

QUARTERLY REPORT TO COUNCIL



Meeting Date: April 15, 2026
Prepared by: Suzanne Bishop
Department: Library
Division:
Reporting Period: November 29, 2025 – April 10, 2026
CC: City Administrator John Walsh, Kathy Payne,
Lisa Scholl

1. General Operations (unless otherwise noted, figures are for January 1 – March 31)

- Building use (11% increase over 2025):
 - Total: 13,141
 - Library only: 9,429
 - Columbia Center only (hallway, meeting rooms, Makerspace): 3,712
- Open hours: 563.5
- Library cards issued: 155
- Program attendance
 - Children’s storytimes: 394
 - Family storytimes (1/month): 50
 - Wee Wigglers (1/month): 50
 - LEGO Free Play: 43
 - Scavenger hunts in Children’s Library: ~150
 - Outreach programs (SHSD, Head Start, etc.): 56
 - Teen Advisory Board: 55
 - Adults and Crafts: ~70
 - Monthly Book Club: ~32
- Stories by the River Festival collaborative programs
- Makerspace
 - Total users: 281
 - Monday (drop-in hours)
 - Makerspace appointments
 - Maker Friday (drop-in hours)
 - Youth STEAM programs
 - Teen open hours
- Hallway display: artwork by Art Happens group
- Databases:
 - Most popular is Library2Go (e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines) with 5,639 uses
 - Other five databases – all uses: 6,921 includes news aggregator, music streaming, homework and research support, and arts and crafts tutorials

2. Staffing & Personnel

- One library assistant position remains unfilled
- Secured funding from the State Library for a teen intern for summer 2026. Will be hiring in the next two months.

3. Projects & Initiatives

A. Ongoing Key Projects

- **Columbia County Authors Special Collection:** developed and premiered a special collection of books by authors who live, work, or belong to writers' groups in the county. Led by Library Technician Nicole Woodruff, established the collection with 31 books.
- **Inaugural Stories by the River Festival:** collaboration with the Columbia County Authors Alliance. Eighteen programs were offered over one month, including library-presented, collaborative, and Alliance presented. Library Technician Nicole Woodruff represented the library in collaboration with alliance members to help create the festival, coordinate and present programs.
- **Wee Wigglers:** a collaboration with the Northwest Regional Education Service District early childhood to present a special family storytime that combines movement with literacy guidance.
- **Oregon Heritage Grant:** Public Services Librarian Brenda Herren-Kenaga collaborated with Columbia County Museum Association to prepare print versions of the *St. Helens Chronicle* (2019 – 2024) for digitization for Historic Oregon Newspapers collection held by the University of Oregon Archives. She will be at their library next week to deliver the items and do some historical research. The project is administered by Ms. Herren-Kenaga.
- **Teen Advisory Board:** established a Teen Advisory Board. Members meet monthly to plan and implement programs, do enrichment activities, and volunteer in the library. The program is administered by Youth/Makerspace Librarian Jana Wiersma with assistance from a volunteer with experience as a youth librarian.
- **Makerspace hours:** Makerspace use continues to increase, as does the number of volunteers. While interest in the laser cutter and the 3D printers are the most popular, with the support of experienced volunteers, computer assistance and use of a wider variety of equipment has grown.
- **Local history room:** Continue inventory and catalog of local history materials to make available to the public. Public Services Librarian Brenda Herren-Kanaga is available for appointments.
- **Library board:** Met on November 10, January 12, February 9, and March 9. The board is continuing their review of the 2023-2028 strategic plan to recommend updated focus areas and raise funds for the Makerspace.
- **Extensive community outreach:** Highlights include program with several SHSD classes, Head Start storytimes, and afterschool programs.

- **Updating and producing printed materials:** Library Assistant Michele creates and manages print material from new library cardholders to the monthly library calendar.
- **Friends of the St. Helens Public Library:** Staff attended their monthly meetings. Provided funds and volunteers to support OLA/PNLA conference attendance and books for the Book Club.
- **Seed exchange:** Continuing a very popular collaboration with the Master Gardeners of Columbia County.
- **Puzzle exchange:** free exchange, no check out required.
- **Building maintenance:** Miscellaneous building repair and maintenance included ADA pads.
- **Federal funding:** State Library of Oregon funding for FY2026-2027 secured with minimal reduction of services and programs.
- **Preparation:** FY2025-2026 library budget.

B. Upcoming Projects

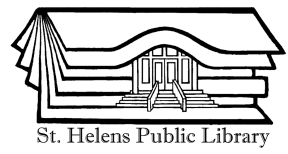
- **Statewide Oregon Library Association Oregon Young Adult Network:** Youth/Makerspace Librarian Jana Wiersma to join advisory committee
- **Oregon Library Association/Pacific Northwest Library Association Annual Conference:** all staff will attend thanks to funding by the Friends of the St. Helens Library
- **Summer Library Challenge:** Staff preparation for the Challenge including scheduling and planning for 2026.

4. Key upcoming Events & Important Dates

- Friends of the St. Helens Public Library meeting: April 22
- OLA/PNLA Conference: April 22 – 24
- Library Board meeting: April 13
- Adults and Crafts “Paper Weaving: April 14
- Book Club “A Thousand Splendid Suns” by Hosseini: April 21

Attachments – April 2026 Calendar of Events

APRIL 2026



SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THU	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
C			1 11:00 Baby Lapsit Storytime -Children's Room 4:00 LEGO® Free Play -Children's Room	2 Last open Thursday	3 1:00 Makerspace Appointments with Jana *** -Makerspace	4 10:00 Family Storytime -Auditorium 11:00 First Saturday Makers -Makerspace
	L	6 3:00 Maker Monday -Makerspace 6:00 Makerspace Appointments with Jana *** -Makerspace	7 11:00 Toddler Time Storytime -Auditorium 4:00 Teen Advisory Board -Armstrong Room		8 11:00 Baby Lapsit Storytime -Children's Room 4:00 Youth STEAM Wednesdays: Art & Science -Makerspace	C
O		13 3:00 Maker Monday -Makerspace 6:00 Makerspace Appointments with Jana *** -Makerspace	14 11:00 Pre-K Storytime -Children's Room 5:15 Adults & Crafts *** -Auditorium	15 11:00 Baby Lapsit Storytime -Children's Room 4:00 Youth STEAM Wednesdays: Engineering -Makerspace	L	
	S	20 3:00 Maker Monday -Makerspace 6:00 Makerspace Appointments with Jana *** -Makerspace	21 11:00 Toddler Time Storytime -Auditorium 6:00 Book Club: <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini -Auditorium	22 LIBRARY CLOSED FOR TRAINING		O
E		27 3:00 Maker Monday -Makerspace 6:00 Makerspace Appointments with Jana *** -Makerspace	28 11:00 Wee Wiggles Storytime -Auditorium		29 11:00 Baby Lapsit Storytime -Children's Room	
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Green = Children
 Blue = Teens
 Black = Adults
 Orange = All Ages

*** Program requires registration.

Follow the QR code or bitly to our website and click on the calendar for more information on each program and for registration.



CHILDREN

YOUTH STEAM WEDNESDAYS - Interested in science, technology, engineering, art, or math? Join Miss Jana each month for a fun introduction to a STEAM maker activity! Children aged 10 and younger must be accompanied by their adult. A signed parent/guardian waiver is required. Ages 6 - 12.

Second Wednesday: Art & Science
Third Wednesday: Engineering

LEGO® FREE PLAY - Join us for unstructured, drop-in LEGO® play time. DUPLO® sets are available for younger children. Children aged 10 and younger must be accompanied by their adult. Ages 2 - 17.

STORYTIMES - Join Miss Jana for stories, songs, dances, and more – all designed to help young children's literacy skills.

BABY LAPSIT: Every Wednesday.
Ages newborn - 2.

TODDLER TIME STORYTIME: First and Third Tuesday.
Ages 2 - 3.

PRE-K STORYTIME: Second Tuesday of each month.
Ages 3 - 5.

FAMILY STORYTIME: First Saturday of each month.
Ages 0 - 5.

WEE WIGGLERS STORYTIME - Join Teacher Kristen and Teacher Katie, Early Childhood Special Educators from Northwest Regional Education Service District, for a high-energy multisensory storytime to read stories, sing songs and get the wiggles out! Besides being tons of fun, this supports attention, understanding, memory, and engagement while helping children learn through their whole bodies. Fourth Thursday of each month. Ages 0 - 5.

TEENS

TEEN MAKERS - Looking for a place to hang out with friends? Take over the Makerspace every fourth Wednesday to work together on projects, enhance homework, or just discover what can be created in our Makerspace! A signed waiver is required. Ages 13 - 17.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD - Help plan and host teen programs, while volunteering at the library. Pizza and snacks provided. Ages 13-18.

ADULTS

BOOK CLUB - Please join us for an informal discussion of this month's selection! A limited number of copies are available to check out in the library, as well as through the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (Libby) including Spanish language and audiobook formats. Please ask a staff member for assistance locating the current or future selections, or instruction on using Libby. Facilitated by Library Assistant Tari. Ages 18 and up only.

ADULTS & CRAFTS - Join us for monthly hands-on projects and social time. Don't miss a new and exciting project every month. Registration is required. Ages 18 and up only.

GENIAL GENEALOGISTS - Join fellow genealogists as we explore different topics each month. Meetings are the first Monday of even numbered months. (February, April, June, August, October, and December). Ages 16 and older.

ALL AGES

MAKER MONDAYS AND FIRST SATURDAY MAKERS - Scheduled open hours allow makers to use the Makerspace to work on their own projects. This unstructured time gives makers access to the Makerspace suite of equipment. Pre-certification or an in-person introduction is required for some equipment. A signed waiver is required. The Makerspace Librarian will be in the room to monitor use and provide limited support. See our website for the list of equipment and information about training and introduction requirements. Some equipment is limited to users 10 years and older.

APPOINTMENTS WITH JANA - Using the Makerspace may require an appointment with our Makerspace Librarian. These are available in thirty-minute increments. Some reasons for an appointment include: One-on-one certification appointments, time with Jana for non-certified users who want help with individual one-off projects, or certified users who want to use a specific piece of equipment and need help setting it up with Jana. A signed waiver is required. Due to limited availability participants must be on time or must reschedule for another available date. See our website for the list of equipment and information about training and introduction requirements. Some equipment is limited to users 10 years and older.

- Programs are free and you do not need a library card to participate.
- Some programs require registration (see front of calendar for more details).
- There may be a small charge for use of Makerspace supplies.



St. Helens Public Library
375 S. 18th St., St. Helens, OR
503-397-4544
sthelensoregon.gov/library



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SHPL Main