

8. Library Director's Report

Report

Report on Operations - December 3, 2010

Starrett Kreissman

Starrett Kreissman, Ventura County Library Director for several years until 2006, passed away at her home on Thursday December 2, 2010. She was with her husband and daughter. A memorial service is planned for sometime in the spring.

Staff Reductions

All incumbents of positions that will be eliminated as a result of Camarillo leaving the Ventura County Library (VCL) system have been notified. However, there will be a great deal of "bumping" and the reverberations will be felt at almost every library throughout the system. LSSI is currently interviewing Camarillo staff but we do not know how many staff will accept positions there.

Camarillo

Camarillo will be leaving VCL as of January 1, 2011. City staff has asked county staff to keep the Camarillo Library up and operating until December 31, 2010. Several issues will probably not allow us to achieve that. Technology operations will have to be shut down prior to that in order to complete the withdrawal in a timely way. Staff is being transferred to positions throughout the system as vacancies occur. There will be technology problems as the large Support Services/Administration move (see below) begins in mid-December.

The City of Camarillo has requested that VCL continue to provide literacy services at the Camarillo City Library after January 1, 2011. Discussions about this are ongoing.

Ventura

The City Council of Ventura met on November 22, 2010 to discuss the future of library services in the city of Ventura. Over twenty Ventura residents came out to speak on this issue.

The City Council voted to implement a strategic planning process to be completed by June 30, 2011. They also voted to re-visit the issue of leaving VCL after the strategic planning process is complete.

Consolidation of all Support Services

On December 20, 2010, all Support Services of VCL (Cataloging, IT, Admin, Childrens' Services etc) will all relocate to 5600 Everglades in Ventura. This will both achieve our long term goal of putting our staffs into closer proximity and also greatly reduce lease costs.

This move has been planned for a time that our libraries receive relatively little use so that the reduction in available technology would have a lesser impact. However, this was prior to the decision by the City of Camarillo to leave VCL as of December 31, 2010. IT staff is working to achieve all objectives with the primary goal of as little disruption to patrons as possible.

There will be periods of time in which it will be difficult to reach Administration staff. All Commission members as well as staff of the various cities and the county should have received the cell phone number of the Library Director for use in urgent matters.