

As Guilderland Grows, So Must We

On May 21, Guilderland Public Library has three important items on the ballot for school district residents to vote on: the Library Renewal Referendum, 2019-2020 Budget and Board of Trustees candidates. We encourage voters to inform themselves of these issues. Following is a synopsis to help answer any questions you may have, plus ways you can find out more.

Library Renewal Referendum

Guilderland Public Library is more than a quarter-century old and largely operating beyond capacity. The chart below illustrates how consumer demand has in many ways outpaced our physical limitations:

Guilderland Public Library Stats			
<i>Consumer demand has exploded since our building's 1992 inception</i>			
	1992	2018	INCREASE
Registered Borrowers	13,046	16,358	+25.39%
Materials Checked Out	132,815	513,080	+286.31%
Patrons Served	76,544	217,922	+184.70%
Reference Q & A	6,322	37,773	+497.48%
Programs Offered	very few	775	n/a
Program Attendance	very few	23,871	n/a
Patron Computer Hours	very few	25,440	n/a
Guilderland Population	30,219	36,171	+19.70%

Based on extensive public input over the past 18 months incorporating 2,108 survey responses, and careful consideration of the best course of action to address current and future needs, our Board of Trustees has formulated a plan for renovating and enhancing the building.

The public is invited to attend information sessions on this proposal:

- Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m
- Thursday May 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m.

I am presenting the finalized plan (along with Architect Paul Mays from Butler Rowland Mays Architects, LLP on May 2), and will gladly answer any questions on this proposal at any time. During April and May, I've also been sharing this information with community groups including all seven PTAs in the school district, the Guilderland Republican and Democratic committees, the Altamont Library Board, The Guilderland Seniors lunch meeting, the McKownville Neighborhood Association, the Guilderland Citizens for Responsible Growth, and the Town Board meeting on May 7th. If you would like me to visit your neighborhood association, book club, home schooling group, or any other Guilderland-based organization, please contact me at 518-4556-2400 x113 or wilest@guilderlandlibrary.org.

In a nutshell, the Library Renewal Referendum seeks to address key safety concerns (install a sprinkler system; reconfigure and expand the parking lot; ensure ADA compliance; install a family restroom) and add approximately 6,400 square feet (alleviate crowded children and teen spaces; provide more meeting, event and study space; create a flexible multi-use area for large events; establish a coffee shop / used bookstore, which would be outsourced as a revenue stream). The exact cost of this project totals \$8,353,698. The Library has

earmarked \$1.4 million for it, so the amount you will be voting on is \$6,953,698. With a 20-year term bond at \$12.30 per \$100,000 assessed value, the annual household cost for a \$300,000 home would be \$36.90. The median home value in Guilderland is currently \$263,200 according to Zillow, so for many homeowners, it will be less than \$1 per week.

For many Guilderland homeowners, the Library Renewal Referendum will be less than \$1 / week.

We encourage you to be as informed as possible. Please see <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/get-to-know-us/places/renewal> for further details on this proposal, architect plans and FAQs, as well as our Facebook page for a recording of the information session.

2019-2020 Proposed Budget

The Library's Board of Trustees has approved a 2019-2020 operating budget of \$3,987,713, based on a tax levy of \$3,892,813. Details of our budget may be found on page 3 of our May/June newsletter, which is posted on our website and emailed to over 10,000 subscribers. Overall, the budget is not significantly different than last year's, with a few modest adjustments:

- For the second year in a row, we've put a slight increase into our programming budget, to provide even more dynamic classes, speakers, concerts and more for you. There is an increase in the library materials line, based partly on growing consumer demand for e-content, and partly on the strong preference our patrons showed for expanding the collection on our survey last year.
- Professional services primarily reflect architect and attorney fees related to the Referendum. The large drop in this line indicates the funds we spent last year on architectural, legal, and engineering fees to develop the Library Renewal Referendum. Now that the planning portion of the project is finished, we have far less need in these areas this year.
- The capital improvements figure reflects our plan to continue refurbishing existing spaces in our building including skylight repair, restroom remodeling, and work on doors and windows to ensure energy efficiency.
- Our interest income has risen dramatically because of higher interest rates on the operating funds which we hold in short term CDs until money is needed for operations.

Board of Trustees Candidates

We have five candidates on the ballot for three Board of Trustees vacancies. Here is how their names will appear on the ballot:

Barry Nelson
Barbara Fraterrigo
Philip Metzger
Mark Keeling
Catherine Barber

Please see our website for more information on Board candidates here: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/get-to-know-us/people/board-of-trustees/vacancies-on-board>.

Please vote on our Library Renewal Referendum, Budget, and Board of Trustees candidates on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. at your designated Guilderland elementary school. It is our sincere pleasure to serve as “Guilderland’s Gathering Place!”