

CHAPTERS

Deschutes Public Library Newsletter

Message From the Director

If our public library system were a state highway, we would have posted the “please excuse our progress” signs during the fall months. Several major projects have recently been completed or are underway which represent significant improvements in library services.

The branch libraries in Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sisters, and the Sunriver Area completed a complex process of moving to a new automation system. This is a once a decade “migration” that libraries approach with trepidation. The new advanced system is a significant improvement over the 1970s technology that it replaced. The system contains a record for each of the 350,000 items in the collection and for each of 60,000 local residents who have active library cards. The system also contains all the transaction records—and the District circulates more than 4,000 items daily.

The new system is the same system used by the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and larger regional public libraries such as Multnomah County Library and King County Library.

We recently completed the remodel of the Bend children’s area and large meeting room. The meeting room is now twice the size, and the children’s area is much more attractive and better organized.

The next big challenge will be the replacement of the carpet on the second floor of the Bend Public Library, which will begin on October 1st and take one month to complete. More than 150,000 books, as well as all the furniture, needs to be moved several times. With the exception of the computer room, the second floor will be closed to the public.

Every effort has been made to minimize the impact while the second floor is closed. While the Bend fiction collection will be unavailable, staff will be available at an improvised public access desk to retrieve non-fiction items. Popular titles, including new fiction, music, and DVDs, will be available in the large meeting room. Internet access will be available in the computer classroom on the second floor.

October might be a good time for adult library users to visit one of our other branch libraries located in La Pine, Redmond, Sisters, and the Sunriver Area!

We thank you in advance for your patience and support as we complete these important projects.

Michael K. Gaston, Library Director

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