



Budget and Board Candidate Vote

by *Library Director
Tim Wiles*

On Tuesday, May 18, Guilderland Central School District voters will have their annual opportunity to vote on the library budget and to choose members of the Library Board.

This year, our 11-member board has four openings, and six candidates running. Listed alphabetically, the candidates are: **Michael Hawrylchak, Herb Hennings, Norina Melita, Philip Metzger, Jr., Antonio Rivera, and Vanessa Threatte** (see candidate information on page 2). These names will be listed in a random order on the ballot, per standard practice. I thank all six of these folks in advance for their willingness to volunteer their time to guide the library forward, and I thank the two incumbents (Hennings and Metzger, Jr.) for their current and past service.

The library has carefully prepared a conservative budget for 2021-22, with a 1.48% increase in the tax levy and a total budget amount of \$4,097,100, an increase of \$16,922 over last year's budget. The annual budget is different from the construction budget, though the construction project has some effect on the operating budget. For example, there is little in the annual budget regarding new furniture, equipment, or related costs, as most of those areas are being upgraded and updated as part of the construction project. Operating costs are slightly higher, as there will be about 20% more square footage to clean and supply with materials. The budgeted cost increase to supply the additional space is \$49,200, which is mostly offset by utility and other savings. The library is sticking to our pledge to voters not to create any new positions as a result of the renovation and expansion.

Our library materials budget stays the same, and our personnel costs increase by about two percent due to contractual agreements with employees negotiated by the board. Our utilities budget stays the same. Voters might wonder why it need not increase with a larger building, but the updated HVAC, lighting, and water systems all use less energy or water, resulting in a savings per square foot that equals out. We're trimming our programming (events) budget as we anticipate a gradual return to comfort level among the general public attending indoor events due to the pandemic, which of course we hope is winding down.

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PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

	2020-2021	2021-2022
EXPENSES		
Library Materials	\$ 395,000	\$ 395,000
Salaries & Benefits	2,964,400	3,079,250
Operations		
Utilities	50,000	50,000
Photocopiers	6,000	8,000
Office & Custodial Supplies	41,500	55,000
Postage	4,000	4,000
Insurance	18,800	18,800
Taxes (water & sewer)	12,000	12,000
Staff Development	15,500	15,500
Memberships	3,000	3,000
Special Programs	41,750	30,250
Building & Equipment Maintenance	92,000	108,000
Financial Services & Auditing	17,100	17,500
Printing - Business Operations	27,500	22,500
Professional Services	57,000	37,000
Miscellaneous Online	35,000	54,700
Catalog / Circulation	46,000	55,200
IT Hardware / Software	56,000	42,500
Capital Improvements	197,628	88,900
Total Operations	720,778	622,850
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,080,178	4,097,100
INCOME		
Fines & Fees	30,700	20,700
Interest	20,000	2,900
Book Sale	25,000	11,000
Gifts, Grants & Donations	1,500	1,500
Photocopiers	4,500	4,500
Non-Resident Fees	2,500	1,500
TOTAL INCOME	84,200	42,100
BUDGET	4,080,178	4,097,100
minus income	84,200	42,100
equals LEVY	3,995,978	4,055,000

BUDGET & BOARD CANDIDATE VOTE

Six candidates are vying for four open seats on the Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees. They will appear on the ballot in the following randomized order for the Tuesday, May 18 vote, 7 am-9 pm at all Guilderland elementary schools.



Vanessa Threatte

Professional Experience:

Assistant Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the State University of New York. Former Executive Deputy Director for Best Practices and Partnerships for SUNY's Charter School Institute; Executive Director of SUNY's New York State Cradle to Career Alliance.

Education: BA in Liberal Arts, Dartmouth College; MA in

Art Therapy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; dual Masters of Science in Special Education and Literacy, University of Albany.

Community Involvement: Volunteer, Guilderland Central School District; former Recording Secretary and Program Director and current Community Service Chair. for the Greater Albany Chapter of Jack and Jill of America.

Reading List: *Back of Beyond*, by C.J. Box

Statement: I believe the role of Trustee offers a compelling way to serve our community and innovate for the future. I feel very strongly about issues of access, diversity of experience and voice (not only honoring it but learning from it). I can't think of a better place than the library to have an impact in those areas. Building on the amazing services and impact GPL already provides, I hope to offer my perspective and experience as a Black woman, parent, educator, reading specialist, helping professional, artist, student, operations leader, and avid DIY-er. I would like to be a part of the team that crafts strategy and policy to address the current needs of our community. Where can access be improved? Which voices are missing? Where can we innovate for the future? I would like to serve as a member of the GPL board to participate in these solutions.



Michael Hawrylchak

Professional Experience:

Attorney at O'Connell and Aronowitz. Former clerk to a federal judge; software engineer.

Education: BS in mechanical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2000; J.D., Harvard Law School, 2008.

Community Involvement: Guilderland Recreational Soccer Coach; Guilderland Youth

Wrestling volunteer; Guilderland Central School District

Reading List: *What is Real? The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics*, by Adam Becker

Statement: I have always loved browsing libraries and sampling books from a wide variety of topics. Since returning to Guilderland, I frequently borrow books for myself and my children. My kids have come to many library events and activities. We have relied on the library for summer school reading lists, and taken advantage of the library's

board game collection. I and my family have benefitted greatly from the variety of services the library provides. I would like to help ensure that the library continues to serve as a resource for the community through traditional lending as well as more innovative programs and services.



Antonio Rivera

Professional Experience:

Inpatient Pharmacist, Stratton VA Medical Center. Staff Pharmacist, Rite Aid Pharmacy. Adjunct Lecturer, SUNY Schenectady. Ad Hoc Consultant.

Education: BS in Psychobiology, Binghamton University. Pharm.D., Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science. Healthcare MBA in progress, Clarkson University.

Community Involvement: Guilderland Girls Softball Coach

Reading List: *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance*, by Laurie Garrett

Statement: I have many good memories of the Guilderland library with my family. My kids enjoyed movie nights, reading to furry friends, scavenger hunts and many of the activities offered there. Kids like checking out books, movies, Launch Pads and games. I enjoy the community setting of the library and want to serve and give back to my community. Since I have school-aged children, I would explore more synergistic opportunities between schools and GPL. Libraries offer many services that help make the community more equitable, and some of those services could be used to counter the academic learning losses over the past year. I would also like to explore the potential to develop other community services, such as community gardens, maker spaces with 3-D printer and expand classes and seminars on retirement, personal health and saving for college.



Herb Hennings

Professional Experience:

Retired Insurance Fund Hearing Representative, State Insurance Fund.

Education: BA, Kenyon College; MA, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University at Albany

Community Involvement: Former President, Canterbury Park Homeowners Association; Member, Guilderland Planning

Board; Member, Guilderland Public Library Board; Board Member, Upper Hudson Library System; President, Troy Area Labor Council; Former Member, Guilderland Conservation Advisory Board; Longtime Public Employees Federation Activist.

Reading List: *O Albany!*, by William Kennedy

Statement: Libraries have been important. I first frequented the public library as an elementary school student and developed a love for reading. Books and

BUDGET & BOARD CANDIDATE VOTE

periodicals have been a part of my life ever since. Our library is at a crossroads. A lot of good things can come out of the construction project to bring the Guilderland library into the 21st Century. I also look at the needs of the community to have continued access to library services and programs and the problems raised for libraries by the COVID pandemic. Reasonable accommodations must be reached recognizing the needs of the community members, library employees, and the public safety. Through the Upper Hudson Library System, I work with other area libraries and can absorb the best practices of the other libraries.



Philip Metzger, Jr.

Professional Experience:

Lead Systems Analyst managing IT projects for RR Donnelley, a multinational business communications company.

Education: Studied Computer Science at Stony Brook University.

Community Involvement:

I've served as a temporary Library Board member twice to help fill vacancies, and I hope to extend my participation with the Guilderland

Library Board of Trustees in an officially-elected position.

Reading List: *Hyperion Series*, by Dan Simmons

Statement: I met my wife while we were living in Houston, and have had the opportunity to support her in her library career. We moved back to New York to be closer to our families, and she found a wonderful opportunity at Albany Public Library. While not a librarian myself, I've learned much alongside her during her roles as a Branch Librarian on through to an Assistant Director position, and I carry those conversations that we've had over the years into the board meetings that I have participated in during two appointments. Having this inside connection to the world of libraries, I have become acutely aware of their importance in our society and I understand their needs and challenges in our current environment. By running for the Library Board of Trustees I hope to support the library administration in setting goals that build a stronger community in Guilderland centered around our library, providing the services that drive even more people to take advantage of everything that the library offers. Additionally, I'm very excited about the construction project and its progress, and looking forward to GPL providing a much-needed community space as we all hopefully make our way through this pandemic and back towards some manner of normalcy.



Norina Melita

Professional Experience:

Attorney currently work as a Confidential Law Clerk for a judge in Montgomery County. Former Managing Attorney and Vice President of Legal Operations at a law firm in Guilderland; Adjunct Professor, College of St. Rose.

Education: BA, Psychology and Law, York University; J.D., Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Community Involvement: Third District representative, New York State Bar Association; Community Impact Committee, Berkshire Farms Center for Youth; Secretary and Treasurer Montgomery County Bar Association.

Reading List: *Altered Traits*, by Daniel Goleman and Richard Davidson

Statement: My daughters love the library and so do I. In law school, I worked at the circulation desk at the library. I really enjoyed it! I love books and libraries in general. Libraries give me and my kids a sense of peace and calm. There is something homey and safe about spending the day at the library. I also love Guilderland. I'd love to combine my work and education experience with my love of books and our community, to be able to help in any way I can.

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On the revenue side, our fines and fees for lost items revenue will be down as we continue to waive such fees in many cases due to the pandemic. We also anticipate less interest income, as the supply of money available for borrowing nationwide is so high that CDs, our usual method of earning interest on our operating budget, are essentially unavailable. We've switched instead to treasury bonds, which yield less income, but are the best available option at this time for short term investment. We are lowering the price of photocopies by 50%, one way of reducing library costs for our citizens. Black and white copies will now be 10 cents, and color will be 25 cents, which brings us in line with all other local libraries. We anticipate that patrons will make more photocopies as a result. For more on our construction project, please see: <https://bit.ly/GPLbuildingproject>.

Cast your vote regarding GPL's budget and board candidates Tuesday, May 18, 7 am-9 pm at all Guilderland elementary schools.

GPL CURBSIDE SERVICE HOURS

Checkouts - Normanskill Room Side Door:

Mon./Wed./Fri.....10 am - 4 pm
Tues./Thurs.....1 - 7 pm
Saturday.....10 am - 2 pm
Sunday.....2 - 4 pm

Returns - Parking Lot Sheds:

24/7, except holidays

The library is currently closed to public browsing.



Speaking of voting...

We're honored to be named one of the **top five libraries in the Capital Region** once again through the *Times Union's* annual poll! Over 500,000 votes were cast. We're grateful to be included on this short list, and we appreciate the support!

ADULT PROGRAMS

1:1 Apple Tech & Résumé Help**Monday evenings / Thursday mornings**

Maximize your Apple gadget, or craft your résumé using Learning Express! Get individual assistance from home for:

- Apple Watch, iPhone, MacBook, iPad, Apple TV
- résumé preparation with Learning Express at:

<https://guilderlandlibrary.org/learning-tools>.

Schedule your appointment **Monday evenings at 6:30 pm** or **Thursday mornings at 10 am**. [R]

**Virtual Craft & Chat****Wednesday, May 26 @ 6 pm**

Let's craft while we talk...or talk while we craft! Meet up online with like-minded crafters as we gather for casual conversation and to share inspiring ideas, including your experience with Creativebug. Discover your next project! Register on the Events tab of our website to receive the Zoom link in advance. [R]

**Springtime Card Project****Through May 14**

Spread some sunshine to your neighbors by making springtime cards for

the clients of Community Caregivers! We'll collect the cards through **Friday, May 14**, then Community Caregivers will distribute them to their clients.

Instructions:

- Create one or more cheerful cards no larger than 5 x 7. Decorate however you would like—even use Creativebug for inspiration—or repurpose an old card.
- Envelopes will be provided by Community Caregivers, and they will address and mail them.
- Optional: write an uplifting message inside your card. You may sign the card, or leave it unsigned.
- Drop off your card in the Springtime Card Project Box at our interior pick-up table in the Normanskill room during curbside hours. **Thank you for participating!**

**Healthy, Happy and Strong****Monday, May 10 @ 6 pm**

Learn how to put yourself on a path toward wellness by making lifestyle changes to

positively affect mind, body, and spirit! This virtual program covers scientific evidence on how chronic metabolic disease leaves us susceptible to further illness, and what we can do to help mitigate it. *Presenter: Bridgit Goldman, PhD, Senior Teaching Assistant Professor of Biology at Siena College.* [R]

**Night Owls Online****Monday, May 10 @ 7:30 pm**

This month, we're meeting online to discuss New York



Times bestseller **Madame Fourcade's Secret War** by Lynne Olson. Call us at **518.456.2400 ext. 3** or email ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org for assistance placing a hold, then register on the Events tab of our website for the link. [R]

Microsoft Office: Basic Excel**Tuesday, May 25 @ 1:30 pm**

Master the spreadsheet! Once you learn the basics, you can use Excel to create a budget, maintain a list of valuables, and even create a trip itinerary!

Presenters: Eleonora Morrell and John Dowley, Training and Development Specialists, MicroKnowledge, Inc. Presented in collaboration with the Albany Guardian Society. [R]



PODCASTS

Earbuds & Bookmarks: A Podcast Discussion Group**Tuesday, May 25 @ 6 pm****CONAN O'BRIEN NEEDS A FRIEND****Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend, Season 1, Episodes 4 and 6: Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard**

Register in advance; we'll send you the GoToMeeting link the day before. More info. at: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/eab>. [R]

Also: check out GPL's monthly podcast—**How Did You Find It?**—available on most major platforms, including Apple. Stay updated on GPL news and beyond! A new episode drops on **Friday, May 21**.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Grab & Go Storytime Kits for Preschoolers

Monday, May 3:
Colors of the Rainbow
Monday, May 17: Weather
Every other Monday, we'll have a storytime kit available for you and your

little one(s). Each thematic kit will contain suggestions for books, rhymes, and songs to share together, plus one or more fun surprise activities. Storytime kits are recommended for ages 2-5 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis during our curbside hours; no registration needed.

STREAM Kits

Pick up starting
Friday, May 21
Grades K-5

STREAM learning encompasses **S**cience, **T**echnology, **R**eading, **E**ngineering, **A**rt and **M**ath in dynamic ways. Register in advance, then pick up a kit incorporating four fun STREAM-based activities during curbside hours starting May 21 at 10 am.



Summer Camp Throwback T(w)een Kit

Pick up starting
Friday, May 21
Grades 6-12
Get ready for summer! This month's tween kit will include cool

supplies and inspiration for a summer camp throwback! Please register in advance, then pick up your reserved goodie bag curbside starting May 21 at 10 am. **[R]**

Plant and Paint

Saturday, May 22
@ 2:30 pm

Family / All Ages
Tawasentha Park

Let's safely meet in the Large Pavilion at Tawasentha Park, where we'll have fun painting and decorating flower pots and planting seeds! This program is geared toward families with children grades 2 and older, but all are welcome to create something useful and unique to welcome summer! **[R]**



NEWS & NOTES

2021 Summer Reading Program: Tails and Tales

Kickoff Friday, June 25
Farnsworth Middle School

We're finalizing details for a sensational summer filled with reading and activity for kids ages preschool through high school! Mark your calendar, and keep an eye out for details to come!



Guilderland Library Foundation Golf Tournament

Friday, August 13
Western Turnpike Golf Course

Registration: 8:15-8:45 am
Shotgun Start: 9 am
Lunch at the turn
Celebration: 2 pm

Fee: \$125 / golfer
\$500 / foursome
Includes: 18 holes (best ball), golf cart, lunch, 19th Hole Celebration

Sponsor deadline: July 15 / Registration deadline: August 1
More information: guilderlandlibraryfoundation@gmail.com.

GPL Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting

Thursday, May 20 @ 6 pm
Streamed live on Facebook
Public commentary to:
pc@guilderlandlibrary.org

Memorial Day Weekend

No curbside services or returns available
Saturday, May 29 through
Monday, May 31

Obituary

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of **Carol Belstraz**. She served as GPL administrative assistant 2001-2016. Our sincere condolences to all who knew Carol.



Construction Update

We're about 11 months ahead of schedule! Our original completion estimate was July,

2022, but now it's likely we will be done around the end of August, 2021! For more information, please see <https://bit.ly/GPLbuildingproject>.

[R] = registration required. Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be held online. See the Events calendar at www.guilderlandlibrary.org to register. We'll email you the link in advance of the program.