



NEWS RELEASE

North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 18, 2016
Contact: Margaret Jakubcin, Library Director
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Re: Port Angeles Building Bond Retirement Celebration

On Thursday, March 24, 2016 from 4pm to 5:30pm, the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will celebrate the retirement of the bonds that supported the 1998 construction of the NOLS facility in Port Angeles, with a “Thank You Port Angeles” reception. The reception will take place in the Living Room of the Port Angeles Main Library and will feature refreshments and a craft/souvenir activity.

History of the Port Angles Library

The first public library in Port Angeles was opened in 1912 by the Women's Auxiliary of the Commercial Club in the back room of their clubhouse. In 1913, the Library was moved to a small room attached to the Old Central School, which was on the site where the present Post Office is located. Five years and an act of Congress later, the site on Lincoln Street was acquired. The structure was built with a \$12,500 grant from the Carnegie Fund and \$500 from the City of Port Angeles. The Carnegie Building was finished in 1919 and opened to the public with a collection of 1,600 books. In 1945 the headquarters of the new County library system was established in the basement of the Port Angeles City Library and a contract was signed with the City to provide library service to county residents living in the Port Angeles Area.

A new section was added to the front of the Carnegie building in 1962 at a cost of \$140,000. Though it seemed spacious in 1962, library service in Port Angeles quickly outgrew the new addition.

County Library headquarters moved to several different locations over the years. The property at Peabody and Lauridsen was purchased in 1964, and construction of the “Service Center” facility began later that year, following successful passage of a countywide bond issue election. The Service Center building, was completed in 1966 at the cost of approximately \$120,000.

The Port Angeles City Library and the County Library District merged in 1973, forming one library system to serve all residents of the county. It was at this time that the name “North Olympic Library System” was adopted. In 1986 and again in 1987, the North Olympic Library System held county-wide bond issue elections in an attempt to finance a new Port Angeles library and service center facility. Both elections asked voters to approve a 5.8 million dollar issue to build a combined Port Angeles Library and Service Center for the library system of approximately 40,000 sq. ft. (25,000 public service, 15,000 service center). Both bond issues failed to receive the necessary 60% yes vote in order to pass. In the 1986 attempt, a 49.7% yes vote was attained county-wide, with 61.2% of the voters in Port Angeles precincts voting yes. In the 1987 election, 52.1% voted yes county-wide with a 59.8% yes vote in Port Angeles.

In 1992, efforts to build a new main library and service center continued. The NOLS Board approached both the Port Angeles School District and the City of Port Angeles to explore a partnership in building a new library. Because of legal restraints, the School District was unable to participate. The City, however, agreed to study the matter. A joint Library-City task force was formed, meetings held, and a recommendation to build a new library forwarded to the City Council.

In July of 1994, the Port Angeles City Council agreed to sponsor a bond election for a new library to be held on September 20, 1994. The Port Angeles Friends of the Library formed a political action committee to promote the bond issue, take out advertisements and doorbell neighborhoods throughout Port Angeles. Following a very active campaign, the library bond issue was approved by voters with a 66.3% yes vote. Ground was broken in 1997 and the new \$5.6 million facility was opened to the public with a dedication ceremony held on August 16, 1998.

About the Bond Retirement and reception

During the term of the City held bonds, the Port Angeles Main Library facility has been owned by the City and leased to NOLS. NOLS has maintained and improved the facility during this period, and set aside building maintenance reserve funds in the amount of \$1,114,670 against future capital maintenance and improvement needs. The construction bonds were retired on December 31, 2015, the lease was concluded by action of the City Council on January 19, 2016, and the deed transferring ownership was executed on February 25, 2016.

“Libraries build community, and it takes a community to build a library,” says Library Director, Margaret Jakubcin. “The city planners, library staff, and voters who decided, twenty-two years ago, to invest in this community by expanding and improving the Port Angeles Main Library, showed tremendous foresight. As a result of their actions NOLS was able to build a modern, spacious, and attractive facility that continues to serve the Port Angeles community, support county-wide library service, and also provides a beautiful civic landmark in which residents can take real pride.”

As a fun recognition of the community role in making the Port Angeles building a reality, during the days preceding the “Thank You” party, library visitors will be asked to help decorate copies of building blue prints. During the reception on March 24, the drawings will be cut into small pieces, and made available for anyone to take home as a souvenir.

More information

For more information about this event, contact Library Director Margaret Jakubcin at Director@nols.org or 360.417.8522 x 7714. For additional information about other upcoming programs at NOLS libraries, visit www.nols.org and select “Events,” or contact your nearby NOLS branch location. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street in Port Angeles.



Port Angeles Mayor, Patrick Downie signed the deed conveying the Library facility in Port Angeles to NOLS on February 25, 2016. Observing are Library Director Margaret Jakubcin and Port Angeles Main Library Manager, Noah Glaude. Photo by Garrett Fevinger.

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