

From: librarian@kalamalibrary.com  
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:25 AM  
To: Adam Smee; Mike Reuter; Coni McMaster; Steve Kallio; Carole Day  
Subject: Library Update

The Kalama Library remains closed. Given the Governor's reopening plans, I think it unlikely we will reopen until mid to late June. After closing the door on March 18, Carol and I were able to accomplish a number of tasks, primarily housekeeping and organizing. I have been working 5-7 hours a week, either from home or in the Library. I check email and phone messages, check in, shelve returned books and update the website.

I have two online meetings next week. The Cowlitz Directors meeting is on Tuesday. Carolyn Peterson, from WA State Library is leading a meeting on Thursday, specifically for the smaller libraries. Both meetings center on reopening plans. Kalama will certainly look different from Longview or Kelso. Carolyn's idea to meet with the smaller libraries is a good one.

Carol and I have been discussing our ideas on how to reopen Kalama and are working on a plan. I will share that when we get it on paper.

I placed two book orders this week, representing new March and April books. When the books arrive, I plan to have Carol come in and we will get the books entered into KOHA, process them, get them ready to shelve.

Adam: Regarding the \$2,000 grant from Bluescope that we hope to use for more shelving, I was in contact with Cameron Stone from Workpointe prior to the shut-down. We traded some plans and ideas and will I pursue that when possible.

Regarding the Rural History Grant 2019-20, obviously, we have not been able to continue that work. It will expire at the end of August; we are hopeful we can do more scanning and recording. It is unlikely there will be an extension. There is a new grant cycle for 2020-21, and we plan to apply. Carol is doing some preliminary work on writing that grant proposal.

I've had conversations with Ruthie Tippin about the Summer Reading Program. I've passed some resources on and we will be meeting soon to discuss options. There will not be any group gatherings, no Storytime. Everything will be "virtual" and online. We will make it work. This is an incredibly popular program.

Many of our patrons are using the Washington Anytime Library to access ebooks and audiobooks. This service is free with a library card. There is also a program offering free access until June 30. To date, 17 patrons have signed up. I call each person, offering assistance if need be, and also encourage them to sign up for a card when the programs ends.

This program, as well as information for online programs for kids, is all detailed on our website. I had an update on the census yesterday.

While I am anxious to get the Library open, the health and safety of my staff absolutely remains my priority. We will have strict procedures in place and I am confident our patrons will comply. I will not tolerate any behavior that jeopardizes our safety.

Let me know if there are any questions or feedback. I check email and phone messages daily. I have no objection to any of you contacting me on my cell: 206 920 7453

Elaine

WI-Fi update:

Kalama Public Library is participating in the program outlined below in the press release. Kalama Phone has set it up, extending our WI-fi capability. I have heard numerous times that the existing WI-fi signal is weak and unreliable outside the building. The new network is called: Library Drive-in WI-Fi. Currently, the signal is strongest on the south side of the building. Kalama Phone will be experimenting with different configurations to extend the signal to the front of the building. It is set up on a timer, available 6 AM to 10 PM.

If there are any problems associated with this, we can change the timer. I do know people have been using the existing WI-fi to some extent. I'm not sure if that network (kalamalibrary) is on a timer or not. (I have been unwilling to drive down at midnight to test that out!)

I sent this same information to Ralph, who has copied his officers, so they are aware of the possibility of increased usage.

(Coni -this would be good information for the newsletter.)

Press Release:

Drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots launch statewide push for universal public access broadband

\* May 7, 2020

Public-private partnerships seek to bridge the "digital divide" by providing free broadband access to all Washingtonians through community drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots

OLYMPIA, WA - The Washington State Broadband Office estimates over 300 new drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots are coming online statewide through an initiative to bring free public broadband internet access to all residents. Partners in the state's drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots project include: Washington State University; Washington State Library, part of the Washington Office of the Secretary of State; members of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) and affiliated nonprofit Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet); the Washington State Broadband Office; Washington Independent Telecommunications Association (WITA); Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech); and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Microsoft and the Avista Foundation are providing funding, and a national nonprofit contributed equipment and installation.

To date, 140 of the new drive-in hotspots are operational, in addition to 301 existing Washington State Library hotspots identified across the state. All told, some 600 public hotspots will soon be available to keep Washington communities connected.

For complete information and a map of locations, visit [www.driveinwifi.wa.gov](http://www.driveinwifi.wa.gov). The map will be updated as more sites come online.

Launching primarily as parking lot hotspots in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the free community Wi-Fi is accessible regardless of how users arrive at the locations. Some sites also offer indoor public access during business hours. Everyone using the sites - outside or inside - must practice social distancing and hygiene precautions, including staying in your vehicle or at least six feet from other users and wearing a mask if necessary.

Each hotspot will have its own security protocol. Some will be open and others will have Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) safe security installed.