



### Nearing the Finish Line by Library Director Tim Wiles

We're very busy at GPL, preparing to reopen our expanded and renovated facility in September to serve you better! We've been rolling with rapid changes for the past 15 months, between COVID and construction. Here's an

update on our construction project: on budget, 11 months ahead of schedule, and nearing completion!

### Parking Lot Overhaul

Finishing touches are being added to our **main parking lot** to facilitate curbside pickup parking plus staff and construction worker vehicles, all with enhanced safety in mind. When complete, we'll be able to accommodate at least **47 more parking spaces**. Workers are installing a **single speed bump** at the main entrance to slow traffic down. We certainly agree with those anxious to enter the library that it's an exciting place—but this addition will help ensure the safety of all pedestrians, including small children walking in with their parents, and folks who may have mobility challenges.

Potential dangers will be mitigated by a **new peninsula** which runs north-south through the center of the parking lot, allowing visitors to stroll on a **landscaped sidewalk** most of the way to the entrance. Along that sidewalk we'll have **additional handicapped spaces** and two level-2 electric **charging stations**, capable of charging four vehicles at a time. The charging stations were completely covered by grants from NYSERDA, including funds to pay for installation.



**This new pedestrian walkway paves the way toward safer entry into the library.**

**Enhanced safety across the board is a key benefit of GPL's construction project.**

Still to come: a new **drive-up book drop**, located far from the entrance in order to avoid bottlenecks upon exit. Among those cheering these parking lot changes: the Guilderland Fire Department. Over the years, we've had many false alarms, and consequently, many visits from GFD. It's always been difficult for them to navigate the island at the mouth of our parking lot, and they've occasionally sustained damage to their equipment as a result. That won't happen anymore. These improvements, combined with our first-ever **sprinkler system**, should make us all safer, including the firefighters. We've enjoyed working with them to design an entrance which optimizes emergency response.

### Interior Work

All of the rooms along our north, or front, wall are under construction, and the entryway itself is about to be cleaned and updated. **Book drops** are on order. We are awaiting the arrival of our **new circulation desk** and the **adult and youth reference desks**, scheduled to be installed in August.

Like a few other aspects of this construction project, we've hit a pandemic-related snag with the **new public furniture**. Shortages in metal and wood supplies are delaying our new shelving, which should now arrive just before Labor Day weekend. Putting the books on the shelves will be our first priority! We are finalizing details of our technology plan, including **updated high definition** options in all meeting rooms, and **hearing assistance technology** to help more people enjoy public events and meetings.

We're digging up the Normanskill Room to resolve a plumbing problem discovered during construction. Thankfully, it's a relatively inexpensive addition to the project scope, made possible because the overall bids came in much lower than expected—a pandemic silver lining. We're also installing a state-of-the-art **security system and fire/burglar alarm system**, replacing the obsolete 30-year-old system.

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### CURBSIDE SERVICE HOURS

#### Checkouts - Tawasentha Room Side Door:

Mon./Wed./Fri.....9:30 am - 6 pm

Tues./Thurs..... 9:30 am - 9 pm

Saturday.....10 am - 2 pm

Sunday—Summer Hours.....CLOSED

#### Returns - Parking Lot Sheds:

24/7, except holidays

*The library is currently closed to public browsing.*

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



**Summer reading is for all ages!**

While you're poolside, at the beach, lake or just chilling in the backyard with a book or reading device in hand this summer...you could be eligible to win fabulous prizes too!

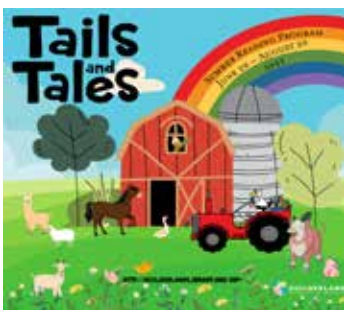
Go to: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/srp/> to register kids and teens, and <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/adultsrp/> to register adults for our Summer Reading Program (SRP), **Tails & Tales!** SRP offers something for everyone, infancy through adulthood:

- **Children** from birth through high school are encouraged to enjoy books, complete activities, attend programs, earn points and win prizes.
- **Teens** can serve as GPL technology volunteers this summer and participate in Read It Forward.
- **Adults** can register their reading for a chance to win a grand prize gift basket and \$50 gift card from the Book House, plus other prizes. Any format (print, audiobook, eBook) and any genre (short story, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, graphic novel) counts!



**To participate:**

- 1) **Sign up** on our website to track your summer reading through Beanstack (see links above).
- 2) **Read!** Let us know if you'd like suggestions; we'll help you find something that matches your interests.
- 3) **Register** kids, teens and families for fun activities!



**SRP Theme Weeks Birth-Grade 12**

We've got lots of fun in store this summer for you! Parents, check our Events calendar frequently at [guilderlandlibrary.org](https://guilderlandlibrary.org) as more programs, kits and storytimes are added.

**Note:** Registration opens two weeks before the event. **[R] = registration required.** In-person library programs are limited to Guilderland Central School District residents. GPL follows current Albany County COVID guidelines and reserves the right to cancel or adapt the program as needed due to weather or safety concerns.

**July 6-9: Farm Week**

► **Farm Animal**

**Playset:** Pick up all the supplies needed to make your own unique playset! **Grades 3-5. [R]**

► **Storytime at Tawasentha Park—Wednesday, July 7 @ 6:30 pm:** Join us for a fun socially-distanced story time about animals that live on the farm. Please bring a lawn chair and/or blanket to sit with family members. **[R]**

► **Farm Tour at Indian Ladder Farms—Thursday, July 8 @ 10:30 am:** Let's visit furry friends and their caretakers together! Please register every child individually with the accompanying adult. **Family / All Ages. [R]**



**July 12-17: Forest Week**

► **Preschool Activity Kit:**

Pick up supplies to make a woodland animal sticker picture, plus a woodland coloring page! **Pre-K through K. [R]**

► **Teen Activity Kit:** This kit contains all the supplies you'll need to make a Woodland Animal Silhouette Collage! **Grades 6-12. [R]**

► **Virtual Bedtime Storytime—Wednesday, July 14 @ 6:30 pm:** You and your favorite stuffed pal are invited to a calm and cozy virtual storytime before bed. There will be books, songs, and rhymes. Join us for the perfect wind-down to a long summer day via Zoom. **Pre-K through K. [R]**

► **Family Nature Walk at Great Dune—Thursday, July 15 @ 10:30 am:** Bring the whole the family for a nature walk at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Great Dune! We'll meet at Trailhead #8. **Family / All Ages. [R]**

► **Let's Draw Animals!—Saturday, July 17 @ 2:30 pm** Learn to draw a variety of furry, hooved and feathered friends in this fun and interactive virtual program. **Grades 3-7. [R]**

**July 19-23: Bird Week**

► **Elementary Activity**

**Kit:** Create your very own backyard bird feeder, learn where to go birding, and write your own Bird Tale! Pick up starting Tuesday, July 20. **K-Grade 2. [R]**

► **Birds Virtual Storytime—Wednesday, July 21** Join Ms. Maura on our YouTube channel at your convenience for a bird-themed virtual storytime filled with books, rhymes, and other fun surprises. **Pre-K through K.**

► **Birdhouse Decorating in the Park—Friday, July 23 @ 2:30 pm at the Tawasentha Park Pavilion** We'll provide a wooden birdhouse, paint, and decorations to create a welcome home for feathered friends. Please register each child; spots are limited. **Family / All Ages. [R]**



**July 26-30: Far-Out Week**

► **Tie Dye at Tawasentha Park—**

**Friday, July 30, starting @ 4 pm:** We'll provide a tote bag and supplies—you bring the creativity! Choose from four time slots and register as a group of up to five people. **Family/All Ages. [R]** [Check Events calendar for updates!](#)

ADULT PROGRAMS



**1:1 Apple Tech & Résumé Help**  
**Mondays July 12, 19, 26 @ 6:30 pm**  
 Get the most out of your Apple devices...or craft a winning résumé with Learning Express! Get 1:1 virtual assistance for the following:

- Apple Watch, iPhone, MacBook, iPad, Apple TV
- résumé preparation with Learning Express at: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/learning-tools>. Schedule your customized online appointment with Robin today! [R]

**Lower-Maintenance Perennial Gardening**  
**Tuesday, July 13 @ 9:30 am**



Do you appreciate a lush flower-filled garden and a classic border with three seasons of continuous bloom—but not the work involved? This online talk is for you! We'll cover the basics of lower-maintenance gardening, including planning, simplifying and editing plantings, plus choosing the right plants and shrubs. Examples and plant lists will be provided, too. This program is presented by Judith Fetterly, master gardener and owner of Perennial Wisdom, in collaboration with Albany Guardian Society. AGS will email the link in advance of the program. [R]



**Fermenting Foods**  
**Tuesday, July 13 @ 6 pm Tawasentha Park**  
 We'll learn about the long history and health benefits of fermented foods, and make small batches of sauerkraut and

kimchi at the small pavilion. One of our favorite presenters, Food and Nutrition Educator Karen Roberts Mort from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, returns for this program. Space is limited; masks are required. [R]

**Becoming a Foster Parent**  
**Tuesday, July 22 @ 6 pm**



Ever thought about adopting or fostering a child? Join us for a virtual information session presented by Albany-based and nationally-accredited Northern Rivers Family of Services, to learn how you can make a profound difference in a child's life, guided by comprehensive training and ongoing support. [R]

**Virtual Craft & Chat**  
**Thursday, July 29 @ 6 pm**  
 What are you working on? Join our session and tell us about it! We'd love to chat, share tips, maybe even inspire one another. Whether you knit, stitch, sketch, paint—whatever craft you dabble in—we can't wait to hear all about it! You'll receive an email with Zoom login details in advance. [R]



**Tiny Art Extravaganza: Call for Artists!**  
**Thursday, July 15—Saturday, August 21**  
**Family / All Ages**  
 To celebrate GPL's grand reopening, we're filling our glass display cases with

artwork specially-made by YOU, our patrons!  
 • We'll provide a supply kit to create your very own "tiny art project." Register, then pick up starting **Thursday, July 15**. The kits include a tiny canvas with easel; a small birdhouse to paint; or a supply of sculpting clay, plus paints and other necessary supplies. We'll choose one for you.  
 • You'll share your finished product with us throughout the summer—last collection date is **Saturday, August 21**.  
 • We'll fill the cases for our official reopening in September. Come see your work proudly on display!  
 • We'll return your project to you in the fall. Thank you! [R]

**How Did You Find It?**  
**GPL's monthly podcast**  
**New episode Friday, July 16**

Have you heard? Librarians Kathleen Tyrell and Kristina Ronald are developing quite the following! Listen on Anchor, Spotify, Apple, Google, Breaker, Radio Public—wherever you access podcasts.



ON THE CALENDAR



**Closed Monday, July 5 Independence Day Holiday**  
**Closed Sundays**  
**During July & August**  
**GPL Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 15 @ 6 pm**  
 In-Person at the Library and streamed live on YouTube. Public commentary to: [pc@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:pc@guilderlandlibrary.org)

**Nearing the Finish Line**  
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**The Normanskill Room, our former curbside location, is being transformed into an inviting cafe' for all to enjoy.**

The Normanskill Room will become a **café**, rented from the library by a vendor yet-to-be-determined. We will soon issue the RFP (Request for Proposals) for prospective vendors, and hope to have a tenant in this space by October or November. This is the one major aspect of the renovation which will not be fully functional upon reopening. However, when it's operational, we think it will be a great amenity for library users—a place for coffee and other beverages, sandwiches, snacks, and perhaps some soups and salads, prepared offsite but available daily. The building design will allow the café to be open even when the library is not, depending on the vendor's preference.

We're putting finishing touches on **two feature areas**, meant for lounging while reading, drinking coffee, and visiting with others. One is our **historic, two-sided natural gas fireplace area**, with mantels that were once part of the historic Fuller's Tavern, built between 1795-1805, and formerly located at the corner of Route 20 and Fuller Station Road. Our thanks to Nick Ragone of Guilderland Printing for donating the historic wood to us.

Next to the fireplace we're planning to mount the **front door of the historic Dr. Crouse house in Altamont, along with its two sidelight windows**. The door was part of this 1833 building, and witnessed the use of the home's front lawn as a hospital for soldiers heading to and returning from the Civil War. We thank the Village of Altamont and the Town of Guilderland, along with restoration carpenter Tim Rau, for their assistance in harvesting this historic door.

The other feature area, also double-sided and visible from both the adult and youth sections, will be a source of relaxation for adults and wonder for kids—a **540-gallon freshwater tropical aquarium**



built by All Bright Aquariums of Latham, one of the nation's leading large aquarium builders. Installation has begun: a six-week process to get the water properly balanced and introduce plants and fish to this focal point. You might say *things are going swimmingly!*

**Hoopla Update**

**DOUBLE the Checkouts!**

Good news: you can now checkout up to **ten items per month** on Hoopla! Previously, the amount was five, not counting bonus borrows on certain months. So what can you borrow on Hoopla? **A LOT!**



- ▶ audiobooks
- ▶ movies
- ▶ music
- ▶ comics
- ▶ eBooks
- ▶ television



The hardest thing may be choosing from so many stellar selections in all of these genres! Explore all the digital options available to you on Hoopla, Overdrive/Libby; download magazines; access the *New York Times*; find our podcast; and much more at: [https://guilderlandlibrary.org/e\\_library/](https://guilderlandlibrary.org/e_library/). You'll find How-To videos to help you get started, and we're here to help with any questions you may have along the way.



**Night Owls Online**

*We're on a break for July!*

We'll return next month on

**Monday, August 9 @ 7:30 pm**

to discuss **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson**.

To place a hold on this book, call **518.456.2400 ext. 3** or email us at

[ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org), then register on the Events tab of our website for the link to participate. [R]

**Dial A Story**

**for children and adults**

Kick back and give your eyes a rest with a short audible story, updated regularly! Call **518.456.2400 and press 5**, then choose 1 for adults; 2 for children; or 3 for an international story.



**Golf Tournament**

**Friday, August 13  
 Western Turnpike  
 Golf Course**

**9 am shotgun start**

**Fore!** Here's a great way to support GPL and have some casual outdoor fun, too! The cost is \$125 per golfer, which includes 18 holes with cart, lunch, and the 19th hole

celebration at 2 pm; or \$25 to attend the 19th hole celebration only. Sponsorship opportunities are available and due by **July 15**; the registration deadline for golfers is **August 1**. Please see <https://bit.ly/GLFGolf2021> for more information. Any questions may be emailed to: [guilderlandlibraryfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:guilderlandlibraryfoundation@gmail.com).