



FLATHEAD  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY

# News

*Newsletter of the Flathead County Library Foundation*

*Fall 2007*

## Director's Corner

There's been lots of buzz about where to put a new Main Library for our Flathead County Library System.

Flathead Valley Community College has generously offered space on their campus to build a library, if we decide to go north of downtown. The old Tidyman's building is currently available in downtown Kalispell, which is the stay-in-downtown option.

Some people want to know why we can't stay in the lovely 1917 post office building in which we currently reside.

The first reason is space—we need an additional 25,000 square feet to take us through the next 15 to 20 years.

Even if we purchased this building from the school district and occupied the entire structure, it would be nearly impossible to staff four separate floors, and we would still be lacking in sufficient space.

In a new Main Library we hope to put in small study/meeting spaces that will hold 4-6 people, as well as a large and a medium-sized meeting room.

Our teen lounge, just developed a year and a half ago, is only about 1/3 the size it should be. We also need more room for our flourishing children's programs.

If you haven't already, please let the library board know your thoughts on the location of a new Main Library by filling out a "How'd we do?" comment card at any of our library locations or by emailing me at the address below.

**Kim Crowley**  
kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us



*Here is an architect's drawing of a proposed new Main Library for the Flathead County Library System. The 60,000 square foot building would meet the needs of the library through at least 2025.*

## Library Board to decide on location for Main Library at Oct. 25 meeting

The Flathead County Library Board will decide at its Oct. 25 meeting which option to pursue for a new Main Library in Kalispell.

Two possible locations have been suggested for a new library: the old Tidyman's building in downtown Kalispell and a site on the Flathead Valley Community College campus north of town.

The board is looking at a major renovation of the former Tidyman's building or construction of a new library on land donated by FVCC.

Cost estimates are between \$16 million and \$19 million for either option.

The board hopes that roughly one-eighth of the final estimated cost would be raised through private donations, with the rest financed through a bond sale requiring a public vote.

The Main Library currently occupies 23,250 square feet of the former U.S. Post Office building that is owned by School District 5.

The current Main Library has no dedicated off-street parking and inside space is inadequate. A needs assessment study conducted in 2003 found that the Main Library needed physical updating and that the building was severely congested.

The study showed that a Main Library of approximately 55,000 square feet would meet needs through 2025, with the capacity to grow by an additional 25 percent to meet future growth.

The Library Board is interested in public opinion on the decision. So far, patrons who have expressed opinions at the library have tended to favor the downtown option.



*Lisa Kean is the new Assistant Director for the Flathead County Library System.*

## Library has new Assistant Director

Lisa Kean brings 16 years of experience as a professional librarian to her new job as Assistant Director of the Flathead County Library System.

A native of Upstate New York, Lisa earned bachelor's degrees in music and creative writing at the State University of New York at Oswego, studied publishing at New York University and received a master's degree in information science from the State University of New York.

She was a children's librarian for 10 years in Connecticut and Ohio and most recently was an outreach librarian in Ohio.

She became the Flathead County Library System's first Assistant Director this summer.

Among other duties, she is responsible for developing circulation

and collection policies and serves as staff liaison with branch libraries.

"I really like helping staff have their voices heard," she said.

She also enjoys coming up with positive solutions to challenges and helping to improve the library for its customers.

With her extensive library experience, she said, "I can look around and see what needs to be done to make things even better."

Lisa and her family are enjoying the slower pace of a smaller town and the outdoor activities Northwest Montana has to offer.

She and her husband, Neil Hardwick, have two children, Grace, 6, and Dillon 5.

"We like it here," she said. "It's a more relaxed pace, which we like."

## Foundation needs 2 board members

The Flathead County Library Foundation Board needs new members from Bigfork and Columbia Falls to replace people whose terms expire in January.

People from anywhere in the Flathead who are interested in serving on the Foundation Board are also invited to apply.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides a source of

private financial support for the Library System.

If you love the library and have some time and ideas to volunteer, submit an application.

Contact Library Director Kim Crowley at 758-5826 or [kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us) if you're interested in applying for a seat on the board. New members are elected by the current board.

# Flathead County Library System

## Library Foundation Board of Directors

Greg Foley, Kalispell  
**President**

Dorothy Laird, Whitefish  
**Vice-President**

Kim Crowley, Library Director  
**Corporate Secretary**

Helen Hindersman, Whitefish  
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Laura Long, Columbia Falls  
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Roy Beekman, Kalispell

Barbara Boorman, Kalispell

Stephanie Christensen, Kalispell

Karen Heuscher, Kalispell

## Library System

### Board of Trustees

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Jerry Hanson, County at large  
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Anne Moran, Whitefish

Kala Lougheed, Kalispell

Laura Long, Columbia Falls

## Flathead County Commissioners

Joe Brenneman

Gary Hall

Dale Lauman

## Newsletter editor

Mary Pat Murphy

## Summer reading program a success

The children and teens in the Flathead Valley enjoyed another successful summer reading program.

Libraries had 58 percent of the registered participants complete the program, which is higher than the national average of 46 percent.

Both kids and teens read many extra hours to be part of Readers to the Rescue, collectively raising more than \$1,200 to donate to Central Asia Institute.

This donation will be used to buy books for the Central Asia Institute's newest school in Pakistan. Well done!

## Activities for teens

Teens who love the library and want to make it even more awesome are invited to join the Teen Advisory Board, which meets monthly. In October, the meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday the 29th in the meeting room at the Main Library. The board normally meets on the third Monday of the month.

A new group at the library is the Anime/Manga club, which meets at 4:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month in the meeting room. An Anime/Manga theme party is planned for 7-10 p.m. Friday in the Main Library meeting room.

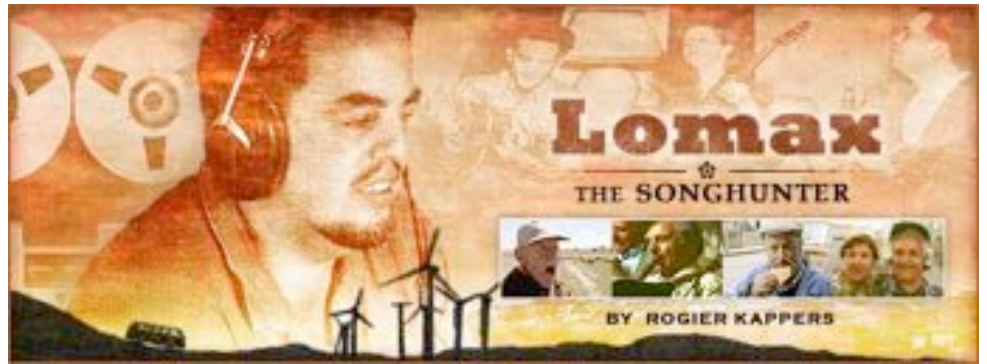
For more information on teen activities, contact Martha Furman at 758-5713 or [mfurman@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:mfurman@co.flathead.mt.us).

## 10 Book Kits available for checkout by local book groups

Book kits on 10 popular titles are available for local book groups through the Flathead County Library System.

Book kits are a great way to get multiple copies of popular titles for your book club. The titles and authors currently available as book club kits are:

- *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
- *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert
- *Hanna's Daughters* by Marianne Fredriksson



## PBS films series scheduled at libraries

Libraries in Kalispell, Bigfork, Columbia Falls and Whitefish will be screening and discussing award-winning PBS Point-of-View documentaries this fall and winter, beginning in mid-October and continuing through March.

Brochures describing the films will be available soon at all Flathead County Library branches, and online at [www.flatheadcountylibrary.org](http://www.flatheadcountylibrary.org).

The film series was made possible through generous donations from the Sustainability Fund of the Montana Community Foundation, the Flathead County Library Foundation, the P.O.V. outreach program and support from "Turning Strangers into Neighbors," a project of Flathead on the Move. All films will be available for checkout when the series concludes.

Four documentary films will be shown during the series, with community guest speakers to assist in leading discussions after most of the films. This season's features are:

- *Arctic Son* [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/arcticson/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/arcticson/)

- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Shell Collector* by Anthony Doerr
- *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See
- *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson
- *Winter: Notes from Montana* by Rick Bass
- *Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion

Any book club may participate. A member of the book club must reserve the book kit.

Kits are available for checkout for 4,

- *Libby Montana* [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/libbymontana](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/libbymontana)

- *The Fire Next Time* [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/thefirenexttime](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/thefirenexttime)

- *Lomax the Songhunter* [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/lomax](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/lomax)

The film series will be offered at the Main Library in Kalispell Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the community room on Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13 and Jan. 17.

The films will be shown at the Whitefish Branch Library on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the community room on Oct. 25, Nov. 29, Dec. 20 and Jan. 24.

Dates and times for Columbia Falls and Bigfork will be announced in December. All are welcome and admission is free, but these films have not been rated and parental discretion and discussion is advised.

For more information, contact Public Services Librarian Jocelyne Bodden: 758-5823 or [jbodden@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:jbodden@co.flathead.mt.us).

5 or 6 weeks. If no one else has the kit reserved, it may be renewed for an additional 28 days. Late fees for book kits are \$1 per day. The member who checks the item out is responsible for all six books in the kit.

If you have suggestions for new titles or need to borrow a kit, contact Public Services Librarian Martha Furman at 758-5713 or [mfurman@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:mfurman@co.flathead.mt.us).

Brochures describing the book kits available are available at your local library.



**Flathead County Library**  
**247 First Avenue East**  
**Kalispell, MT 59901-4598**  
**(406) 758-5820**

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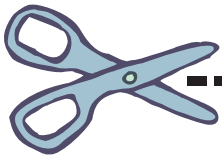
**Bigfork • Columbia Falls • Kalispell • Marion • Whitefish**



**Foundation donations benefit library**

The Flathead County Library Foundation supports the Flathead County Libraries by generating private-sector funds to supplement tax-based funding. The Foundation helps to ensure that our public libraries in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Marion and Whitefish offer materials and programs that meet the needs of every citizen in Flathead County.

With the Foundation's support, the libraries are able to offer enhanced collections. Special children's programs, computer classes, and various film series are also made available. Please demonstrate your commitment to the Flathead County Libraries by making a donation to the Flathead County Library Foundation. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.



**Annual Fund Drive**

**Please mail your donation to:**

**Flathead County  
 Library Foundation  
 c/o Flathead County Library  
 247 First Ave. E.  
 Kalispell, MT 59901**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed (Donations are tax-deductible)