



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Construction is Underway!

By Tim Wiles, Library Director

Greetings from controlled chaos! It's an exciting time to be running a public library that is transforming before our very eyes. Between the daily, hourly, and

minute-to-minute changes that occur due to construction, and the ongoing—and lately, growing again—concerns about coronavirus, we've got our hands full. I want to take a moment to thank our dedicated library staff, which is rolling with the punches like they were born for this. Great job! Thanks also to the patrons who've adjusted to the current ways of using the library: **online, curbside pickup, and Normanskill Room browsing.**

Let's review. In 2017, we asked the community to tell us, through surveys, focus groups, and outreach sessions, what they would want in their library of the future. We turned those results over to Ballston Spa-based firm Butler Rowland Mays Architects LLP (which *only* designs libraries), and shaped a plan for our voters to decide upon. In May, 2019, Guilderland voters said yes by a margin of 60-40. **Thank you!**

We rolled up our sleeves and got to work fine-tuning the design, went to bid in September of this year, and awarded contracts late that month. We are working directly with five contractors and a construction manager. The five are Bette & Cring (general construction prime contract), coordinating services with DiGesare Mechanical, Inc. for plumbing; Davis-Ulmer Sprinkler Company, Inc. for fire protection; Campito Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for mechanical; and Flex Electric, LLC for electrical work, all managed by Turner Construction. **At present, we are pleased to report that the project is on time and on budget.**



We held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 15th, though we actually started work a week earlier. It's been a whirlwind so far. The first step was to begin preparing the two lots to the east of our building by removing trees, which is ongoing. Actually as I write this, we've had what will likely be our most significant tree removal day. When I drove in, the lot to our east still had a wall of mature trees, but they were all taken out by the end of the day, for two reasons. First, we're building an earthen ramp from that lot on Western Avenue to the construction site on the east end. Second, when we're done, this area will become a much-needed overflow parking lot, adding 43 spaces.

Inside, things have really been hopping. We've removed all of our ceiling tiles and grid to install our new sprinkler system, along with updating the electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and data wiring systems on our 1992 building.



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Pictured at left: Groundbreaking! Our building project, over three years in the making, officially kicked off on **October 15th.** From left: GPL Board of Trustees Vice President Nareen Rivas; Trustee Marcia Alazraki; Board President Kaitlin Downey; Trustee Cathy Barber; Library Director Tim Wiles; Trustees Barbara Fraterrigo; Peter Hubbard; Barry Nelson.

ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Election Day Tuesday, November 3

We've compiled a useful web page listing everything you need to know on voting in Albany County, all in one convenient spot.

Voting info: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/vote2020/>

GPL serves as an Election Day polling place on Tuesday, November 3rd, 6 am - 9 pm. As in past years, voting will be held in our Helderberg Room. **Curbside checkouts and drop-in Normanskill Room browsing are suspended on Election Day.**

Please note: **due to construction, bathrooms are unavailable to the public, and parking spots are reduced in our main lot.** Our staff lot across MercyCare Lane should have available overflow spaces.

Hamilton: An American Musical Virtual Trivia Night

**Tuesday,
November 10
@ 7 pm**

Theater buffs, history buffs, music buffs—whatever kind of “buff” you are, you’re

bound to enjoy our **Hamilton Trivia Night!** This latest installment of our popular trivia nights encourages friendly individual or team competition, testing your knowledge of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway smash-hit **Hamilton**, plus early American history. Don’t miss your shot—sign up in advance to join us for 20 questions of good fun! **[R]**



Virtual Cookbook Club Wednesday, November 18 @ 7 pm

Fall usually means a busy season of entertaining. Though the dynamic may be different this year, don't

stress—simply take out your slow cooker and prepare holiday meals with ease and joy. For this month's Cookbook Club, we'll be using **Fix-It and Forget-It: Best of Fall Recipes**. We'll download the eBook from Hoopla, choose any recipe and make it at home, then meet online to talk about our culinary results. **[R]**



Unless noted otherwise, programs will be held online, using one of our videoconferencing platforms. You will need either a computer with a microphone and webcam or a smartphone for these events.

Registration is required, indicated by [R]. Click on the Events calendar on www.guilderlandlibrary.org to register. We'll email you the link to participate in advance of the program.



Curbside Crafts: Mini Tapestry Weaving Wednesday, November 18

Humans have been weaving for tens of thousands of years! Evidence of woven textiles have been found at archaeological sites across the globe, and tapestries

have been a part of handicraft since ancient times. Make your own miniature woven tapestry with this custom kit. All supplies are included for curbside pickup. **[R]**

Albany Guardian Society



We're partnering with Albany Guardian Society to offer the following virtual programs to GPL patrons. You can register for these on the Events tab of our website. AGS will send a meeting invitation link and pertinent information to registrants the day before the program.



Introduction to Meditation Friday, November 13 @ 1:30 pm

Curious about meditation? Join us to learn more about the benefits of meditation for mind and body. This regular practice can create ease, boost creativity, and make life more joyful. This

class will explore how meditation can break the "stress cycle." You'll learn simple techniques that you can incorporate every day. *Presenter Judi England, RN, is a health educator and Kripalu Yoga Instructor.* **[R]**

Buying and Selling on the Internet Using Ebay, Craigslist, and Amazon

**Monday, November 16
@ 1:30 pm**

Learn how to set up an account to buy and sell, as well as how to negotiate and/or bid for an item. We'll introduce popular

ecommerce websites and discuss how to make your experience successful, plus how to protect your private information on the web. *Presenters Eleonora Morrell and John Dowley are training and development specialists with MicroKnowledge, Inc.* **[R]**



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Night Owls Online
Monday, November 9
@ 7:30 pm

This month's selection for our monthly literary

online meetup is the award-winning bestseller ***Becoming*** by **Michelle Obama**, lauded as an intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States. *Please place a hold on a physical copy for curbside pickup*, as eBook copies are limited. Call 518.285.0050 or email ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org for assistance, and register in advance. **[R]**



FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR TIM WILES

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Here's a key point: the original construction plan called for working in sections, moving from east to west through the building. But since there are still occupancy restrictions in public places due to COVID-19, we decided to make use of the relatively quiet time by working on the whole building at once, instead of proceeding in zones. Ultimately, this should speed up the project, resulting in completion of the renovated library sooner than expected. With construction, **accelerating process often means saving money**, so we're keeping our fingers crossed that this works out favorably.

The next step is to demolish the existing public restrooms in early November. This too was slated to occur later in the process, but was moved up in order to take advantage of the building's limited occupancy level due to the coronavirus. *When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!*

One thing I am learning each day is that construction proceeds from a plan, but the plan evolves and changes very rapidly, based on numerous factors. Recently, I stopped in a hallway to tell an employee, "Don't worry about the ceilings in your office space; the workers won't be in there until tomorrow, when you have the day off." With a pleasant sense of versatile flexibility, she laughed and said, "They're in there now!"

When we're all done—currently estimated at **October 1st, 2021**—**"Guilderland's Gathering Place"** will have:

- a **brand-new children's area**, including a new program room and drop-in play space for toddlers
- our first-ever **dedicated teen room**
- **enhanced furniture and finishes** throughout the building
- **renovated restrooms**, including five single-use restrooms
- a new **meeting room**
- **outdoor plaza seating** in front and back
- **an outsourced café/used bookstore**, encouraging folks to congregate and linger at the library

The library is honoring its 2019 promise of remaining open during construction, though the pandemic has presented unique challenges toward achieving that goal safely. Browsing and self-checkout are available in the handicap-accessible Normanskill Room during curbside service hours, and public access is expected to expand in the near future.

Next month, there will undoubtedly be much to report, as the foothold we've got on construction will be old news and new priorities will emerge. We'll keep you posted! We encourage you to like and follow us on Facebook, and check our website for updates at: <http://bit.ly/GPLbuildingproject>. If you don't already receive our weekly eNews blast or this newsletter digitally, which go out to about 10,000 recipients, you can subscribe here: <https://bit.ly/GPLENews>.

We appreciate your patience as we strive to serve you to in the best possible manner, keeping safety our highest priority. It's very exciting to have this project underway. ***We can't wait to show you this place once we're done!***

YOUTH SERVICES



Grab & Go Storytime: Dinosaurs

Available Starting Monday, November 2

We have one storytime kit available for you and your little one(s) this month. This dinosaur-themed kit will contain suggestions for books,

rhymes, and songs to share together, plus one or more fun surprise activities. Register to reserve one per child, then pick it up at your convenience during our curbside hours. Don't forget to visit our YouTube channel to see our youth librarians read aloud a themed picture book! **[R]**

MORE GPL NEWS

Finance Committee - Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, November 3 @ 6 pm

Design Committee - Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, November 4 @ 1:30 pm

Board of Trustees - Virtual Meeting

Thursday, November 19 @ 6 pm on Facebook

Public commentary to: pc@guilderlandlibrary.org

Archives: <http://bit.ly/GPLBoardMeetings>

No Services:

Tuesday, November 3 - Election Day

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving

Limited Service:

Wednesday, November 25 - 10 am-2 pm



CURRENT HOURS

Normanskill Room & Curbside Checkouts:

Mon./Wed./Fri.....10 am - 4 pm

Tues./Thurs.....1 - 7 pm

Sat.....10 am - 2 pm

Returns:

Mon - Fri.....9 am - 8 pm

Sat.....9 am - 2 pm