

# Open Books Open Minds

## OPEN LIBRARIES

An occasional newsletter for Friends of the Ashland Public Library

2007 October

### Ashland Public Library Opens October 24!

Jackson County Commissioners decided in September to reopen the Jackson County public libraries by spreading out the one year extension of federal timber subsidy funding over three years. The Ashland Public Library and the central library in Medford are the first libraries to open on October 24 and other libraries in the system will be open in November.

Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada was on hand and Ashland Police Officer Malcus Williams led the children into the library on opening day at 10 am. What a celebration!

#### Ashland Public Library Hours

Monday 10 - 8

Tuesday and Wednesday 10 - 6

Thursday and Saturday 12 - 5

Sunday 12 - 4

#### Medford Central Library Hours

Monday 12 - 7

Tuesday 12 - 6

Wednesday 10 - 5

Saturday 12 - 4

Friends of the  
Ashland Public Library

[www.ashlandfriends.org](http://www.ashlandfriends.org)

#### Landmark dates

1879. Ashland Library and Reading Room Association established.

1891. First fundraiser for the Ashland Public Library.

1912. Andrew Carnegie makes a controversial \$15,000 gift towards construction of the library, on the condition that Ashland provide the building site and establish a maintenance fund.

1970. Ashland, Rogue River and Medford city libraries form the Jackson County library system.

2001. Bond expands Ashland Public Library.

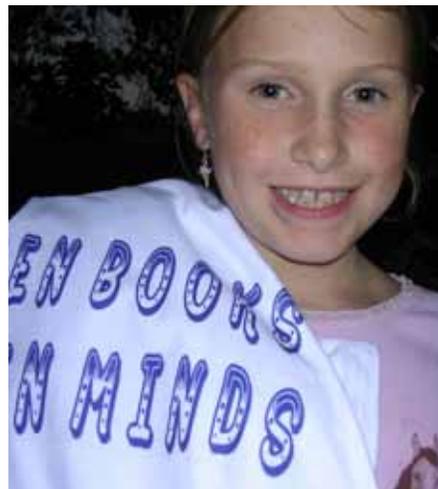
### Taylor's Cookies

Taylor Cortell puts her cookies where her heart is, right out there for public libraries. "I love reading and I think a lot of other people should have books--like children!" Taylor exclaims.

Over the summer, Taylor and her friend Audrey Hazel made chocolate chip cookies and sold them in the neighborhood to raise money for public libraries. The cookies sold out in less than an hour thanks to

cookie-loving kids and a generous adult who loves libraries.

Taylor is one of thousands of individuals, families and businesses who have contributed to the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. Their support of the Friends and yours buys books, brings storytellers to Ashland, funds summer reading programs and special author events.



Taylor Cortell raises money for the library

Become a Friend of the Ashland Public Library today and keep the voice of our library strong and clear! Contact Friends Membership Chair Mary Mastain at 488-7727.

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## Spotlight on Ashland Public Library Volunteers: Josh Gordon



There are about 35 dedicated members of the community who volunteer 10-40 hours a month at the Ashland Public Library. They staff the welcome desk, help with events and paperwork, sort materials and clean DVDs and CDs. While volunteers don't do the work of library staff, they help enormously in many ways.

One of the Library's volunteers is Josh Gordon who moved to Southern Oregon about a year ago. "Volunteering was a way to get involved in a community that I wasn't familiar with. It allowed me to do something that I felt good about and give back," explains Josh. A retired video game program-

mer, Josh found that he'd become almost reclusive and volunteering stretched his skills and made him get out and talk with people.

Now, Josh and Fran Curtis are co-coordinators of the Ashland Public Library volunteers, and match new volunteers with the jobs that need doing at the Ashland Public Library. Josh also teaches basic computer classes and helps people use the Internet, saying "Computer classes give me the biggest bang for my volunteer effort!"

Call or stop by the library to find out about volunteer opportunities now that the library is open again.

## Fall Book Sale: Books and Volunteers Needed

The date has been set for the fall 2007 Ashland Public Library Book Sale! It's November 16-17, 2007.

For all of you who gave your favorite books to friends during the closure, the Fall Book Sale is the time to build back your personal collection. And if you've a mind to weed your collection, consider donating your well-read books to the Friends for an-

other reader to enjoy.

In addition to books, enjoy a silent auction with wonderful gifts provided by local merchants thanks to Judy Honore with Shakespeare & Co Books.

If you're a Friend of the Ashland Public Library, come on down to the preview sale on Friday November 16 from 4-7 pm and renew your membership. Friends membership renew annu-

ally in the fall, so it's a perfect time to take advantage of your membership benefits.

The sale will continue for the general public on Saturday November 17, 12-4 pm.

**Preview Sale  
for Friends of  
the Ashland  
Public Library  
on Friday  
November 16  
from 4-7 pm.**

## Ashland Public Library on YouTube

Yes, it's true. The Ashland Public Library is on YouTube. Check it out at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by typing Ashland Library Oregon in the search box.

Among the millions of videos on YouTube, you'll find three clips that bring news about the library closings to the Internet community. Orville Hector's memorable April 6 photos arranged by Ralph Bowman have been viewed 344 times. On April 11, Peter

Buckley asked the Oregon Legislature to do everything within their power to solve the county funding issues so that libraries can open. In August, Amy Kinard and Judy Henderson explain Ashland's ballot measure in Dan

Shaw's timely piece, "Why Our Libraries Are Shut and How Can We Open Them?"

YouTube, which is owned by Google allows people to easily upload and share video clips through websites, mobile devices, blogs and email. You'll find clips to amaze, entertain and inform, and also some that may offend so be prepared for anything!





## Barbecue for Books a Joyful Celebration

After the grief and anger of the library's April 2007 closing it was a welcome release to sing and dance together at the Barbecue For Books, a community celebration in support of the Ashland Public Library on Saturday September 8.

Hundreds gathered at Eagle Mill Farm to enjoy chicken barbecue and vegiburgers, local beer and wine and blackberry picking. Foot stompin', hand clappin' music from Pam Galusha & Pachanga, Craig Wright, Duane & Bob and Frankie Hernandez roused everyone at the beautiful valley farm. Dogs gamboled about, kids shouted and parents played under the huge shady oaks that surround the fields, a perfect day.

Thanks to all who participated in the 2007 Barbecue for Books and special thanks to Ron Roth and Kathleen MacMichael and the business partners who helped make the event such a success including Geppettos, Eagle Mill Farm, Pilaf and Grilla Bites.



## Ashland Measure 15-79

More than 57% of Ashland's registered voters cast their ballot in the September 2007 in election for Ballot Measure 15-79. 74% of these voted for the measure, to fund the library by raising property taxes up to \$.58 per \$1,000 of assessed value for two years beginning July 1, 2007. The assessment will be \$.20 in the first year and \$.25 in the second year.

With the success of Ballot Measure 15-79, Ashland Public Library will be open for 40 hours a week, increasing access from 24 hours a week under county funding. If Jack-

son County Commissioners had decided not to fund the libraries, Ballot Measure 15-79 would have insured that the Ashland Public Library could re-open it's doors.

COAL (Campaign to Open Ashland Library) co-chair Pam Vavra says, "Volunteers who made phone calls, walked neighborhoods, staffed tables and helped with so many other tasks were vital to the victory."



Thank You Ashland !



## What We Can Expect

Library Systems and Services, Inc (LSSI) of Maryland has been awarded the management contract for the Jackson County public library system and is busy getting the libraries up and running. Interviews for open positions were conducted early in October so many of the faces that we've come to know and trust will be back on desk and in the stacks before long. Many of the familiar faces are returning, some have retired, some have other jobs but you will recognize your old friends. Among them is Amy Blossom, who returns to the library as Manager of the Ashland Branch.

LSSI has years of experience in running public libraries, and currently manages the public libraries of the city of Redding and county of Riverside County,

California as well as others throughout the country.

"There is a new energy coming from the management philosophy of LSSI — they are librarians who know their business, and are dedicated to good public service," says Amy Blossom. "Their encouragement to try new things and make the library even more accessible is shown, for example, in the change of hours. We are challenged by being open only 40 hours a week, but think we have a great new schedule including Sunday hours. They respect the library staff, what we have accomplished in the past, are asking for input, and listening and responding to us."



## Friends of the Ashland Public Library

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### Dates to Remember:

**Oct 24** Wednesday Ashland Public  
Library Reopens after 6.5 months

**Oct 28** Celebrate Sunday Library Hours  
with the Mukombe Marimba Band 12-1pm

**Oct 31** Wednesday 3 pm  
Halloween Parade Lineup at the Library

**Nov 16-17** Book Sale and Silent Auction

**Nov 20** Tuesday 5 pm Friends Board  
Meeting, all welcome

## Citizens Library Advisory Committee

Ashland Mayor John Morrison has established a Citizens Library Advisory Ad Hoc Committee to help assess community needs and library services. Meetings of the ad hoc committee are open to the public with the first meeting set for October 22, 2007 at 3:30 pm in the Community Development Building on Winburn Way.

The duties of the CLAC as stated in Resolution 2007-35 are:

- A. Review services provided by the Ashland Public Library during the interim period from when the library reopens in through June 2009.
- B. Identify and recommend the delivery of future services by the Ashland Library.
- C. Receive community input concerning the Ashland Public Library.
- D. Work in conjunction with regional and other municipal groups to identify long-term library funding options and library governance options to be completed for council review by March 2008.
- E. Serve as liaison with the County Library Advisory Committee.

Advisory committee members are: Pam Vavra, John Sexton, Sue Roudebush, Chuck Keil, Peter Gibb, David Churchman, Sue Burkholder, Masonee Brown, Maureen Battistella and William Ashworth. Amy Blossom is staff liaison.

## How the Friends Support the Ashland Public Library

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Childrens' Storytelling     | Special Book Purchases      |
| Ashland Mystery Readers     | Library Book Sales          |
| Author Night at the Library | Volunteerism                |
| Summer Reading Programs     | Your Voice in the Community |

For more information, call Friends President Sue Lopez at 541-488-1616

