

LIBRARY DIRECTOR RESIGNS, SALLY GILLESPIE NAMED ACTING HEAD

Ketchum-Sun Valley, Idaho – Friday, August 8, 2014

The Community Library today announced the resignation of Executive Director Cynthia Dillon and the appointment of Sally (Boettger) Gillespie as Acting Executive Director. Dillon cited personal circumstances that oblige her to return to San Diego as the reason for her departure, which will be effective August 22. Gillespie will take on her new role immediately thereafter and will serve while the Library Board conducts a search for Dillon's successor – a process that has already begun.

Gillespie is well-known and respected in the Valley as the former Executive Director of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. She resigned that post last January to pursue her career as a strategic project consultant. She brings extensive non-profit management experience and a deep personal knowledge of the Wood River Valley. While she will be devoting the majority of her professional services to the Library as Acting Executive Director, she plans to continue her consulting practice. Gillespie's focus is on helping organizations – both for profit and non-profit – plan and execute major strategic initiatives to advance their goals. She will be serving at a time when the Library is embarking on just such a process.

Under Cynthia Dillon's leadership, the Library assumed responsibility for the Ketchum-Sun Valley Historical Society's Ski and Heritage Museum in Ketchum's Forest Service Park. Renamed The Sun Valley Museum of History, it reopened in July with an inaugural exhibition mounted by Dillon, "Railroad Ties: Tracking the History of Sun Valley," which draws on the extensive resources of the Library's Regional History Department. Importantly, Dillon led the Board in redefining the Library's mission statement and vision. She has encouraged the Board-led community process of re-imagining the Library's future that begins August 13 with a series of public meetings to seek community input. Among Dillon's other accomplishments are the addition of three trained librarians with graduate degrees in Library Science, simplification of the Library's scheduled hours of operation, improving public access to the Library's digital services, and redesign of the Library website. She has significantly advanced the process of aligning library practices with contemporary best professional standards.

"It is with great fondness and deep gratitude that I leave this wonderful organization and community," said Dillon. "The board and staff are exemplary in their commitment to the library and the public it serves, and the residents of this valley are second-to-none. My support of the Library and the Wood River Valley will continue."

Board Chair Lyman Drake stated: "Cynthia Dillon has reinvigorated the Library culture and introduced a number of positive changes. We are particularly grateful for her leadership in transforming the Museum and integrating it with the Library. As her departure was unanticipated, we are very fortunate to have Sally Gillespie willing to step in immediately to lead the Library and advance the initiatives begun

under Cynthia. In addition to being superbly qualified, Sally knows the Library and knows the community. We are confident that she will lead a smooth transition and bring a valuable personal perspective to our re-imagining process.”

Asked what attracted her to the job, Gillespie replied “The Community Library is a legacy organization in the Valley. I am honored that the Board of Directors invited me to participate at an exciting time in the evolution of the Library’s services to the community. I look forward to working with them, the staff, Library supporters and constituents to maintain momentum towards its goals.”