

Open Books Open Minds

OPEN LIBRARIES

An occasional newsletter for Friends of the Ashland Public Library

2008 July

Calling all Kazoos!

Everyone loves the 4th of July Parade and this year it's extra special because the Ashland Public Library is open again. The parade's theme is *Commitment to Community* and it couldn't be more perfect for Ashland Public Library. We'll make some real noise, marching down Siskiyou Boulevard waving and shouting our thanks to Ashland's residents and businesses.

You'll wear your very own Ashland Public Library t-shirt, and sing out a catchy (simple) chant to go with a choreographed (simple) march and hand-made banners to wave as we celebrate our open libraries. All we need is you and your kazoo! Or just you! Kids,



dogs, babies, teens, oldsters, youngsters, and everyone who loves a parade is welcome. Book groups, families, clubs and classes are all invited – libraries are for everyone and so is our parade.

Call 774-6996 to walk in the parade with the library and reserve your t-shirt!

Woody Guthrie and the Great American Folksong

Folk musician, Tim Holt will present a brief history of the American folksong on June 28 at 7p. He'll celebrate the old-time ballads of Appalachia to the ramblin', Depression-era songs of Woody Guthrie and talk about the origins of our folk music in the British Isles and

West Africa.

Along the way, Holt will sing a variety of American folksongs, representing various aspects of our history and culture, including songs of westward settlement (*Cumberland Gap*), old-time gospel (*Lonesome Valley*), Guthrie's original contributions (*Ramblin'*



Round) and a couple of Lead Belly classics (*Goodnight Irene* and *Rock Island Line*).

Friends of the
Ashland Public Library

www.ashlandfriends.org

Ashland Public Library Hours

Mon 10-8
Tues and Wed 10-6
Thurs and Sat 12-5
Sun 12-4

Our mission is to help our library to achieve any and all of its goals. Ensuring free access to information is part of Ashland's community life, to which the Friends are firmly dedicated.

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Catch the Reading Bug! 2008 Summer Reading



Whether you are 8 months or 18 years old, there's a summer reading program for you at the Ashland Public Library. Sign up before Jul 26, and after reading 10 books or having 10 books read to them...

- Children up to 3 years will receive a new board book
- Children 3-12 will earn a

special certificate, an Eager Reader Kids Meal Coupon from Home Town Buffet and prize drawings.

- Teens from 13-18 will be entered into a drawing for an iPod, MP3 player and Wii!

Sign up at the Ashland Public Library and get ready to read until your eyes are buggy! Call 774-6995.



Storytelling and Kids Events

Parents, help your kids learn about wilderness safety at the Lost But Found Program conducted by Jackson County Search and Rescue on Jun. 17 at 1:30p.

Bilingual storyteller Dorothy Ormes presents stories from around the world on Jun. 23, at 3p.

Jeff Defty roars into town from Eugene for an encore performance of silly stories and tall tales on Jul. 17 at 1p.

Dashka Slater will be Jul. 30 at 10:30a. It'll be a book party for *The Sea Serpent and Me!*

Set your toes tapping with Rich Glauber's Music in Action, back by popular demand on Aug. 4 at 10:30a.

Children's Festival

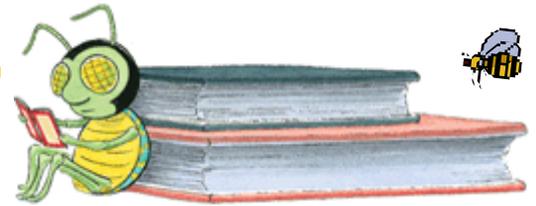
July 20-22

What's all the buzzzzz about?

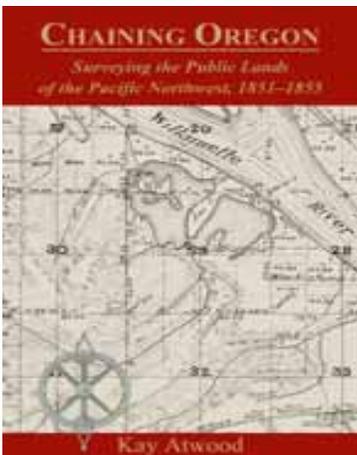
**Britt Gardens in
Jacksonville**



Sponsored by the Storytelling Guild and supported by the Jackson County Library Service



Author Nights



Author Nights continue on the first Monday of the month at the Ashland Public Library, from 7-8:30p.

On Monday July 7, Ramona Rubio will speak on her book *The Alchemical Woman: A Handbook for Everyday Soulwork*. Rubio and co-author Catherine Davidson use alchemy as a metaphor for life transformation.

Stay tuned for Kay Atwood in July, who will speak and

sign her latest work, *Chaining Oregon: Surveying the Public Lands of the Pacific Northwest, 1851-1855*. the story of how Oregon was surveyed and plotted using chains to measure the land.

Carol SeCoy, author of *The Bag Lady War* will read on Monday, August 4. At a time when Social Security was once more under attack, Carol was compelled to write her satire, *The Bag Lady War*.

Call 774-6996 to check dates.

Open Books Open Minds Open Libraries Yes!

Six months ago, in October 2007, Lawson Inada read his opening day poem, the key turned in the lock and the children led us back into the re-opened Ashland Public Library. The Ashland Branch of the Jackson County Library Service is back in business, children are flocking in to story times, weekly computer classes are filled, Author Nights are more popular than ever and the place is lively.

We couldn't believe that a public library system could be closed down. Yet that is what happened in Jackson County on April 6, 2007. It took 6 months for the county and city to get things back up and running.

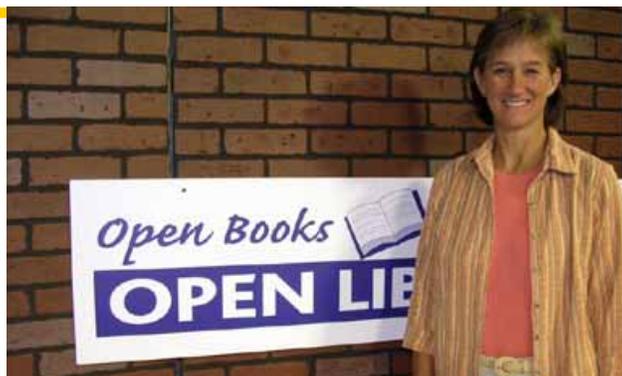
There were many questions when we reopened. What will be the hours? What staff will be back? Who is this management company that promises to save money? Who will control our library? Who will make decisions? How did the county find the money?

The federal timber payments were extended for one year and the county took a portion of that money, spread it thinly over 3 years to get the libraries back in operation, though at a reduced rate and with fewer hours. The citizens of Ashland voted to provide supplemental

funds to keep the Ashland library open 40 hours, provide more professional librarian staff, deliver outreach services, and more. After reviewing several bids, the county chose a library management company, Library Systems and Services Inc (LSSI), to operate the system. After being put out to bid the county chose the library management company LSSI to operate the library system staff. The county still makes all the policy decisions, maintains the buildings, and provides the materials budget. Most of the previous staff is back at their jobs, now as LSSI employees. Some moved to new positions within the library, and a few took jobs elsewhere while the libraries were closed.

How is it going? We are so happy to be back and open to the public. There is a new energy in the library and so many smiles. Statistics show we are well used, circulation has increased, story time attendance has skyrocketed, free weekly computer classes are very popular, many new volunteers are working with us, and a variety of programs are being offered.

Reopening a closed library system provided some challenges and at the beginning, some confusion on how things would work. While much of what we do is the same, we're doing things in new ways and have new opportunities.



County-wide, we're doing 80 % of the work we did before we closed with half the open hours. In Ashland, for example, we have higher circulation and more programs and services now than we did before with the same 40 hours. We've moved on to some new ways of doing things. We still order books locally, yet get a greater discount on our purchases because we are part of a larger system.

The library has new flexibility to listen to what the community wants of its library. We heard people ask us to be open on Sundays, and we're open on Sundays. We would like to be open more hours for the public and we would like the other county libraries to be open more hours. So we are working on our future, trying to determine permanent, sustainable funding. In the meantime, please come in and enjoy your library.



*Amy Blossom
Library Manager
Ashland Branch*

Friends of the Ashland Public Library

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Serving Ashland and Growing with the Future



Dates to Remember

Beat the heat with movies at the library on Wednesdays at 2p in July

1st Thurs. Elastic Mind Book Group

1st & 3d Tues. Great Books Book Group

Jun 17. Lost but Found, Outdoor Survival

Jun 20. Ashland Mystery John Straley at Bookwagon Books

Jun 23. Storyteller Dorothy Ormes

Jun 28. Folk Musician, Tim Holt

Jul 4. Join the Library to march in the Parade and get a free t-shirt

Jul 7. Author Night with Ramona Rubio

Jul 11. Ashland Mystery Gary Phillips at Bookwagon Books

Jul 17. Jeff Dufty: Silly Stories & Tall Tales

Jul 26. Last Day to Enter Summer Reading Programs

Jul 30 Dashka Slater, The Sea Serpent & Me

Jul ? Kay Atwood, Chaining Oregon

Aug 4. Music in Action with Rich Glauber

Aug 4. Carol SeCoy, The Bag Lady War

Aug 9. Turn in Summer Reading Entries

Sept ? BBQ and Books at Gepetto's Farm

How the Friends Support the Ashland Public Library

Childrens' Storytelling

Ashland Mystery Readers

Author Night at the Library

Summer Reading Programs

Special Book Purchases

Library Book Sales

Volunteerism

Your Voice in the Community

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

Metamorphosis, Just for Teens



Transform yourself with reading and cool tools into the standup person you are becoming. Win in Ashland and receive an iPod or MP3 player AND you're in the running for the JCLS prize, a Nintendo Wii! [Sweet.](#)

Tuesdays 3-5p

Jun 10. Teen Advisory Group-TAG

Jun 24. Paint Bookcart and Signs

Jul 8. Books with Bite.

Jul 22. READ Poster Pictures

Aug 5. Books with Bite.