

Elma Library Celebrates Final Bond Payment

Local News

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ELMA, Wash. - The Staff and Friends of the Elma Timberland Library are hosting a party to celebrate the paying off of the bond for the library that opened in 1994 and that Elma residents enjoy today. The public celebration for all ages takes place at the library on Saturday, May 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. **Celebrate**The festivities will include music by the Elma High School Jazz Band and Choir, Story Time with Mayor Dave Osgood, and a book character costume contest. Dress up as your favorite character for a chance to win a prize for the best adult or children's costume. The Friends of the Elma Timberland Library are providing refreshments and decorations for the event. **Short history of libraries in Elma**Research conducted by the Friends of the Elma Timberland Library since 1981, when the group organized, reveals that Elma has had a library for nearly all of its 125 years. The town's founders opened a "Free Reading Room" in 1889. The books, only a few hundred at first, were moved from place to place until 1938 when they settled into a 1,200 square foot space at City Hall. In 1969, the Elma library became part of the Timberland Regional Library system. In September 1992, Elma residents approved a \$650,000 bond issue for a new library. The bond, along with community fund-raising spearheaded by the Friends of the Elma Timberland Library and then Librarian Jerri Ferrier, and grants from Timberland Regional Library, the E.K & Lillian Bishop Foundation, the Weyerhaeuser Foundation and the Burlington Northern Foundation, financed a 6,000 square foot library that opened in June 1994.

Today's Elma Timberland LibraryIntended by the community to be not-too-big and not-too-small, the attractive, well cared-for library is still the right size for Elma. Services offered by the library include:· Books, videotapes, DVDs, CDs, newspapers, magazines, audio- and videotapes for all ages and interests· Downloadable audiobooks, ebooks, videos and music· Public computers with high-speed Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint· Online Reference Databases, including: online magazines and newspapers; encyclopedias; auto manuals; jobs, careers, classes, education information and standardized test practice databases and many others· Free wireless Internet access· Programs and events for children and adults· A public meeting room that can be reserved for community meetings and programs by calling the library· Comfortable and attractive spaces for children, teens and adults to study and read· Informational assistance and reading recommendations from the Elma Timberland Library staffThe library has a collection of art by several Northwest artists on display. It includes nine drawings and three prints by Helmi Juvonen of the renowned Northwest School, a painting and watercolors by local artist Hank Miller, a stained glass window by Cathy Rusley Smith (commissioned by the Friends of the Library in 2004 for the library's tenth anniversary) and a quilt depicting Elma's civic buildings by Library Associate and textile artist Donna Simms. The Elma Timberland Library is located at 118 N First Street. For more information, contact the library at (360) 482-3737 or visit www.TRL.org.