

CheckItOut!

Winter 2012-2013

Big win for local libraries

By Elizabeth Murtough
Staff Writer

In a fight to the finish, Solano County's public libraries won financial deliverance as voters on Tuesday agreed to raise the county tax rate.

Measure B
Yes 67.9%
No 32.1%

Measure B narrowly earned two thirds majority support, breaking a string of five year budget cuts. With all county's counted in today, 67.9% voted while 32.1% opposed. Barely 1 cent will add new books, staff to keep branch days and longer hours, programs scaled back by \$10 million in place since 1992.

Measure B's victory the specter of layoff budget cuts. Winning by an eye insult to Measure B. ■ See Local Libraries, Back



SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY
Unlock the
doors to
your mind



Newsletter of the Solano County Library, serving the cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo



The Higher
Power
of Lucky
by Newbery
Award Winner
Susan Patron



5 Years as
an Adult
Literacy
Tutor!



Measure L is for landslide victory in
Solano County - The Reporter
www.thereporter.com

REPORTER
E-Edition

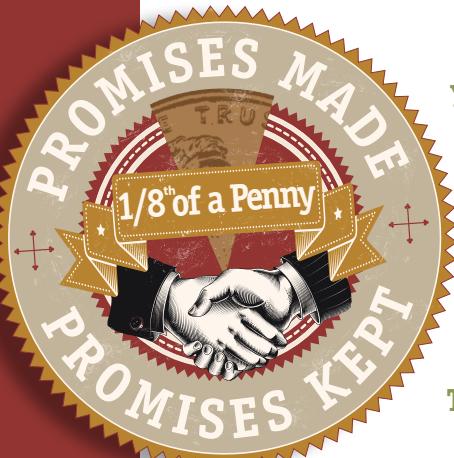
Facebook

You are posting, commenting, and liking as Ann Miller —

Keep Solano Libraries Open | Timeline ▾ | 2012 ▾

Keep Solano Libraries Open shared a link.
June 6

And so, to work. Thanks for your support--what would we have done without you?



YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

Your Book Reviews

Share the wealth!

Take a minute to write a "pick" the next time you sign in to the visual catalog. Or use one of our handy "Customer Pick" forms the next time you visit your library.



In June of this year, Solano County voters renewed the 1/8th of a penny sales tax, first passed in 1998, that has meant so much to the success of their local libraries. The 80% win was a resounding affirmation for the work of Solano County Library and its sister libraries in Benicia and Dixon. Despite an ailing economy, or perhaps because if it, voters understood the vital ways that libraries change lives: through adult literacy tutoring, homework help and building a learning community.

Promises were made when the first ballot measure passed: more books, more hours, more programs for students and children. Those promises were kept through good times and bad. "We did exactly what we said we were going to do," said Solano County Library Director Bonnie Katz.

How were those promises kept in a crumbling economy and the steady decline in revenue? Solano County Library administrators built reserves during the "good years" and tightened belts in the bad ones. Technology advances in place behind the scenes allowed staff to work where they are most effective — with customers. Strategic partnerships with community groups, ranging from poverty experts to master gardeners, extended the reach of the Library without additional funding or staff.

Costs continue to escalate and it will be years before property tax revenue will rise to the level it once was, but Solano County Library will continue to keep its promises to the community and remain the hub where people come to learn and grow.

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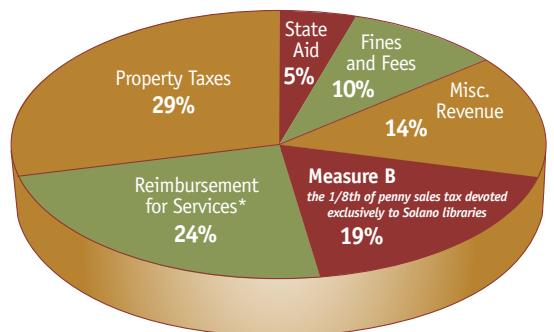
Those promises were kept through good times

and bad."

| | | Before | After |
|---------|---|---------|-------|
| | 125% | | |
| | INCREASE IN HOURS OPEN | | |
| 199 | | 448 | |
| | 118% | | |
| | INCREASE IN BUDGET FOR BOOKS AND MATERIALS | | |
| 432,000 | | 944,172 | |
| | 75% | | |
| | INCREASE IN PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (YOUTH) | | |
| 54,800 | | 95,628 | |

Funding Sources for Solano County Library

*from Vacaville Library District, Law Library Board of Trustees, and Solano, Napa, and Partners (SNAP)



Studies show that most people are unaware of how their library is funded.



Solano County Employee Celebrates Five Years as an Adult Literacy Tutor

Earn It! Keep It! Save It!

Free tax preparation for households earning less than \$50,000 a year helps families claim their maximum refund and help keep those funds in the community.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

February 2

Fairfield Civic Center Library

February 16

Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center

February 23

Suisun City Library

Jennifer Carter, a Courtroom Clerk with Solano County's Superior Court, picked up a small business card next to Solano County Library's self check-out machine. It led her to five years of friendship, enrichment, and fulfillment. She became an adult literacy tutor with Solano County Library's Literacy Services. Carter has helped seven adults reach goals that range from helping their children with homework to obtaining U.S. Citizenship to starting a business. When working 40 hours a week, many rush home for a quick dinner, spend a little time with family and go off to bed to do it all over again the next day.

Not Jennifer. "Even if I had a bad day at work and want to go home, I come to tutoring because my students are so grateful. We become friends," says Carter.

Her current and past students say Jennifer has been a friend, confidant, and teacher. Currently, she tutors a student

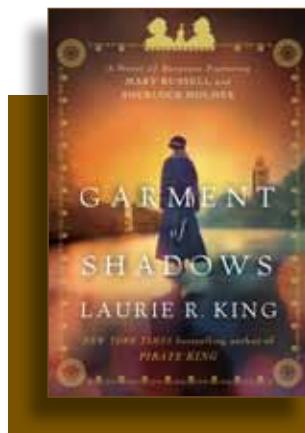
one-on-one, but Jennifer also loved being a group tutor. She feels groups grow learner's confidence, "A lot of the students who come in are insecure. In a group, they see people deficient in other areas where they have strengths. Maybe one learner is not good as a reader, but another learner is a better speller. They see other people that read at their same pace or mispronounce words like them. I think that helps them feel a little more comfortable outside tutoring at work or the store. Sometimes they can answer and explain things in a way that is more understandable to the other students," says Carter.

By Anika Johnson, Literacy Program Assistant

She likes to see her students accomplish their goals and it motivates her to set goals for herself. One goal is to encourage others to volunteer. Jennifer's enthusiasm has led her to mentor new tutors. She also shares her experience with her co-workers, persuading them to volunteer. Carter tells them they can make the time, that tutoring is, "a way to enrich your life and enrich someone else's. It is fulfilling for me." Carter says even when she has thought about quitting, she laughs at that thought. She knows it could not be forever, "I like helping people, especially when you can see them improving their lives."



Jennifer with her tutoring group



Author Talk: Laurie King

Creator of much-loved characters San Francisco detective, Kate Martinelli and Sherlock Holmes apprentice, Mary Russell, mystery writer Laurie King will visit the Vacaville Public Library-Town Square on

Tuesday, February 26 at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Women's History Luncheon.



Susan Patron will be visiting local libraries and schools March 19-21. Her book, *The Higher Power of Lucky* won the Newbery Award in 2007 for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. Solano Kids Read is an annual program sponsored by the Solano County Library Foundation that puts kids in touch with the authors they love, creating memorable experiences centered on books and reading.

Want to be a famous teen photographer?



Send your best photo to
Check In @ Your Library
Digital Photography Contest

TeenTechSolano@gmail.com

by March 4.

All entries will appear on
the library Facebook page.

During Teen Tech Week,
March 10-16th, winning
photos will be featured
on the SCL homepage and
elsewhere in the community.
Details are at
www.solanolibrary.com.



have evolved through the centuries from basic bed coverings to treasured works of the needle-crafter's art. African Americans, as slaves and free people of color, were known for contributing to this rich cultural tradition in the 18th and 19th centuries and that rich tradition of quilting continues to this day in the black community.

Solano County Library is pleased to celebrate Black

Patricia Turner, author of *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters*, will discuss quilts from slavery to the White House on Sunday, February 24 at 1:30 PM at the Fairfield Civic Center Library.



History Month by exhibiting the work of the Quilting Sisters at its branches. The Quilting Sisters group has been gathering for twelve years, and its 15 members teach, encourage and support each other as they produce their work. They have donated quilts to many non-profit organizations, including Mission Solano and U.C. Davis Medical Center.

To those in need, the group's

needlework provides comfort and a tangible reminder that a small group of committed individuals can and do make a difference in the lives of others.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit your favorite branches in February to see the displays, and check our events calendar for related programs on quilting and African American history.



**SOLANO
COUNTY
LIBRARY**

**Solano County Library
Headquarters**

1150 Kentucky St
Fairfield CA 94533
Tel 866-572-7587
Fax 707-421-7474
solanolibrary.com

**Fairfield
Civic Center Library**
1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

**Fairfield
Cordelia Library**
5050 Business Center Dr.
Fairfield, CA 94534

Suisun City Library
601 Pintail Drive
Suisun City, CA 94585

Rio Vista Library
44 S. 2nd Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Monday-Thursday: 10-9
Friday & Saturday: 10-5
Sunday: 1-5

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9
Friday & Saturday: 10-5
Sunday: 1-5

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9
Friday & Saturday: 10-5
Sunday: Closed

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Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9
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Sunday: Closed

**Vallejo-John F.
Kennedy Library**
505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590

**Vallejo-
Springtowne Library**
1003 Oakwood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591

**Vacaville
Public Library-
Cultural Center**
1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687

**Vacaville
Public Library-
Town Square**
1 Town Square Place
Vacaville, CA 95688

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Sunday: 1-5