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Library: Technology and better hours to come

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the library's site manager. "This is the first time I've ever looked forward to making a budget."

For 15 years, Warrenton's property owners have paid 9 cents per \$1,000 of their property's assessed value to support a small library based in a city-owned building in Hammond.

But that money hasn't gone very far and the library has been open only 22 hours a week with a part-time site manager. And technology? Fuhgetaboutit.

A year ago, the building's structural deficiencies required the city to find a new library location and, during the summer, it was moved into a downtown commercial building on Main Avenue. The building is owned by the Warrenton-Hammond School District, which hopes to sell it. A city pur-

chase would have to be done without library levy money, although the old library in Hammond could be sold to offset the cost of buying the new building. But those decisions are in the future.

Warrenton's voters have chosen to tax themselves 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$49.50 for a home assessed at \$150,000. The tax begins in the 2018-19 fiscal year and continues for five years.

The current levy brings in less than \$42,000 per year. The city has had to use money from other city programs to supplement shortfalls in the library budget, including paying the rent, which is \$25,000 per year.

The levy approved this week is expected to raise \$187,000 per year.

"We're thrilled and excited to have the library continue operating and I think we're

going to continue to see usage grow and it will promote activity and growth downtown," City Manager Linda Engbretson said. "The funding won't kick in until July of next year, but we're ready to get going and expand services there for our residents."

First in line is technology. The city hopes to win a grant to install an automated checkout system right away. If that's unsuccessful, the automation will come later, once the levy money comes in, Calog said.

"Seriously? C'mon!" Calog said as she held up the rubber stamp she was using to check in books on Wednesday.

Other improvements:

- Increasing hours of operation to at least 30 hours per week.
- Increasing the hours of the paid staff.
- Adding E-books to the available selections.

Group offers specialized emergency training

The local Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, will have a 21-hour di-

saster preparedness training course Nov. 17-19 at Camp Kiwanilong in Warrenton.

Kimber Townsend, a Polk County CERT educator, will lead the course, covering topics such as hazards that may impact the area, basic disaster response skills, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

Once trained, CERT members can join their local team or simply use the skills to improve their personal level of preparedness and assist others in their neighborhood, community or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

To sign up, contact Clatsop County Emergency Management, 503-325-8645.

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