



# City of St. Helens Gazette

Issue 35

[www.ci.st-helens.or.us](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us)

Spring 2016

## What's Inside?

From the Desk of the Mayor  
and City Council

Page 3-5

St. Helens Waterfront  
Redevelopment Open House

Page 3

Sign Rules for Election Season

Page 5

Oregon Humanities'  
Conversation Project

Page 6-7

Spring Clean Up Events

Page 11-12, 14

If I Were Mayor Student  
Contest

Page 13



## Creating Community through Conversation

Every few months, if you wander into the St. Helens Public Library on the right evening, you will see St. Helens community members gathering in a large circle in the Library to take part in a group conversation. Discussions cover a specific topic and are facilitated by an expert in the chosen topic, but are structured to allow the people in attendance to do the majority of the talking. One goal of the St. Helens Public Library is to be a place where intelligent conversation and debate happen and potentially inspire positive change. Thanks to an Oregon Humanities' program called The Conversation Project, the St. Helens Public Library has been able to make that goal a reality by hosting regular community discussions on a wide variety of ideas critical to people's daily lives and the future of Oregon. With another Conversation Project scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 21, read on to learn more about this program and the upcoming conversation topic.

*Continued on page 6*

### *Staying up-to-date can be hard work*

We know life can be busy, so we've taken the work out of staying on top of community news. When you sign up for our monthly e-Newsletter and digital Gazette, you will be the first to find out about City festivals & events, new City policies that may affect you, and plenty of other useful City information.

Sign up online at <http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/newsletters/>.



# City of St. Helens

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The Gazette is an informational publication released by the City of St. Helens on a quarterly basis. Copies are available at City Hall or online at the City's website: [www.ci.st-helens.or.us](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us).



We welcome your feedback. If you have any ideas, comments or questions, please contact Crystal Farnsworth via phone at 503-366-8215 or email at [crystalcf@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:crystalcf@ci.st-helens.or.us).



For up-to-the-minute information, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens)

Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/sthelens>



Have you signed up for our monthly e-Newsletter yet? Take a peek and sign up on our website at [www.ci.st-helens.or.us/newsletters](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/newsletters).

## New Water Trail Signs on St. Helens Waterfront

The St. Helens waterfront is home to new signs that mark St. Helens as part of the Lower Columbia River Water Trail. The signs were created by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. Along with the group's Water Trail Map, the signs give paddlers and other river goers information about the amenities available at different locations along the Columbia River. Find out more about the Water Trail at <http://www.estuarypartnership.org/explore>.

The water trail signs in St. Helens were installed at the Sand Island Docks and the City Docks mid-March and designate St. Helens as river mile 86. At the bottom of the signs are a set of symbols that advertise the amenities at each location to passing river goers.



## St. Helens Police Department Holds Coffee with a Cop Event



Police Department has held four Coffee with a Cop events to provide community members with a chance to ask questions and learn more about the Police Department. Since the majority of contacts a police officer has with the public happen during emergencies or emotional situations, people often don't have the opportunity to have a casual conversation with police officers.

"A relaxed conversation over a cup of coffee is a great way to interact with the Police Department," said St. Helens Police Chief Terry Moss. "Previous

On Friday, March 25, the St. Helens Police Department held Coffee with a Cop at the St. Helens Starbucks on Gable Road. Community members were invited to visit with police officers while enjoying a free cup of coffee courtesy of Starbucks. Thank you to everyone who attended this event.

Starting in January 2014, the St. Helens

Coffee with a Cop events have shown us that these conversations can make lasting connections in the community."

Follow the St. Helens Police Department's Facebook page and sign up for the City's monthly newsletter (<http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/newsletters/>) to find out about future Coffee with a Cop dates.

## New Chamber of Commerce Hours, Visitors Center Employee

The South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce recently hired Gretchen Williams as its new Visitors Center Representative. Gretchen is at the Chamber to answer questions on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Her primary duties will be to provide concierge services to visitors of the Columbia County

area, including information about area attractions, transportation, dining, hotels and other items of interest. The Chamber is located at 2194 Columbia Boulevard in St. Helens. You can contact Gretchen by phone at 503-397-0685 or by email at [visitorscenterrep1@gmail.com](mailto:visitorscenterrep1@gmail.com).

## From the Desk of Mayor Randy Peterson



It appears that we are finally turning the corner on a very rainy winter and can anticipate sunny, warmer weather. As we welcome spring

and begin to venture outdoors, I encourage everyone to consider joining St. Helens Economic Development Corporation for their annual Spring Clean Up event on Saturday, April 23. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Earth Day and help make a difference in beautifying the St. Helens Riverfront District. More details about this event can be found in this issue of the Gazette or by visiting [www.facebook.com/St.Helens.SHEDCO](http://www.facebook.com/St.Helens.SHEDCO).

City departments have been diligently working on their proposed budgets in anticipation of the City's Budget Committee meetings for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The Budget Committee meetings are open to the public and held in the Council Chambers at 6 p.m. The first meeting will be held on April 7, and if more discussion and review time is needed, a second meeting is scheduled for May 5. On May 18, a public hearing will be held for the Committee's approved budget, followed by a tentatively scheduled City Council public hearing on

June 1. Please check the City's meetings calendar to confirm the date and time. I would encourage anyone who is interested in the City's budgeting process to attend and provide input.

We continue to make progress on the Waterfront Redevelopment Project, continuing our work with the \$200,000 grant awarded from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a Brownfield Area-Wide Framework Plan. As the City plans for development of the waterfront, public engagement is a key component of making development decisions. I would like to invite everyone to attend a Waterfront Redevelopment Community Open House on April 27 at Columbia River Reception & Events at Meriwether Place (1070 Columbia Boulevard in St. Helens).

The open house will cover progress made on the master planning of the waterfront property and new, refined development scenarios. There will be opportunity for public input during the meeting (see below for further details). Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and remain open until 8 p.m. with a formal presentation starting at 6 p.m. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. As always, please visit our project website at [www.ci.st-helens.or.us/](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/)

[waterfront-redevelopment-project](#) to view past community engagement efforts, plans, and other background information related to the project.

As the Council continues to plan for the waterfront development, we do not want to forget about those most vulnerable in our community. Providing a solution to the affordable housing crisis which has affected not only Columbia County and the greater Portland-metro area, but can also be seen across the nation, is important to the St. Helens City Council. Housing issues are complex and there is no magic one-solution fix to alleviating the problem. By partnering with other community and regional agencies and looking at ways to best utilize the resources we have available to us, I hope that St. Helens can reach workable solutions for the benefit and health of the entire community.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions on City issues. Please feel free to contact me via email at [randyp@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:randyp@ci.st-helens.or.us) or stop and talk with me when you see me around town.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Randy Peterson

## St. Helens Waterfront Redevelopment Open House

**WHEN: Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

**WHERE: Columbia River Reception & Events at Meriwether Place (1070 Columbia Blvd)**

**WHAT TIME: Doors Open at 5:30 p.m., Presentation at 6 p.m., Open until 8 p.m.**



We want your opinion! Learn about the progress made on the master planning of the St. Helens waterfront and review the steps taken over the last two years. City consultants will share the new and refined redevelopment scenarios for direct feedback from the community.

We will be asking for your input on a new street grid, targeted uses, open space, infrastructure and public amenities. This is anticipated to be an interactive event and there will be an opportunity for community members to share new ideas and participate directly in the planning of this important community resource.

## From the Desk of the City Council



**Doug Morten**

Greetings,

2016 has been a wet and wild ride through the wind and the rain,

hasn't it? As the weather has had dramatic effects on our region with flooding and wind damage, our city has fared quite well. Thanks to our dedicated Public Works crews, who immediately answered the call for the clean up issues left in the wake of several windstorms. Beyond that, our crews anticipated and effectively prepared for the massive storm water runoff that plagued our neighboring communities.

A disaster relief grant from FEMA was awarded to the county and applications are currently being processed for the overtime hours that our crews accumulated. A tip of the hat goes to our staff and crews for their dedicated efforts in the time of emergency.

We have taken special notice of the numerous walkers enjoying the mile long trail along the Columbia River in our newly acquired 22 acres in the Riverfront District. Our crews developed the trail for you to admire and enjoy access to one of the most profound scenic gems on the river. Further development on the waterfront will continue to be an open process for the public as we plan and establish conditions and guidelines for developers. We invite you to take part in formulating sustainability with the natural environment, business and commercial development along with cultural and livability outcomes.

Respectfully,

Council President Doug Morten  
Public Works & Parks



**Keith Locke**

Dear Citizens,

I hope everyone is getting spring fever: the excitement, the

anticipation of summer right around the corner.

The Kiwanis Club is bringing back a part of the past this year. Along with the traditional Community Parade on Saturday, June 18, Kiwanis plans to host a multi-day carnival with vendors, activities, food and music down on the waterfront.

The first annual St. Helens River Festival will start on Thursday, June 16, sharing the night with 13 Nights on the River, and continue through Friday and Saturday. Bring the family down and have some fun with food and activities all three days. On Saturday, you can enjoy the Parade and an organized bike ride starting in Columbia View Park. The bike ride is called the 2016 Columbia Century Challenge and will wind through the back roads of Columbia County.

I hope all this activity gets everyone in the mood to see what we want as part of the waterfront development vision. We need to look at other places and see how we can have what we want while keeping the nice feel of our community and increasing our tax base to get back to the services we had before the recession. We need to look at other successful communities and drive St. Helens forward, helping our economy and livability on a year-round basis.

Do you have any ideas? Please let the St. Helens City Council know.

Thanks,

Councilor Keith Locke  
Police Commissioner



**Susan Conn**

I know many of you are interested in City issues and what we are working on but are not always able to

attend meetings. Usually the meetings are both streamed live and broadcast on Comcast Cable channel 29, but we've been experiencing some technical difficulties lately. Hope to have everything working well again soon.

Meanwhile, there was an interesting presentation at a recent Council meeting that I think is important to highlight. As we have all observed or heard anecdotally, housing is at a premium in St. Helens, with limited units available and the cost of housing increasing faster than incomes. Jim Tierney from Community Action Team (CAT) spoke to the Council about local housing issues, homelessness, and possible ways to work toward more affordable housing in our community.

Jim pointed out possible ways in which the City might help, such as considering allowing smaller units, permanent accessory dwelling units (often dubbed mother-in-law), easing development restrictions, adopting inclusionary zoning, encouraging rehabilitation, utilizing existing lots through infilling and other strategies that might help address the problem.

At the end of the presentation we discussed the value of partnering with CAT on a market study by a competent economic firm to give us baseline facts and determine community need. We will be moving forward on gathering this information, working within the framework of the City of St. Helens Mission & Council Goals, which include a focus on quality of life and a safe and healthy environment for our residents. Both our mission and goals were recently affirmed and updated.

Sincerely,

Susan Conn



## Ginny Carlson

The year is just getting started and already we are seeing opportunities in our

community: new businesses opening, lots of community involvement in the waterfront project and a busy St. Helens Youth Council. The Youth Council is working on a fundraising project of selling reflectors for kids and adults. It is a great idea and will help keep busy walkers safe. The Youth Council will be volunteering this summer at local events, helping at the 13 Nights concert series just for starters. It is a nice group of kids and they are looking to grow more. If anyone is interested, they do meet at City Hall twice a month. Applications to be on the Youth Council are available at City Hall. It's okay to come sit in on a meeting and check it out any time. The meetings are open to the public.

It's been interesting getting to know new people in the community through the Ford Leadership cohort this spring as they work on the emergency preparedness fair project. For the first time, citizens in all the communities along Highway 30 are pulling together in a good way. The project is joining the Chambers of Commerce and multiple community groups. This is in addition to the Keep it Local program and the upcoming centennial bike ride this summer.

The City invites everyone to play a part in the future by joining a commission, helping plan community events, and volunteering in projects that benefit the beautification of our main street. Volunteer opportunities are available in our City parks as well.

Times change and communities change. I hope many will choose to be part of this process. The end result will be that much better together. I have been traveling all over Oregon since becoming a city councilor and it has given me some insight that there are ways to grow and maintain our small town charm. We can be a better St. Helens without copying our city neighbors.

Councilor Ginny Carlson

## Political Sign Rules for Election Season

It's an election year and that means political signs will start to appear around the city. The City of St. Helens does not require people to obtain a sign permit to display political signs, but if you would like to display a sign, you should be aware of the following rules:

### What is allowed?

- **Maximum size:** 32 square feet.
- **Maximum height:** 8 feet.
- **Time period allowed:** 120 days before a public election or the time the election is called, whichever is earlier, to five days after the public election.
- **Must be displayed on private property** (not allowed in a public right-of-way). Please obtain permission from the landowner before placing any sign on a property.

### What is not allowed?

- Illumination of political signs.
- Any political sign within a public right-of-way or on City-owned property.
- Any political sign that may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device or which hides a traffic control device from view.
- Any political sign that will obstruct access to any fire escape or other entrance/exit from a building or exit corridor.
- Any political sign that could impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic on any street, alley, sidewalk, bikeway or similar travel way.
- Any political sign attached to a tree or a plant, a fence or a utility pole.
- Any sign that violates clear vision rules (SHMC Chapter 17.76). Basically, this means blocking visibility at intersections (including driveways).

Each jurisdiction has different rules. Be sure to check with each city and/or the county to verify sign regulations.

## City Council Contacts and Assignments

**Randy Peterson, Mayor** [randyp@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:randyp@ci.st-helens.or.us)  
Administration Department, Communications

**Doug Morten, Council President** [dougm@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:dougm@ci.st-helens.or.us)  
Public Works Department, Parks Commission, Columbia County Economic Team, Regional Organized Criminal Narcotics Team (Alternate), St. Helens Economic Development Corp. (Alternate)

**Keith Locke, Councilor** [keithl@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:keithl@ci.st-helens.or.us)  
Police Department, Community Development Department, Builders Review Board, Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, Regional Organized Criminal Narcotics Team, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (Alternate), St. Helens Youth Council

**Susan Conn, Councilor** [susanc@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:susanc@ci.st-helens.or.us)  
Library Department, Arts & Cultural Commission, Library Board, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District, St. Helens Economic Development Corp., St. Helens Community Foundation

**Ginny Carlson, Councilor** [ginnyc@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:ginnyc@ci.st-helens.or.us)  
Planning Commission, St. Helens Youth Council

# The Conversation Project

## What is The Conversation Project?

Oregon Humanities is the organizing agent behind The Conversation Project. An independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Oregon Humanities states that the goal of The Conversation Project is to bring Oregonians together to talk – across differences, beliefs, and backgrounds – about important issues and ideas.

Local nonprofits, community groups or businesses can apply to host a Conversation Project program on a topic relevant to their community. Each year, Oregon Humanities releases a catalogue of Conversation Project programs for organizations to choose from. Some programs are repeats from previous years, while others are new.

An Oregon Humanities facilitator, usually an individual who is either trained or works in the chosen topic, comes to a community to lead the conversation, which lasts from an hour to an hour and a half.

Facilitators don't typically speak for very long during the program. The majority of the time is devoted to local community members discussing a series of thought-provoking questions together, either as an entire group or in smaller groups. People can choose to just listen if they feel uncomfortable speaking or sharing their ideas, but the conversation is designed to give everyone a chance to speak who wants to share.

The Conversation Project has more than twenty topics to choose from at any given time, ranging from the ethics of food to government surveillance to the future of racial diversity in Oregon. Facilitators are trained to connect the topic to the local community and to challenge participants to

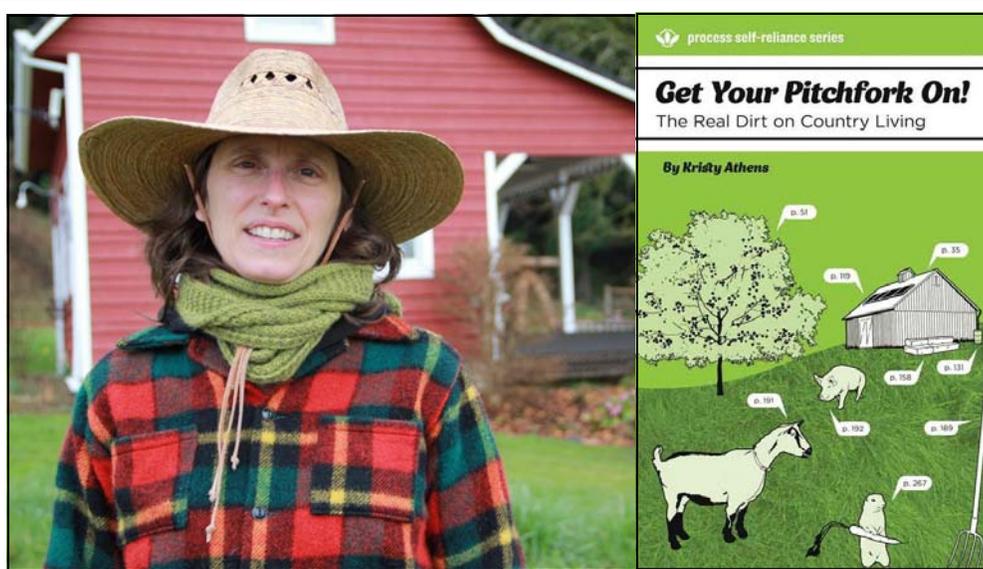
think in new ways.

Oregon Humanities' goal is to connect people to ideas and to each other, not to push an agenda or arrive at consensus. Conversation is a powerful medium to invite diverse perspectives, explore challenging questions, and strive for just communities.

## The Conversation Project at the St. Helens Public Library

The Conversation Project program at the St. Helens Public Library is organized by Library Assistant Nicole Woodruff.

Library Director Margaret Jeffries and Woodruff first learned about The Conversation Project from an Oregon Humanities publication. When the Vernonia Library successfully hosted The Conversation Project "To Cut or Not to Cut: Censorship in Literature," the St. Helens Public Library decided to follow suit, hosting the same Conversation Project program



**Author Kristy Athens will be the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project facilitator at St. Helens Public Library on April 21 for the discussion "Good Food, Bad Food: Agriculture, Ethics, and Personal Choice."**

during Banned Book Week the following year.

Since then, the Library has held five Conversation Projects covering a variety of topics (see box on page 7).

"I've been pleasantly surprised with the quality of conversation we have, both the exchange of ideas and the respect for differing viewpoints" said Woodruff. "It has always been a very safe and respectful environment. People are able to share their ideas without fear of recriminations or condemnation, which has been great."

The turnout for the programs has also been great. Chairs have been added and the discussion circle made larger as

more people show up for the program than anticipated. “We have had people come from as far away as Clatskanie to participate,” said Woodruff.

## ***Upcoming Conversation Project***

The St. Helens Public Library will host their sixth Conversation Project on Thursday, April 21.

Oregon boasts a multibillion-dollar agricultural economy that includes both industrial agriculture and small-scale efforts such as community supported agriculture memberships, farmers markets, and community gardens. These smaller, community-based efforts are on the rise as a means to nurture community and create local and autonomous food systems. Are these choices as consequential as consumers would like them to be? Does “voting with your dollars” significantly shape our agricultural systems?

This is the focus of “Good Food, Bad Food: Agriculture, Ethics, and Personal Choice,” a free conversation with Kristy Athens on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Library.

Athens is the author of “Get Your Pitchfork On!: The Real Dirt on Country Living.” In 2014, she received an Oregon Literary Fellowship from Literary Arts. She will complete an MS in food systems and society from Marylhurst University in June 2015. She lives in Wallowa County, Oregon, where she works at the NE Oregon Economic Development District as an outreach specialist.

## ***The Future of The Conversation Project***

The St. Helens Public Library plans to continue hosting Conversation Projects in the future. “We are looking at doing two or three more this year,” said Woodruff. “We hope to make it an ongoing program. It would be nice to do them quarterly.”

Upcoming Conversation Project programs can always be found on the Library Events Calendar on the City’s website: <http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/library/>. Programs are typically published in the newspaper and you can also follow the City’s Facebook page for event information ([www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens/](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens/)).

Oregon Humanities (921 SW Washington, Suite 150; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas to change lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities’ programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Idea Lab, Public Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine, can be found at [oregonhumanities.org](http://oregonhumanities.org). Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

O. Hm.

Oregon  
Humanities

## ***Past Conversation Projects***

**September 23, 2014 - “To Cut or Not to Cut: Censorship in Literature”** Recent efforts to remove the n-word in literature—from a recent edition of Mark Twain’s “Huck Finn” in which the word is changed to “slave” to the attempt to halt a high school production of August Wilson’s “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone” because of its “offensive” language—raise questions about censorship. Is censorship ever a good thing? Should accommodations be made considering the difference between a character’s and author’s point of view?

**January 22, 2015 - “Lost and Found: Community in the Age of the Internet”** Many social theorists agree that community life has been transformed by communications technologies. Is community disappearing or strengthening as we gaze at smartphones, video games, online movies and web pages? How do these technologies both connect and disconnect us? Where online do we engage deeply with friends, family and neighbors?

**April 23, 2015 - “What is Education for? The Role of Education in American Society”** America faces a crisis in education. In the last 15 years, the U.S. government has spent billions of dollars financing reforms – such as test-based accountability, charter schools, and the Common Core – largely designed to ensure our schools produce competent workers. These policies do not address some basic philosophical questions about the nature and goals of education. How does education relate to citizenship? To freedom and the good life? To social justice? Or to a love of knowledge and beauty?

**September 10, 2015 - “A City’s Center: Rethinking Downtown”** Historically, a city’s downtown core has been the community’s cultural and economic center, expressing shared values and aspirations. Today, however, many downtowns represent a community’s social and economic distress. Cities of all sizes are trying to revitalize their downtowns, but the qualities essential to this revitalization remain elusive.

**November 5, 2015 - “Talking about Dying”** Death is a part of the human experience; all of us have experienced loss, and all of us will die one day. Yet conversations about death and dying are difficult and often avoided even with our closest family members and friends. What do we think about when we think of dying? As people we’ve known have moved closer to death, what seemed to work well for them and the people close to them? What seemed difficult? When we think about our own dying, what do we want most?

# St. Helens Public Library

375 S. 18th Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
503-397-4544

## HOURS

Monday: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Tues. through Thurs.: 10 a.m.—7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed



## National Library Week 2016

National Library Week 2016 is April 10-16! This week includes the celebration of National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 12. Be sure to tell the staff at the St. Helens Public Library what you love most about the Library when you visit there!

First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.



## Participate in American Library Association's National Library Week Contest

**BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_.**

TELL US WHY YOUR LIBRARY IS IMPORTANT.

FILL IN THE BLANK DURING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Celebrate **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**  
APRIL 10-16, 2016

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM™

[lovelibraries.org/nlw](http://lovelibraries.org/nlw)

The theme for this year's celebration was chosen to align with American Library Association's (ALA) new public awareness campaign, Libraries Transform. Perhaps you've seen the eye-catching Because Statements on social media, or a banner like the one pictured at left, hanging at your library.

During National Library Week, the ALA is asking you to create your own Because Statement. Just fill in the blank telling us why libraries matter to you or your community. One randomly selected winner will receive a \$100 gift card and a copy of "Secret Coders," by Mike Holmes and Gene Luen Yang, our National Library Week Honorary Chair.

Post to Twitter, Instagram, or on the I Love Libraries Facebook page during National Library Week for a chance to win. Your entry can be a picture or text. Creativity is encouraged. Just be sure to include the word "Because" and the hashtag #LibrariesTransform for a chance to win. Entries can also be submitted directly to the Libraries Transform website.

Join in the fun. Promotion begins Sunday, April 10 at noon CT and ends Saturday, April 16 at noon CT.

Visit <http://www.lovelibraries.org/national-library-week> for official contest rules.

# Friends of the St. Helens Public Library Quarterly Art Show



In 2015, the Friends of the St. Helens Public Library started hosting quarterly art shows at the Library to showcase Columbia County's creative community and bring creative people together to work as a

group. With two art shows now under their belt, members of the Friends of the St. Helens Public Library plan to host art shows in February, May, August and November of each year.

During the month of May, the Library will host artwork by local artist Luanne Kreutzer. The St. Helens community is also invited to hear Kreutzer speak about her work at the Library on Thursday, May 12, at 7 p.m.

Kreutzer's art is inspired by her travels and love of the outdoors. "Nature has a way of showing off some of the best compositions," says Kreutzer. "With the most recent medium

I've discovered, the layering of plaster, paint and cold wax on wood encourages many interpretations of the piece. It feels like an archeological dig, and what happens at the end is often not planned. I just see where it wants to take me. Constantly applying and pulling back the medium gives the layered effect exhibited in these pieces."

Kreutzer concentrated on her painting and mixed media art after being a small business owner for 17 years. She served for several years on the St. Helens Arts & Cultural Commission and has been a member of several art groups since 2007. Kreutzer currently works part-time at Broadway Books in Portland while volunteering her time with the Columbia River Fire & Rescue Toy 'N Joy Auction and at Top Notch Thrift Store.

You can find Kreutzer's artwork at Alterations by Heather in St. Helens, as well as at Maiden Astoria in Astoria, Oregon.



## Beverly Cleary Day



Beverly Cleary, the creator of Ramona Quimby, Henry Huggins, and Ralph S. Mouse, is turning 100! To honor this beloved children's book author, we will be making birthday cards to send to Ms. Cleary, enjoying cake, playing games, and listening to excerpts from her books. Join us for an afternoon of fun on Wednesday, April 13, from 2-3 p.m. in the Auditorium at the St. Helens Public Library.

**Mark Your Calendars-**  
**Summer Reading sign up**  
**begins June 20!**

## Portland Author Ruth Wariner Visits Library



COURTESY OF JAMES REYNOLDS

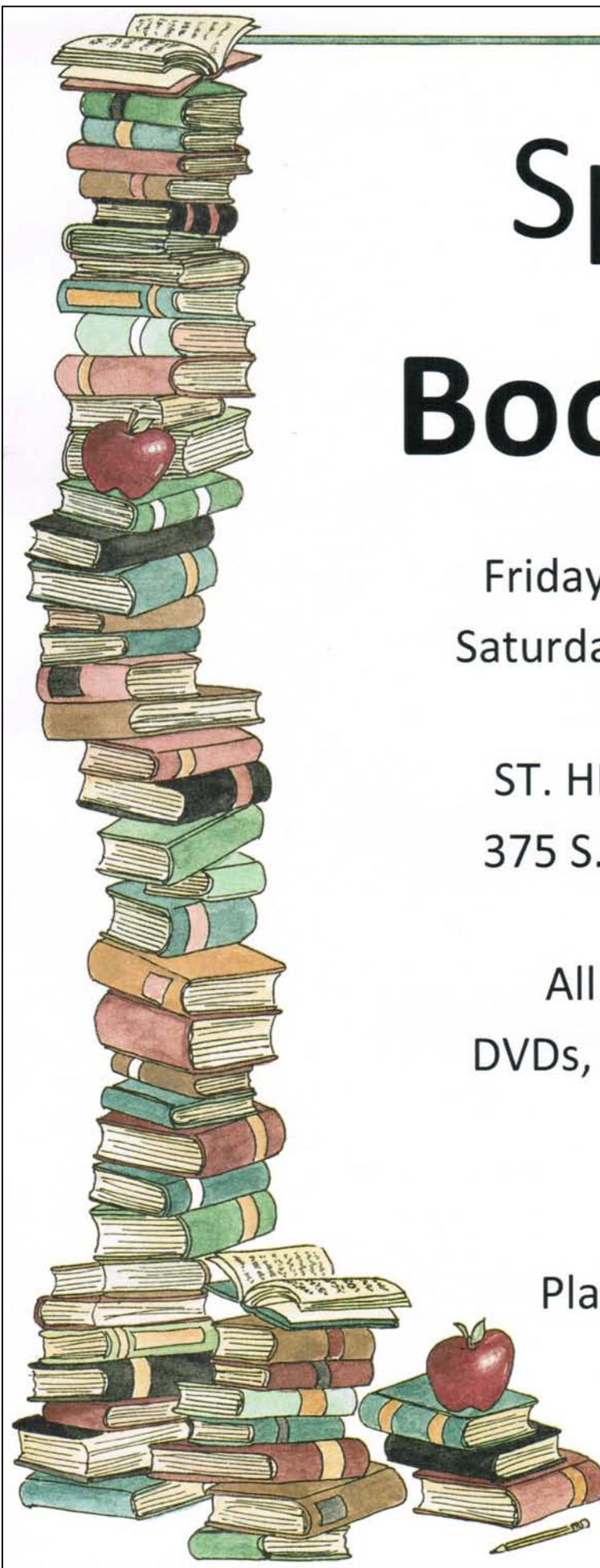
Mark your calendars for this special author event at St. Helens Public Library. The Library is pleased to host Portland author Ruth Wariner on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

Wariner will be reading from her memoir "The Sound of Gravel." Number thirty-nine of her father's forty-two children, Ruth Wariner was born into a Mexico-based polygamist community. When Ruth is only three-months old, her father, the prophet of the sect, is murdered by his own brother, the notorious "Mormon Manson" Ervil LeBaron, in a bid for church power. Ruth's mother remarries and becomes the second wife of another man in the community, adding new siblings (and fresh

difficulties) to an already overstuffed family tree. But this is only part of Ruth's life—at times she is a regular American girl, staying with her grandmother across the border, eating cereal and watching cartoons, until her mother uproots the family and takes them back to Colonia LeBaron.

Wariner now lives in Portland, Oregon. After leaving Colonia LeBaron she moved to California and eventually to Oregon where she raised her three youngest sisters. Ruth earned her GED, put herself through college and graduate school, and eventually became a high school Spanish teacher. She remains close to her siblings and is happily married. "The Sound of Gravel" is her first book.

Wariner's book will be available for sale at the St. Helens Public Library event.



# Spring Book Sale

Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> 10am—5pm  
Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> 10am—3pm

ST. HELENS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
375 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Helens.

All Books .25 cents--\$1  
DVDs, Books on tape, CDs etc.  
also available.

St. Helens Garden Club  
Plant Sale on Porch Saturday  
the 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am

# St. Helens Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

on the porch of the Columbia Center



**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am – 3:00pm**



The St. Helens Public Library at the Columbia Center • 375 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051 • 503-397-4544 • [www.ci.st-helens.or.us/library/](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/library/)

## Friends of Dalton Lake Clean Up Day

The Friends of Dalton Lake are organizing a Dalton Lake Bluff Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 23, to correspond with other state-wide activities as part of SOLVE's Earth Day clean up events. Help the Friends of Dalton Lake from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as they remove invasive plant species and clean up litter.

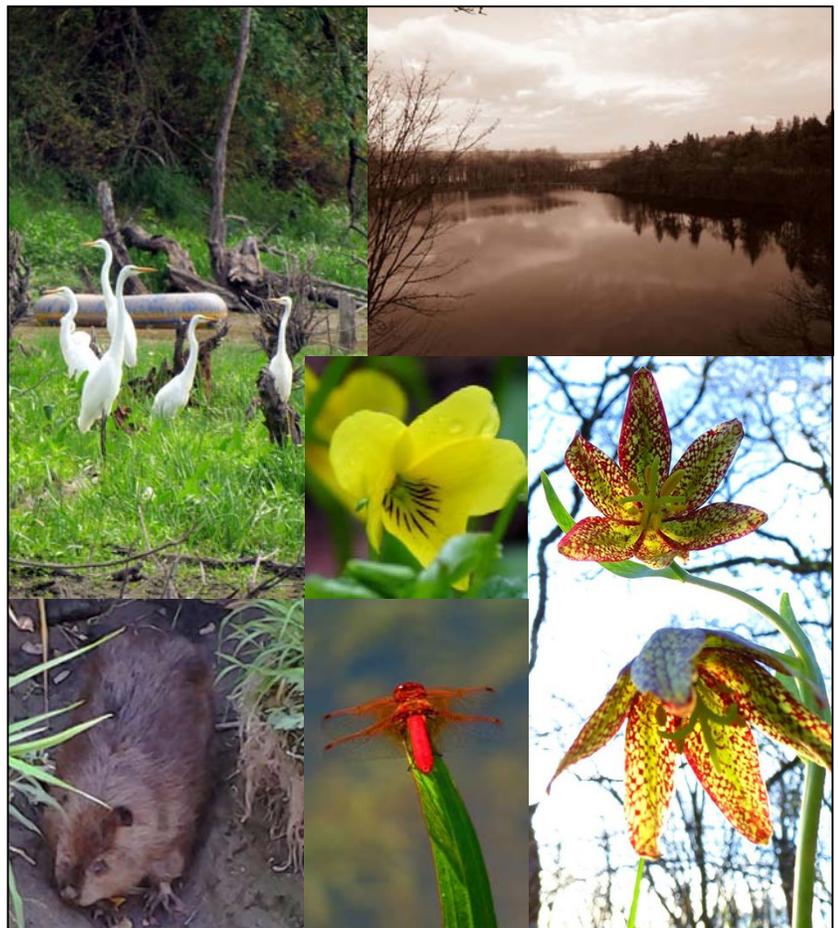
The group will meet at the trailhead across the street from the Columbia Humane Society (2084 Oregon Street). Parking is available on the west side of Oregon Street in the gravel area across from the County Parks Department building.

This event is recommended for ages 12 and up. The Friends of Dalton Lake ask that volunteers bring the following items, if available: shovels, rakes, work boots, work gloves, wheel barrow, pruners and clippers.

Dalton Lake is home to nearly 200 species of native plants, dozens of bird species and mammals such as beaver, muskrat, and river otter. Clean up efforts will focus on collecting trash, including debris from abandoned camper sites, and removal of invasive ivy and blackberry near the bluff on the southwest side of the lake.

You can register for Dalton Lake Bluff Clean Up day online at <http://www.solveoregon.org/get-involved/events/dalton-lake-bluff-cleanup>.

You can also find the Friends of Dalton Lake on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Dalton-Lake-1499293596973008/>.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK BIRKLE



*St. Helens*

SPRING  
CLEAN UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD  
9AM-1PM

CHECK IN STARTS AT 9AM @ THE COURTHOUSE PLAZA

Clean up Main Street, celebrate Earth Day, & make a difference

Grab your family and friends and help us beautify the Riverfront District. Some tools will be provided. Rain or shine.

Activities for children will be available.

Register online at: <http://www.solveoregon.org/get-involved/events/st-helens-annual-spring-cleanup>



CONTACT [MAINSTREET@CI.ST-HELENS.OR.US](mailto:MAINSTREET@CI.ST-HELENS.OR.US) WITH QUESTIONS



## **“If I Were Mayor, I Would...” Student Contest**

The Oregon Mayors Association and the City of St. Helens invite you to enter the “If I Were Mayor, I Would...” contest. Share your ideas about what you would do as mayor of St. Helens.

A local winner from each category will receive a **Fred Meyer Gift Card, Papa Murphy’s Gift Card and lunch with the mayor.** The winning entry will be sent to the statewide contest for a chance to win an **Apple iPad Air 2 tablet.**

Be creative! Entries will be judged based on originality, clarity/sincerity of thought, proper use of grammar, and subject relevancy.

**Contest Deadline**  
**April 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m.**

**Categories**  
**Poster (Grades 4-5)**  
**Essay (Grades 6-8)**  
**Digital Media Presentation (High School)**

Completed entries must be received at City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on April 22, 2016. Only completed entries will be considered. The St. Helens City Council will review all qualifying entries at their May 4, 2016, Work Session. Prizes will be presented at the evening Regular Session. The winning entries will be forwarded to the statewide competition to be judged by a panel of mayors.

### **Submissions**

**Mail**  
City of St. Helens  
Attn: Lisa Scholl  
P.O. Box 278  
St. Helens, OR 97051

**In Person**  
St. Helens City Hall  
265 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

Questions? Contact Lisa at 503-366-8216 or [lisas@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:lisas@ci.st-helens.or.us).



# Spring Clean Up / Earth Day

## Saturday, April 23, 2016

### 8:00 am - Noon



### Drop Sites at 3 Convenient Locations:

**St. Helens High School – Scappoose High School – Columbia City School**

Need some help with your Spring Cleaning? We accept your old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, newspapers, old furniture, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. **Again** this year **Habitat for Humanity** will be onsite to accept donated items such as, new and gently used residential building materials, appliances, fixtures and home furnishings. Call Habitat for Humanity at 503-366-1400 if you have questions.

Car Load	\$ 5.00	Car Batteries	<b>FREE</b>	<b>NO Sod</b> <b>NO Lumber</b> <b>NO Burn piles</b> <b>NO Painted wood</b> <b>NO Wet garbage</b> <b>NO Yard debris in plastic garbage bags</b> <b>NO Construction debris</b>
Pick-Up Load	\$10.00	Appliances	\$ 5.00	
Trailer Load	\$15.00	Refrigerators / AC Units	\$10.00	
Tires* (Cars and Pick-Ups)	\$ 2.00	Yard Debris after 2 loads	\$ 5.00	
		Tires* (Commercial Trucks)	\$ 4.00	
*TIRES OFF RIMS ONLY – No Tires on Rims will be accepted.				

- This is a community event made possible by the following organizations:**
- Beaver Bark
  - City of Columbia City
  - City of Scappoose
  - City of St. Helens
  - Columbia Co Community Corrections Dept.
  - Columbia Co Land Development
  - Columbia Co Rotary Club
  - Columbia Co Transfer Station
  - Drake's Towing & Recovery
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Hudson Garbage Service
  - Hudson Portable Toilet Service
  - Les Schwab Tire Center – Scappoose
  - Les Schwab Tire Center – St. Helens
  - Scappoose Community Club
  - Scappoose School District
  - SCC Chamber of Commerce
  - SHEDCO
  - St. Helens School District
  - Stan's Refrigeration
  - Waste Management

**DRAKE'S TOWING & RECOVERY**

FREE REMOVAL of scrap vehicles.  
Call Ryan at 503-438-6099  
for details.

**NO COMMERCIAL TRUCK LOADS**

Yard debris, trees & limbs

FREE for first 2 loads  
\$5 each additional load

\$ DONATIONS APPRECIATED

**SHEDCO-St. Helens Economic Development Corporation**

CLEAN UP Event

Houlton Area to Old Towne in St. Helens  
Meet at Courthouse Plaza at 9 am – for assignments  
Some tools provided, ok to bring your own.  
Coffee, water and light snacks provided for volunteers.

Look up their **Facebook** event page for more information: "SHEDCO's Annual Spring Clean Up".

See reverse for disposal of  
Hazardous Household Waste materials  
Columbia County Transfer Station  
**Sat. June 25, 2016 / 8:00 am - Noon**

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016  
8:00 AM - NOON**

**Acceptable Hazardous Waste Materials:**

- Thinners and solvents, paint spray cans, auto & marine paint
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons
- Household cleaners, disinfectants and detergents
- Light ballasts-*remove from light fixture*
- Fluorescent tubes
- Ammunition
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Art and hobby chemicals
- PCB's
- Gasoline/diesel/fuels
- Batteries (*only car, rechargeable, button*)  
-no alkaline batteries
- Fireworks / flares
- Items containing mercury



Businesses with (SQG) hazardous waste  
- contact Graham Gadzia at 206-900-3930  
at least 2 weeks prior to event for appt.

**HAZARDOUS DISPOSAL  
IS FREE OF CHARGE**

**Items NOT accepted:**

- ⊘ Radioactive materials
- ⊘ Household trash / empty containers
- ⊘ Latex or acrylic paint
- ⊘ Used oil
- ⊘ Explosives
- ⊘ Bio medial waste
- ⊘ Asbestos
- ⊘ Prescriptions/over the counter medications
- ⊘ Business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large

**Items accepted for free during regular business hour at the Transfer Station:**

Accepted Products (maximum container size is 5 gallons, original can & label):

- ✓ Stains and shellacs
- ✓ Wood coatings (containing no pesticides)
- ✓ Primers, undercoatings and sealers
- ✓ Deck coatings and floor paints (including elastomeric)
- ✓ Lacquers, lacquer sanding sealers and lacquer stains
- ✓ Melamine, metal and rust preventatives
- ✓ Used motor oil and antifreeze
- ✓ Swimming pool paints (single component)
- ✓ Medical sharps (in a sealed, puncture-proof container)
- ✓ Varnishes and Urethanes (single component)
- ✓ Waterproofing, sealers and repellents: concrete masonry and wood (no tar or bitumen-based)
- ✓ Exterior and Interior Paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based and enamel (all types of finishes and sheens, including textured coatings) – **NO SPRAY CANS, NO LEAKING CANS**

**Toxic.Free.Home.**



Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

**THE COLUMBIA COUNTY  
TRANSFER STATION  
1601 RAILROAD AVENUE  
ST. HELENS OR 97051**

Regular Business Hours:  
Monday – Saturday / 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

*If you have any questions about hazardous items collected  
call Kathy 503-397-7259.*

## Make St. Helens Parks Reservations Early



Planning to host a birthday party, family reunion or graduation party in one of our St. Helens parks? During warm-weather months, particularly during the summer, St. Helens parks are a popular destination. While reservations are not required for any event under 50 people, making a park reservation does ensure that you have a spot available for any special event you are planning.

The parks reservation calendar fills up fast for the summer months, especially for the covered areas at Columbia View Park and McCormick Park.

If you would like to reserve a spot at McCormick Park, Campbell Park, Godfrey Park or Columbia View Park, call City Hall at 503-397-6272 to make a tentative reservation. By making a tentative reservation, you are given first priority for the requested spot if multiple groups are looking to use the same area. After you have made a tentative reservation, you need to complete a Park Use Application. This application is available on the City's website under Forms & Applications. Return the completed application to City Hall along with the appropriate fee(s).

A park reservation permit will be issued to you, guaranteeing you the use of your chosen park area on the day that you requested.

## Public Meetings Calendar

### April

4/6	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
4/7	Budget Committee	6 pm
4/11	Parks Commission	4 pm
4/12	Planning Commission	7 pm
4/12	Library Board (Columbia Center)	6:30 pm
4/18	Youth Council	7 pm
4/20	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
4/26	Arts & Cultural Commission	6:30 pm
4/28	Bike & Pedestrian Commission	6:30 pm

### May

5/2	Youth Council	7 pm
5/4	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
5/5	Budget Committee (Tentative)	6 pm
5/10	Planning Commission	7 pm
5/16	Youth Council	7 pm
5/18	Budget Committee Public Hearing	6 pm
5/18	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
5/23	Library Board (Columbia Center)	6:30 pm
5/30	Youth Council	7 pm

### June

6/1	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	Council Public Hearing on Budget	6:30 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
6/13	Parks Commission	4 pm
6/13	Youth Council	7 pm
6/14	Planning Commission	7 pm
6/15	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
6/21	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
6/27	Youth Council	7 pm
6/28	Arts & Cultural Commission	6:30 pm
6/30	Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission	6:30 pm

Meeting agendas, packets and minutes, along with any changes, are available to view on the City's website at [www.ci.st-helens.or.us](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us). Public Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 29.

## Are you signed up to pay your utility bill online?

You can pay your City of St. Helens utility bill online through our Merchant Transact payment portal.

Paying your bill online is fast, easy, and your payment reflects on your utility bill the same day that you make a payment.

Visit <https://sthelens.merchantransact.com/default.aspx> or click the "Pay Your Utility Bill Online" link under the Essential Resident Resources section of the City's main website (<http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/>).