

# Weston Public Library

## ALSP Review

### 2022-2023



## Library Vision for the Future:

Weston Public Library's staff and board support our mission to serve the greater Weston community through:

- Outstanding patron service
- Library collections that meet the needs of our community and encompass a wide range of thought and expression
- Incorporation of current information technology
- An inviting and user friendly facility
- Active involvement in the community
- A wide range of youth and adult programming
- Training of staff, board and volunteers

# OUR GOALS FOR 2022-2023



## GOAL #1: TO INCREASE LIBRARY USE AND PROMOTE LITERACY IN OUR YOUTH

- ▶ **What community needs are you addressing?:** The need to nurture and grow Library users in the community
- ▶ **Priority(ies):** Early Childhood Programs, K-12 Youth Programs

We again made progress toward this goal. No new ongoing programs were added, but attendance increased at regular programs. Sixty-four onsite programs, and twenty-three offsite sessions were held.

Preschool Storytime is the cornerstone of public library service to children. It sets the stage for lifelong library users.

This year we held 32 onsite preschool storytime sessions and provided 16 storytime sessions at

Weston Preschool. Total attendance for onsite and school storytime was 499. In good weather, we have storytime on the lawn.



“Miss Monica” is a welcome visitor to Preschool Storytime on the first Friday of the month. Thanks, Monica, and thank you UCSLD!



Summer Reading Program featured 6 in-person events in the Weston Park. These events included art projects, live animals, games, and live theater. Attendance at park programs totaled 129. We also distributed reading logs for kids to cash in time spent reading at home and participated in the Library Road Trip.





THE CHALLENGE RELATING TO GOAL #1 is that it is difficult to remain relevant as children grow up. We made a little progress last year with the middle and high school demographic, but not as much as desired. Lack of dedicated space for youth activities is a limiting factor, with no real solution on the horizon.

## GOAL #2: TO PROMOTE THE LIBRARY AS A FRIENDLY, ACTIVE CENTER OF RURAL COMMUNITY LIFE

What community needs are you addressing? The need for members of the community to get back into the habit of using the library for recreation, research, and public computer use after the disruption of limited access due to the pandemic.

Priority(ies): welcoming/user friendly atmosphere





We experienced more success with this goal. It seems that Weston folks enjoy what their Library has to offer. We were able to continue most of the activities outlined in Year #1 and Year #2 of our plan.



The goal of a new public access computer and printer was met.



In October 2022, the State Library of Oregon added about 400 images from our photo archive to the Northwest Digital Heritage collection.



We continue to offer curbside delivery and delivery to the homebound.

## MORE ACTIVITIES AT OUR FRIENDLY LIBRARY...

Friends of Weston  
Library (FOWL)  
annual meeting with  
speaker Ellen Morris  
Bishop

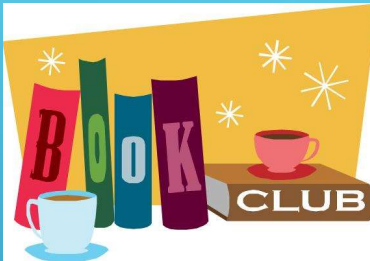


Pioneer Picnic Parade  
(we won a blue ribbon!)



FOWL annual book  
sale 2022





Novel Readers book group has been meeting monthly for more than 16 years. Here are a few of the titles from the past year.

- *Gone Away Lake*, by Elizabeth Enright
- *Hieroglyphics*, by Jill McCorkell
- *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt
- *The Last Green Valley*, by Mark Sullivan
- *The Twelve Dates of Christmas*, by Jenny Bayliss
- *This Road We Traveled*, by Jane Kirkpatrick
- *Talking to Strangers*, by Malcolm Gladwell

To help keep users current with Library news, Weston Library Page has been published and distributed monthly since 2008.

The newsletter is emailed to interested readers and is posted to the Library website.






**THE CHALLENGE FOR GOAL #2** last year was in finding and scheduling more adult programs that people actually want to attend. One strategy may be to seek out afternoon programs to suit retirees, as evenings are at a premium for working folks who are away at work all day. The demographic in Weston is shifting subtly to an older population, so this goal is more important than ever.



## GOAL #3: TO PLAN FOR SUCCESSION OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR POSITION

- What community needs are you addressing? The need for a smooth transition and continuity of library service in our community upon eventual retirement of Library Director.
- Priority(ies): Training (staff and board.)

# HOW WAS THE PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL?

- A comprehensive operations manual has been completed. (BTW, this seems like a good practice for any small one-person library in order to capture the knowledge that individuals possess before they leave the library.)
  - A new, more comprehensive archive filing system has been created.
  - Weeding of library collection is up-to-date.
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THE CHALLENGES WITH THIS GOAL are ahead in 2023-2024. During this year, the hard work of writing a job description, and recruiting and hiring begins.



# HOW DID WE CREATE ACCESS FOR EVERYONE?

- We have a robust broadband internet service which allows users to access the Library's wifi from the street, sidewalk, lawn and inside the building. This service is available 24/7.
- We are committed to continuing curbside delivery for any patron who requests this service. To date this has been helpful for library users wishing to avoid indoor spaces, and folks with limited mobility. A few people have asked for their library materials to be delivered to their vehicle during inclement weather.
- We deliver library materials on request to the homebound.
- We have evening hours two days per week, and early morning hours three days per week to accommodate different schedules.
- We have digitized our historic photo collection and Weston Leader newspaper collection. Both are available for remote access from our website.
- We promote and offer help with the use of the online catalog and databases, which improves access, as these services can be accessed outside the Library walls.
- We have a trained library substitute to cover vacations and sick days.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS INCLUDED...

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Athena-Weston School District allows access to their buildings to deliver information about our services. Athena and Weston Public Libraries share a weekly preschool storytime gig here at the Weston School.



FOWL was formed in 2000. These hard-working folks provide financial and hands-on support for everything we do.



Library service as we know it would not be possible without the Library District. For those of us who remember the Umatilla County Library days, you may agree this is a much-improved model for our county.



City of Weston is a great partner. As a recognized department, the City provides stable funding for the Library budget. The Library director attends all City Council meetings, and provides a report each month.

# HOW DID WE INCREASE AWARENESS OF UCSLD SUPPORT?


- ▶ We reminded City and Library officials of the benefits of membership.
- ▶ We shared information about the Sage libraries and the opportunity for interlibrary loan.
- ▶ We submitted events to the UCSLD calendar.
- ▶ We applied the UCSLD logo where appropriate.



**UMATILLA COUNTY  
SPECIAL LIBRARY  
DISTRICT**

Strengthening our community libraries

# HOW CAN THE UCSLD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DISTRICT LIBRARIES?

- ▶ By continuing to encourage and provide a platform for communication between staff members at District libraries.
  - ▶ By providing local training opportunities and staff inservice.
  - ▶ By continuing to provide cataloging and technical support.
  - ▶ By continuing to provide funding for the Sage system and databases.
  - ▶ By continuing to support District staff's attendance at Library events (thanks for coming, Heather and Monica!)
  - ▶ By advocating for library service in our communities, i.e. attending city council meetings or budget proceedings when applicable.
  - ▶ By providing equitably distributed funding to all District libraries.
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