



JOINT LIBRARY BOARD & CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM
HYBRID: Council Chambers & Zoom (details below)

AGENDA

CALL SPECIAL SESSION TO ORDER

DISCUSSION TOPICS

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

- [1.](#) Library Director Report

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

VIRTUAL MEETING DETAILS

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89212261144?pwd=ZNvfSDrDrua3IO7o12HVrTlubaDbHO.1>

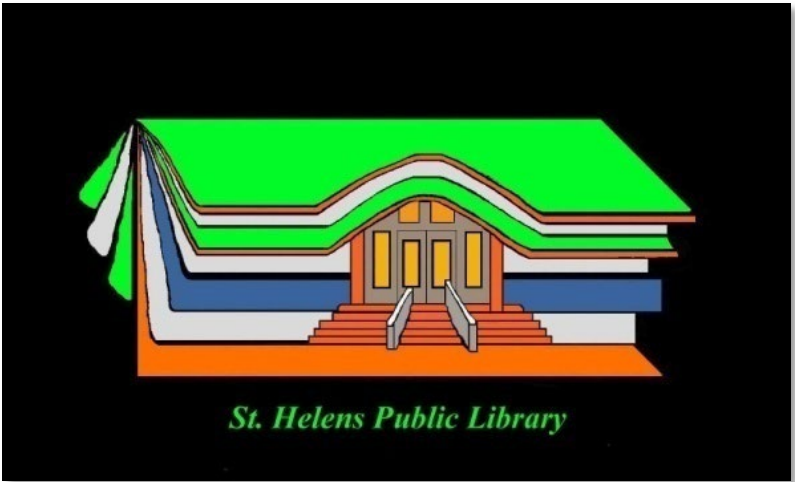
Meeting ID: 892 1226 1144 Passcode: 916690

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, for a digital device to access a virtual meeting, or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the St. Helens Public Library at 503-397-4544.

Be a part of the vision and get involved...volunteer for a City Board or Commission! For more information or for an application, go to www.sthelensoregon.gov or call 503-366-8217.

St. Helens Public Library

Joint City Council/
Library Meeting
February 25, 2026



COLUMBIA COUNTY AUTHORS SPECIAL COLLECTION



- ▶ Opened February 2026
- ▶ Support authors and public access
- ▶ Authors living, working in Columbia County or members of St. Helens Writers Guild or Scappoose Writers Group
- ▶ Annual submissions
- ▶ 30 books
- ▶ Available for check out



THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
STORIES
by the RIVER
FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 14, 2026
Sponsored by the St. Helens Public Library
and the Columbia County Authors Alliance

Event schedule &
online brochure




**FREE EVENTS
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC!**

BOOKISH-THEMED EVENTS:

- Adults & Crafts
- Book Club
- Whodunit Mystery Event

FOR THE LITTLES:

- Family Storytime

MEET LOCAL AUTHORS:

- Columbia County Authors Special Collection Launch
- Local Author Book Sale
- Pen & Perspective - Discussion with Local Authors
- Open Mic Night at Beyond the Forest
- Hidden World Release Celebration

FOR WRITERS:

- Workshops for Writers
- Panel on Publishing
- Writer Get-Togethers
- Writing Challenge
- St. Helens Writers Guild Meeting



The Stories by the River Festival is made possible by a generous grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition.

Find out more at: columbiacountyauthors.com & sthelensoregon.gov/library

STORIES BY THE RIVER FESTIVAL

- ▶ Partnering with Columbia County Authors Alliance
- ▶ County wide
- ▶ 17 events
- ▶ Launched Columbia County Authors Special Collection



TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

- ▶ Meeting bi-weekly
- ▶ Community outreach
- ▶ Library projects
- ▶ First program in March
- ▶ Programs for the community

BUILDING USE

- ▶ 49,336 total building visits in 2025
- ▶ 38,036 total library visits in 2025
- ▶ *Building hours 2,337 in calendar 2025*
 - ▶ Monday - Thursday, 9:30 am to 7:00 pm
 - ▶ Friday, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
 - ▶ Saturday, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
- ▶ *Library hours*
 - ▶ Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
 - ▶ Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - ▶ Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- ▶ Wi-Fi 5:00 am to 12:00 am
- ▶ Auditorium and Armstrong Room
 - ▶ Library-sponsored programs and events
 - ▶ Nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, community events, and private gatherings

2025

LIBRARY STAFFING

PATRON USE

REFERENCE

▶ Paid staff per capita*	0.40
▶ Registered patrons	2,923 (+10%)
▶ Percent of population registered	21%
▶ Reference questions answered	728
▶ Number of open hours	2,337

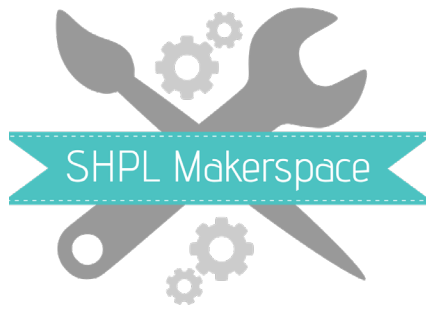
* Based on St. Helens population: 14,552

LIBRARY RESOURCES

- ▶ 68,826 Items borrowed in 2025
- ▶ 41,656 items owned
- ▶ 200+ Library of Things
 - ▶ Mobile hotspots, STEAM and robotics, hand tools, Air Fryer, robotics, musical instruments, bicycle repair kit, and much more
- ▶ New online resources
 - ▶ Ground News, ArtistWorks
- ▶ Spanish translation of library materials
- ▶ Seven public computers
 - ▶ Increased use for job searches and applications, federal forms, court filings, homework, entertainment

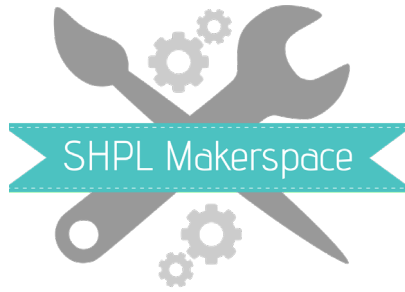
FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

- ▶ Total Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding for FY 2026 is \$291,800,000 (- \$3 million over FY 2025)
- ▶ Total LSTA for FY 2026 is \$212,450,000 (+ \$1.4 million over FY 2025)
- ▶ LSTA Grants to States Oregon allocation (based on population) will be ~ \$2.6 million
 - ▶ about two thirds of State Library of Oregon funding
- ▶ State of Oregon General Fund covers the final one third
- ▶ Plan for FY 2027
 - ▶ All current services
 - ▶ All current database products
 - ▶ No competitive grants
 - ▶ All mini grants, including Teen Interns



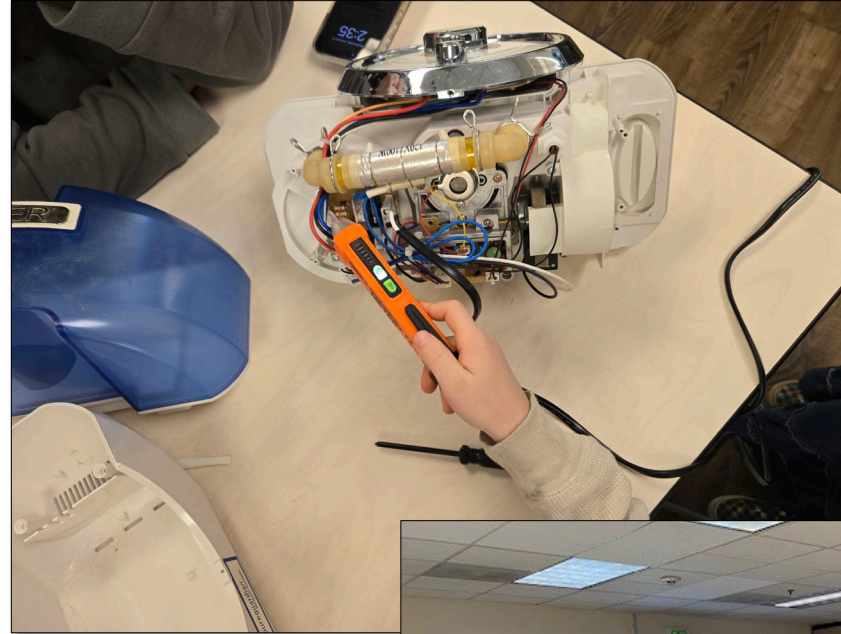
- ▶ 788 users in 2025
 - ▶ 580 adults
 - ▶ 152 - ages 0 to 13
 - ▶ 56 - ages 14 - 17
- ▶ Volunteers
 - ▶ Present programs
 - ▶ Repair and prepare equipment
 - ▶ Assist users
- ▶ Outreach





▶ Programs

- ▶ Weekly Maker three-hour open hours
 - ▶ Monthly on Saturdays
- ▶ Weekly half-hour appointments
- ▶ Monthly Maker Kids STEAM Wednesday (ages 6-10)
- ▶ Monthly Junior Makers STEAM Wednesday (ages 10-14)
- ▶ Monthly Teen Makers STEAM (ages 13-17)
- ▶ Special Programs



SEED EXCHANGE

- ▶ Partnership with OSU Master Gardeners
- ▶ Free seeds to share and take
- ▶ Programs - seed saving
- ▶ Specialized gardens
- ▶ Programs



PUZZLE EXCHANGE



YOUTH SERVICES

- ▶ Regular program - 1,544 in 2025
 - ▶ Early literacy for ages birth to 5
 - ▶ Weekly storytimes
 - ▶ LEGO Free Play
 - ▶ NEW Wee Wiggles
- ▶ Special programs and events - 1,388 in 2025
- ▶ Summer Library Challenge
- ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Schools and Rec programs



ADULT PROGRAMS



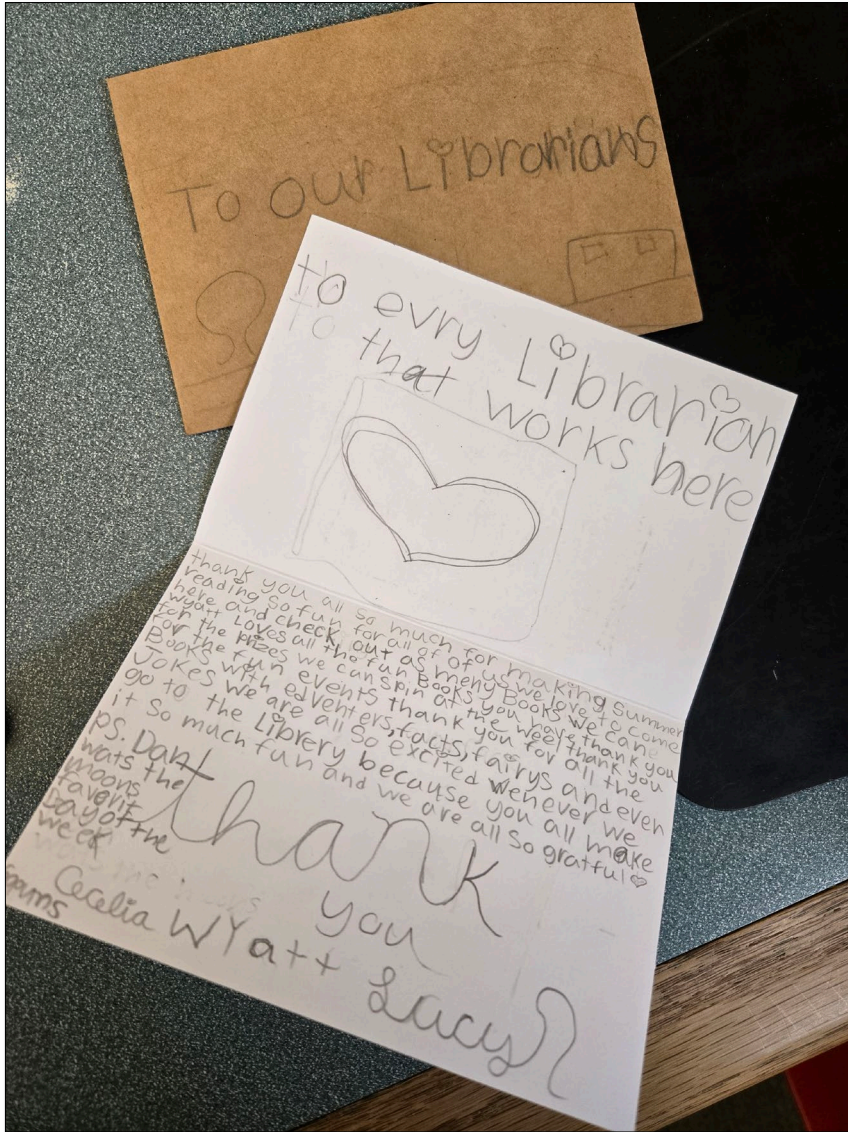
- ▶ Adults and Crafts monthly
- ▶ Book Club monthly
- ▶ Genial Genealogists bimonthly
- ▶ Special programs

SERVICES

(a few of our many)

- ▶ Cooling Shelter
- ▶ Small Business Resources Corner
- ▶ Employment and business resources
- ▶ Reader's advisory
- ▶ In-depth research
- ▶ Homework help
- ▶ Local history research
- ▶ Active learning
- ▶ Community outreach





LIBRARY STAFF

- ▶ Library Director (1.0 FTE)
- ▶ Patron Services Librarian (1.0 FTE)
- ▶ Youth and Makerspace Librarian (1.0 FTE)
- ▶ Library Technician - cataloging (1.0 FTE)
- ▶ 4 Library Assistants (2.0 FTE)

VOLUNTEERS IN 2025

- ▶ 43 volunteers (+35% over 2024)
- ▶ Logged 1,474 hours
- ▶ Value of volunteer time \$32.27/hour - \$47,565.98
- ▶ Non-specialized tasks
 - ▶ Makerspace consultation
 - ▶ shelving
 - ▶ checks book order on shelves
 - ▶ book repair
 - ▶ prepare items for check out
 - ▶ and more



LIBRARY BOARD

- ▶ Fatima Salas, President
- ▶ Aaron Martin, Vice President

Members

- ▶ Robert Dunn
- ▶ Jay Echternach
- ▶ Ellen Jacobson
- ▶ Kelsey Knutson
- ▶ Jana Mann
- ▶ Lynne Pettit
- ▶ Erin Wheeldon



FRIENDS OF THE ST. HELENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

- ▶ Purchased new Glowforge for Makerspace
- ▶ Funded
 - ▶ Summer Library Challenge programs
 - ▶ Book Club books
 - ▶ Genealogy Conference
- ▶ May book sale
- ▶ Book sales in lobby
- ▶ Volunteer support for special programs
- ▶ Little Libraries
- ▶ Donates books to WIC, Broadleaf Arbor, others

Officers

- ▶ Nancy Kotkins, President
- ▶ Nancy Tarnai, Vice President
- ▶ Sharon Fraser, Treasurer
- ▶ Spencer Jones, Secretary



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Recreation Department	Youth ERA	GRO Greater St. Helens	Small Business Resource Center	Columbia County Authors Alliance	Columbia County Mental Health
OSU Cooperative Extension Service	Columbia Health Services	Amani Center	Columbia County Public Health Department	Columbia County Emergency Management	Art Happens
St. Helens Writers Guild	St. Helens Public Library Ukelele Orchestra	St. Helens Police Department	Columbia Learning Center	Community Action Team	Friends of the St. Helens Public Library
St. Helens Garden Club	St. Helens School District	State Library of Oregon	St. Helens Elks Lodge #1999	Oregon Library Association	Others

LOOKING AHEAD

- ▶ 250th anniversary celebration
- ▶ Seeking funds for
 - ▶ Local history resources
 - ▶ 2026 summer programs
 - ▶ Building accessibility
 - ▶ Teen Internship grant
- ▶ Building infrastructure updates
- ▶ New Library of Things items
- ▶ More adult and family programs

