

News Release: Ilwaco Timberland Library Refresh set to Begin April 1

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Ilwaco Timberland Library

On April 1, Timberland Regional Library is excited to announce that they will begin a refresh at the Ilwaco Timberland Library. The purpose of this \$200,000 project is to provide necessary enhancements and updates that will revitalize and modernize the library including new furniture, a new circulation desk, enhanced children, teen and adult spaces, and flooring and paint throughout.

In 2019 with approval from the Board of Trustees, Timberland Regional Library began addressing needed updates in library spaces by embarking on an audit of all 27 TRL branches. In many cases with city-owned facilities, budgets may be unable to fund these types of projects which impact the library experience in regard to ADA/accessibility, restrooms, and cleanability of soft surfaces, which became a necessity during the Covid-19 pandemic. This upcoming project at the Ilwaco Library will utilize the use of special purpose funds allotted for TRL’s 5-year facilities plan and be completed by TRL Facilities Staff.

Updates to the Ilwaco Library building will also prepare the library for Expanded Access Hours (EAH) which will allow library patrons to utilize resources at the library beyond standard operating hours. EAH has successfully been rolled out at 5 other Timberland Library branches – 2 of which are in Pacific County.

Ahead of the originally scheduled 2022 remodel, Timberland Regional Library provided a survey for the community to collect feedback regarding the upcoming refresh. The project was ultimately delayed to address some of the concerns the public had.

One of those concerns was preserving the hand-painted mural by former Ilwaco resident Dorothy Danielson that occupies a wall in the children’s area alcove. After meeting with city officials, TRL proposed a modification that would allow the library to preserve the mural by using a non-invasive process of building a raised frame to place an overlay of lightweight material that will allow the mural to remain intact and undamaged.

To commemorate the mural and its history at the library, Library Manager Tania Remmers is working on several ideas, including a framed photo of the mural in the children’s area and providing complimentary “swag” for library patrons with photos of the mural adorning canvas tote bags, bookmarks, or postcards. Remmers hopes to work with the Friends of the Ilwaco Library on these ideas to allow the mural to live on in a new way.

The full project outline is as follows:

- New paint
- New flooring
- Secure cabinets for staff workroom for storage in preparation for EAH
- New furniture in all areas
- New, smaller, re-positioned circulation desk
- Possible lighting improvements
- Door for ADA/Public restroom access inside the library for EAH hours
- Added/moved electrical and data for computers
- New electric fireplace for adult space
- Moving and expanding the children’s area to create an innovative and fun space for families and children. This supports the Timberland Regional Library’s “Birth to Five” Initiative as part of the strategic direction, which focuses on providing appealing spaces, engaging experiences, and empowering children to build relationships with the library and their communities.

“Timberland Regional Library considers these essential updates as an investment in Ilwaco and its citizens with a commitment to continuous improvement of their facilities, services, programs, and support of the local community,” says Director of Operations, Brenda Lane.

The project is set to be completed by May 31, with a re-opening scheduled for June 1.

Timberland Regional LIBRARY provides for the entertainment, information, and lifelong learning needs of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county residents at 29 community public libraries locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes, timber tax, fundraising efforts of TRL Friends of the Library, and generous donations by individual supporters.

All Timberland library programs are free and open to the public. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library’s programs may contact the library one week in advance. For more information visit TRL.org



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