



June 2, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Yakima Valley Libraries' Historic Bookmobile Service Returns to Yakima Valley in Modern Form**

Yakima, Wash. – Yakima Valley Libraries (YVL) is relaunching their Bookmobile Service this summer; and they are inviting the community to two Bookmobile Reveal events to celebrate – one on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Miller Park (Parking Lot) in Yakima from 10am – 2pm AND the other on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at South Hill Park in Sunnyside from 10am – 2pm. A thirty-minute program with a ribbon cutting will commence at 10am on both dates. Guests are invited to explore the beautiful and modern Bookmobile and enjoy free family activities and paletas (popsicles).

“Yakima Valley Libraries has long recognized a great need to provide Library services to rural and under-served communities. For many residents, particularly children, transportation is a barrier to visiting one of YVL’s 16 libraries,” spoke Sherrie Prentice, Technical Services & Outreach Manager.

After studying how well the bookmobiles of the past performed, YVL decided to launch a modern Bookmobile to fill a community need. In 1952, Yakima Valley Regional Library provided three bookmobiles to serve the city and county. The bookmobiles outperformed the 12 library branches, including the Carnegie Building during 1952 – 1954.

“Our Bookmobile will be able to go to communities across Yakima County where access to a physical library may not be possible. This is particularly true for families where both parents are working. Therefore, these children are often left out of easy access to Library resources, something that can be fixed by having our Bookmobile visit them where they are,” expressed Francisco Garcia-Ortiz, PhD, Public Library Services Director.

YVL’s new bookmobile is a converted 2016, 29 foot ‘Thor Ace’ RV. Its amenities include a height-adjustable computer workstation, a printer, Wi-Fi service, a wheelchair lift to make the vehicle accessible, and an awning to allow for comfortable outside service and programs. The vehicle is equipped with an inverter-charger battery system with a back-up generator to power the technology and warm/cool the vehicle even when it is not running.

The Bookmobile has the capacity to carry up to 3,000 items. Its collection will consist of the same types of materials for all ages found in YVL's community libraries, including books, DVDs, educational kits, Launchpad learning tablets, and museum passes. Customers will be able to place holds and pick up materials at their regular bookmobile stop. The Bookmobile will also provide takeaway crafts and occasional story times at schools, parks, and under-served neighborhoods throughout Yakima County.

Local artist, Consuelo Soto Murphy, created custom artwork that covers the Bookmobile in vibrant color; she painted three canvases highlighting Yakima Valley motifs that honor diversity in culture and ecology. A special edition library card is available to new library customers who sign up for or renew their library account while visiting the Bookmobile. The limited edition library card features one of Consuelo Soto Murphy's custom paintings and will also be available at our two Bookmobile Reveal events.

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*Yakima Valley Libraries supports lifelong learning and an informed citizenry by providing free, open, and full access to a vast array of ideas and information. Visit [www.yvl.org](http://www.yvl.org) for more information.*