



Library Views

**GREAT FALLS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Your Lifelong Resource

301 2nd Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401
453-0349

www.greatfallslibrary.org

HOURS:

Mon.	10am-6pm
Tues.	10am-8pm
Wed.	10am-8pm
Thurs.	10am-8pm
Fri.	10am-6pm
Sat.	10am-6pm
Sun.	1pm-5pm (Oct. - May)

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Plaza Re-Opens Renewed

The Great Falls Public Library Plaza was re-opened and rededicated on June 20 with dozens in attendance. The ceremonies included brief talks by Library Director Jim Heckel, Ken Robison of the Alma Jacobs Memorial Foundation, and Mayor Dona Stebbins, who cut the red ribbon and proclaimed the plaza renamed the ***Alma Jacobs Memorial Plaza*** in



honor of former Library Director Alma Jacobs. The day's events concluded with Centennial Committee Co-Chair Norma Ashby conducting an "opening" of a time capsule created in 1984, which has been

on display in the Montana Room of the Library since.

The plaza's renovation project began over two years ago. Actual construction began last fall and was only recently finished. Improvements on the plaza include raising it to the street level and new plumbing to alleviate drainage issues, removing railings and barriers, and replacing the malfunctioning fountain with an arched water sculpture. The openness of the new plaza both invites its usage and welcomes visitors to the library.

Jacobs was a respected community leader who inspired racial awareness and integration. As Great Falls Public Library Director from 1954 –1973 she was instrumental in construction of the current library and the first black library director in the state. She also served as Montana State Librarian from 1973 – 1981.

Library Views is funded by the Great Falls Public Library Foundation

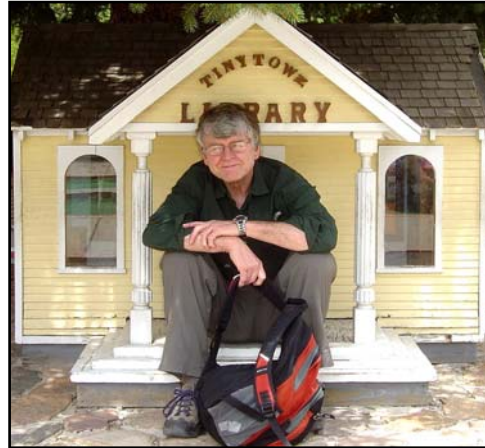
Director Bids Adieu

Great Falls Public Library Director Jim Heckel is retiring July 31.

When asked what he considered his biggest achievement as library director he responded, "Creating a library central to the citizens of the community, getting together a staff capable of achieving that, and providing the necessary tools for that goal." Jim's career at Great Falls Public Library reflects these ideals.

When he arrived at GFPL, it was in financial trouble, closed two days a week, was not computerized and sponsored no local programming. The Great Falls Public Library is now considered a model of computerized access, is open seven days a week (excepting the summer months), has one of the most active series of library programs for the community in the state, and a now successful foundation.

Heckel believes that the profession of librarianship is so much more than providing books and information from a building. He reflected, "It is supporting the underlying process that is essential to democracy." This idea became central to his career as did his awareness of censorship and what that meant. He realized this was deeper than someone objecting to a book they found offensive, but struck at the heart of our democracy, constitutional issues. Heckel worked with the ACLU and served on the Montana State ACLU board for four years. It also led him to develop in-depth understanding of constitutional issues, specifically the first and



fourth amendments, which deal with access to information and privacy issues respectively. To this day, he is sought as speaker on these topics.

Along with his forty-year career as a librarian, 21 of which were as GFPL Director, Jim has served on numerous boards within the community and state including Humanities Montana, KGPR Public Radio, Montana Wilderness Association, and president of Montana Library Association.

Although dedicated to his vocation, Jim always considered work to not be everything in life, but rather an interesting place to spend part of the day. He is an avid film buff and reader, gourmet cook, an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys biking, hiking and backcountry skiing, and a world traveler. In fact, in October Jim will be traveling to Nepal where he and his wife, Pam, will be teaching English in a Tibetan monastery.

His progressive thinking took him and the Great Falls Public Library to new and exciting places. May that continue in this next phase of his life.

Library Book Budget Slashed!

- Due to the economic downturn, GFPL Foundation has had to cut funding for Adult Non-Fiction Books by two-thirds, from \$70,000 to \$20,000/yr.
- Adult Non-Fiction Books are one-third of the total library collection.
- Even with market recovery, it will take years to reach previous budget levels.
- If a library falls behind in collection development, it is difficult to recover.
- Short-term solution is the **Refund the Library Campaign.**
 - **Objectives:**
 - Maintain current levels of the collection.
 - Replace a loss of \$150,000 over three years.

To Make A Donation:

- Fill out the form below.
- Make checks payable to Great Falls Public Library
- **Earmark your check “Refund the Library Campaign”**
- Drop off or mail form & check to:

Great Falls Public Library
301 2nd Ave. N.
Great Falls, MT 59401

(Cut on dotted line)

Amount of Donation _____

Donor's Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donor's Phone _____ **Email** _____

Name & address to whom an acknowledgment should be sent:

**For donations of \$25 or more, a bookplate may be placed in purchased materials.*

- Check if you'd like a book plate.

The library is grateful for the continued support of the community, and any & all donations. For more information on “**Refund the Library**” call 453-0349.

Summer 2009

Great Falls Public Library
301 2nd Ave. North
Great Falls MT 59401-2593

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More Downloadable Audio Books Now Available for iPod Users

Popular New Service Now More iPod Compatible

The Great Falls Public Library is excited to announce a major improvement to the popular downloadable audio program, Montanalibrary2go.org. A new version of the audio software is now available for persons with PC's. This simple software upgrade is all it takes to allow the transfer of thousands of additional bestsellers to your iPod. (This upgrade is not compatible with MacIntosh computers.)

Previously iPods could only play titles in the MP3 format. This new release means that patrons will be able to play both MP3 and WMA titles from our downloadable collection on their iPods. Our downloadable collection contains 226 titles in the MP3 format and 1,988 files in the WMA format.

Anyone with a library card can access free downloadable audio books anytime, from anywhere. It's as simple as logging on to the library's web site, www.greatfallslibrary.org from any Internet-connected computer or the designated Download Station in the library. For more information call 453-0349, check www.greatfallslibrary.org, or stop by the library.