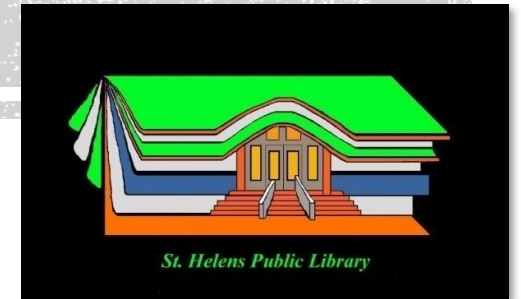# ST. HELENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Board Report to City Council

June 5, 2024

LIBRARY BOARD

Officers

- Chair Jana Mann

- Vice Chair Aaron Martin

Members

- Robert Dunn
- Ellen Jacobson
- Colleen Ohler

- Lynne Pettit
- Fatima Salas
- Jessica Sturdivant
- Diana Wiener

2023 – 2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Develop the Library as the
   community's "living room."

Goal 2: Engage the community in lifelong learning.

Goal 3: Enhance access to library services.

2023 – 2028 City Work Plan

- Develop sustainable Makerspace operations

- Support community with life-long learning opportunities

- Increase collaboration with community partners

- Establish courier service between St. Helens and other county libraries and/or a bookmobile

- Rebrand the library and improve communications
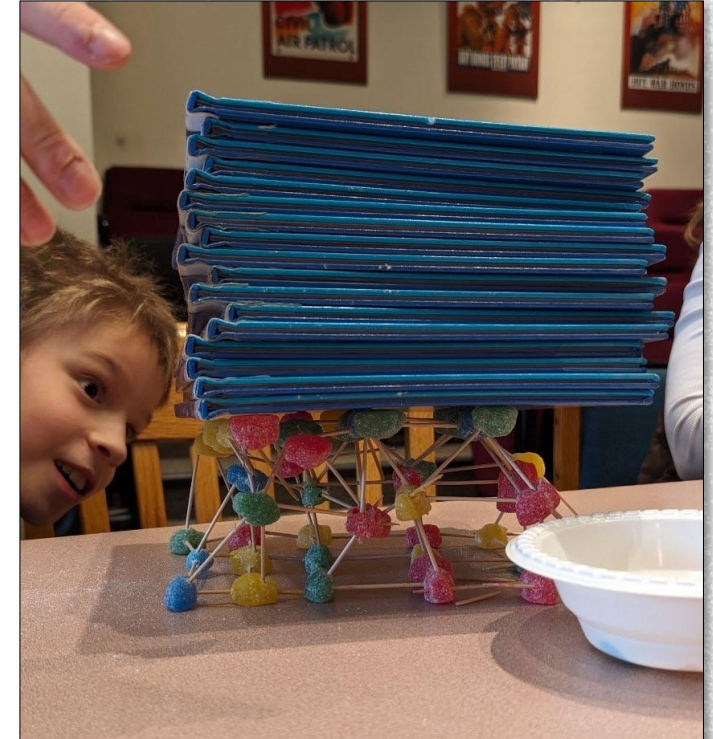
BOARD GOALS

Ensure success of the library by:

- Recruiting new board members

- Maintaining an active board

- Providing feedback and guidance

- Encouraging community members to use the Library's many services and programs

- Advocating for library

  - Funding, use, participation in programs

  - Helping to reinvigorate the Makerspace

  - Communicating library's goals and services to community

FY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Grants

- Solar panel array

- Small Business Resources corner

Updated suite of databases and print newspapers

Increase in building use to about 128 users/day (40,000+ annually)

65,000+ items borrowed

Revised Youth Librarian and Makerspace position

FY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

(continued)

Summer Library Challenge – 800+ participants

Monthly programs for adults

Weekly and monthly programs for youth and families

Rivers of Wonder biannual genealogy conference
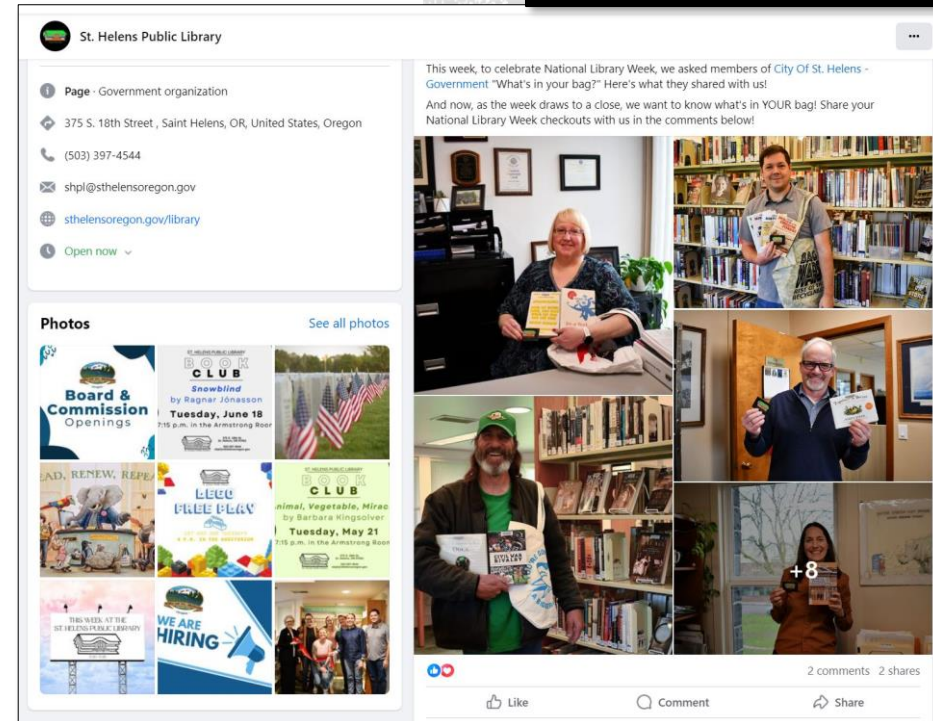
FY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

(continued)

Co-presented programs with Columbia
County Museum Association

Community engagement

Cooling/warming services

Increased social media presence

SOME OF YOUR RESOURCES

- 42,000+ items in the library

- 200+ Library of Things
  - Examples: a telescope, hand tools, Air Fryer, robotics, learning tools, musical instruments, mobile hotspots, moisture meters, a bicycle repair kit

- Seven public computers used for wide range of tasks – finding job prospects and applying for jobs, finding Federal forms, filing court documents, homeschool families finding educational materials, etc.

- 19+ online databases: thousands of ebooks, educational materials, streaming music, business support, etc.

DATABASES

15,686 Downloads (July 1, 2023 – March 31, **2024**)

Key databases

- Library2Go (e-audiobooks, e-books, and e-magazines)

- Gale (education, work skills training, health conditions, etc.)

- Ancestry.com

- Freegal (music streaming)

- A – Z World Food (recipes)

- Educate Station (supplemental lessons for homeschooling)

- CreativeBug (arts and crafts tutorials, group lessons, etc.)

LIBRARY STAFF

6.0 FTE

Library Director (1.0 FTE)

Adult Services Librarian (1.0 FTE)

Youth and Makerspace Librarian (1.0 FTE)

Cataloger – Library Technician (1.0 FTE)

4 Library Assistants (.5 FTE each)

VOLUNTEERS

- $16,000+ value

- Value of volunteer time $32.27/hour

- 19 active volunteers

- Logged 504 hours this fiscal year

- Shelving, checking book order on shelves, book repair, preparing items for use, and more

FRIENDS OF ST. HELENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Support

- Summer Library Challenge

- Genealogy Conference

- Book Club

Officers

- President Pam Benham

- Vice President Nancy Tarnai

- Treasurer Charlotte Hart

- Secretary Marilyn Cade

OPEN HOURS AND VISITS

Fiscal Year	FY 17/19	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	PARTIAL FY 23/24
Open hours	2,352	2,352	1,696	247	2,348	2,348	1,730
Population	13,240	13,240	13,410	13,915	14,560	14,371	15,009
Staff	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0
Visits (library proper)	5,249	67,477	42,982	9,077	25,500	25,500	30,576
Open hours per capita	0.178	0.178	0.126	0.018	0.161	0.163	0.115
Visits per capita	4.097	5.095	3.205	0.652	1.751	2.600	1.420
Visits per open hour	23.060	28.689	25.343	36.749	10.860	15.911	12.300
Staff per 1,000 residents	0.462	0.462	0.462	0.432	0.429	0.0428	0.04

SOLAR PANEL MICROGRID

Grant proposal $1 million +

Resiliency for community in emergencies

Essential Community Resource (FEMA)

Will provide

- Electricity year round

- Heat/cool large part of building in emergency

- Depending on size and use: 2-3 days to unlimited

THE YEAR AHEAD

Modest budget increase of approximately 15%

Key areas of growth:

- New Youth and Makerspace Librarian

- Reopen the Makerspace

- Facilities maintenance (solar microgrid)

- Printed materials, Library of Things

- Projects and programs

BEHIND THE SCENES

STRATEGIC PLAN – GOAL 1

Develop the Library as the community's "living room."

Initiative #1 - Amplify information literacy for all ages

Initiative #2 - Different ways of learning, engaging with ideas and information

Initiative #3 - Enhance K-12 learning

Initiative #4 - Engage the maker community

Initiative #5 - Provide information, resources and (where appropriate) training to address a variety of community needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN – GOAL 2

Engage the community in lifelong learning.

Initiative #1 - Transformation plan

Initiative #2 - Facilities plan

Initiative #3 - Land acknowledgment

STRATEGIC PLAN – GOAL 3

Enhance access to library services.

Initiative #1 - Develop volunteer base

Initiative #2 - Reach out to known and potential users of library services

Initiative #3 - Reevaluate newsletter and communications for efficacy

Initiative #4 - Evaluate feasibility of courier service

Initiative # 5 - Evaluate feasibility of a bookmobile

Initiative # 6 - Explore options to provide services to out-of-city residents