



St. Helens Public Library

City Council May 18, 2022

Dan Davis, Board Chair

Brenda Herren-Kenaga, Interim Director

Challenges

- Mask mandate continued through June 30, 2021
- Director resigned effective January 31, 2022
- Youth Librarian resigned effective March 8, 2022
- City Budget Committee cuts Youth Librarian position
- Two Board positions expire June 30, 2022

Top-Shelf Highlights

- Open Library Director role filled
- Makerspace recognition by Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
- Library usage is on an upward trajectory
- Board and staff completed strategic planning exercises
- Library of Things adds new things
- COVID-stalled programs and activities are restarting
- Strong volunteer bench

Programs Highlights

- Arts Guild, restarted August 2021
- Ukulele Orchestra, restarted August 2021
- Genealogy Conference, September 2021 (biennial, hybrid)
- Genial Genealogists, October 2021 (hybrid)
- Makerspace Grand Opening, October 2021
- Seniors Computer Help, October 2021
- Friends Book Sales, October 2021 and May 6-7, 2022
- Chess Club, February 2022

Other Programs and Activities

- Youth Library Program
- Take-and-Make
- Summer Reading Challenge, June-August
- Winter Reading Program, December-January
- Bookmark Design Contest
- Toddler/Preschool Storytime
- Columbia County Museum Association (CCMA): *Hidden Figures of our own: a conversation with Kathleen Ward* (hybrid)

Outreach and Collaboration

- Columbia County Reads
- Nature Buddies (McCormick Park)
- United Way of Columbia County - *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*
- Collaboration with [Columbia County Museum Association](#)
- Host for St. Helens Garden Club sale
- Host for Friends of the Library sales
- Social Media
 - Facebook group [[St. Helens Public Library](#)]
 - Twitter account [[St. Helens Public Library](#)]

Makerspace

- 3D Printers
- Glowforge
- Laminator
- Heat press
- Sewing machine
- Computers and tablets
- Hand tools, saws, hammers, clamps, etc.
- Bike repair station
- And a whole lot more!

Library of Things

- Things you can check out and take home
- Board games
- STEM equipment
- WI-FI hotspots
- Pasta machine, telescope, leather punch, programmable robots, microscope, ice cream maker and more

Budget Committee Library Cuts [1 of 2]

- **Board Recommendation: The Budget Committee should wait and fully engage the new Library Director**
- Observations
 - Cut is made in the absence of a **Library Director** and **Youth Librarian**
 - Library cut is 21%, the deepest cut of all departments
 - Deepest budget cut is the key **Youth Librarian** role
- Questions
 - Would this cut have been made when the **Youth Librarian** role was filled?
 - Is the **Council** committed to the **Youth Librarian** position?
 - Is the **Budget Committee** committed to the **Youth Librarian** position?

Budget Committee Library Cuts [2 of 2]

- Possible downstream impacts include:
 - Reduced service capacity for Library patrons
 - Reduced youth programming
 - Reduced youth reading and learning opportunities
 - Losing patrons to nearby libraries
 - Community optics
 - Perceived lack of Council support for Library place in community

SOURCE NOTE

- This slide deck was created by Dan Davis, Library Board Chair, for the May 18, 2022 Council meeting.
- Input for the deck content was received from:
 - Brenda Herren-Kenaga, Library Director (interim)
 - Daniel Dieter, Library Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator/Minutes Taker
 - Suzanne Bishop, Library Director (incoming)
 - Jessica Raynor Sturdivant, Library Board Member
 - Lynne Pettit, President, Friends of the Library
- Dan Davis sent the completed deck Wed 5/11/2022, to Dan Dieter, to submit to the City Recorder, for inclusion in the Council Agenda packet for the May 18, 2022 Council meeting.