

JOIN OUR FAMILY

The city of Tigard

Where citizen volunteers make the difference

"Tigard is one of the finest communities in this state for service given in hours donated by citizen volunteers," says Mayor Jerry Edwards.

Each year, more than 200 local residents contribute thousands of hours of their time to help make the community and their city a better place to live, do business and raise families.

The opportunities to get involved are many and rewarding.

Considering volunteering your time, interest and ability to one of the many areas of community service: Budget Committee, City Council, Library Board, Planning Commission, Neighborhood Planning Organizations, Park Board, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Transportation Committee, Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force, Highway 99W Task Force, Police Department Reserves, Friends of the Library or Library Volunteers.



For more information about how to join the city of Tigard's family of volunteers, call:

Liz Newton
639-4171

CITY OF TIGARD
13125 S.W. Hall Boulevard

Since 1961



George and Yvonne Burgess are two of Tigard's many busy volunteers. Yvonne has served on the Library Board in both the 1970s and 1990s. She also has represented Tigard on the Washington County Cooperative Library Services Commission, and she volunteers one day a week in the library's periodical department. George is a member of the city Budget Committee. Both he and Yvonne are active in the Friends of the Library, of which George is president this year.

Tigard Library must grow as the city grows

(Editor's note: Soapboxes are guest opinions from our readers, and anyone is welcome to write one. George Burgess is president of the Friends of the Tigard Public Library and a resident of Tigard.)

As a longtime resident of Tigard, I remember when our city library was located on Main Street in the building now occupied by Matthews Paint Store. It was small, crowded, dark and damp.

I applauded the foresight of Tigard's citizens in approving funding for a more adequate library, which opened in 1986. I remember thinking how large and light it was and how much open space there was.

As Tigard and library use grew, it was not long until our large, open library began to become crowded. The book collection grew, the hours of operation were expanded, and new features were added. Space was needed for books on tape, music tapes and CDs, videos and computers.

As use of the library grew and services expanded, additional personnel were added to the staff. Not only did the public areas become crowded, but staff was squeezed together. Many of you have bigger clothes closets than the work areas for some of the library staff.

Today there is no more room to squeeze things in. If a new book is

SOAPBOX

George Burgess



added to the collection, another has to be taken off the shelf and retired. Library staff has had to limit the size of business and other special research collections. There are many excellent books, both fiction and nonfiction, that cannot be included in our library collection because of this space limitation.

On Nov. 3, we will be voting on a bond measure to build a new library designed to meet Tigard's needs for the next 20 years.

Why do we need a new library? We have all read many of the growth statistics that have been published:

- Tigard's population has increased 80 percent since 1986.
- Library circulation has increased 331 percent since 1986.
- Eighty-five people enter the library every hour it is open.
- Every minute the library is open, 4.5 items are checked out.
- Tigard is expected to grow an

additional 43 percent by 2020.

If we are to continue to have the excellent library service in the future that we have had up to now, the library must grow as the city grows. The only way it can grow is in a new, larger building, a building that will be a community center for information, education and entertainment, a building that has adequate space for children's story time, for adult reading programs, for the many special informative programs and classes that could be conducted if we had the space.

Tigard needs this new facility. Please join me in voting "yes" for Ballot Measure 34-87 on Nov. 3.

LETTERS

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