

Seattle, Washington
September 21, 2009

RECEIVED
SEP 23 2009
CITY OF BURIEN

Burien City Council
400 SW152nd St.
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Burien City Council,

As members of the White Center Library Guild, we welcomed voter approval of the North Highline annexation measure. Along with the fine new library in the center of Burien, this meant a continuation of the White Center Library as part of the King County Library System. We look forward to working with the Burien Friends of the Library in strengthening library services throughout our community.

In addition to founding the library in 1943, the advocacy of the White Center Library Guild resulted in the library becoming part of the King County Library System in 1946. The present White Center Library opened its doors in August, 1976. The Guild continues to provide support for programs that supplement those provided by KCLS, with which we work cooperatively, as well as with our librarians.

We recognize and honor the diversity of the White Center area by funding story times for children and their parents in Vietnamese and Spanish. Activities, books, and prizes are part of how we encourage reading throughout the year. At the end of the summer, we hold an "ice cream social" for children and their families. Our Library Guild founded "Books for Babies", that is now a county-wide KCLS program. In this program, board books and information about early literacy are provided to new parents. Every year we also recognize in some way, the dedication of our fine library staff. Our program contributions are made possible through book sales, a Holiday bazaar, a garage sale, and private donations.

The White Center Library Guild is a 501c 3 non-profit organization. Our Board is made up of fifteen volunteer members from the community and is insured by liability insurance we purchase through the Friends of Libraries, U.S.A , of which we are a member. Our five annual meetings are held in the White Center Library and are open to the public.

In response to the invitation of the Burien City Council to participate in City government, we would very much like to share some of our perspectives on the role of libraries in our community, as well as enlist your support in realizing long-awaited improvements for the White Center Library, as provided in the passage of the King County 2004 library replacement bond measure. Now that we are securely under the jurisdiction of the King County Library System, we look forward to begin planning for the replacement of the old and overcrowded 6,370 sq.ft. library with a 10,000 sq.ft. new library.

Our congratulations on your successful efforts to bring our community together. The White Center Library Guild hopes to support, build and strengthen our library system, an essential part of our community infrastructure.

Sincerely,

White Center Library Guild
by Rachael Lenore, President

cc Joan McGillton, Mayor
Mike Martin, City Manager
Bill Ptacek, Director King County Library System

QTR: 10/5/09

