

# Library building plan asks for community input

*A new year means new events, STEM classes return*

**H**appy New Year from the Jefferson County Library! It feels like 2023 slipped by in the blink of an eye. Onward into 2024, when we continue our focus on bringing relevant programming to all of our audiences – children, youth, and adults – and make steady progress toward the library expansion project. There's lots to share with you this month.

## Building Update

As I reflect, I remember that the Board finished our three-year strategic plan in the spring of 2022. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend one of our strategic planning feedback sessions and let us know what is important to you in any future library building plans. The results included the need for community meeting space, separate children's and adult areas, and a designated area for teens.

I speak for the library board members and myself when I say that we might know many things, but none of us knows much about expanding a library. However, like any good researcher, we know how to find the people with the skills we need. After the Board adopted the strategic plan, we hired Compass Project Solutions, LLC, in June 2023 as our owner's representative. We solicited bids for architects and received responses from nine firms. The Board interviewed several and selected Hacker Architects (Portland, Oregon). Hacker has experience designing libraries large and small, including the Ledding Library in Milwaukee and the Salem Public Library renovation.

Before moving here, I can remember traveling to Madras, sitting across the street from our current building, and thinking that this small community (around 2004) had a serious commitment to its Library. We, the staff and Board recognize and appreciate the significant effort that went into creating our current building. Because of that, we must keep our existing

building and add square footage eastward. The communication between the Board, Compass Project Solutions, and Hacker has been clear and consistent. I know we will end up with an expanded library that reflects the history and values of our community.

Susan Stovall explains, "I've always believed in the importance of libraries. It's exciting to be part of the Jefferson County Library as it grows. The Board understands their responsibility to the taxpayers, and it's our goal to move forward with thoughtful intention in a way that reflects the needs of our residents. That's one reason why hearing from the community is so important."

## Next Steps

We've scheduled our first sessions for you to meet the architects and the owner's representative, learn more about the building project, and find out which layout elements are most important to you. We are scheduling community input sessions for the end of January.

## Community Input Sessions

Madras – Thursday, January 25, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



**NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY**  
Jane Ellen Innes

Warm Springs – tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 26 – time and location TBA soon

Metolius/Culver – the week of January 29

Our Outreach Coordinator, Star Todd, is reaching out to Warm Springs, Metolius, and Culver to determine the specific days and times for meeting with these communities. Look for announcements in the next few weeks through our regular outlets (the Pioneer, website, flyers) for updates. If you'd like to stay current with library activities, please email [info@jclld.org](mailto:info@jclld.org) and ask to be added to our email list. You'll receive our monthly calendar of activities and other occasional updates (I promise we are responsible emailers).

Whether you're a frequent user, online resource user, occasional user, or rarely come into the Library, we want to know how the Library can best serve each of you. All of your ideas and priorities are important to us. We are YOUR community resource,

and we can't create a library that meets your needs without hearing from you.

And, as a heads up, you'll have an opportunity in February to come back to the Library to see how your feedback shaped the potential design of the building. I will update you on those dates next month.

Resources (because we are a library, after all)

Jefferson County Library District (<https://jclld.org>)

Compass Project Solutions, LLC (<http://www.compasspsinc.com/>)

Hacker Architects (<https://www.hackerarchitects.com/>)

## Program Updates

STEM. Our Wednesday (3:30 p.m.) after-school STEM sessions are back, led by Lizzy Wienert. Lizzy graduated from Madras High School and attended Oregon State University, earning a bachelor's degree in biology education. Lizzy is passionate about STEM, working with kids, and teaching (a trifecta for us). Lizzy is also working with our assistant director, Laura Jones, with the 21st-century after-school program, where we visit Kinder-4th grade students teaching stem activities.

Friday Night Films. Coming up on January 12 at 7 p.m. is *The Little Mermaid* (2023), followed on Friday,

January 19 at 7 p.m. with *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. January 26 at 6 p.m. is *Spanish Film Friday*, showing *Sonido de Libertad* (2023)

Our January Talk-About is *Tarot History and Meaning* on Thursday, January 18, at 7 p.m. at the Library.

These events are in addition to our regular monthly programs – check our website ([jclld.org](http://jclld.org)) for the calendar of events.

I know it's January, the time for new beginnings, adapting to change, and making resolutions. I've decided to leverage myself for success this year and resolve not to adopt new resolutions and instead try to live with intention and choose kindness first. I finished library school in my 30s, and I remember someone asking me about my goals. The answer then is still true today: "I want to live my best ordinary life and make small differences along the way." While that's always a work in progress, I never take for granted that somehow, I managed to land my best job, work with the best people, and live in a great community here in Jefferson County. Let's optimistically charge forward into the new year.

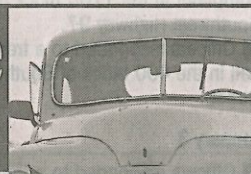
*The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book waiting to be written.*  
– Melody Beattie

# 96.5FM



"Where you're never more than 20 minutes away"

Donate your Vehicle  
TO THELMA'S PLACE



& Make a Difference in Memory Care!

*In Loving Memory*

**Les Dunlap**