

Orcas Island Public Library
500 Rose Street
Eastsound, WA 98245

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. Postage
PAID
Eastsound, WA 98245
Permit No. 21

POSTAL CUSTOMER



Orcas Island Library

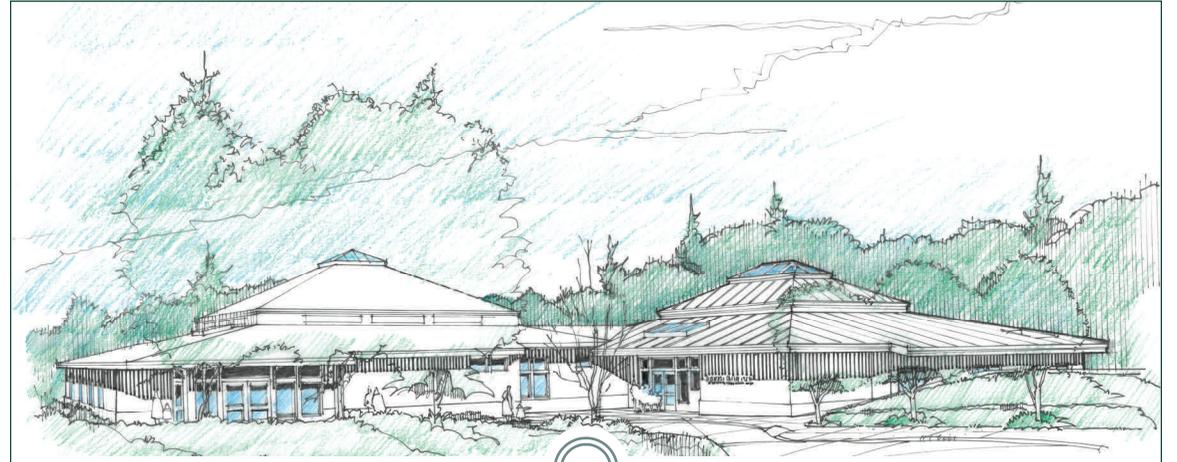
BOOKS & BEYOND

Library Snapshot

*The Next Chapter:
Building Expansion
Project*

*2016 Levy Lid Lift
Ballot Measure*

Orcas Island Public Library
500 Rose Street
Eastsound, WA 98245
360.376.4985
www.orcaslibrary.org



Dear Friends,

Inside this brochure is a story. It is about an island of people who love learning and exploring, enjoying themselves and increasing their skills at their public library. It is a story Andrew Carnegie would have loved. The story's numbers tell the tale of a library so well loved and used that it is bursting at its seams. It tells how public and private sources of funds can make the dream of more space come true — more space for people of all ages to relax, read, study, meet, collaborate, and enjoy. It shows what we will do with the new space we are building, what it costs, and what challenges still remain. The story stretches into the island's future and promises that with your help and support, we will be ready to meet it.

Tom Fiscus
President, Orcas Island Library Board of Trustees

FAST FACTS from 2015

- 122,642 Items checked out (3rd in WA per capita)
- 39,794 Items in collection (4x WA avg per capita)
- 46,225 Downloadable Items through Overdrive
- 133,340 Library visits (2nd in WA per capita)
- 2,668 Hours open per year
- 6,270 Number of cardholders
- 1,795 Items borrowed through Interlibrary Loan
- 5,272 Volunteer hours (25x WA avg per capita)
- 187 Children's events
- 42 Adult events
- 4,237 Attendance at all library programs
- 609 Meeting Room events
- 130 Kids' Summer Reading Program participants
- 15 Public internet computers
- 24,038 Internet sessions
- 22,995 Wifi sessions
- 46 Total licensed databases
- 132 Magazine/periodical subscriptions
- 19 Video Conferences

LIBRARY MISSION

The Orcas Island Public Library **supports all learners** on the island by maintaining strong collections, online resources, and services; serves as a **welcoming place** for reflection, exploration, discussion, and community networking; and **reaches out effectively** to all groups and individuals who will benefit from receiving services away from the Library.

ORCAS ISLAND LIBRARY BUILDING EXPANSION PROJECT

What is the purpose of the expansion?

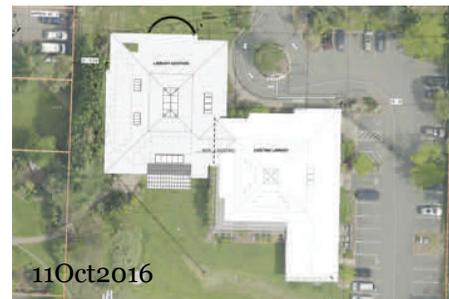
- ◆ More space for children.
- ◆ A real teen room — none exists now.
- ◆ More quiet reading and working space — this is the main community hub.
- ◆ Two small-group study/meeting rooms — a unique resource!
- ◆ A dedicated computer area.
- ◆ 30% more collection space — e-book use has leveled off, and surveys consistently show people want more books.
- ◆ Outdoor patios for reading and wifi access.

Expansion Costs and Funding:

- ◆ Overall cost: \$4.2 million for the basic project.
- ◆ Funds raised so far: \$3.5 million.
- ◆ Sources so far:
 - * Private donations \$2 million
 - * State capital grant \$1.4 million
 - * Friends of the Library: \$100,000
- ◆ Remaining need: \$700,000 from donations, levy lid lift, and grants.

Why did the Board begin construction without full funding?

- ◆ Deferring for a year to raise additional funds for the current design would increase the completion cost by at least \$500,000, based on conservative projections.
- ◆ Redesigning to a smaller size would incur redesign costs, rebidding, and inflation, resulting in a smaller building for a similar cost that would not meet long-term needs.
- ◆ With a delay, we could lose the \$1.4 million State grant, which was awarded for the 2015-17 biennium.
- ◆ We would lose the current construction fixed bid and have to reopen the bidding process in a hot construction market.
- ◆ The need for the expansion is now.



LIBRARY LEVY LID LIFT ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2016

What is the purpose of the levy increase?

- ◆ Provide funds for maintenance and operations, an annual increase of about \$155,000.
- ◆ Debt repayment for the Library expansion, estimated at \$128,000 annually for six years.
- ◆ Fund deferred maintenance and improvements to the existing building, at a rate of about \$5,000 per year.
- ◆ Restore reserves to a level consistent with best practices, once the project funding is complete.

What will it cost?

- ◆ The Orcas Library rate is currently 30.3¢ per \$1000 valuation, compared to 40¢ and 50¢ for the Lopez and San Juan libraries.
- ◆ An increase to 45¢ will cost an additional \$36.75 for a \$250,000 property, or \$14.70 for each \$100,000 in value.

Why an increase of this amount?

- ◆ The Library has managed to delay a levy increase since 1987. However, with the cumulative effect of I-747 (passed in 2001), which limits tax revenue increases by 1% annually, inflation has finally taken its toll, and annual operations now require withdrawals from reserves, now reduced to less than \$200,000.
- ◆ The new rate will still be 5 cents less than the State-allowed maximum for libraries. **The Library will continue to make extensive use of volunteers and continue ongoing conservative fiscal practices.**

What if the levy ballot measure fails?

- ◆ Potential delay or halt to construction.
- ◆ Likely reduction in services and deferral of maintenance.
- ◆ Depletion of reserves to fund maintenance and operations.
- ◆ The Library will continue seeking donations and grants in any case.

Where to find more information:

**www.orcaslibrary.org/levy, or
call 376-4985, or email
pheikkinen@orcaslibrary.org**