



July 28, 2021

From: Margaret Jeffries, Library Director

To: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Library Semi-Annual Report

Genealogy Conference in September – Two years ago, the Library hosted a one-day genealogy conference. It was very well received and so we are back bigger and better! Our reference librarian, Brenda Herren-Kenaga, has planned a two-day, dual-track conference: “Connecting the Dots” to be held in-person and online on September 17-18. The conference features presenters from the Library of Congress and the Census Bureau, as well as professional genealogists. Registration is now open and information can be found on the Library’s website. The Library also hosts a monthly genealogy group, Genial Genealogists, which has been meeting online but will resume their monthly meetings in-person on Monday, August 2.

Columbia County Reads 2021 – Columbia County Reads is a yearly collaboration between Columbia County libraries to bring reading to the forefront of public discourse. If everyone reads the same book or author at the same time, it is hoped that it will inspire discussions, connections, and a shared perspective among Columbia County residents. This year, our selection is *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*. The book is available now for check out at all Columbia County libraries and is also available as a picture book and a middle grade reader. Community events are planned for mid to late September. This year’s program was funded by an American Library Association Libraries Transforming Communities grant obtained by the Scappoose Public Library.

Makerspace News – Mark your calendars! The Library will host an all ages Makerspace Open House on Saturday, October 9th from 10am until noon to introduce this new resource to the community. Plan to engage in a variety of hands-on activities. A private ribbon-cutting event will occur the day before to acknowledge our funders and partners who have helped to make this space with equipment for adults and kids a reality.

Summer Programs – The Library is hosting a variety of programs for all ages - Outside Storytime, MakeIt!, Take and Makes, Youth Summer Library Challenge, and Adult Summer Reading. We are also a participant or partner in other programs with St. Helens Parks & Rec and the St. Helens School District - Let's Play, Camp Rec, Story Stroll, and Summer Academy. As of right now, we have 238 kids and teens signed up for the Summer Library Challenge. They have logged 94,162 minutes of reading and have completed 968 activities that got them reading, learning, making, and helping. So far, 44 adults have registered for Adult Summer Reading, completed 110 activities, 9 book reviews and earned 92 badges.

Interest Groups Meeting – Some of the Library's special interest groups – Columbia Arts Guild, St. Helens Writers' Guild, Genial Genealogists, and the St. Helens Public Library Ukulele Orchestra - have been meeting on Zoom or on the porch during the summer. Beginning in August, they will resume their meetings in the auditorium.

Library Book Club – Our bi-monthly book club, which is hosted by members of the Library Board, will resume meeting in-person on Tuesday, August 31 at 7pm. They are inviting everyone to come and share your "Favorite Pandemic Read". Of course, that's your favorite book from the last 18 months and not necessarily a book about pandemics unless your favorite book is dystopian fiction or a historical account of pandemics.

Grants Received

- ARPA Funds from the State Library of Oregon – We received \$5,390 to:
 - Bring the library’s ADA station up to date and provide additional visual aids for viewing materials in the Library
 - Purchase software to facilitate conferences, webinars, and meetings online
 - Purchase picnic tables, including one with ADA features, to facilitate outside programming in the Library's courtyard
- Makerspace Mini Grant from the NW STEM Hub – We received \$2,500 to purchase STEM kits for outreach activities – sets of 3-D pens, circuitry kits, etc.
- Pilot Program funded by the NW STEM Hub – We received \$2,000 to develop a pilot program to amplify youth voice and choice via maker education.

Cooling Center – The Library opened its doors for extended hours on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of the recent heat wave. Patrons were able to use computers, work puzzles, read, play games, use our new water bottle filling station, and stay cool. The willingness of the library staff to alter their plans on short notice to make this possible is very much appreciated.

Library Board – We have four new members on the Board, and this new beginning for so many of our members presented a great opportunity to engage in a review of City fundamentals - the municipal code, navigating the City website, etc. At our next meeting, we are going to review the Code of Ethics. Thank you to Rachael Barry for her assistance with this orientation.

Friends of the Library – The Friends are re-stocking their sale shelves in the lobby hallway from the boxes and boxes of donations that came in while the Library was closed. They are also planning a much larger sale from that inventory on Friday, August 27 – Saturday, August 28.