

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, OCT. 24

PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 12

Due to ever-changing state health and safety guidelines for indoor gatherings, please visit our website for further details:

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Back to its Roots

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utilizing two adjacent properties the library system already owns, and just what will be included will be up to the public, Arizaga said, and plans are still being formulated.

"I don't know the format for community engagement and we're exploring virtual or outdoor gatherings," he said. "We know libraries but the community knows what they need and what they want. That will guide our team of architects and are currently working with an architecture firm that is working it out, but COVID is making it harder."

The history of the Albina Library began in 1906 according to the county's library website at multolib.org, with Mrs. P.P. Leche serving as its first librarian in a small reading room, location unknown, with about 100 books.

In September of 1907, the library moved to a larger space on Williams Avenue, which was a big success:

"The eagerness with which the people of Albina, young and old, have taken advantage of this library has been a surprise even to those who believed most thoroughly in it," the website states. "It has been almost impossible to keep the shelves supplied with books."

The use of the library continued to grow and in 1909 moved to larger quarters on Russell Street. By the end of the year there were 2,149 volumes in its collection and circulation had increased to 26,800 items.

But usage declined, according to a June 2020 article in the Oregonian, and in 1960 the library was closed down.

In 1967 a new Albina Library was opened at the corner of Vancouver Avenue and Beech Street. But usage continued to decline, and in 1977 the Library Associ-

ation of Portland Board voted to move the library to its sixth home at 15th and Fremont.

Some say that all that moving around was a disservice to the predominantly African American community of Northeast Portland.

Now by moving the library from the Sabin neighborhood to the Eliot neighborhood it will tie into the library system's goal of focusing on equity for marginalized communities.

The Eliot neighborhood is reported to have a higher proportion of people in poverty, people of color, people who speak a language other than English at home, households relying on food benefits, households with limited/no internet, higher unemployment and lower median income.

Connection to the community is vital, Arizaga said, because a library is so much more than just books.

"The library serves another space — not home, work or school — that is a functional part of their lives," he said. "So we are looking at flexibility, modularity, shifting areas and means so we can continue to adapt to the community."

An after hours gathering space and constantly evolving technology are two areas being considered, he said.

"We are trying to think of ways to bring in programs and what they need," he said. "That means more technology and preparing for the next wave of technology and workforce technology training. There's also a lot of knowledge out in the community, and we could be bringing those experts to the library."

Libraries everywhere have gone through big changes in the last 10 or 15 years, Arizaga said, becoming "extremely creative" with ideas such as teen spaces and maker spaces.

But above all, he said, one thing is true, that "Libraries are for people."

PLANS CHANGE. DREAMS DON'T.

Josh Griffie knows the difference. He was a teenager with big plans. Then he was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder. His soccer career? Over. His other plans? Rearranged. But when one path closes off, Josh sees two more in its place. "One of my biggest strengths is my ability to adapt, dream and persevere," he says.

Despite chronic health issues, he started a photography business in Portland, then landed an internship and a job at Nike. Soon he'll finish his business administration degree online through Oregon State Ecampus. And he's ready for whatever comes next.

ecampus.oregonstate.edu/josh



TOP-RANKED DEGREES ONLINE



Oregon State University

Dementia

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learn about the disease, get support from friends and family, and take frequent breaks when possible. Exercising, eating healthy foods, and spending time with friends can help caregivers stay healthy.

Support is available from the Multnomah County Caregiver Support Program (503-988-3646), the Alzheimer's Association (1-800-272-3900) and Oregon Care Partners (oregoncarepartners.com) which offers free online classes.

At the Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, we encourage Black families to engage

in our research programs, such as the African American Dementia and Aging Project (AADAPt) and our caregiver studies.

For more information about these offerings, please call 503-494-7647. Caring for a family member with dementia is challenging but important work. Caregivers deserve the support of families, communities and the state and the nation.

If you care for someone with dementia, thank you for all you do.

Allison Lindauer, PhD, APRN, Associate Professor and Outreach, Recruitment and Education Leader for the Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Oregon Health and Science University, provided this important information.