begin planning for putting a Levy Lid Lift on a ballot in 2024. This would most likely be in August or November 2024. During 2023, work will be done to investigate public opinion and how WCLS could best utilize the funds brought in by a levy lid lift. Erika believes it isn't too early to begin communicating a message of need to the public, even if we're not going out for a vote yet.

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## Break

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Marvin adjourned for a break from 10:24 to 10:30 a.m.

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## Policy Updates

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### **12.31 Political Activities and Expression by WCLS Employees and Trustees**

Christine presented the proposed update to policy 12.31. In the agenda packet, track changes to the policy have been included to show proposed edits, along with comments from WCLS's attorney, Karen Funston.

Christine asked for the Trustees if they have any questions regarding the changes. Marvin asked why Trustees are included in each term of the policy, except for the section regarding an employee having to disclose their relationship with WCLS when making a public endorsement or critique of WCLS services on a social media platform. Christine responded that it is possible that Federal Consumer Protection Laws only apply to employees, but this may just be an oversight. The Board agreed to insert the words "and trustees" into the corresponding section.

***Erika moved to approve the Policy 12.31, Political Activities and Expression by WCLS Employees and Trustees, as amended. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

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#### Trustee Education: Jail Service

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Trustees watched a [video](#) of Neil McKay interviewing Barry McHale about WCLS's Jail Service. The WCLS Jail program has been operating for 50 years. In the video Barry explains how he offers library services to people in the Whatcom County Jail and emphasizes the importance of treating these people with dignity and respect.

Christine and the trustees thanked Barry for the work he is doing. Christine mentioned that conditions in the jail have become even more challenging since she last visited a few years ago. Barry's work area in the jail is very small, COVID-19 restrictions apply, and there are very limited hours that he gets to be in the jail. With WCLS's budget it would be difficult to increase these hours now, but Christine hopes future increases are something the trustees will keep in mind.

Matthew asked how many hours Barry usually spends in the jail a week. With current funding, Barry is in the jail for about eight hours a week. Lori asked if library services are provided to the Whatcom County Juvenile Detention Center. Barry responded that Tamar Clarke leads a book discussion group at the center.

Marvin asked Barry what percentage of the jail population uses library services. Barry responded about 50% of people in the jail directly use library services, but he knows the figure is likely higher because of book-sharing that occurs. Barry will be working with Circulation Specialist Mike Kusick to track materials requests made by people in the jail next year.

Christine asked Barry how long people usually spend in the jail. Barry replied that 60% of people at the jail are pre-trial, and the other 40% are serving a sentence of a year or less post-trial. The pandemic has lengthened many trials and the waiting period pre-trial, thus lengthening the time many people are spending in the jail. Barry served one person for three years before they received a sentence.

Barry shared that he can get jail-clearance for any WCLS trustees or staff who would like to visit. He also thanked Neil for his work editing the video. The complete interview can be heard in episode 29 of the WCLS podcast. He also commented that WCLS could do work towards offering re-entry programs to people who have been incarcerated. He would like to see this conversation continue.

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#### Staff Reports: Executive Director

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Christine shared with the group that Joan Airoidi, former Executive Director of WCLS, passed away on December 3. Messages have been received from people all across the state with stories of Joan's impact. A WCLS podcast episode will be released early next year in her honor. Christine thanked Neil for putting this episode together.

Christine also shared that WCLS is in the early stages of setting up a WiFi hotspot lending pilot program for patrons and is in communication with Bellingham Public Library (BPL) about the services they offer. Lisa has included a limited number of WiFi hotspots in the Collection Services budget for 2023. Katrina Buckman, manager of North Fork Library, is overseeing this project. A number of BPL's WiFi hotspots are being lent to WCLS patrons. Christine noted that she is excited to test the waters with this program and see if WCLS patrons benefit from it. Marvin asked if hotspots will be connected to the same network WCLS uses. Lisa responded that WCLS hotspots will not be set up that way for cybersecurity reasons.

Christine reported that repairs are in full swing at Sumas Library. The drywall and paint are now finished, and floor-coverings are being installed. Shelving installation dates are currently being planned, and a soft-opening of the library is targeted for early 2023.

Connections with UW iSchool are continuing to strengthen. Christine and other WCLS staff members, including Cultural Liaison Public Service Assistants Joshua Olsen and Tashina Villaluz, who represent the Lummi and Nooksack nations, as well as Theresa Morrison and Tamar Clarke, met with Dr. Sandy LittleTree earlier this month to discuss library services for tribal communities. In many areas, WCLS is leading the way among public libraries across the state with this work.

Christine concluded her report by thanking former employees for subbing at AS during staffing shortages in the past few months. She then introduced Sam Wallin, WCLS's new Mobile Services and Distribution Manager.

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#### Staff Reports: Deputy Director

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In Michael's absence, Christine gave a summary of his December report. She mentioned that Mike Caroff's popular program, *Wildlife Photography from a Designer's Perspective*, has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Sudden Valley Community Association Barn.

Christine then shared that following the Staff Diversity Advisory Committee's review of WCLS's Disruptive Behavior Procedure, the document has been updated to include more equitable language.

Christine then spoke more on the experience and expertise Sam Wallin brings to WCLS. While working for Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries he assisted WCLS with many projects, such as helping us plan the Northwest Library Express holds pickup location. Christine is thankful to now have Sam working with WCLS.

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#### Staff Reports: Youth Services Manager

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Thom shared his written report, highlighting Matt Luxon's work painting wintry, story-themed scenes on windows in WCLS libraries. He also noted that it's great to see children and families returning to libraries in large numbers and shared an anecdote about a connection he witnessed being made at a library event between two children who speak different languages. This event represents how library programming can help foster connections between diverse communities.

Thom offered his thanks to Whatcom County Library Foundation's Books Unbound program for providing funding to the Juvenile Detention Center Book Club and recommended the most recent book read by the club, *Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin. Thom then gave a preview of Youth Services' Earth Day programming, which is aiming to uplift feelings of community and belonging.

Marvin commented that Thom runs a marvelous program for the youth of Whatcom County.

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#### Staff Reports: Community Relations Manager

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Mary discussed her written report. She noted that it is Whatcom READS season. Trustees will be receiving a copy of *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter—the 2023 book selection. All 2023 events are posted on WCLS.org. Jess Walter will be in Whatcom County for author events March 2-4. This is 15th season of Whatcom Reads.

Mary further encouraged the group to listen to WCLS's podcast. Episode 28 features Lisa Gresham explaining the lifecycle of a book, and episode 29 centers around WCLS's Jail Service. An episode honoring Joan Airoldi will be released early in 2023.

Marvin asked Mary how much WCLS uses Twitter, and if Twitter collapses, will it impact WCLS? Mary does not believe so. Twitter is not WCLS's primary social media platform. Neil noted that WCLS engages with patrons mostly on Facebook and Instagram, not Twitter. WCLS does connect with authors and the media on Twitter, but not as much as many larger organizations.

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#### Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Performance Measures

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Christine shared that WCLS will likely reach the 2 million mark for total circulation of materials in 2022. Growth in circulation varies across branches. Use of eResources is still down year to date from 2021, primarily with eMagazines and music streaming. Unique users of Overdrive continue to exceed previous years, while use of Kanopy has declined since 2021. Database use also continues to be strong during Youth Services class visits.

WCLS locations are still seeing lower visitation in comparison to 2019 door counts, while physical circulation is much closer to matching pre-pandemic levels. Even with door counts lagging behind pre-pandemic levels, attendance to library activities has increased over the past year.



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## Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

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Rod shared that WCLS Board of Trustees candidate Holly Robinson was interviewed last week, and it was great to get to speak with her. Rod believes she is a strong candidate. More updates will be given soon.

Marvin asked if the update to the 2023 Bargaining Union Contract and Wage and Benefit Agreement discussed at November's meeting has been settled. Christine responded that it has.

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## Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Whatcom County Library Foundation

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Jennifer shared that WCLF's Board is onboarding three new foundation members at the beginning of 2023. Jennifer is excited for the diversity in life experiences that these new members will bring to the board.

Jennifer then shared that Tamar Clarke recently brought to her attention that the Juvenile Detention Center's Lending Library has been looking a bit sparse. With funding from WCLF, Tamar is looking to add 30 new titles to the center's Lending Library.

In the past year, WCLF has experienced a 23% increase in giving, largely because of Branch Out. The Foundation's Board has agreed to transfer \$50,000 to the endowment fund. Marvin asked Jennifer how much money is currently in the endowment fund. Jennifer responded that there is currently about \$227,000 in the WCLF Endowment, along with sub-endowments for each branch totaling about \$57,000. The endowment fund has been growing for about seven years. Marvin is enthusiastic about the endowment fund and its ability to provide a stable source of funding to WCLS in the future.

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## Announcements and Adjourn

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Christine announced the 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule to the trustees. Hosting meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is preferable for both trustees and trustee candidates. Proposed meeting locations can be found in December's agenda packet.

Marvin adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

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## Next Meeting

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Next meeting will be January 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. online via Zoom and at Lynden Library.

Address: Lynden Library 216 4th Street Lynden, WA 98264

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Erika Lautenbach, Secretary	01/17/2023 Date	Em Olpinski, Admin. Assistant



**RESOLUTION NO. 01/17/23-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT  
AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF A WARRANT**

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**WHEREAS**, the following warrant was issued for payment of Interlibrary Loan charges; and,

**WHEREAS**, the payee listed on the warrant is incorrect; and,

**WHEREAS**, the warrant is in the possession of WCLS and has not been redeemed;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Administrative Services and County Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute the cancellation of the warrant shown below.

<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1154030	September 20, 2022	LINCC Libraries in Clackamas County	\$25.00

Adopted by the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023:

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Marvin Waschke, Board Chair

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Date



**RESOLUTION NO. 01/17/23-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT  
AUTHORIZING THE REISSUANCE OF PAYCHECKS**

This page submitted in place of confidential information

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## 2022 Tax Collections

Although fiscal year 2022 is not yet closed, initial reports from the County Treasurer's Office indicate that we collected \$9,408,995 in property tax revenue in 2022, which is approximately \$10,000 shy of our 2022 levy.

## Pending 2023 Budget Amendment

Each February the annual budget is amended to reflect the prior year's final ending fund balance. This year's amendment will also include revenue and expenses budgeted for 2022 that will carry forward into 2023.

## 2022 Debt Write-Off

In accordance with policy 20.13 Write-off of Uncollectable Debts, a summary of debts written off in 2022 is provided below. As WCLS no longer assesses fines for late materials, the charges below are primarily for lost or damaged items.

2022 Debt Write Off		
\$	41,326.78	Removal of debt older than six years
\$	466.69	ConnectEd accounts cleared annually
\$	545.72	Deceased patron accounts cleared
\$	42,339.19	Total

## 2022 Small Works Awards

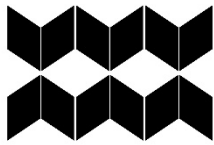
WCLS did not award any projects using the small works roster process in 2022.

## 2022 Incident Report Summary

- Total of 57 incidents reported in 2022, up from 43 in 2021 and 32 in 2020. Pre-pandemic, there were 56 incidents reported in 2019 and 47 reported in 2018.
- Most incidents occurred at Ferndale (23), Administrative Services (13) and Lynden (11).
- Most recurring incidents were damage to WCLS property (12), disruptive behavior (12) and damage to property not owned by WCLS (9).
- Three trespasses were issued in 2022, all of which were related to vandalism and damage at Administrative Services and Ferndale. This is a change from 2021, when three trespasses were issued due to mask enforcement.

	AS	BL	EV	FE	LY	MS	Total
Staff Injury or Medical Event	1				3		4
Vehicle Accident or Incident						1	1
Damage/Theft of Patron Property		1					1
Damage/Theft of WCLS Property	8			3	1		12
Disruptive Behavior			2	8	2		12
Graffiti/Damage to Building not owned by WCLS		1		7	1		9
Harassment/Threat to Individual							0
Harassment/Threat to Staff		2		1			3
Minor Left After Closing							0
Patron Accident/Injury/Illness	2		2	1	3		8
Suspicious Activity/Object	1			1	1	1	4
Other	2			1			3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>57</b>

*No incidents were reported at Deming, Island, North Fork, Point Roberts, South Whatcom or Sumas*



whatcom county  
**library system**

## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/17/2023
Committee or Department:	Facilities
Subject:	Public Works Project Award
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Award Deming Library Lighting Retrofit Small Public Works Project to apparent low bidder.

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** Move to award Deming Library Lighting Retrofit Small Public Works Project to apparent low bidder.

**Summary:**

On December 6, 2023 WCLS issued an Invitation to Bid for the Small Public Works Project known as the Deming Library Lighting Retrofit. Two bids were received in response, with Scott Electric, Inc. selected as the apparent low bidder. Their bid is presented today for approval.

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds have been allocated for this project in the 2023 Capital Budget.

**Comments:** None

## Bid Proposal Form

Bid To: WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM Date: 12-30-2022  
Job Name: DEMING LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT  
Bidder Company Name: Scott Electric Inc  
Contact Name: Randy Gray  
Contact Phone: 360-319-16922 Contact Email: Randy@Scottelectricinc.net

1. This Bid Proposal (this "Bid") is made in connection with the Invitation to Bid (the "Invitation to Bid"), dated December 6, 2022, issued by WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM ("WCLS") for a limited public works project described therein (the "Work") and known by the name Deming Library Lighting Retrofit. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given in the Invitation to Bid.
2. The undersigned, as or on behalf of the bidder (the "Bidder"), proposes and agrees, if this Bid is accepted, to enter into an Agreement with WCLS in accordance with the terms set forth in the Invitation to Bid to perform the Work.
3. Bidder hereby accepts all of the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid governing the procedures for bidding on the Work including, without limitation, requirements pertaining to the provision, retention and return of the Bid Security. Bidder acknowledges that this Bid will not be accepted if it is not accompanied by the Bid Security and Non-Collusion Affidavit described in the Invitation to Bid.
4. This Bid will remain open until it is withdrawn by the Bidder pursuant to Section 10 of the Invitation to Bid or until the Bidder has received bid results disclosing that this Bid was not successful. If this Bid is successful, the Bidder will sign and return the Agreement and furnish the Performance and Labor & Material Payment Bond, a certificate of insurance coverage and a statement of intent to pay prevailing wages within fourteen (14) days of the Notice of Award date. The Bidder's failure to timely sign and return the Agreement or furnish such other documents will result in the annulment of all rights of the Bidder with regard to the Work and the forfeiture of the Bidder's Bid Security to WCLS.
5. Bidder has examined the Invitation to Bid including the bid specifications, terms, conditions and deadlines for commencement and completion set forth therein.
6. Bidder has familiarized itself with the nature and extent of the Work, the site and locality where the Work is to be performed, the legal requirements (including applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and taxes), and the other conditions (including

uncertainty of weather and all other contingencies) which may affect cost, progress or performance of the Work and has made such independent investigations as Bidder deems necessary. Bidder hereby acknowledges that no allowance shall be subsequently made on behalf of Bidder by reason of any error or neglect on the part of the Bidder in the submission of this Bid.

7. If the Bidder is a corporation or company, this Bid shall include the printed name of the corporation or company, the printed name and title and the signature of the President, Secretary or other officer authorized to bind the corporation or company with this Bid. If the Bidder is a corporation, this Bid includes an impression of the Bidder's corporate seal. If the Bidder is a firm, this Bid includes the printed firm name and member or agent name. If the undersigned is an agent for another or others, the undersigned has filed a certificate or other legal evidence of his authority to submit this Bid.

For the complete and timely performance of all Work described in the Invitation to Bid for that project entitled "DEMING LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT," the Bidder agrees to accept in full payment therefor the bid amount stated below.

Bid amount (including all applicable sales tax): \$ 81,337.12

Alternate amount (including all applicable sales tax): \$ 3,261.39

Dated: 12-30-2022 Bidder: Scott Electric Inc.

By:

  
(Signature)

Randy Gray  
(Print Name)

Title:

President

Address:

2222 Pacific St.  
Bellingham, WA 98229

Telephone:

360-319-6922



## Bid Proposal Form

Bid To: WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM Date: 12/29/2022

Job Name: DEMING LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT

Bidder Company Name: VECA Electric & Technologies

Contact Name: Jesse Ward

Contact Phone: 360-319-8155 Contact Email: service@veca.com

1. This Bid Proposal (this "Bid") is made in connection with the Invitation to Bid (the "Invitation to Bid"), dated December 6, 2022, issued by WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM ("WCLS") for a limited public works project described therein (the "Work") and known by the name Deming Library Lighting Retrofit. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given in the Invitation to Bid.
2. The undersigned, as or on behalf of the bidder (the "Bidder"), proposes and agrees, if this Bid is accepted, to enter into an Agreement with WCLS in accordance with the terms set forth in the Invitation to Bid to perform the Work.
3. Bidder hereby accepts all of the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid governing the procedures for bidding on the Work including, without limitation, requirements pertaining to the provision, retention and return of the Bid Security. Bidder acknowledges that this Bid will not be accepted if it is not accompanied by the Bid Security and Non-Collusion Affidavit described in the Invitation to Bid.
4. This Bid will remain open until it is withdrawn by the Bidder pursuant to Section 10 of the Invitation to Bid or until the Bidder has received bid results disclosing that this Bid was not successful. If this Bid is successful, the Bidder will sign and return the Agreement and furnish the Performance and Labor & Material Payment Bond, a certificate of insurance coverage and a statement of intent to pay prevailing wages within fourteen (14) days of the Notice of Award date. The Bidder's failure to timely sign and return the Agreement or furnish such other documents will result in the annulment of all rights of the Bidder with regard to the Work and the forfeiture of the Bidder's Bid Security to WCLS.
5. Bidder has examined the Invitation to Bid including the bid specifications, terms, conditions and deadlines for commencement and completion set forth therein.
6. Bidder has familiarized itself with the nature and extent of the Work, the site and locality where the Work is to be performed, the legal requirements (including applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and taxes), and the other conditions (including

uncertainty of weather and all other contingencies) which may affect cost, progress or performance of the Work and has made such independent investigations as Bidder deems necessary. Bidder hereby acknowledges that no allowance shall be subsequently made on behalf of Bidder by reason of any error or neglect on the part of the Bidder in the submission of this Bid.

7. If the Bidder is a corporation or company, this Bid shall include the printed name of the corporation or company, the printed name and title and the signature of the President, Secretary or other officer authorized to bind the corporation or company with this Bid. If the Bidder is a corporation, this Bid includes an impression of the Bidder's corporate seal. If the Bidder is a firm, this Bid includes the printed firm name and member or agent name. If the undersigned is an agent for another or others, the undersigned has filed a certificate or other legal evidence of his authority to submit this Bid.


**For the complete and timely performance of all Work described in the Invitation to Bid for that project entitled "DEMING LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT," the Bidder agrees to accept in full payment therefor the bid amount stated below.**

Bid amount (including all applicable sales tax): \$96,196.77

Alternate amount (including all applicable sales tax): \$4,953.31

Dated: 12/30/2022 Bidder: VECA Electric & Technologies LLC

By:

  
(Signature)

Laura Rannow

(Print Name)

Title:

Chief Administration Officer

Address:

5614 7th Ave S

Seattle, WA 98108

Telephone:

206-239-8121

## COMMUNITY

It may seem strange to mention a spate of vandalism at the Ferndale Library as an example of community. Obviously, we don't condone the destruction of public property, and we are following through on trespass orders to break the negative cycle. But as social justice advocate Ryan Dowd reminds us, these troublemakers are part of our community and, "You must reject the dichotomy of "deserving" and "undeserving." Broken people sometimes do stupid/mean/petty things, **AND** they are still deserving of assistance." Even as our staff ask people to leave the library, they are sure to let them know they are welcome back in the future when they are ready to behave appropriately.

## ACCESS

On January 11, staff held a work party at the Sumas Library to move books to the new shelves. We await functioning restrooms and a certificate of occupancy before we can open to the public. We're tentatively planning a ribbon cutting celebration for February 15.



## RESOURCES

It's a new budget year, and orders for new materials are already coming in. Collection Services Manager Lisa Gresham and her team keep close tabs on holds ratios, ordering extra copies of popular titles to keep wait times down. The current holds ratio for books is 4:1, and for eBooks it's 7:1. We have also purchased several collections of Always Available eAudiobooks to keep up with growing demand for this format.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This month we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and our Collection Services and Youth Services teams are ready with booklists to celebrate this important figure in U.S. history.

## STEWARDSHIP

While we will forever miss the bright light of our former director Joan Airoidi, we are humbled and grateful for the outpouring of gifts made to the Whatcom County Library Foundation in her memory. Neil McKay recorded memories of Joan in Episode 30 our podcast, available at [WCLS in Whatcom County Presents Library Stories! – Whatcom County Library System](#).

**Christine Perkins**  
Executive Director



whatcom county  
**library system**

## PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF MARVIN WASCHKE

January 17, 2023

WHEREAS, WCLS first became acquainted with Marvin Waschke when he joined the Library Board of Trustees in 2013; and

WHEREAS, his esteemed investigative role model Nero Wolfe leads an increasingly sedentary lifestyle ensconced in his New York brownstone, Marv has been known to zip around hill and dale from library to library on his trusty eBike, often with his valiant pup Albert chasing along; and

WHEREAS, Marv has shared his multitudinous talents with Whatcom County Library System as a program presenter, trustee, Friend of Ferndale Library, and liaison to the Whatcom County Library Foundation, attending countless meetings, in person and online, listening attentively, and making decisions with care and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Marv is an outspoken champion for education, learning, libraries, intellectual freedom, and truth; and

WHEREAS, Marv and his grandson Christopher developed the Shopify online platform that runs the Friends Online Bookstore and championed this project as a way to bring Friends together during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Marv remains relentlessly curious and engaged with the world, reading widely and sharing articles and knowledge to further the work of library staff; and

WHEREAS, Marv has been at the helm of the mighty WCLS ship through storms and fair seas, to wit:

- Improved library buildings in Ferndale, Point Roberts, Island, South Whatcom, Everson and Sumas;
- Purchased property on Birch Bay Drive for a future Birch Bay Library;
- Conducted a public design process for a new Blaine Library;
- Established the Nooksack Valley Heritage Center at the Everson Library and the Northwest Library Express;
- Eliminated overdue fines and introduced courtesy renewals;
- Completed two strategic planning processes;
- Migrated to Polaris LEAP integrated library system;
- Celebrated WCLS's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commissioned a new library bookmobile;
- Expanded the ConnectED program to all Whatcom County public school districts, the Lummi Nation School and Lynden Christian Schools;
- Weathered two narrow defeats of Library Capital Facilities Area elections for Birch Bay;
- Recovered after a ransomware attack encrypted WCLS computer networks;
- Survived a global pandemic;
- Established Cultural Focus PSA positions and created a language differential for staff;
- Participated in multiple PR campaigns including My Modern Library, #BookBrainChallenge, #WCLSPetSelfies, and We Believe in Libraries, which won two John Cotton Dana Awards for library marketing; and
- Oversaw a decade's-worth of interesting library programs, services, and events that brought countless benefits to the people of Whatcom County, and

WHEREAS, Marv has now completed his second term on the WCLS Board;

## The Power of Sharing

5205 Northwest Drive    Bellingham, Washington    98226    |    (360) 305-3600    |    [wcls.org](http://wcls.org)

NOW LET IT BE KNOWN THAT

Whatcom County Library System, its board, staff, supporters, and patrons, will be forever indebted to Marvin Waschke for his service, sage counsel, and kind, measured outlook on behalf of our libraries; and

We wish him to know that the road from Vine Maple Farm to Whatcom County Library System that bears his family name is short and well-traveled and the doors to Administrative Services will always be open to him; and

We will always remember, in the words of Rex Stout, “The truth is the hero of the story,” and “People actually love truth a lot more than a lot of people think they do.”

WITH GRATITUDE,

The WCLS Leadership Team

## [This year I'm thankful for US public libraries – beautiful icons of a better civic era | Moira Donegan | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/28/usa-public-libraries)

[www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/28/usa-public-libraries](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/28/usa-public-libraries)

The US can often be cruel to its citizens, but the public library is a sanctuary and a vision of what our country might one day be



‘The public library does not understand its patrons as mere consumers, or as a revenue base. Instead, it aspires to encounter people as minds.’ Photograph: BA E Inc./Alamy

Wed 28 Dec 2022 10.13 EST

If you proposed it now, at any town council or city hall meeting, you would be laughed from the

room. The concept is almost unthinkable indulgent, in our austere times: an institution, open for free to anyone, that sells no products, makes no money, is funded from public coffers, and is dedicated solely to the public interest, broadly defined. And it’s for *books*.

If the public library did not already exist as a pillar of local civic engagement in American towns and cities, there’s no way we would be able to create it. It seems like a relic of a bygone era of public optimism, a time when governments worked to value and edify their people, rather than punish and extract from them. In America, a country that can often be cruel to its citizens, the public library is a surprising kindness. It is institution that offers grace and sanctuary, and a vision of what our country might one day be.

The public library makes a radical proposition: that learning, knowledge and curiosity are for everyone. To the eyes of a modern American, it can be a strange, even disorienting vision. For one thing, public libraries are unusually beautiful places, the kind of buildings that make you feel underdressed. In many American cities, the public library ranks among the most ornate and stately fixtures of downtown. They’re erected in early-20th century high style, like the Egyptian revival building at Los Angeles’ Riordan Central Library, or Boston’s neoclassical McKim building. Or sometimes they’re modern



monuments to an ongoing investment in public services, like Seattle’s fantastic main branch, a gleaming structure in glass enmeshed in steel latticing.

How different these buildings are from the architecture of other American government buildings – from the flickering fluorescent hells of the DMV, or the windowless, prison-like encampment of many public schools. The only public buildings that rival our libraries in beauty are courthouses – but what happens in libraries is much nobler and less vulgar.

Over the past year, I began working in the public library for the first time in my freelance career, regularly making the subway commute from my apartment in Brooklyn to the 42nd Street flagship branch of the [New York](#) Public Library. No matter how often I went, every time I mounted the steps to the entrance, passing between the two famous marble lions – nicknamed Patience and Fortitude – that gaze out across Fifth Avenue, I was always a little nervous.

The building felt beyond my station, as if I was about to get caught doing something I shouldn’t. As I settled into my seat at a broad hardwood table and opened my laptop beneath the chandeliers, I always half expected a suited security guard to arrive and ask me politely but firmly to leave. But what is so precious and stupefying about the public library is that no one ever does. I have a right to be there – not because of any institutional affiliation or job or paid subscription, but because I’m a New Yorker, a regular person, in a city that has decided to honor its people with this place.



There are a lot of indignities to American city life, and maybe there are especially indignities to life in New York. There is the indignity of the crowded and dysfunctional subway system, where the cars are packed so tightly at rush hour that my face is regularly crammed into the armpit of a stranger just as the conductor comes over the speaker to tell us we’re being rerouted impossibly far from where I need to go. There is the indignity of the city’s dirtiness, where huge heaps of garbage emit nauseating smells in the

summer, and where in winter the streets are filled with brown slush and puddles of mysterious liquid whose provenance you don't want to know. There is the indignity of the price of rent.

But the public library offers an almost otherworldly dignity, a sense of purpose and seriousness that falls over you when you enter. The silence of the reading rooms begins to feel like the reverent hush of a temple.

The majesty of library buildings is matched only by the nobility of their purpose. The public library does not make anyone money; it does not understand its patrons as mere consumers, or as a revenue base. Instead, it aspires to encounter people as minds. The public library exists to grant access to information, to facilitate curiosity, education, and inquiry for their own sake. It is a place where the people can go to pursue their aspirations and their whims, to uncover histories or investigate new scientific discoveries.

And it is available, crucially, to everyone. It costs nothing to enter, nothing to borrow – in New York, and in many other cities, the public library system has even eliminated late fees. All the knowledge and artistry of its collection is available to the public at will, and it is a privilege made available, without prejudice, to rich and poor alike.

There's nothing inevitable about this egalitarianism; it was perfectly possible that libraries could have remained permanent bastions of the elites, as they were before a wave of public and charitable investment – and democratic sentiment – established public libraries across America in the decades after the civil war. And the kind of dignified, edifying sanctuary for thought and curiosity that they provide could easily again become the sole provenance of the rich.

Library budgets are constantly being cut; in New York, Mayor Eric Adams has proposed draconian, multimillion-dollar year-over-year reductions to the public library system's operating costs, the kind of drastic withdrawals of support that will inevitably force some locations to close.

But the optimism and respect for the people that is represented in the public library is worth taking into the future with us. The public library makes a proposition that's still radical: that learning, knowledge and curiosity are for everyone, and that the annals of history, literature, science and art might not be just an indulgence of the privileged, but an entitlement of citizenship.

- Moira Donegan is a Guardian US columnist



## COMMUNITY

A volunteer for the Deming Library Community Garden created several installations for the winter garden using lights and screens. They have been a source of curiosity and cozy conversation in the library and throughout the community.

## STEWARDSHIP

Winter weather conditions impacted WCLS with full or partial library closures for three days in December. Consistent with our mission, we will make every effort to remain open to the public with altered hours and reduced services as necessary. One way we continue to connect people with library staff during times of building closure is with staff phones. During the recent closures, staff reported receiving about 10-20 calls per hour. Programs scheduled to occur online were able to continue as planned. Our Bookmobile was unable to travel, so Mobile Services staff loaded up a van with patron holds. I appreciate staff efforts to deliver services even when wintry weather blows through the county.



A decision to close or delay opening in inclement weather will be based on weather conditions in the immediate vicinity of the building. The following considerations help indicate if weather conditions require closure:

- Road Conditions – How are the roads leading to the library; has an emergency advisory been posted?
- Forecast – Is the weather dynamic and forecast to degrade quickly?
- Other Closures – Are other businesses or offices closing in the area?
- Parking Lot – Are staff and patrons able to park?
- Use – Are patrons actively using the library at the moment?

Branch managers make closure determinations following a set timeline to support predictable and consistent messaging throughout the day.

- 6 a.m. – Determine delay/closure of Administrative Services
- 8 a.m. – Determine Branch delay (typically 12 p.m.)
- 10 a.m. – Determine Branch Closure
- 2-3 p.m. – Early closure determined
  - Dynamic weather conditions may require closure decision at any time.

**Michael Cox**  
Deputy Director

## Community

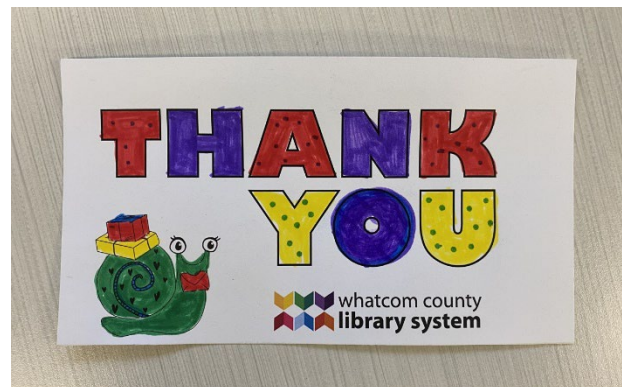
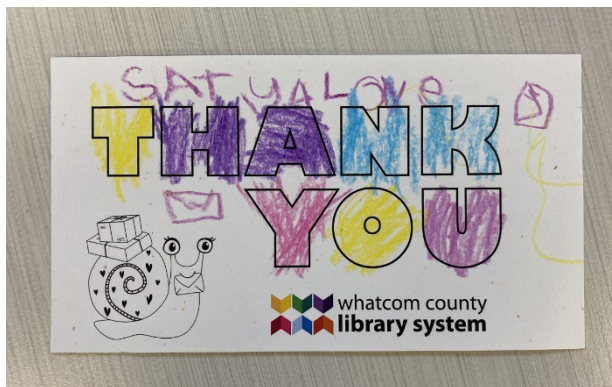
During the months of November and December last year we offered a Thank You Postal Workers passive program for kids and teens in all of our locations. We provided blank postcards with an image for coloring on one side and space for a message on the other. We stationed them near the interactive mailboxes in our kids areas with instructions to decorate and share the cards with their own letter carriers, or leave with us to be shared with local post offices. This was a simple, powerful way to come together, affording kids the time and tools to get in touch with their gratitude, and sharing our thanks in a communal way. Not surprisingly, young people really delivered (pun intended). We received lots of cards with vibrant decorations, a few of which included sweet messages.

One young reader wrote: Thank you for delivering Grandma's package to me! (with assorted hearts and smiley faces)

Another young reader wrote: Thank you for doing what you do. I am too young to have a phone and my family has moved a lot so if I want to keep in touch with my friends then I have to write letters and I wouldn't be able to do that if it weren't for you.

As we think about creating and celebrating community, the Youth Services Team is intentional about making the library not just a place to receive service, but a place to contribute and participate. Simple programs like this communicate to kids and teens that their voices matter, that they share responsibility for the nature of their communities, and that their engagement shapes our environment. Programs like this also remind us that the depth and breadth of young people's kindness and caring are inestimable.

Here are a few images of decorated cards:



Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager



The January-May 2023 issue of Explorations has arrived. The 12-page publication includes WCLS news and more than 100 library events. Explorations is mailed to all county households and is available at library branches and community gathering spots. The publication is also available [online](#).

The 15<sup>th</sup> season of Whatcom READS is underway. Community activities leading up to the March 2-4



author events began in the fall with Whatcom WRITES and continue with an exciting schedule of programs that explore themes in this year's featured title, *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter. Learn more and register for the in-person and online events at [whatcomreads.org/events](http://whatcomreads.org/events). WCLS hosts two of the programs at the Ferndale and Deming libraries. Whatcom READS is presented by all the public and academic libraries in Bellingham and Whatcom county and community partner Village Books. Community members may borrow *The Cold Millions* as a book, eBook, or eAudiobook from local libraries or purchase it from Village Books, which donates a percentage of each sale to Whatcom READS.

#### Press Releases

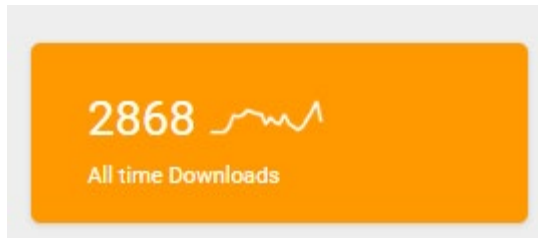
- [WCLS celebrates teen artists](#)
- [Whatcom READS announces 2023 programs](#)

**Podcast:** [wcls.org/podcast](http://wcls.org/podcast) or subscribe on your favorite podcast platform

We produced three episodes and one bonus program in December:

- Life Cycle of a Book with Lisa Gresham
- Jail Services with Barry MacHale
- Remembering Joan Airola (No. 5 most listened to episode) and bonus thank you program.

As of Jan. 10, 2023:



We will reach 3,000 downloads in January.

### Book Reviews

- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 16, 2022, [Season's readings: The Gift of Books](#)

### Media Coverage

- **Featured Story:** *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 17, 2022, [Joan Airolti lived a life between the pages](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 2, 2022, [Sumas library/community center being restored](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Dec. 7, 2022, [Blaine Arts Council to host children's author](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 15, 2022, [GUEST OPINION: Snow days can be fun, productive | Community](#) (mentions library resources)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 21, 2022, [UPDATE: Whatcom County Library System delays Wednesday, Dec. 21 openings](#)
- *Bellingham Herald*, Dec. 21, 2022, [These places are closed Wednesday due to snow in Whatcom](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 21, 2022, [City services limited as snow sticks around](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 22, 2022, [WCLS News: County library system schedule](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 23, 2022, [Whatcom READS announces community programs and conversations that explore 2023 book selection, The Cold Millions by Jess Walter](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 23, 2022, [Year in Review: Point Roberts Library](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 23, 2022, [Year in Review: Point Roberts Friends of the Library](#)
- *Whatcom Talk*, December 2022, [Read the Book. Join the Conversation.](#)
- *Ferndale Record*, Dec. 23, 2022, [WCLS closes branches Friday](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Jan. 5, 2023, [Whatcom READS: The Cold Millions by Jess Walter](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Jan. 11, 2023, [Year in Review: Friends of Birch Bay Library](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Jan. 11, 2023, [Year in Review: Blaine Library](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Jan. 11, 2023, [Looking Back at a Year That Just Was \(July-December 2022\)](#)

*Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 9, 2022

**Flood repairs.** Colacurcio Brothers Construction Co. of Blaine has been contracted for \$456,000 to restore the building housing the Sumas library and the community center. ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))

*Salish Current*, December

**Database.** Community Resources for Help, Support and Relief online at the Whatcom County Library is the go-to place for trusted help if you need information in case of emergencies or other difficult situations. [Check it out here.](#)

*All Point Bulletin*, December

**New Year's at Noon:** Saturday, December 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., PR Library. A daytime New Year's program for young children and their families. Celebrate the new year with stories and activities. Watch balloons drop at noon and dance the hour away. Fun for everyone, at your local library.

**Mary Vermillion**

Community Relations Manager



New Borrowers	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Registered	217	326	3,983	5,021	26.06%

Patron Service	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Interlibrary Loan					
Borrowed from BPL	10,940	10,725	158,472	140,559	-11.3%
Lent to BPL	21,727	20,844	335,544	267,777	-20.2%
Borrowed from other libraries	418	548	6,822	7,003	2.7%
Lent to other libraries	458	472	5,825	6,036	3.6%

Electronic Resources	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
WCLS.org Entrances	34,147	31,014	432,907	433,915	0.2%
Bibliocommons Entrances	46,702	47,317	631,551	612,471	-3.0%
Internet Sessions	2,095	2,405	20,481	29,078	42.0%
Wifi Clients / Sessions	4,937	5,787	61,279	71,219	16.2%

Volunteers	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Volunteer Hours	723.00	653.00	8,565.25	9,116.50	6.4%

Activities	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Programs					
Adults	16	25	209	371	77.5%
Teens	20	11	269	226	-16.0%
Children	20	51	269	571	112.3%
Total	56	87	747	1,168	56.4%

<b>Attendance</b>					
Adults	311	246	3851	4329	12.4%
Teens	440	106	3287	5414	64.7%
Children	795	1,573	8189	25032	205.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>15,327</b>	<b>34,775</b>	<b>126.9%</b>

Collection Size	December		
	Physical	Electronic	Total
	312,898	251,759	564,657

Circulation<	December		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Physical Circulation					
Blaine	12,406	12,404	157,808	163,928	3.9%
Bookmobile & Outreach	4,963	4,601	65,921	56,673	-14.0%
Deming	8,731	8,064	117,577	110,071	-6.4%
Everson	8,357	9,230	101,385	120,225	18.6%
Ferndale	29,958	29,515	364,921	404,390	10.8%
Island	2,064	2,076	25,217	25,168	-0.2%
Lynden	33,577	35,113	425,983	479,766	12.6%
North Fork	4,565	4,209	57,991	54,167	-6.6%
NWIC	11	14	181	139	-23.2%
Point Roberts	1,747	2,198	23,792	29,360	23.4%
Sumas	268	85	21,555	3,218	-85.1%
South Whatcom	6,164	7,000	80,676	92,218	14.3%
NDX	3,307	3,334	45,828	42,367	-7.6%
Total	116,118	117,843	1,488,835	1,581,690	6.24%
Electronic Circulation					
eBooks/eAudiobooks^	25,238	30,201	309,510	345,553	11.6%
eMusic	10,062	8,847	136,610	105,533	-22.7%
Streaming Video#	999	793	9,974	9,973	0.0%
eMagazines>	1,483	1,525	36,520	19,189	-47.5%
Total	37,782	41,366	492,614	480,248	-2.51%
Total Circulation	153,900	159,209	1,981,449	2,061,938	4.06%

< Curbside only services offered: 11/23/2020 to 2/28/2021.

< Limited in-person services: 3/1/2021 to 6/7/2021 (25%) and 3/22/2021 to 6/30/2021 (50%).

< Sumas Library closed 11/20/21 to present - holds pickup only.

> RbDigital discontinued 3/31/2021. Absorbed by Overdrive.

# Kanopy and Overdrive streaming videos combined under Streaming Video header.

^ Includes Overdrive and Gale eBooks and eAudiobooks. GALE started 6/1/2021.

Visitors (Door Counts)	December			Year to Date		% Chg Frm 2021
	2019	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Blaine	8,332	4,849	5,536	47,162	74,621	58.2%
Deming	4,038	1,883	2,044	19,674	28,295	43.8%
Everson	4,923	2,376	2,560	21,250	26,376	24.1%
Ferndale	13,450	7,883	9,994	87,171	123,953	42.2%
Island	1,412	1,233	701	12,648	14,349	13.4%
Lynden	13,788	8,240	7,784	73,864	125,049	69.3%
Northwest Drive Express		256	258	3,087	3,983	29.0%
North Fork	1,993	1,211	1,299	13,351	19,809	48.4%
Point Roberts + PRX	1,271	791	1,196	11,702	14,814	26.6%
Sumas	2,271	0	0	8,031	0	-100.0%
South Whatcom	1,968	1,729	1,644	22,142	27,715	25.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,446</b>	<b>30,451</b>	<b>33,016</b>	<b>320,082</b>	<b>458,964</b>	<b>43.39%</b>

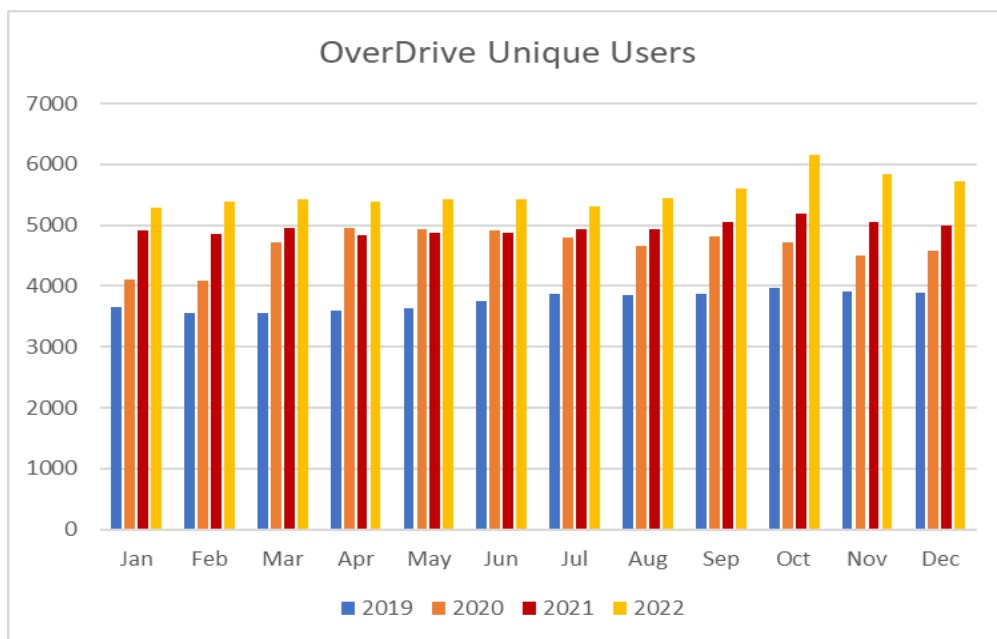
Corrections:

Volunteers	January		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 3
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	413.25	625.00	413.25	625.00	51.2%	
Volunteers	February		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 3
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	351.00	559.75	764.25	1,184.75	55.0%	
Volunteers	March		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 7
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	459.50	625.25	1,223.75	1,810.00	47.9%	
Volunteers	April		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 10
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	569.00	998.25	1,792.75	2,808.25	56.6%	
Volunteers	MAY		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 12
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	819.50	793.25	2,612.25	3,601.50	37.9%	
Volunteers	June		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 105
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	827.00	980.00	3,439.25	4,581.50	33.2%	
Volunteers	July		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 2
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	1,017.75	975.25	4,457.00	5,556.75	24.7%	
Volunteers	August		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF and IS increase of 121
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	711.50	876.00	5,168.50	6,279.25	21.5%	
Volunteers	September		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF increase of 10
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	728.00	876.00	5,896.50	7,039.25	19.4%	
Volunteers	October		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF, BL, and IS increase of 116.5
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	1,214.00	891.75	7,110.50	7,822.50	10.0%	
Volunteers	November		Year to Date		% Chg	Late entry from NF and IS increase of 113
	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Volunteer Hours	731.75	747.00	7,842.25	8,463.50	7.9%	



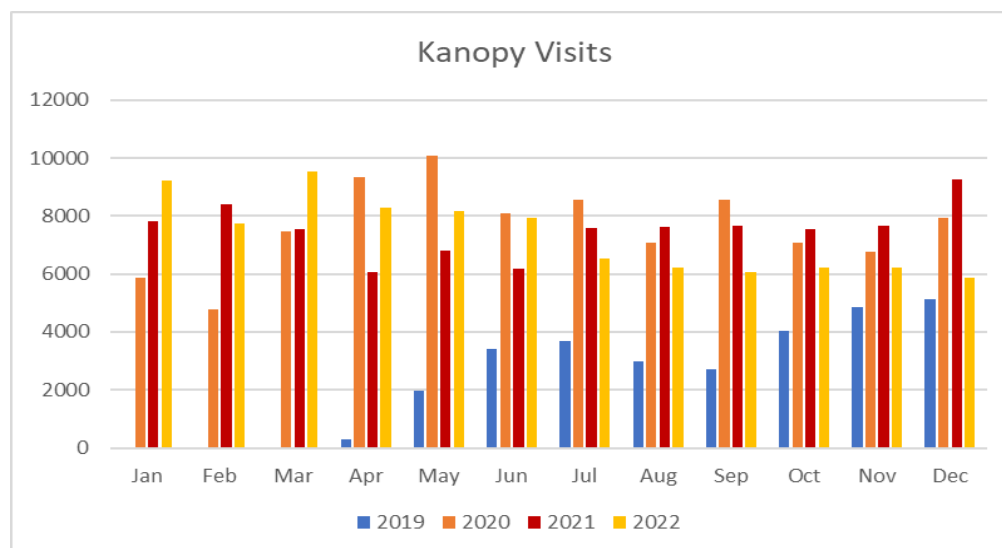
## OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS

Unique users of OverDrive remain higher than in any previous year. eMagazines continue to be very popular--5 of the top 8 loans in December were eMagazines (The Economist, The New Yorker, Us Weekly, Cook's Illustrated, and The Week). Titles from the simultaneous use (SU) eAudiobook packages made up the remaining 3 titles from the top 8 loans in December. We continue to study patron behavior relative to SU content and are using the results to maximize service within the consortium budget.



## KANOPY VISITS - JANUARY TO DECEMBER COMPARISON

BBC Studios (*Father Brown*) and The History Channel (*Alone* series) were the two suppliers whose content received the highest number of "plays" in December. Although it was hoped that Kanopy's purchase by OverDrive and linkage to Kanopy content from the Libby app would increase usage, click-throughs from Libby to Kanopy remain low (16 in December). The click-through average for 2022 was 26 referrals from Libby to Kanopy. This linkage began in December 2021.



## DATABASE USAGE

With the exceptions of Creativebug and Chiltons Auto Repair, all database use was down in December--not unusual for a month full of holidays and recessed school. I mentioned last month that a social media and newsletter campaign promoting the Creativebug crafts tutorial database resulted in a 40% increase in use in November (as compared to October). Creativebug usage in December increased 70% over November thanks to the Community Relations Department's continued marketing focus.

