



NEWS

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Nancy Tessman Announces Mid-year Retirement from Library District

VANCOUVER, Wash. – Nancy Tessman, executive director of Fort Vancouver Regional Library District since July 2012, has announced that she plans to retire sometime during the summer. The timing of her departure will be determined by the start date of her future replacement, for whom the FVRL Board of Trustees will immediately launch a nationwide search.

“I’m very proud of all we’ve accomplished in the past three years,” Tessman said. “We have made significant progress on much of what I hoped to accomplish, and the path is paved for even more, including branch improvements throughout the district.” She added, “I’m looking forward to the next phase of my life and being able to spend more time with my family.”

Jane Higgins, chair of the FVRL Board of Trustees, expressed the board’s admiration for Tessman’s three years of district leadership. “I’m speaking on behalf of the entire board when I say that we accept Nancy’s decision to leave with deep respect and gratitude. She has led us through a time of change and renewal, and we wish her much happiness in the next phase of her life,” Higgins said.

Among the long list of accomplishments the board noted during Tessman’s tenure: completion of a facilities study; reorganization of district staff; a classification and compensation study; the opening of The Mall Library Connection and Yacolt Library Express; and formation of plans underway for new libraries in Ridgefield, Washougal and Woodland.

Higgins continued, “Less visible to the public, yet equally important, has been her emphasis on staff development and training. The board has every confidence that FVRL staff will be able to move forward with work plans for the coming year as we look for a new executive director. We’ll be searching for a new leader who will continue our pursuit of excellent and equitable library service for our patrons, an excellent work environment for our staff, and a push toward implementing new technology.”

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Tessman's retirement offers an unusual opportunity for a new director to fill several open management-team positions. The Board of Trustees is working with a professional recruiter to find qualified candidates, with the hope of conducting interviews in July and hiring the next executive director in August.

Tessman was formerly director of Salt Lake City Public Library. She led that library to win the title of *Gale/Library Journal* Library of the Year in 2006, and retired in 2007. After six years of travel and library consulting work, she became FVRL executive director following the retirement of Bruce Ziegman, who had been in the position for 11 years.

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