



Library Views

New Year's Changes

**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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The Information Department has been hard at work tightening up the non-circulating reference collection. The microfilm readers are now located adjacent to the periodical collection. Staff has been shifting books, files and furniture to make space for eight new computer stations, bringing the total number of public access computers to eighteen.

These new stations are a pilot project through *Useful*, a vendor specializing in public access computing solutions for libraries. They are being used on a 30-day trial basis, the success of which will be determined by staff and patron support. This will be based on functionality and performance.

The project boasts some unique features. All eight stations are run off of one computer. Each user session has an automatic time limit of one hour, with a built in warning to the user when the session is nearing its end. Users may save information on the computer, but that information will be deleted when the user logs off.

Also, if a user chooses to do so, he may turn on a filtering feature. These stations are ideal for Internet browsing, and have word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software comparable to Microsoft's Word, Excel, and Power Point.

These days, the Internet waiting area chairs are empty.



Kids' Place Update

One of my top priorities as the new Youth Services Librarian is to transform the Kids' Place to a more comfortable, eye appealing, patron-centered space with a collection that reflects the children's literary needs.

A reference area has been set up by the Kids' Place entrance where patrons can receive computer instruction, book selection assistance, and homework help.

We've added songs, finger plays, creative movement, and language concepts during story hour. Children are enjoying the changes and parents have expressed appreciation for the inclusion of writing skills, letter identification, and word recognition. Due to large attendance we are preparing to add a third day for story hour in this upcoming year.

Staff has shifted the collection in order to display more books with front cover visibility. We've relocated audio-visual materials, reference books, and the mystery collection.

Future plans include transferring the juvenile toddler and juvenile picture books to three-foot high stacks. This will not only allow younger children to reach the library materials but it will provide more shelving for the remainder of the collection. We hope to have this project completed by April 2005.



– Nola Huey

Comings & Goings

You may have noticed some new faces behind the Circulation desk. The Circulation staff welcomed two new members to its ranks on November 28th.

Jessie Boilek is

a new, part-time, permanent clerk. She is a Great Falls native, recently returning after acquiring a Graphics Design degree from MSU.



Gloria Rommel,

also a part-time permanent clerk, is a Denver native. She and her husband relocated to Great Falls in May of 2000, looking for a better quality of life.



Departing on December 12, volunteer **Sonia Tzvetkova**, a

Bulgarian native, returned to her homeland. Sonia was in Montana for five months accompanying her husband in work-related travels. She had volunteered at the library since September. Though Sonia enjoyed the Montana experience and the people, she was eager to return to Bulgaria. Previously, she had worked as a film translator and is unsure what her next step will be. We will miss her contributions, her friendly intelligence and great smile.



GFPL Now a Wireless Hotspot

Great Falls Public Library began offering free wireless Internet access to the public in mid-November. The service enables anyone with a wireless enabled computer to get full Internet access from almost anywhere within the library. Staff anticipates that the new service will see use from downtown business people as well as from ever-increasing numbers of tourists that visit or pass through Great Falls. GFPL staff has had growing numbers of requests for the service and with the upcoming Bicentennial next year, the number of visitors looking for wireless Internet access is expected to increase even more.

The new service is made possible through library funds, in addition to service and equipment donations from Softworx, Inc., the library's Internet service provider.



A Reminder

Even though our current online book catalog *iBistro* has been up and running for several years, staff constantly gets questions on navigating through its waters. If you have any type of question regarding its use, we encourage you to stop by the Information Desk for personalized help and instructional brochures.

Writing Personal History

This February the library is sponsoring a three-part *Writing Personal History* series. These workshops are designed to get you writing! Local author and teacher Ruth McLaughlin will teach the series and the cost is \$20. Below is a brief synopsis of what you can expect.

February 10th – *Writing Strategies*

Sharpen basic writing skills, and learn techniques of effective storytelling — including the use of detail and the writer's voice.

February 17th – *Where to Begin?*

Learn organizing strategies for facts, dates and masses of material so that you can get writing.

February 24th – *Your Truth, My Truth*

The class will discuss problems that trip up many personal history writers. For example: What if we don't know all the facts? What if members of our family disagree?

You may bring works in progress, related material or just raw ideas, but come prepared to write.

Ruth McLaughlin's work has appeared in two-dozen magazines and in four anthologies. She received a 1998 Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship for her memoir-in-progress. She has taught college and community writing workshops throughout the state.

HISTORY OF LIBRARY SUPPORT

The success of a library is dependent upon many factors: the staff, the community support, budget, etc. One of the most important elements of a successful library lies with the board members. These trustees are community members who volunteer their time and energy to the library, overseeing policy and the functioning of the library within the community. The Great Falls Public Library has a solid history of this support beginning in 1892. In this fourth installment we continue our tribute to these citizens of the past and the present.

May 1955

Mayor Russell Conklin
Mrs. Roy Bell
Mrs. John Nelson Hall
Mrs. Leo C. Graybill
Mr. Robert B. Farnsworth

May 1957

Mayor John W. Steffani
Mrs. Roy Bell
Mrs. Leo C. Graybill
Mrs. John Nelson Hall
Mr. Robert B. Farnsworth

May 1959

Mayor William H. Swanberg
Mrs. Leo C. Graybill
Mrs. R.D. Warden
Mr. John A. Lindsay
Mr. Robert B. Farnsworth

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