

Library Director's Report May 2007

Our library booth at the farmer's market has been very successful. At least 150 people stopped by our booth - tons of kids - lots of folks saying "I love this library!" – lots of useful comments and opportunities to talk about the library.

Another strategy for community involvement and communication is our new Library Event blog. This, and the new Staff Picks blog, has been visited over 1,000 times in one month. A customer feedback blog is in the works, to solicit community opinions, issues, suggestions about the Library and a way to respond so all can read.

The latest session of PACT (partners academy for community teamwork) was held at the Library on May 2. All participants gave us very high marks on our presentation. PACT is really helping many of our community members become knowledgeable about the City, and then hopefully more engaged and involved.

The City is preparing for contract negotiations with SEIU for the union to represent the City's casual staff. Casual employees are not represented presently. The Library employs about 50 staff that are affected by this.

Library Managers received a day of Emergency Operations Center training. The Library has been assigned to help with the Planning section of the center during an emergency. The session provided an introduction to the City of Redwood City Emergency Operations Plan.

H(eating)V(entilation)A(ir)C(onditioning) issues have been resolved and the 2nd floor remodel project is back in the planning stages. There has been some discussion about relocating public computers to an expanded Tech Lab for quiet single use. Computers for Teens and Literacy will still be upstairs. Also, first floor plans call for the adult information desk to be relocated for better access into the Reading Room and Fireplace Room. New adult fiction will be moved into the reading room to make use more pleasant and to expand the collection.

The Friends of the Library held a recognition luncheon for its volunteers in the community room. We are very grateful for all the work they do with the Bookstore to help augment our library services.

The Redwood Shores Community Library foundation and pillars are in the process of being poured. Remember, the web cam can be accessed for viewing construction progress from the library's home page. The Library Foundation (not to be confused with the above foundation though just as essential) is halfway to meeting their goal of \$500,000 by December 31, 2007. This will give the Campaign a total of \$850,000 dollars for the opening day collection.

The Fair Oaks Library celebrated Mother's Day on Monday evening, May 7, with a special program entitled ¡Celebremos el día de las madres juntos! Let's Celebrate Mother's Day Together! There were 50 mothers and children in attendance.

Cristina Thorson visited Hoover school where 60 parents heard about the library and its services. Twenty-one new cards were given out. Their children are enrolled in this summer's Migrant Education program at Garfield school, so parents also learned about the Summer Reading Club and that all their kids are signed up for visits to the library in July. For many, it was the first time they had gotten an introduction en español to the library, and they were very enthusiastic -- and amazed -- at everything that is available to them and their families. "I never knew the library was for me!" said one enthused mother, as she happily signed her name on a brand-new library card. The following week, the entire Hoover School community heard about the library at their annual Open House. Hundreds of students, parents, and teachers passed by Cristina's booth to chat and hear about the cool stuff going on at the Library this summer.

Youth Services staff distributed book lists, puzzles, mazes and books for the children to write and illustrate to over 100 children at Sequoia Hospital's Teddy Bear Clinic on May 5. Also distributed was a Chuck Ashton-designed prescriptive sheet on how to cure your teddy bear with reading.

Garfield's 60 third graders paid a visit to the library. Besides getting pumped to join the Summer Reading Club they rocked the house chanting their promise to "Leer como locos" -- read like crazy.

A visit to the library by 23 preschoolers might not seem like a big deal, but it is when they come to the Downtown Library all the way from Garfield School! The intrepid children (and their valiant teachers) were treated to stories and a tour, including the Library's Most Popular Feature: The compact shelving units. How many preschoolers can you fit inside? At least 23.

All staff watched a one hour webcast sponsored by Infopeople on *Web 2.0*. The archived version is available at

http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/webcast_data/172/

Staff training will be taking place through October with a self-paced program.

Participants completing the challenge - by the end of which staff will end up with a blog, a Flickr account, a de.licio.us account, and a YouTube account at a minimum - will receive prizes and eligibility for a drawing for a new laptop computer, or other prizes such as a digital camera or an iPod Nano. Full details on the challenge are available at: <http://our23things.infopeople.org/>

Here is a short summary of the 23 things:

1. Read this entry and [this FAQ](#) to find out about the program and to make sure that you are eligible to participate. Remember: to take our challenge you must take or participate

in **at least one** of our [Web 2.0 events](#).

2. Set up your own blog on [Blogger.com](#) & add your first post.
3. Register your blog by sending an email to infopeeps@gmail.com with your blog's URL and begin your Web 2.0 journey. We will then add your blog to our blogroll that you see on the sidebar of this blog so everyone can see what progress you are making.
4. Explore [Flickr](#) and learn about this popular image-hosting site. Set up an account and join some groups! And remember, blog about what you learn!
5. Have more Flickr fun and discover [some Flickr mashups & third party sites](#).
6. Look at some of [these library websites](#) that are using Web 2.0 to enhance their offerings and create a blog post about anything Web 2.0-related that you think would be useful in your library.
7. Learn about [RSS feeds](#) and set up your own [Bloglines](#) newsreader account.
8. [Locate a few useful library related blogs](#) and/or news feeds and add them to your Bloglines account.
9. Sign up for a [Twitter account](#). Track your activities using Twitter for a few days. Think about how Twitter might be useful linked on a library website and blog about your Twitter experience.
10. Play around with an [online image generator](#). Blog about your experience(s).
11. Take a look at [LibraryThing](#) and catalog some of your favorite books.
12. Roll your own search tool with [Rollyo](#).
13. Learn about [social bookmarking](#) then create a [Del.icio.us](#) account and add and tag some Web 2.0 sites.
14. Explore [Technorati](#) and learn how tags work with blog posts.
15. Read a few perspectives on [Web 2.0](#), [Library 2.0 and the future of libraries](#) and blog your thoughts.
16. [Learn about wikis](#) and discover some innovative ways that libraries are using them.
17. Add an entry to Infopeople's [Our 23 Web 2.0 Things](#) wiki.
18. Take a look at some [online productivity \(word processing, spreadsheet\) tools](#).
19. Explore [My Maps on Google Maps](#) and create a map for your library and add a picture of it to the map.
20. Discover [YouTube](#) and a few sites that allow users to upload and share videos.
21. Discover some useful [search tools for locating podcasts](#).
22. Teach someone else how to use one of the technologies described above and blog about your experience!
23. Summarize your thoughts about this program on your blog.

