

Library dream for La Center

*Margaret Colf-Hepola wants to match
the need with a threatened old building*

BY SIMONE RIPKE
THE OREGONIAN

LA CENTER —

Take Margaret Colf-Hepola's love of history, a piece of land and an old hospital, and you have all the ingredients to her most recent vision: a library for La Center.

"They really could use it," she said. "It would be an asset to town."

Determined to save La Center's old 2,500-square-foot hospital building, the Colf Family Foundation, which provides grants for historical and educational projects, bought about an acre of land right across from La Center's new post office.

The building is near East Fourth Street and Cedar Avenue. It would have to be moved about a half-mile. Colf-Hepola, 83, said she initially thought about making it a museum but realized that there was a greater need for a library.

Currently, bookworms in La Center have access to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's bookmobile twice a month, and some readers use libraries in other communities, said Candy Morgan, associate director.

The public will have an opportunity to hear about Colf-Hepola's plans at a meeting May 16. Colf-Hepola, who lives near Woodland, hopes for some hands-on support.

"We're hoping that there will be a community effort to help," she

LA CENTER LIBRARY PROPOSAL

What: A public meeting to discuss plans and community support for a library branch in La Center

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Where: La Center Middle School, 700 E. Fourth St.

Information: 360-263-2675

said. "If you just get a core of people, and go-getters, you can get a lot done."

One of the people who pointed out the lack of a library in La Center is Rose Smith, now a member of the La Center Friends of the Library. She has worked on the project with Colf-Hepola for months.

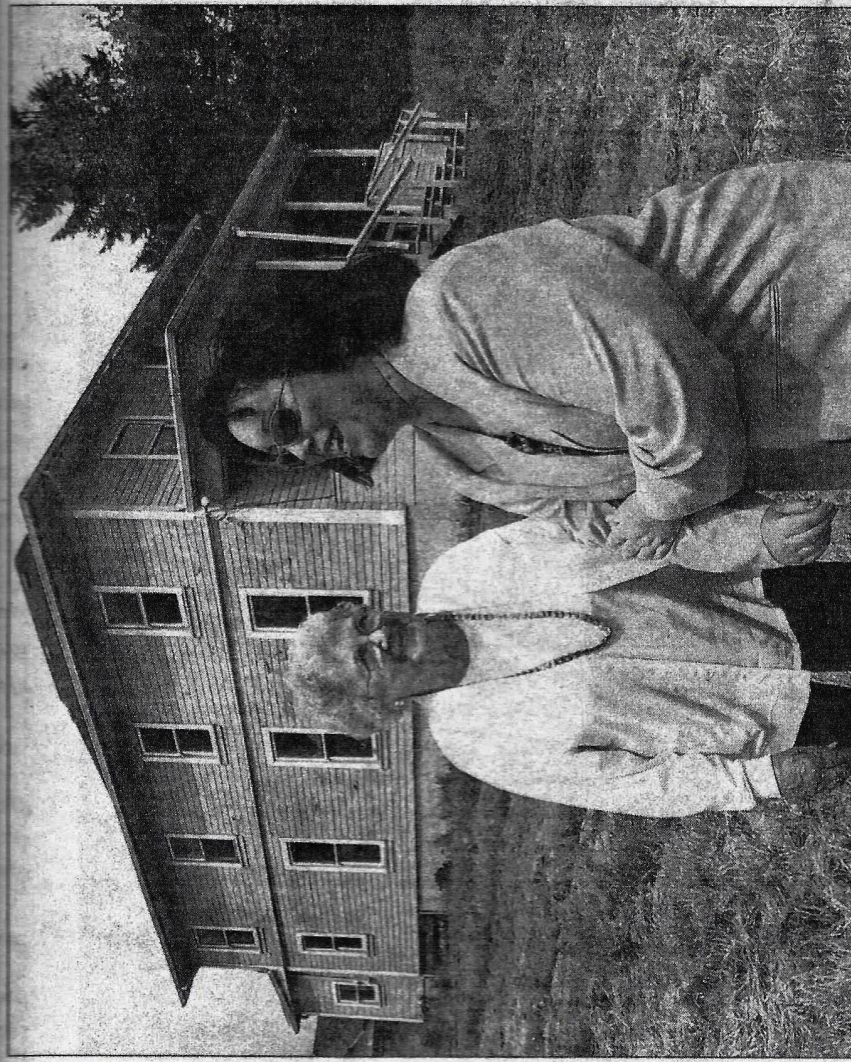
"It would be a real positive thing," Smith said. "It would be within walking distance from all the schools."

The library would provide access to books, computers and high-speed Internet links and would have room for La Center artifacts, she said.

Colf-Hepola said she became interested in saving the hospital, co-owned by her son, when she heard about plans to burn it down.

"I said, 'Oh, stop it,'" she said. "I just hate to see history destroyed."

She also has some personal ties to the building. Her mother worked there as a teen-ager



DANA E. OLSEN/THE OREGONIAN

Margaret-Colf Hepola (left) hopes to move La Center's hospital building to a lot she bought near the post office and restore it as a library. She has the support of Rose Smith, a member of the La Center Friends of the Library.

around 1900, and a doctor who worked at the hospital delivered Colf-Hepola in 1917, she said.

Next week's meeting will be key to identifying community support for the project, Morgan said. Afterward, she will report to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board, which will have the final say about whether the project could become a branch.

The board probably will not make a final decision until it has all of the information about the building's structural condition and its chances of conforming to building codes, Morgan said.

A superficial walk-through with a building operations manager revealed no significant problems, she said.

"We have no reason to believe at this point that it couldn't be done," Morgan said. "We are watching very interestedly what is going on, and we appreciate her initiative. It's truly heartening."

So far, the board has identified that La Center needs a library and that it probably would have to be paid in large part through community support, she said.

However, at this early stage neither Morgan nor Colf-Hepola was

able to say how much the project would cost.

This is not the first time Colf-Hepola launched a project with a little more than a dream. Past projects include restoring the Cedar Creek Grist Mill and the North Clark Historical Society Museum in Amboy. In the past, volunteers have stepped up to help, and she hopes this time will be no different.

"People can get a lot done when they want to do it," she said.

And she is not the only believer. "I can close my eyes and visualize the building," Smith said. "It's gonna get done. I know it."

Residents to mull library

Reflector - May 16-22, 2001

A senior citizen with a reputation for getting things done would like to talk "library" to La Center citizens.

Margaret Colf Hepola has invited La Center citizens to come to a May 16 meeting to share in a vision. Hepola would like to see a La Center building with a lively past live again.

The building is the vacant, 1900 vintage hospital at the northeast corner of Cedar Ave. and E. 4th St.

Hepola, who helped lead historical restoration projects at the Woodland Grist Mill and North Clark County Museum in Amboy, believes the old building should be moved to a property near the La Center post office that was recently acquired by the Colf Family Foundation. It should, she said, be restored into a combination library-museum.

This building, said Hepola, would make a perfect library for La Center citizens. And, she said, the renovation would be a fitting future for the hospital that once housed sick and injured north county citizens.

Hepola, who was born in 1917 in the Lewis River valley before Merwin Dam created the reservoir, admits an emotional attachment to the old hospital. Doctor Carl Hoffman, the famous Woodland physician who worked there in the early 1900s, was the



JOAN WOLVERTON

doctor who delivered her. And, said Hepola, "my mother worked at the hospital as a young girl."

Vancouver Regional Library representative Candace Morgan, and La Center citizen Rose Smith, said Hepola, will also attend the meeting, scheduled to start at 7 p.m. "At this meeting," said Hepola, "we'll see how much community interest there is in this project."

Hepola said it's also important that they find people with building expertise who can volunteer time to work on the restoration.

Regional library board member Joan Wolverton said she liked the idea, and believed the La Center community could get the project done.

La Center mayor Liz Cervany said the project "makes great sense" if everything can be worked out. The city needs a



MARGARET COLF HEPOLA

library, she said, but facts about the city's role in the project have not been on the table yet.

Hepola said she first became interested in the project when she heard the building was going to be burned for firefighter practice. She said it would take about \$20,000 to move the building to its new location. "Far better than burning it," she said.

Library in La Center moves ahead

A Friends of the Library group has formed in La Center, and will work toward the creation of a branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system in La Center.

The new group was formed last week, with Margaret Colf Heppala as president.

The group plans to move an historic house to a new location across the street from the new La Center post office, then renovate that building into a library.

Candy Morgan of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system said the library board has identified La Center as an area in need of library service. The board has not yet approved the new branch, however.

The library group includes Roxanne Larsen, (360) 673-8200, and Joan Wolverton.

Project supports library

Proceeds from advertising on a community calendar will support the creation of a new library in La Center.

La Center Friends of the Library has launched the calendar project, previously handled by the La Center High School music department.

The calendar lists schools and community events on the appropriate dates, birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and more.

In addition the calendar has 30 business advertising spaces.

The calendar will feature a picture of the historic La Center hospital building which has been donated by the Colf Family Foundation to house a La Center library.

Deadline for advertising on the calendar is July 31. Information, Jeanine Liston, 263-2749.



This house, once located on the north side of 4th street near cedar avenue, was the hospital home of Dr. Zener. This photo taken in 1909 shows Mrs. Zener and her son on the porch, and Dr. Carl J. Hoffman, pioneer Dr. in the Lewis River area, in the horse drawn buggy.

La Center Library to Be - Aug. 2001



"This is a truly commendable community initiative. I've been impressed with how quickly Margaret Colf-Hepola has been able to put this together."

CANDY MORGAN, *associate director for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library*



JEREMIAH COUGHLAN/The Columbian

Books are in its future: *Roxanne Larsen walks outside an old building that the Friends of the Library in La Center are planning to move and remodel into the newest branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.*

Old building may be a library

La Center group plans to remodel one-time hospital into newest branch library

By MARGARET ELLIS
Columbian staff writer

LA CENTER — An old vacant building on Fourth Street may not look like much, but Margaret Colf-Hepola isn't about to let it go.

The newly formed La Center Friends of the Library organization is working to transform the turn-of-the-century building into the newest branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

Colf-Hepola, 84, acted to save the building when her son, Bob Colf, told her that he and other investors were planning to build on the site.

How to help library drive

☛ Membership fees for the La Center Friends of the Library are \$5 for students, \$6 for seniors, \$10 for family, and "special friends" contribute \$25 or more. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 126 La Center, 98629. A message line for the group is 263-2222.

The big old house, which was originally a hospital, was going to be burned in a training exercise for the local fire district.

Colf-Hepola wouldn't have it.

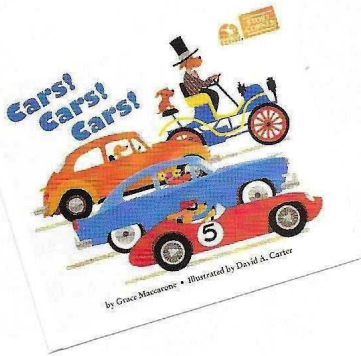
"I've wanted to save it for a long, long time," she said.

Her mother worked there as a teen-ager, and while Colf-Hepola never went to the hospital, she was delivered in 1917 by a doctor who practiced there.

Colf-Hepola didn't have to make a case to her son why the old hospital should be saved. "I just told him we were going to save it," she said. "He's historically minded, too."

Talk between friends has expanded the group to about 20, and

LIBRARY, page C6



Library

Moving old building will cost \$15,000 to \$20,000

From page C1

the Fort Vancouver Regional Library administration is supportive of the effort.

And those new members, including Roxanne Larsen, are determined to make their mission succeed.

"It's something I've been talking about for years, that we need a library out here," Larsen said.

They're on their way. The group already owns the hospital building, and the plot of land where they plan to move the building. It'll cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 to move it, Colf-Hepola said.

If all goes as planned, the move will happen this summer, she said. The library eventually will be located farther up the hill next to the post office, Larsen said.

The Colf Family Foundation, started by Colf-Hepola's family

about three years ago, has funded that part of the effort.

But that's only the beginning. The building will need a lot more work. Wiring and plumbing will have to be updated, and the structure will have to meet modern building codes.

The Friends of the Library are planning on using donations to pay for the remodel.

Candy Morgan, associate director for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, estimates it will cost about \$400,000 to outfit the library with books. "That would not only fill the library up, it would have 50 to 60 percent circulation in the community," she said.

The Friends group would have to raise that money as well, Morgan said.

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library can't afford to outfit the new library, but it supports the group's effort.

"This is a truly commendable community initiative. I've been impressed with how quickly Margaret Colf-Hepola has been able to put this together," Morgan said.

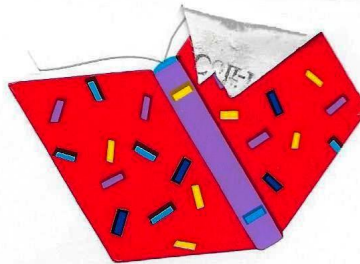
Colf-Hepola has had a lot of practice.

She's worked on the Cedar Creek Grist Mill and the North Clark Historical Museum.

"I was right at the start when the grist mill started; I've been through this before," Colf-Hepola said.

Most problems can be solved with just one ingredient, she said:

"Volunteers — that's what we need. We don't need many people; you have a core of maybe 10 to 25 people, you can do it."



The Reflector

August 22, 2001 - The Reflector -



A community project

It was much more than the usual house-moving project last week as La Center moved a step closer to having its very own library.

Thanks to the Colf Family Foundation, the La Center community will one day soon graduate from a three hour bookmobile visit twice a month, to a full-service library open several days a week.

The library is the vision of Margaret Colf Hepola, and sons, who are able to use the Foundation's resources for this purpose.

Margaret Hepola and sons disdain publicity. They are private people who do good work for civic projects for the right reasons—not for the publicity involved. They generally decline to provide information to reporters.

The Colf Family Foundation purchased land for the new library, and paid for the expenses of moving a building to the site.

Margaret Colf Hepola will spearhead a funding drive to remodel the building and to stock it with books, computers, and other elements of a library collection.

It is a banner moment in the continuing upward spiral for the general La Center area.

The Colf Family Foundation donated a grand piano to La Center High School a few years ago. Margaret Hepola has been active in other historic renovation projects, including the Cedar Creek Grist Mill and the North County Historic Museum.

Although shrinking from publicity, the Colf family deserves the recognition of the community for their good work and civic dedication. What a grand moment it will be when the ribbon is cut and the public enters the new library in La Center.

Marvin F. Case

Library coming to La Center

by Burr C. McCutcheon

La Center may once again have a community library, if the vision of some volunteers is realized.

A former hospital building was relocated Aug. 17 and will house the new library.

The La Center Friends of the Library, a group headed by Margaret Colf Hepola, are proceeding with plans for development of a library to be operated as a branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District. The opening is targeted for summer 2003.

Although the project is in its early stages, members of both the city council, which has extended its informal approval, and the Friends group are confident the necessary funding and legality issues will be worked out.

The library will be located at 1411 NE Lockwood Creek Rd, near the city's new post office.

The old La Center hospital, which was moved six-tenths of a mile Aug. 17 by flatbed truck to the new site, will house the library.

The city's last library was housed in a real estate office and closed in 1968. Library services have been provided by a District bookmobile since then.

Sharing the vision

La Center's library project is just the latest for Hepola, who is president of the Friends group. She has been active in various historic preservation projects over the years, including the Cedar Creek Grist Mill and the North Clark Historical Society.

As a lifelong resident of La Center, Hepola sees the pro-

posed library as serving two purposes.

"It has long been my dream to bring a library to La Center," she said, "and saving the hospital preserves a little local history."

The land for the new library was purchased for about \$160,000 through the Colf Family Foundation only about a year ago, Hepola said, specifically for the library project.

"We knew that was just about the last good place in town left to put it; near the park and the schools and the post office," she said.

The old hospital was built about 1905 by Dr. Zenner. It sat on land in the 300 block of 4th St., owned by a partnership that includes council member Jay Cerveny, school board member Bob Olsen, and Bob Colf, Hepola's son.

The partnership was "glad to get rid of it," Cerveny said, noting their plans to build a convenience store on the site.

The building had been slated to be burned down as part of a training exercise for Fire District 12 firefighters, until Hepola stepped in with her library vision.

Moving the building cost about \$15,000. Most of the roof had to be removed in order to pass under power lines over the route to its new location.

Plans call for a complete overhaul of the building, which will be a 2,500 sq. ft. facility on a landscaped lot with about 45 parking spaces, Hepola said.

Continued on page A2



ZUMWALT BUILDING MOVERS relocated a former hospital building in La Center Aug. 17 to a new location where it will serve as a community library. Library will be operated by the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District. Aerial photo taken by Blimpix, 254-6700.

Hospital:

From page C1

next to the city park.

The effort was organized by Friends of the La Center Community Library. The group's president, Margaret Colf Hepola, provided the kick-start to get the project going.

"I'm always great for saving history," Hepola said. "So many things have just been erased out. And this building has so many ties to my life."

Hepola, 84, said two sets of her great-grandparents settled in La Center in the 1870s, and her five children graduated from La Center High School. She was active in the effort to restore the old Cedar Creek Grist Mill, as well as the campaign to turn a former Amboy church into the North Clark Historical Museum.

The La Center building goes back to around 1905, although there are no records to provide a specific date. Dr. Charles Zenner ran a six-bed hospital and a drugstore there, and he also lived in the building with his wife. The building later was used as a private residence by other families. Now it is being groomed for a new role.

"We've been looking for a library in La Center for quite a while," said Greg Smith, another member of the Friends group and a former city councilman.

Friday's move literally gave the old hospital an opportunity for a narrow escape: The city had planned to burn it. The fire department, which is right across the street, was going to use the old building for a training fire.

"People saw the police setting off smoke bombs inside the building — apparently to see how the building drafted — and word fell on Margaret's ears," Smith said.

Hepola's reaction was: "They are not going to burn that building."

In addition to leadership, Hepola also brought some family resources to the campaign. The Colf Family Foundation acquired the old building and then bought the property for the new site. Contractor Bob Colf — the son of Margaret Colf Hepola — organized Friday's move, which was subcontracted to Zumwalt Building Movers.

Including cost of the land, putting the building in the new location represented something like a \$200,000 donation by the Colf Family Foundation, Hepola said.

The move became an impromptu parade as community members walked ahead of the Freightliner tractor. They looked back and watched as members of the moving crew helped the 30- by 40-foot building ease past utility poles and maple trees, a chain-link fence and the occasional stop sign.

Colf Construction also took off a chunk of roof prior to the move so the building could slide under power lines and street lights along the route.

The project will be the focus of a community effort for the next couple of years. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library, which operates 12 community branches in three counties, will provide some advice along the way so the remodeling will match library needs. But it will be up to the Friends of the Library to finance the remodeling through community fundraising and possible grants.

After renovation, the Colf Family Foundation will give the building and the land to the city of La Center, probably sometime in 2003. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library will operate and staff the facility.

La Center hasn't had a library of its own since 1968, when a branch was housed in a real estate office. The branch was closed when the building was sold, and library service now is provided every other week by a bookmobile.



MOVING DAY



DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

It's a tight fit Friday for the old La Center hospital building while it's moved about six-tenths of a mile along Fourth Street to its new location next to the city park. The historic building will house a library.

STORY ON PAGE C1

**Margaret Gelf
Hepola watches
Friday as
a crew moves the
old La Center
hospital building
to its new site,
where it will
become a library.**



DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

Old hospital rolls into new role as La Center library

By TOM VOGT
Columbian staff writer

LA CENTER — A bookmobile it's not.

It was mobile for about two hours Friday, a two-story building squeezing between trees and utility poles during a short trip along on Fourth Street, and it will be stocked with library books in a couple of a years.

But until then, the 96-year-old building represents a piece of North County history that will play a big role in La Center's future.

The former hospital was moved from its original site, where a developer plans to put up a commercial building, and towed about six tenths of a mile to its new home.

HOSPITAL, back p

MOVING DAY



Building moved to new library site

Continued from page A1

Hepola estimated the total cost of preparing the building and the site at about \$200,000.

Community support needed

Money will still be needed, said Hepola, to remodel the building and acquire a collection of books.

The key to making the library a reality is broad community support, said Candace Morgan, associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District and an advisor to the Friends group.

Just formed on May 16, the group has raised almost \$3,000 so far, Morgan said.

"The community's initiative is just incredible. They've accomplished a lot in a very short time," Morgan said.

La Center mayor Elizabeth Cervený agreed, saying, "The level of support in the community has been quite high."

Brenda Cameron, the Library District's project manager and circulation coordinator, said similar community-based efforts brought libraries to White Salmon in Klickitat County and Van-

couver Mall (now called Westfield Shoppingtown), as well as Ridgefield in 1993.

"The community's initiative is just incredible. They've accomplished a lot in a very short time."

--Candy Morgan

Hepola credited Fort Vancouver Regional Library staff as being key to the progress thus far.

"They've been very helpful," she said. "I'm so impressed."

It's a matter of money

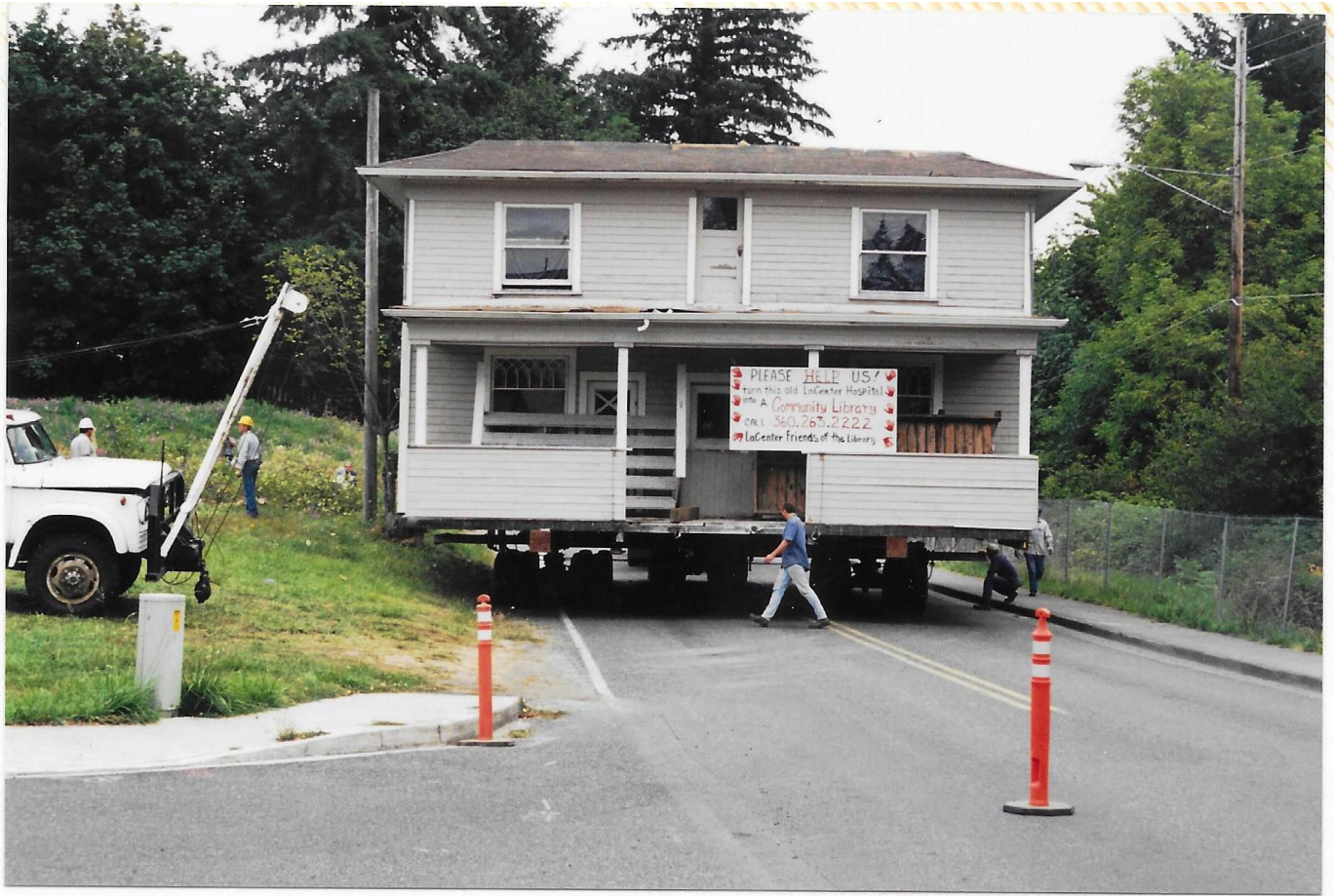
Even with the land and a building in place, the project still needs to secure an undetermined amount of grants and donations to fund planning and development and construction, and stock the library with books and supplies.

Council member Jay Cervený speculated that the city may eventually acquire the building from the volunteer group.

For information on future Friends of the Library meetings and how to donate to the project, leave a message at 263-2222.



JOURNEY BEGINS.....



Fence Needed To Be "Adjusted" A Bit For Building To Slide By





L.C - Library Site - Aug 9, 2001



END OF THE JOURNEY

WEEKLY VANCOUVER

Vancouver's News & Entertainment Weekly

Library sponsors Scarecrow Contest

Friends of the La Center Community Library will sponsor the second annual "Benefit Scarecrow Contest" beginning Oct. 13 at Historic Stratton Farms in La Center. All proceeds will benefit the future La Center Community Library children's department in memory of Eric Fuchter, a local teen who died of cancer last year.

The contest is open to the public. There is a \$10 per scarecrow entry fee. Entry forms are available at First Independent Bank's La Center, Woodland, and Fairgrounds branches. An entry form must be completed and turned in with each scarecrow.

Scarecrows must be at least five-feet-tall, free-standing, with no perishable materials.

For more information or to arrange an evening appointment, contact Greg or Rose Smith, owners of Historic Stratton Farms, at (360) 263-4626.

Page A16 - The Reflector - October 3, 2001

Scarecrow contest set

The second annual Benefit Scarecrow Contest will be held at Historic Stratton Farms in La Center, beginning Oct. 13.

Anyone can enter a scarecrow in the contest. All scarecrows must be at least five feet tall, free standing, and made with no perishable materials.

Entries are to be delivered to the farm at 38208 NE 41st Ave., La Center, on Sat., Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or Sun., Oct. 14, noon-6 p.m. Entries can be delivered later in the evening by appointment.

Scarecrows will be judged on originality and creativity, with prizes awarded in five categories: classroom, club, church, business and individual.

All entries will be displayed at the farm through Nov. 10.

Entries are \$10 each, with proceeds benefitting the planned La Center library, in memory of Eric Fuchter, a teen who died of cancer last year.

Entry forms are available at First Independent Bank in La Center, Woodland and Fairgrounds. Information, 263-4626.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2001

LOCAL & N

Hey, it's a no-brainer: Scarecrow contest's best to benefit children

Money will go to kids' section at L.C. library

LA CENTER — Get some straw, old clothes and maybe a hat, but no brain is required to win this fall's scarecrow contest at Historic Stratton Farm.

The Eric Fuchter Memorial Scarecrow Contest begins Oct. 13 and 14. The works of scarecrow art will be displayed along the farm's fence so people driving by can admire them until Nov. 3.

Judging will be Oct. 27 and 28. Picking the best of the scarecrows will be the Fuchter family. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

It costs \$10 to enter the contest. Entry forms are available

at the Woodland, La Center and Fairgrounds branches of First Independent Bank and at the La Center Post Office. Scarecrows can also be dropped off and entry forms filled out at the farm.

The proceeds will go to the Friends of the La Center Library, said Rose Smith, who owns Stratton Farm with her family and is vice president of the Friends group.

The first scarecrow contest at the farm, held last year, was a benefit for Erik Fuchter, a 13-year-old La Center boy who died from a brain tumor in May.

Rose Smith and her family are friends of the Fuchters and organized the event to help them pay for transportation costs to Doernbecher Chil-

dren's Hospital in Portland.

Erik Fuchter judged the contest last year.

The money donated to the Friends this year will go toward the children's section of the library in Erik Fuchter's name.

"We want it to be a really nice, warm and comfortable place for the kids in our community," she said.

The farm is at 38208 N.E. 41st Ave. To get to the farm from Interstate 5, take the La Center exit (16) and travel east on Northwest La Center Road. Take a right at Fourth Street, past the bridge, to Highland Drive; take a left. Go past La Center High School and continue for four and a half miles; Stratton Farm is on the left and marked by a sign.



FUTURE LIBRARY NEWLY ROOFED...OCTOBER 2001

NORTH CLARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 296, Amboy, WA 98601

OCTOBER - 2001 ED. #48



The Museum Video Collection now includes a 15 minute documentary on moving of the landmark hospital from the town of LaCenter to a new location east of the school. A tight squeeze it was as the movers skillfully maneuvered their way down the hill. Once all obstacles were passed, the building literally zoomed to its new location across from the newly built post office. Installation of a new roof began almost immediately. The transformation of this two-story building to accomodate a library is truly exciting. La Center also has a new bridge spanning the East Fork of the Lewis River which opened to traffic this summer.

Friends of the Library are looking for support to develop this project. Informational contact: **Margaret Colf Hepola, 225-7540; Rose Smith, 263-4626.**

La Center Lions and Golf Const.
Held 2 Saturday work days in
October.





LaCenter Lions
Have taken on
the renovation
of the porch
as their project.





Donations from
Colf Construction,
Lumbermans Co.,
and the L.C. Lions
used for porch
renovating -



MARGARET COLF HEPOLA

Woman has eye for history, heritage

By Sally Ousley
THE DAILY NEWS

WOODLAND — Margaret Colf Hepola, who lost a precious piece of her heritage, works to preserve the history of others.

Lake Merwin swallowed Hepola's childhood home more than 70 years ago when a dam was built. Today, Hepola, 84, works with Cowlitz and Clark museums to make sure the past is remembered.

"If we don't respect the past, we don't have much," she said.

Hepola recently was honored as one of the Women of Achievement of 2002 by Clark College and the YWCA of Clark County.

"Margaret is not one to put herself in the spotlight," said David Freece, director of the Cowlitz County Historical Museum. "She's a hard worker and has always worked hard."

Freece has known Hepola for about 20 years.

"When I first got to know Margaret, she was on a committee to restore the Cedar Creek Grist Mill," he said. "From the very first time I met her, I realized she was going to work hard to get the job done."

Hepola's life reflects her



Bill Wagner / The Daily News

Margaret Colf Hepola of Woodland holds one of her cats as she recalls seeing her family's farm go underwater when Merwin Dam was built in the 1930s.

work ethic.

Hepola has five children and 10 grandchildren, lost two husbands and worked at about 15 different careers.

Her long list of occupations includes working on farms and in the forest, at La Center schools, and as a bookkeeper for her son's construction company.

Hepola was born on her family's farm May 27, 1917. Her great-grandparents homesteaded property now in the middle of Lake Merwin, created by the construction of Merwin Dam. The

dam was finished in 1931.

"Most people around the area were happy that the dam was being built," she said. "The project would help the economy and create many jobs for the local people. But it changed our lives forever as the scars of losing our homestead would remain forever in our memory."

One by one, neighbors sold their farms to the electric company. Hepola said the only unhappy thing she can recall from her childhood was her father saying

that when the dam was built, the family would move.

In late 1929, the family moved, the last ones to leave the area.

Almost every day, they went back to see their home. They saw the house, barn and all the other farm buildings burned to the ground. The only things remaining in the yard were five locust trees.

Hepola will not forget seeing the top of the locust trees protrude out of the rising water.

"The trees were in full

bloom and it seemed as if they were fighting for survival," she said. "As we stood there viewing the landscape, we felt robbed of our heritage."

After graduating from Woodland High School, she worked on farms and in a general store until she married Walter Colf in 1941.

The Colfs ran the country store in Etna and started a logging company.

Walter Colf died in 1962. She decided to go back to school and take college accounting classes. She earned a 4.0 grade point average.

In 1963, Margaret married Edwin Hepola, but was widowed again in 1977.

A trustee for both the Cowlitz County and Clark County museums, her current project is helping turn a historic building in La Center into a library.

"I have tried to teach my family to help in community affairs, and to save and preserve history and the environment," she said.

"I stress that you only take out of this world what you leave it. The most important thing you can give to others is your time and your concern for their welfare."

La Center library showing progress

Two more fundraisers are scheduled as work continues on a new library in La Center.

A rummage sale is scheduled for Sat.-Sun., April 27-28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the library, located at 4th St. and John's Storm Road near the La Center post office. A book sale is also planned.

Items offered at the rummage sale include treadle and electric sewing machines, tools, garden items, toys, bicycles, dishes, Beanie Babies, and household items. More donations of items to be sold are being sought and may be dropped off at the library on Fri., April 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Not wanted are large appliances, clothing, mattresses and anything that needs repair.

Then on Sat., May 11, 5-9 p.m., a spaghetti feed will take place at the La Center Middle School, at \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of five.

A booksale will also be part of this event, along with a brick sale. Bricks will be used for walkways outside the library, and can be purchased at \$50 each, engraved with 20 letters.

A community committee, headed by Margaret Colf Hepola, is working to refurbish a former hospital building for service as a library. The Colf family acquired and moved the building to its

present location last year.

"It's shocking how well it is coming," said committee member and publicity person Roxanne Larsen.

The La Center Lions Club spearheaded the effort to add a porch and columns to the front entrance of the building. The Lions Club paid for the pillars, with other materials donated.

Larsen said the interior of the building has been removed. The roof was raised two feet so that new windows will be the same distance from the roof as they were before the move. As a consequence, the two-story building will have a higher ceiling.

Trusses and windows have been replaced. New cedar siding has been added in certain areas to match existing siding.

The original, large windows will be reinstalled in the front of the structure.

Consideration is being given, said Larsen, to the installation of an elevator to facilitate use of the upstairs which will be used to house books with or without an elevator.

While the project has no firm timeline, Larsen believes the building could be occupied and in use in 1 1/2-2 years.

Progress hinges on raising money, said Larsen, although considerable work has been accomplished with donated materials and labor.



VOLUNTEERS ARE HARD at work remodeling the future home of the La Center Library. From left are Sharon Metzler, Virginia Van Breemen, Sharon Hiner and Chris Bretschgi.

Photo by Heidi Wallenborn

Spaghetti feed to benefit library

La Center volunteers will conduct a spaghetti feed on Sat., May 11, in a continuing effort to renovate a future library building.

The event is set for 5-9 p.m. at the La Center Middle School; \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of five.

Fire Department crews will serve the meal, and the Sweet Adelines will perform.

Contributing to the spaghetti feed are Walt's Meats in Woodland, United Grocers, Save-On Foods in Woodland, Safeway in Woodland, and Walmart.

A rummage sale held April 27-28 raised \$2,000 for the library project. Organizer Kox-

anne Larsen said many people at the sale made cash donations in addition to purchases.

The new library is located at 4th St. and John's Storm Road near the La Center post office.

The library group is headed by Margaret Colf Hepola. The Colf family has made significant contributions to the library project.

Larsen can be reached at 263-2675.

Library friends plan calendar

The Friends of the La Center Library will produce another birthday calendar this year to raise money for renovation of the future library building.

Anyone interested in placing an advertisement or date on the calendar is invited to call Briskie, 263-7925.

The completed calendars will sell for \$4. Deadline for advertisements is July 10.

June 19, 2002 - The Reflector - Page A3



Volunteer Firemen Help At Spaghetti Feed

**LaCenter Library Groups Newsletter Editor, Tammy Brightbill, Marchs
In 2002 Our Days Parade, With Her Children; Future Patrons.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2002

LA CENTER

**Friends of Library plans
Saturday book sales**

The Friends of the La Center Library plans a book sale each Saturday this month to raise money for a building, said member Chris Britschgi.

The book sales run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the La Center library building on east Fourth Street and northeast John Strom Avenue.

On Oct. 19, the La Center Garden Club will hold a plant sale during the book sale.

The library is renovating a large house that held a hospital nearly a century ago. The library needs to install an elevator and modernize other parts of the building, such as plumbing and electricity. After the building is complete, the group must raise money to stock the building with books.



Michele Bloomquist
staff reporter

New green paint, new roofing, new windows, new doors, a new deck, and a new addition on the back have the future La Center library looking young for its 100-plus-years.

Work continued all summer on the project, said Roxanne Larsen, spokesperson for Friends of La Center Community Library.

The group focused on tackling the exterior work while the weather was good, as well as getting windows and doors in place before the fall rains.

"It's really cooking along," Larsen said. "I am amazed at the progress."

The building, which over the years has served as a residence, a hospital, several businesses, and multi-family housing, will eventually house books for young and old to enjoy.

Much of the work and materials to transform the building into a library were donated or came at a steep discount, said Larsen.

Construction beyond the do-it-yourself skill level has been provided by Colf Construction.

The objective was to retain the original look of the building while bringing it up to code to serve as a public space, said Larsen.

The Friends have found this isn't always easy.

For example, a wrench was thrown into the renovation when they learned an unplanned elevator was required.

Beams, boards, floors and ceilings just replaced will have to be removed and more foundation poured to accommodate the elevator and shaft.

"It's been like that sometimes," said Larsen. "We just get something finished and then we have to take it apart and redo it."

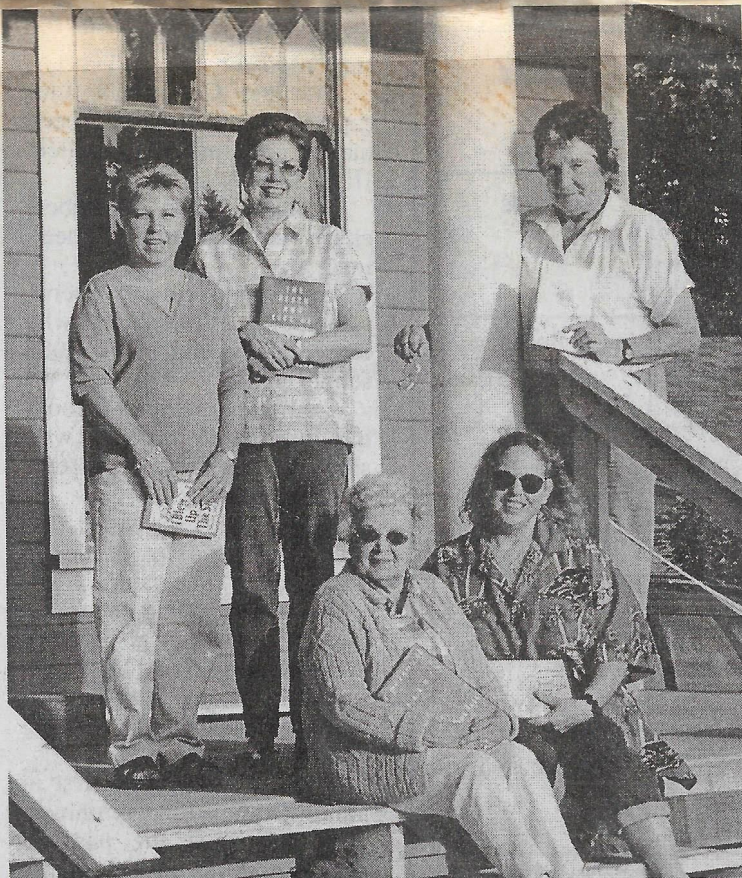
But for the most part, she said, things are moving along on or ahead of schedule.

"It's hard to believe it's only been a year since we moved the building," Larsen said.

Inside there is still work to do.

The interior of the building is stripped to the studs. Old timbers have been reinforced to accommodate the weight of books to come.

The building will have two



FRIENDS OF THE La Center Library, Chris Britschgi, Sharon Hiner, Virginia Hansen, Margaret Colf Hepola, and Kim Shealy take a break on the library steps before diving into the next project.

Photo by Michele Bloomquist

"Fundraisers, including a commemorative brick sale for \$50 and weekly book sales every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon at the library building."

--Roxanne Larsen

floors open to the public. A third floor tucked under the attic eaves will serve as storage.

The interior of the building awaits wiring, insulation, drywall, and finishing.

A break room for future library staff and two bathrooms on the lower floor are nearly complete.

Fundraisers and donations over the summer contributed about \$11,000 to the project.

The Friends are also pursuing grants to cover the costs of construction and materials, to be billed later.

The current plan is to turn the building over to the city of La Center when the renovation is complete, said Larsen.

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library system will then lease the building to house the La Center branch.

Fundraisers continue, said Larsen, including a commemorative brick sale for \$50 and weekly book sales every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon at the library building.

The Friends will also accept book donations for future sales.

Community members interested in lending support are invited to join The Friends, more than 90 members strong, or to donate time, expertise, or money.

Book sale organizer Kim Shealy, who once considered having a bookstore in the old building before the library effort began, said she is glad to be a part of such a community-based effort.

"What I find most interesting is that the people in this community are the ones who have to get this going, who have to provide the elbow grease," she said. "It's a real pioneer spirit."

A message line detailing coming events, meeting times, and other information can be reached at 263-2222.

Library looks like new



Work continues at the site ...October 2002



Library friends hosts book sale

The Friends of La Center Library will host a book sale the next two Saturdays, September 21 and 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with all proceeds going to the new library's building fund.

The sale will feature paperbacks at 50 cents and hard-

backs at \$1. Donations are also accepted.

The sale will be held at the library building on the corner of E 4th St. and John Strom Rd.

For more information, contact 263-7925.



Friends of LaCenter Library Secretary Sharon Hiner listens to James Phelps outline needs for the Swift Grant Interviewers.

LA CENTER

Candy, book sales to support library

The Friends of the La Center Community Library will have a used-book sale and trick-or-treat candy giveaway from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at 1411 N.E. Lockwood Creek Road, the site of the unfinished La Center Library building.

Scary stories will be told by lantern light at 6:30 p.m.

Used books for donation are requested, and adults are asked to accompany children.

For more information, leave a message at 360-263-2222.



Swift Interviewers and our Ft. Vancouver Library people toured the soon-to-be LaCenter Library after application for Swift Grant was submitted..... October 2002

One of meetings before
We had electricity .
Business went on by
Lamp light!



Carrie Hazen celebrated 1

*Michele Bloomquist
staff reporter*

Carrie Hazen lives halfway between View and Fargher Lake in a 112-year-old white farmhouse surrounded by a picket fence with a rose arbor.

Hazen recently celebrated her 107th birthday, and has lived in north Clark County her entire life.

Memories of events in the pioneering days of the area are still with her.

At seven years of age, she was sent home from school when smoke from the 1902 Yacolt burn blackened the sky so much that chickens went to roost.

"You have to remember she has gone from horse and buggy days to the man on the moon in her lifetime and over three centuries," said her 79-year-old son Wayne Hazen. "She's covered quite a lot in her lifespan."

Hazen was born at the former La Center Hospital, which is now being remodeled into a library, on Aug. 23, 1895 to David and Maggie (Walden) Buchanan.

Hazen's father died when she was 3 years old. Her mother remarried William Fowler some time later.



CARRIE HAZEN recently celebrated her 107th birthday, and has lived in north Clark County her entire life.

KIM SHEALY ACCEPTS BOOK DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM THE
LaCENTER SCOUT TROOP 284

November 20, 2002 - The Reflector - Page A7

Girl Scouts collect books for library

Members of La Center's Junior Girl Scout Troop 284 are on a mission to fill the pending La Center library with books.

The scouts placed book donation boxes in La Center primary, elementary and intermediate school buildings for two weeks during October, and collected 561 books for donation to the Friends of the La Center Library.

The library building, once a hospital, is under renovation at its new location near the La Center post office. Library planners are uncertain when the library will open.



GIRL SCOUTS COLLECTED books for the La Center library. Those involved in the project were (from left) Meagan Governor, Kim Shealy, Stephany Schnelle, Karen Marlo, Kaycee Weaver, Alexis Vens-Haugen and Kendra Conover.

Page A18 - The Reflector - October 30, 2002

Happenings

Party alternatives offered for Halloween time

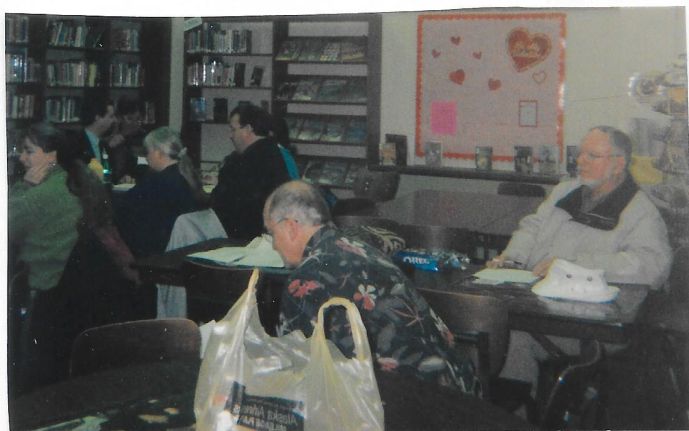
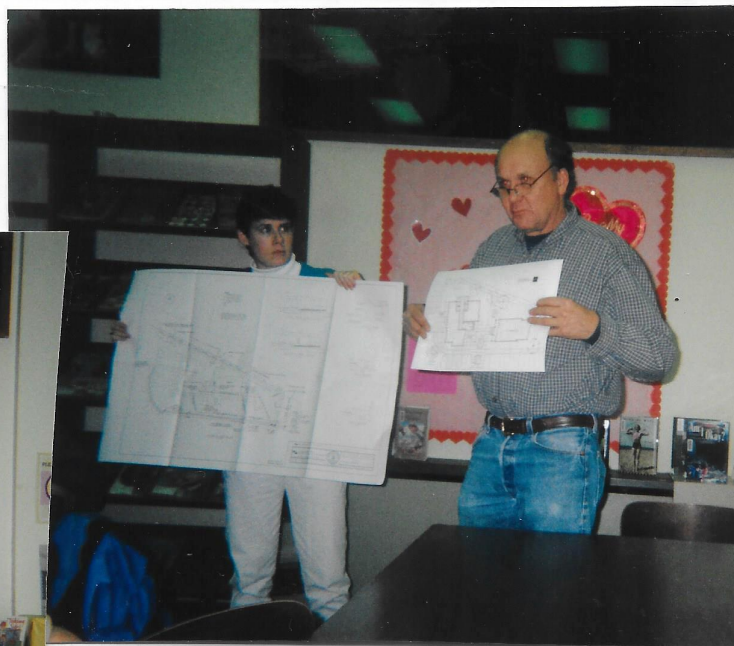
Ground Baptist Church, 1110 NW 6th Ave. Admission is one bag of candy per child, maximum three per family.

2810 NE 259th St., Ridgefield. \$1 per child, adults free. Tickets for entertainment, 25 cents each. All ages welcome. Fund-

2005 Grad Party Committee. 360-225-6544.

**** Used Boooooook Sale Thurs.,** Oct. 31, 4-8 p.m., including trick or treat candy giveaway and scary stories by lantern-light at La Center Library, 1411 NE Lockwood Creek Rd. Bring a used book for donation. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Sponsored by Friends the the La Center Community Library, 263-2222.

BOB COLF OUTLINES PLANS



Buffalo Nickel
Found in walls —

Page A10 - The Reflector - February 26, 2003

Happenings

Library eyes fall opening

Bill Myers
staff reporter

Friends of the La Center Community Library believe the city will have a library by the end of September.

Volunteers are working inside and out on the library project at the corner of NE Lockwood Creek and John Storm Rds.

The library will be housed in a restored, century-old, two-story building that was a hospital during the early 1900s.

The building was rescued from demolition last year and moved from downtown La Center by volunteers led by Margaret Hepola.

Friends of the La Center Library member Roxanne Larson said citizens may buy personalized landscaping bricks which will be used as permanent landscape features at the library for \$50.

Information telephone is 263-2222.

April 16, 2003

LA CENTER

Library supporters plan book sale Saturday

Friends of the La Center Library plans a used-book sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The sale will be at the unfinished library building at the corner of northeast John Storm Avenue and East Fourth Circle, said Chris Britschgi, a member of the Friends group.

The group plans to continue holding book sales to raise money to renovate the library building and buy the book collection. The dates for future sales haven't been set.

On Saturday, Friends will sell raffle tickets for \$1 for two paintings and one \$50 gift certificate to Hudson's Bar and Grill in the Heathman Lodge.

The drawing for the raffle will be July 26.

Bricks that will be placed in a courtyard in front of the building also will be for sale.

The bricks cost \$50 and can be engraved. The bricks hold three lines, with up to 12 characters per line.

La Center hears library proposal

Bill Myers
staff reporter

A Colf Construction Company representative proposed April 9 that the city of La Center buy the planned library site and building now being renovated.

Colf project manager Roy Heikkala said the city could purchase the land and 3,000 square foot building at the corner of Lockwood Creek Rd. and John Storm Ave. for \$275,000. The purchase price would help offset land and building costs, with transaction details worked out by Colf attorneys, he said.

The market value of the remodeled building when completed, including land, parking lot, street, curbs and sidewalk improvements is about \$950,000, said Heikkala. The vintage building, once an early 1900s hospital in downtown La Center, was moved to its current site by Colf Construction Co. last year.

Developer Robert Colf owns the corner property and has paid taxes on it, currently billed at \$1,033.58, according to Clark County records. The land is currently assessed at \$78,900.



THE NEWLY RENOVATED La Center library has been offered to the city for a bargain in exchange for rezoning nearby land.

As part of the transaction, Heikkala asked the city to rezone about 10,000 square feet of adjacent land west of the library from residential to office-professional. The rezoning would allow Colf Construction Co. to build an architecturally-similar professional building next to the library, he said. Heikkala said there would be ample shared parking at the site for projects. Parking areas could be used to bolster adjacent Little League field parking, Heikkala added.

The transaction would result in a donation from the Colfs to the community valued at about \$700,000, said Heikkala.

Fort Vancouver Library associate director Candace Morgan said the city and library could execute an inter-local agreement allowing the library to become part of the Fort Vancouver library system.

Mayor Liz Cerveney said a decision will require council consideration and action at an unspecified date in the future.



Library, scouts benefit from casino money

More than \$20,000 in grants from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund were awarded to La Center area charities last week, bringing to \$60,000 the amount awarded through the fund in the past year.

Grants awarded include \$10,000 for young adult titles and picture books for the new La Center Community Library, \$2,000 to the La Center Boy Scouts Troop #484 for adult leadership training and youth

scholarships, \$6,000 to the La Center Lions Club and \$1,000 to The Crowning Touch for entertainment and publicity for the Miss La Center pageant and "Our Days" community celebration, \$750 to the La Center Middle School for their eighth grade graduation celebration, and \$1,000 to the Parks and Recreation Foundation for the La Center wetlands project.

Earlier this year, the Casinos Fund awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to five La Center High School seniors for college and vocations studies.

The La Center Casinos Charitable Fund is managed by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington and

was established in 2002 to help the La Center community with charitable needs. An advisory committee of La Center residents, along with casino representatives, meets quarterly to review grant proposals.

"It's exciting to see how this Charitable Fund has given so much back to the community in so many ways this past year," said Anne Digenis, program officer of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. "The advisory committee truly cares about the needs of their community and its citizens."

Information and grant applications are available by calling 694-2550, and www.cfsww.org

LA CENTER

Casinos grant \$20,750 to community projects

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has been awarded \$20,750 from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund.

The fund is supported by the Last Frontier, New Phoenix, Palace and Double Down Casinos.

The money went to a wide variety of projects, including the \$10,000 to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library for materials at the La Center Community Library; \$2,000 for the La Center Boy Scout Troop 484; and \$1,000 to the Parks and Recreation Foundation for a wetlands project.

The fund, started in 2002, is administered by the Community Foundation.

Friends of La Center Community Library

ROOF RAISING RAFFLE

Multiple prizes available. All proceeds to benefit La Center Community Library

Return completed stubs to the Friends of La Center Community Library, PO Box 126, La Center, WA 98629

\$1.00

Drawing will be Saturday, July 26 at 5:00 p.m. at the new La Center Library Building, La Center. Need not be present to win.

1326

Book sales slated in La Center

Saturday book sales will take place in a bookmobile parked at the new La Center library building Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Watch for a sidewalk sign indicating a book sale scheduled.

The sales are sponsored by the Friends of the La Center Library, and part of continuing

fundraisers for the new library.

A holiday bazaar will be held Sat., Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the library building. Donations of handmade items and Christmas crafts are invited.

Information, donations, Chris, 263-7925, Virginia Hansen, 263-3183.



Chris and Margaret Ride Our Entry In Steamboat Days Parade



Library ballot measure OK'd

LIBRARY FACILITIES ELECTION

- **WHEN:** March 2.
- **WHAT:** Two-part ballot measure to form and fund Greater Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area.
- **HOW MUCH:** \$48 million.
- **WHY:** Remodel and expand downtown library; build new Cascade Park branch; move some operations into separate facility.

Trustees to seek facility area, \$48 million bond request

By TOM VOGT
Columbian staff writer

LA CENTER — The setting, an old building which is being transformed into a library, seemed appropriate Monday when Fort Vancouver Regional Library District trustees gave the go-ahead to a campaign for new and expanded library facilities.

The board authorized a March 2 ballot measure that would mean bigger libraries in downtown Vancouver and Cascade Park. The

two-part ballot measure seeks to create and then fund a special library subdistrict in the greater Vancouver metropolitan area.

"We feel the Vancouver area is dramatically underserved," said Merle Koplan, chairwoman of the seven-member board of trustees.

Monday's session was the trustees' first board meeting in the century-old building that is being remodeled into the La Center Community Library. The building, next to La Center City Park, is scheduled to open in 2004.

But there is a big difference between La Center's library-building campaign and the effort

LIBRARY, page C5

Library:

From page C1

required to help Vancouver library services meet the area's growth-fueled demand.

The La Center project is a grass-roots effort bankrolled by donations and community fund-raisers.

Remaking two libraries in Vancouver will take \$48 million — well beyond the range of bake-sale bank-rolling. And that's the role of a library capital facility area. Voters can create their own subdistrict within a larger district, and fund new library facilities by approving a bond. It takes a simple majority

to create the subdistrict; it takes 60 percent to approve the bond request.

About 217,000 people live within the area, which follows most of the boundaries of the Vancouver urban growth area. Fire District 6 isn't included because residents of the Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Felida, Mount Vista, Lake Shore and fairgrounds areas have already formed their own subdistrict to create Three Creeks Community Library.

If both measures are approved, the system's flagship branch, the Vancouver Community Library, would be enlarged and renovated. The 48,000-square-foot building at 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd. would

be expanded to 92,000 square feet.

The area's population has quadrupled since the library was built in 1963.

"We can't do the things we need to do with the space on hand now," said Bruce Ziegman, executive director.

In public forums and surveys, Vancouver residents overwhelmingly favored keeping the branch on the Central Park site. That portion of the project would cost about \$34 million.

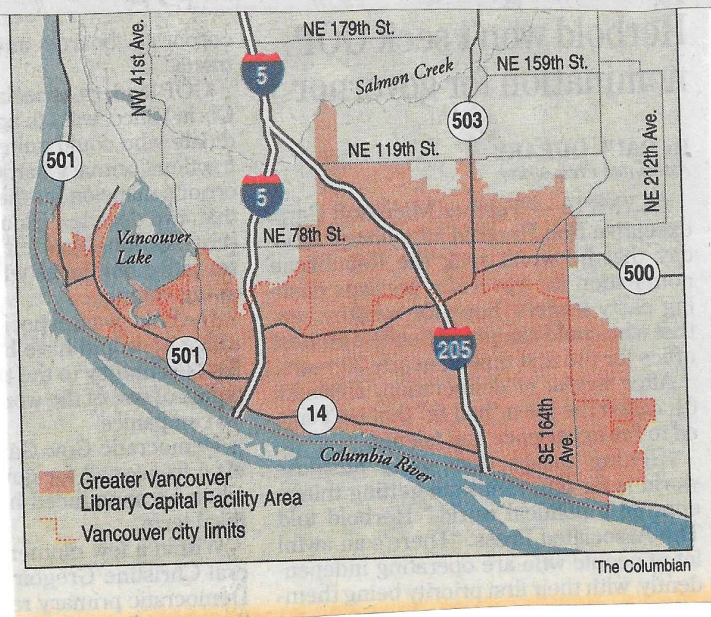
A new Cascade Park library would be part of the Firstenberg Community Center, which will be built on Northeast 136th Avenue north of Mill Plain Boulevard. The 25,000-

square-foot library would replace the 2,500-square-foot Cascade Park Community Library at 301 S.E. Hearthwood Blvd.

Finally, bond money would help the district move its behind-the-scenes operations center out of the basement of the downtown library branch, opening up more public space. The district would either purchase or build an operations-and-office center.

The Capital Facility Area requests will share the March 2 ballot with Washington's 2004 presidential primary.

The 20-year bond would cost homeowners about 17 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$25 annually for owners of a \$150,000 home.



The Columbian



Aletha Criss With 1st Place In Blackberry Category



Our Days pie contest sees winners

Friends of the La Center Community Library hosted a first annual Just Like Mom's Pie contest July 26, during Our Days, the community festival.

Winner of best overall pie was Renee Larson of La Center with a rhubarb-blueberry concoction. Second place best overall was Aletha Criss of Woodland with a blackberry pie, and third place went to Tillie Soel of La Center for a cherry pie.

Aletha Criss also won first place in the berry pie category. Second place went to Renee Larson and third to

Althea Criss.

Anna Wiesnetski of La Center took home first place in the apple pie category, with second place going to Chris Britsge of La Center and third to Sharon Hiner of La Center.

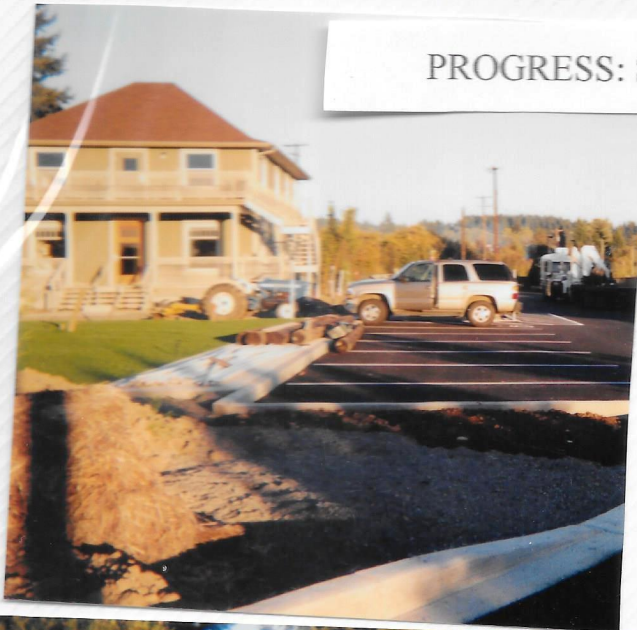
In the "other" category, Renee Larson snagged first place for the rhubarb/blueberry pie and Tillie Soel for her cherry pie rendition.

The contest was coordinated by Rose Smith of Historic Stratton Farm of La Center, and sponsored by the Historic Farm, Kunze Farms and Vantol Farms.



The Bauschs Showing Paintings Raffled At Steamboat Day
Janet Bausch Handled the Raffle

PROGRESS: Summer and Fall





AROUND THE COUNTY

VANCOUVER

Firefighters hold food drive

Volunteer firefighters from the Vancouver Fire Department and Fire District 5 are collecting donated items for needy families.

Suggested gifts include canned food, baby food, paper products, soap, toiletries and unwrapped toys.

Items can be dropped off at the main fire station at 7110 N.E. 63rd St. or the downtown Vancouver station at 900 W. Evergreen Blvd.

Volunteers will use the donations to make gift baskets. Those in need can call the Salvation Army at 360-694-9503.

LA CENTER

Bazaar to benefit library

The Friends of the La Center Library will hold a Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The event will be held at the library, an old house that was once a hospital in La Center. The building has been moved to

the corner of East Fourth Street and John Storm Road and has been renovated to serve as a library.

There will be a kids center, hot cider and cookies, as well as gifts and holiday items for sale. Raffle tickets will also be sold. The prize will be awarded at 3 p.m.

All proceeds from the sale will go toward purchasing books, furniture and computer equipment for the library.

The library is expected to open in the spring.

La Center Library hosts fundraiser

Used books are for sale inside a book mobile in the La Center Library parking lot every Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to raise money for the yet-to-open library.

Friends of the La Center Library are hosting the sale, as well as other fundraisers throughout the year to raise money to purchase new books before a projected opening in spring 2004.

A holiday Bazaar is planned at the library Sat., Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Patrons can expect a holiday raffle to offer two

quilted wall hangings, a fishing rod kit and a \$200 gift certificate to Bonneville Hot Spring in the Columbia River Gorge.

Friends' members are seeking handmade items and Christmas crafts to sell at the bazaar.

Tickets are available at the Saturday books sales or by calling Virginia Hansen at 263-3183.

The library is located at 4th St. and John Storm Rd. near the La Center post office.

"Columbian Answer Book"-2002

Clubs & Organizations

continued from page 48

Goldendale Community Library

Teddy Cole, (509) 773-5441, PO Box 1009, Goldendale, WA 98620. Provides support for the mission of the community library. This includes fundraising for special projects, funds and volunteer support for library programs and informing the community at large about the library's activities.

Friends of the LaCenter Library

Margaret Hepola, (360) 255-7540, or Rose Smith, (360) 263-4626. P.O. Box 126, LaCenter, WA 98629. E-mail: strattonfarms@tds.net. Works to remodel an old historic LaCenter building, a former hospital, into a library for the community.

Friends of the Ridgefield Community Library

Ann Margaret O'Reilly, community librarian, (360) 887-8281, PO Box 534, Ridgefield, WA 98642; location: 210 N. Main Ave. An independent, non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds, awareness and goodwill for the Ridgefield Community Library.

Friends of the Vancouver Community Library

Doreen Turpen, (360) 699-8859; 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. We do what any friend does....help out where most needed. We speak up for library issues and use the proceeds from our book sales to support programs at Vancouver Community Library and to

purchase books, videos, and other items for the library.

Friends of the Vancouver Mall Library

Karalee Cason, president; Barbra Meisenheimer, community librarian. (360) 896-6097 or (360) 892-8256; 8700 NE Vancouver Mall Dr., Suite 285, Vancouver, WA 98662. Website: www.fvrl.org. Fundraising in support of the Vancouver Mall Library. Funds raised have purchased materials for the collection, helped fund the Young Adult Summer Reading Program, and purchased furniture for the children's area.

Friends of the White Salmon Valley Community Library

Jennifer Hull, (509) 493-

1132; P.O. Box 1579, White Salmon, WA 98672. Promotes library services and programs in the community.

General Federation of Women's Clubs

A community improvement organization of volunteers that focuses on friendship, current issues of interest to women, and community service. Columbia District president: Linda Harms, (360) 695-4660, 9517 NE Tenney Creek Dr., Vancouver, WA 98665.

CLUBS: Amalak

Gretchen Armstrong, (360) 673-3566; 753 N 2nd St., Kalama, WA 98625.

Battle Ground

Edith Johnson; (360) 687-6251; 219 NE 10th Street, Battle Ground WA 98604.

Camas/Washougal

Jeannette Jester, (360)

834-2354; PO Box 319, Washougal, WA 98671. **Castle Rock** Dorothy Hallet, (360) 274-8149; PO Box 1471, Castle Rock, WA 98611.

Cathlamet Joann Prestegard, (360) 795-

3568, 55 Irving Rd., Cathlamet, WA 98612.

Columbia Dorothy Bauder, (360) 254-5730;

5704 NE 86th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662.

Evergreen Sally Haskin, (360) 574-7406; 3300 NE

164th St. #HH3, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Gemini June Rainey; (360) 834-3716; 2950 NW

Kent Street, Camas WA 98607.

Ridgefield Bonnie Peck, (360) 887-

8223; PO Box 103, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Silver Gavel Judy Brookshire, (360) 576-

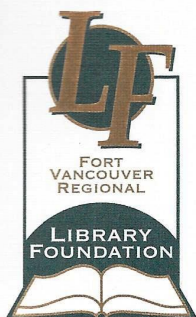
1723; 3300 NE 164 St. #L-1, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Vancouver Mary Martin, (360) 735-0801; 600 NW 55th St., Vancouver, WA 98663.

Vista Dolores Kuykendall, (360) 694-4865; 5565 E Evergreen Blvd. #3304, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Habitat for Humanity - Evergreen

Tricia Williamson, executive director, (360) 737-1759; 3801 Main Street, Suite A, Vancouver, WA 98663. E-mail: habitat1@pacifier.com. Use volunteers and financial/material donations to build decent, affordable housing for persons living in substandard or poverty housing. The houses are sold at cost to selected families and financed with no-interest loans by Habitat for Humanity.



P.O. Box 2384
VANCOUVER, WA
98668-2384
360-906-2323

Page A12 - The Reflector - Feb. 4, 2004

Happenings

Meet Bill Walton in La Center

Bill Walton, former player with the Portland Trailblazers basketball team, will be in La Center Sat., Feb. 7, 4-6 p.m., at the new La Center library, 1411 NE Lockwood Road, La Center.

Walton will speak about his career and sign autographs. A silent auction of basketball items and memorabilia will take place. Donations will be invited for the purchase of library books, suggested at \$5 for individuals and \$10 for

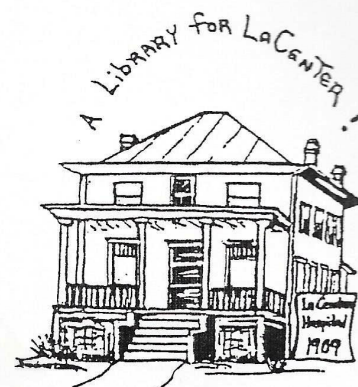
families.

Walton is now a broadcaster covering basketball games on television. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993.

The new La Center library is expected to open by summer.

Walton is the cousin of Fort Vancouver Regional Library District associate director Candy Morgan.

Information, Rick Smith-rud, 906-2323.



The poles' position is yet another factor, says Zumwalt, recalling the move of a two-story structure built in 1905. Originally a doctor's home and six-bed clinic, the building is poised to house the new La Center branch of the Fort

Vancouver Regional Library.

The building was moved just over a half mile along East Fourth Street from Lockwood Boulevard to Cedar Avenue, next to the city park. "That was really tight," Zumwalt recalls. "As a matter of fact, we were barely rubbing telephone poles when we were going through here. When they plant those telephone poles straight across from one another," as was the case in the La Center library move, "it's hard to zigzag in and out. ... There were three times on that where the house had to be extremely straight going down the road only, with only an inch (to spare) on each side."

Some obstacles come in the form of paperwork. "That's really turned into a pain," says a beleaguered-sounding Zumwalt. "If you're going through the county, going through a city and going on state (highways), that's three different governments you've got to deal with. And not only that, you're dealing with the transit system, 911, the fire department," plus utility companies in many instances. "Everybody has to be on same page and agree to the same date. ... If one person doesn't agree on that date, your move is shut down," says Zumwalt.

The Careful, Complicated Task of Transplanting a House

LA CENTER

Library event to feature Bill Walton

Hall of Fame basketball player Bill Walton, who led the Portland Trail Blazers to the 1977 NBA championship, will highlight a fund-raiser Saturday at the La Center Community Library.

The reception will be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the library, 1411 N.E. Lockwood Road, next to the city park just east of downtown La Center. The event is sponsored by the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation.

Suggested donations are \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. Proceeds will help buy books for the La Center Community Library, scheduled to open in late March or early April.

Walton will discuss his career and personal achievements, answer questions and sign autographs. There will be a silent auction of basketball items and memorabilia.

Walton, elected to Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993, is now an ESPN commentator. He is the cousin of Candy Morgan, associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District.

For more information, call the foundation at 360-699-8846.

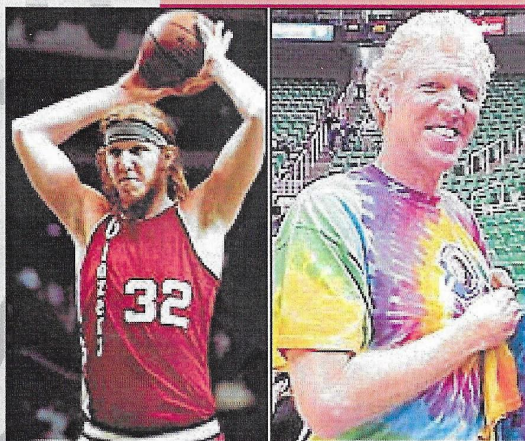
An Evening with Bill Walton

Emmy-winning sports commentator and three-time NCAA Player of the Year, NBA All-Star, championship team player with the Portland Trailblazers and Boston Celtics, and 1993 inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

SLAM DUNK for Libraries

A benefit event to purchase books
for La Center Community Library

Suggested donations:
\$5 Individuals / \$10 Families

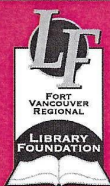


Saturday, February 7, 2004
4-6 p.m.

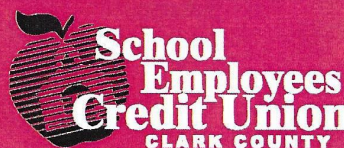
**La Center Community
Library**

1411 NE Lockwood Road, La Center

Bill will present a short talk about his career and personal achievements, answer questions and sign autographs. There will be a **silent auction** of basketball items and memorabilia. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the La Center Community Library.



For more information, call Casandra
at Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Foundation, (360) 699-8846.





DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

Bill Walton recounts Saturday one of his first days on the basketball court, when he tried to throw a pass from halfcourt to a teammate — and put the ball through the hoop instead.

Walton scores for La Center

By **TOM VOGT**
Columbian staff writer

LA CENTER — Bill Walton doesn't block shots or grab rebounds any more, but the former NBA star registered a big assist for La Center.

The former Portland Trail Blazer star helped the La Center Community Library raise more than \$6,000 during a fund-raising event Saturday afternoon at the library.

More than 300 people dropped by to meet Walton, get autographs, bid on auction items and make donations.

All the money generated during Saturday's event will be used to buy books for the library, which is scheduled to open in late March or early April.

It will become the 13th branch in the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, but the library is being built as a community project.

Walton, who led the Trail Blazers to the 1977 NBA championship, was enlisted into the effort by his cousin, Candy Morgan, associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District.

The Hall of Fame center, now a broadcaster,

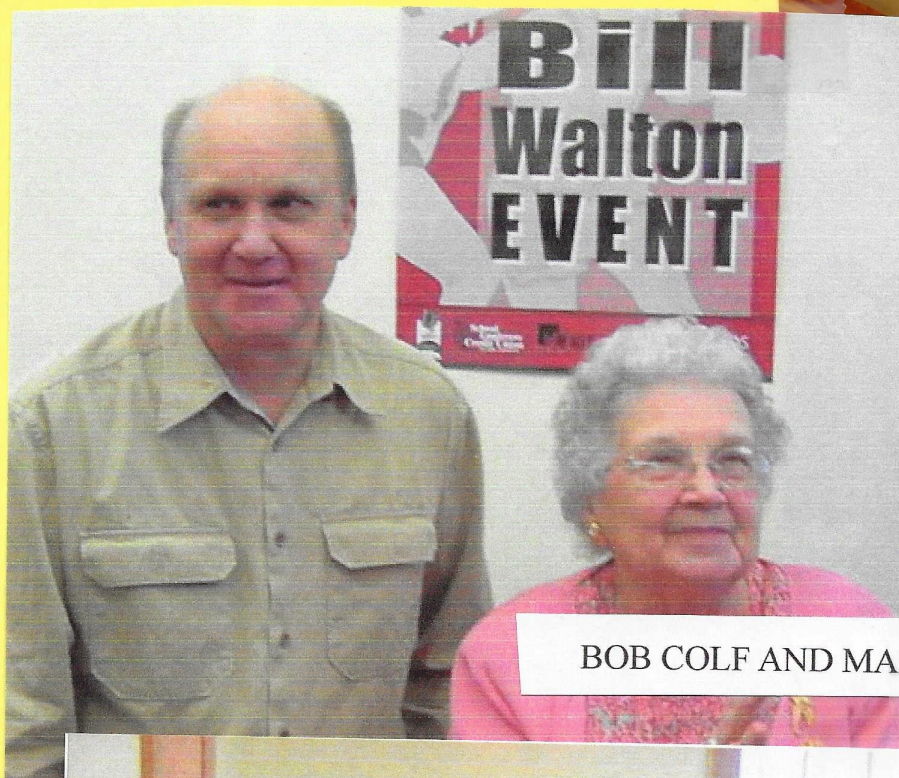
was in the Portland-Vancouver area over the weekend as part of an ESPN crew covering the Trail Blazer-Seattle SuperSonic basketball game.

The La Center Casinos Charitable Trust has been a big contributor to the project, donating \$30,175 during 2003. Rick Smithrud, director of the nonprofit Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Foundation, said the money includes \$10,175 for reference materials, \$10,000 for the children's collection and \$10,000 for library equipment.

The library, 1411 N.E. Lockwood Road, is next to the city park just east of downtown La Center. The next step in its construction is Friday, Morgan said, when bids for library shelving are due.

After seeing the bids, library officials will have a better idea of the project's timetable, Morgan said.

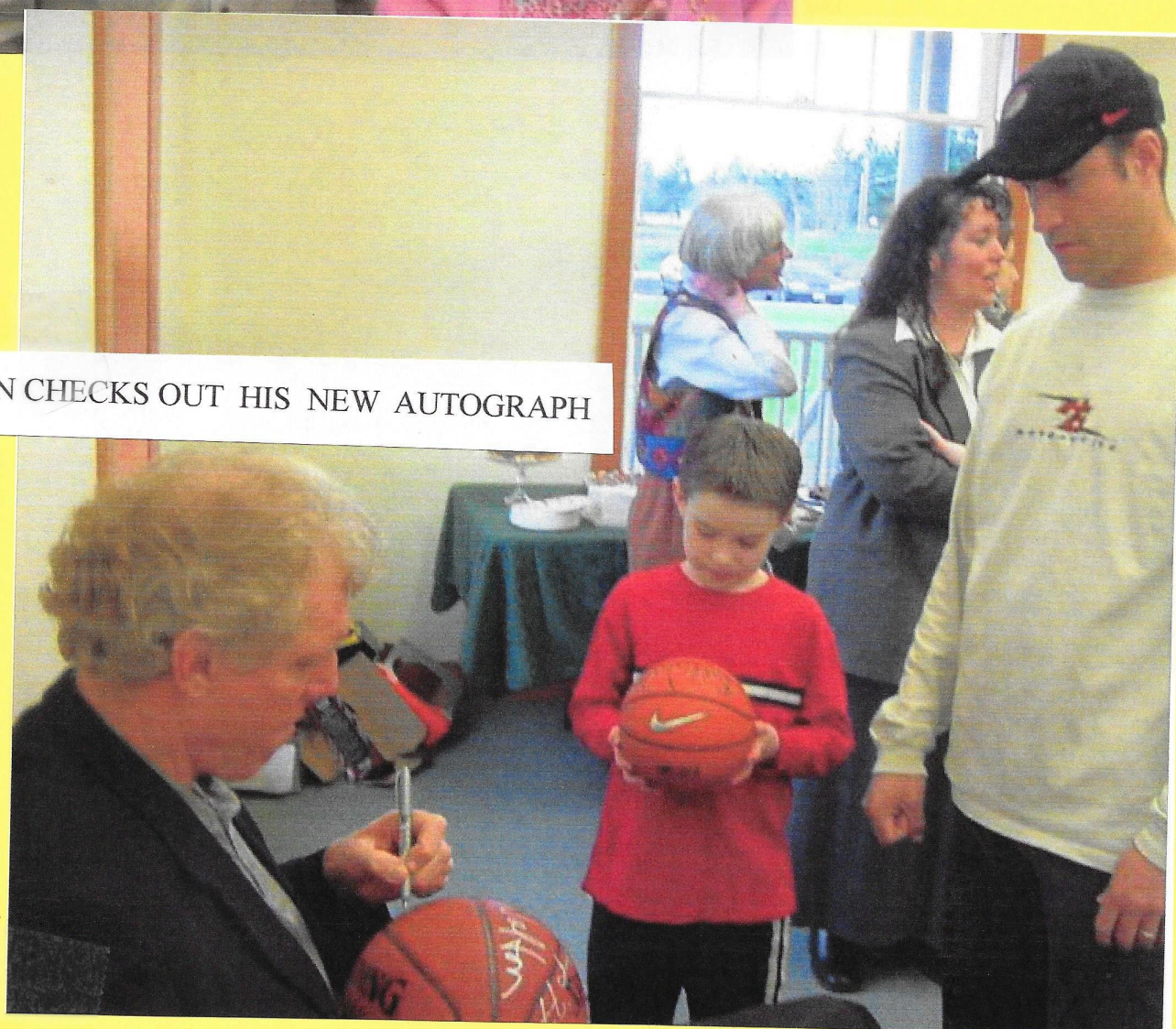
The branch already has a librarian, Geraldine Veenstra. The Woodland librarian is putting in a couple of days getting La Center ready to go — developing the book collection, hiring staff and working with members of the community.



BOB COLF AND MARGARET AT FUND RAISER



A FAN CHECKS OUT HIS NEW AUTOGRAPH



MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004



Walton lends his support

Bill Walton never has been shy about supporting causes, so it was not shocking that he would help raise funds for the new La Center library during a recent visit to Portland. Especially since his cousin, **Candy Morgan**, is the associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District.



Bill Walton

Walton was in the area to analyze the Blazers-SuperSonics game for ESPN on Feb. 8, but the previous day, he spoke at La Center. Through donations at the door, a silent auction of memorabilia and a "Dinner with Bill," the event raised \$5,936.01.

Approximately \$2,500 in corporate sponsorships came in afterward, bringing the total to about \$8,500. With that, the library had the money to buy enough books — 8,000 — to open. Morgan expects that to happen next month. When it opens, the library will become a branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, but the construction is a community project.

During that trip, someone mentioned to Walton that a \$48 million library bond request is up for vote on March 9. He sent a letter to *The Columbian*, which was printed last week, urging voters to approve.

"It's difficult for a library to reach out to people who are sports-oriented," said **Sue Vanlaanen**, associate director of the Fort Vancouver library district. "This was a wonderful connection to that part of life. The library is a great place for sports people, too."



Some 300 People Came To Hear Bill Walton, Get Autographs And Bid On NBA memorabilia.

MARGARET AND BILL AND AUTOGRAPH SEEKER



Invest in libraries

I recently had the pleasure and privilege of appearing at a Slam Dunk for Libraries fund-raiser for the new La Center Community Library in early February. It was a great event that clearly showed the community's excitement and support for the new library.

Libraries are important for a community, and for individuals. They've played an important role in my own life. Long before I became a professional basketball player, I was a little boy with a severe stuttering problem who found refuge and comfort among the books at my local public library.

During my Southwest Washington visit, I heard that Vancouver voters will decide March 9 whether to build bigger facilities to ease their crowded libraries. Adequate libraries deserve your support and "yes" votes for lots of good reasons, but the best reason is the difference a library will make in the life of a child.

Please vote "yes" on both library facility propositions on March 9. It's the best investment you'll ever make in your community's future.

Bill Walton

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.



OUR NEW LIBRARY STAFF, WITH WALTON AND CANDY MORGAN, FVRL ASSOC. DIRECTOR, WHO MADE THE FUND RAISER EVENT POSSIBLE. THANK YOU CANDY !



76/Sinton and 7/Battle
will be re-routed.

LIBRARIES

May 5-11, 2004

May 15th noon - 4pm.

Chamber

Staying Connected

The La Center Friends of the Library are happy to announce the **Grand Opening** of the La Center Community Library on May 8th from 2-5:00 pm. There will be complimentary treats and they will be in full operation, so you can also check out books! Visit the **Fort Vancouver Regional Library** website at: www.fvrl.org for more info. 1402 E. Lockwood Creek Road La Center, WA 98629 (360) 619-1800

The Columbian, Wednesday, April 21, 2004

May 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Man

A fascinating and unfor-
gettable journey through
the world of reptiles - one of the
most fascinating and misunderstood
of natural science.

May 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Adventure

Fun and games on the

May 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Discovery

Imagination in gear and
chalk painting on the
outside the library.

May 16 at 1:00 p.m.

International Folk

Performs village-style
dances around the globe.
Colorfully costumed dancers
"Street" will enchant you
and you to join in the fun.

May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Old-Time Music

Music like you've nev-
er heard before. Rick plays
instruments as the musical saw,
a harp, a limberjack,
and makes sure the au-
dience is involved.

Friday, July 30 at 1:00 p.m.
Yarnspinners

This talented troupe (aka Fort
Vancouver Regional Library District
staff) will delight and entertain you
with some silly songs and mini-plays
based on favorite children's books.

Friday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m.
**Creature Feature — Leapin'
Lizards!**

Get a close and fascinating look at
some of nature's most outrageous
creatures. Snakes, lizards, and other
exotic reptiles slither through the li-
brary for this astonishing perfor-
mance.

Friday, August 13 at 1:00 p.m.
**Scott "Mag" Hughes — W.E.
C.A.R.E. Sports**

Scott will astound and amaze you
with his incredible juggling feats.
Scarves, beanbags, bouncy balls,
rings, clubs, etc. will fly through the

air with the greatest of expertise.
Come to see juggling at its best!

**SUMMER READING ON THE
BOOKMOBILE!**

We'll have story and craft programs
on the bookmobile June 22 through
August 12.

Ask your driver or call the library for
more information. Come see us at
the Klickitat County Fair August 19
through 21.

HEY, TEENS!

We have a summer reading program
for you, too! We'll have Game Night
and other special teen-only events.
Earn gift certificates at bookstores
and other cool prizes all summer
long. Ask at the library for more in-
formation.

**LA CENTER
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
(Opening May 8, 2004)**

**1402 E Lockwood Creek Road,
La Center - (360) 619-1800**

Thursday, June 24 at 11:00 a.m.
**Jen & Wendy Bernard — Twice as
Much Musical Fun**

These singing sisters present a the-
atrical, high-energy concert of wild
and wacky songs for kids of all ages.
Come sing along!

Thursday, July 1 at 11:00 a.m.
Tom Question — Kinetic Fun

Stilt-walking, world-class juggling,
and comedy are all part of the show
when it's presented by this highly
energetic entertainer. Tom may ask
you a question, or teach you a thing
or two, as he walks on stilts and
plays the Chinese yo-yo.

Thursday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m.
**Arthur Atsma — Magic and
Merriment**

Arthur brings a wonderful mix of
music, illusion, and fun with his
unique mix of comedy and sleight-
of-hand magic. Keep your eyes on
the coins, balls, cards, doves and oth-
er objects Arthur makes magical. His
fast-paced, high-energy perfor-
mance will thrill children of all ages.

Thursday, July 15 at 11:00 a.m.
Rick Meyers — Old-Time Music
American Folk music like you've nev-

er seen or heard before. Rick plays
such instruments as the musical saw,
spoons, a jew's harp, a limberjack,
and a banjo, and he makes sure the
audience is involved.

Thursday, July 22 at 11:00 a.m.
**Ice Cream Social & Creature
Feature**

I scream, you scream, we all scream
for lizards and ice cream! Enjoy a
slithery and shivery good time with a
close and fascinating look at some of
nature's most outrageous creatures,
including snakes, lizards and other
exotic reptiles. All warm-blooded
creatures will also enjoy a delicious
cold treat. More information about
the event will be available at the
Friends of the Library booth at "Our
Days" on Saturday, July 17.

Thursday, July 29 at 11:00 a.m.
**BJ The Clown — Funny Bone
Therapy**

BJ's hilarious and colorful perfor-
mances will charm and delight chil-
dren of all ages. A mix of comedy,
magic, juggling, storytelling, and
physical comedy will have you
rolling in the aisles.

**La Center Community Library
- Story Times**

Preschool Story Time: 10:30 a.m.
Tuesdays - June 15-July 27
Special Yarnspinners performance
on Tuesday, July 27

**NORTH BONNEVILLE
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
M-17 Cascade Drive,
North Bonneville
(509) 427-4439**

Preschool Story Time
10 a.m. second Thursdays - year-
around except holidays

**RIDGEFIELD
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
210 N Main Ave., Ridgefield
(360) 887-8281**

Tuesday, June 22 at 2:00 p.m.
Rick Meyers — Old-Time Music
American Folk music like you've nev-
er seen or heard before. Rick plays
such instruments as the musical saw,

Community Foundation

LOCAL & NORTHWEST

distributes grants

■ \$5,000 to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation for books for the new La Center Community Library.

■ \$3,000 to Southwest Washington Advocates for Youth for substance abuse educational programs.

■ \$2,394 to the Council for the Homeless to support the emergency services hotline program.

■ \$4,259 to YW Housing for upgrades to transitional housing.

Page 2

Clark County Title - May Newsletter - 2004

The Closing Table

New Library opening in La Center

A grassroots effort to bring a new library to the La Center community began with an amazing woman-- Margaret Colf Hepola. Hepola's determination to rescue an old hospital building from being destroyed in a fire-fighter-training burn exercise and her vision of giving the building new life as a community library quickly took hold. An entire community has since gotten involved.

Under Hepola's leadership, the Friends of the La Center Library formed in May 2001. In August 2001, the Friends participated in a major milestone as they oversaw the moving of the former hospital building to a new

site in town. The two-story building was moved 0.6 mile along E. 4th St. Lockwood Blvd. from its previous location at E. 4th St. and Cedar Ave. Many people have contributed to the project. The Colf Family Foundation completed the original purchase of the land. Bob Colf, owner of Colf Construction, has made significant contributions to the project, including the pouring of new footings, temporary modifications to the building so that it could be moved, and continues to provide for many renovations. Local businesses throughout Cowlitz and Clark Counties have donated materials and services. Fundraisers conducted by the Friends of the La Center Library, including rummage sales, spaghetti feeds and sales

of personalized bricks will help offset construction costs and pay for a collection of library materials. The City of La Center has given its support for the project.



Grand Opening of the new La Center Library:
Saturday, May 8, 2004

From 2pm to 5pm for more information call:
360.695.1566

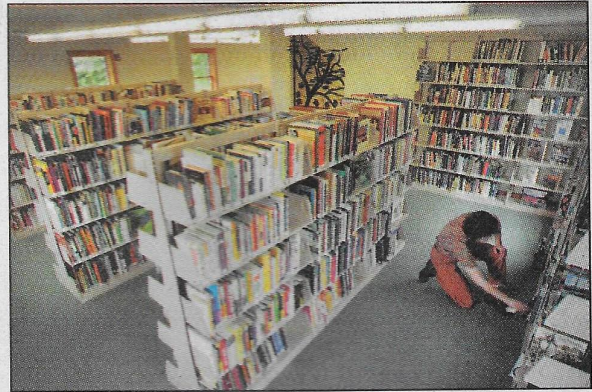


Did you know that Clark County Realtors; Lee Liston and Rose Smith, of Sundin Realty helped to make the new Library all possible by being Charter Members of the LaCenter friends of the Library. Good Job, Lee and Rose!



Contributed by: Jeanine Liston

La Center's historical bookmark



DAVE OLSEN/The Columbian

Bob Colf of Colf Construction helps finish landscaping around the La Center Library in preparation for Saturday's grand opening. The Colf family, and especially Margaret Colf Hepola, Bob's mother, contributed money and worked to open the library. Top: Library assistant Nancy Colburn arranges books upstairs.

Story on back page
→

New library in 100-year-old building opens Saturday

By MARGARET ELLIS
Columbian staff writer

LA CENTER — La Center's library virtually sparkles with modernity. Most of its collection of more than 11,000 books is new, its walls shine with fresh paint and the library will be just the second in the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system to offer a computerized system allowing patrons to check out books unassisted.

But, said librarian Geraldine Veenstra, "Everything about this project is just rooted in history." Veenstra's title is "librarian to the communities of the Lewis River." She splits her time among the Woodland, Yale and La Center libraries.

The library's grand opening is Saturday. The public will be welcomed into the 100-year-old building, which saw extensive renovation to make it the newest library in the Fort Vancouver system. The library hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8

p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed Sunday and Monday. The staff, including Veenstra, totals five.

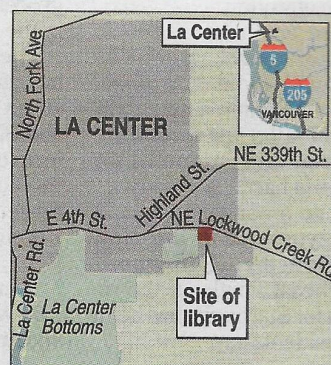
The three-story building that's home to the new library was originally a six-bed hospital and drugstore run by Dr. Charles R. Zenner.

It was that history and Margaret Colf Hepola's interest in it that saved the hospital and transformed it into a library. The Colf Family Foundation helped pay for much of the project, starting by relocating the building.

In all, the foundation donated more than \$1 million toward the project. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library contributed \$87,500, and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation contributed \$45,000.

Developers were planning a strip of businesses where the Zenner building stood, and the structure was slated for demolition.

But Hepola's son, Bob Colf, was one of the developers working on the project along Fourth Street, now home to a



If you go

- **What:** The La Center Library's grand opening.
- **When:** 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Where:** 1402 E. Lockwood Creek Road in La Center.

LIBRARY, page C5

Library:

From page C1

market and gas station. It wasn't hard for his mother to get permission to move the building.

The structure rolled its way about six tenths of a mile up the road to its current location on Lockwood Creek Road.

A core group of about 13 volunteers has also been working under the name Friends of the La Center Library to raise money and finish the project. Hepola is president; Rose Smith is vice president.

Smith said volunteers have held spaghetti feeds, afternoon teas and endless book sales, raising about \$25,000 in three years.

The two began talking about

what to use the building for months before the group really got its start, Smith said. The idea for a library sprang to mind.

"I grew up in that downtown library," Smith said, referring to the main library branch in Vancouver.

Colf oversaw restoration of the building. It had to be gutted to install new plumbing, wiring and other modern amenities such as an elevator and bathrooms accessible to disabled people.

The building is heated geothermally by channeling heat retained by the ground into the building, he explained. "Energy efficient is what it is," he said Wednesday, shovel in hand, as he completed some of the landscaping work around the library.

Librarian Veenstra said

she'll ensure history pervades the building.

"We will make sure it has books that are pertinent to local history," she said. "We may house the only copy of certain materials" in the library system, she said.

There's room for about 4,000 more books at the library. Veenstra will select volumes that especially interest La Center patrons and make the library a good source of Pacific Northwest history. A \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington will help stock the shelves.

It will be a change for the better from La Center's previous library resource. "To go from a bookmobile parked in the parking lot every other week," Veenstra said. "It's a big deal for this community."

The Reflector

THE NEWSPAPER WITH INTEGRITY

La Center library set to open May 8

Bill Myers
staff reporter

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Sat., May 8, will launch a 100-year-old La Center building toward a new future.

In a grand opening set for 2-5 p.m., Fort Vancouver Regional Library District officials will oversee the official opening of the La Center Community Library.

The building at 1402 E Lockwood Creek Rd. was constructed in 1905 at the corner of E 4th St. and Cedar Ave.

It was a home, eight-bed hospital and drugstore occupied by Dr. Charles Zenner and his wife who treated area citizens.

After completing medical school, Woodland physician Carl J. Hoffman worked with Zenner at the site.

After decades of ownership and occupancy changes, businessmen Robert Colf, owner of Colf Construction Co., Jay Cerveney and Bob Olson bought the 4th St. property.

The building was marked for destruction by fire in 2002 to provide area firefighters with practice.

Colf's mother, Margaret Colf Hepola, was convinced that the building deserved a better fate.

Hepola, who helped restore other historical sites including the historic Cedar Creek Grist Mill near Woodland, believed the building should become a much-needed community library.

Hepola wanted to help preserve a part of the legend of Dr. Hoffman, who became her family doctor when she was a child.

"I also don't believe in destroying beautiful, old build-

ings," said Hepola.

Robert Colf and his partners donated the building to the Colf Family Foundation.

On August 15, 2001, Colf Construction Co. hired movers to roll the old house to the Lockwood Creek Rd. site, property owned by the Colf Family Foundation.

Workers hired by Colf Construction Co. restored and refitted the old building with an elevator and bookshelves, constructed a parking lot and installed landscaping.

The 3,300 square-foot library will open with about 8,000 books, but has space for almost twice as many, said Library District spokesperson Candy Morgan. More books will be added as funding is available.

Bob Colf spearheaded the project and the Colf Foundation funded most of the work which exceeded \$1 million.

Other funding came from the Friends of the La Center Community Library (\$25,000), Community Foundation for Southwest Washington (\$5,000), La Center casinos (\$30,000), Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (\$87,500), and Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation (\$45,000).

The committed Friends group made the project possible, said Margaret Colf Hepola.

Geraldine Veenstra, Woodland Community Library librarian, will take on additional responsibility at the new La Center facility.

The public is welcome to attend the grand opening. Distinguished guests are expected and refreshments will be on hand. Information telephone is 699-8815.



MARGARET COLF HEPOLA and son Robert Colf headed the corner of a Center building into a library for the community. Opening is