



# Whatcom Community Foundation

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mauri Ingram or Pamela Jons (360) 671-6463

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **New Ferndale Library Receives Support from Puget Sound Energy and Puget Sound Energy Foundation**

The new Ferndale Library today announced that it has received two grants totaling \$10,000 in contributions from Puget Sound Energy and the utility's charitable arm, the Puget Sound Energy Foundation (Foundation). Thanks to a recent matching pledge from a Whatcom Community Foundation donor, the two separate \$5,000 gifts from PSE and the Puget Sound Energy Foundation actually generate \$20,000 in funding for the new library project, bringing its fundraising goal to under \$500,000.

The new library meets the Foundation's funding priorities to help communities focus on safety and emergency preparedness. According to Brian Gentry, PSE's Manager of Local Government and Community Relations, "This library will help address the community's need for a safe, accessible place to gather and learn. Once completed it will increase the community's vitality and livability and provide a centralized place to disseminate information especially in an emergency. PSE and the Puget Sound Energy Foundation recognize the importance of this library in helping community members stay safe and be prepared."

Gentry said PSE is proud to also be supporting the Ferndale community through the utility's recent acquisition of the former Tenaska natural gas-fired power plant, adjacent to the Phillips 66 refinery west of Ferndale. The power plant, which has 21 full-time employees, provides significant payroll, tax revenue, and business activity for the community.

Sarah Koehler, Ferndale Library's Branch Manager, added, "This library is often one of the first places people turn to for information. It is the only library open seven days/week in our county and we have as many 1,200 people come through our doors on any given day. The new library will provide increased access to technology; rooms for essential training and meetings; staff certified in CPR /First Aid; an Emergency Defibrillator; and a supply of emergency water, and food and blankets in case of emergency."

According to Mauri Ingram, President & CEO of Whatcom Community Foundation and Executive Team member for the New Ferndale Library, "The PSE Foundation works hard to address local needs and priorities. The Ferndale Library project is a great example of their commitment to programs that deliver meaningful, measurable and long-lasting results."

To learn more about the New Ferndale Library, or to make a gift, visit [newferndalelibrary.org](http://newferndalelibrary.org).

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