

BUDGET AND BOARD CANDIDATE VOTE

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL ELECTION

Tuesday May 21 7 am-9 pm
Guilderland Elementary Schools

**This year there are 3 open seats on the Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees for three-year terms.
The following candidates appear on the 2024 ballot.**



MICHAEL PUSPERS

A Guilderland High School graduate and resident for the past 28 years, Michael Puspers holds a BA in English and Educational Studies from SUNY Albany, as well as a Masters in Information Science. Mr. Puspers is also a NYS certified Library Media Specialist and a certified Public Librarian. Currently, Mr. Puspers is an Education Program Assistant 2 for the State Boards for Dentistry, Optometry and Chiropractic at the NYS

Education Department. Mr. Puspers' wide variety of community activities include:

- ▶ member of the ARE (Albany Running Exchange)
- ▶ member of the Night Owls, Realm Explorers and Hopeless Romantics Books Clubs at Guilderland Public Library
- ▶ reading volunteer at 3 area daycares
- ▶ board member/ steward at the NYS Education Department Employee Association.

Q: What role have libraries played in your life? How have you benefited most from GPL?

A: Libraries have always been vital to my life since I was born. I always loved to read and have always gone to Guilderland to get books and become a life-long learner. I used the library as a student in Guilderland Schools and then again in college. Using GPL inspired me to want to become a librarian and help inspire kids and adults to read and become life-long learners.

Q: What was the last good book you read?

A: All the Fighting Parts by Hannah V. Sawyerr

Q: Why are you interested in serving as a GPL Board of Trustee?

A: I want to play a part in making sure that GPL continues its important role in the Guilderland community as a place where citizens can get a wide variety of books, learn new things, exchange ideas, enjoy performances and local arts and get to know each other. I will work to see that the GPL budget and spending are well managed within the role that the citizens of Guilderland want their library to play.



BARBARA FRATERRIGO

-Current GPL Trustee

Mrs. Fraterrigo is a 52 year resident of Guilderland and a former business manager of her husband's ophthalmology practice. She holds a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Emmanuel College with a minor in Secondary Education. She is an active community

volunteer and most importantly a mom and wife for the past 56 years.

- ▶ served on the Guilderland Board of Education for over 20 years
- ▶ served as president on both the GPL School and Library Board

Q: What role have libraries played in your life? How have you benefited most from GPL?

A: Since childhood libraries have always provided me with intellectual challenges, adventures and projects. One of my first challenges in raising my five children (all GHS graduates) was providing them with a library that fulfilled their school and personal reading needs. I often had to take my children to other libraries. When some fellow citizens were gathering petitions for our library to

become a school district public library with the intention of providing our town with a larger library, I happily joined the effort! Our effort was approved and our library with citizen support over the years has grown in size and services. We now have computers, concerts, great programs, meeting and study rooms. In addition we have borrowing availability of a "Library of Things" such as fishing poles, baking equipment, and hotspots as well as services such as fishing licenses, EZ Pass and passport processing! I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful library!

Q: What was the last good book you read?

A: Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini

Q: Why are you interested in serving as a GPL Board of Trustee?

A: With the exciting arrival of a new director, I am looking forward to being part of a team that continues to bring our library to new heights in programming, accessibility and responsiveness to community needs..



MICHAEL HAWRYLCHAK

-Current GPL Trustee

Mr. Hawrylchak is a practicing civil litigation attorney with O'Connell and Aronowitz in Albany and a member of the Guilderland Class of 1996. Mr. Hawrylchak received a B.S in Mechanical Engineering from MIT in 2000 and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2008.

He returned to his hometown in 2012 where he coached Rec. Soccer from 2013 to 2019 as well as being a parent volunteer for

Guilderland Youth Wrestling and participating in the Guilderland Schools Start Time Task Force. He has served on the Guilderland Library Board of Trustees since 2021

Q: What role have libraries played in your life? How have you benefited most from GPL?

A: I have always loved browsing libraries and sampling a wide variety of books. Libraries have allowed me to dive deep into new areas as my interests have shifted over the years. My family and I have taken advantage of various GPL offerings, including in-person programs, audiobooks, electronic books, board games and especially physical books.

Q: What was the last good book you read?

A: A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman.

Q: Why are you interested in serving as a GPL Board of Trustee?

A: In the time I have been a Trustee, one of my priorities has been pushing for greater transparency with respect to the library's financials reserves and long term financial planning. We have made good steps in the right direction, but there is still more that needs to be done.

