



February, 2003

## Library Expansion Update

About 35 community members attended the January 15th “Hopes and Dreams” meeting to discuss their visions for the expansion of the Southwest branch library. Representatives from the library staff, capital project, and architects recorded public input on the project at four topic stations, one each for design, collections, services/programs, and art. (Comments and a recap are posted on [spl.org](http://spl.org)—you can find a link under “Community Meetings” by following the Expanding the Southwest Library link on the Southwest branch home page—and are available in hardcopy at the branch.)

Community members, library staff, capital project representatives, and architects discussed the opportunities and challenges presented by expanding the library on the existing site and within budget constraints. (The expansion plan calls for increasing the library to 15,000 square feet; the entire lot, including existing parking, measures approximately 21,000 square feet.)

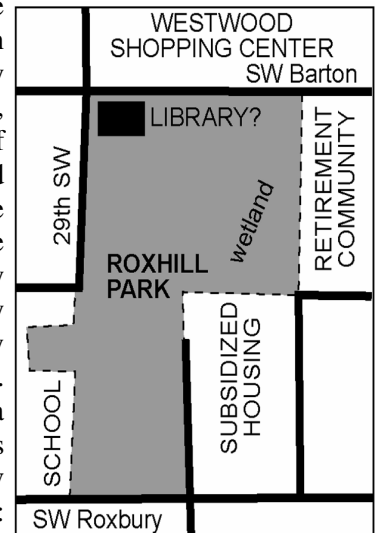
On January 16th, the architects presented general design concepts fitting the program and parking on the site, based on preliminary site analysis, for review by the Seattle Design Commission. The preferred concept accepted by the Design Commission comes closest to meeting budget constraints, although it would require a parking variance from the city because it expands parking only slightly. This concept would meet the square footage requirement by extending the library to the west with a two-story “partial mezzanine” solution. To alleviate the increased operating costs associated with a two-story building, the second floor would probably contain the public meeting room and a staff area, leaving the entire collection on the main floor.

### Alternative Siting Idea

Friends present at the “Hopes and Dreams” meeting and at the January monthly Friends meeting raised concerns about this tight solution for the community’s library for the next 40 years. People asked whether, given site constraints, the Library could consider relocating the Southwest branch, possibly with a land swap. Specifically, one suggestion was to locate the library at the northwest corner of Roxhill Park, swapping that corner of the park with the Parks department, which would probably sell the existing library building and land to fund the purchase of other open space. Using perhaps 5 percent of the total park area would allow ample space for the library and parking, and would create a civic center with library, park, shopping, retirement housing, and school.

Project representatives responded that the capital project was budgeted for an addition, but not for building an all-new library.

The group felt that, while the architects’ two-story addition solution would significantly improve the current library, in the long-term interests of the community, we should explore the possibility of the Roxhill idea, and determine whether the community would support it sufficiently to overcome the many obstacles to achieving it. Interested members formed a sub-group to undertake this task. **Please let us know what you think!** Contact: Julie Enevoldsen, 932-3741, [jenevold@aol.com](mailto:jenevold@aol.com).



### Shortened Library Hours

Southwest branch hours are shorter this year, because of the reduced operating budget for the library system; on the other hand, the branch is now open Sundays from 1 to 5 pm, because of the closure of the West Seattle branch library. The new hours are:

Monday - Tuesday: 1 pm - 8 pm

Wednesday: 10 am - 8 pm

Thursday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Some patrons are puzzled by the apparent contradiction of spending money on expanding the library, while reducing hours. The reason is that the money for the expansion comes from the “Libraries for All” bond measure passed by voters in 1998, which by law can only be spent on capital costs. The library operating budget is a part of the city’s general fund.

### Readarounds in March and April: *Beat the Winter Doldrums (Humor) and Poetry*

Readers of all ages are invited to share their favorite humorous passages on Saturday, March 1st, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Come and make us all laugh!

On Saturday, April 19th, from 2 to 3 pm, join us for our annual Poetry Readaround! All ages are invited to share poetry they like, or poetry they’ve written.

Whether you want to share a passage or just enjoy what others bring, plan to attend this special event. Each reading is limited to 5 minutes. Call 684-7455 for more information.

(More on page 2)



9010 35th Ave. S.W.  
Seattle. WA 98126



**FRIENDS**  
*of*  
**THE SEATTLE**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **Friends of Southwest Library 2003 Event Calendar**

March 1, Saturday	10:30—11:30 am	<i>Read-Around: Beat the Winter Doldrums</i>
March 15, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
April 19, Saturday	2—3 pm	<i>Read-Around: Poetry</i>
April 26, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
May 10, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
June 21, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
July 19, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
August 16, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
September 13, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
October 11, Saturday	10—12 pm	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
October 27—November 15		<i>Community Artists Showcase</i>
November 8, Saturday	2—4 pm,	<i>Community Artists Reception</i>
November 2, Saturday	2-4:00 p.m.	<i>Artists' Reception</i>
November 12, Wednesday	6:30—8 p.m.	<i>Annual Membership Meeting</i>
<i>No meetings scheduled in December</i>		

### **Volunteers Needed!**

Friends of Southwest Library received funding from our parent organization, Friends of Seattle Public Library. We also raise funds through proceeds from our "recycled book" shelves by the checkout station. Books for our shelves come from gathering leftovers from the big Friends of Seattle Public Library semi-annual book sales. We need people to help us collect these leftovers, after the sale, on Sunday afternoon, April 13. If you can help, please call Julie Enevoldsen at 932-3741.

Also, please support our parent organization by attending the annual spring book sale April 12-13 at Sand Point/Magnuson Park, 7400 N.E. Sand Point Way, Building No. 30. The book sale will be open from 9 am. to 5 pm., Saturday, April 12, and from 11 am. to 4 pm. Sunday, April 13. Members of Friends of

Seattle Public Library may attend the preview Friday evening from 6:30 to 9:30 pm; \$15 memberships may be purchased at the door, but joining earlier is strongly recommended. Paperbacks will sell for 50 cents, with hardback books going for \$1. There will be a section of "better books" priced separately. Bargain books will sell for 25 cents. On Sunday, everything will sell for half price.

### **2003 Officers**

- Friends of Southwest Library officers for 2003 are:
- Facilitator* ..... **Julie Enevoldsen** (932-3741, jenevold@aol.com)
  - Co-Facilitator* ..... **Sarel Rowe**
  - Secretary* ..... **Marian Spath**
  - Treasurer* ..... **Nils Enevoldsen**