

Renew Washington

A grant project that is helping the Library help the Community



Library Director Brian Soneda and Backyard Chickens
(in the library!)

The Mount Vernon City Library was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded **Renew Washington** grant by the Washington State Library last year. Grants were awarded to libraries that pitched projects that had the potential to help Washington communities and individuals hit hard by the current recession.

Our Library chose to add books and other materials to the collection on a broad range of subjects like resume writing and other job search skills, family budgeting, frugal and sustainable living, etc. We added Winway resume writing software to our computer offerings. Additionally, the library used grant funds to hire speakers to do presentations on similar subjects such as business planning, gardening to feed your family, raising chickens/eggs for the same reason. As that grant project winds down, the State Library has announced that we were awarded a second round of **Renew Washington** grant funds. Due to the success of the first **Renew Washington** grant project, we elected to write the second grant application to contain many of the same action items as the first project, including purchasing materials and hiring speakers in the areas of job search, job retraining, sustainable and frugal living, and family budgeting.

Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming programs in 2010 and 2011. Visit the library to check out new materials purchased with **Renew Washington** funds. And join us in thanking the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Washington State Library for supporting the Mount Vernon City Library in this effort to help Mount Vernon come back stronger than ever.

