

Friends of the Olympia Library Newsletter

August 2026



Our mission

To support, promote and augment the operations of the Olympia Library.

Find us on the [web](#)
Find us on [Facebook](#)
Find us on [eBay](#)

Olympia Timberland Library
313 Eighth Ave. S.E.
(360) 352-0595

Hours: 10-6 Monday-Saturday
Closed Sunday

West Olympia Library
625 Black Lake Blvd SW
In the Capital Mall
(360) 764-4440

Hours: 10-6 Monday-Saturday
Closed Sunday

**All Timberland Libraries
will be closed on:
Monday, September 7, 2026
for Labor Day.**

FOL Board Votes to Support the TRL Levy Lift

At the August 11th FOL Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to support the levy lift which is on the November ballot. With fewer than 3 months until voters decide whether to increase the levy from 22 to 35 cents per thousand of house valuation, a Political Action Committee, Yes4libraries, has been formed and the campaign website (see below) is up with information about the levy increase (a calculator to figure your own cost) and links for anyone who wants to donate or volunteer.

During the same Board meeting an initial donation of \$7,500 was agreed to and the parameters for other activities discussed. As a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity, Friends of the Olympia Library is bound by an array of rules governing our activities in support of the ballot measure.

“Right now, we are working to understand what we can and want to do to further support this effort” said FOL President Jann Hoppler.

The lobbying restraint applies to the FOL as an organization, not to the effort of individual members in their own right.

Information on what will happen if the levy does or doesn't pass is on these websites:

An interview with Interim Director Andrea Heisel on the TRL Podcast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJNdkK5L67o>

TRL levy page:

<https://trl.org/levy/>

Campaign website:

<https://yes4libraries.org/index.html>

Two upcoming events:

Patron Coalition for Local Libraries Community Listening session in each of the five counties. The one for Thurston County is at the Lacey Library on Friday, August 21st from 11 am to 1 pm.

On Tuesday, August 25 TRL Interim Director Andrea Heisel will hold a Q & A specifically for the members of FOL at the Olympia Library from 2-3 pm.

Friends of the Olympia Library Support Summer reading in many ways including programs like the Reptile Lady which attracted over 100 participants and a coupon for a free book from the FOL Book Store to all of the finishers.



Reptile Lady returned on August 6th for her annual visit and included everyone in the fun. Holly is holding Cinnamoroll and Claire is holding Princess Donut. SpongeBob the tortoise is not pictured here but he made multiple laps around the library to the delight of adults and children.

FOL Keeps the Library Ship Shape

Several years ago, Pre-Covid, the FOL bought two lovely tables, handmade by a local craftsman, to fill the window alcove at the front of the library. The workspace is popular and now some 10 years later the seating needed to be replaced. With money provided by the FOL, Regional Manager Victoria Harmon purchased four cute and comfy bar stools.



Volunteer Updates from Abby Cooke, Volunteers Lead

Our capable, autonomous, and creative volunteers find new needs and fill them!

Big donations of great quality books by prolific authors led to creating a corner for these titles, and the books are selling!

A Free Basket for images, maps, and magazines, sometimes from books that are falling apart, is a big hit with the Collage artists in our community.

Greatly improved relations with TRL administration have resulted in invitations for Friends to consult, advise, and participate in local decisions: art in the library, placement of the otter sculpture, improvements in the children's area; and in larger discussions such as Friends Chat calls and the Ad Hoc Levy Committee established by the Board of Trustees.

Thank you, and everyone's ideas and contributions are welcome!

****The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Olympia Library meets every month on the second Tuesday in the Olympia Library Meeting Room from 1-3 pm. You are invited to attend and find out what we are planning for the future!***

FOL VOLUNTEER FORM



FRIENDS of the OLYMPIA LIBRARY ESTD. 1973

The mission of the Friends is "To support, promote and augment the operations of the Olympia Library".

Volunteer

Would you like to help the Friends of the Olympia Library?

There are varying degrees of participation for every interest level!

Fill out this form and leave it in the box on the FOL slat board wall opposite the FOL Book Store inside the Olympia Library. The FOL volunteer coordinator will contact you.

If you have questions, please contact: fol73volunteers@gmail.com for more information. *The Olympia Library requires all volunteers to have a background check. Volunteers must be over 18 years old.*

Name: _____

Best way to contact me: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Jobs that interest me:

____ Accepting book donations on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

____ Emptying the donation bin.

____ Book sorting and/or pricing.

____ Stocking ongoing book sale shelves.

____ Help with publicity, membership and volunteers.

____ Help with FOL Board activities.

Date _____ *Your information will not be shared.*

For more about the FOL: www.olylibraryfriends.com

FOL MEMBERSHIP FORM



Join the Friends of the Olympia Library

Members receive our newsletter *and* the good feeling of supporting your local library.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

E-mail _____

Telephone (_____) _____

*None of your personal information will be sold, given, or traded to any third parties for any reason.

New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Memberships are for one (1) year, except "Friend for Life".

If your dues are for more than 1 year, indicate # of years here _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (Tax Deductible)

Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Senior (65+)/Student	\$ 5.00
Business	\$ 50.00
Best Friend	\$ 100.00
Friend for Life	\$ 150.00

Please mail this application and your check to:

Friends of the Olympia Library

313 8th Avenue SE

Olympia, WA 98501

or

place it in the membership box on the Friends slat board wall opposite the FOL Book Store in the Olympia Library, or join online: www.olylibraryfriends.com/join