

## Yolo County Library – Interim Library Administrator’s Report

March-April

April 12, 2017

### Library Budget Update:

Library Budget for FY 2017-18: has been submitted, and library staff meet with CAO staff 3/31/17, though expect it will take a few weeks before we receive comments back.

- 4.5% increase in property taxes
- New sorter in Davis Library
- OPEB and PERS are up
- Ecommerce software to allow credit card payments in branch on the Express Lane selfcheckout units
  - Will be adding 1 unit to each of the smaller branches

Overall under the budget for next year we are holding our own. Preliminary budget shows draw on reserves, though the actual draw will be less as there will be salary savings as vacant positions are filled during the summer.

Yolo County Library Foundation: Board members have been elected (Camille Chan, Mary Stephens, Mark Fink, Lynnel Pollock, Sally Brown, Chris Crist (non-voting)) with first meeting to be held April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 at Library Central Services.

Grants: AFT Community Library received a \$1,000 grant from the California Library Association to purchase a refrigerator for their ‘Lunch at the Library’ program.

Facilities Master Plan Update: Jennifer Sweeney and Associates have:

- visited each branch and interviewed each branch lead;
- completed online survey
- community conversations were held April 3-6 in the communities of West Sacramento, Davis, Esparto and Winters

CalHumanities Grant Update: ‘I Am Your Neighbor – a Tale of Two Cities’

- venue in Woodland was selected – Woodland Community College
  - still tying down venues in Davis & West Sacramento
- working with Yolo County Housing on movie selection
- events will occur in the fall 2017

### Facilities News and Updates:

Capital Improvement Plan: Bond sales for County constructions projects are planned to occur in July 2017. To be included as a project for the bond sale, any proposed projects must have a completed CEQA Study. This may mean the Yolo Branch Library construction project could not be included in the initial bond sale by the County.

Assurances have been made that the Yolo Branch Library project remains a priority of the County, and that if necessary other County funds, including Library Development Impact Funds, could be used toward this project.

South Davis: The City of Davis and the Board are planning a 2 x 2 x2 meeting with Davis Joint Unified to consider alternative options for more Davis library services.

### **Human Resources:**

Joining us at tonight's Library Advisory Board meeting:

- Laura Benn, Early Learning Coordinator for the WY Region
- Maria Sandoval, Library Assistant for the WY Region

### **Promotion:**

Dana Christy was chosen as the East Yolo Library Regional Manager. Thank you to those of you who participated in the process, which culminated on Monday, March 20, 2017, when the two finalists made presentations and answered questions from 38 library employees, Friends and LAB members. Each candidate individually met with the Policy Team who asked additional questions, and had a formal interview with a Library Advisory Board member, a City of West Sacramento manager, and the Interim Library Administrator. Both candidates showed exceptional skills and experience, but one candidate was a unanimous choice by each of the three groups. This appointment will be effective April 16, 2017.

Dana brings a breadth of experience with her, some of which include:

- November 2014 began as Librarian II for the West Yolo Region
- June 2010 began as the Library Circulation Supervisor
- April 2014 Executive Director for Clean & Sober: responsible for program management, fundraising, board development and all administrative, legal and financial functions.

During Dana's tenure with the Library she continually seeks solutions to problems and thinks outside the box. In an effort to reduce barriers in library service to the residents of Yolo County, Dana proposed the idea of allowing homeless customers and individuals new to the area who have no verified address to receive a Library card and be able to check out one item. As a result of her idea, the Library changed its policy and has positively affected the community. Another of her accomplishments was completing the Book Bike Grant and working with the Friends of the Davis Library to create the Mobile Outreach Branch (MOB). Dana's creativity was recognized by the Board of Supervisors last fall with a SPIRIT Award for Innovation.

Dana exemplifies the County's Core Values through her dedicated contributions, creativity and collaboration. She helps people with dignity and empathy, and always makes sure to do her best for anyone she helps.

With Dana's appointment, Shuqin Jiao will return to her position as the East Yolo Library Regional Supervisor. Shuqin is to be commended for the job she has done since last August as the Interim Library Regional Manager.

**Vacancies:** with the promotion of Dana Christy to Library Regional Manager position this now leaves us with a vacant Librarian I/II position for the West Yolo Region. The initial process to begin recruitment for this position has begun.

County Librarian: Ruth Metz, the consultant retained by the County, has completed her Needs Assessment, and County HR is developing the recruitment brochure. We expect the position to be open shortly, and HR plans to hold 1<sup>st</sup> interviews mid-May.

Outreach Specialist for YoloReads: With the promotion of Maria Sandoval, the Library will be filling the YoloReads Outreach Specialist vacancy as soon as possible. Interviews are expected to occur during April 2017.

#### **Conference Attendance:**

Escape, Hide, Fight – training for survival: the County provided a special training session on this topic to managers and supervisors on April 19. The program was provided by CalOES's Dan Dailey.

Other training attended by staff:

- LGBTQ+ Forum (YCOE)
- Libraries Supporting Racial Equity (Castro Valley)
- Supporting the Whole Child (City of West Sacramento)
- Hosting Your Own ComicCon

#### **Friends and Library Update:**

- Many of our Friends groups are participating in the Big Day of Giving this year. Check out their websites to find more information.

**Friends of the County Archives:** Mel Russell updated the Board on her World War I project "Lest We Forget" and has been working with branch staff on reserving their meeting room space. Heather Lanctot, the Archives and Record Center Coordinator, developed a nice display for Women's History Month.

**Friends of the Clarksburg Branch Library:** The Friends elected new leaders for the board at their February meeting. The new president is Jennifer Roche-Krausse, and two new

members (Arika Mills and Michelle Garcia) became members of the library board. Ted Smith's book on Clarksburg has been sold out and brought in more than \$5000 in donated funds to FOCL. Yolo County Children's Alliance is holding a "Celebrate Spring" event on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 at the Library with food, kids games, music and a bike raffle.

**Friends of the Davis Public Library:** On March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Friends had their grand opening celebration for Logos Books. Davis Friends elected new Board members. The Davis Friends supported the RiverCats ticket reading incentives program. Davis Friends membership levels are up from last year.

**Friends of the Esparto Regional Library:** The Friends elected several new leaders within the board and Randy Thomas from Wildwings golf club came to talk about golf tournaments as a possible fundraiser for FERL. A finance committee was created, and the Friends will provide a free book from their book nook for each child who becomes a cardholder.

**Knights Landing Friends of the Library:** The Friends have developed a refreshed look at bylaws and operations and have elected new leadership and an annual budget to support library activities.

**West Sacramento Friends of the Library:** WSFOL received a bequest from the Beverly Sandeen Marty Swingle Family Foundation. The River Cats Foundation grant application was successfully submitted. WSFOL voted to support purchase of RiverCats tickets for summer reading incentives matched by a donation from LAB member Mark Fink.

**Winters Friends of the Library:** The Friends annual Poetry Jam was a huge success. The branch is holding Conversation Cafes with SUCCESS mentors/mentees every month (First Thursday of every month) from 4-5.

**Friends of the Yolo Branch Library:** The Juarez Family, who own the property adjacent to the Yolo Branch Library, has provided permission for the firm preparing the CEQA Study to access their property as part of the Study. This is good news as it appears the family is prepared to negotiate.

#### **Events and special news:**

- **New additional hours were added to Knights Landing Branch on Saturdays beginning March 25. Additional hours for Yolo Branch will be added on Wednesday evenings to coincide with the opening of the new temporary location.**
- More than 400 kids have signed up for the Cover to Cover reading incentive program. Teachers at Delta Charger Elementary School work with library staff to

make this program a success by sending home information to families and encouraging students to ready for their dinner.

- In Yolo, Cache Creek High School will not be giving credit to teens that attend the Yolo Branch Library teen group. The teens get community service hours for attending the group and for every 15 hours of community service they will get 1 credit toward an elective.
- At the Clarksburg Branch Library, Legal Services of Northern CA returned in February for another workshop for low income and senior community members. Attorney Alicia Heilman facilitated the event
- In February at the Esparto Branch, the local middle school art program, led by art teacher Trish Gustafson, selected books from the library and she and her students put together short Valentine's Day themed puppet shows. Using our puppets and portable puppet theater, they came in form 3 weeks to rehearse and on February 14<sup>th</sup> did a fabulous puppet show.
- During March 2017 the Davis Library had two notable displays, one honoring Black History Month and the other honoring Yolo County Women in Agriculture, which was also used as a display for Women's History Month. A generous donation of \$2,500 was received by the system from the Yolo County Women's History Month Committee.
- On March 18 during the Candy Land Mini Golf program at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, 36 participants enjoyed six holes of Gingerbread Man, Candy Cane Lane, Chocolate Mountain, Cupcake Crossing and Lollipop Forest. Families and children had a blast playing miniature golf and turning in their score cards for a chance to win a prize. There was one winner in each of the following age groups: 0 to 5, 6 to 10, and 11 to 12. Parents loved the décor and the children enjoyed the theme, so much so that families continued to play even after they turned in their tally cards to try and perfect their number of strokes and even try to get a hole-in-one! What a great way to spend a free Saturday afternoon with the family.
- A young patron, who was 7 or 8 years old, visited the Arthur F. Turner Community Library on March 19 and grudgingly asked a library staff member for book recommendations. The young girl shared that she *"is a twin and doesn't usually like to read because her twin brother likes to read and she wants to be 'different' from him."* The Library staff member, Donna Romeo, replied, *"of course you want to be different, let's find you books that you like."* The young girl left with 3 books and came back two weeks later with a thank you card for Donna and even signed up for In 'N Out's 'Cover to Cover' Reading Program! Kudos to Donna for making a young patron feel welcome while respecting her wish to be unique and different. This was a great moment of connection and we are all so happy

that the young patron has continued her new interest in reading by joining the 'Cover to Cover' Reading Program, where for every five books a child ages 4-12 reads, they receive an 'Achievement Award' good for a free burger at any In 'N Out location.

- On March 23 a mother expressed her gratitude to library staff Vaile Fujikawa and Laura Benn for the library's many programs, especially storytime and MakerKids. *"We came to the U.S. four months ago and we started coming to the library,"* said the mother, who worked as a teacher in China. *"I have been saving information from the programs to take back to China so that I can share with my colleagues how great and important it is for libraries to have programs and materials for children."* The customer's daughter, who is five years old, is also saving information and is excited to share with her friends in China the different things she has learned at the library and in the United States. The Yolo County Library values diversity, provides relevant programming, and advocates for free access to information that for many, including this mother, is uncommon and underscores the importance of libraries to the future of our communities.
- On Sunday, February 26, a patron returned one of the U.S. Citizenship kits that is available at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library and told library staff member Minako Victor that he recently passed the U.S. Citizenship test and is now officially a U.S. Citizen! He was very happy and said that the kit from the library was very useful and he used the materials to study for the test. The Arthur F. Turner Community Library has a U.S. Citizenship Corner that has free information and resources for individuals to take home as well as a U.S. Citizenship Kit that cardholders can check out. The Yolo County Library supports learning and growth by providing opportunities and resources in a welcoming and enriching environment.
- Yolo County Archives staff just completed the scanning of two Woodland Shakespeare Club scrapbooks. The original scrapbooks will remain with the club, but the digital copies can be viewed at the Archives. The two scrapbooks document club events, gatherings, and the lives of the members themselves through photographs, obituaries, fliers, playbills and programs. The scrapbooks span 25 amazing years of Shakespeare Club activities from 1992-2017.
- On March 13 a patron visited the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library and shared a sweet comment with a library staff member. *"I really appreciate the time and dedication that people put into the displays of the books,"* said the patron. *"The displays are a great start for a reference."* The Yolo County Library is consistently working to provide easy and accessible information about our collection to community members and library card holders as well as the many varied programs and services provided. The Library and its staff takes pride in providing Reader's Advisory that is relevant, meaningful and interesting. Reader's Advisory is a service which involves suggesting various titles to a reader through direct or indirect means.

- On Tuesday March 14, Archives staff gave a tour and provided information to a community member who is participating in an online genealogy course. The student, as part of her course work, needed to draft a map of the facility and identify collections that would be of use to genealogists. Some of the collections and materials that were pointed out to the student included High School Yearbooks, City Directories, the Obituary Collection, Family Subject Folders, Deed Books, Maps, Board of Supervisor Minutes, Marriage Licenses, Church Directories, WWI Scrapbooks, and Censuses. It was apparent that most of the collection could be useful in some capacity depending on what information a genealogist was hoping to locate. Great job to Archives staff for their knowledge of the collection and assistance to a community member.
- On March 15 during the teen program, Jenga March Madness, six teens participated in a Jenga tournament at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library. Teens faced off against one another in matches and picked their favorite book as their 'team' badge. Eventually it came down to two teens in the finals and the book they won the entire tournament was James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*. The participants had a lot of fun playing and interacting with each other and even asked when the next program was going to be! What a great way to engage teens at the library.
- From March 21 through April 6, the Arthur F. Turner Community Library will be hosting more than 23 second grade classes from Southport Elementary School, Stonegate Elementary School, Bridgeway Island Elementary School, Westfield Village Elementary School, Riverbank Elementary School and Elkhorn Elementary School. More than **500 students**, teachers and parents will visit the library for a tour of the branch and learn the many relevant and fun programs and services that are available at the Yolo County Library, including signing up for a free library card. What an amazing effort from the Arthur F. Turner Community Library staff on this project, led by Cristina Ruiz, to reach out to local schools and provide an educational tour for our youth and their families. Great job!
- West Yolo Library Regional Manager Crista Cannariato was recently assisting a library cardholder with an Overdrive question at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library on Monday, March 6. "*I don't know what you've done in the past year or so but this library has become so much more user-friendly*" said the customer after being assisted. "*I want to tell that to everyone I know.*" The Yolo County Library strives to provide exceptional customer service with strategies such as "Getting to Yes" and having an outward focus for our communities and residents. Great job to the library staff at the Davis Branch Library for their continued positive approach and customer interactions.
- On Saturday, March 4 at the South Davis Montgomery Library, 34 participants were dazzled and amazed by Magician Trevor Wyatt. The 16 kids and 18 parents enjoyed the fun and energetic magic show that was educational and had

everyone smiling and applauding. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning at the library!

- Recently at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library a patron needed assistance, asking library staff if there were any materials or books she could use for a Skype interview with an online international Chinese school for children ages 0-5. Interim Library Regional Manager Shuqin Jiao recommended the early learning kits, which have multiple themes and are designed for children between the ages of 0-5. Each box contain books, educational materials, and toys. The patron was thrilled to hear the Library had these resources and actually used them in her interview! Great job to library staff for thinking quickly and sharing one of the many great resources the Library has to meet the needs of our residents.
- On March 8, Alan Candee performed 'Old Put' at the Clarksburg Branch Library to the delight of twelve participants. Through lively songs and storytelling, the audience got a firsthand account of the history of the Gold Rush. John Stone, aka 'Old Put,' was an American collector and publisher of folk songs, primarily about miners and their adventures in the California Gold Rush of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Children and families joined in the songs and made their own 'authentic' music instruments from portable, commonplace items found in a forty-niner's knapsack, such as a comb kazoo and musical spoons. The Yolo County Library supports community memory and programming that engages children and families of all ages.
- On February 10 Public Services Librarian Touger Vang held a mini seminar at the California State University, Sacramento titled 'From the Mountains in Laos to the Sacramento Valley: The Odyssey of the Hmong People.' Touger spoke about how the Hmong resettled throughout the United States since the mid 1970's with a large population making the Sacramento Valley their new home. Touger also shared the history, culture and journey of the Hmong. Great job to Touger for sharing such important and relevant information with the public and making access to information and cultural awareness a focus.
- The 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Almond Festival in the Capay Valley had amazing turnout on February 26. The Friends of the Esparto Regional Library had a book sale and made more than \$1500! The festival covered 21 miles of beautiful landscape, connecting six small townships along the way, each with unique and delicious food, specialty items, festive music, and activities for the whole family.
- On March 28 a neighbor of the Yolo Branch Library finally visited the branch for the first time to use the computer and apply for a job. Afterwards, he went home but returned 30 minutes later, saying that he already received a call from the employer for an interview on March 30! *"All I needed to do was come to the library,"* said the neighbor. *"What a great resource."*

- The Non Profit Leaders Alliance (NPLA) met at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library on Wednesday March 29 for a World Café conversation. These nonprofits met to discuss what the strengths of the NPLA were, what their organization's strengths and challenges were, how the NPLA could help them with their organization's strengths or challenges and how they have benefited from being a part of the NPLA. There was plenty of great conversation flowing with the assistance of the 'Café hosts' who were library staff members. The NPLA was first formed through the efforts and vision of Rachel Hudson and Dana Christy to bring nonprofits together.
- The Facilities Master Plan Survey closed on March 24 and the consultants shared that more than 415 residents and community members took the survey! What great results for a two week endeavor that included translating the survey into Russian and Spanish and making print surveys available at every branch. Great job to all the staff, translators and volunteers who helped to create, distribute and publicize the survey.

**Yolo County Library provides access for all to ideas  
that inform, entertain and inspire.**

**We connect people and ideas.**