

November 20, 2007 Special Meeting
BENICIA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
City Council Chambers
November 20, 2007
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PUBLIC

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. WRITTEN

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. STUDY SESSION:

1. Library Basement Completion Project Design. (Library Director)

Staff has prepared an update for the City Council on the proposed design for the library basement completion and recommended changes in the upper level.

Recommendation: Hear a presentation by the Library Director and project architect regarding the proposed design for developing the Benicia Public Library's lower floor to create space for meeting rooms, the Literacy program and staff. Included will be information on proposed changes to accommodate 1,000 square feet for the Friends of the Library book sale and other changes on the upper level. Following Council discussion and public comment, provide staff with any necessary direction.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Public Participation

The Benicia City Council welcomes public participation.

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. The City Council allows speakers to speak on non-agendized matters under public comment, and on agendized items at the time the agenda item is addressed at the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment period although informational answers to questions may be given and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the City Council.

Should you have material you wish to enter into the record, please submit it to the City Manager.

Disabled Access

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Anne Cardwell, the ADA Coordinator, at (707) 746-4210. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Meeting Procedures

All items listed on this agenda are for Council discussion and/or action. In accordance with the Brown Act, each item is listed and includes, where appropriate, further description of the item and/or a recommended action. The posting of a recommended action does not limit, or necessarily indicate, what action may be taken by the City Council.

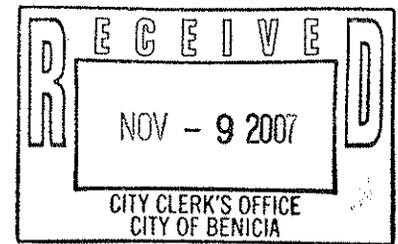
Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge a decision of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. You may also be limited by the ninety (90) day statute of limitations in which to challenge in court certain administrative decisions and orders (Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6) to file and serve a petition for administrative writ of mandate challenging any final City decisions regarding planning or zoning.

The decision of the City Council is final as of the date of its decision unless judicial review is initiated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedures Section 1094.5. Any such petition for judicial review is subject to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

 [III-A Study Session Public Comment.pdf](#)

 [IV-1 Study Session Library Basement.pdf](#)

To: City Council
From: Donnell Rubay dmrubay@yahoo.com
Date: November 20, 2007
Re: Library Remodel



I am pleased that the City and the Library are moving forward with a remodel of the Library basement. I believe it is good for the community to maximize the use of this space. I have some concerns about the proposal, however.

My first concern involves the lack of public awareness of these plans. The only time the current version of the plans was presented to the public was at the November 6, 2007 presentation to council. At that time, because the matter was not agendaized—the public, or even the Council, could make no changes. Tonight’s meeting has been agendaized as a “study session”—which does not indicate to the public that a final approval could occur.

My second concern involves the fact that the proposed plans will keep closed, basically forever, the Library’s West entrance. This means that the patio and park in front of this entrance—and on one of the two most important corners in Benicia at the entrance to our Downtown—are likely to remain little used, lacking the pedestrian vibrancy a usable West entrance could provide.

My third concern is the plan to cut a stairwell into the center of the current reading room and stack area. This stairwell will lead to hallways surrounding two conference rooms—one the size of Dona Benicia—and public restrooms. Therefore, noises from these facilities, as well as traffic to and from them—will then become part of the library’s reading room and stack area. This plan is particularly hard to accept given:

- A. the Library Director’s report that staff interviews with the public revealed that one of the biggest complaints was that the library is, now, too noisy; and
- B. the care that was taken in the original library design to separate the existing conference rooms from the reading and stack area.

I. Limited Public Notice

While the library staff, the Board and Friends of the Library have worked together to develop these plans, I do not believe the general public has been adequately informed of their existence.

According to the Library Director, library staff first informed the general public of an October 4 public forum in late September. This meeting was not discussed in the news section of the Benicia Herald, however. The notice was placed only in “Check It Out” the library’s newspaper column. Unfortunately, many members of the public (like my self) may never notice this column.

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In early November, I requested a printed copy of the plans from staff—which they readily provided to me. I only received information about the lower floor, however. I did not see the upper floor plan until I picked up the “Remodel Plans” brochure at the council meeting on November 6—the date of the library presentation to the Council. While the brochure of the plan is a good tool—the upper floor plan is difficult to read.

Earlier on November 6 I had a very gracious talk with the Library Director. At that time, however, I heard for the first time—that back on October 4, the plans were still subject to change. Since I had, unfortunately, missed that meeting—only minor changes could be made now.

I thank the Council for placing this matter on the November 20 agenda. However, the matter has been scheduled as a “Study Session” which is not likely to alert the public that final plans may be approved.

I believe more public notice—and the opportunity for substantive public comment—is necessary before these plans are finalized. Also, I believe it is important that the City ensure that groups outside the library have an opportunity to contribute—both as to how the interior remodel will impact the library experience as well as how the exterior remodel will impact downtown now, and in the future.

II. West Entrance

The basement entrance of the library is on the intersection of First Street and Military—one of the most important intersections in Benicia and the entrance to Benicia’s Downtown. This proposal will ensure that development on this corner will remain closed to the public, probably for our lifetimes. This means rather than becoming vibrant gathering places, the patio and park in front of the building will pretty much remain unused. If this building were a business—would the City even consider allowing such a situation? Probably not since General Plan **Policy 2.12.3** states: “seek to make downtown a thriving and vigorous Community Center offering a variety of activities and attractions for residents and visitors.”

Other General Plan Goals and Programs that may apply here:

Goal 3.8: “Preserve First Street as the Community focal point of Benicia.”

Program 3.8 A : “Develop urban design improvements to unify Solano Square with City Park and the Civic Center.”

Program 3.7.2: “Encourage ‘place-making’—the arrangement of built elements to create indoor or outdoor spaces that are recognizable for a specific function or functions.”

Yet the General Plan does not apply only to businesses, it applies to the City as well. So why is the City not following its own rules?

Suggested ways to allow use of the West Entrance:

- A. Place the Friends of the Library book sale at this entrance. Such placement will provide the added benefit of adding a retail storefront to the downtown. (Though this booksale may be open, currently, only once a month—such a location will allow for the option of being open more hours at a later time.)
- B. Place the large conference room at this entrance;
- C. Place the teen collection at this entrance—moving perhaps the more talkative patrons to the lower level while allowing them to have “their own space.” Also, in a letter to me dated November 1, 2007 the Library Director mentions that the library would like to make the teen section “less claustrophobic,” “more inviting to young people” and to expand its usable space.
- D. Add a small coffee shop/snack bar as is planned for the new Walnut Creek library and as often appears in large bookstores. (Some have made the comment—“There are so many coffee places in Benicia, why would we need another?” However, if one looks at the research of experts in this area (i.e. Starbucks) people tend not to cross the street for a cup of coffee. Therefore, Starbucks often places shops on opposing corners. The City might also want to consider the benefits of having a place for snacks for young people so that they are not trying to cross Military for refreshments.)

III. Currently Proposed Uses of Lower Level

During the architect’s presentation on November 6, he discussed how little natural light there is in the lower level and, therefore, how important it was to maximize it by using glass interior walls as much as possible.

Given the rarity, and importance, of natural light on this floor—I believe serious consideration must be made as to what uses should be placed near the few windows on this floor. In my view, locations with the most natural light should be first considered for public uses such as those mentioned above for the West Entrance. When these uses require a rear wall, that wall may be glass, allowing light to extend into the floor.

The current proposal has enclosed offices in front of the few windows on the lower floor. These offices are then banked by staff work stations. Therefore, between the windows and the public hallway, there will exist a bank of four to five office spaces. The two proposed public conference rooms and the literacy lab, are windowless.

IV. Location of Stairwell

If you ignore every thing else in this memorandum, I beg you—do not vote on this proposal until you go into the library and stand near the current magazine racks. Then imagine the magazines being replaced by a large stairwell—leading down to a windowless collection of hallways. Fronting these hallways are two conference rooms (one the size of Dona Benicia), a literacy lab and public restrooms. Finally, imagine the

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crowd noise that might result when people are arriving for a large meeting, on break from the meeting or leaving the meeting—not to mention library patrons visiting the restrooms and talking outside of them, at any time. Also, of course, all meeting attendees will travel through the library, and up and down these stairs. As you may realize while standing at the current magazine rack: all of this noise will occur in the heart of the current main reading room.

I believe Mayor Messina sensed this problem when he expressed concern about access to the lower level conference rooms. I thank the Mayor for raising this concern and support his desire to explore this situation further.

Concerning the proposed location of this stairwell, I believe some important facts are being overlooked:

- A. According to former Library Director Carol Starr, when the location of the stair well was originally selected (it is part of the original library plans) the thought was that the stairs would lead from one floor of traditional library use to a second floor of traditional library use. (The original plans also included the suggestion to move the children's section to the lower level.) Stairs linking two levels of reading room and shelf space would provide patrons with the use of two large reading rooms and would be less likely to bring sounds from incompatible uses into the main reading room.
- B. Note that the current location of the Dona Benicia Room, the Edna Clyne Room and the public bathrooms are set off well away from the main reading room and, in fact, can be cut off completely from the library altogether—preventing inappropriate noise and allowing after hours use.
- C. In her November 1 letter to me, the Library Director states that one common, current, complaint about the library is that “the library is too noisy.” Her current proposed solution is to add soft seating to one of the quiet study rooms which is, currently, not often used. The problem with this solution is that it does not help those who wish to read in the main reading room—near the expansive windows and the fireplace—or to browse the library stacks. And, of course, the addition of the stairwell providing a direct link to the noise of the lower level bathrooms and conference rooms will only make the upper level of the library, over all—nosier.
- D. When only the lower floor plan was available to me, I began to wonder: what will the traditional library user—the person who visits a library to use, and check out, library materials (i.e. as opposed to attending a meeting or class) get out of this remodel? There has been some mention that the Friends of the Library book sale might be open more often—but that is currently only a suggestion. After seeing the upper floor plan, and the location of the stairwell, I believe the traditional library user will lose by this remodel. The lower floor will not be providing more book, computer or study room space. In addition, once the stairwell goes in, in the heart of the library—hooking into the noise of the lower floor conference rooms and restrooms—the experience of browsing the stacks and lounging in the main reading room could be compromised.

IV. Closing Thoughts

Please allow for more public discussion of this proposal before approving it.

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AGENDA ITEM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 2007
STUDY SESSION

DATE : November 20, 2007
TO : City Manager
FROM : Library Director
SUBJECT : **LIBRARY BASEMENT COMPLETION PROJECT DESIGN**

RECOMMENDATION:

Hear a presentation by the Library Director and project architect regarding the proposed design for developing the Benicia Public Library's lower floor to create space for meeting rooms, the Literacy program and staff. Included will be information on proposed changes to accommodate 1,000 square feet for the Friends of the Library book sale and other changes on the upper level. Following Council discussion and public comment, provide staff with any necessary direction.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared an update for the City Council on the proposed design for the library basement completion and recommended changes in the upper level.

DISCUSSION:

A brief presentation by the Director and the architect was made at the November 6, 2007 Council Meeting. Council requested scheduling more time for considering the design proposal. The Director and project architect will explain again the proposed design and address issues raised at the November 6th meeting. A number of different designs were considered for this project. Of primary importance was consideration of how best to serve the public. This included discarding the idea proposed in the original grant application that the children's area should move, as the present children's area is easy to access, has great visibility and comfort, and is easy for parents with small children to negotiate. Spaces that could be moved to improve access for the public were staff work-areas and literacy functions, and there is growing need for additional meeting room spaces. In addition to creating better public access on the upper floor, this also reduces the ongoing cost of operation by allowing all public service functions to remain on one floor. As a result, the decision was reached to move all fulltime staff downstairs, to move the Literacy program downstairs, and to create another large meeting room and conference area on the lower floor.

With these items in mind, staff representing circulation, reference, Literacy, youth services and technical services worked with the director and architect to create a preliminary floor plan. This

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was taken to the entire staff for comment and input, then to the Board of Library Trustees, to members of the Friends of the Library, and to the public.

The public had the option of commenting during a public forum, plans were also available on the library's website, in the library and at the Friends book sales as photocopies, brochures and drawings. The Benicia Herald ran a front-page article on the plan, and there were also publications in the Benicia Herald's library column, the Friends of the Library newsletter and in the City newsletter.

Several comments indicated a concern that the plans do not seem to be adding much space for the general user. 17,000 people attended programs last year, and we are increasing space and availability by creating new meeting and conference rooms. Also, the plans improve the ability to house more books in the collection by adding an additional 2000 linear feet to the library's existing.

Other comments involved the Friends of the Library, and the public expressed a strong interest in making sure sufficient space would be provided for book sales. Friends of the Library were consulted to determine whether finding an alternate location would be preferable to having a smaller space in the library. With the decision to stay in the library made, the next task was to determine best location and amount of space for the Friends. A small group discussed this and worked on determining where to place the Friends' book sales. At the Friends Board meeting, members were presented with the plan. The consensus was that an upper floor location of the size described would work very well, and a taskforce was assigned to work on the details including (1) Closing the existing book sale process; (2) Recommendations for interim sales during construction; and (3) Process and methods for our new location and sales opportunities.

In addition to public meetings, the plans have been posted on the library website with a blog and email available for comments and over 150 people looked at the plans online. Copies of plans have also been distributed in the library both as plans and as brochures.

After all comments were taken into consideration and adjustments to address public concerns were made, the design drawings that you see before you were drafted.

Staff and the architect are satisfied that these plans will work well for staff and the public. The next steps in the process are to develop a cost estimate, prepare working drawings and solicit bids.

Attachments:

- A: Design for Library Basement Completion
- B: Design for changes for the library's upper level
- C: Public input
- D: Related articles

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ATTACHMENT A

Special Meeting
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ATTACHMENT B

**Special Meeting
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ATTACHMENT C

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PUBLIC INPUT

Dissemination of information and opportunity to comment has been available in the following formats:

Website

- Plans were scanned and made available as a link from the library's website. <http://www.benicialibrary.org>. An accompanying blog logged public comment.

Newspaper and Newsletter articles

- The Benicia Herald announced the Public Forum on September 26 and 28. In addition, an article with more detail on the proposed changes was printed on October 2.
- A front-page article in October 12th Benicia Herald discussed the project in more detail. The design drawings could not be printed because the print became too small to read. At the conclusion of the article, reporter Jessica York notified the public that library staff would continue to welcome suggestions or comments from the public. This was not the first notice or information on the project provided in the Benicia Herald, as on the front page of the January 7, 2007 issue, the article titled "Library looks to add space" signaled an official public beginning for the project.
- Information was provided to the Friends of the Library in their March-April newsletter; and follow up information on the process and the plans was published in their Nov-Dec 2007 newsletter (online at www.benicialibrary.org/friends#newsletter)
- The City newsletter included information on proposed changes in the library.

Meetings

- A public forum was conducted on October 4 at 6 p.m. Participants were invited to tour the staff offices and basement, and our staff took several attendees on a walk through these areas.
- The public is always welcome at meetings of the Board of Library Trustees. The status of the basement project was discussed each month starting in January and on June 11, July 9 and August 13, conversations about the status of the design commenced. On September 10, Mark Thieme presented the first draft of the plan. On October 15, comments from the October 4 Public Forum were presented and information on how these had been incorporated into a semi-final plan was discussed.
- Friends of the Library have been informed of the process during their monthly meetings for nearly the past year. The first draft of the plan was presented on September 12. Friends' supporters were active participants in the Public Forum on October 4 and were given an update during their meeting on October 10. As a result of this involvement, a Library Book Sale Task force was appointed to work on the project.
- Quarterly updates have been provided to the Council. For example, the update provided on October 2 included information on the public forum to be held on October 4.

In Library availability

- Copies of the plans have been available as photocopies or brochures in the library.
- The plans are posted in the library's community information area.
- Plans have been prominently positioned in the Friends' book sale area and volunteers were given details to use for answering public questions. Hundreds of copies of the plans have been distributed at each of the Friends' book sales.

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DESIGN PROCESS

The project architect, Mark Thieme, designed ten variations for the basement that have been adjusted by comment from these groups and library staff. Stairway location was pre-determined by original construction, as a cutout for the stairwell was placed into the upper floor concrete in 1993. The restroom location was also pre-established by location of plumbing. However, many variations on the locations of meeting room, conference room, staff workspaces, and compact storage have been considered.

The initial plans placed the meeting room in the center of the space, close to where it is currently located. Staff was placed on the periphery. This space was very inefficient for staff to get upstairs to assist customers. This initial plan was shown to the Board of Trustees and Friends. Subsequent plans were also shown to staff, Board of Trustees and Friends as they were developed. Each new plan was posted on the web site and also was distributed through the Friends of the Library book sale location to customers. Plans were also available at the library's reference desk for public comment.

Plans shown at the Public forum on October 4 were in the design phase and changes were made based upon public input. The entire design needed to "flip-flop" due to the building code, which requires a "safe passage" to an emergency exit.

CONCERNS

- Friends of the Library having sufficient and well-located book sale space
(Response: Friends agree that space on main floor is sufficient and well placed)
- There is not a welcoming entrance from the west side. (Response: a reception desk was drawn into the plans and could be staffed by part-time staff, which would allow us to keep the west entrance open for public access to the meeting room only. However, it is probably better for staff security to have a workspace that has some gatekeeper and is not openly accessible to customers.)
- Use of the West entrance that will encourage use of the park and the patio.
(Response: the meeting room is close to these doors and will allow people to mingle in that area or walk outside for a private conversation. A hallway on the other side (stairwell side) may also be a nice place for people to be able to talk. If the meeting room opens directly to the outside using the west door, there will be inadequate access for others using that space to exit -- i.e. the meeting room cannot block the external door.)
- Meeting room access after hours. (Response:
 - 1) If the meeting room were to be placed where the west door is, it would compromise the requirements for exiting established by the California Building code. Placing it as close to the door and keeping clear access to these meeting rooms was a design goal.
 - 2) Law requires having direct access to the emergency exit.
 - 3) Library Board policy prohibits meetings after hours. However, there may be occasions for Friends of the Library book sales or Literacy programs that we would want secure access from the west doors of the building. Adding 3 doors to secure staff areas could accomplish this -- the doors could remain open except on these special occasions.

- 4) Placing the meeting room any closer to the west entrance would mean columns would be an integral part of the space
- 5) Placing an existing area of the library, such as the Teen Zone or Children's area, will require additional annual money for staffing, as a minimum of one person would have to be available at all times to serve this customer group.
- 6) Friends of the Library do not want their book sale area in this location. They agree with staff that the upper floor is a better location. The new location will probably be open more hours on an "honor system," and there will be quarterly sales from the basement meeting room, thereby encouraging use of the patio and park by their customers.
- The Friends book sale area becoming more of a retail center to attract customers to the park/patio. (Response: setback from street, parking and windows are detrimental to this. Main Street does not consider this to be a main business area, as the library is located on L Street. The entrance is partially hidden by landscaping and is obvious only from some angles.)
- Placing the stairwell in a different location. (Response: knockout panel in floor determines location of the stairwell – designed 1992 with original building.)
- Coffee shop/snack bar. (Response:
 - We are not interested in competing with local business. In the future, we may encourage one of our local coffee shops to provide a coffee cart in the patio area.
 - Library policy does not allow food in the building.
 - The plumbing for the lower level lies near the elevator in the space currently slated for the restrooms. To provide plumbing for a coffee shop in a nearby area would necessitate cutting the slab floor to run pipes – an expensive endeavor.
 - While the space seems large, it was not large enough to meet every request, so items had to be prioritized. Those in the design were top priorities, and the coffee shop /snack bar was not.)
- Concern that this design does not serve the "traditional library user." (Response: We'll have better customer service upstairs, along with more self-service machines and a nicer quiet study room. There will also be better storage, which means that we'll have more of the books on site that people might request, and we'll have a browsing collection. All this creates a better library experience.)
- Interest in having more concerts and other programs in this park space. (Response: I have heard from the same people that the noise would be the biggest deterrent and that we will need to have better landscaping to make that feasible.)
- Desire for a lower floor design that focuses on giving public uses the best use of the limited light available. (Response: The public spaces selected are those for which windows are not necessary. A number of well-used conference facilities, meeting halls, and hotel conference centers have rooms with no windows. Placing meeting rooms in the center of the facility will not detract from their use, nor will it detract from the use of the conference room (Response: Edna Clyne conference room does not have windows), or from the use of the computer lab (computer use is better without glare from windows).
- Size and number of offices. (Response:
 - Staff cubicles at current size of 5' x 7' are completely insufficient to allow book carts, bookshelves and filing cabinets in a

original staff area, workspaces were established at 8' x 10'. This allows book carts to be pulled into the workspace instead of filling the aisles. Over the years, the size of the cubicles has decreased so that more staff would have desk spaces.

- Using a library space planning design program (www.librisdesign.org), I calculated actual and desirable sizes for staff cubicle, office, and administrative assistant office.

Room	Item	Est. amount of space required (in square feet)	Total Amount proposed
Cubicle	Workstation	40	
	Book cart	10	
	File cabinet	14	
	Bookshelf	12	
	TOTAL	76	80
Admin Asst	Workstation	60	
	Printer/fax table	30	
	1 Bookshelf	12	
	Lateral file cabinet	30	
	File cabinets (2)	28	
	Visitor chairs	30	
	TOTAL	190	140
Staff Office	Workstation	50	
	Bookshelves (2)	24	
	File cabinet	14	
	Book cart	10	
	Visitor chairs	30	
	Total	128	105

- Literacy office is currently 240 SF. Director's office currently: 260 SF – both smaller in new plan. Administrative conference room will be detached from the Director's office to allow the Literacy workers to use the area for intake assessments and to allow other staff to use this space for meetings and projects.
- Number of staff offices + staff cubicles allows room four part-time staff to have assigned, shared offices. Full-time staff will use remainder of these spaces.)
- Book collection – no browsing collection in the basement. (Response: Adding a browsing collection would require a great deal of space and is highly inefficient. Our response was to leave volumes on the upper floor for browsing and to bring volumes for storage downstairs. Some collections (such as large print) are already routinely moved between storage and the active shelves. Other items may want to be stored – multiple copies of books, for instance.)

ATTACHMENT D

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Library looks to add space

By Richard Parks
Staff Writer

The Benicia Public Library could maximize its use of space by expanding into its basement for staff offices, conference rooms, an area designated for the library's literacy program and more storage, according to a recent proposal.

Reserve money from so-called "special funds" — money accrued from different state funds and city taxes and earmarked for library-specific use— could be used to finish approximately 8,000 square feet of space in the basement.

A proposal drafted by BPL Director Diane Smikahl in October outlines those possible uses and the project's tie-in to the city's General Plan.

"It's a quality-of-life issue," Smikhal said. "It supports the General

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Plan in the sense that it helps us provide better services to the community."

The Benicia Public Library Board of Trustees will meet on Monday evening for the first time in 2007 to discuss the proposal, which will be considered by the City Council at a later meeting, among other agenda items.

The current basement is "unfinished", according to the proposal. It consists of exposed concrete floors and walls, air ducts and improvised workspaces used by BPL staff and AmeriCorps volunteers. It is also used for the Friends of the Library's monthly book sale and storage.

"The staff who aren't in the basement are in cubicles that are very small," she said. "We're all crammed tightly together."

The library's various uses are hindered by the scarcity of space. The Edna Clyne and Dona Benicia meeting rooms are used for the various readings, concerts, classes and special events held at the building. The new base-

ment would provide more areas for those uses and more, according to Smikhal.

In a perfect metaphor for the disparate need for more space at the library, the director of the literacy program has to walk through Smikhal's office in order to get to her own. It is the same scenario for the program she coordinates— literacy classes are often difficult to schedule because of the high demand for meeting space.

"The literacy program is a great program," Smikhal said, "but they need more room."

The tentative plans for the basement include finished walls, a drop ceiling, a floor, electricity, heating and air conditioning, computer cabling, room separations—all the amenities of a functioning clerical space. BPL staff hope that the new use of the basement will help them continue to serve the diverse community needs in Benicia.

"We have educational goals and recreational goals," Smikhal said. "We do more here than just lend books."

artists, on Sept. 29. Artwork to be auctioned includes paintings, original prints, drawings, photographs, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics and glass.

The event, located in the

Benicia HERALD 9-28-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, Oct. 1

Street construction

The City will begin replacing the sewer main on W Second Street on Oct. 1 and is expected to complete mid-November.

During construction, the street will be closed periodically.

Wednesday Oct. 3

Special education advocacy meeting

The first Benicia Parents Special Education Advocacy Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Dona Benicia Room at the Benicia Public Library. The group will discuss various issues involving special education.

For more information, contact Betsy Eubanks at 332-7098.

Thursday, Oct. 4

Public Comment Forum

The Benicia Public Library is in the design process of renovating its basement space. On Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. architect Mark Thieme will be in the Dona Benicia Room of the library to answer questions about the design process. Comments from the public are encouraged. For more information, call 746-4343.

Saturday, Oct. 6

Candidates forum

The League of Women Voters Benicia (LWV) and the American Association of University Women Benicia-Vallejo Chapter (AAUW) will co-host

Home Loans.

Oct. 6

Day hikers

The Benicia Day Hikers will hike in Coyote Hills on

a Candidates Forum on Saturday, Oct. 6, in the Benicia City Council Chambers from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The forum will be aired live and also recorded for later airing on local public access television.

Candidates for the offices of mayor and city council have been invited to participate. The format is designed for fairness to all candidates. Neither LWV nor AAUW favors or opposes any candidates. The goals are to promote civic engagement and to provide voters with information to help them make informed choices. For more information, contact Christina Arrostuto, candidates forum co-chair, at 746-8170.

Monday, Oct. 15

Youth auditions

Vallejo Music Theatre will hold auditions for "Hansel & Gretel," an English Panto written by Fairfield Playwright Anita Elliott. October 15, 16, and 17 at 6:00 PM at the Fetterly Playhouse for the Arts, 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Suite 10, Vallejo. Appointments are not necessary.

Suggested age no younger than 8 (exceptions will be made for highly motivated and talented youngsters).

SPAV advisory board members needed

The Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV) is soliciting community members with professional experience in law enforcement, social services, children's services, health care services and public health.

If appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, members are required to attend meetings every other month, serve on at least one subcommittee, and participate in SPAV activities. Solano County employees are not eligible for appointment.

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0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
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 on All New 2007 Ford in stock! (excluding Harley Davidson)

'07 FOCUS SEDAN 5DR
 37 MPG HIGHWAY
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AIR CONDITIONING
 MSRP \$16,540
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$1,582
 SALE PRICE \$14,978
 FACTORY REBATE \$2,000
 BONUS CASH \$1,000
1 AT THIS NET COST: 315132

'07 F150 REG CAB
AUTOMATIC LIMITED SLIP
 MSRP \$19,800
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$1,322
 SALE PRICE \$18,478
 FACTORY REBATE \$2,500
 BONUS CASH \$1,700
1 AT THIS NET DISCOUNT A41724

'07 MUSTANG COUPE 2D PONY PACKAGE
PREMIUM PACKAGE & MUCH MORE!
 MSRP \$22,520
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$2,122
 SALE PRICE \$20,408
 FACTORY REBATE \$1,500
 BONUS CASH \$1,000
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'08 ESCAPE SUV 4DR
AUTOMATIC AIR CONDITIONING
 MSRP \$20,245
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$1,747
 SALE PRICE \$18,498
 BONUS CASH \$1,000
1 AT THIS NET DISCOUNT B03964

'07 EDGE SE SUV 4D
CD CHANGER, CONV. GROUP
 MSRP \$26,705
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$2,707
 SALE PRICE \$24,008
 FACTORY REBATE \$3,000
 BONUS CASH \$1,000
1 AT THIS NET DISCOUNT A70085

'08 TAURUS SEL SEDAN 4D
CONVENIENCE PACKAGE
SAFETY PKG., 18 WHEELS & MORE!
 MSRP \$27,090
 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$2,692
 SALE PRICE \$24,398
 BONUS CASH \$1,000
2 AT THIS NET DISCOUNT 108659, 110755

2007 MODEL YEAR END SPECIALS

2007 FOCUS 3DR SE AUTOMATIC SAFETY BRAKES, SPORT GROUP, SHIRTS, AIR, CD, ALLOYS MSRP \$16,410 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$1,477 SALE PRICE \$14,933 FACTORY REBATE \$2,000 BONUS CASH \$1,000 \$13,998 1 AT THIS NET COST: 204985	2007 FUSION SE V6 2007 AUTOMATIC SPORT, SHIRTS, AIR, CD, ALLOYS, REAR SPOILER, 18" WHEELS MSRP \$22,800 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$2,887 SALE PRICE \$19,913 FACTORY REBATE \$1,000 BONUS CASH \$2,000 \$18,498 1 AT THIS NET COST: 102144	NEW 2007 EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER EDITION LEATHER, MOON ROOF, CD, ALLOYS, 18" WHEELS MSRP \$28,180 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$3,182 SALE PRICE \$24,998 FACTORY REBATE \$2,000 BONUS CASH \$1,000 \$22,998 1 AT THIS NET COST: 102144	2007 EXPLORER 4X4 LIMITED SPORT TRAC 2007 LIMITED SPORT TRAC, LEATHER, MOON ROOF, SHIRTS, AIR, CD, ALLOYS, REAR SPOILER, 18" WHEELS MSRP \$35,320 CORNELIUS DISCOUNT \$3,882 SALE PRICE \$31,438 FACTORY REBATE \$2,000 BONUS CASH \$1,000 \$29,998 1 AT THIS NET COST: 102144
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MONTH-END PRE-OWNED MARKDOWN

2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, AC, PS, PV #600133 \$3,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, AC, PS, PV #600133 \$4,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. 5 SPD, ALLOYS #12504 GO GREEN!	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. 5 SPD, ALLOYS #12504 GO GREEN!	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, LEATHER #21894 \$7,950	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, LEATHER #21894 \$7,995
2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, 2WD, PS #812070 \$8,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, AUTO, A/C, LEATHER #A42093 \$9,850	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, SINGLE CD #174388 \$9,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE AUTO, MOON ROOF, ALLOYS, PGM SOUND, CD, #008476 \$10,985	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, 3.0 LITER, A/C, LEATHER #247281 \$10,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, 3.0 LITER, A/C, LEATHER #247281 \$10,995
2007 FOCUS 3DR SE ONLY 22,240 MILES! #931776 \$11,995	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE LOW MILES! V6, AUTO #000994 \$12,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, AUTO, A/C, LEATHER #000994 \$13,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE 4 CYL. AUTO, LEATHER #888949 \$13,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, AUTO, MOONROOF #000994 \$13,985	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, AUTO, LEATHER, CD, LEATHER #000994 \$13,985
2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6, AUTO, 2WD, ALLOYS, #667649 \$13,985	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6 3.0 LITER, AUTO, RWD, LEATHER, #000994 \$14,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6 454/7.4 LITER, AUTO, 4WD, #137450 \$14,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6 3.0 LITER, AUTO, RWD, LEATHER, #000994 \$14,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6 3.0 LITER, AUTO, RWD, LEATHER, #000994 \$14,975	2007 FOCUS 3DR SE V6 3.0 LITER, AUTO, RWD, LEATHER, #000994 \$14,975

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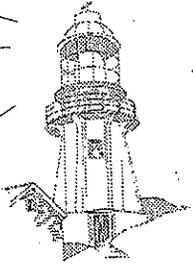
*0% APR Financing Available for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed based on \$0 down on approved credit financing in lieu of factory rebate. Applies to ALL 2007 F150s (excluding Harley Davidson). Offer expires at close of business. Credit. All vehicles plus government fees, taxes, license, any dealer preparation charges, any emission testing charge & subje

Special Meeting
 IV-1-14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENICIA HERALD 9-30-07

Send Announcements to benheral@pacbell.net with 'Announcement' in the s



Sequences

"I've got a diploma, but I can't find a job, who would hire me?" "Who would hire me if I told them I've had back surgery."

The Bible states, "There are many things the LORD hates and he does not tolerate . . . a lying tongue . . . a false witness who utters lies . . ." Two out of seven condemn lying.

Now I'm watching two of my neighbor's ugly sides roar to life. First, I see Tom lying to himself; he's convinced that he's disabled and unable to achieve the achievement. Second, I begin to question the truthfulness of things he's said to me over the past months.

As if to make one last appeal, Tom put his hand on my shoulder, "You know I've done work for you a long time; I only charge you \$50 a load. Everyone else charges me \$60."

I couldn't help thinking, "I don't know if I believe him."

Monday, Oct. 1

Street construction

The City will begin replacing the sewer main on W Second Street on Oct. 1 and is expected to complete mid-November.

During construction, the street will be closed periodically.

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Special education advocacy meeting

The first Benicia Parents Special Education Advocacy Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Dona Benicia Room at the Benicia Public Library. The group will discuss various issues involving special education.

For more information, contact Betsy Eubanks at 332-7098.

Thursday, * Oct. 4

Public Comment Forum

The Benicia Public Library is in the design process of renovating its basement space. On Oct. 4 at 6

p.m. architect Mark Thieme will be in the Dona Benicia Room of the library to answer questions about the design process. Comments from the public are encouraged. For more information, call 746-4343.

Saturday, Oct. 6

Candidates forum

The League of Women Voters Benicia (LWV) and the American Association of University Women Benicia-Vallejo Chapter (AAUW) will co-host a Candidates Forum on Saturday, Oct. 6, in the Benicia City Council Chambers from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The forum will be aired live and also recorded for later airing on local public access television.

Candidates for the offices of mayor and city council have been invited to participate. The format is designed for fairness to all candidates.

Neither LWV nor AAUW favors or opposes any candidates. The goals are to promote civic engagement and to provide voters with information to help them make informed choices. For more information, contact Christina Arrostuto, candidates forum co-chair, at 746-8170.

Monday, Oct. 8

Youth auditions

Vallejo Playwrights Auditions for English Playwrights on Oct. 15, 16, and 17 at Fetterly Plaza, 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo. Admission is free. A program book is available for \$5. A program book is available for \$5. A program book is available for \$5.

Suggest your child's name to the program book. Suggest your child's name to the program book. Suggest your child's name to the program book.

SPAV ad member

The Sonoma County Violence Against Women Community Meeting will be held on Oct. 8 at the Sonoma County Health Care Center, 1000 Broadway, Santa Rosa. The meeting is open to all community members. The meeting is open to all community members.

If you are a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, you are eligible for a free ride to the meeting. If you are a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, you are eligible for a free ride to the meeting.

Send tips to benheral@pacbell.net

You're #1 at VALLEJO NISSAN

707.643.8291

107 Sonoma Blvd



Special Meeting

IV-1-15

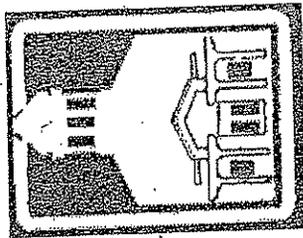
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AUTO, A/C, PW, PL, TILT, CRUISE.

2004 KIA RIO SEDAN
AUTO, A/C, PS, TILT, AM/FM, STEERING WHEEL

2004 HONDA FRON

10-2-07



BENICIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check it out!

Coming soon: a new look for the library.

It has been almost 15 years since the Benicia Public Library opened its doors. Many things have happened during these years. Patron needs have changed and new services are evolving to meet these needs. The Library is now in the process of work-

ing on a new look that will benefit the community. For the past 15 years the basement has been used as a place for the Friends to have their monthly book sale, a spot for some staff members, and a storage area for the Library. The Library has

Special Meeting
Nov. 16 08

BENICIA HERALD

now outgrown the space on the first floor, and it is time to expand. We will be moving our Adult Literacy Program into the basement and staff workstations and meeting rooms will be placed in the basement. The architect is currently working on designing a space that is efficient and will meet our needs. Construction will begin after the first of the year.

At this time we are looking for public comment on our renovation. We will be holding a meeting on Thursday, October 4 at 6 p.m. in the Dona Benicia Room of the Library. Local architect Mark Thieme, will be present to answer any questions on the renovation plans. We encourage comments from

the public, as we want to make the Library a place where our patrons are comfortable. We will use input received at the meeting to ensure the design meets the needs of our community.

For information on all of the above and more, you can go to our website www.benicialibrary.org. You can also come into the library to pick up information or call us at 746-4343 to ask about programs we are sponsoring.

Upcoming events: October 16th at 7 p.m. Chief of Infectious Diseases, Dr. Stephen Parodi, of the Kaiser Permanente Vallejo facility will be discussing the flu and the West Nile Virus; October 28 at 3 p.m. Tim Fuller: Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert.

Mr. Know

The asteroid

Q I have heard 100 times of an asteroid that slams into the Yucatan Peninsula millions of years ago. What about the dinosaurs. Have scientists ever given it a name? Exactly where on the peninsula did it hit? — G.L., Kitchener, Ontario

A The asteroid believed to have killed the dinosaurs was named Chicxulub (cheek-shoo-LOOB), after a village now located near the center of impact. Chicxulub is a 200 miles west of Cancun. The asteroid is believed to have been six miles in diameter, and it struck Earth 65 million years ago. Would you like to know whether the

PROTECTING THE POOCH



GOOD MORNING!

SUNDAY
OCT. 12, 2007

PARTLY CLOUDY

Morning clouds should clear later in the day. Temperatures in the mid-60s. Winds 10 mph.



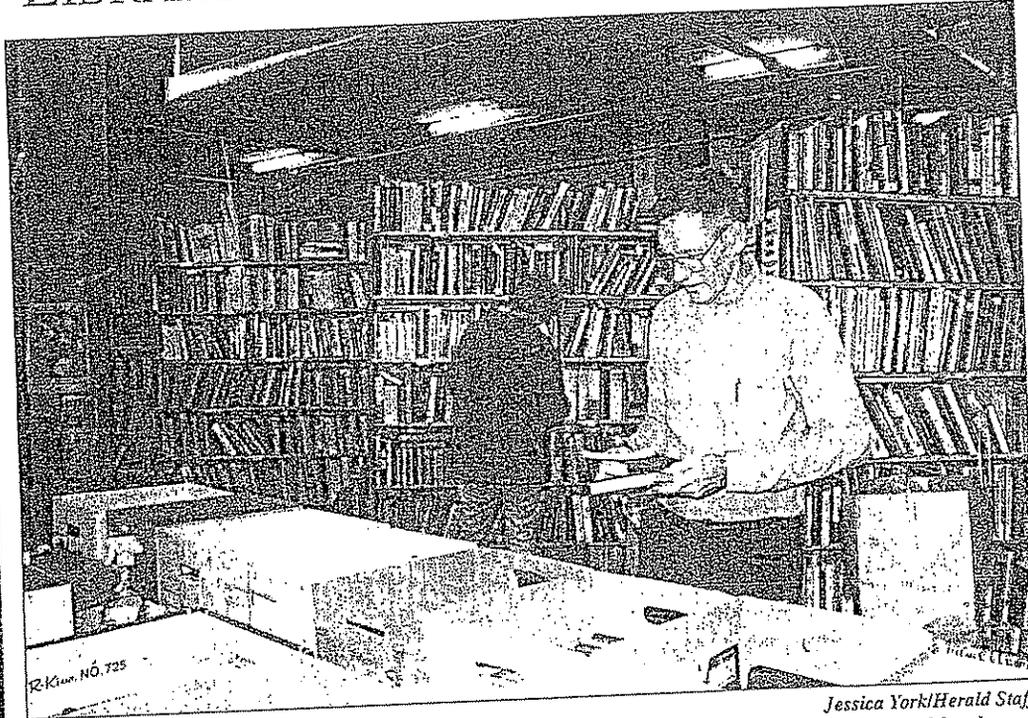
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- FORUM..... A4
- ANNIE'S MAILBOX... B6
- SPORTS..... A9-A10
- COMICS..... A8

INSERTS:

- LONGS DRUGS, SAFEWAY,
- RITE AID, SEARS,
- USA WEEKEND

LIBRARY PREPARES FOR NEXT CHAPTER



Jessica York/Herald Staff

Friends of the Library board of directors member Allen Green sorted through the donated book intake in the basement of the Benicia Public Library.

Basement upgrade plan gets update

Friends of the Library to get new upstairs location

Jessica York
Staff Writer

More than 20,000 patrons hold Benicia Public Library cards.

More than 122,000 rental items — books, magazines, DVDs and more — fill every available nook and cranny of the library.

Staff squish into five-foot by seven-foot cubicles.

Beneath all this lies 8,000 square feet of undeveloped, underutilized space.

"The library has pretty much outgrown its space," library Director Diane Smikal said. "We're a victim of our success. We need to expand for other reasons than population, like technology and the literacy program."

Capitalizing on a grant that required the library, built in 1993, to set aside space for future development, the library's board of directors

has decided that the time is right to complete a ground level floor on the building.

With the help of money from the Friends of the Library book sales, which currently take place in the open ground level room beneath the library, Interlibrary Loan reimbursements, Measure B funds and city funding, some \$400,000 has been set aside for a renovation, Smikal said.

"Pretty much as soon as they finished the building, they started thinking about how (the basement) could be

best used," Smikal said. "I think the plan was to put money ... a little aside each year."

The proposed plan would place office infrastructure in the basement, allowing staff, meeting and classroom space to move downstairs and put the Friends of the Library's books for sale upstairs where offices currently are. Smikal said the relocation would make the whole main floor "kind of a public space," and reduce a need for staff moni-

See LIBRARY, page A2

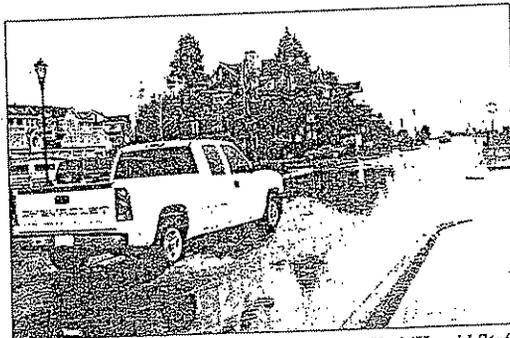
Billboard ordinance handed to city council

Jessica York
Staff Writer

An ordinance banning future city billboard construction was given the go-ahead from the Benicia Planning Commission Thursday, leaving its final approval in City Council hands next month.

"I think we're somewhat obligated to bring this forward, given the general plan," said Commissioner Dan Healy, who made a motion to approve the sign law amendment. "I think 99.9 percent of Benicia residents would agree that we do not want billboards."

The commission, with four newly appointed members sitting behind the microphones, spent much of the meeting quizzing the city's outside legal counsel, community development staff, on how to control or remove existing Interstate 680 billboards, enforce current city sign laws and what staff progress on General Plan goals.



Jessica York/Herald Staff

Making a splash

A pickup truck traverses the flooded east end of East B Street Friday afternoon after the first day of heavy rains for the season hit Benicia. The

Parents show support for exte

Caitlin Esch
Staff Writer

A meeting was held Thursday night at the Benicia Unified School District Office to discuss the pros and cons of the potential extension of the kindergarten school day.

Parents, teachers and members of the community gathered at the meeting organized by Superintendent Janice Adams to address the particulars of increasing the three hour and twenty minute day of Benicia's youngest

Trustee Rosie Switzer supports the extension.

"A lot of growth occurs in kindergarten," she said. "Extended time allows them to prepare for first grade."

Adams addressed parent concerns and explained that an increased school day would help children meet new standards. She said three hours isn't enough time, and young students are pushed.

Adams described the meeting as positive. An informal poll conducted at the meeting conclusion revealed that parents in attendance

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BILLBOARD

Continued from page A1

Newcomer, Commissioners James "Rick" Ernst and Lee Syracuse were particularly interested in currently existing billboards - including four allowed signs owned by CBS Outdoor and Clear Channel, and one advertising Benicia Industries that is slated for removal, according to city contract attorney Kat Wellman. Two of the allowed billboards are due to be reviewed after their first five years standing. Golubics said city staff turnover had caused that provision to slip through the cracks.

Syracuse said that a whole new era of electronic billboards were on the horizon, and wanted to ensure that something like that did not pop up along Benicia's freeways.

Mike McCoy, an owner of billboard company Mesa Outdoor, told the commission that he would be surprised if the city's current billboard owners did not come forward with a change within the next five years.

Current city sign law prohibits erecting or maintaining flashing or moving signs, said acting Community Development Director Damon Golubics.

"My reading of the code is that those signs that are moving, flashing are not allowed," Golubics said. "You would have to change the code."

Ernst asked city staff and Mesa Outdoor representatives what the expense of buying out the current billboard owners would be.

Principal owner Mike McCoy said the cost would be based on current market value, and that the earnings potential for billboards along major highways in Bay Area is quite high.

An application by Mesa Outdoor for a new billboard along 1-680 initially galvanized the city council to place

a moratorium on new billboards in May while the city sign code was updated.

Although the commission was directed not to discuss the Mesa Outdoor application, as it was not agendaized, McCoy made a plea for his case and for not approving the ordinance proposed that evening.

"There is a cost of prohibiting billboards, and that cost is economic freedom," McCoy said. The cost is borne most heavily on property owners... I think economic freedom is one of the most important freedoms that we have."

McCoy went on to add that the state is empowered to

LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

toring of the ground floor. Renovations would mean less visible cement in the lower level, to alleviate the feeling of a basement, Smikal said.

"We want everyone to feel comfortable here, for whatever reason they are here for," Smikal said.

On Nov. 6, a presentation of the renovation plan and cost estimates will be made to the Benicia City Council, Smikal said. Later in the

reside, but were reassured by information of the group's new location upstairs, Smikal said, adding that the Web site's blog, which provides a downloadable file with the proposed floor plan, received some 140 visits, though no posted comments.

"People were looking at it," Smikal said. "My sense is as we were not taking away any services."

The Friends of the Library's collection, which takes in an average of 200 to 300 donated books each day

and is approximately 8,000 to 10,000 books large, at one estimate, provides about \$50,000 a year in funding to the library.

"A lot of the books come in, a lot of the books go out," said assistant book sales manager Allen Green. "We're not stopping the book collecting."

Green said some regular book buyers may not find the move upstairs appealing, but he anticipated that expanding the hours the books were on sale and becoming more visible to the public would make

regulate signs within 660 feet of highways, and that California has the strictest regulations of states which still allow roadside billboards.

Wellman told the commission that Benicia's 1999 General Plan had directed the city to prohibit new billboards and non-accessory signs, as well as to take an inventory of its roads, try to protect and enhance its scenic roads and highways and to apply for state scenic highway designation.

"Unfortunately, none of this was implemented," Wellman said.

Contact Jessica York at jessicay.bherald@yahoo.com

up for the change.

The Benicia Public Library Board of Trustees will hold a meeting in the library's Dona Penicia meeting room at 6:30 p.m. Monday, where the basement-plans will be updated by architect Mark Thieme.

Though public comment on the basement and upstairs renovation plan officially closed on Thursday, Smikal said she still welcomes any suggestions or concerns library users might have.

Contact Jessica York at jessicay.bherald@yahoo.com

SUPPORT

Continued from page A1

to explain the program to parents and address their concerns.

Switzer is optimistic about eventual extension although she admits that compromises will need to be made. Adams concurred, "parents understand the need of a longer day."

CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

To receive the Benicia Herald call 745-6838

said. "But [Sutter] is dragging their feet and refusing to address the nurses' concerns. Braillard hopes renegotiation will begin as early as next week.

Trumbull isn't so sure. She blames the union for failing to respond to Sutter's proposals and counter-proposals.

Despite repercussions Braillard and Preston consider

accommodations in San Francisco minutes from the San Francisco shopping centers and downtown attractions."

Braillard said that she and other nurses would continue to go to work at their scheduled times, forcing Solano to continue to turn them away.

"We're gonna keep going back and try to fulfill our

[replacement nurses] on two-day contracts. Why couldn't all the Sutters have gotten those contracts?"

Health Sources is a company hired by Sutter Solano to provide replacement nurses for strikers. Health Sources attracts strikebreaking nurses from around the country.

A flier from recruitment in Ohio promises

she was told by hospital management simply that she wasn't needed until Sunday.

Trumbull said that allowing nurses to return before Sunday would force the hospital to pay two salaries for a position normally filled by one nurse. "We aren't in a financial position to double-pay nurses."

She said the nurses would

concern over the qualifications of the replacement nurses hired to fill the void left by strikers.

"These [replacement nurses] are an untested group of people drawn here by high salaries and shopping in San Francisco," he said.

Braillard mirrored these concerns, saying, "These transients are not us. They aren't

STRIKE

Continued from page A1

nurses to return before the weekend a "distraction from important issues."

"This absolutely isn't a lockout," said Kim Trumbull, director of nursing at Solano.

Friends' Feedback

March-April 2007

Volume 22 Number 2

Looking Ahead: The Future of our Book Sales

By Ron Arrants

The old saying is "when one door closes another opens". That is a good way to describe the recent City Council decision to authorize the Benicia Library's Director, Diane Smikahl, to use existing funds to obtain cost estimates and begin construction in the Library's Basement. While the door for our existing book sale program is closing, new doors are opening for our continued support of the Library.

As Friends of the Library we should be proud of the part we have played over the years to provide funding for programs, materials and activities in our Library. It is truly a "happening place" thanks to an excellent staff and a lot of fine volunteers. The Library is busting at the seams and needs space to meet the needs of a growing community, and increased usage by a public of all ages.

We, of course, will adapt to this closing door by opening other doors. There is space being planned in the construction for our monthly book sales, although a much smaller area. Diane Smikahl is working with us to provide some significant space upstairs for on-going daily sales. This means we will have to change our approach to book sales, and, with the continued support of the Friends, this is certainly achievable - *and we might even raise more money!*

What an exciting time! The plans for the basement call for additional space for staff, the Literacy program, conference rooms, and book storage. Upstairs there will be space freed up for additional computers, expansion of the collection, and teen and children's activities. There will be ample public input in the planning process. Please give your support and ideas to the Library Director.

Another door we are peeking though is to investigate space outside the Library. The City is working with us on this possibility. What doors can you suggest we look through? I am open to suggestions on adapting our present process, relocating, and/or exploring alternatives so that we can continue in fulfilling our mission to support the Benicia Public Library.

Library Art-Gallery Shows

Through March 22 — The Faux Louvre by Mernie Buchanan.

March 28 through April 25 — Hands On Art by Benicia & Liberty High School Students.

Marilyn O'Rourke Art Gallery,
in the Library

Thank You for Supporting the Book Sales!

January-February 2007

Proceeds for January, 2007: \$4,089
Proceeds for February, 2007: \$3,861

Sorters: Ron Arrants, Brita Bautin, Dana & Judy Carrigan, Charlene & Daryl Cella, Dannys Cody, Ann Edwards, Allen Green, Jean Hastings, Ken Innes, Richard Irwin, Leigh Anne Jones, Jason Levitt, Walter Luke, Kathy & Jack MacKinnon, Nancy Mahoney, Kathy Meyer, Fred & Pat Paine, Susan Penney, Larry Penning, Lyn Pulsifer, Mike Radesky, Margery Walsh, Brenda Woodward.

Book sale volunteers: Ron Arrants, Laurie Baker, Brita Bautin, Susan Cornwell, Joel Fallon, Barbara Fugate, Kay Hlavka, Jack Hubbs, Barbara Juni, Shirley King, Thomas Lawley, Carole Nail, Elinor Parrie, Lyn Pulsifer, Roberta Riggs, Julie Shelton, Nancy Shopay, Velma Snook, Sandra Stillwell, Jeff & Milly Thomas, Sean Wood, Carol Woodson.

Friends Book Sales

March Friends-Only Sale

Thursday, March 8
6pm to 8pm

March Public Book Sale

Saturday, March 10
10am to 4pm

April Friends-Only Sale

Thursday, April 12
6pm to 8pm

April Public Book Sale

Saturday, April 14
10am to 4pm

In the Library Basement.

Special Meeting

Jean Walker, Editor

IV-1-19

FRIENDS' FEEDBACK

FRIENDS OF THE BENICIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jean Walker, editor
jeanius@gmail.com

Trivia Bee XVII: Toga, Toga, Toga! Save the Date: February 23, 2008

Mark your calendar; it's that time again! "Trivia Bee XVII ~ Toga Party" promises to be another crowd-pleaser as plans begin to shape up for the 17th annual fundraiser for the Benicia Library's Adult Literacy Program. Scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd at the Clocktower, the fun will start at 6 p.m. with a no-host bar and silent auction.

A delicious catered dinner will be provided. Along with the silent auction there will be a live auction and a raffle as well as the trivia competition.

Come in a toga or other theme-

appropriate attire and compete for the best costume prize.

Tickets are \$25.00 and will go on sale February 1st at the Library, Benicia Main Street and Bookshop Benicia.

Treat yourself to a highly entertaining evening AND support the library's Adult Literacy Program. Bring your friends and reserve a table for 10 in advance.

For more information, to donate gifts or services for the auction or raffle, or to sponsor a team, call Helaine Bowles at 746-4358.

Library's Basement Remodel

A meeting and public comment forum on the Benicia Public Library basement remodel was held on October 4th at the Library. Design plans were presented to the public. Copies of the plans are available at the Library's Reference Desk for your consideration. Or go to the Library's

Web site, www.benicialibrary.org, to download the plans.

Please leave your comments with the Reference Desk librarians, or log into the Library's Web site's blog and express your opinions. Public comment is being sought through Nov. 8.

Looking Ahead:

What Will the Friends' Book Sales Look Like?

If you have looked at the plans for the Library's Basement Remodel, you will have noticed that the Friends will have a new, smaller space for its book sales on the Library's main level.

A task force made up of Friends' Board members has begun to meet to determine the best way to close down the current book sale area and to reopen in our new location.

We want to hear from you. At our November and December sales, we will distribute a survey asking our book sales' customers what favorite sections (i.e., Business, Romance, Health, Classics, etc.) they want to see in the new location.

We hope you will take the time and let us know what you think.

Friends' Book Sales

November
Members-Only Sale
Thursday, November 8
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

November Public Sale
\$5 Per Bag of Books!
Saturday, November 10
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

December
Members-Only Sale
Thursday, December 6
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

December Public Sale
Saturday, December 8
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Library Art Gallery Shows

Through November 30 —
Jason Bowen, "California
Coastal Paintings."

December 5 through
January 10 — Lisa N.
Tana, "I Madé Moja."

Marilyn O'Rourke
Art Gallery,
in the Library

Poetry Open Mike

Open Mike night is normally the first Tuesday each month: November 6 and December 4 at 7 p.m. Read your poetry and listen to others.

Special Meeting

IV-1-20