

QUARTERLY REPORT TO COUNCIL



Meeting Date: June 18, 2025
Prepared by: Suzanne Bishop
Department: Library
Division: N/A
Reporting Period: April 16, 2025 – June 11, 2025
CC: City Administrator John Walsh
City Recorder Kathy Payne
Deputy City Recorder Lisa Scholl

1. General Operations

- April – May building use: 8,742 total
 - Library only: 6,540
 - Columbia Center (hallway, meeting rooms, Makerspace) only: 2,202
- Notable statistics comparing April over April 2019-2025:
 - April 2019: 3,500 patron visits to the library proper
 - April 2024: 2,557 patron visits to the library proper and the Makerspace
 - April 2025: 3,632 patron visits to the library proper and the Makerspace, **a 30% increase over 2024**
- April – May hours open: 404.5
- Programs
 - Children’s storytimes attendance: 315
 - Monthly Adults and Crafts: 38
 - Monthly Book Club: 17
 - “Let’s Talk Turkey”: 5
- April – May Makerspace users and programs: 75 (April only)
 - 4 x Maker Monday (drop-in hours)
 - 4 x Maker Friday (drop-in hours)
 - 2 x Junior Makers (ages 10 – 14): 29
 - 2 x Maker Kids (ages 6 – 10): 26
 - Teen Makers (ages 13 – 18): 20
- April – May community outreach:
 - Mystery reader at local elementary schools: 40 students
 - Head Start storytime: 40 students
 - COSH Take Your Child to Work Day: 19 youth
- Hallway displays:
 - Peeps show: 6 entries
 - Artwork by Art Happens group

2. Staffing & Personnel

- **Teen intern:** Hiring is underway for a summer teen intern, who will be tasked with assisting staff during Summer Library Challenge and creating a Teen Library Council. This is a paid position, funded by LSTA through the State Library of Oregon.

3. Projects & Initiatives

A. Ongoing Key Projects

- **Local history room:** Donated shelving for the local history collection has been installed and staff continues to inventory and catalog local history materials so they can be shelved and available for public use. Public Services Librarian Brenda Herren-Kanaga now has regular office hours.
- **Library Board:** Met on April 14 and May 12. The Board is continuing their review of the 2023-2028 strategic plan to recommend updated focus areas and considering names for the new local history room. Our newest Board member, Erin Wheeldon, was approved by City Council and is on board. Recruiting for another Board member, and the Board will consider applications at their July 14 meeting.
- **Library budget:** Staff prepared a proposed budget and provided revisions for the Budget Committee. Library Director attended the May 15 meeting and provided information about the library.
- **Community support:** More than 10 people attended (in person and virtually) the May 15 Budget Committee meeting to support and speak on behalf of the library; five written comments were submitted for the packet.
- **Friends of the St. Helens Public Library:** Staff attended their monthly meetings. The organization conducted their May book sale and committed funds to support the Columbia County Biennial Conference and the Summer Library Challenge.
- **Building maintenance:** Updates of the fire and security systems were planned. Seeking bids for repair or replacement of auditorium drapery. Miscellaneous building repairs included ADA pads and exterior stairs.
- **Statistics:** Staff produced a large body of statistics for the library budget narrative and reports to the Library Board.
- **Board and Friends communication:** Library Director sent eight emails to Library Board members to keep them apprised of possible funding reductions/elimination due to the Trump administration's proposed changes to the Institute for Museum and Library Services and possible impacts to library services. She sent five emails to the Friends about this situation.
- **State and Federal funding:** Library Director coordinated with State Library of Oregon staff to communicate the importance of State Library staff and other resources to the library, especially staff support and online databases.

B. Upcoming Projects

- **Summer Library Challenge:** Staff preparation for the Challenge included scheduling, planning, and recruiting volunteers for 14+ programs; are producing all promotional print materials, preparing the library website, purchasing books and prizes, and other tasks.
- **Columbia County Reads 2025:** the library will join all Columbia County public libraries (Scappoose, Vernonia, Clatskanie, Rainier and Columbia City) in a program encouraging citizens to read "The Horse" by Portland author Willy Vlautin. Author events will be held in September in Clatskanie and St. Helens/Scappoose (location TBD). Other events are in the planning stages. The program is funded by a grant from Oregon Humanities.

4. Key upcoming Events & Important Dates

(Provide information on city-related events, meetings, and deadlines relevant to the department.)

- Summer Library Challenge: June 16 - August 9
 - Library Board meeting: July 14
 - Joint City Council and Library Board meeting: August 27
 - Kiwanis Children's Parade: represent the Library in the parade
 - Columbia County Biennial Conference "Many Lands Many People": September 19
 - Willy Vlautin author talk: date TBD
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Attachments (If Applicable)

(Attach any supporting documents, reports, or visuals necessary for council review.)

- Summer Library Challenge Youth programs schedule
- Summer Library Challenge Adult programs schedule
- Summer Library Challenge Teen programs schedule

YOUTH SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE 2025



SUMMER EVENTS

All programs are **FREE**, and no library card is required!

KICK-OFF EVENT: PUPPET DANCE PARTY

Wednesday, June 18 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Courtyard

BIG MESSY ART

Wednesday, June 25 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the Porch

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Wednesday, July 2 | 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

BORDER COLLIE INTERNATIONAL CANINE PERFORMING TEAM

Tuesday, July 8 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Courtyard

OMSI PRESENTS *ELECTRIFYING SCIENCE*

Tuesday, July 22 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Wednesday, July 30 | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Courtyard

WRAP-UP PARTY: GIANT LAWN GAMES

Saturday, August 9 | 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Courtyard

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

FAMILY STORYTIME

Every Thursday (no program July 17) | 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. in the Auditorium
Thursday, July 10 | Police Storytime with a St. Helens PD Officer and their police car

MAKER MONDAYS

Every Monday | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

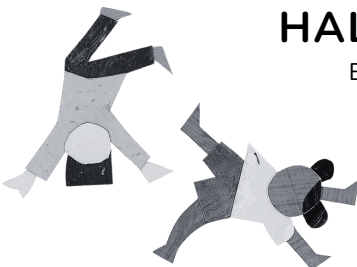
HALF-HOUR MAKER APPOINTMENTS **

Every Thursday | Half-hour appointments 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

MAKER FRIDAYS

Every Friday (no program July 4) | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**** Pre-registration required**



2025 YOUTH EVENTS

Kick-Off Event - Join KC Puppetree and her team of recycled puppets for an EPIC dance party as we kick off our eight-week Summer Learning Challenge. Sign up for the challenge, receive your registration prize, and dance to your favorite tunes. This family-friendly program is great for all ages. No registration required.

Big Messy Art - Join us on the front porch of the library for hands-on finger painting fun! This family-friendly program is perfect for all ages. Plan on getting messy and wear clothes you don't mind getting paint on. No registration required.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover - . Drop off your stuffie for their own special storytime sleepover! Come back in the morning to pick them up and hear about what kind of library shenanigans all the stuffed animals got up to together! All participants will receive a special memory book about their stuffies' library experience. No registration required.

Border Collie International Canine Performing Team - Join Greg and his amazing team of rescued sports dogs. They will be performing world-class frisbee tricks, a variety of sports tricks, and showing off their best dance moves! Pick up some tips and tricks for teaching your pup at home! This program is family friendly and suitable for all ages. No registration required.

OMSI presents *Electrifying Science* - Join the library in welcoming the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry as they bring the magic of electricity to life! This family-friendly assembly is perfect for grades K-12! Doors will open at 10:45 am. Seating is limited and first come, first served. No registration required.

Nature Scavenger Hunt - This family-friendly program will start out in the library courtyard where you'll be given a list of items to search for throughout the McCormick Park trails. After completing your Nature Scavenger Hunt, come back to the courtyard with your natural elements and use the Makerspace microscopes to take a closer look at some of your finds! This program is best for ages 3 to 12. Kids aged 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required.

Wrap-up Party: Giant Lawn Games - Come wrap up the Summer Learning Challenge in the courtyard with us by being life-sized game pieces in giant lawn games! This family-friendly program is perfect for all ages. No registration required.

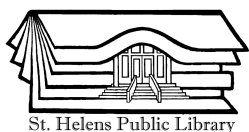
Family Storytime - Join us in the auditorium for a half hour of stories, body movement, singing, dancing and rhymes! On July 10, we will have a special visit from the St. Helens Police Department. Best for ages two to five. No registration required.

Maker Monday - All ages are welcome to work on projects together in the Makerspace. All children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Some equipment requires prior certification. No registration required.

Half-Hour Maker Appointments ** - Schedule a half-hour appointment to get certified on a piece of equipment, use a specific piece of equipment you've already been certified on, or work on a project you need help troubleshooting. All children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Maker Friday - All ages are welcome to come work on projects together in the Makerspace. All children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Some equipment requires prior certification. No registration required.

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



Sign up for the Summer Library Challenge! Visit sthelens.beanstack.com or scan the QR code.

ADULT SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE 2025



SUMMER EVENTS

All programs are **FREE**, and no library card is required!

GENIAL GENEALOGISTS

Mondays, June 2 and August 4 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

COLLAGE COASTERS (ADULTS AND CRAFTS) **

Tuesday, June 10 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

BOOK CLUB

Tuesdays, June 17, July 15, and August 19 | 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. in the Armstrong Room

GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, June 18 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

ESCAPE ROOM FOR ADULTS AND TEENS 13+ **

Tuesday, June 24 | 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

PUZZLE NIGHT

Tuesday, July 1 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

BOOK LIGHT (ADULTS AND CRAFTS) **

Tuesday, July 8 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

HAND SEWING PART 1 **

Wednesday, July 16 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

HAND SEWING PART 2 **

Tuesday, July 22 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

PUZZLE MAKING **

Tuesday, July 29 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Makerspace

GIANT "JENGA®"

Tuesday, August 5 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard

BOOK PURSE (ADULTS AND CRAFTS) **

Tuesday, August 12 | 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

MAKER MONDAYS

Every Monday | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

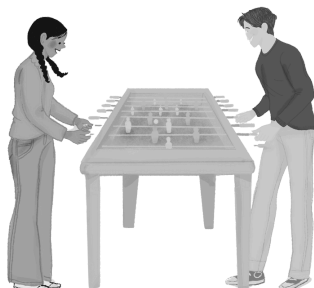
HALF-HOUR MAKER APPOINTMENTS **

Every Thursday | Half-hour appointments 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

MAKER FRIDAYS

Every Friday (no program July 4) | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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2025 ADULT EVENTS

Genial Genealogists - Join genealogy enthusiasts to explore different topics bimonthly. For adults only. No registration required.

Collage Coasters (Adults and Crafts) ** - Bring your creative ideas, scissor and gluing skills, and your love of art! Use your own papers from home to create an object inspired by a treasured memory or a keepsake from your favorite vacation. We will also have collage materials available. Join us to create unique, functional pieces of art to cherish for years to come. Registration required.

Book Club - For adults only and you do not have to have finished the book to participate. No registration required.

June selection: "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Eleanor, 29, lives a satisfactory solitary life. Into her life comes Raymond who helps her come out of her shell. Part comic novel, part emotional thriller and part love story.

July selection: "Lily and the Octopus" by Steven Rowley. This book reminds us how it feels to love fiercely, how difficult it can be to let go, and how the fight for those we love is the greatest fight of all.

August selection: "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers.

Game Night - Get your game on! Join us for a fun evening of board games where you can learn how to play something new or share your love of a favorite. We'll have games for all skill levels and for a variety of different interests. For adults only. No registration required.

Escape Room for Adults and Teens 13+ ** - Escaping the Library is harder than it seems. ... Choose one of our two rooms, register your group of 5-7 people, and try to solve the clues to free yourselves before time runs out! If you don't have a group of 5-7 people that's okay, simply join an existing group. Session length is 45 minutes. Registration is required and is limited to one time slot.

Puzzle Night - Do you have old puzzles that you'd like to exchange for something different? Bring them to Puzzle Night and swap with other participants. We will also have some puzzles available to work on as a group. For adults only. No registration required.

Book Light (Adults and Crafts) ** - Create a cute book-shaped night light. For adults only. Registration required.

Hand Sewing Part 1 ** - This is part one of a two-part session that introduces some basic hand sewing skills. Participants will learn some basic stitches and how to sew on a button. For adults only. Registration required and signing up for both sessions is encouraged.

Hand Sewing Part 2 ** - This is part two of a two-part session that introduces some basic hand sewing skills. Participants will use some of the skills from Part 1 to mend or embellish items. For adults only. Registration required and signing up for both sessions is encouraged.

Puzzle Making ** - We are excited to demonstrate some of the cool equipment you can use in our Makerspace! Participants can choose to create a puzzle on our Glowforge, CNC Mill, Cricut, or 3D printer. For adults only. Space is limited and registration is required.

Giant "Jenga®" - Do you have what it takes to be "Jenga®" champion? Come test your skills against our giant "Jenga®" sets! For adults only. No registration required.

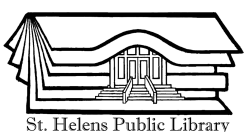
Book Purse (Adults and Crafts) ** - We will turn old hardback books into new, stylish, and unique purses! For adults only. Registration required.

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TEEN SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE 2025



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ESCAPE ROOM FOR ADULTS AND TEENS 13+ **

Tuesday, June 24 | 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

TEEN MAKER

Wednesdays, June 25 and July 23 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

ANIME TEENS

Wednesday, August 6 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

MAKER MONDAYS

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Teen Maker - Teens 13-17 are welcome to join us in the Makerspace and discover what they can create! A signed waiver must be on file (see library staff). No registration required.

Anime Teens - Teens aged 13-17 are invited every first Wednesday at 4:00 pm to join like-minded anime fans for shows, crafts, and snacks. No registration required.

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