

Eron Berg

From: Robin Stroud <robinstroud@wavecable.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Eron Berg
Cc: admin@centralskagitlibrary.org
Subject: Central and sedro libraries

Hello,

I have been enjoying the little Central Skagit Library since it opened and look forward to enlarging services. Although I see the advantages of merging with the Sedro Woolley library, I believe there needs to be some changes in the attitudes and practices of the Sedro Woolley employees. I have had a tutoring business for the last several years and have extensive experience in using different libraries in Washington and Oregon. Most are changing with the times; open, hospitable, helpful, and cheerful and the library employees welcome all ages and abilities with friendly smiles that encourage participation. The Sedro Woolley library however, quickly discouraged our usage with frowns, admonitions about order, quiet, and procedures, and a general atmosphere of disapproval and privacy. I often felt I needed to remind them that it was the taxpayers paying their salary and the library was not their private fiefdom, but instead, it would just take my students outside or to a cafe.

The employees at the Central Skagit Library have been the opposite; friendly, open, hospitable to noisy children, and welcoming. I worry that the xenophobic attitude of the Sedro Library will affect the Central folks if there is a merging of services. Whatever happens, I hope the diverse population of Skagit Valley will enjoy the benefits of an open, helpful, and welcoming library, taking the example of Burlington, Mt.Vernon, Anacortes as leads in how community participation can make small libraries jewels of town identity.

Thank you,

Robin Stroud
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