



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Whatcom County Library System
August 15, 2023

Via Teams and Sumas Library
461 2nd Street
Sumas, WA 98295

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

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

We are on the ancestral homeland of the Nooksack, Lummi and other Coast Salish peoples. They have been its stewards since time immemorial, respecting the land, river and ocean with the understanding that everything is connected, related and alive. We acknowledge the elders and their collective and individual plights and achievements. We consider the legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together today. And we pursue ongoing action, to build lasting relationships and grow together 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 prior to the meeting.

3. 9:10 a.m. **Consent Agenda**
a. Meeting Minutes
b. Expenditures

4. 9:15 a.m. **Financial Report and Resolutions**
a. Finance Committee Report

5. 9:25 a.m. **Trustee Education: Cultural Liaison Staff**

6. 9:55 a.m. **Birch Bay Library Planning Project Update**

7. 10:10 a.m. **Tour of Sumas Library**

8. 10:20 a.m. **BREAK**

9. 10:30 a.m. **Staff Reports**
a. Executive Director
b. Deputy Director
c. Youth Services Manager
d. Community Relations Manager

10. 10:50 a.m. **Performance Measures and Committee Reports**
a. Performance Measures
b. Personnel Committee – Trustee Recruitment
c. Whatcom County Library Foundation

11. 11:15 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 before 4:00 p.m. Monday, August 14, 2022. Written comments may be submitted to Em.Olpinski@wcls.org prior to the meeting.



Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	8/15/2023
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:

- July 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- June 16-30, 2023 payroll: check nos. 1034901227-1034901231 and voucher nos. 555547-555691 totaling \$216,236.97 and July 1-15, 2023 payroll: check nos. 1035078759-1035078763 and voucher nos. 555699-555845 totaling \$216,156.73.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$88,542.48; \$30,195.22 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2023-26G: warrant nos. 1172074-1172113 totaling \$163,370.98
- Claim 2023-27G: warrant nos. 1172959-1172970 totaling \$45,795.98
- Claim 2023-28G: warrant nos. 1173067-1173092 totaling \$95,050.89
- Claim 2023-29G: warrant nos. 1173635-1173645 totaling \$66,739.97

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2023-13C: warrant no. 1172119 totaling \$135.00

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Expenditures for approval paid from available 2023 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 in July.

Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

July 18, 2023

Location

This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

In Attendance

Trustees: Rodney Lofdahl, Chair; Erika Lautenbach, Secretary; Matthew Santos and Holly Robinson. Absent: Lori Jump, Vice Chair.

Staff: Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Michael Cox, Deputy Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager; Geoff Fitzpatrick, IT Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Em Olpinski, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: N/A.

Call to Order

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

Christine shared that Island Library's manager, Brooke Pederson, will not be able to present item 7 on the agenda, which was supposed to be a presentation about Island Library. Christine also suggested re-ordering the agenda to move item 9, Levy Budget Planning, to before item 5, Trustee Education, because Erika needs to leave the meeting before 10:40 a.m.

Matthew moved to reorder the agenda to move item 9, Levy Budget Planning, to before item 5, Trustee Education: Friends of the Library. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as well as the following:

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- June 1-15, 2023 payroll: check nos. 1034711782-1034711787 and voucher nos. 555387-555540 totaling \$228,203.44 and June 16-30, 2023 payroll: check nos. 1034901227-1034901231 and voucher nos. 555547-555691 totaling \$216,236.97.

- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$94,901.98; \$31,263.54 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2023-22G: warrant nos. 1170167-1170174 totaling \$25,227.69
- Claim 2023-23G: warrant nos. 1170197-1170218 totaling \$105,847.01
- Claim 2023-24G: warrant nos. 1170813-1170833 totaling \$20,380.56
- Claim 2023-25G: warrant nos. 1171336-1171351 totaling \$119,731.18

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2023-11C: warrant no. 1170196 totaling \$418.11
- Claim 2023-12C: warrant no. 1170834 totaling \$810.00

Holly moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report and Resolutions: Finance Committee Report

Jackie reviewed her report, including the June Notes and Highlights section. She reported that we have received 56% of our budgeted revenue for the year. Our expenses for 2023 are currently under budget at 46%, but we will likely catch up in the second half of the year.

Erika joined the meeting.

Jackie received notice from the County Treasurer's Office that a dispute over a highly valued property was recently resolved. From this resolution, we will be receiving a property tax refund of \$33,733 in July.

WCLS recently resumed payroll deductions for the Washington Cares Fund long term care program. Employees who have not previously applied for and received an exemption will contribute 0.058% of their gross earnings into the fund. The payroll deductions were set up by Payroll Specialist Dana Pallas, and the program will be administered by the Employment Security Department (ESD). Jackie has been informed that the ESD reporting and payment portal issues should be resolved by the end of quarter three.

Jackie informed the trustees that we have changed our procedure for purchasing printer toner. Historically, this process was overseen by the IT department, but branch managers will now be ordering toner. This change will allow branch managers to have more control over keeping adequate supplies on hand and will free up time for our IT staff.

Jackie then gave a brief presentation about the State Auditor's Office's Financial Intelligence Tool ("FIT"). FIT is an interactive online resource for local government financial data, designed to be used both by government staff and the public to monitor and compare the fiscal health of different government agencies. The tool has been populated with the data from our 2022 Report to the State Auditor's Office and presents both fiscal data and financial health indicators.

We are currently in a healthy zone for all indicators and have a sufficient cash balance to operate. The tool shows our debt as increasing slightly in 2022 because we are now required to report our leases as debts. FIT also reports that out of 37 public library districts across the state, we rank ninth in both our revenue and expenditures. It is good to see that we are ranking consistently in these two areas.

Holly asked if reporting to the State Auditor's Office is mandatory for local government agencies. Jackie replied that reporting is mandatory every year, and agencies are audited every two years. Christine said that we recently reviewed another library district's audit finding and will adapt our policies and procedures as needed to avoid a similar situation. Using FIT allows us to make certain we are reporting our financial data correctly.

Financial Report and Resolutions: Resolution 07/18/23-07

Jackie presented Resolution 07/18/23-07 to the trustees. This Resolution authorizes an interfund transfer of \$45,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund.

Holly moved to approved Resolution 07/18/23-07 authorizing an interfund transfer, as presented by Jackie. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Levy Budget Planning

In anticipation of a future levy lid lift (“LLL”) election, Christine and Jackie gave a presentation to the trustees about levy history, financial projections, and future budget needs of WCLS.

Christine told the trustees that we are still deciding what year will be the best time to put a levy lid lift on a ballot. Our 2023 levy is \$9,660,921, and our levy rate is \$0.30/\$1,000. The maximum levy rate library districts are allowed to charge is \$0.50/\$1,000. This year we are projecting that we will have a revenue shortfall of about \$400,000, and we are expecting the ending fund balance to be about \$10,218,656 at the end of 2023.

Christine gave a summary of the different sub-designations within the fund balance. Funds are classified based on the guidelines of the Washington State Auditor’s Office, and the WCLS board of trustees can create sub-designations within these funds to outline their purpose more specifically. The Fund Management Policy 20.03 establishes that a minimum of one third of WCLS’ operating budget must be retained in the fund balance to ensure sufficient cash flow for operating costs. Policy 20.03 also requires that we retain at least one month of operating expenses, or 8.33% of our operating budget, in an emergency reserve to respond to unexpected revenue loss or operating emergencies.

Christine said that in 2008 when we went to voters to ask for a LLL, our levy rate had fallen to \$0.35/\$1,000. We asked voters to increase our levy rate to \$0.42/\$1,000. As the assessed values of properties in Whatcom County increase, our levy rate decreases. If we are meeting statutory guidelines and our levy rate is below \$0.50/\$1,000, our levy can increase up to 1% each year. Holly asked if our levy rate has decreased in recent years. Jackie responded that it has. Discussion followed about the importance of strategically choosing a levy rate to ask voters to support.

Christine presented a chart to the group showing what would happen over the next 10 years if we are unable to pass a LLL and we budget to support only status quo operations. In this scenario, by 2028 we risk depleting the cash flow reserve and emergency reserve below policy-mandated levels, and by 2030 we would not have enough money to operate. Erika expressed caution about over-projecting our expenditures. She is uncertain if we will be able to gain voter support for a LLL with our current fund balance.

Jackie responded that 2023 spending is likely to be closer to budget than it has in past years. She also noted that in recent years our end-of-year surplus has decreased.

Jackie then presented essential systemwide budget needs that were not included in the status quo scenario. These include a Classification and Compensation study, periodic cybersecurity audits, staffing at the Birch Bay Library, improvements to the Administrative Services facility, including repairs and expansion to accommodate an enhanced “Library of Things,” and improvements to library facilities systemwide. Jackie then showed projections for what the impact of these essential budget needs would be on our ending fund balance over the next ten years if a LLL to \$0.39/\$1,000 went into effect in January 2026. Discussion followed regarding the budget assumptions presented.

A levy rate increase to \$0.42/\$1,000, which is the levy rate we asked for in 2009, could allow us to accommodate these essential projects in our budget and some modest programmatic and service enhancements. It could be a helpful strategy to ask voters for the same levy rate we did in 2009, and if it were to fail, we could ask for the rate of \$0.39/\$1,000 at a later election.

Holly commented that it will be difficult to ask voters for a LLL when we have more than \$10 million in reserves. Jackie said that by the time we actually go to voters in a few years, we will likely have closer to \$6 or \$7 million in the fund balance. We need at least \$5 million in the fund balance to retain the cash flow reserve and likely closer to \$6 or \$7 million to also maintain the emergency reserve.

Erika suggested deciding when to go to voters for a LLL based on the amount of money left in the fund balance instead of attempting to predetermine a year to put a measure on a ballot. Jackie likes this idea, but a challenge of this strategy could be making certain we have adequate time to prepare a campaign.

Trustees discussed various scenarios and options regarding the use of the existing fund balance, essential budgeting needs and various programmatic and service enhancements that could be afforded by a LLL. Based on the trustees' comments, WCLS' managerial team will continue considering when to ask voters to support a LLL. Regardless of the year, Christine shared that we will likely want to have a measure on an August ballot, so that we could begin collecting additional funds the following year (if the measure were to pass). Until we begin an actual campaign, we want to work to maximize our community goodwill and show our value to the community. Once an election date is chosen, we will convene a Citizen's Advisory Committee.

On the topic of the Classification and Compensation study, Matthew is curious if increasing wages in the future will be enough to increase employee retention. He asked if exit interviews are part of the separation procedure and is curious what more could be done to help support staff. Christine agrees that burnout and stress can take a toll on employees over time. Beth mentioned that it could be useful to investigate where we are experiencing the most turnover.

Erika exited the meeting.

Break

Rodney adjourned the meeting for a break from 10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Trustee Education: Friends of the Library

Mary gave a presentation to the trustees about the Friends of the Library groups and the work they do to support WCLS. The Friends groups are operated voluntarily and are all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. The Friends advocate for library services, encourage library use, and raise funds for library projects. Each WCLS library is supported by a Friends group. The Friends of Island Library and Friends of Deming Library own and maintain both of those library buildings, and the North Fork Library was built by its Friends group.

The Friends are both library patrons and advocates and bring their varied life and professional experiences to their nonprofit work. Mary shared some comments from the Friends on why they volunteer.

The Whatcom County Library Foundation is also a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to support WCLS but has a different scope from the Friends groups. The Foundation helps support WCLS as a whole, not a specific branch, and raises systemwide funds, provides grants for programs and projects, and is managed by a part-time director, Jennifer Rick, and a volunteer board.

The Friends groups dedicate a lot of their time to supporting their local libraries and have already volunteered 4,400 hours so far this year. Some of the groups run bookstores and put on book sales to raise funds. The groups also organize special events, like the Whatcom Grooves jazz concerts, to gain support and raise awareness of libraries. The funds the Friends raise support library needs that are not otherwise supported by WCLS' budget. The Friends also make purchases to help library staff feel supported and appreciated.

Mary highlighted some recent projects the Friends have undertaken. These include the Friends online bookstore, Whatcom Grooves, and the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Birch Bay Library, who have raised \$230,000 so far to support the construction of this library. The Friends of Deming Library funded this library's new roof and contributed to new lighting for the building, and the Friends of Island Library have installed a new heat pump.

Christine commented that the connections the Friends of Blaine Library have to the local government in this community are very helpful, especially as we are beginning to investigate the possibility of working with the City of Blaine and the Kulshan Community Land Trust to build a larger library. The Friends groups are powerful allies providing essential support to WCLS branches.

Mary then discussed the future of the Friends and some challenges surrounding these groups. Some groups may lack clarity around how to best support their library. Much of the volunteer-base is older, and some of them may be aging out or unable to do certain physical tasks. And Friends who are still working may have trouble attending meetings and want to spend most of their volunteer time taking action.

An Annual "All Friends Gathering," which is funded in part by WCLF, provides an opportunity for different Friends groups to intermingle and share ideas and knowledge. This year the Community Relations team has created a quarterly "Friendshipment" to help show the Friends different ways they can support WCLS.

Mary thanked the Friends for their ongoing support of WCLS. Mary suggested the trustees attend this year's All Friends Gathering to show their support of the Friends.

Rodney thanked Mary for her presentation and thanked the Friends for volunteering their time and energy to libraries. Christine said she is thankful to have Mary as the Friends liaison. More information about each Friends group can be found at [WCLS.org/friends](https://wcls.org/friends).

Policy Spotlight: Conduct Policy 6.01

Christine said that WCLS' Conduct Policy, which is approved by the board, gives her the ability to update our Disruptive Behavior Procedure. The procedure outlines behaviors that are prohibited in libraries and steps staff should take in responding to such behaviors. We want this procedure to be specific enough to ensure all library patrons and staff know what is expected of them in the library environment.

An incident recently occurred at a branch where a patron asked if they could purchase some library books that they disagreed with being in the collection, and when a staff member responded that they could not purchase the books, the patron stated that they had lost the books and needed to pay for them. When books are lost, we repurchase them. However, this process can be time-consuming.

Over the years, there have been incidents where patrons have rearranged library displays, hid or defaced items, and stolen materials. During the recent incident, staff members needed more clarity about how to treat the situation. In response, Thom drafted an update that has been added to the Disruptive Behavior Procedure, which adds the following example to the list of prohibited activities: "Deliberately moving, removing, hiding, or otherwise tampering with library materials, displays, or collections in a way that interferes with other patrons' use of them."

Christine recognizes that it can be difficult to know when library materials are being tampered with. However, adding this language to the procedure will help give staff clarity on how to respond if these behaviors are witnessed.

Rod thanked Christine for keeping the trustees updated on recent incidents.

Staff Reports: Executive Director

Christine shared that she attended Lynden Library's 20th anniversary celebration, where she met the daughter of Arthur Henken, for whom the library building is named. It was nice to see that there is still interest in local history at the event.

Branch Managers Katrina Carabba and Alix Prior attended the All Hands Whatcom Opioid Summit on June 27 and 28, where community-based approaches to addressing the opioid crisis were discussed. We are now thinking about ways libraries can participate in preventative measures.

Holly asked Christine if Narcan is available at our libraries. Christine responded that it is, but at the Summit Katrina and Alix learned that sometimes multiple doses are necessary to help someone recover from an overdose. We may need to begin keeping multiple doses at each branch. All Hands Whatcom and the Bellingham Public library are partnering to offer multiple free events inspired by Sam Quinones' book *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the time of Fentanyl and Meth*.

The Federal Internet for All initiative has allocated \$42.5 billion to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) and \$2.75 billion to Digital Equity Act (DEA) programs. Public libraries will be eligible to compete for DEA grants, and we are exploring how partnering with the Washington State Library could help us access some of these funds to benefit residents of Whatcom County.

Staff Reports: Deputy Director

In addition to his written report, Michael informed the trustees that Island Library and Point Roberts Library both offer Friday hours from July through August each year. Seasonal Page positions allow us to offer these additional hours in the summer.

Michael then gave the trustees a summary of our WiFi hotspot program. Since May, WCLS has been circulating 11 T-Mobile hotspots, each with a 3-week loan period. Staff at North Fork and Deming Library are monitoring this collection and are able to turn hotspot service off when a loan period lapses to help incentivize returns. We will soon be purchasing 11 more hotspots at a reduced rate. BPL has 66 hotspots in their collection, which are also available to be checked out by WCLS patrons.

To honor Juneteenth, WCLS partnered with Connect Ferndale and filmmaker Remy Styrk to present a screening of two of his films at Ferndale Library. This event was Claire McElroy's first independent program since joining WCLS as our Adult Programming Coordinator in the spring. Michael said there was a good feeling at the library during the film screenings.

Staff Reports: Youth Services Manager

Thom shared his written report, which highlights Restorative Practices, an emerging social science about strengthening relationships and communities. An objective under the Access goal of our current strategic plan is that staff utilize restorative practice concepts to allow patrons who have damaged their relationship with the library to begin using the library again.

A team of staff, including Alix Prior, Ferndale Branch Manager; Evie Harmon, Youth Services Assistant; Katrina Buckman, North Fork Branch Manager; Nick Flerchinger, Youth Services Librarian, and Thom are investigating ways to familiarize staff with Restorative Practices. The group has organized a staff one-read of Lauren Wolk's middle-grade novel *Wolf Hollow* to begin sharing and discussing these concepts. Discussion sessions of the book will be hosted at locations across the system in August and September. Thom encouraged the trustees to attend one of these sessions.

Staff Reports: Community Relations Manager

Mary discussed her written report, noting that she has featured several upcoming events organized by Friends groups. More events can be found by visiting the WCLS Online Event Calendar and filtering by library branch or searching for different Friends groups. There are many wonderful events coming up.

Mary also shared that her press release for Whatcom Grooves has been picked up by several local media outlets. It's great to see publicity being spread about Friends of the Library events.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Performance Measures

In addition to his written report, Michael shared that in June we continued to observe a decrease in both physical and overall circulation, as compared to 2022.

In mid-June, all branch door counter devices were inspected, and daily reporting to branch managers resumed. Because some issues were found with the devices during our inspection, some of the door counts included in the July Performance measures have been normalized. Our current door counters use a laser beam to count door entrances each time the beam is broken. The IT Department has begun testing new equipment to see if we can find a more accurate and consistent alternative to our current devices.

Lisa presented database and digital use statistics to the group from both May and June 2023. Unique users of Overdrive were up across both months.

Holly checks out eBooks from the library but reads them on her Kindle and is curious how her use of eBooks is being recorded. Michael replied that this would be recorded under Overdrive.

The apparent increase in the use of Kanopy in May and June is a false increase caused by Kanopy changing their definition of what qualifies as a visit. Lisa is waiting for clarification on their new definition.

Database use decreased in June, which aligns with schools being out for the summer. Use of the database Valueline was up in June, and an early summer Creativebug campaign helped contribute to it achieving higher use in June 2023 than in 2022.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

No report.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Whatcom County Library Foundation

In Jennifer's absence, Christine shared that the Foundation is beginning to send out invitations for Branch Out, which is being hosted September 8 at Hotel Bellwether.

Announcements and Adjourn

Jackie is currently working on scheduling a budget planning retreat for the trustees, but she needs to touch base with Erika and Lori before finalizing a date.

We have finalized the following dates for union negotiations:

October 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Backup Date: October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rodney adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be August 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. online via Microsoft Teams and at Sumas Library.

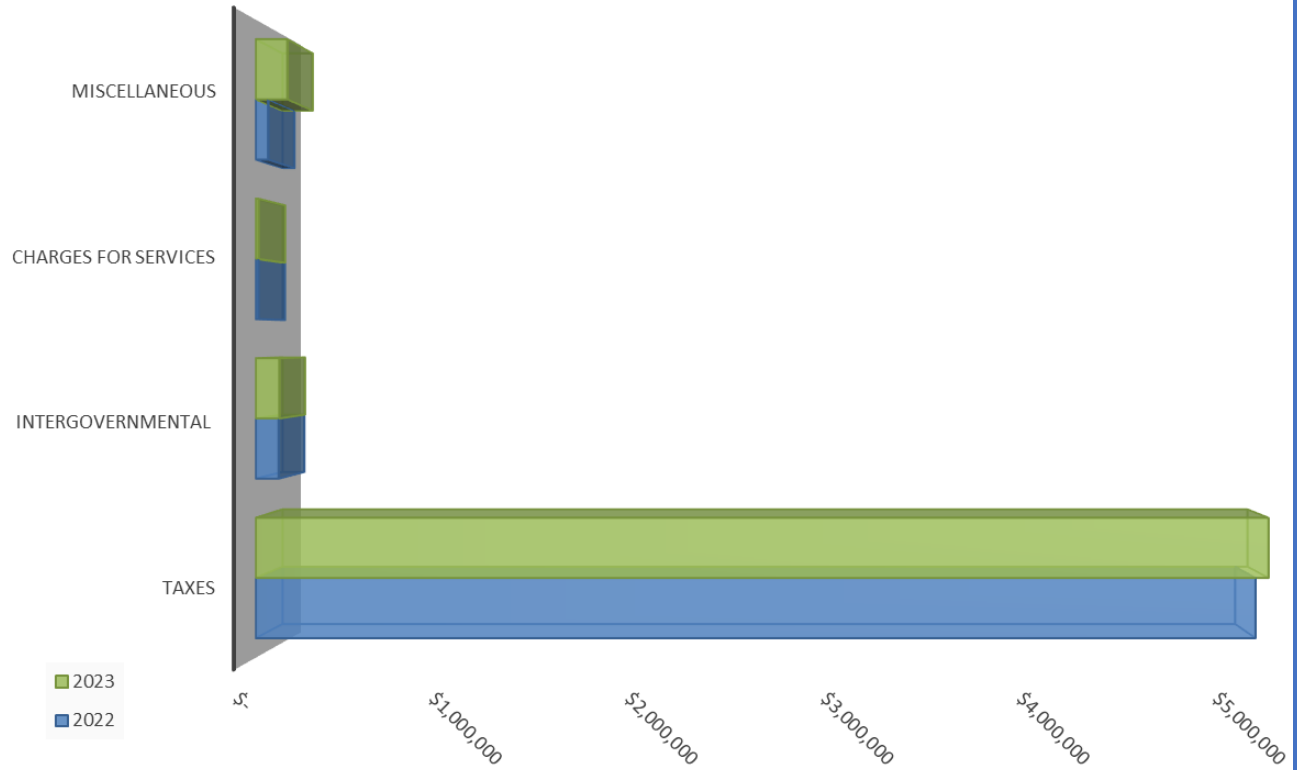
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Rodney Lofdahl, Board Chair	08/15/2023 Date	Em Olpinski, Admin. Assistant

July Revenue

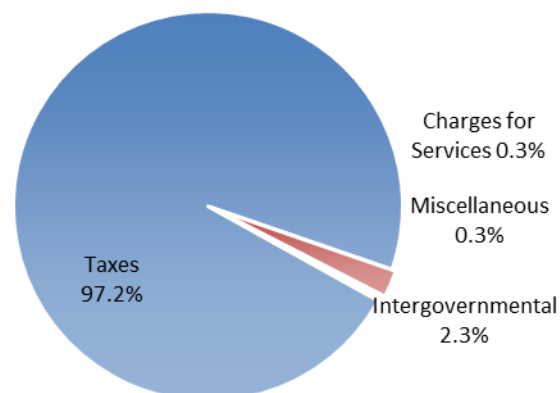
2023 Budget Revenues - Year-To-Date						
July 2023 (58% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Revenues*	Actual Revenues YTD	% of Actual Revenues YTD	% of Budgeted Revenues Received YTD	Budget Variance
310	TAXES					
311.10	General Property Taxes	\$ 9,660,921	\$ 5,368,225	94.56%	55.57%	\$ (4,292,696)
	TOTAL TAXES	\$ 9,660,921	\$ 5,368,225	94.56%	55.57%	\$ (4,292,696)
330	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE					
333.4530	Fed Indirect Grant - IMLS	\$ 19,546	\$ 19,546	0.34%	100.00%	\$ (0)
333.9700	Fed Indirect Grant - DHS	43,947	38,751	0.68%	88.18%	(5,196)
334.0690	State Grant from Other Agencies	650	650	0.01%	100.00%	-
337.10	Local Grants, Entitlements & Other	175,000	51,804	0.91%	29.60%	(123,196)
337.20	Leasehold Excise Tax	25,000	15,024	0.26%	60.10%	(9,976)
	TOTAL INTERGOV. REVENUE	\$ 264,142	\$ 125,774	2.22%	47.62%	\$ (138,368)
340	CHARGES FOR GOODS & SERVICES					
347.2001	Printing & Duplication Services	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,759	0.05%	68.98%	\$ (1,241)
347.2002	Library Use Fees	12,100	12,172	0.21%	100.60%	72
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$ 16,100	\$ 14,931	0.26%	92.74%	\$ (1,169)
360	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES					
361.11	Investment Interest	\$ 120,000	\$ 116,926	2.06%	97.44%	\$ (3,074)
362.10	Rents & Leases	2,000	\$ 1,690	0.03%	84.50%	(310)
367.10	Contributions & Donations	34,000	\$ 29,037	0.51%	85.40%	(4,963)
369.10	Sale of Surplus	100	\$ 20	0.00%	20.00%	(80)
369.41	Judgements & Settlements	1,546	\$ 1,546	0.03%	100.00%	0
369.81	Cashier's Overages or Shortages	-	\$ (11)	0.00%	0.00%	(11)
369.9101	Other Misc. Revenue	20,000	\$ 11,420	0.20%	57.10%	(8,580)
369.9102	Reimburse Lost/Damaged Books	10,000	\$ 6,607	0.12%	66.07%	(3,393)
369.9106	COBRA Reimbursement	1,151	\$ 1,151	0.02%	100.03%	0
	TOTAL MISC. REVENUES	\$ 188,797	\$ 168,387	2.97%	89.19%	\$ (20,410)
	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 10,129,960	\$ 5,677,317	100.00%	56.04%	\$ (4,452,643)
390	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
395.10	Proceeds from Sales	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ -
395.20	Insurance Recoveries	-	-	0.00%	0.00%	-
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$ -	-	0.00%	0.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 10,129,960	\$ 5,677,317	100.00%	56.04%	\$ (4,452,643)
*As amended 6/20/23						

General Fund Operating Revenue to Date-Compared to Prior Year



Actual General Fund Revenue Year to Date Comparison			
	2022	2023	% Change
Taxes	\$ 5,299,477	\$ 5,368,225	1.30%
Intergovernmental	122,141	125,774	2.97%
Charges for Services	14,285	14,931	4.52%
Miscellaneous	66,483	168,387	153.28%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 5,502,386	5,677,317	3.18%
Other Financing Sources	\$ 178,100	-	-100.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 5,680,486	\$ 5,677,317	-0.06%

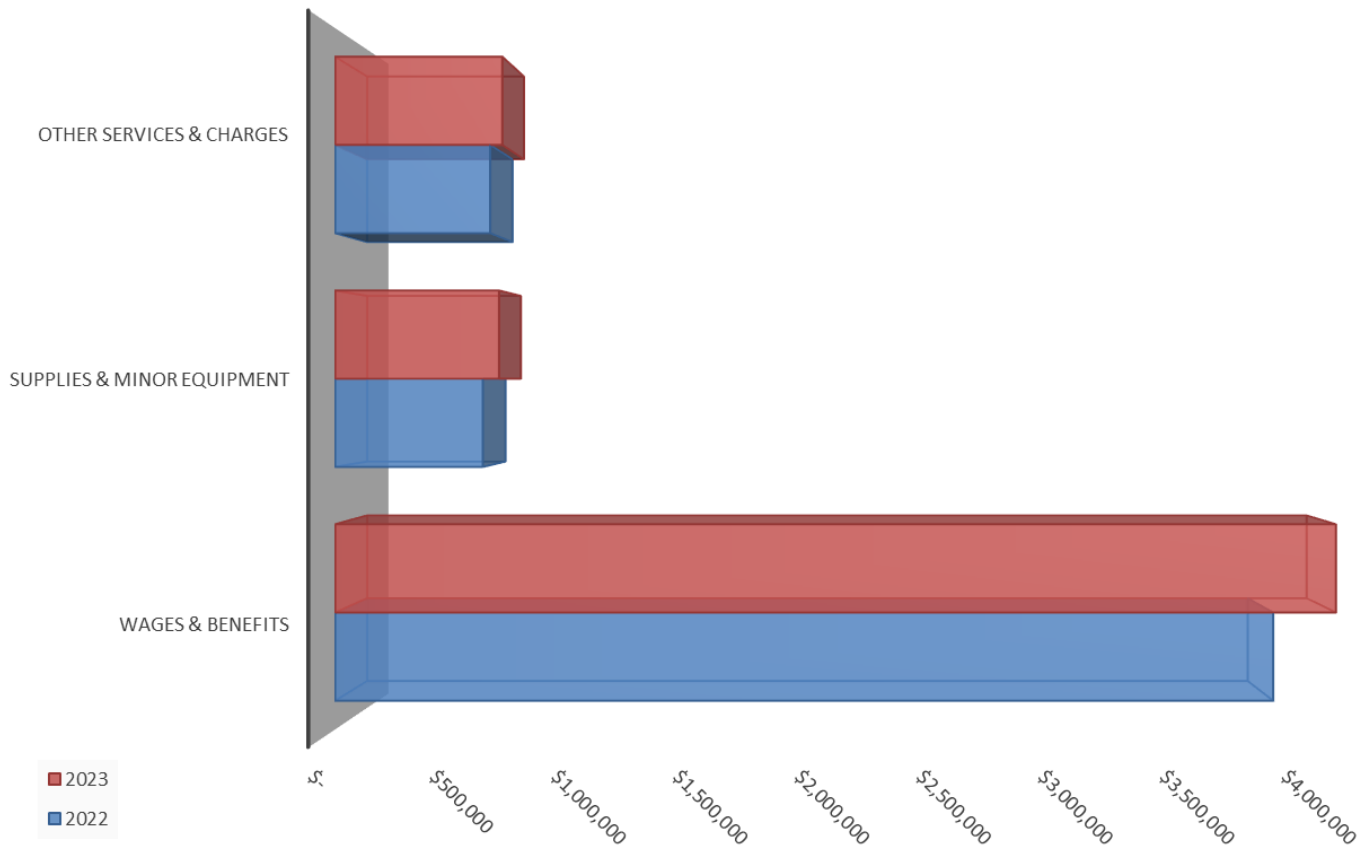
YTD Operating Revenue by Category



July Expenditures

2023 Budget Expenditures - Year-To-Date						
July 2023 (58% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Expenditures*	Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Budgeted Expenditures Spent YTD	Budget Variance
572	SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS					
572.10	Salaries and Wages	\$ 5,730,222	\$ 3,206,093	55.32%	55.95%	\$ (2,524,130)
572.20	Benefits	2,056,993	1,114,591	19.23%	54.19%	(942,401)
	TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS	\$ 7,787,215	\$ 4,320,684	74.55%	55.48%	\$ (3,466,531)
572.30	SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT					
572.3031	Office & Operating Supplies	\$ 125,800	\$ 65,826	1.14%	52.33%	\$ (59,974)
572.3032	Fuel	28,900	9,799	0.17%	33.91%	(19,101)
572.3034	Collection Materials	1,250,000	528,779	9.12%	42.30%	(721,221)
572.3035	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	222,610	103,421	1.78%	46.46%	(119,189)
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,627,310	707,824	12.21%	43.50%	\$ (919,486)
572.40	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES					
572.4041	Professional Services	\$ 569,327	\$ 361,921	6.24%	63.57%	\$ (207,406)
572.4042	Communication	133,118	70,893	1.22%	53.26%	(62,225)
572.4043	Travel	40,182	18,537	0.32%	46.13%	(21,645)
572.4044	Taxes & Operating Assessments	500	227	0.00%	45.44%	(273)
572.4045	Operating Rentals & Leases	28,018	15,121	0.26%	53.97%	(12,897)
572.4046	Insurance	89,482	73,226	1.26%	81.83%	(16,256)
572.4047	Utilities	153,176	83,310	1.44%	54.39%	(69,866)
572.4048	Repair & Maintenance	164,780	62,312	1.08%	37.82%	(102,468)
572.4049	Miscellaneous	102,055	36,440	0.63%	35.71%	(65,615)
	TOTAL OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	\$ 1,280,638	721,987	12.46%	56.38%	\$ (558,651)
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,695,163	5,750,495	99.22%	53.77%	\$ (4,944,668)
590	OTHER FINANCING USES					
597.10	Transfers-Out to Capital	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	0.78%	100.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	0.78%	100.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,740,163	\$ 5,795,495	100.00%	53.96%	\$ (4,944,668)
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (610,203)	(118,178)			\$ 492,025
	FUND BALANCE SUMMARY					
	Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 10,630,324	\$ 10,630,324			
	Net Income	(610,203)	(118,178)			492,025
	Ending Fund Balance	\$ 10,020,121	\$ 10,512,146			\$ 492,025
	*As amended 6/20/23					

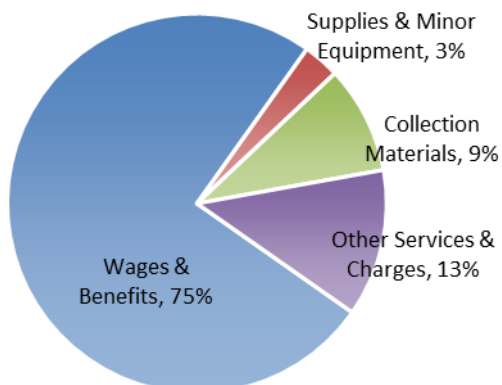
General Fund Operating Expenditures to Date-Compared to Prior Year



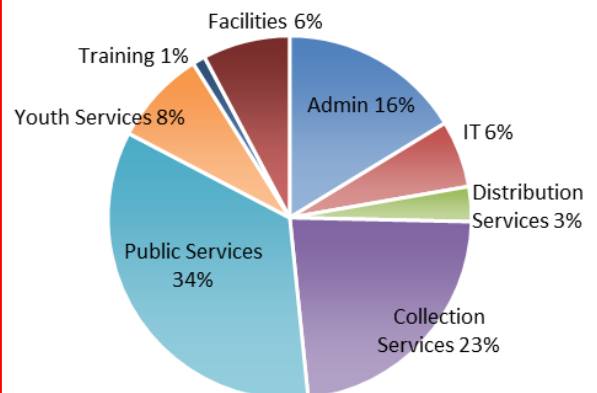
Actual General Fund Revenue Year to Date Comparison

	2022	2023	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$ 4,049,941	\$ 4,320,684	6.69%
Supplies & Minor Equipment	637,494	707,824	11.03%
Other Services & Charges	669,477	721,987	7.84%
Total Operating Expenditures	5,356,913	5,750,495	7.35%
Other Financing Uses	\$ -	45,000	
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,356,913	\$ 5,795,495	8.19%

YTD Expense by Category



YTD Expense by Department



Fund Balance Summary		2022 Actual	2023 Budgeted	2023 Actual to Date
Beginning Fund Balance		\$ 10,583,985	10,630,324	\$ 10,630,324
Revenue		9,994,550	10,129,960	5,677,317
Expenditures		(9,948,211)	(10,740,163)	(5,795,495)
Ending Fund Balance		\$ 10,630,324	\$ 10,020,121	\$ 10,512,146
Ending Fund Balance Designation Detail		2022 Actual	2023 Budgeted	2023 Actual to Date
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Cash Flow		\$ 3,369,707	\$ 3,502,655	\$ 3,502,655
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Emergency		850,936	892,009	892,009
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Capital Transfer		172,000	45,000	45,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Unemployment Comp Reserve		13,599	14,403	14,403
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Birch Bay Operating Fund Reserve		600,000	600,000	600,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Ownership & Library Svcs Fund Reserve		3,192,315	3,192,315	3,192,315
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Maintenance Fund		650,000	650,000	650,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Operating Cost Stabilization Fund		250,000	250,000	250,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Collection Project Fund		112,000	172,000	172,000
Total Designated Ending Fund Balance		9,210,557	9,318,382	9,318,382
Beginning Fund Balance less designated funds		1,373,428	1,311,942	1,311,942
Net Income		46,339	(610,203)	(118,178)
Ending Unassigned Funds with no designation		1,419,767	701,739	1,193,764
Ending Designated Funds		9,210,557	9,318,382	9,318,382
Total Ending Fund Balance		\$ 10,630,324	10,020,121	\$ 10,512,146

July Summary

- Each year I conduct an annual inventory of WCLS's capital and small and attractive assets. I have completed this year's count at our branches (with assistance from Accountant Ruth Nail) and will be wrapping up the count at Administrative Services over the coming days.
- We have recently updated the way we remit monthly contributions to employee Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Since switching to the Public Employee Benefits Board (PEBB) system in 2021, this has been a clunky process done by mail that often resulted in delayed account deposits. With assistance from our contacts at HealthEquity, who hold the HSAs, we have transitioned to an electronic payment process that should speed up deposits and reduce delays and frustration.
- After taking some time off later this month, I'll be shifting into 2024 Budget mode, which includes meeting with department heads and branch managers to compile data and start building the budget. Facilities Services Manager Ryan Cullup will be joining me when I meet with branch managers to discuss facilities needs for the coming year.
- The 2023 transfer of \$45,000 from the General fund to the Capital fund is complete, giving us a balance of \$1,556,636 in the Capital Fund.

WCLS Account Summary

WCLS follows the Washington State Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS). Below is a brief description of revenue and expense accounts.

Revenue Accounts:

Taxes: This section includes taxes on real and personal property, which are the primary revenue source for the library system, making up 95% of operating revenues received. The bulk of property tax revenue is received in April and October of each year.

Intergovernmental Revenue: Sources of intergovernmental revenue include grant revenues received from state and federal sources and revenues resulting from the leasing of, or sale of, timber and other products from state forest lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources. It also includes taxes from private harvest timber sales.

Charges for Goods and Services: This category includes fees received from library printing and copying services. It also includes use fees from the sale of library cards to non-residents and from contracted services with other entities, such as the Whatcom County Jail.

Miscellaneous Revenues: This source of revenue includes investment interest earned through participation in the Whatcom County Investment Fund. It also includes fees received for library meeting room use, private grants and donations, charges for lost or damaged library materials, and other miscellaneous revenue such as rebates and reimbursements.

Other Financing Sources: This category includes non-revenue items such as proceeds from the sale of capital assets and insurance recoveries.

Expense Accounts:

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: This expense category includes wages and fringe benefits for WCLS employees, including medical and dental insurance; contributions for employees enrolled in the State of Washington Public Employee Retirement System (PERS); contributions into the Social Security and Medicare systems; workers' compensation (Labor and Industries); state Paid Family and Medical Leave; long-term disability insurance; and unemployment compensation.

Supplies and Minor Equipment: This section includes office, program, maintenance, and custodial supplies, as well as fuel. It includes small tools and equipment items such as computer hardware, furnishing and fixtures, shelving, book returns and carts, etc. It also includes the collection materials budget that comprise WCLS's lending collection.

Other Services and Charges: This category includes costs for professional services, such as legal, payroll, programming, cataloging, and Interlibrary Loan services. It includes communication costs, such as postage, courier services, and phone and internet charges. Travel; use and excise taxes; auto, liability and property insurance; utilities; repairs and maintenance; and other miscellaneous expenses are also reported here.

Other Financing Uses: This category includes transfers to the WCLS Capital fund. This transfer is equal to the prior year's revenue received from certain intergovernmental sources, such as those resulting from the sale of timber and other products from state forest lands.

I'm on vacation right now; thank you to Michael Cox and Jackie Saul for being in-charge in my absence.

COMMUNITY

The summer sunshine brings many opportunities for library fans to connect with one another at library events. From jazz concerts to children's craft fairs, teen Writers Camp, Friends of the Library movie nights in the park, the bookmobile in parades, fundraisers by the beach, and backyard concerts, WCLS libraries and library staff are at the heart of every community.

ACCESS

[Common Threads Farm](#) brought free, scratch-cooked nutritious lunches to children at the North Fork and Deming libraries weekly this summer, delivered by their food truck named "Basil." This project is funded by OSPI, WSDA, PeaceHealth, and other donors. It helps families who rely on free and reduced lunches during the school year to feed their children during the summer. We're happy to be a gathering spot for children who can grab some food and visit the library at the same time.

RESOURCES

A reminder that you can read the *Bellingham Herald* and *Cascadia Daily News* via the wcls.org website (use the Digital Content drop-down menu). Your library card saves you money!

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Our Open Book poetry lineup is shaping up nicely, with Washington State Poet Laureate Arianne True (a member of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations), our former Poet Laureate Rena Priest (an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish / Lummi Nation), and Ross Gay, an African American poet whose poem [Within Two Weeks the African American Poet Ross Gay Is Mistaken for Both the African American Poet Terrance Hayes and the African American Poet Kyle Dargan, Not One of Whom Looks Anything Like the Others](#) eloquently expresses why it's so important to have BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) authors represented at library events. Local children's and young adult author and illustrator Phoebe Wahl will also be joining us. Her art celebrates body positivity and other social issues (as well as beautiful woodland fairies and animals).

Christine Perkins
Executive Director

COMMUNITY

A partnership between WCLS, the Friends of the Deming Library, and the Whatcom Community Foundation via a Project Neighborly grant created the Backyard Concert Series. On the first Saturday during July, August, and September, a selection of bands with local connections provide an outdoor concert with the goal of creating a deep sense of joy and connection between neighbors. A hoped-for outcome is for the community to consider the Deming Library a public space that is welcoming and a place to connect. The music provides a focal point of interest and the freedom for people to talk (and dance) with each other. A key aspect of planning included identifying a person to provide sound equipment/expertise and a backyard model that made for easy preparation.



ACCESS

The Distribution Department added four additional weekly deliveries in July, improving the patron experience by increasing the frequency and speed that requested materials are delivered. Staff schedules have been adjusted to account for the additional deliveries, but no extra hours have been added. The South Whatcom Library now receives deliveries five days a week, an increase from three weekly deliveries. An additional delivery day was also added at North Fork and Sumas library. The Sumas Library Express dramatically increases the number of hours patrons can access materials at this library, and adding another day with fresh materials supports this new service. Usage data clearly show an increase in circulation on days when a library receives a delivery. Kudos to the Distribution team for shifting their work in a way that benefits library patrons.

Michael Cox
Deputy Director

RESOURCES

Summer Reading

Though Summer Reading continues through the end of August (keep reading for trees!), the bulk of our busy programming concluded at the end of July. Here's a recap of how the Youth Services Staff celebrated reading with young people of all ages this summer:

Programs

In July the Youth Services team put on 129 programs for preschoolers, kids, and teens.

For the preschool set we did 44 storytime programs, some in every location, including Teddy Bear Picnics at Deming, Everson, Island, North Fork, and Sumas; Stories in the Park at Ferndale; and Pajama Storytime online, with a total attendance of 952. The Common Threads' Farm Food Truck offered free lunches right after storytime at Deming and North Fork, and 182 young people took part.

For kids we put on a number of tree-related craft programs across the system, making bird feeders, birdhouses, and suncatchers. A total of 979 kids came and crafted. Speaking of crafts, 308 kids had the chance to sell and/or buy their homemade creations at Craft Fairs at Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas. 48 kids read to dogs at Ferndale. 100 kids built with LEGO® bricks at South Whatcom. 10 kids learned financial literacy at Blaine.

For teens we offered day- or week-long camp experiences. At Lynden eight teens spent a week at Shakespeare Camp designing costumes and set pieces, practicing lines, and hurling Shakesperean insults, culminating in a public performance. At Ferndale 14 teens spent a week at Writers Camp digging into creative expression and honing their skills with poetry and prose. And 122 teens attended shorter Art Camps across the system focused on collaborative work. They contributed pages to a communal picture book about trees. They crafted textile art blocks (from discarded CDs) for a travelling installation piece that will move between libraries. And they build personal collages on the covers of discarded books.

Book Distribution

During the last week of June we hosted day-long Summer Reading Kickoff events at every location and every Bookmobile stop. This was our chance to orient young people and families to the new tree-centered program and offer young people 0-18 a forever book to keep. The Kickoff events were well-attended and well-received, and we were able to put a total of 1,277 you-don't-have-to-return-them books into the hands (and hearts) of the young people of Whatcom County.

Forever Book Distribution Statistics

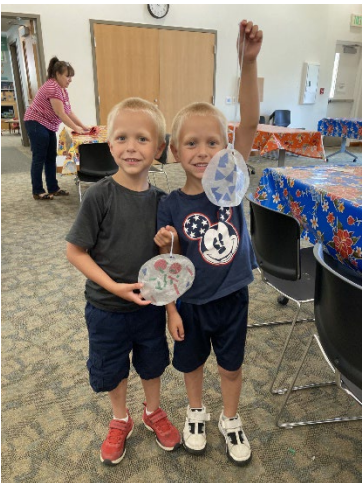
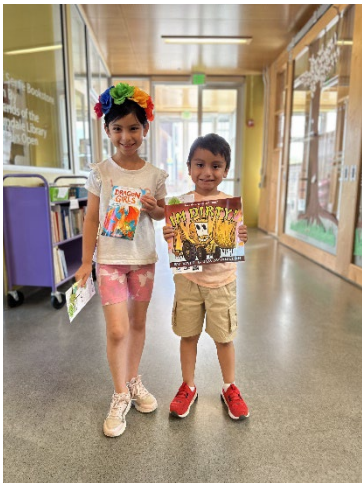
EARLY	Board Books	Picture Books	Reader Fiction	Reader NF
BK	4	13	7	7
BL	8	10	6	6
DE	3	6	3	2
EV	12	8	12	9
FE	19	35	26	18
IS	2	3	1	1
LY	24	43	34	10
NF	5	7	3	1
PR	2	5	5	2
SU	5	12	9	8
SW	10	26	17	19
	94	168	123	83

KIDS	Easy Fiction	Kids Fiction	Kids Graphic	Kids NF
BK	13	15	14	21
BL	10	5	9	14
DE	6	4	5	10
EV	18	8	7	5
FE	30	30	30	33
IS	0	1	2	0
LY	38	27	22	29
NF	8	4	4	9
PR	9	7	6	6
SU	9	8	7	10
SW	17	15	12	14
	158	124	118	151

TEEN	Teen Fiction	Teen Graphic	Teen NF
BK	10	6	4
BL	8	15	2
DE	3	5	3
EV	3	5	2
FE	21	29	2
IS	0	1	0
LY	17	12	5
NF	7	6	0
PR	7	8	3
SU	4	1	1
SW	9	16	1
	89	104	23

SPANISH	Spanish Board	Spanish PB	Spanish Kids
BK	6	2	0
BL	1	0	0
DE	1	1	0
EV	2	0	1
FE	1	3	0
IS	1	0	0
LY	3	5	3
NF	0	0	0
PR	1	1	0
SU	1	0	1
SW	4	3	1
	21	15	6

A few pictures from our efforts this summer:



Thom Barthelmess
Youth Services Manager



The first two of three Whatcom Grooves jazz concerts were a success. The inaugural jazz series hosted by Friends of the South Whatcom, Ferndale and Blaine libraries wraps up Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Blaine Performing Arts Center.

The first two events were held at Glenhaven and the Ferndale Library. Approximately 150 people listened to Bilongo on the lawn at the Glenhaven Clubhouse, and more than 80 guests sat among the stacks to listen to the Jerry Steinhilber Trio at the Ferndale Library. This may have been the first concert at the Ferndale Library. The setting is ideal for intimate music performances. There were also Junior Groove events for young people the day before the concerts at the South Whatcom and Ferndale libraries.

By hosting the jazz series, the Friends intend to raise awareness of our vibrant local libraries and to recruit new volunteers. We'll assess at the end of the series to determine if the concerts will return in 2024. So far, a majority of the Friends involved seem eager to repeat.

Podcast: wcls.org/podcast or subscribe on your favorite podcast platform

- Episode 37: Summer Reading update

Media Coverage

- *Cascadia Daily News*, July 6, 2023, [Amy's picks: Pride, guitar gurus, a musical and a car show](#) (Whatcom Grooves)
- *Visit Bellingham*, July 6, 2023, bellingham.org/pressreleases/friends-of-the-library-groups-present-free-concerts-to-celebrate-summer-jazz-and-libraries-
- *KNKX NPR*, July 6, 2023, [Can libraries help hold our information landscape together?](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, July 13, 2023, [Amy's Picks: Blondes, berries, grooves and art](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, July 19, 2023, [Community/Senior Center to hold Family Day in the Park, July 21](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, July 19, 2023, [Banner project now up to 70-plus veterans](#)
- *Northern Light*, July 19, 2023, [WCLS offering a calendar full of summer events](#)

- *Northern Light*, July 19, 2023, [Birch Bay is setting of new children's book by local mother, daughter](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, July 19, 2023, [Letters to the Editor — July 19, 2023](#)
- *Whatcom News*, July 22, 2023, [Ferndale Library free jazz concerts for kids and adults](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, July 27, 2023, [Amy's picks: Boats, Bigfoot, festivals and films](#)
- *Ferndale Record*, July 26, 2023, [Much to do for free at WCLS](#)
- *Northern Light*, July 26, 2023, [Make the most of Rollback Weekend in Birch Bay](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, July 27, 2023, [Friends of the Point Roberts Library AGM](#)
- *Seattle Times*, July 28, 2023, [Local information providers can cultivate curiosity to build community trust](#)
- *Bellingham Herald*, July 28, 2023, [Three candidates in primary race for Bellingham council seat](#)

Salish Current

Jump in!

Book sale. Friends of Birch Bay Library are raising funds for their building project by selling their bookmobile, books and breakfast goodies. July 29, 7 a.m.–3 p.m. [Birch Bay Library.](#)

Forest visions. Earth artist Molly Abromitis, known as Sitimorba, demonstrates in her work a slow unfolding of visual communion between herself and the tree she's working with. To July 31, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., [Deming Library.](#)

Dog school. Dog behaviorist Lawrence Pang offers a hands-on opportunity to practice some behavior improvement routines like walking your dog — teaching dogs not to pull on the leash while being walked, and a couple of common issues experienced by attendees. July 22, 2–4 p.m., outdoors behind the Blaine Library. [Information.](#)

All Point Bulletin

English Ivy: The Silent Killer. Saturday, July 22, 2-3:30 p.m., community center dining room. Co-sponsored by PR Library and PR Garden Club. Learn How To Protect Your Trees English ivy kills 100% of the trees it climbs up on. Michael Feerer of Whatcom Million Trees Project will discuss this threat to local trees and show you how to safely and effectively remove this non-native killer. Co-sponsored with the Point Roberts Garden Club. For adults.

Teen Art Camp: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, July 26, 28 and 29, 2:30-4 p.m., Library. Each day features a different project designed to stretch creative muscles and help us see the world in new ways. Grades six to 12.

Storytime: Wednesdays, 10:30–11 a.m., PR library. Through July. For ages 2–6. An open program that includes stories, rhymes and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation.

Play Date: Wednesdays in August, 10:30 to 11 a.m., PR Library. Families with young children play and create at this informal social time. Toys and materials will be provided.

Chess: Every Tuesday, 4–7 p.m., Point Roberts library. Beginners are welcome.

Craft and Game Night: Tuesdays from 5–7 p.m., Point Roberts Library. Bring a craft to work on or a board game to play.

Lummi Island Tome

Friends of Island Library

By Joan Keiper

The Friends of Island Library Used Book Sale is still going strong. The barn is open daily from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

We have an abundance of books so the time has come when we can no longer accept books for this year's sale. Many thanks to all the people who have donated – you make the sale a success!

Funds raised at the book sale are used to maintain the building & grounds and to sponsor events & programs at the Island Library.



Silent Auction: Friends of Island Library's Annual Auction is less than one month away! It is **Saturday August 5th from 4-6:30 pm at Carriage House Gardens**. If you are planning on donating items or services for this auction now is the time to get them to the organizers. If you would like to donate an item or service, please call Pat Moye 360.510.7392, Joan Keiper 360.739.0146, or Ginny Winfield 805.320.1533

You must be 21 years or older to attend the auction as we will be selling wine and beer. We will have music, nibbles and plenty of seating.

All funds raised at this auction directly benefit the building and grounds, maintenance, improvements, and programs of the Lummi Island Library.

The Friends of Island Library (FOIL) is a local non-profit that supports the Island Library through fundraising and promoting the purposes and activities of the Island Library and its community. The FOIL Board meets bi-monthly on the second Monday of the month. **The next meeting will be on Sept 11 at 4:00 PM at the library.** All library patrons are welcomed.

If you'd like to support FOIL's work, contributions can be sent to PO Box 204, or made through Paypal on www.friendsofislandlibrary.org.

Mary Vermillion

Community Relations Manager

Collection Size	July		
	Physical	Electronic	Total
	312,347	291,760	604,107

Circulation<	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Physical Circulation					
Blaine	13,787	12,839	98,085	85,725	-12.6%
Bookmobile & Outreach	4,529	3,996	31,888	28,854	-9.5%
Deming	8,663	7,637	67,619	54,852	-18.9%
Everson	10,196	9,488	70,166	64,522	-8.0%
Ferndale	35,389	33,670	238,516	224,152	-6.0%
Island	2,162	1,956	14,975	13,182	-12.0%
Lynden	44,262	40,618	284,520	269,526	-5.3%
North Fork	4,744	4,819	32,654	31,020	-5.0%
NWIC	4	8	72	76	5.6%
Point Roberts + PRX	3,226	3,483	15,879	16,638	4.8%
Sumas + SLX	528	2,686	2,215	13,089	490.9%
South Whatcom	8,380	8,308	53,010	54,094	2.0%
NDX	3,043	2,980	24,813	21,987	-11.4%
Total	138,913	132,488	934,412	877,717	-6.07%
Disc materials: DVDs and CDs	34,463	28,230	245,009	190,375	-22.3%
All other materials	99,298	104,258	679,784	683,122	0.5%
Electronic Circulation					
eBooks/eAudiobooks	29,821	33,214	194,435	222,546	14.5%
eMusic	7,600	13,215	65,698	84,345	28.4%
Streaming Video	660	787	6,201	5,564	-10.3%
eMagazines	1,517	1,855	11,230	11,727	4.4%
Total	39,598	49,071	277,564	324,182	16.80%
Total Circulation	178,511	181,559	1,211,976	1,201,899	-0.83%

< Sumas Library closed 11/20/21 to 2/11/23.

< Sumas Library Express opened 2/11/23.

Visitors (Door Counts)	July			Year to Date		% Chg Frm 2021
	2019	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Blaine	9,287	6,481	7,100	43,189	44,527	3.1%
Deming	4,199	2,352	2,709	16,509	15,860	-3.9%
Everson	6,093	1,847	3,551	14,657	20,913	42.7%
Ferndale	17,106	10,529	15,981	69,775	80,842	15.9%
Island	1,548	1,651	1,898	8,693	6,570	-24.4%
Lynden	17,394	11,154	12,197	74,902	71,980	-3.9%
Northwest Drive Express		457	290	2,448	2,003	-18.2%
North Fork	2,502	1,880	1,995	11,635	10,067	-13.5%
Point Roberts + PRX	3,110	1,356	2,838	8,006	9,645	20.5%
Sumas + SLX	2,214	0	1,689	0	6,499	
South Whatcom	3,089	2,899	3,826	16,700	12,759	-23.6%
Total	66,542	40,606	54,074	266,514	281,665	5.68%

* Sumas door counter installed on March 1, 2023.

New Borrowers	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Registered	490	762	2,853	4,407	54.47%

Patron Service	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2021	2023	2022	2023	
Interlibrary Loan					
Borrowed from BPL	11,355	10,605	84,280	80,158	-4.9%
Lent to BPL	21,684	22,672	160,403	153,848	-4.1%
Borrowed from other libraries	346	558	4,336	3,819	-11.9%
Lent to other libraries	350	556	3,377	3,197	-5.3%

Electronic Resources	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
WCLS.org Sessions	33,158	35,046	257,564	256,622	-0.4%
Bibliocommons Sessions	48,791	61,083	362,246	376,518	3.9%
Internet Sessions	1,795	3,516	14,996	21,731	44.9%
Wifi Clients / Sessions	7,880	8,905	37,281	46,597	25.0%

Volunteers	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Volunteer Hours	975.25	1,021.00	5,556.75	5,418.75	-2.5%

Activities	July		Year to Date		% Chg
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Programs					
Adults	35	63	166	372	124.1%
Teens	17	31	151	175	15.9%
Children	74	91	266	610	129.3%
Total	126	185	583	1,157	98.5%

Attendance					
Adults	514	570	2750	4244	54.3%
Teens	185	240	3027	6339	109.4%
Children	2,569	2,726	10875	18690	71.9%
Total	3,268	3,536	16,652	29,273	75.8%

Corrections:

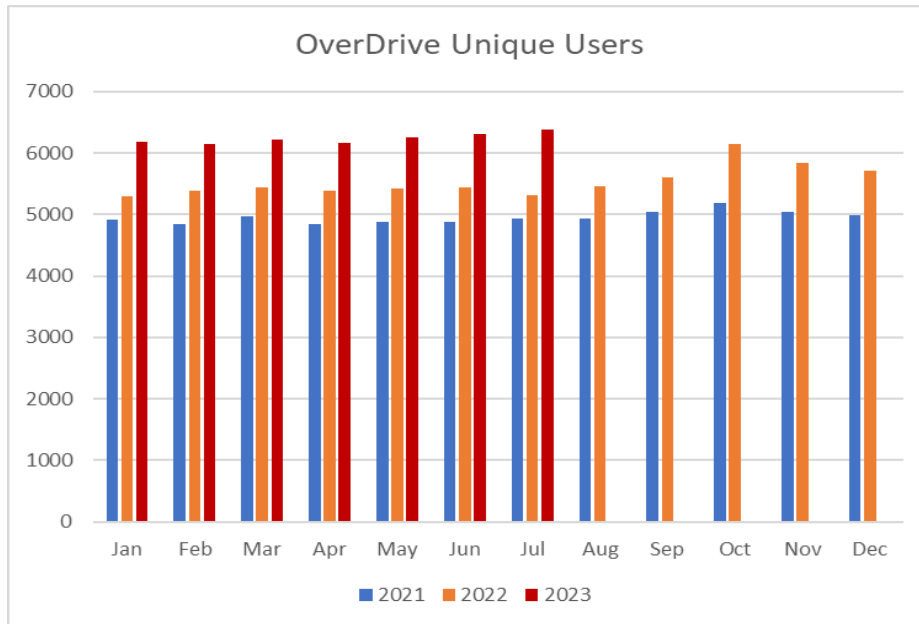
Corrected NDX circulation May - July; it is supposed to include AS circ and was showing only NDX

WCLS.org and Bibliocommons are now tracking Sessions rather than Entrances due to a Google Analytics platform update

Missing volunteer stats from DE, IS, NF

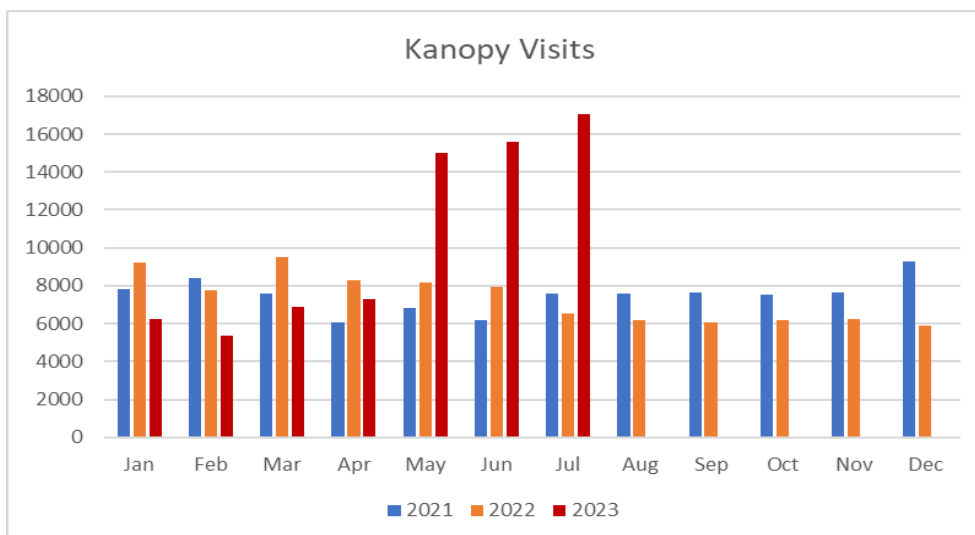
OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS

Once again, July was another highest month yet for unique users of OverDrive content (6,377 WCLS cardholders). BPL is experiencing the same trend. The top eBook and eAudio checkout was *A Very Typical Family* by Sierra Godfrey, which was available with no waiting as the OverDrive Big Library Read from July 13-27 (170 circs for the eBook and 80 circs for the eAudio). As in past months, eMagazines (*Woman's World* and *Us Weekly*) and eAudiobooks made up the rest of the top 10 circulating list in July.



KANOPY VISITS - JANUARY TO DECEMBER COMPARISON

I have yet been unable to get a clear answer from OverDrive (who now owns Kanopy) regarding exactly what changed in mid-May in their definition of "visit," which is how we have been measuring Kanopy engagement. By the new measuring stick, visits increased in July (over May and June). Since the number of videos played and minutes viewed are unaffected by the change, statistics could be recalculated using either of those measurements, although I don't think they measure engagement as well as visits.



DATABASE USAGE

As is normal for this time of year, use of school resources is almost nonexistent in the summer, but robust use of Novelist, Chilton's Auto Repair, and Newsbank kept aggregated usage at slightly above June's level. (Note that last July usage was extremely low in the aftermath of the data breach event.) Although use of some databases is slight, the session topics tell a story of how access to these databases help our patrons. For example, in July, users of Peterson's Test Prep created resumes, practiced for the AP U.S. History and Praxis Math tests, and prepared for the U.S. Citizenship and Civil Service exams.

