Timberland Regional
LIBRARY

1.800.562.6022   www.TRL.org

Community conversations create exchange of ideas & opinions

Timberland Regional Library's services change and grow as its region's people and communities change and grow. TRL is driven to deliver the services the public needs today—and tomorrow.

In January and February 2012, TRL conducted an online survey among all of you – the citizens of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties. Nearly 2,500 responded. In March and April, dozens of TRL librarians met on the best and most promising up-and-coming public library practices. Then during May, TRL hosted seven face-to-face community conversations in the five counties to hear your input regarding the areas of greatest need in our communities and which of the Library's current services you value most.

Results from the surveys, brainstorming and community meetings indicated several areas where TRL can make improvements, such as increasing the number of downloadable materials and popular books in the collection, holding more workshops on accessing library services on e-readers, providing adults more diverse programs and expanding open hours. Results also identified that patrons value the 24/7 Ask-A-Librarian service, free Wi-Fi, book drops, parking and meeting rooms. The Library is using the results of the research as it develops its 2014-2016 Strategic Plan for delivering library services.
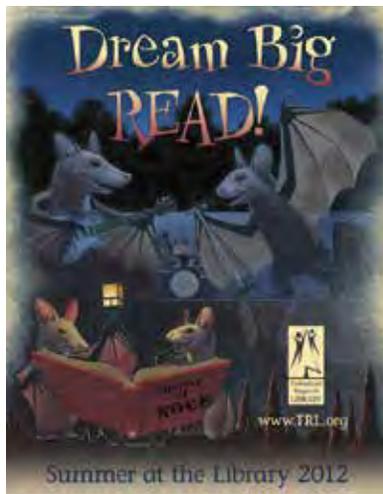
Youth Programs

Young readers explored a magical castle

The Family Read-Aloud, an engaging early learning program, took place in all 27 TRL branches from March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday, through April 12, Beverly Cleary's birthday. Free Read-Aloud activity kits were given out, including an original drawing of a castle complete with a pet dragon, stickers, a read-aloud booklist and a prize drawing form. Kids colored and stickered the castle to represent rooms where the family read aloud together.

The annual initiative focuses on developing readers for future success in school. It emphasizes families building a habit of reading together and is designed for children from infancy through grade three, but all ages are encouraged to join. Prizes included hundreds of books provided by Friends of the Library groups. The grand prizes were backpacks filled with books for one family in each library. In 2012, 5,270 children from 1,311 families and 191 classrooms participated.

Kids and teens summer assignment was to dream big

As soon as school let out for the summer, kids and teens trekked to their local Timberland libraries for a constellation of free programs, activities, and lighthearted reading and learning developed for children from infancy to age 18.

The 2012 summer program theme for children was "Dream Big—Read!" and the teen program theme was "Own the Night." Participants explored all things nocturnal through story, art, music, writing, gaming, interactive performances, scavenger hunts, contests, humor and more. Three new booklists were developed for children, middle schoolers and high school teens. Over 14,250 children participated. Attendance at all events was almost 50,000.
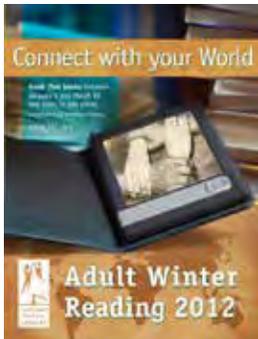
Various prizes, including coupons for area attractions, were donated by organizations, businesses, and Friends of the Library groups.

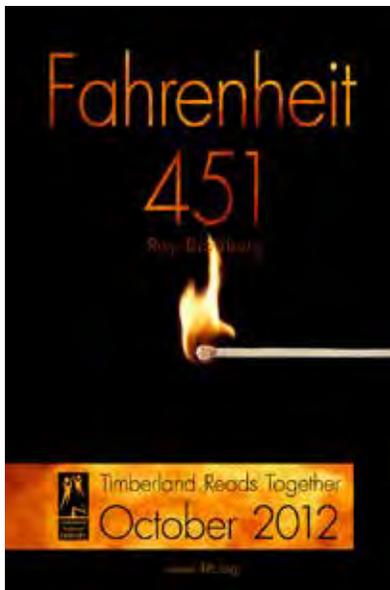**Puppet Show**
Shelton Timberland Library

Adult Programs

Readers connected to the world all winter long

Over 1,100 adults joined in the 15th annual Adult Winter Reading program, and they read nearly 15,000 books. Adults (18 and over) entered drawings for prizes when they read or listened to five books between January 1 and March 15. Grand prizes included overnight getaways at regional resorts and book-and-beverage baskets, as well as many local library prizes donated by Friends of the Library groups and businesses.

The theme, "Connecting with your World," highlighted technology options for accessing library books—printed books, books on CD, and downloadable e-books. It also reminded people that reading can take you anywhere.

Everybody reads Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451

Adults and teens felt the power of reading and discussing a single book as nearly a thousand patrons from across the library district attended some of the 28 book discussions, 31 film showings and dozens of other events as part of Timberland Reads Together, TRL's annual October-long initiative that promotes and celebrates reading and community.

The 2012 selection was Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, which depicts a totalitarian society of the near future when all books are burned, minds numbed, and original thinking brutally suppressed. In defiance, a small number of fugitives find a way to preserve books along with their ideas and the questions they invite.

This year's program began with Banned Books Week programs and displays, and seven performances of Danger: Books! by Book-It Repertory Theatre. Bradbury, who died on June 5, 2012, wrote more than 600 stories, poems, essays, screenplays, films and comic books.

Database contests introduce vital resources

TRL held two *Name That Database* online contests in 2012, with more than 2,800 entries submitted. Those entering the contest had to correctly identify 15 library reference databases for a chance to win one of five e-readers donated by the TRL Foundation and database suppliers Ebsco, Gale Cengage, LearningExpress and Morningstar.

TRL subscribes to online reference and information databases that are not available for free on the internet but accessible for free at the library or from home with your TRL library card.

Job & Career Accelerator™

In November, TRL launched a new online system to help people with the often daunting task of searching for jobs or advancing their careers. *Job & Career Accelerator* from LearningExpress offers a comprehensive career and job search system. This resource guides users through each step, from exploring occupations and finding jobs to preparing resumes and cover letters, completing job applications, and improving job search and interviewing skills.

People can explore over 1,000 occupations and search available jobs from over 5 million job postings and get tips and advice. The system offers interactive tutorials and provides practice for occupational tests. Job & Career Accelerator is on the TRL website under the Research tab in Reference Databases.

Facilities

Library in Ocean Park expanded

Construction began in July on an expansion of the Ocean Park Timberland Library to nearly double its size. The addition addresses heavy use and congestion in the facility, originally built in 1985. The goal was a library that meets the needs of the community for years to come.

Highlights include new and larger reading areas, a separate teen area, a larger children's space, more computers, a larger workroom for staff to process library items, new furnishings, carpet and paint, plus lighting for the shelving.

Raymond Timberland Library

Raymond Timberland Library received extensive plaster repairs throughout the public areas in August and September with the walls and ceiling restored to their original appearance. The neo-Tudor building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Aberdeen Timberland Library

Aberdeen Timberland Library closed July 30-August 11 for improvements to the restrooms, carpets and walls. New HVAC controls were installed and lighting was added in the audio visual and oversize collection areas. The library, built in 1966, had a major renovation in 2000. The 2012 project addressed wear and tear over the past twelve years.

Tumwater Timberland Library

Tumwater Timberland Library completed the replacement of areas of 16 year-old carpet. The project was a joint effort of the City of Tumwater and Timberland Regional Library.

Library Expansion
Ocean Park Timberland Library

Technology

TRL Goes Mobile

TRL introduced several free apps to help patrons tap the resources of the library through a smartphone or mobile device just by visiting the TRL website (www.TRL.org) and clicking on "TRL Mobile" under "Services"or by searching the iTunes App Store or on the Android market.

Patrons can download the audiobooks, e-books and video TRL Mobile offers via the *OverDrive Media Console* app for smartphones. TRL Mobile also offers *BookMyne*, an app that allows you to manage your library account. And if you see a book at a store or at a friend's house, scan the barcode to check if TRL has it, and even place a hold.
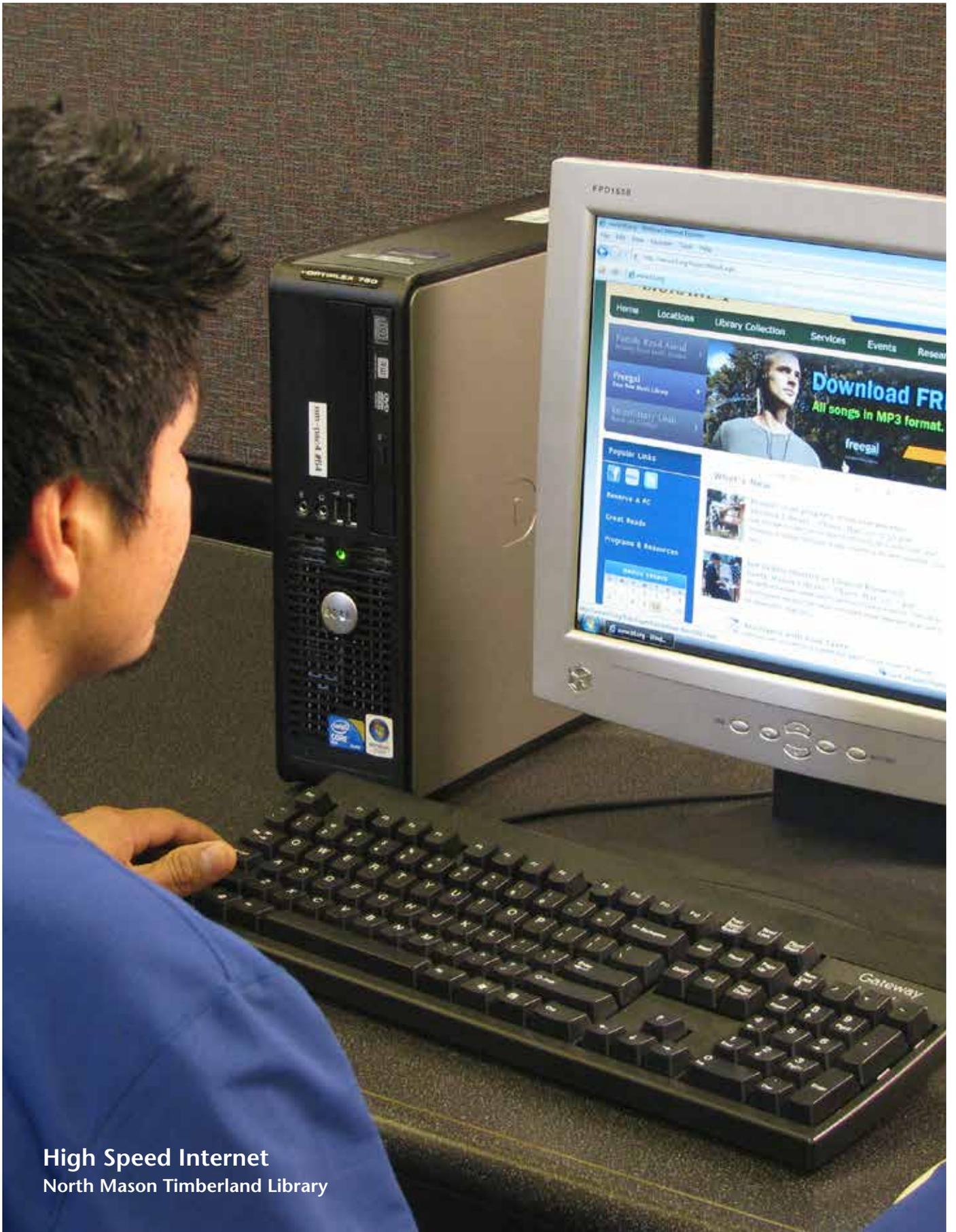
Also: *Freegal Mobile* lets you legally download music for free, while *EBSCOhost Mobile* lets you research newspapers, magazines, journals, textbooks and more. Finally, *Mango Mobile* is an app for the Mango online language learning system which teaches conversation skills in over 45 languages.

Love My Library

The public library has transformed lives by providing a place where everyone is welcomed and has access to the information they need—for getting a job, researching business opportunities, doing homework, improving their health, their homes and their finances.

Love My Library which debuted in the fall on the TRL website was created to connect people who care about their local library with resources that make their library a stronger part of each community. These resources include:

- **Local library Friends groups where neighbors meet to enhance the library**
- **The Timberland Regional Library Foundation**
- **A list of organizations that partner with the library to support reading initiatives**
- **Examples of amazing service stories across the library district**
- **A place where everyone can tell their story of why they love their library**

High Speed Internet
North Mason Timberland Library

President of the Board of Trustees

As President of the Library's Board of Trustees, my role is to lead our board in making policy decisions and setting the budget for the Library District. The Timberland Regional Library (TRL) serves nearly half a million residents in a 7,000 square mile territory through 27 community libraries, 2 co-operative library centers and 3 kiosks.

Our libraries reflect the communities they serve as a focal point for people, new ideas and a changing culture. As trustees, board members work together to be fiscally responsible stewards, protecting the investment you make while ensuring taxpayers receive the best possible value in public library services. The priority of the Board of Trustees is to continue to provide patrons access to resources, services and programs for thousands of people across the library district's five counties. Through careful management of TRL's budget, open hours and staffing have remained consistent. At the same time the library has provided a wide range of useful services to the people in our communities.

In the fall of 2012, after a national search and rigorous interview process, the TRL Board was extremely pleased to select 16-year TRL veteran Cheryl Heywood to lead the Library District as its new Library Director. The Board of Trustees appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Friends of the Library groups, along with library volunteers as they donate thousands of hours each year to make their library and community a special place to be. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I invite you to attend an upcoming Board Meeting and share your ideas and opinions about library services.

Corby Varness
President of the Board of Trustees
Grays Harbor County Trustee

Regular meetings are usually held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Call (360) 704-4636 or 1-800-562-6022 to confirm the date, time and location.

Library Director

2012 was a year of transition, including a change in leadership. Early in the year, the Timberland Regional Library (TRL) Board of Trustees chose Gwen Culp, TRL Information Technology Manager as Acting Library Director while it conducted a rigorous and lengthy nationwide search and interview process to select the new leader of our multi-county library district. I was chosen as Library Director and began on January 1, 2013.

To introduce more transparency to our communities, TRL began in January, 2012 video recording and uploading monthly board meetings on our website (www.TRL.org) along with posting all library policies and service stories online. Service stories illustrate how the library is positively changing people's lives and communities. In 2012, TRL also developed a comprehensive Action Plan for 2013 for the entire district and for each of the 27 libraries integrating TRL's theme for 2013, which is Strong Communities: Building Our Future.

I want to give a special thank you to Gwen Culp, TRL's Information Technology Manager who capably also led the library district throughout most of 2012 as the Acting Library Director. Her dedication and expertise provided an excellent example as we move forward.

TRL is moving in a new direction. Input collected from thousands of residents and dozens of library staff in 2012 will help shape the future of library services. The library is focusing now on building strong communities by providing resources and information in the areas of education and employment. We are your community resource, at the heart of a free democratic society, enhancing the quality of life in communities by opening up a world of ideas and information to everyone. I look forward to seeing you at the library!

Cheryl Heywood
Library Director

2012 Statistics

▶ Library cardholders: 286,878

▶ Visitors to TRL libraries: 2,654,262

▶ Computer use in Timberland libraries: 524,083 sessions

▶ Audio books, music and video downloaded: 175,215 & Freegal music downloads: 117,012

▶ Reference questions answered: 362,004

CIRCULATION

▶ Cardholders borrowed 4,303,338 items.

COLLECTION

▶ Timberland added 139,532 books, magazines, DVDs, talking books, music CDs and more
and withdrew 140,960 items for a total of 1,129,749 items in the collection.
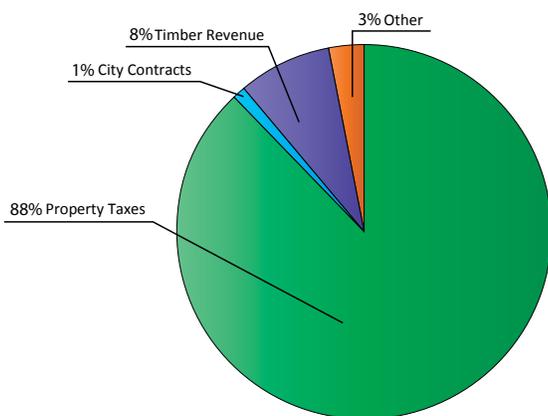
PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE

▶ Children and family programs: 1,515 programs with 43,771 people

▶ Teen programs: 338 programs with 2,989 people

▶ Adult programs: 950 programs with 11,869 people
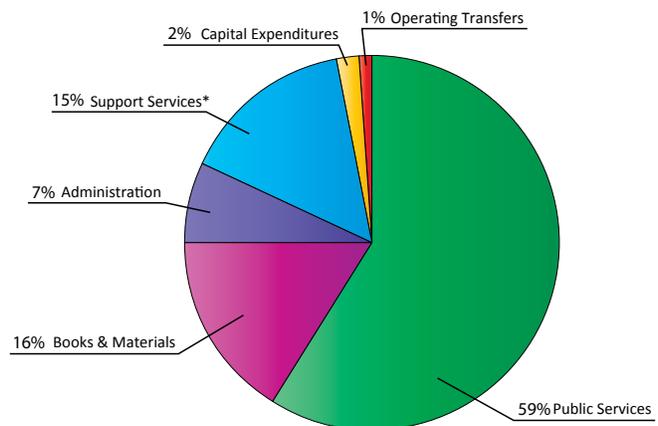
VOLUNTEERS:

▶ TRL received support from 162 volunteers. They gave 6,271 hours of their time.
Thank you volunteers for your commitment and dedication!

2012 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Total Revenues: $20,682,507.24

8% Timber Revenue
3% Other
1% City Contracts
88% Property Taxes

Total Expenditures: $19,789,832.96

1% Operating Transfers
2% Capital Expenditures
15% Support Services*
7% Administration
16% Books & Materials
59% Public Services

Includes selecting and acquiring materials, preparing them for lending, delivering holds to patrons' libraries, borrowing from other library systems and mending.

Increase to sustainability reserves - $892,674.28