

# Interview with Damon Hill, our new Larkspur Library Director



**Why/when did you decide to become a librarian?**

As a child, the public library was nearby and I went frequently throughout my life from children's programs, to experiencing my first computer, hanging out with my teen

friends, and getting books that tried to satisfy my curious mind. The school and university library also provided a place to meet people, work alone, and provide a wealth of materials.

After college I taught high school and realized I wanted to do something else but wasn't sure what "it" would be. One summer day I was with friends in a local park. A library employee I saw at the library walked by, and it hit me like a bolt of lightning that I should be a librarian.

***You live in Petaluma. What do you listen to on your drive to/from Larkspur?***

If I drive to work, I will usually listen to an eclectic range of music depending on the traffic. I enjoy jazz, country, reggae, classical Indian, rock, and hip-hop.

If I take the train and bike I will listen to an audiobook on Libby. Generally, I enjoy non-fiction titles in biography, history, philosophy, or current social issues.

***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in a college town called Cedar Falls, Iowa. I moved to Tucson, Arizona for library school and moved to Oakland in the mid-90s.

***Are Larkspur library patrons the same as others you've dealt with? If different, how?***

At our core, library patrons are all very similar even though they come from diverse backgrounds and age ranges.

They come to the library in person or online to connect with something they need at a moment in their lives.

There is something special about the Larkspur Library community. Everyone I have encountered in my first few months has been welcoming, thoughtful, and thankful for what the library provides. The small-town character of the city has allowed me to meet many people and have meaningful conversations.

Larkspur also has the most active and engaged groups I've ever worked with. The Friends of Larkspur Library, The Commons Foundation, the Larkspur Library Foundation, and the Library Board have all been supportive and engaged.