

Libraries provide free access to books, technology, and other resources, leveling the playing field for individuals regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The average adult hardback costs \$27 and the average picture book is \$19. Several of our patrons check out 25+ kid's picture books at a time, 3 novels at a time, 3 graphic novels at a time or 10 DVDs a day. This adds up quickly in cost savings.

Libraries are vital for promoting literacy, supporting education, and fostering a love of learning at all ages.

We offer library cards to everyone that lives in Sweet Home City limits, and to every kid that is in the Sweet Home School District (including the Charter School and homeschool). Out of City cards are just \$35 for 1 year. This supports continued education, access to books and other library materials for all ages. Access to books offers the opportunity to practice reading and develop a habit of reading that can last a lifetime.

Our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program promotes family time and literacy. Sweet Home has one of the highest enrollment rates in Oregon for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Libraries serve as safe and welcoming spaces for people to gather, connect, and participate in community events.

All are welcome at the Library, even without a library card. We do not limit who can participate in our programs and events (other than for space reasons). Our summer reading events regularly attract 50+ kids each Friday. This includes local kids that come every week and even grandkids that are visiting for the summer or the week. Kids are meeting, socializing and learning new things.

Libraries contribute to local economies by supporting job creation, attracting tourists, and fostering a skilled workforce.

We help people weekly with resumes and job applications. We see many out of town visitors at the Library, either looking for information or needing to use a computer or printer, or sometimes they just stop by to talk and hang out. We see an increase of tourists during the summer season, especially around Sportsman's and Jamboree.

Libraries provide free access to computers, internet, and digital resources, bridging the digital divide and empowering individuals to participate in the digital world.

We provide internet access through our desk top computers and with Wi-Fi. People of all ages in Sweet Home (and surrounding areas) do not have internet access at home. Either it is not physically available or they cannot justify the cost of it (especially satellite

internet). Many others simply cannot afford the monthly cost. People visit daily to connect online to friends and family either on social media, emails or with Wi-Fi calling.

Libraries host a variety of events and programs, including book clubs, workshops, and cultural events, enriching community life.

We offer events/programs almost every day that we are open. These can range from one participant to 100s of participants. All local authors are welcome to host a signing event for free at the library, we even have author events scheduled for November already.

Libraries serve as safe havens for underserved populations, providing access to resources and services.

As a rural, lower-income community we are all an underserved population. The library provides access to books, entertainment and computers to all that come through our doors. In the summer we help connect kids with free meals. We help connect newly homeless with shelter services, We help connect people with food insecurity with local food banks.

Libraries are essential for promoting civic engagement, providing access to information about elections, government services, and community issues.

We are a neutral provider of information. We provide information about elections (via voter's pamphlets or connecting individuals with online voter's information provided by vetted non-partisan sources. We provide tax forms at no cost to anyone that asks for one. This year we provided free tax assistance from the Oregon Department of Revenue. We helped to host the recent Green Peter & Foster History Jamboree.

Stories:

We have older individuals that visit the library regularly that bring their visiting families in to meet us because they see library staff as friends. These families are often relived to know that their family member has connections in the community and a social space outside of their home.

We have one kid that has repeated the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program 3.5 times because he loves books and visiting the library (and free books!).

We are the community's living room, you can come hang out, talk to friends and neighbors and meet new friends or neighbors. We are often the second stop in town for new residents. They stop at City Hall to have their water turned on, then visit the Library for their library card.