

From: [A L](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Linda Nishioka](#)
Subject: Testimony for the Local Option Tax Levy
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:36:19 AM
Attachments: [Local Option Tax Levy.rtf](#)

Hello,

My name is Ariel Loveall and I have a paper to present to you all, that you may have already read, about the way local option tax levies have been used adequately in the state of Oregon. I have presented a list of how they work, what didn't work in certain cities, and how the tax was implemented/succeeded in other communities here in Oregon. Thank you all so much for your time and thank you for taking the time to read through this.

I appreciate you all and please consider the importance of a levy, or a decision similar, to helping fund our city, parks, and libraries properly. Thank you all so much once again and have a wonderful evening.

- Ariel Loveall

Local Option Tax Levies

This paper is to present a list of cities that have benefited, voted against, and have not implemented the tax in the states of Oregon. I have included several pros, cons, concerns and suggestions how cities can or have been impacted by this tax. I fully stand behind a local option levy to increase the services in our city, the most important one being the Salem Public Library.

All sources are cited and words are not my own unless stated. Thank you for the opportunity to present this paper and please consider the importance of this levy.

These are all of the libraries in Oregon that are currently supported by a local option tax levy.

Aloha Community Library

Baker County Library District

Banks Public Library

Beaverton City Library

Cedar Mill Library

Cornelius Public Library

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Eugene Public Library

Fern Ridge Library District

Forest Grove City Library

Garden Home Community Library

Hillsboro Public Library

Lincoln County Library District

North Plains Public Library

Sherwood Public Library

Stayton Public Library

Sweet Home Public Library

Tigard Public Library

Tillamook County Library

Tualatin Public Library

Union Carnegie Public Library

Warrenton Community Library

West Slope Community Library

“A local option tax levy is a special levy subject to many conditions. It is often referred to as a “gap” levy because it can fill the gap between the Measure 50 tax limit and the Measure 5 tax limit.”

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lro/Documents/rr4_4school_propertytax.pdf

“A local option levy is a voter approved additional property tax assessment. A local option levy can be levied for a maximum of five years for operational expenses, or ten years for capital expenses. If Salem voters approved a local option levy, the revenue could be used only for the identified needs. Once the levy expires, voters would then need to be asked to approve a new levy to continue collecting local option taxes for an additional five years.”

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safe-and-secure-community-1671#:~:text=A%20local%20option%20levy%20is,only%20for%20the%20identified%20needs.>

Corvallis - (HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED LEVY)

Population : 60,956

“Voters in Corvallis approved a renewal of the five-year local operating levy that funds livability services from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, along with annual social services grants.

Measure 2-141 received a strong endorsement from voters after ballots were tabulated on November 7, 2023. Preliminary reports indicate the levy renewal passed by a margin of more than 66% approval. The levy is a renewal of an existing five-year levy that had funded similar services and was set to expire on June 30, 2024. The new levy starts on July 1, 2024 and will generate between \$6.5 million and \$7.3 million annually for five years.

The outcome of the ballot measure preserves important services, including current operating hours and program offerings at the Corvallis Library, and provides funding for beloved institutions such as the Osborn Aquatic Center, Corvallis Community Center (C3), and the Majestic Theatre. The new levy also provides \$480,000 in annual social services grants to support local providers in Corvallis that provide shelter and support services, food security, intervention services, childcare, mental and physical health services, and family support.

The local option levy is an important part of the “three-legged stool” that represents the current funding approach for City services. The City Council implemented the first leg of the stool in 2018 by creating new public safety fees to fund services at the Corvallis Police Department and Corvallis Fire Department. The second leg was the levy itself, which consolidated voter support for Library and Parks and Recreation services around a predictable renewal cycle every five years. The third leg of the stool is the 911 service district in Benton County, which was implemented in 2019 to create a more sustainable funding model for 911 emergency dispatch services in the community.”

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/cm/page/levy-library-parks-and-recreation-services-wins-voter-approval-0>

“On November 7, 2023, the City Livability Services Local Option Levy passed with 66.5% support.

On July 21, 2023, the City of Corvallis filed a Notice of Measure Election (SEL 802) with the Benton County Elections Division, and the City Livability Services Local Option Levy was assigned measure number #2-141.

On May 15, 2023, the Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2023-17 approving the local option tax levy explanatory statement for the November 7, 2023 election. The notice of explanatory statement was published to the City website on May 16, 2023.

On April 17, 2023, the Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2023-13 referring a local option tax levy of \$1.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value to the voters for the November 7, 2023 election. The notice of receipt of ballot title was published to the City website on April 18, 2023 and appeared in the next available edition of the Corvallis Gazette-Times newspaper (Saturday, April 22, 2023).

For information about services proposed to be funded by Measure 2-141, visit this resource page on the City website. “

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/cm/page/november-2023-city-livability-services-local-option-levy>

Eugene - (HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED LEVY)

Population: 178, 056

November 3, 2020, the City of Eugene voters approved Measure 20-309 to fund expanded Eugene Public Library services for five years beginning July 2021. The expanded services promised in the levy were in three categories:

More hours and access

2. More programs for all ages

3. More materials and technology

Accountability and transparency were built into the levy measure through an annual review by the citizen Library Advisory Board.

“Covering the time period of July 1 2022 to June 3rd 2023, EPL staff have continued to bring back offerings that were suspended. This timeframe is also the second year of the five year operating levy passed by Eugene voters by an overwhelming 76 percent.

The levy promise was to maintain the existing level of library services funded by the 2015 levy. We promised to preserve 47 open hours a week across the Downtown Library and Bethel and Sheldon branches. We did that in year one of the 2020 levy renewal and we continued to provide the same level of hours in FY23, giving increased opportunities for cardholders to borrow materials and use resources.

We saw an increase in visitors this past year to 826, 982 across our three facilities. For comparison, in FY22 we had 505,270 people pass through our doors.

For perspective, before the pandemic we had more than 1.1 million visits. We are continuing to make great strides in bringing more people back through our doors. Every facility saw modest to significant increases in traffic. The Downtown Library continued to rush toward pre-COVID numbers, jumping by 79.1 percent in annual visits. Bethel Branch also saw a robust increase at 20.9 percent over FY22, while Sheldon had an increase of 5.4 percent.”

“The levy promise for this second five years was to maintain the 1/3 increase in programming we sustained in the first levy. We promised to maintain the Maker equipment and sustain the increased offsite delivery of programs and the Library Van.

We still have not reached pre-pandemic program numbers, but we again made significant progress with an increase from 580 events in FY22 to 798 in FY23.

Attendance also increased from one year to the next, from 17,228 to 30,312.

In FY22 we phased back programming, beginning with baby storytimes. In the past year we increased programming across the system. The largest leaps came in adult, young adult and elementary programming.

We also started programs that were more inclusive to all age ranges in FY22, and we doubled the number of offerings for all-age programs from 19 to 42.”

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4557/2020-Library-Levy>

Hillsboro - (HAS IMPLEMENTED THE LEVY TWICE)

Population : 107,976

Update: Election Results as of 6/13/2022

Approval of Measure 34-311: Hillsboro Local Option Levy

Yes	16,715	82.41 %
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No	3,568	17.59 %
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<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13689/1718?arch=1&selcat=2&npa ge=5>

“In Hillsboro, our Local Option Levy is a five-year property tax that provides essential support for a specific use: our Police, Fire & Rescue, and Parks Maintenance programs, services, and staffing. Approved by 82% of Hillsboro voters in May 2022, the rate has remained consistent for the past 17 years.”

<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/14671/>

<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/support-services/documents/fy08-09-184-9710-cooperative-library/download?inline>

Independence - (SEEKING LEVY FOR 2025/2026)

Population: 10, 335

“The city of Independence is seeking a five-year local option tax of \$1.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2025-26, to support operations and maintenance of the City’s museum, library, and parks. The levy is necessary to continue to operate and maintain the Heritage Museum, public library, and city parks for the next five years.

The Library, Museum, and Parks are funded through June 30, 2025. If the levy does not pass, city staff will evaluate options and make recommendations to the Council, which may include:

Reduced Services: This could involve shorter service hours at the Library and Museum, potentially leading to staff reductions at one or both facilities.

Facility Closures: The Museum and/or Library may close, which would result in staff reductions at one or both locations.

Maintenance Cuts and/or Closures: Reduced maintenance across all parks with possible closure of less frequently used parks.

The City’s operation and maintenance of the museum, library, and city parks are funded from the City’s General Fund, primarily from property taxes and state shared revenues. Historically, the costs of operating and maintaining the museum, library, and parks have increased at a faster rate than the revenues available to support them. Over the last 10 years, general use property taxes have increased an average of 5% per year, versus costs to operate and maintain the City’s museum, library, and parks have grown an average of 9% per year. The estimated total combined cost to operate and maintain the museum, library, and parks for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$1,060,000.

The levy tax rate of \$1.82 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value is estimated to cost the average homeowner the equivalent of approximately \$382 in the first year of the levy, and would collect approximately \$1.12 million in the first year, with an estimated total of \$5.96 million over five years.

5 year option

9%

Increase to operate

\$382

First year cost

1.12 Million

Collected first year

5.96 Million

Collected – 5 years

1 M+

To maintain

—

If approved, the levy would fund and support numerous services and programs, which include but are not limited to:

Youth Coding League and STEM programming for community teens.

Preschool and bilingual Storytime programming.

Warming and cooling shelters for the community.

Local access to traveling exhibitions from the Smithsonian and other national societies.

Continuation of the annual Ghost Walk event.

Exhibits and programs supporting school groups interested in local history

Continued maintenance and upkeep of City parks grounds and equipment.

Continued seasonal watering of City parks.”

<https://www.ci.independence.or.us/local-option-levy-for-arts-and-culture/>

Salem - (DOES NOT HAVE LEVY IMPLEMENTED)

Population : 177,928

Veneta Oregon, Fern Ridge - (HAS FAILED AT IMPLEMENTING LEVY)

Population: 5,170

“About the failure of 20-258...

It seems there is some confusion about the library and our budget in the wake of the failure of our local-option levy. To clear up any misinformation out there, here are a few facts:

1. Fern Ridge Library District is a special taxing district. We do not receive any funds from the city of Veneta nor from the state of Oregon. We are not a branch of the Eugene Public Library.
2. We have a permanent tax rate of 39 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value. That amount will never disappear as long as we are a district.
3. Because 39 cents/\$1000 is not enough to operate the library within the standards set by the Oregon Library Association, we place additional local-option levies before the voting population of our district.
4. We are currently in year 4 of a 5 year levy. This levy adds 25 cents/\$1000 to your property taxes.

5. We anticipate that there will be no need to further reduce hours or material budgets in this year or in the fifth and final year of the levy.

6. Our current levy provides funds through June 30, 2018.

Information about Ballot Measure 20-258

Unofficial Results:

20-258 Fern Ridge Library Levy

No	4,080	64.20%
Yes	2,275	35.80%

As the results show, this levy asking for 50 cents per \$1000 did not pass. Therefore, our current 25 cents per \$1000 levy is still in effect, and will remain in place until June 30, 2018. If a new levy passes in 2017, it will take the place of our existing levy.”

<http://www.fernridgelibrary.org/budget--levy-information.html>

Current levy is now on the ballot for Fern Ridge and is set to be passed.

<http://www.fernridgelibrary.org/budget--levy-information.html>

From: [Christine Chute](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony for council work session January 21, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 7:41:24 AM

Dear Mayor Hoy and Council Members,

I would vote for a livability levy to secure funding for Parks, the Public Library, and Center 50+. I think the amount of the levy should be minimized to support existing service levels.

If counsel goes forward with the levy proposal, council should explain the recent 14% (over 2 years) raise to city police, and how it relates to the revenue shortfall. Voters need to understand.

I appreciate how hard this is and i am grateful to you for volunteering for this difficult work.

Thank you,

Christine Chute
Ward 2

From: [Camryn Pickworth](#)
To: [Julie Hoy](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Support Our City's Community Services
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:41:30 AM

Dear Mayor Hoy,

I'm reaching out to you today as a strong supporter of our library, parks, and Center 50+, and I urge your support of these vital community services.

Please refer to a bold Community Livability Levy to support the Salem Public Library, City Parks and Center 50+! Salem residents rely on these community spaces, and it is paramount that the City Council prioritize revenue for all three of these services.

As a growing coalition, we support these services and urge you to do the same.

I am located in Ward 6, so I do not have a city council member to reach out to, but I hope you will hear my message and take it to heart. These services are vital to a strong and flourishing city, and I truly believe Salem can be one.

Thank you in advance for your support of our library, parks, and Center 50+!

Best,
Camryn

--

Camryn Pickworth
Founder & Coach • [The First Pick VA Group LLC](#)



From: [Claire Roth](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support A Livability Levy
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 10:20:07 AM

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I'm writing to encourage you to support a Livability Levy on the May 20th ballot to allow a return to full service at our main library and West Salem Branch.

We moved to Salem as a young family in 2014. The library was a lifesaver for me as a young mother with 2 small children and a limited income. My children are 10 and 12 now but we still use the library at least weekly. When the possibility of the library closing came up initially, my husband said "We can't possibly live in a city that doesn't have a public library". I have heard this sentiment from other people as well.

Please support Salem families by supporting a Livability Levy for our library.

Sincerely,
Claire Roth

From: [Dyna Hermann](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Dyna Hermann](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 7:09:19 PM

Honorable Mayor Hoy, Distinguished City Council Members:

Out of an abundance of dedication to our city's present and future residents, I urge you to support Salem's city parks through sufficient funding to cover adequate staff and related resources to keep our parks clean, in working order, and safe. A properly funded park system equates to a properly maintained park system, which in turn equates to a safe and healthy park environment to be enjoyed by all residents of the community. A clean, well-maintained park deters vandalism and illegal camping. A neglected park system resulting from understaffed park offices, can be seen as an invitation to those wishing to vandalize and degrade our parks.

Safe, well-maintained parks provide opportunities for children to enjoy the outdoors, develop healthy relationships with nature and with the community. A well-maintained city park system sends a message to the children that their city cares about their well-being. Chances are those children will then grow into adults who care for their community.

Volunteers can only do so much to maintain city parks. The parks need their paid park rangers and maintenance staff to do the "heavy lifting", to keep the parks safe and well-supplied, to keep the lawns mowed, the trees healthy, the equipment in working order.

Please fund Salem's city parks with adequate resources to hire a strong regiment of dedicated city parks staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dyna Hermann, Salem resident since 2000

1. cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net with a cc: to the Salem City Council citycouncil@cityofsalem.net and to our new mayor Julie Hoy jhoy@cityofsalem.net.
2. Email your own City Councilor based on your ward. To find their email [Click here!](#)

From: [David Madsen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:11:35 AM

As the city is facing a huge nearly \$14 million deficit, I am most worried about the future of our parks, public library and Center 50+. They've all been woefully underfunded for some time now, but this deficit threatens to shutter their doors or slash their budgets even further. Especially now, we NEED a fully funded library, one that is open every day of the week with evening hours. It has been shown that the reading level of 3rd graders in Salem has tested well below those in cities with full service libraries. Further, that the capital of Oregon can't fund a full service library is already embarrassing, one that would only be further exacerbated should the library have to shutter its' doors entirely.

Now, more than ever, we need the library and the Center 50+, and we need properly maintained parks. They're imperative for building a sense of community - a place for people to gather and live shared experiences, if nothing else. To see them close their doors or be further underfunded would be a tragedy.

~David Madsen

From: [Elyssa Tran](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Save Our Library
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:57:09 AM

Dear Salem City,

I am writing to support the funding of our public library. It is an important resource for the community, and I want to say that I and many other like-minded citizens would be willing to pay higher local taxes to help residents and our children to have access to books and reading programs that foster the love of reading.

When I first came to the US in 1975, the thing that astounded me most was the library and the resources that it provides. There is practically nowhere in the developing world where you can borrow books for free. It was a place of refuge and entertainment for me and all of my siblings. We fondly read hundreds of books over the years, and I am still an avid reader today.

Please keep this resource open for our residents.

Best,
Elyssa Tran

From: [Gary McCuen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: "Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session."
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:47:08 AM

We are asking that you support The Livability Levy by placing it on the May ballot.

Without an additional source of revenue, Parks, Center 50+, and the libraries will suffer further budget reductions, shortened hours or closures, and reduced maintenance. Any reduced maintenance could mean higher future taxes to undo damage from neglect. This levy could actually save taxpayer money in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this vital issue to maintain our parks and libraries.

Gary & Annie Francoise McCuen
490 Superior St S.
Salem, OR 97302
503 302 9043

Without a livable planet, nothing else matters.
- Peter Kalmus, NASA Climate Scientist

Friends of Center 50+
2615 Portland Rd NE
Salem OR 97301

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2025
SALEM LEGAL DEPT

City Recorder
City of Salem Budget Committee
Salem City Council
555 Liberty St.
Salem OR 97301



Your Input is needed to keep Center 50+ open



Center 50+ is more than a building—it's a vibrant hub of connection, wellness, and lifelong learning for our community. As we head into the new year, we need your help to ensure these essential programs remain funded and accessible.

On January 15th at 6:00 p.m., the Salem City Council will hold a budget meeting at the City Council Chambers, 555 Liberty St., and your voice can make a difference.

We are asking for your support in one of two ways:

1. Attend the budget meeting to vocalize your support for the programs at Center 50+.
2. Write a letter of support sharing what Center 50+ means to you and the impact our programs have had on your life or the lives of your loved ones. The bottom portion can be used to write a short letter of support for our center that we will turn in to the City Council.

Your advocacy ensures that programs like these continue to thrive:

- Lifelong Learning Classes: Explore art, technology, fitness, and more.
- Caregiver Resources: Support groups and educational workshops.
- Friendship Bridge Program: Connecting seniors in assisted living facilities with the community.
- Wellness Programs: Fitness classes and healthy living workshops.
- Volunteer Opportunities: A chance to give back and stay connected.

Please take a moment to reflect on how Center 50+ has enriched your life and consider sharing your story. Letters can be emailed to citycouncil@cityofsalem.net or delivered in person to the center by January 10th so they can be shared during the meeting.



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

B-13-24

Dear City Council

It is very important the 50+ Center remains open for Community Activities.

- 1. Meals on Wheels*
- 2. Educational Programs*
- 3. Senior Meals at the Center*

Signed by: *Beverly Barton* Date: *12-13-24*

(over)

4. Social Programs

I will go through & explain each of the meals on wheels - get their food for the meals @ the center and also, pack their bags for delivery @ the center.

2. Educational Programs - such as classes on various diseases, which our seniors need to know information on the diseases, so they can assist in their healing & to be more knowledgeable, so they can explain their problems to their doctor.

3. The meals @ the Senior's Center are very economical for these people. And with the price of food it certainly helps with our budget. The meals are well balanced which many seniors do not have.

4. Social Programs - The dances are a good social event. Which people mix & visit with each other. The lessons are great to keep us up-dated on our dancing skills. Dancing is an excellent form of exercise.

The Exercise classes are an excellent way to stretch our abilities. By keeping our balance and keeping our circulation flowing.

These many programs @ the center to keep our seniors active. We need this to stay young, fit & moving -

December 9, 2024

Salem City Council


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My understanding is that the 50+ Center is being considered for closure due to current funding problems. I truly believe this would do a great disservice to the elderly in and out of the Salem area.

I currently take classes at the center and often stay for lunch to socialize with friends, many of whom would have difficulties with getting out to meet new friends. In our senior years this is imperative. The Center serves this purpose for many. I have found help there with Medicare questions and have used many other services that are housed in the Center. My husband is in a turning club which uses the Center at least once a month. Their membership involves 85 members and spans ages from 14 to 90.

Although I live just outside the city limits, I consider Salem my community. I have been here for 50 years and plan to be here until I die. The 50+ Center is a bright spot in my life and the lives of many. I urge you to please reconsider this plan.

Sincerely,



Donna Hirt
1690 N Oak Grove Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

December 10, 2024

City of Salem

555 Liberty Street SE

Salem OR 97301

I'm writing this letter in support of Center 50+. I understand that there may not be funding for Center 50+ and want to talk about what a positive influence it has on so many, many lives of older Salem and surrounding area residents.

Center 50+ offers such a large variety of activities. Music lessons, writing classes, physical activity equipment, pool tables, lapidary equipment, computer classes, respite for caregivers of people with dementia, and much more.

I personally have taken ukulele lessons here for about 6 years. This is a skill that helps keep me active and learning. There is a fee for the class that is paid to Center 50+.

After class I usually have lunch so have experienced the Meals on Wheels lunch program which is very well attended by seniors. If Center 50+ closed, Meals on Wheels would have to find a new space to prepare meals, serve meals to seniors and distribute them throughout the community.

Another activity that I've enjoyed at Center 50+ is wrapping Christmas gifts that Salem businesses and individuals donate. These gifts are then distributed to individuals who live in the neighborhood surrounding Center 50+. It seems a low income area so receiving the gifts enrich the lives of those individuals.

Thank you for keeping Center 50+ open! It serves so many senior citizens!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luanne Whitaker".

Luanne Whitaker



Your Input is needed to keep Center 50+ open



Center 50+ is more than a building—it's a vibrant hub of connection, wellness, and lifelong learning for our community. As we head into the new year, we need your help to ensure these essential programs remain funded and accessible.

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Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I ~~was~~ ^{had} very little social life until joining 50+. It has given me friendships and social that 50+ offers. The classes have given me new learning. I volunteer in our Reach w/ the disabled. This program does a lot for the community going to assisted living facilities. Letting people know someone cares. The coin provides help for those with mobility problems. The events they

Signed by: Nancy S. Hatterson

Date: 1/9/25

→ next page

Sponsor give another way to have social community
to meet groups + people to be friends.

The center has opened my world and helping me to
have a full and happy life in my elder
years. This center needs to stay please.

There are many with same story. Many have
very few contact if not for center.

The cent 50+ is a asset to the community
HOPE will please listen to our voices

Thank you

Nancy J. Hackett

Paul McCabe

1925 Maple Ave, NE

Salem, Or. 97301

503-779-3333

To Salem City Council

Center 50+

I am a retired school teacher who taught for 24 years in the inner city of Los Angeles. Because of the cost of living in LA, I came to Salem to retire, and bought a home in the Highland neighborhood. It was a neighborhood in transition, and I received a discount for buying property in the inner city of Salem. I set about restoring the 1924 cottage that had been damaged by a fire. My first encounter with Center 50+ was with the wood shop, where I went to reface the doors and drawers from the kitchen cabinets to match the cottage style of the house. I had some skill sets, but not the tools or work space that would allow me to complete the project. It was the first of several projects necessary to restore the interior of the house because of the fire.

Next to the woodshop is the Respite Room, a day care center for adults, to give respite for family caregivers, a place where their loved ones are safe and cared for, so that the family can get relief from the challenges of caring for loved ones with dementia. I became a volunteer in the room, and because of that experience, I became a caregiver, going into homes to help families with loved ones with dementia.

Eventually, my wife was diagnosed with dementia. I enrolled her Silver Sneakers exercise program, and Chair Yoga at the Center 50+, to help her with the physical symptoms of her illness. As her dementia progressed, I placed her in the Respite Room two days a week to give me respite from the challenges of being her primary caregiver.

The Alzheimer Association has an office in the center, and there is a support group for families struggling with the demands of caregiving. Instead, I chose to join the Writers Group for support because I was a teacher in the inner city of Los Angeles, and I had a number of adventures that I wanted to write about. Sharing these stories with the group



Your Input is needed to keep Center 50+ open



Center 50+ is more than a building—it's a vibrant hub of connection, wellness, and lifelong learning for our community. As we head into the new year, we need your help to ensure these essential programs remain funded and accessible.

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- Lifelong Learning Classes: Explore art, technology, fitness, and more.
- Caregiver Resources: Support groups and educational workshops.
- Friendship Bridge Program: Connecting seniors in assisted living facilities with the community.
- Wellness Programs: Fitness classes and healthy living workshops.
- Volunteer Opportunities: A chance to give back and stay connected.

Please take a moment to reflect on how Center 50+ has enriched your life and consider sharing your story. Letters can be emailed to citycouncil@cityofsalem.net or delivered in person to the center by January 10th so they can be shared during the meeting.



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

BEST PROGRAMS OFFERED
TO SENIORS!!! HAPPY
PEOPLE, ACCEPTING!!

Signed by: Way Edwards Date: 12/31/24

Don & Kay Perepchuk
2575 Meridian Ct
Woodburn, OR 97071
503-982-4250

① We would like you to support in Full in
next budget the 50+ center + all activities
there including the ukulele classes which I
attend for several years. The center is
a valuable resource for all seniors needs
for Fuller Life Experience.

② Also the Salem Library, where it supplies
my needs in reading books + the once a
month ukulele group UFD's, we have nowhere
else to go for group play with large group.

Thank you for your support in
these matters

Don & Kay Perepchuk
Kay Perepchuk

December 10, 2024

To: Members of the Salem City Council
From: John P. Buckley, Member of Center 50+
RE: Continued stabilization of senior mental health in Salem

Please keep Center 50+ funded. It is not just a club. It is a primary resource for improved senior mental health. For example, after Covid, I was lonely. I needed to find a supportive community. I found it in Center 50+ ukulele classes. Center 50+ contributes to lower incidents of depression among Salem seniors. Just like many others, my mental health is better today because of Center 50+.

The following data explains how Center 50+ is, in fact, a relevant and key mental health resource for Salem. Closing it, puts each member at a higher risk of poor mental health.

“Oregon ranks as the sixth worst state in the nation for prevalence of mental illness.” ¹ **Oregon State University** Citizens of Salem need more, not fewer mental health resources.

“The most common mental illnesses in older adults in Oregon include:

Depression: 16.5% of adults age 65 and older in Oregon have been told by a healthcare professional that they have a depressive disorder.” ² **America Health Rankings** These adults go to Center 50+. Its programs are preventative and healing.

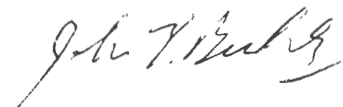
“What is the most common cause for depression in the elderly?”

“Social isolation and loneliness. Lack of exercise or physical activity. Functional limitations that make engaging in activities of daily living difficult.” ³ **NIA / NIH** The staff and volunteers, at Center 50+, know these risks and provide solutions.

What solutions are available to combat depression in the elder?

“Cognitive Stimulation, Mental Exercise, Volunteering, Education, Socializing, Physical Activity.” Examples: “Music, Dance, Pool, Woodworking, Classes, Comradery, Arts, Crafts, Yoga, Exercise, Travel.” ⁴ **Mayo Clinic** These are the very offerings provided at Center 50+.

Supporting quality Senior mental health in Salem can be your legacy.



¹ Oregon State University
<https://c2f.oregonstate.edu/understand/mental-health>

² America's Health Rankings
https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/depression_sr/OR

³ National Institute of Aging – National Institutes of Health
<https://www.nia.nih.gov> -> mental-and-emotional-health

⁴ Mayo Clinic
“Building healthy habits with stress management techniques”

To: Salem, Oregon City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am a retiree, age 78. I live in Keizer, and I have paid a fee which was requested of ~~residents~~ residents outside of Salem.

I began using the ~~gym~~ gym several years ago. I started visiting the pool room to watch and started taking pictures of the players. Eventually, I started playing although I ~~am~~ remain much more skill with a camera than with a pool cue. My point here is this: It is an opportunity for people of my age to gather

share in activity which we enjoy.

It is a chance to learn from each other.

There are opportunities for people who enjoy woodworking, making jewelry and lapidary activities: cutting and ~~the~~ polishing gemstones.

For a person like myself, Center 50 constitutes a major part of my social life.

I see posters in the lobby depicting Salem as a city for people of all ages. Should you choose to

deny us the use of Center 50, a lot of us angry old people might be inclined to find ~~any~~ ways to damage or cut short your political careers.

In a ~~recent~~ recent election you had considered closing the ~~the~~ library, a horrible idea. Now you are replacing a horrible idea with another horrible idea. Those of you who are not yet senior citizens, will arrive at that point sooner than you realize

I apologize for this messy

letter. I don't own a laser

printer and my handwriting,

~~was~~ never great, has gotten

worse over the years

Thank you for your time.

Michael Spry

12-12-24

January 9, 2025

Dear City Council Members:

My self-having been a senior volunteer, and user of the 50 Plus+ Community Resource Center a few years ago. The Center not only helps retired seniors, but also those becoming retirees. It also helps them to ease into continuing life's path offering how to navigate the financial aspects. It also connects them with the right services as needed, and guidance on maintaining a continual healthy lifestyle mentally and physically.

The center's participants not only receive but give back to the center, the community, and county through many different ways. As all around healthy seniors, we help to impact our general neighborhood and communities in a good healthy way.

There are fund raising events to help financially with the center, and volunteering for the center positions helps to save the center funds (money). It gives the volunteer a feeling of still being useful and connected to the community by doing their part in the center.

There are opportunities to volunteer, events that share and donate to the community and county:

A holiday event is making Christmas cookies and sharing with your neighborhood.

A sewing group Reaching out to the community by making blankets for kids and babies in hospitals.

The center receives calls from all over the county from people getting ready to retire, and sometimes it's a relative member of the retiring person requesting information about what is available and how to begin the journey.

This Center promotes programs to meet the needs of seniors and gives back to communities and county.

- Lifelong learning classes: Explore art technology, fitness and more.
- Caregiver Resources: Support Groups and educational workshops.
- Friendship Bridge Program: Connecting seniors in assisted living facilities with the community.
- Wellness Programs: fitness classes and healthy living facilities with the community.
- Volunteer Opportunities: A chance to give back and stay connected.

We all are out in the public whether we go shopping for groceries, clothing, or see the Doctor, Dentist, eye doctor, or attend a public place like a church etc. We all touch each other's lives in one way or another.

This is a center **everyone** benefits from later in life's journey.

Thank you for your time,

Snyder



Your Input is needed to keep Center 50+ open



Center 50+ is more than a building—it's a vibrant hub of connection, wellness, and lifelong learning for our community. As we head into the new year, we need your help to ensure these essential programs remain funded and accessible.

On January 15th at 6:00 p.m., the Salem City Council will hold a budget meeting at the City Council Chambers, 555 Liberty St., and your voice can make a difference.

We are asking for your support in one of two ways:

1. Attend the budget meeting to vocalize your support for the programs at Center 50+.
2. Write a letter of support sharing what Center 50+ means to you and the impact our programs have had on your life or the lives of your loved ones. The bottom portion can be used to write a short letter of support for our center that we will turn in to the City Council.

Your advocacy ensures that programs like these continue to thrive:

- Lifelong Learning Classes: Explore art, technology, fitness, and more.
- Caregiver Resources: Support groups and educational workshops.
- Friendship Bridge Program: Connecting seniors in assisted living facilities with the community.
- Wellness Programs: Fitness classes and healthy living workshops.
- Volunteer Opportunities: A chance to give back and stay connected.

Please take a moment to reflect on how Center 50+ has enriched your life and consider sharing your story. Letters can be emailed to citycouncil@cityofsalem.net or delivered in person to the center by January 10th so they can be shared during the meeting.



Dec. 12-2024 Deborah A. Day

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is an exceptional facility and organization! I doubt there are many senior centers in the country as active and beneficial as this one.

At 75 years old I greatly benefit from chair yoga, better than physical therapy for my knee + shoulder

Have participated/loved the cohort program, art appreciation, organized trips, Have volunteered at resale + canone program

Signed by Enjoying the meals + special events
Love my tech support. Exceptional!

Date And outreach to community

I think the State of Oregon should contribute to all the services they use in Salem!

January 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not cut programs at Center 50+! I am in my daughter's ukulele class and I eat lunch at 50+ once a week. For years until COVID I ate lunch every day at the Center. As I tell my daughter, those old men wouldn't have lunch without the Center. Have you ever seen how many rush to line up before the doors open at 11:45? Amazing!

Seriously, the Center is important to so many. Besides the food, it is a good place to gather to learn or just sit.

I don't tell my age but I am old enough to know what is important. This is important!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Romine".

Christine Romine
1640 Almond Lane NW
Salem, OR 97304

January 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am casting my vote in support of continuing to fund Center 50+!

I remember when the Center opened. I went to the grand opening. Everything was so new, so welcoming for seniors of all walks of life and such a bright place to be! Shortly after, my husband Ron Relaford, and I were asked to teach a ukulele class. We did and here we are in 2025 still teaching. Some of our original students still attend classes. We started with one class of 8 and now teach 3 large classes. What a journey this has been! The Center is not quite so new, but it still is just as welcoming and such a bright, positive place to be.

Salem spends a lot of resources on the unhoused and on children....both extremely needy segments of our community, but so are our seniors. Throughout the years many of our seniors have emailed me to say, "The ukulele classes have literally saved my life." Several told me, "You don't know this, but I was contemplating suicide until I found 50+ and ukulele." No I wouldn't know this! Those people come and laugh and stay for lunch and even join other class offerings. 50+ is important!

So.....please continue to fund 50+. I hope you can find the means to fund at the current level. This is not the place to cut. Please don't let our quiet seniors get lost in these hard economic times!

AND.....by the way, Marilyn Daily and the 50+ staff are marvelous! They put their hearts and souls into connecting with everyone who walks through the door.

Sincerely,
Janet Romine
2915 Eric Ct. NW
Salem, OR 97304



(503-871-9309)

When I first started coming to Center 50+, it was shortly after the Covid pandemic. I began by volunteering in the respite program and helping out with receptionist duties. Three years later, I'm proud to still be a volunteer in the Respite program. In addition to volunteering, I actively participate in various activities and am excited to soon teach my first class on growing your own food. It didn't take long for me to realize that I had become part of a truly exceptional organization.

Center 50+ provides an essential outlet for a population that is often overlooked. But make no mistake—this is a thriving, vibrant community where new friendships are formed, new skills are learned, and people rediscover their sense of purpose. Here, individuals feel like vital members of society again, rather than invisible or forgotten.

Cutting funding or support for Center 50+ would be a grave mistake. It would strip hundreds of vulnerable individuals of the connection, support, and opportunities they rely on to maintain their humanity and sense of worth. Surely, you don't want to be responsible for that, do you?

I understand that your job involves making tough decisions, especially when it comes to budget constraints. However, Center 50+ has been built through years of dedication and effort, and it continues to make a profound difference by reaching out to older generations and engaging them in meaningful activities. Please consider the impact of your choices and ensure that this invaluable resource remains a cornerstone of our community.

Rosemary Grieser

1-9-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is vital to all seniors to improve strength and for socialization as well. My legs were so weak that I thought I could fall down at anytime. It has improved my entire strength overall. I take 8 exercise classes a week including Tone your bones, silver sneakers classic, chair yoga, and Tai Chi. I do 2 classes each day. Without Center 50+, I would just be watching TV

Signed by: Shylee O'Rell

Date: 01/09/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

So so many senior citizens have an active life because of center 50+. Daily we have many many people come into check out classes, use the fitness center have lunch + interact with others. Solitude + being a home body is a killer disease of old age. I am an active volunteer + have been for 3 years.

Signed by: Joan A. Walker Date: 1-8-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

CENTER 50+ HAS BECOME A SERIOUS PART OF MY LIFE, GIVING STRENGTH AND MEANING TO A LIFE THAT HAD BECOME STAGNANT AND WITHOUT CENTER. I HAVE FORMED NEW FRIENDS THAT I WILL CHERISH FOR EVER. THE REPUTATION OF THE CENTER 50+ IS LAUDED STATE WIDE. MY OHSU DR. PRESCRIBED TAI CHI TO HELP WITH MY BALANCE. LITTLE DID HE KNOW I WOULD END UP TAKING 8 PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT CLASSES A WEEK. THE CENTER 50+ HAS GIVEN ME HOPE FOR A STRONG, HEALTHY LONGER LIFE.

Signed by: Michael J. Kler Date: 9 JAN 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

50+ is a window to the world and a hub for friendship and knowledge.
50+ is a lifeline!

Signed by: Kaylyn Switt

Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Since my retirement - have made use of the Center 50+ Center.
That's 12 yrs now - minus the year and a half closed for COVID (so 10 yrs of use)
Took Spanish conversational classes for 7 years until COVID shut down.
Volunteered with a Spanish learners club.
Have both volunteered as "Angel" and paid for Square Dance classes on Wednesday nights past two years. ^{paid for} ~~paid for~~ have insurance coverage for Fitness Center - use on ^{game} ~~on~~ ^{and} ~~use~~
Take advantage of meals on wheels ^{caterer} ~~caterer~~ meal once a week to connect with friends

Signed by:

Steve Young
Steven M Young

Date: Jan 9, 2025

Please Keep the 50+ Center open → Very effective
Community outreach to seniors
• You've Got the Building - let's continue putting it to good use... •

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I'm one of those people who lives alone & I find going to the fitness center helps me keep fit & gets me out & among people. I've met some really great people. I've also done some of the classes & AARP driver's classes. It's a facility which is very good for seniors & it is used by many people.

Signed by: Anita Jenkins Date: 1-8-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The center provides activities to keep people 50+ over mentally & physically active at an affordable price. Studies have proven the positive benefit of exercise and socialization in maintaining physical & mental health in the senior population.

Signed by: Rhonda Helt Date: 1/09/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I found Center 50+ give me lots of enjoyable things. I like to take Tai Chi class helping me get balance better. also taking Square Dancing that make me happy and keep laughing, cut down depression.

Signed by: Bo Kwan

Date: 1-8-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This facility has been a saving grace for my health since 2018. I attend at least 5 fitness classes a week & other activities as I can. The fitness center is a MAJOR reason many people are able to recover from surgeries & live a safe & healthy life. By staying fit/healthy we are not a burden on other City resources. PLEASE

Signed by: Sue Mills

Date: 1/9/25

Budget this facility to continue.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ helped me help a friend w/ early dementia have a safe place to be, a community that understood and welcomed him as long as he lived. He was so grateful!

Center 50+ has helped me find a place I will actually go to with joy for exercise! I love Tai Chi and am improving my balance and working my brain as I try to follow directions. Our community needs Center 50+!

Signed by: Joanna Sandhu Date: 1-7-2025

P.S. My son & wife toured Center 50+ w/ me this summer. He's an Ironman and she's a personal trainer in Salt Lake. They were very impressed!!

✕

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

If funding is cut for Center 50+ the great programs that benefit the seniors in our community will be cut.

Center 50+ benefits the seniors by providing many programs lunches M-F, Respite care for those with dementia giving family a needed break, The outreach, wonderful for shut-ins to have visitors, Wow Vans who go to provide a service to seniors in senior living. Volunteers will be displaced if hours are cut.

Signed by: Sharon Ingram Date: 1/8/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

As a senior citizen of Northeast Salem, The 50+ center is very important to me, as a type II diabetic, I use the exercise room 2 times a week.

Also for seniors who rely on meals on wheels + other programs at the center is very important to them. So please find the resources to keep it running as it is today. Thank you

Signed by:

Joseph W. Duncan

Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

as an aging disabled Vet, The local connection with people and a place to maintain & share our health and mental concerns, a place where the experience of multiple lives can be brought together supporting each other and platforms where all the knowledge can be shared

Signed by:

Sharon V. [Signature]

Date:

1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center offered me a place to meet other senior citizens & feel like I am a part of a club, a great sense of belonging which seniors don't have at other venues. The Center offers many activities & opportunities to volunteer & help others come out of their shells. There is no other place for us to go and be seen & heard. Please don't cut the budget to Center 50+!

Signed by: Diane Villanueva Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please keep the Center Open. I am also a huge supporter of the library, but I think it is overbuilt as it now is. More people have access to the internet at home and digital library loans are becoming more popular. Can the library rent out ^{down} stairs or reduce hours instead?

Signed by: Roxane W. W. W. Date: 1/10/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Keep the Center Open !!

Signed by: DeLan Hugley

Date: 1/9/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please do not close 50+ I personally need company of people of my age group.

I find love & understanding here at 50+

I will be lost without my club & friends

Signed by: Janet Heister

Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This bldg (Center 50+) I feel is VITAL to the Senior community. It has many activities, classes, dances that allow people to continue learning (vital to the brain!), socializing (vital in society!) making new friends, being involved (important to have purpose!), Fitness/gym (vital to health!). This facility should not be closed down! Seniors are just as important!

Signed by: Elaine Kevorkian

Date: January 9, 2025

I am a weekly front desk volunteer (plus special events and other areas) and see first hand the impact Center 50+ has on seniors in the greater Salem area. It is a place that is special for so many people for so many reasons. To socialize with other seniors, to have lunch, to go to the gym, to take so many different classes and take part in so many different activities. The lapidary shop and the wood shop are both extremely popular and well used as is the fitness center and the crafts room. It is available for clubs to meet, it is centrally located and super convenient to get to by public transportation for those who don't drive anymore. It is priced so lower income seniors and afford to pay for and attend classes and events. It is such an amazing place to spend time for so many different people and should be considered a necessity for good quality of life for seniors in Salem and surrounding areas.

Signed by: Ben Weir

Date: 1-9-25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

No way!! Very good things happen here at this 50+ center. So where do we go, what happens to us - "God Almighty" Think about people...?! They have mercy

Signed by: Maria J. Date: 01-09-25

SS



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The ⁵⁰⁺ center help me to move my Bobby I need the fitness Every day It is a place I can go Every day to help me get around - Please help up to keep it open For the older people we have no other place like this to go to

Signed by: Eunice Brown Date: 1/9/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This Center is A Lifeline for me and many others - PLEASE don't take it away!

Signed by: Korin Sanders Date: 11/7/2025



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

workouts are a godsend for my arthritis. Closing 50+ would be a shame for all seniors.

Signed by: [Signature] Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please, Please, Please leave this resource open to those of us that use "Respite Care." It is imperative to help those with a disease of Dementia & it is so very helpful for the Caregivers & the person that has the disease!

Signed by: Roseann Balmanitz Date: 1-9-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I enjoy coming to 50 Plus because I get involved with bingo and make new friends. Center gets me out of the house for a few hours. I do live alone.

Signed by: Robina K Bean Date: 1/9/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I really need center 50+. It's very important to me for socializing (sometimes) & meals. I live alone and go to line dancing & bingo for meeting some of my social needs. It's my main meeting place of meeting friends & making new ones.
Please don't close this center.

Signed by: Joyce Binkheim

Date: Jan 9th 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been a volunteer here for about 10 years. I work the front desk & phones. I love interacting with everyone. My husband goes to the Respite Class for dementia. We both benefit from this. Please don't shut us down!

Signed by: Carolyn Harriot

Date: 1-9-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have benefited greatly from Center 50+, and have lost 60 lbs and gained better balance and mobility due to the classes and fitness equipment. Please continue to fund this Center!

Signed by

Mary Mitch

Date 12/12/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I would be very very very lost with out this Biggs thing at 50+ because I love hanging out here because I meet a lot of good people and I am a person I will miss a lot of people here. And I'd miss you out of the house.

Signed by:

Eugene E. Long

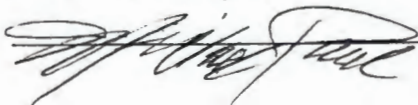
Date:

Jan, 9, 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

CENTER 50+ IS A VITAL BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY. AS A "WILLAMETTE VALLEY WOODTURNER" CLUB MEMBER, IT GIVES US A PLACE TO MEET THAT IS CENTRALLY LOCATED FOR MOST MEMBERS. "WILLAMETTE VALLEY WOODTURNERS" ARE A GROUP OF HOBBIEISTS, MEETING TOGETHER TO FURTHER THE ART, & PROVIDE THE EDUCATION NECESSARY TO YOUNGER MEMBERS TO CONTINUE THE HOBBY OF WOODTURNING. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MEETING PLACE, & CENTER 50+ PROVIDES THAT OPPORTUNITY.

Signed by:



Date:

JAN 9, 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ provides services for outreach programs, driving patrons to appointments, shuttles by phone calls & visits. Giving them contact with people. We have healthy living lectures on a variety of issues that affect peoples lives. We also offer a full regiment of fitness classes plus a gym. We have different classes on learning & enjoying about a variety of subject. We have hundreds of people who

Signed by:

Judi Maulding

Date:

1-3-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This provides a safe place for me (a senior) to go. Many activities, socializing. Gets me out of house. I know of no other place close enough for me.

Signed by: Cliff DeGha Date: 1/10/25

Cut the middle mgt in the City!!!!

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Respite care for the elderly - NEEDED

Meals on wheels - NEEDED

Place for lonely seniors to connect - NEEDED

You close the center you force the lonely elderly to not engage.

Signed by: [Signature] Date: 1/10/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

To Salem City Council
Over the years I have utilized many of the offerings of the Center 50+. Examples include classroom information from sources like health insurance programs, Senior Drivers Ed, Ancestry and as a venue for the Cherry City Orchid Society. Because my health has been fragile over the past 24 months, I have depended on the fitness programs to help increase my strength and flexibility. I sincerely urge you NOT to make budget cuts which will adversely affect the center - either its programs or its hours of operation.

Signed by: Rickie M. Holt Date: 1-10-25
rickiemh@hotmail.com

X

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

To whom it may concern - in today's typical environment, there seems to be less and less places for seniors to socialize and find activities to do together. 50+ provides a valuable venue for the cherry city orchid society to meet (a group entirely or nearly all seniors). There are many other groups that find this facility useful as well. Please do not cut hours or its availability from the Salem budget.

(Thanks)
Signed by: Mike Ayres Date: 1/9/25
MIKE AYRES

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

BINGO IS MY ENJOYMENT IN LIFE PLEASE KEEP IT
OPEN AT CENTER 50+

Signed by: Dagmar Rung

Date: JAN 04 '25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I travel 1 hour each month to my orchid meeting on the 2nd wed of the month @ center for 50+. The facilities are wonderful and clean and we can use the screen for our presentations. I appreciate that now we will be able to use zoom in the winter months. Each time I arrive at the Center for 50+ I appreciate the facilities. Please continue to sponsor this worthy institution.

Signed by: Patty Shan

Date: 1/9/25

541-602-2596

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center is a great place to meet people and to sign up for classes + field trip. Being elderly I do not like to drive and I can go to place that I cannot drive to

Signed by: Carol Candler-Cole Date: 1/10/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This is the only source of social outlets for the seniors. This place provides comfort, education, and friendship to many of us, seniors. Please consider continuing the service to the senior population especially those with limited income who can't afford a decent meal. Thank you

Signed by: Marvin Pol Date: 1/14/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Love This Place, Please don't take it away from me
lot of people like it here...

Signed by: Tony Sullivan Date: 12/12/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

For me it's connecting with social life in this case
Seniors. Learn of current events and learn of whats
going on around me and the community and Salem
and chance to relax and think and join others
in the services here at the center, Thank you.

Signed by: Darrell Ybarras Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been coming to the 50+ Center for 3 years. I find it essential to have this in my community because of the classes and activities it offers.

I am a retired 65 year old woman.

A sense of well being and belonging are just a few OF the benefits I get by coming here.

Thank,

Signed by: Lucia D. Wade Date: 12/12/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I attend classes here and this is such a place an invaluable community center for seniors. I come here to learn new skills and stay in shape, and be a part of a vital Salem community.

Thank you
Betha Beyer

Signed by

Date

12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

One has to recognize the number of people who visit daily to realize how important it is to seniors. For many it is their only opportunity to socialize - Also the lunch that is provided may be ~~his~~ the only real meal for the day - Important!!

Signed by: Richard Lee Date: Jan 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

So, I'm caregiving a senior that has to continue exercising to stay moving around his bed ridden like. I am also diabetic and here exercising is great for my health. Being proactive **PROACTIVE!** taking classes here with other ^(staying fit) seniors or disabled is important for ^{not being} depression and well being. this SOT center supports ^{us} all.

Signed by: Anonymous Date: 12/12/2024

Please do not close this December SOT center.

X

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

50+ provides a much needed service for Seniors companionship, exercise, learning & enjoyment beside a healthy meal

Signed by: Scott Steen

Date: 12/14/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Find another way to fund less deserving residents in Salem. The Center serves thousands of people and helps keep them mentally and physically active and out of nursing homes. Its programs are partly run by volunteers, that must save a lot of money. You'll put a lot of people on unemployment, that's an expense too.

Signed by

too.

Bonnie Queen
Salem OR 97317

Date

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We need Center 50+ & their programs. I've been coming here for many years, even before this was built, I went to the old senior center. I'm in a power wheel chair and am pretty much stuck at home if it weren't for the Center. It gives me a place to see other people and play bingo and I volunteer here. I'm a bingo caller & I enjoy it very much. My reason to get myself out of my home.

Signed by: Mary K. Sarabia Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It's a place to go to meet people & make new friends.

Signed by: Susan C. Adams Date: 12/12/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I don't know what I would do without this center. I would probably sit in my house alone every day.

Here, I am with people who care.

Signed by: Bonita Colbert

Date: ~~12~~ 12-11-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Wm Frey
3036 Twin Oak Pl NW
Salem, OR 97304

W/O Center 50+ my mom would ^{not} have ~~had~~ any place any place to go. This is our family for some the only family for some.

Signed by:

Wm Frey

Date:

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

ARRP-TAX help - "Lunch-Hot meal" Ships to do - wood work -
LAB TO LEARN CUT STONES, DANCE CLASSES, Pool tables - TRAVELS -
OPPORTUNITY TO Socializing SAME AGE GROUP - Pet Therapy dogs -
VOLUNTEER to Help with 50+ CENTER - BE APPART City, STATE,
COUNTRY - IT'S GOOD FOR MENTAL HEALTH; PURSUE INTERESTS
IN ACTIVITIES OF LIKES, SOCIAL EVENTS OUTSIDE OF CENTER, GET TO
KNOW PEOPLE BY FIRST NAME FRIENDS,

Signed by: Danny Marshall Date: 12/12/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Bingo gets us out and fills the day for us. Gets us with people
Memory Cafe is very important to help husband with
early dementia socialize. It is a important break
for me as well.

Signed by: Judith G. Haskins Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I enjoy coming to the Center. People are friendly and it gives us a chance to get out of the house. Please keep our center open!

Signed by: Dyana Erickson

Date: 12/12

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is vital to the community. Activities and classes are just the beginning.

Don't you love our funding for Center 50+.

Signed by:

AK Treva

Date:

12/12/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Yoga with Debbie is wonderful. It has been life changing. The Center is so important to us seniors in keeping us active and healthy. I could not afford going else where. Please keep it going! It is so crucial for our lives. It is saving so

Signed by

many lives!

Date

12/12/2024

Annie Chapman



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

If you closed the 50+ place I would

Really miss the complete meals as I live

alone + it here is so good + cover all the

places each meal. I Really like the chance

to travel too. I like to find people each

day to make new friends too. I also like

the cherries Benz schedule

Signed by:

Jane Carlson

Date:

11-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I Love the yoga Classes + Debbie Lee
is wonderful. The Silver Sneakers
Classes are great too

Don't Close, Please

Signed by Jayne Hopwood Date: 12-12-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Keep the PLACE open

Yoga is great

Debbie Lee Rocks
like the classes

Signed by

Marilyn Gentry

Date

12-12-2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50+ Center has given me a place to socialize. Loneliness is a big problem after retirement and having an empty nest. My life is greatly enriched by being able to go to Center 50+. I am able to eat in the dining room and not sit at home alone. I am able to learn about other things in the community that will help me.

Signed by: Janice Clay

Date: December 12, 2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

People need people. Center 50+ fills ~~an~~ that important need. I take 2 ukulele classes.

Signed by: Stephen Yurzer

Date: 12/11/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please do not dis-continue the 50+ dining program. I am an 85 yr. old man whose wife died 12 1/2 yrs. ago and I depend on the meals for health reasons and fellowship. I would rather 50+ charged a price for the meals than dis-continue them. Thank you!

Signed by: Richard Lapow

Date: 12-13-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Salem City Council:

When planning Next year's city budget, please save Center 50+. I'm there 3 days a week for my physical therapy exercises. I take classes such as Safe Driving for Seniors, Health classes, computer assistance, etc. I live alone and go to the center 50+ for social time with other old guys.

No other City Program/Service means so much to me.

Signed by: Randall Toews

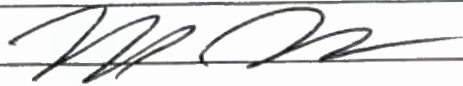
Date: 12/12/2024

Thank you.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I regularly attend the Willamette Valley Woodturners Guild meetings hosted by the center. These meetings are very well attended, many 50+. Please continue to support the opportunities this center makes possible

Signed by:



Date:

12/12/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The senior center is a vital part of my life. I meet friends there, have lunch, take classes, etc. It has added tremendously to my well being and satisfaction in my life. So many, many seniors see it as a lifeline in this community. In fact it is an award winning facility & Marsdy Daly is the best!

Signed by:

Selene Zeisler

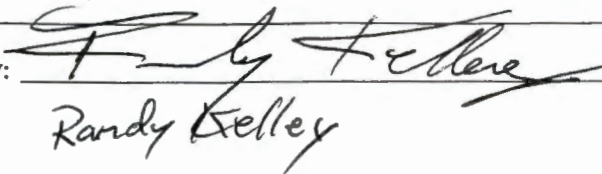
Date:

12-13-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I attend the Willamette Valley Woodturners monthly meetings. 50+ is invaluable as a venue.

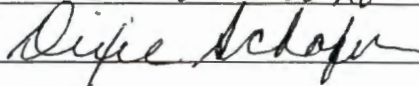
Signed by:

 Date: 12/12/24
Randy Kelley

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I live alone and the Center is my lifeline!!
I exercise, do chair yoga, Tai Chi & use the gym.
I'm very low income so I depend on the lunch
everyday. It's the only hot meal I eat in a
day. (I only eat 2 meals a day). The social
contacts mean so much to all of us. It's been
proven seniors who have social outlets are healthier!!

Signed by:

 Date: 12/13/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

When I moved to Salem 4 years ago, I didn't know anyone in the community. I discovered Center 50+ through a Facebook post. I was immediately surrounded by friendly faces & caring individuals - not only the staff, who are phenomenal, but also the other Center 50+ members. Now I am at the Center at least 3 times a week, participating in exercise & dance classes, the Cohorts Program, volunteering & taking advantage of the

Signed by: Maria Casanova

Date: January 1, 2025

many trips and special events offered. There are so many varied programs to attend that every senior can find something to do & be fulfilled. Center 50+ is a critical component to healthy aging, addressing the needs of body, mind & spirit. Please keep this valuable resource alive & thriving. Thank you.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ provided me with a fitness venue, and a nutrition class, that helped me CURE my fatty liver disease AND, so far, lose 65 pounds. Plus it's a social lifeline for my volunteer shifts, craft groups and the Bingo team. This organization saves lives every day.

Signed by: Salyat H. Riversong Date: 12/17/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It's a place people can play pool & do hobbies they like like wood working, painting, sewing, etc. I have enjoyed several of the classes given at 50+, like the Drivers education, Drs. meetings, Seminars by Natural Grocers etc. It's a pleasant place for older people to socialize with others. It's a warm, safe place for people to gather for companionship. I have enjoyed reconnecting with people & making new friendships & it's also a place where people can get a nice hot meal who otherwise may not have one.

Signed by: Sharon R Date: 12-18-24

It gives people a purpose in life by being a volunteer.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

There aren't enough words to say how much I love coming to Center 50+. I love the group fitness classes which I attend 4 days a week. I also enjoy the variety of classes and workshops offered and have participated in several. I have made some wonderful friendships here. The Center provides the

Signed by:

Debra Collo

Date:

12/26/2024

necessary ingredients needed for my physical and emotional wellbeing.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I depend on the yoga class to keep me fit - flexibility, balance and a chance to socialize. I live alone and don't have time to socialize. They have jobs & young children.

Signed by:

Margaret B.

Date:

12-13-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50+ Senior Center is very vital to our Senior Community. We need the social connection, many of us don't have family's, any more. I drive 48 miles every day to this Center. I feel blessed to be part of it.

Signed by: Charles Tenney Date: Dec 12, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It's very important to have a nice place with lots of window - since I am claustrophobic and so important for my mental health.

The meals served are nutritious. The place encourages me to exercise and work out.

I feel safe and love the people whom I mingle with.

Signed by: _____ Date: 12/17/24

A place to be that I can afford, a place to go outside the home. My doctor wants me to be active and not stay home too much.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

EVERYTHING

Signed by: David Barrett Date: Dec 13, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Don't close the center 50+ as it is the only place that they can go. I am on the ~~board~~ board and of volunteer. Please keep the Center 50+ open

Signed by Pat Ayers

Date 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I am very grateful for the chair yoga class. My neuropathy of feet and legs has greatly improved. Center 50 is a great place for seniors to heal.

Signed by: Paatty Nelson Date: 12-18-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The senior heartbeat of the city - the staff works hard to give the seniors of Soleno and surrounding area a clean warm place to go. Some have no other

Signed by: Anna Gelin Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Senior Center is absolutely needed here. Activities to keep us healthy and our brains occupied. A place to gather and meet others too. You would do a great service to the citizens of Salem if you close it.

Signed by: Elizabeth Jico

Date: Dec. 17, 2024

This Center is
an unbelievably
important
resource for
this community.
It's impacts
are far reaching
Mary Kathleen
Gubelinsky, OK

✂

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is critical for the health and well-being on seniors in the Salem area. A city this size NEEDS to fund a building and activities for seniors! Please don't close Center 50+!

Signed by: Dwily Corey Date: 12-17-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been coming to Center 50+ for 8 years. I have really enjoyed my time there. I have taken on yoga art classes. And then became involved in volunteering. Friendly Callers taught me leadership. Respite taught me patience. Being on the Friends Board taught me how to organize and delegate, plus planning for things 6 months in advance. Being on the advisory committee taught me how to look at Center 50+

Signed by: Janice J. Schellberg Date: Dec. 16, 2024

from an outside perspective. Overall I have made several friends
over →

the year. It is such a diverse group of folks that come to the center. For many of them this is their home and spend most of the day at the center. Now, for me I volunteer in the cafe Monday mornings and pick up their supplies for the week. I am also involved in Bingo on Thursdays. I play the game and also volunteer with the group. I like the center, I feel I belong there. I enjoy my 2 days a week spending my time. I like meeting new people, this gives me the opportunity to meet like minded folks.



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The bus trips they offer are wonderful!
I won't drive to Portland but go with
the Center 50+

Socialization

Signed by: Ruth Janning

Date: 12/30/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please keep the Center 50+ open.

They have great programs for seniors, including learning
classes, caregiver resources, volunteer opportunities,
etc. They have fitness classes and they connect seniors
with those in assisted living programs.

They also partners with Easter Seals to give job opportunities
to people with disabilities. It's a great organization

Signed by: Cheryl R. Buchanan

Date: 12/29/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a very special place. It is a vibrant community and gives me a sense of family. The connections I have made have improved my life and decreased bouts of depression. It would be a crime to marginalize the every growing older adult population in this city.

Signed by: Louenne Watson

Date: 12-17-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I am delighted with every opportunity I've had with 50+ from classes, entertainment, ^{new} friendships and community. This is a positive bright spot in our community and vitally needed for wellbeing (on all levels) for ~~our~~ seniors. This center needs to stay open. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed by:

Susan Bolten

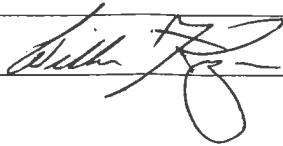
Date:

12/28/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

THE SALEM CENTER 50+ IS A VITAL ESTABLISHMENT AND HUB FOR SENIORS IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY. I HAVE VISITED MANY SENIOR CENTERS AROUND THE U.S. AND THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST PROFESSIONALLY RUN ORGANIZATION. MY WIFE AND I VISIT THE CENTER 3 OR MORE TIMES A WEEK AND WOULD GREATLY MISS THE COMRADERY HERE.

Signed by:



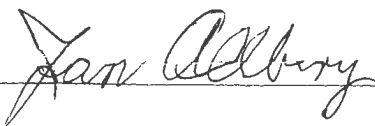
Date:

17 Dec 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I would like to invite each member of Salem's current City Council to take time to actually visit your wonderful Center 50+. If you have never been to the Center, how can you possibly vote to close the facility! I have personally given tours of the Center to directors of centers as far away as North Carolina. They are absolutely amazed at all of the activities that are available for our citizens to participate in, and enjoy! Your Center is a crown jewel of senior centers! PLEASE, let's keep it that way! The Center is truly needed by the citizens of Salem and the surrounding areas. Thank you for the time you give to the City of Salem.

Signed by:



Date:

12/18/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I use woodshop + gym every week. I really appreciate the opportunity.
I'm also interested in lapidary.

Signed by: Carol Coym

Date: 1/6/25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It is helping to keep me fit. And it is obviously an important place for seniors to share the positive and negative experiences of aging.

Signed by: Judith Tausig

Date: 1/2/2025



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center 50+ means a lot to me. I go to the gym, which helps me keep up my strength & balance, which is important at 69 and the other attendants are friendly and the staff is nice. I also greatly enjoy the meals there a lot and also like to attend the special events - like the "Spring fling" and the recent "tea party." Great to meet new people and ask friends to come along.

Signed by: Norma J Buckner Date: 12-11-24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

SOCIAL INTERACTION THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE. CLASSES I'VE TAKEN. SEMINARS I'VE ATTENDED & LEARNED FROM. HOT MEALS! ENTERTAINMENT I'M PART OF AN OUTSIDE GROUP THAT MEETS HERE MONTHLY. ALL OF THE ABOVE TOURS & TRAVEL TO ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES

Signed by: [Signature] Date: 12-16-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

A reliably welcoming institution where I have taken classes for educational reasons, exercise, fun, tax preparation by volunteers driving while being a senior to enhance safety and all insurance discount. It provides a unique day-care and enrichment program for memory care patients with trained and caring staff. My favorite weekly class is Coleen's line dancing class!

Signed by: Wiane Staff Date: Jan. 7, 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is essential to our community because it offers a wide range of opportunities to meet needs both at the center and throughout the community. It provides a space for nutritious meals, exercise, skills, computer availability and help, as well as health education and respite care/caregiver resources. It is essential!!!

Signed by: Annie Butler Date: 1/7/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ has given me community as well as entertainment.

Please DO NOT close our center we all need 50+ for many reasons from lunch to Bingo and classes and society,

Signed by: Theresa Gau

Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ means access to space to have groups and classes for outside groups. They also hold events for seniors and youth groups at a reasonable time and calendar space.

Signed by:

Sid Westrom

Date:

12/21/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Being new to this Center 50+ community is such a blessing. The I.T. support my public service efforts get, sends a wave of love out into the community.

Signed by: Eric Knudsen Date: 1/9/25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Since discovering the Center 50+ in April 2023, I have found a basket class that has provided social connection. I've made many new friends, I also began playing pool with a great bunch of women. The Center gives me a sense of purpose in my retired life. Please find a way to keep it's door open and continue to support seniors.

Signed by: Shelly Lofgren Date: 12-20-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a safe place for single seniors to come for various enrichment activities. I look forward to weekly line dance classes with other seniors. There are other activities to help the brain and the body. Please keep the 50+ activities!!

Signed by: Duzanne Cook

Date: 12/18/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I started coming to Center 50+ in May 2024. I have not done exercises for awhile so I joined the gym upstairs. I go 2-3 times a week. In the spring I attend the Spring Fling. I also attend the tea that was held in Dec. I have lunch in the meals on wheels at least once a week. I have met some nice people there. I would be sad if the center closed.

Signed by: Venduen Norma

Date: Dec 11, 2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I enjoy having lunch with my friends and also using the gym.

Signed by: Mary Gabor

Date: 1-10-25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I will NOT list any of the programs that are staffed and accomplished by volunteers. I would think there are other areas & programs funded by the city that benefit far less people. Seniors have supported, by there taxes and need programs such as ours.

Signed by: [Signature]

Date: 09 Jan 25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I would be lost without center fifty plus since my husband died this is my home away from home. I eat lunch here at least 3-4 times a week. I go to the gym, classes and bus trips etc. The social part is very important too. To have a place to meet with others.

Signed by: Deana Bennett Date: 12-12-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS:

I'M A NEWCOMER TO SALEM AND WAS SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER CENTER 50+, RUN BY THE CITY OF SALEM. IN THE LAST YEAR THAT I'VE BEEN ATTENDING VARIOUS CLASSES THERE, IT'S CLEAR TO ME HOW IMPORTANT A COMMUNITY RESOURCE THIS FACILITY AND STAFF ARE PROVIDING. SO MANY TAX-PAYING SENIORS BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM ITS SERVICES EVERY SINGLE DAY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS CENTER

Signed by: Phyllis Webster Date: 1.14.25

EXISTS FOR
ALL OF US
HERE IN SALEM.

IT WOULD BE A DEVASTATING LOSS FOR THE COMMUNITY
IF IT WERE TO CLOSE ITS DOORS.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50+ center is vital resource to the senior community of Salem as well other outlying communities. I live in Silverton myself and have enjoyed many of the programs offered there. It would be a shame if this center was no longer available to the community.

Signed by: JuGuen Stanley Date: 12/11/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Salem 50+ serves many of the population 15% of people over 50 years old. It also serves many people from outside Salem with many wonderful programs. Please try save this wonderful place.

Signed by: _____ Date: 12/11/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a lifeline for me. I volunteer at the front desk and see how many seniors also need the Center. When COVID hit single seniors were hit hard by isolation especially hard. We need the socialization the Center provides. I also participate in fitness classes & gym.

Signed by: Lynette Trubbett Date: 1-2-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Friendly, safe place for activities
Food, and learning.

Please Keep this Center 50+ going

Signed by: Rafael Nelson Date: 1/6/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50 center is a much needed in our community for some folks its their only chance to socialize they have activities for us seniors, it is also a place you can get a meal and meet new people and some folks only hot meal for the day. They offer a lot for us to do to keep active. Please don't close the 50 center, Mayor Hoyt.

Signed by: John W. [Signature]

Date: 1-6-25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Having a healthy vibrant senior community begins with a caring loving community, that is what got provided. Nutrition, exercise, travel, creativity, and deep analysis and engagement are here. It is essential 50+ is ^{an} essential service.

Signed by: J. O'weatherly

Date: 1-7-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

a friend has ask me to some of the programs which I enjoyed. Instead of sitting home and feeling sorry for myself I decided socializing and participate in classes is helping me in many ways. Now I look forward in coming three a week to the fitness class - Silver - Sneaker and plan to explore in other classes.

Center 50+ has done me wonders.

Signed by: Maureen Lopez Date: 01-06-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I personally cannot imagine Salem w/o Center 50+. Before the pandemic, I volunteered in the computer lab, helped out a bit in the main office, delivered meals during the summer & took a Spanish class.

Seniors deserve a nice place to congregate, whether they take a class, have a meal, discuss trips or get medicare

Signed by: Mauci Allen Date: 12/18/24

Counseling. Most seniors have contributed to their community. Their community can reciprocate. i

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I really love coming to this facility for the Ukelele lessons, it has really changed my life, in the most positive way. The people (staff & teachers) are so inviting & fun! Please don't close, it would extremely missed — Teresa Sisto
503(989-1608)

Signed by: Teresa Sisto Date: 12-11-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is an affordable place for fixed income seniors can go to work out. It is also an opportunity to meet new friends and eat an affordable lunch. There are many opportunities for seniors to get involved in a variety of activities. Center 50+ is well used with many people attending. In fact, some parts of the day it is difficult to find parking.

Signed by: Shea Hengler Date: 1-4-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Help with taxes, signing up for medicare

with technology - smart phones computers

Feds people who might not be fed

Social interaction - so important

Keeping moving, gain strength and balance - how many falls have been mitigated

classes - acelale, wood working, pool etc

Signed by: Martha Christ, 44

Date: 1-7-25

K-9 corps goes to nursing homes - pet therapy
Hospice for caregivers

This place serves so many with so much!!



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have had the privilege of taking classes at Center 50+, specifically ukulele classes. They are a bright spot in my week not only for what I learn on the ukulele but also for the social interaction among us. I stay for lunch that day and enjoy a nutritious meal with my classmates and others. What goes on here is so valuable for seniors, and everyone here is so welcoming. The Center 50+ is vital to the community!

Signed by: Jodee Howard

Date: 12/10/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

No classes - no care - no food - when does it all stop?
 You want your Seniors alone - no one cares - ??
 Classes stopped as you have NO \$ to keep it open!?
 People without food? Senior funds wasted on what?

Signed by: Cheryl

Date: Dec 12 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please do not shut down SOT. It is very important to us seniors that are SOT. It is so important that we are able to take classes to help us w/ age. We waited 50 years each to be able to enjoy the Center. It is important to our brains and bodies to remain healthy by taking classes here. Our teachers are wonderful and it keeps us happy - Do not shut us down

Signed by: Lissa Allen

Date: 12-10-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please keep open we / I need this center
it come each week / w/ health
Senior need this facility kept open

Signed by:

Jon Pererchuk

Date:

12/8/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been involved with Center 50+ for eight years. The center is truly a community resource that supports the needs of seniors, whether those needs be for safe place to connect with others, food for those living on fixed incomes, supporting care givers, or educational and fitness programs. My personal connection has been thru fitness, ukulele & witnessing the importance of the lunch program for friends on fixed income. Center 50+ is much more than a recreational facility, it is a critical resource for an aging population

Signed by: Judy Onais

Date: Dec 18, 2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I'm new to 50+ and I can't say enough how much they have helped me, I'm a ~~stroke~~ stroke victim ~~and~~ and it done a good job on me the ~~brain~~ brain damage its done to me. I've seeked help in so many places to keep from being homeless and loosing every thing I own. well no help from the ~~state~~ state and government but 50+ is by far the best help I have gotten. So I certainly hope that 50+ will be around for a long time to help

Signed by:

Date:

People Like Myself Thanks So Much!

[Signature]

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I meet a friend every Monday and we have lunch at the Center. I also volunteer with my dog (Canine Corp). The people who visit the Center love interacting with the dogs. Many of them have had dogs in the past. If the Center has to restrict hours it will affect so



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center 50+ has played such a valuable role in ~~my~~^{mine} and my husband's life! He has come to the Respite class for 2 years now. We love the staff in Respite class, the front desk folks, and ~~the~~ Memory Cafe. All are so welcoming!

Signed by: Larene M Zoerner Date: 12/11/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I wholeheartedly support your Center 50+. It gives me a place to go to as often as I want and be greeted and welcomed by staff members and volunteers. It's a happy place to spend some time taking a class, exercising, woodworking, lapidarying, sewing, painting, traveling (extended and/or local trips), helping with the Outreach Program, bringing a loved one to attend the Respite Program, having lunch, playing pool, etc., etc. The citizens who come to the Center need these activities for physical and mental health. PLEASE don't deny all of these wonderful activities to those who need and enjoy the Center so much. . It is absolutely necessary and much needed for our extended community. Thank you for serving on our City Council!

Jan Albery

12/18/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The issue before you is really a tough one, at least it would be for me. I absolutely love your Center and have volunteered there since 2008, when it became a reality for the City of Salem. The Center is absolutely a crown jewel of all centers – I would dare say, across the United States. I have given tours of the building to people as far away as North Carolina. Everyone has been absolutely amazed at the beauty of the building and all of the activities offered to the citizens of Salem and surrounding areas. There is tremendous need for your center to continue. It serves people who thoroughly enjoy the programs offered and the companionship of others every day! The meal served at noon is, for many, their main meal of the day – please don't deny them a warm place to sit and enjoy a meal with others who are, perhaps, less fortunate than you and me. I am blessed and I know each one one is also! Personally, if I didn't have the Center to continue volunteering at 3 or 4 days every week, I would be sitting at home doing nothing – talk about mental health! Please don't take away my anchor! Thank you for listening!!

Jan Albery
12/18/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is the saving option for many of us as we age. It offers options to learn, connect, exercise that, we all know, contributes to a meaningful, contributing life. The smiles and enthusiasm that members show says it all. I feel this center is essential in Salem and surrounding area.

Signed by: Kathy Mc Lavoie Date: 12/18/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

MY WIFE & I FOUND THE CENTER WHEN SHE REC'D TWO NEW KNEES AND WAS LOOKING FOR A LINE DANCE CLASS SHE FOUND TWO CLASSES HERE. I STOPPED ONE DAY AND FOUND A BEAUTIFUL WORKOUT FACILITY UPSTAIRS, FOLLOWING MY HEART SURGERY AND BEGAN WORKING OUT TO REBUILD MY HEART STRENGTH AND GENERAL HEALTH. NOW I ATTEND 2 TO 3 HOURS 5 OR 6 DAYS A WEEK AND IT HAS ENHANCED MY LIFE TREMENDOUSLY. THANKS

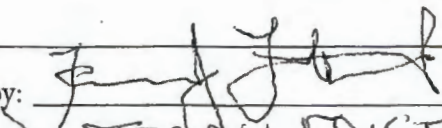
Signed by: Jessie A. Flowers Date: 12-19-24

TO STAFF FOR THEIR KINDNESS AND HELP & SUPPORT FOR THE PAST 2 1/2 YEARS. I LOVE JESSIE FLOWERS



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP OUR 50+ CENTER OPEN FOR USE. THE ACTIVITIES THAT IT PROVIDES FOR ME HAS HELPED CHANGE MY LIFE, MY MIND, BODY AND CONECTION TO OTHERS HAVE COME ALIVE. PLEASE KEEP OUR CENTER 50+ OPEN,

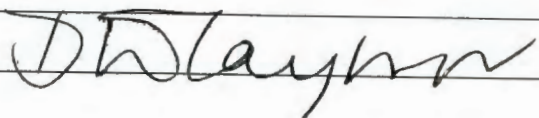
Signed by: 
TERRY FRISTAD

Date: DEC 17 '24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The center is a life source for so many Salem seniors, between lunch classes friendship and exercise this is a much needed and appreciated resource. Please, please do not take it away from us

Signed by: 

Date: 12/18/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center 50+ is one of the hidden jewels of Salem. Its warm and welcoming atmosphere, punctuated by cheery greetings and supportive hugs, is supplemented by high-quality educational and cultural offerings for seniors. The Center 50+ is a lifeline for many people in the somewhat scary space between retirement and "getting old." It is a precious resource which should be preserved and cherished.

Signed by:

Dr. William B. Long

Date:

12/19/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It means an opportunity to me to use the gym and attend classes. To meet people and get involved with making seniors have a wonderful day. Putting a smile on their faces. It's a place where seniors can enjoy a positive uplifting, fun time together.

Signed by:

Brian Puhler

Date:

12/19/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Programs offered at 50+ are vital to Salem's population of seniors. Having a safe environment to gather and connect is essential to the emotional and physical well-being of seniors. As we age and financial resources dwindle and physical abilities become more of a challenge, the 50+ programs provide purpose for so many. Where will we be without

Signed by: Cassie Pilkenton

Date: 12/19/2024

these opportunities

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

PLEASE DO NOT close the Salem 50+. It is the closest thing I have for a few exercise programs.

THANK YOU. AGAIN PLEASE DO NOT close the 50+ nor cut it down in size. I use ^{all} the exercise equipment most every day. THANK YOU

Signed by:

Joanne Paulson

Date: 12-19-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The over 50 folks need this place! I take yoga, weight classes and painting classes. The atmosphere is great and it is a well maintained building.
Please don't get rid of this

Signed by: Kellge Scott

Date: 12-22-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I am a 43 year old Combat Veteran from Iraq War and the 50+ center has been holding a Veterans woodshop course that I attend on Fridays. This has helped me find support, purpose and friendships that I would not have found without the center. My family now comes down and enjoys their time and classes and events that are being held at the center. Closing the 50+ center will hurt many people.

Signed by: Greg Wuehling, WoodShop
Wood Chuck

Date: 19-Dec-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I so need Center 50, for socialization, lunch, Bingo and just a place to always be welcome. I also take day trips from Travel Desk as I can afford it. Living Alone I can get a great salad here and NOT have salad stems go bad at home

Signed by:

Date:

12-19-24

Robin Tappan

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is an essential social outlet for seniors, many of whom live alone - lunch, trips, classes on many topics - finance, living arrangements, health issues, and entertainment - concerts, activities are affordable.

Signed by:

Pat Simola

Date:

12-20-2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I think the Center 50+ is the best thing about Salem. I volunteer as a supervisor in the Lapidary and we get people from all over Oregon using the equipment. I also volunteer as a Bingo Caller on Thursday afternoons. We get over 60 people here that eat lunch then play Bingo. There are many important services for seniors, for health, nutrition, enrichment, enjoyment and respite.

Signed by: Bertam E Hopkins

Date: 12-19-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Friendships - 15 years

Health - Exercise

Learning new things

Signed by:

Kou Smith

Date:

Dec. 23rd, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been taking exercise classes and using the gym at Center 50+ since 2018. It is a big part of my life. I take a strengthening class, a yoga class, and a tai chi class. I am here 4 days a week. I have also seen the wonderful new physical therapist and attended lectures on gut health and diet. Just a week ago I attended the AARP driving course, which I found very helpful. I love coming into the building, getting a cheery greeting, seeing folks by the fire, and often service dogs. It's a great place!

Signed by: Elizabeth Keyser

Date: Dec. 23, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

It is a wonderful place to gather & fellowship with fellow seniors in our community. Very uplifting, supportive, & encouraging.

Signed by: Roger King

Date: 12/23/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a place where I attend a support group and benefit from it. My wife and I come here to have lunch a blessing to us.

Signed by:

Jack Carlson

Date:

12/23/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

When I moved to Salem 2 years ago I didn't know anyone here. I started coming to Center 50+ and got involved in activities like the TED talks and needlework. I found I liked the people here and liked the activities. I've been to seminars here on different topics like doing my will and planning for the future and met some great people. I know they have things to sign up for for pump and travel. It's a great place and well worth getting to know.

Signed by:

Jill Sperry

Date:

Dec 23 2024



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

When I started coming here I didn't have many reasons to get out of the house or move around. Here I met new people and had a reason to get out and meet more and do more things.

Signed by: Donna Hitchcock Date: 12/23/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

As a volunteer receptionist, I see many people come through the door. Oftentimes they come in with a depressed or lonely spirit, but when they leave they have a smile on their face because Center 50 has lifted their spirit. Our Outreach personnel help people who don't know how, or are not able, to navigate how to get help with food, housing, insurance, or other social services. Center 50 helps our senior population on a daily basis & their services are vital to so many.

Signed by: Dena Wood Date: 12/20/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been so thankful for the meals on wheels and programs offered by center 50+. These programs are important social events for those of us that are alone and disabled. Thank you.

Signed by: [Signature] Date: 12/24/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50 is a community where you can connect with people, I see a lot of people and greatly helps with programs with the way process. It would be a disaster if this 20304
Signed by: Barbara Barb Date: 12/24/24
1792 83

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We Love center 504 - We CAN socialize with our friends, have lunch, attend classes, but most of all this is an ASSET to our community. Salem should be proud of the value it places in its SENIOR CITIZENS.

Signed by:

Joseph A. Paula

Date:

12/25/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50 Center does so much for seniors. It would just be a shame to close this center. So many seniors depend on the center for activities to keep them active and engaged with others. We also enjoy and depend on the meals on wheels. Please don't close this center.

Signed by:

Jerry Hill

Date:

12/24/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ has been a large help to our family. It offers my blind husband a place he can go to and participate in while maintaining his independence. I volunteer at the center and value the interactions with the patrons and other volunteers that keep my life more vibrant.

Signed by: Sue Hammill

Date: 12/27/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

50+ IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A LARGE NUMBER OF SENIORS. I TAKE TAI CHI LESSONS 2 TIMES A WEEK AND IT HAS IMPROVED MY BALANCE AND PREVENTED SERIOUS FALLS. MEALS SERVED ARE VERY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE LIVING ALONE.

PROGRAMS LIKE THOSE WITH MEMORY ISSUES ARE NOT PROVIDED ELSEWHERE. THE GENERAL COMRADESHIP SENIORS FIND HERE HELP KEEP US GOING.

Signed by: Dave Thomson

Date: 12/27/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I am over 50+ and Volunteer in the center, If you chose affect many people over 50+ they don't have a place, ~~in diferent areas~~ to be at salun, here at the center we have different programes, fit 50, conversation, meal and Weels, painted, other resources the offer at the 50+, I see to many people came the center, If you chose where the go, we need this center.

Signed by: Monia

Date: 12-28-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I like The lunches that they serve.
I look Forward to the woodcarving get togethers
This is a great spot for the woodcarving meetings and show.
A great spot for people to get together and enjoy each others company.

Signed by: Bob Lanning

Date: Dec 27, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

and have some to eat 263 Kearney Street South East Salem Oregon 97309

Geraldine Ann Harcrow
I was Born May 26, 1948 I am 76 years old
I was Born in Portland, Oregon
Need to Be Open so People can in and do some activities. come in

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We desperately need Center 50+ to stay open. Please!

Signed by R. BAUER

Date 12/11/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I've been attending 50+ for 5+ years. Music lessons have enriched my life through learning an instrument, making the best of friends and outreach to the community of Salem by performances. I've observed the benefit to many people by meals on wheels, group trips, and a safe place to gather. It is a much

Signed by: Yvonne Ruler Date: 12/18/24

needed Community Center!

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is the cornerstone of our community. Isolation during COVID was devastating. Being open the seniors can gather, socialize, exercise, gather for coffee, play bingo to sharpen minds, meeting place for community events, and vital resources for those in need. Let's rally together! Explore partnerships with businesses - keep center 50+ open!

Signed by

Date

Kelly Han 12-12-24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been a member of Center 50+ since 2018. I have been a regular member of the writer's group on Wed. since that time. The services offered to our Senior Citizens are extensive and necessary. It is a benefit to the community overall by offering care for family members with memory functions issues. It also provides activities to people who don't have a safe place to exercise. It is money well-spent, don't take this valuable resource away.

Signed by:

Lauren Adams

Date: 12-14-2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This senior center means "a lot" to me. I brought my mom to the "Respite Care" program during the week, (cpl times a week), because I worked full time & gave her a chance to meet safely with other seniors & they did activities & had lunch & then she'd take cherry lift home. So... important in her life. I'm retired now (mom died) and really enjoy the line dancing, bingo, and a chance to meet/enjoy seniors.

Signed by:

Joyce Birkenheim

Date: Dec. 12, 2024

Please support us seniors. Thank you



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis & the Tai Chi Classes help my balance & keeps me moving. It stretches my muscles and gives me a great workout. Besides that, there is fellowship & friendship in the class. The Center is terrific, always hopping!

Signed by: Clara Tye

Date: 12/17/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We seniors at the Center 50 are a community of friends that share our daily lives with each other. We are like a Family, we look forward to see each other & care very much how our daily lives are doing. Community means we will probably live longer! A reason & purpose to our daily lives. Center 50 means a lot to a lot of people. We look forward to each day we come & participate in the activities. Please continue your support to keep it open. Thank you!

Signed by: Janet + Ray Ballinger

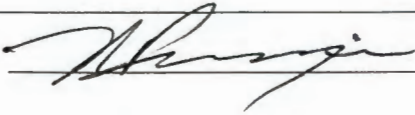
Date: 12-12-23

We love Center 50.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

THE CENTER PROVIDES SO MANY RESOURCES FOR SO MANY SENIORS. GIVES A PLACE TO GO FOR FOOD, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION CRAFTS AND SO MUCH MORE. WE NEED THIS PLACE.

Signed by:



Date:

12/17/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50 Plus is the first place I reached out to when loneliness & depression was overwhelming. The loss of a son and grandson and the division in the USA was too much. This gave me a home and family & friends. The volunteers are exceptional & we need this community. I became a volunteer and love them all as family.

Signed by:

Charles & Angela Wilson

Date:

12/16/2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

THE CENTER 50+ PROVIDE AN ACCESS TO THE FITNESS CENTER FOR MYSELF AND MY WIFE WE USE IT REGULARLY 3 TO 4 TIMES WEEKLY OUR INSURANCE PAY'S FOR IT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO US BOTH. THEY ALSO PROVIDE A GREAT LEARNING CENTER

Signed by: STAN PAULSON Date: 12-17-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I am 75 years old, my family lives outside Salem and I'm a non vehicle driver. I never driven a car I use the bus system. I like coming to the Center because there are so many things going on and the bus drops me off right outside front doors. I am a volunteer at the Respite pro. 2 x a week. I love helping in that program and I also make lots of new friends there. If you visit the 50+ Center you can count on all the staff & volunteers to help you out no matter what the needs are in your life, there is always someone there to help a helping hand. I sure hope that the center will stay open, because its not only for Seniors it also helps lots of others in need. Thank you



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Perhaps you will never ever feel a need or a desire to participate in any programs being offered at your Center 50+, but, on the other hand, some of you might. No one knows the answer to that tthis evening.. However, before you vote on the issue before you, please think about how your Center benefits SO many people – people you will probably never come in contact with, but need your consideration now. After all, we are all human and need help from someone, sometime some place. Thank you for considering this request.

Signed by: Jan Albery Date: 12/18/24



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a significant contributor to my good health. I am in my late 70s and the fitness room at the Center is not to be found elsewhere. Here's why - so many of the people using the center have had surgeries, strokes and joint replacements and they share their experiences to encourage those of us ^{similarly:} are facing similar things. They know the appropriate exercises ^{cover} of the challenges to ^{expect.}

~~expect~~ Three different organizations I belong to meet at Center 50+. The center has a key role in my social life. As a blind person it is a real help that the staff & volunteers at the center are familiar with the needs of those of us with challenges. Their help makes it possible for me to participate. The center has the best access to public transportation in the city. I can get to transport without having to cross any roads at all. John Hammill by wife

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I meet a friend every Monday and we have lunch at the Center. I also volunteer with my dog (Canine Corp). The people who visit the Center love interacting with the dogs. Many of them have had dogs in the past. If the Center has to restrict hours it will affect so many people. Lots of elderly people have limited supports and utilize the Center to socialize and support.

Signed by
Lynne Perceway

1-7-25

To whom it may concern

I would like you to understand how important Center 50 + 15 to many people, including me. I moved to Salem 5 years ago, right before Covid shut downs. That was a lonely, rough time for many people. I met a neighbor during that time and she introduced me to the Center when restrictions lifted. I have met so many wonderful people through classes at the Center. I have made friendships that will last my lifetime because of the Center. I have done Zumba and chair yoga and have used the wood shop and even gotten my taxes done there.

Cutting the Center or shrinking it is the opposite of what should be happening. In the 5 years I've been in Salem there have been many changes, not many for

the good of the community.
I live next to a park, which
was full of life and families
5 yrs ago. Now it is hardly
used because of drug use
and over nighters, and garbage.
Please do NOT neglect the
hard working retirees who
pay property taxes and are on
a fixed income. We are the
ones delivering food and
picking up garbage. We are
also the ones being broken
into and being grafted.
The one thing I want you to
take away from this letter is
this:
A community is only as good
as its citizens.
If you keep taking things away
from your citizens they will
leave, and your community will
decline.

Thank you,
Dante Ryan

NE Salem

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The 50+ Center is a safe place for an older woman to find new friends and learn new things at an affordable cost. It is especially good for people new to Salem looking to make connections.

Signed by: Landra K Halbreuth

Date: 12-17-24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a safe, warm, pleasant place for all seniors! There are so many cool programs. The lunch time meals provide social and physical sustenance for MANY people! ALS Meals on wheels delivers meals from Center 50+.

I live dance here once a week and I love it. Please provide this essential service

Signed by: Liz M. Starke

Date: 12/18/24

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This is the best senior center I have experienced. There are so many ways it serves the community of seniors that I was struck coming from Washington State as a retired high school music teacher. It would be a reason I would move into this community to serve and be a part of and when I heard word that funding was going to be cut back, I had to speak up.

Signed by: Christina Hansen Date: December 23, 2024

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We enjoy coming here to enjoy
the food & classes
Please keep the center open

Signed by: Marilyn Anderson Date: 12/23/24



Your Input is needed to keep Center 50+ open



Center 50+ is more than a building—it's a vibrant hub of connection, wellness, and lifelong learning for our community. As we head into the new year, we need your help to ensure these essential programs remain funded and accessible.

On January 15th at 6:00 p.m., the Salem City Council will hold a budget meeting at the City Council Chambers, 555 Liberty St., and your voice can make a difference.

We are asking for your support in one of two ways:

1. Attend the budget meeting to vocalize your support for the programs at Center 50+.
2. Write a letter of support sharing what Center 50+ means to you and the impact our programs have had on your life or the lives of your loved ones. The bottom portion can be used to write a short letter of support for our center that we will turn in to the City Council.

Your advocacy ensures that programs like these continue to thrive:

- Lifelong Learning Classes: Explore art, technology, fitness, and more.
- Caregiver Resources: Support groups and educational workshops.
- Friendship Bridge Program: Connecting seniors in assisted living facilities with the community.
- Wellness Programs: Fitness classes and healthy living workshops.
- Volunteer Opportunities: A chance to give back and stay connected.

Please take a moment to reflect on how Center 50+ has enriched your life and consider sharing your story. Letters can be emailed to citycouncil@cityofsalem.net or delivered in person to the center by January 10th so they can be shared during the meeting.



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

12/30/24
12/30/24
I am part of Easter Seals, which is a job skills based program for people with disabilities. I work at Center 50+ under this program. I have learned so much and appreciate the opportunity. Easter Seals struggles to find partners work site because it creates strong ^{positive} communities & saves lives through feeding seniors, activities to bring them together. I believe if it closes there will be long lasting ^{negative} consequences. So goes our community, so goes our city, so goes our country.

Signed by
Jennifer Brundage

X Eastern Seals collaboration to find partners like 50 centers +
 - strategies to find partners like 50 centers +
 - seniors
 - disabilities etc.
 Job skills based program

we need

because

strengthen our community

save lives

feeds seniors

place to belong

sense of community

so good community → city → country

- I believe if center is closed ~~it~~ it will have

long lasting negative results.

- By 2030-35 → seniors than young people

X I have a dis - where would I go?
 no one will accommodate me for a working position

5-

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a strong foundation landmark spot for the older citizens of our community. It supplies so many meaningful programs and support for the seniors of our community. It's operation should definitely be included in the upcoming budget!

Signed by: Earl R. Altitude

Date: 1/14/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

A place to meet others, as I am new to Salem. The wellness programs look great too.

Signed by: Ben M. Hudson

Date: 01/09/2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is a really wonderful experience for seniors, ^{most of} who have special needs to continue being active + social for physical + emotional wellbeing. I've benefited from volunteering, reasonable priced meals, classes, and gardening club + 4 seasons activity club here. The lapidary shop + woodshop have attracted many people also. Socializing is so important now with social media interfering with natural socializing + mental health suffering

Signed by: Sally + LeRoy Weathers Date: 1-14-2025

Please support us! Marilyn Daily is a super leader/manger.
P.S. We also get our taxes done here - wonderful benefit!
We also made new friendships.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Senior Center 50+ is very important to a lot of Seniors to close it would be a big loss.

I have come for many years to have my taxes done. It would be a big loss to me.

I've also been here for other things too.

Please keep it open

Signed by: Pauline Davis Date: 1-14-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I have been coming to 50+ for about 20 years. I have taken many dance classes over the years: ballet, tap, ballroom, aerobics and line dancing which I still do. I also used the fitness center for many years.

I see people from all walks of life here and it seems they would be unable to participate in activities with the companionship of others without the center. I especially appreciate the friends group with the activities for those having memory issues. There are so many activities to

Signed by: Lynn Carleff Date: 1-14-2025
meet all needs. Please give serious consideration to continue funding for Center 50+.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I appreciate all the variety of activities 50+ offers the Seniors.

The workout programs are very beneficial.

The workshops are informative and helpful.

Also the assistance tax help is also the very valuable and helpful to us. Please do not close us

Signed by: Bonnalee Vance Date: 1/14/25 down.



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This place 50+ is some where us older people can gather to do activities and meet others there are so many activities to participate in. This place keeps us thinking and young.

Signed by: Joseph A. Core

Date: 1-14-2025



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ is where my husband comes to play pool or billiard & meet other people and make friends instead of just staying home. This is where we get our taxes done free. There are activities offered here that contribute to our wellness. Meals on wheels are distributed here that's close at home.

Signed by: Gloria Alvarado

Date: Jan 14, 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center 50+ offers a variety of classes that are important for mental health, socialization & enjoyment for seniors like me. It is a welcome environment. Please continue to support this necessary organization.

Signed by: Carol Marshall Date: 1-14-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

The Center 50+ has many activities for seniors. I have taken a computer class at the center. For 25 years I have had my taxes done free at the Center with the help of AARP volunteers. I took a fun bus trip to Yellowstone through Center 50+. Don't close the center.

Signed by: Pat Ryan Date: 1/15/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Many seniors depend on Center 50+ for friendships, meals and continued learning. It is a vital part of the community. I've enjoyed learning from the classes offered. It helps when you are a caregiver of a spouse and can bring them

Signed by: Katherine Martell Date: 1/14/2024 ✓ here for a little break.

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I love coming here to socialize, meeting new people - wellness programs, get my taxes done, gym, bingo, bingo games etc --- food ---

Signed by: Myra Boas Date: 01-14-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please keep the center open. I enjoy the congregate dining and other classes offered here.

Signed by: Richard Givens Date: 1/10/25



Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please Keep the 50+ as we need it for our Community! It is a very important part of peoples lives here in Salem.

Signed by: Tim Jamberson Date: 1/9/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Please Do Not close Center 50+
this place means so much to the
community, of all ages.

I have been taking ukulele classes
for 8 years. Also exercise classes.

It always feels like home.

Signed by: Kathleen Kelly Date: January 13, 2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

We are nearing retirement and Center 50+ is
very important for seniors.

Bob, John and Hannah provided a
great tour of the center and are
great ambassadors

Signed by: Liso Burger Date: 1/11/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Senior Citizens are the forgotten ones?
We need a place to go to for
our well being, classes, ~~taxes~~ &
to have a 'support' system,
please, so many people depend
on this center, I beg of you
do not take this away!

Signed by:

Date:

Janett Irye

1-14-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50 great place. We do our TAXES Each year. Have great
Mother Days lunches place for support. Took CPR classes plan to take it
again. Center 50 needs city help to keep going.

Signed by:

Jenni Wharf

Date:

1-14-2025

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Center 50+ offers Tai Chi classes at an affordable price to help with Fall prevention and friendship as well. ~~Also~~ Center 50+ has offered space for AARP to have volunteers do my taxes and offers me Safer Driving classes. I learn to be a better driver and get a discount on my Auto Insurance. Thank you City of Salem & Center 50+

Signed by: Phyllis Remy Date: 1/13/25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

I've been working out at the Center since 2017. The health benefits have been unrivaled - lower weight, A1C, etc. The unexpected benefit is the friendships I've formed. That's not easy to do as a senior but we support each other here! Please adjust your thinking regarding the

Signed by: Norma Gekakis Date: 12/1/2024 Center!

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

This place is amazing! Our community would be at such a loss for seniors without it. We need to keep having this facility to help our seniors and others have a safe place to land. It helps so many, please keep it open for all involved.

Signed by: Karla Jensen

Date: 1-14-25

Share what Center 50+ means to you. Together, we can show how vital Center 50+ is to our community and secure the support we need for the future. Thank you for standing with us!

Being a member since 2012, I have been a volunteer at the Deli, + food reception. My husband a volunteer for lunches. I've had the opportunity to attend several Computer classes, Cellphone Knowledge + have had the woodshop help with cuttings needed. Am currently using the exercise machines + taking the Silver Snaker exercise classes. Like most seniors, I need to socialize and exercise to keep my body & mind active. so I'm not dormant at

Signed by: Carol A. Spravo Date: 01/08/2025 home

We need some place to feel needed and to look forward to be doing. There aren't but the senior centers for many/most of our seniors to go. Do hope this isn't taken from us -

From: [Ray Quisenberry](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:43:36 AM

To the Mayor and City Council

I'm emailing in support of a livability levy to be placed before the voters in May. We need to protect our library, Center 50, and our parks from additional cuts due to the coming budget shortfall. I've lived in Salem for almost 30 years, and in that time I've witnessed a city that has been slowly falling apart around me. I feel strongly that the revenue solution has to be a total revamp of our tax system, but until that happens, the livability levy will work to plug the current fiscal hole.

Let me also make a personal appeal for the Center 50 Plus. I'm a volunteer with the Northwest Senior and Disability Services, and do work as a Senior Peer Mentor. I work with Seniors facing depression and anxiety, and one common thread among my clients is how much they value Center 50 Plus. For many, it's where they go to socialize, work on various projects, workout, and in general, improve their lives by diminishing the depression and anxiety they feel, at least while they are there. To take Center 50 from them is unconscionable. Please don't let that happen.

Than you
Ray Quisenberry
Ward 1

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Support Our City's Community Services
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:29:14 AM

-[Tami](#) | 503-588-6255
[City of Salem | Mayor/City Manager's Office](#)

From: Nancy Layton <nancy.layton5@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Shane Matthews <smatthews@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Support Our City's Community Services

Dear Mayor Hoy and Councilor Matthews:
I'm reaching out to you today as a strong supporter of our library, parks, and Center 50+, and I urge your support of these vital community services.

Please refer a bold Community Livability Levy to support the Salem Public Library, City Parks, and Center 50+ for the upcoming May election!
Salem residents rely on these community spaces and it is paramount that the City Council prioritize revenue for all three of these services. As a growing coalition, we stand together in support of these services and urge you to do the same.

As a girl growing up in Mason City, IA, I spent hours at our beautiful public library. I grew into a woman who valued every public library in each town or city where I lived. I published my first novel in 2005 and conducted my first book tour of the Midwest that same year. My very first book signing event was in the Community Room of that same public library. Ironically, and wonderfully, one of the people who came to that signing was my sixth grade teacher who reminded me of the First Friday (of each month) that our class walked from our grade school the mile or so to the public library where we learned how to use the Dewey Decimal system and the massive card catalog system to find books we wanted. Those walks, which continued right through our Iowa winter, were the highlight for me of that entire school year. I know I owe my success as a writer of all kinds of materials to my years of exposure to the vast services available through many libraries over my lifetime.

I share my personal story with you, Shane and Julie, in the hope that you, too, will find your own story of fun and value found at the libraries over your lives and feel how important keeping Salem's Library strong truly is. While I have yet to spend any time at the Center 50+ or within the parks other than the one very close to my house here (Hillview), knowing those city services are available to me and my husband could become more important as our years move forward. We moved here in

March, 2022, having lived since 1978 in Southern California. We launched almost immediately into a huge renovation of the house we bought on Ewald St., but one of the first things I did to begin becoming more of a member of our new community was join the Friends of the Salem Public Library in June, 2022.

I work every-other Saturday in the Friends' Bookstore inside the Library. I find immense joy seeing the many families coming into the library and, then, seeing them leaving with all their arms full of books, often with one or more kid walking along already reading. I cannot help smiling when I realize how important our public library is to those families. I also never cease being amazed how many people are logged onto the public-access computers, many of whom would not have digital access to the internet otherwise. How many of those people have found jobs or housing because those computers are there? How many people are sitting in comfortable chairs around the main floor reading? And, the study rooms are frequently in use by individuals or small groups. Just this past Saturday, standing at the cashier's desk in the Bookstore, I chatted with two teen girls who had spent their afternoon in one studying for an upcoming math exam and took a break by coming in to shop for books at our little Bookstore.

If you haven't done so lately, please, come into the library and just walk around seeing these things. Even on a slow day, the library is being used and appreciated by people who need it. I'm one of them. Family research, getting historical information about the property we bought here, looking up a particular book's availability - just a few of the things I have done since my first visit to the library in March, 2022.

If I had moved here and learned that the local library was either not at all or only marginally available during the times I could go, I'd have been at the Council's meetings right away, asking, "Why?" Why, indeed?! Let's not let one new citizen of this beautiful city have THAT experience, please!

Thank you in advance for your support of our library, parks and Center 50+!

Nancy Layton

Secretary / Membership Chair

Friends of the Salem Public Library

Cell / Text: 909-225-5127

Email: nancy.layton5@gmail.com

From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:29:21 AM

-**Tami** | 503-588-6255
City of Salem | Mayor/City Manager's Office

From: Judith Davis <davis.judith@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:28 PM
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session

Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session

As a Salem resident and frequent user of the public library services and resources, let this letter serve as a heartfelt plea in support of continued library funding. Budget shortfalls necessitate difficult choices. Keeping the library open is of paramount importance. Reduced hours of operation and staffing levels may be necessary, however; long-term viability is the goal. I urge all those voting to consider the essential role public libraries serve in a community, our community.

Libraries level the playing field. As great democratic institutions, they serve people of every age, income level, location, ethnicity, and physical ability, and provide the full range of information resources needed to live, learn, govern, and work. Furthermore, libraries are open to everyone, regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status, and educational background. Purchases, membership fees, or dress codes are not required.

In today's climate of misinformation, disinformation, intolerance and ignorance, it is clear that libraries are more essential than ever. More than just storage spaces for books and media, libraries are important community hubs that serve as centers of learning and professional and educational development. They are free public spaces that allow everyone to feel safe and to find opportunity. Now, more than ever, they are vital to those principles that define the city of Salem, the state of Oregon and the United States.

More than a community center, town hall, or public park ever could, libraries connect communities in ways that benefit everyone. Library programs foster community participation and cohesion. Irrespective of socioeconomic status or other factors, libraries provide local resources to all. Educational offerings, job training, homeless outreach, ESL learning, literacy enhancement, creative and artistic expression, etc. are all available for everyone to share.

Please consider this message to be a strong endorsement for prioritizing the

continued support for the Salem public library system.

Sincerely yours,
Judith L Davis

From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Livability Levy
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:29:32 AM

-Tami | 503-588-6255
[City of Salem | Mayor/City Manager's Office](#)

From: Larry Sipe <ljsipe1984@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 11:04 AM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Livability Levy

Dear City Recorder and City Council:

I respectfully urge you to PUT a Livability Levy on the 20 May ballot to preserve and restore our library, parks, and Center 50+.

The City faces a \$13.8 million budget deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. Without passage of a levy there is a strong chance that our library will CLOSE on 1 July. This is unthinkable. The City of Salem deserves better. The citizens of Salem demand it. I implore you to listen to them. PUT a LIVABILITY LEVY on the 20 May ballot to preserve and restore our library, parks, and Center 50+!

I respectfully entreat you to PUT a Livability Levy on the 20 May ballot to preserve and restore our library, parks, and Center 50+.

With gratitude,
Larry Sipe, Ward 8

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From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment for the Jan 21st Work Session
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:39:39 AM

-**Tami** | 503-588-6255
[City of Salem | Mayor/City Manager's Office](#)

From: hudgie45 Hudgens <hudgie45@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:35 AM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Public Comment for the Jan 21st Work Session

Hello and Thank you for all your hard work in running our fair city and for taking this comment.

For the state capital of Oregon to NOT HAVE A FULL SERVICE LIBRARY is not only ridiculous, it is dangerous for Democracy. We should be leading all efforts to educate the populace so you must put the Livability Levy on the May ballot and if it fails, you must find another way to fund the Library, even if we have to close Center 50+.

Ruth Hudgens
1020 20th ST NE
Salem 97301

From: [Tami Carpenter](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: Support A Livability Levy
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:40:25 AM

-**Tami** | 503-588-6255
City of Salem | Mayor/City Manager's Office

From: E. Dollie Wolverton <fungiscw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:48 PM
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Support A Livability Levy

Mayor Julie Hoy and Councilors Irvin Brown, Shane Matthews, and Paul Tigan -

As newly elected representatives for the City of Salem, your leadership is urgently needed to ensure a *Livability Levy* on the May 20th ballot that will allow our libraries - a vital part of the State Capitol - to remain open and return to full services.

Restoring our well-staffed and highly functioning public library system is more important than ever.

Achieving such an outcome would be a significant testament to your effective leadership and the positive impact it can have on our community.

Thank you, and I wish you all the best as you work together as a new team.

E. Dollie Wolverton,
448 Superior Street S
Salem, OR 97302
American Association of University Women

From: [Sally](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fund Salem's Libraries
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:01:50 AM

Salem has a lovely main library building that was seismically updated a few years ago plus a West Salem Library that was built with money raised privately, as I recall. The City should not allow these buildings to deteriorate by closing them.

Our libraries are popular. Go and see how many people are there, especially on Saturdays. Many community groups use the library meeting rooms, which helps to build relationships among citizens.

Our libraries are important educational tools for our community. When I was growing up, the library is where I went to find books that interested me. Young people have a wide variety of interests, and the public library is the only place most youngsters can find books that interest them. Reading books of interest is the best way for young people to improve their reading skills. Immigrants who are learning to understand English can also find suitable materials at the library. A literate citizenry is vital for democracy.

I would vote for a levy to fund the libraries, and I think many other people would also support a levy.

Sally Hollemon
3335 Crestview Dr. S
Salem, OR 97302



January 6, 2025

Dear Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council:

On behalf of the Salem Art Association, including the historic Bush House Museum and the long-running Salem Art Fair & Festival, I am writing to express my concern about the impact of proposed budget cuts on our City's parks, libraries, and senior programs.

As a solution, a community-wide partnership of local, mission driven organizations have come together to champion the proposed *Livability Levy*.

As you know, the Council will consider the Levy at your work session on January 21st. I am writing to strongly recommend the Council place the *Livability Levy* on the May 20, 2025 ballot, so that our City's voters can have the opportunity to champion our cherished parks, libraries, and Center 50+.

At SAA, we work to support local artists and art lovers, we offer arts education to students, we preserve two of our City's historic properties, and we play an important role as an economic engine for our community, particularly as it relates to out-of-town visitors and tourists.

All of our work – I say again, *all* of our work – is based in the beautiful Bush's Pasture Park and relies on our extraordinary partnership with City staff in the Parks and Recreation Department. We cannot do our work if our park is not appropriately maintained and staffed.

I believe that the *Livability Levy* will be well received by our community and can serve as an essential funding source is to preserve and protect the contributions parks play in the health and happiness of our community. With our colleagues and partners, I stand ready to help mount a strong and vigorous campaign to pass the Levy.

Thank you for your time and effort, I know these issues are not easy.

Matthew Boulay,
Executive Director

RECEIVED
JAN 06 2025

CITY OF SALEM
MAYOR/CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



Mission Street Parks Conservancy

January 7, 2025

Dear Mayor Hoy and Salem City Council Members:

We are part of a community-wide partnership of Parks and Recreation advocates, the Library, and Center 50+. Collectively we provide hundreds of hours of volunteer time to our community and thousands of dollars of private support for Parks and Recreation, Libraries, and Senior Programs in Salem. We have come together to support and advocate for a proposed *Livability Levy* that you will be considering at your work session on January 21st.

On behalf of Mission Street Parks Conservancy, I would ask your consideration in putting a *Livability Levy* on the May 20, 2025 ballot to support and maintain services in the near future for Salem Parks and Recreation, Salem Public Libraries, and Center 50+.

Mission Street Parks Conservancy partners with the City of Salem to preserve, maintain, enhance, and interpret Bush's Pasture Park, the jewel of Salem's park system. Since the 1980's we have watched the continual reduction in City staffing for our Parks. We believe that a dedicated funding source is essential to protect the contributions parks play to the health and happiness of our community. We stand ready to help mount a strong and vigorous campaign to pass a modest property tax increase to support these critically important City services.



Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Julia Battle
President

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JAN 06 2025
CITY OF SALEM
MAYOR/CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



FRIENDS OF SALEM

PUBLIC LIBRARY

January 7, 2025

Dear Mayor Hoy and Honorable Salem City Council Members:

We are participating in a community-wide partnership of Library, Center 50 and Parks and Recreation advocates in Salem. We provide hundreds of hours of volunteer time to our community and thousands of dollars of private support for Libraries, Senior Programs, and Parks and Recreation in Salem. We have come together to support and advocate for a proposed *community service levy* that you will be voting on soon.

On behalf of the Friends of the Salem Public Library, we ask you to vote in favor of putting a *community service levy* on the May 2025 ballot to support and maintain services for Salem Public Libraries, Center 50 and Salem Parks and Recreation.

If you have any questions for our group (Friends of Salem Public Library), as its Secretary and designated member of this support group, I would be happy to discuss the work of the Friends of the Library. I am also willing to speak on behalf of this measure with neighborhood groups, such as our own - Faye Wright Neighbors - that is meeting on January 14th. I will be there with my Fund Our Libraries button on and material to hand out to help folks there understand the importance of this measure.

Our Board is solidly in favor of this Levy. We see it as a necessary mid-term source of financial support for the Library and the other Community Services the Levy will support. These are vital resources for the health and well-being many of our citizens. From a simple walk in a park to a dinner at the Center 50 or diving into local history at the Library - these locations and services are truly important elements of a good life in the City of Salem .

Thank you for your consideration on this very important question.


Nancy Layton
Secretary / Membership Chair
Friends of the Salem Public Library

Friends of the Salem Public Library
PO Box 925 Salem, OR 97308
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization.
Our letter from the IRS is available if you need a copy.

RECEIVED
JAN 06 2025
CITY OF SALEM
MAYOR/CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

From: [Alex Brown](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: public comment for Jan 21 work session - save the library
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 5:04:14 PM

Hi City Council,

Congrats to the newly sworn-in members, especially my new councilor for Ward 5 Dr. Irvin Brown.

I am writing in support of a livability levy on the May 2025 ballot to fund the library, parks, and Center 50+. I use the library every week and the reduction in hours has been disappointing. It is the only remaining indoor place I go where there is no expectation of spending money. I love seeing all manner of users getting resources to learn and play. I tell everyone I know to get a library card and about all the cool things SPL offers like cultural passes, Library of Things, study rooms, and cultural and educational events. This Saturday for example is the Best Books of 2024, a curated presentation by the librarians summarizing and recommending books. I highly value the library and implore you to preserve and expand its operation. When I visit Riverfront Park and the bathrooms are closed, it takes away from the enjoyability of such a great park. I would be embarrassed and upset if the library closes and **I am willing to have my taxes increase ~\$200 per year to pay for it.** I understand there is a budget shortfall and past measures limit your methods of raising funds. I understand that other voices are pushing for public safety above all else but I disagree. I would rather be more likely to be the victim of a crime than live in a city with no library and unmaintained parks. The library already took a big hit with service reductions and that squeeze needs to be better distributed to the police budget. I will vote in favor of any levy, but please work to find a levy amount most likely to pass.

Please do not close the library.

Thank you
Alex Brown
2162 Bruce St NE

From: [Carel DeWinkel](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 5:42:14 PM

Dear City Council:

We are writing you to ask for your support for sufficient funding for the Libraries, Parks and Center 50+ by putting the LIVABILITY LEVY on the May ballot.

My wife and I are frequent users of the Library, we help maintain Bush Park and we volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program.

Salem already has one of the worst funded libraries in the State. There are many cities in our state that have a local levy to support their libraries. Salem can certainly do so too.

For many years every Tuesday morning during the growing season we work in Bush Park as volunteers. We have seen the negative impact of the cuts in staff of the Parks Department. Even though the number of volunteers has increased, the damage to Bush Park, and undoubtedly in the other parks as well, is very significant. Volunteers are not enough, we need professional help.

Every week when we deliver the Center 50+ Meals on Wheels to our customers we see how thankful they are. It's very clear that we provide an important service.

Salem needs more funding to keep the city livable!!

Sincerely,
Edna Denton and Carel DeWinkel
1795 Fir Street S,
Salem, 97302.

From: [Dawn Banks](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:13:39 PM

To Mayor Julie Hoy and Members of Salem City Council,

I am a recent transplant to Salem from the state of Missouri. I chose Salem quite deliberately as the place to retire and to become a home owner, due to Salem's livability. Salem's livability is, in my opinion, due in large part to it's terrific Library, it's Center 50+ for Seniors, and it's wonderful, wonderful Parks.

The Library is a hugely important resource for all ages of Salem citizens. As a retired resident, it is a peaceful haven of shared knowledge, art, crafts, and live entertainment, as well as a convenient meeting place for community gatherings. To others, it is a critical resource for digital communication and essential to thriving in our digital society. To our youngsters, it is a place of safety and nurturing and wholesome activity, and a key source of the promotion of literacy. To all of us, it is home away from home.

Center 50+ provides an important community for the Seniors of our city, a gathering spot, a place to see friends, hear and play music, dance, exercise, learn crafts, eat, and be healthy. It is a critical resource for our aging population. As one who is aging, I rely on such a resource to help keep my body, mind and soul healthy and happy.

The green spaces of Salem were one of the biggest draws for me in my search for a new home. I am in love with Salem Parks, and I am so impressed with the level of importance that they are given in this city. I use one or more of the many Salem parks every single day. The community activities in the parks are so delightful and fulfilling. It is very important to me and to all the park users that the parks continue to receive the care, attention, and proper maintenance for continued use. It is a proven fact that time spent outdoors is essential to good life, good physical health, and good mental health, and our parks must remain safe and accessible.

As a homeowner and as an educated voter, I understand how Salem has arrived at the current budget crisis. While my hope is that we will ultimately receive some state assistance, as a citizen I am absolutely in favor of a Livability Levy to help fund and expand the wonderful resources that we currently enjoy, including those at our Library, Center 50+ and our Parks.

Please vote in favor of putting a Livability Levy on the May ballot.

Sincerely,

Dawn Banks
4895 7th Ave SE
Salem, OR 97302

630-267-6230

From: [Marie Mueller](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21 Work Session: Libraries, Ctr. 50, Parks
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 7:28:57 PM

Please do your very best to fund the Salem Public Libraries--at least at the current minimal level--and Center 50+ and our beautiful parks.

I lived in Grants Pass when their library system was 100% closed. It wasn't nice. It was harmful in a number of ways.

- Students lost the ability to research their studies.
- Those who could not afford computers lost access to the internet.
- Those who could not afford to buy books lost access to literacy.
- Children lost access to books.
- Children lost access to story time sessions.
- Groups lost the use of library meeting rooms.
- Interlibrary loans were nonexistent.
- I personally missed reading my favorite authors and bought more books than I wanted to.
- I missed the out-of-town newspapers.
- I missed the periodicals.
- I missed the help from the research librarians.
- **And it cost a lot later on to re-open the facilities**, find competent library personnel, update materials, update technology, repair things long neglected and disused ...

Salem is the capital of Oregon. As such, that service should be a basic provision for residents and visitors.

And yes, fund Center 50+. I was over there last Wednesday. It was a pleasure to see the interactions between seniors. They were chatting as they exercised, laughing as they tried new moves in a dance class, discussing news as they ate lunch, sitting with friends and catching up, attending a class on sleep problems, and so much more. Others, mostly seniors, were delivering Meals on Wheels. Social interaction is one of the things that helps keep people mentally balanced. It's much cheaper than medicines.

The last time I was in a park was around Christmas. Riverfront Park was thronged with happy families and individuals who were enjoying the lovely Christmas light display. Yes, it was wet, and yes, some sidewalks had huge puddles, but that didn't stop the fun. More recently, Minto-Brown attracted photographers to record the high waters a bit ago, resulting in lovely pictures to share. My local park on Mildred--Bryan Johnston--always had kids and walkers and dogs, rain or shine. On sunny days, parks are full of children (unless they are in school), adults, bicyclists, hikers, nature lovers, bird watchers.....I could continue.

"Livability" is more than just a buzzword. And yes, I vote.

Eleanor M. Mueller
6156 Rolletti Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97306
cwmueller33@gmail.com

503-990-7645

From: [Gloria Koenig](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:48:40 PM

As a resident of the City of Salem, OR, I want to voice my support for the upcoming Livability Levy in May. Several Salem area parks and the Library were lifelines during the Covid pandemic and I currently enjoy them on (at least) a weekly basis. These entities and the Center 50+ deserve our support to maintain Salem's livability now and in the future.

Thank you,
Gloria Koenig
1132 Kashmir Dr. S
Salem, OR 97306

From: [J Stembridge](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:08:35 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment for January 21st City Council Meeting.pdf](#)

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the work session by providing you our public comment.

Sincerely,
Joan and Jim Stembridge

For the January 21st City Council Work Session

Dear Salem City Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

We firmly and emphatically encourage you to approve having the Salem Livability Levy placed on the May 20th, 2025, ballot.

Your “YES” vote on the Salem Livability Levy will offer registered Salem voters our opportunity to demonstrate how important a fully functioning Public Library is to us, how important adequately managed public parks are to us, and demonstrate our support for Center 50-plus.

We believe great communities have strong viable public libraries and healthy public parks for recreation, and contemplation. Salem is fortunate to have excellent public amenities for everyone; all ages, all abilities, all income levels, all races. Funding for these excellent community resources needs to be preserved and restored.

Salem Public Library has been a welcoming place for us to enrich our lives for nearly 50 years. We go twice a month on average to read/check out items that deepen our knowledge about the world as well as stimulate curiosity and allow us to be active members of book clubs.

We are also avid walkers and bike riders who love and utilize neighborhood parks throughout our community. We are grateful for the wide variety of parks in our community that encourage us to maintain our physical and mental health.

In short; We want you to vote “YES” to put the Salem Livability Levy on the May 20th ballot, so that we and other advocates can work to get the measure passed.

Thank you for your public service,
Sincerely,
Joan and Jim Stembridge
Salem residents since 1978

From: [Jane Wille](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: Public comment for the January 21st work session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:21:35 PM

Support the Livability Levy and place it on the May ballot. Please. For our families, for our hearts, minds, and souls, let us make the way clear and fund these resources, some of the most important to every community that values those who live therein. Do the right thing for Salem. The Oregon State Capitol without its fine and important and valued resources -- our library and our parks which provide such vital resources to the citizenry -- would not be worthy of the name. Everyone giving a little toward the good of all will make the Capitol worthy of its designation.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
Jane Wille

Sent from my iPad

From: [Keith Norris](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Rob Romanek](#); [Scott Archer](#); [Jennifer Kellar](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: 1/21 City Council Work Session - Comments from SPRAB
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:37:27 PM
Attachments: [SPRAB Revenue-Levy Support 2025.01.14.pdf](#)

See attached for comments for the January 21 City Council Work Session.

Best,

Keith

--

Keith Norris He | Him | His
keith.norris.salem@gmail.com
217.855.6324

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

(SPRAB)

January 14, 2025

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Councilors:

I write to express the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's **emphatic support for the City to pursue additional revenue streams, including a possible levy, to provide funds for parks and recreation programs, Center 50+ and the public library.** We strongly recommend you explore ways of generating new revenues in support of these community services.

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provides recommendations and guidance to the City regarding our park and recreation lands, facilities and programs. Our eight volunteer board members, appointed by the City Council, receive input from the community to guide our recommendations aimed at enhancing Salem's >90 parks and the natural resources and recreation opportunities they provide across their 2,500 acres.

We know that the City has few options for correcting the short- and long-term financial projections caused by limitations in state law and constitutional amendments. We appreciate the Council's attention to this matter and the creative efforts implemented last year to help minimize cuts in the short-term. Unfortunately, these short-term methods will no longer be available or adequate to maintain the City's services.

Our board remains concerned about the projected budget shortfalls facing the City's general fund and the effect of budget cuts on parks and recreation programs. Potential cuts could drastically impact existing access to our parks system, reduce services and available infrastructure in our parks, and limit the availability of recreational programming. These cuts would have disproportionate impacts on families and youth, and degrade the overall value of the Salem community.

We urge action to ensure that Salem's parks and recreation programs, Center 50+, and the public library can be sustained and provide for our community. **A levy, like the proposed "Community Livability Levy" will help generate revenues that will enable the City to provide these essential services and opportunities for our community.** These services are a critical part of making our community more welcoming, livable, and enjoyable. We strongly urge you to consider this levy and move forward with plans to generate revenues that will support our community.

Sincerely,



Keith Norris

Chair, Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Member, 2024 Revenue Task Force

From: [Kathy Savicki](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: Livability levy for Parks
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:44:39 PM

As a long-time volunteer gardener in Bush Park, I've watch the decline since 1980 in the City's ability to staff and maintain this jewel of our park system. I am extremely concerned about what the upcoming budget cuts will mean to our entire network of community parks. These open spaces for recreation and rejuvenation are essential to the life and health of our community. Allowing them to deteriorate will just increase future restoration costs. I implore you to place a Livability Levy to support parks, the libraries and Center 50+ on the May ballot. The allocation to Parks and Recreation needs to be adequate to preserve our current parks. And I pledge to support the campaign to persuade voters to support the levy.

Kathleen Savicki

From: [Merrilynn Rhoads](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:55:14 PM

I am asking for you to consider putting a livability levy on the May 20th ballot that will preserve services at our public library, parks and Center 50+.

As a resident of Salem Oregon, I enjoy the services of my local library and would be happier if it expanded it's hours from 5 days to 7 days. Having a local library is also important for our children to have access to books and reading programs that foster a love of reading.

Thank you for your consideration,

Merrilynn Rhoads

cc: Salem City Council
citycouncil@cityofsalem.net

From: [Rainbow Olmstead](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:55:01 PM

I support a livability levy for the Salem library. Please help keep the library open.

Thank you!

Rainbow Olmstead
Salem, 97301

From: [Sara](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:53:33 PM

Salem City Council members,

I support the Salem Livability Levy. It will preserve and restore the library, Salem Parks and Center 50+.

I realize the City is facing a \$13.8 million deficit in the 2026 budget. Hard decisions have to be made. When considering those decisions, let's remember the Library has already taken severe budget cuts and is only open 48 hours per week (both locations combined) which is about half the hours the libraries were open two decades ago. We need a full service library that is open seven days a week at the main branch and five days a week at the West Salem Branch with evening hours at both locations.

As a retired teacher, I am acutely aware of its use over the years by students from preschool through middle school - and their parents. I taught in the Head Start program, three elementary and two middle schools in Salem. My daughter completed her K-12 experience in the Salem-Keizer School District.* I've seen and participated in many learning activities that were linked to the use of the resources in our library. Its use and value cannot be questioned. Libraries are crucial to help create and strengthen reading habits in children from an early age and throughout their education experience. Just one visit to an inviting place, dedicated to housing thousands of books, has an immediate impact on how they view the significance of books. It is not an exaggeration that taking the opportunity away from them can impact their entire lives. As the second-largest school district in Oregon with over 40,000 students, we need to provide a full service library for this significant population. Access will be denied to some if it cannot be open and available as many days as possible.

As the capital city of our state, we should provide an example of the importance of libraries by fully funding them to keep them open. It is my understanding that we have the worst funded major library in the state. Our library cannot sustain any more funding cuts. Again, we need a full service library that is open seven days a week at the main branch and five days a week at the West Salem Branch, with evening hours at both locations.

Respectfully,

Sara Wilkes
Salem Keizer School District, Boise Idaho School District, Dept. of Defense Overseas Schools teacher of 32 years

* When my busy 32 year old daughter comes to Salem, she often makes time to visit our library...if it's open.

From: [Sarah Wood](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:55:04 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Salem, I am requesting that a Livability Levy be put on the May 20th ballot to preserve and restore services to our library and city parks.

I have been an elementary school counselor for 10 years, all of it within Salem-Keizer Public Schools. I have seen firsthand how access--or, unfortunately, lack of access--to books affects young children. Our libraries are a crucial part of inspiring a love of reading in our children and preparing them to be happy, healthy, and successful adults.

To this day, I still feel such joy when I visit the library, and I want every child to have that opportunity. The library's hours must be restored to include evenings, 7 days a week. For working families, this will ensure that their children get access to the library, too.

Please save our libraries. They provide so much good to our community.

Sincerely,
Sarah Willow

From: [Skyler Yates](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Livability Levy
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:20:05 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a 49 year old resident of West Salem, I wanted to add my voice to those asking you to do what is in your power in keeping the library, center 50+ and parks open.

I visit the main library weekly. I love and take advantage of the many free materials, programs, cultural passes and programs supported by the main public library.

As a professional artist, I love the resources and the large part they play in my art practice. I love leisurely walking among the nonfiction books and learning a new technique or exploring a new topic. I love the element of surprise it allows. For example, I recently discovered there's a book all about gargoyles with lots of interesting information and pictures I can use as a reference that I sincerely doubt I would encounter many other places in Salem let alone be allowed to take home and look through for free. In this way, the library is one of the few places that provide such value to the people of our community without requiring that you are able to pay or meet certain income requirements in order to have access.

I enjoy being in an environment where people of all ages, races, incomes etc can coexist and enjoy the resources available there. I imagine there are a number of fantastic resources available for those homeschooling their children that would be difficult to access and afford otherwise. I also think, as the state capital, it would be a terrible loss and standard to set for the rest of the state. Furthermore, I have also read that graduation rates and numbers of students seeking higher education is shown to be higher in communities with public libraries precisely because they are not required to pay for access. As a parent, I want high graduation rates and educational support for my child and all children in this city.

In reference to the Center 50+, I have recently spent many hours volunteering in the afternoon at for respite care activities in watercolor painting. The attendance is always high and the participants as well as their caretakers find benefits to this activity. It is such a support to both the person needing care and their caregiver. Again, I want to echo the community value in keeping this place open.

The parks, in addition to the two spaces above, also provide added value to our communities. Whether health from getting out to socializing to keeping people here living working and thriving through access to these services. I cannot imagine Salem without them and having moved here from another state three years ago, I don't believe we would have chosen to settle here if they didn't exist.

Please consider the loss and repercussions of the loss of those places in Salem. There must be a way to reassign where the support money comes from to continue supporting them being open. Perhaps researching how other cities in our state are successful in keeping their libraries and parks open would provide some insight.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Skyler Yates

From: [Victoria Timm](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the January 21st Work Session.
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:30:20 PM

Dear Council,

Before I begin, I'd like to welcome those new members of the council who have just recently been sworn in. I hope both you and the members with continuing terms serve our city well.

I am writing today to encourage you all to go through with putting the livability tax on the ballot. Our libraries, parks, and senior centers are essential for our community and need to be funded. I only hope that the voters will agree, which with polling as it is, may not be the case. But I promise you, and I am not alone in this, that I will do everything I can to make sure it passes, should you go forth with it.

A community cannot thrive with just the basics of fire protection and law enforcement. It would be like living in an unfurnished house. Our library, our parks and our senior center are the ways people engage with our city in a way that isn't transactional. Everything else costs something. You always get back what you give to the city, even if it isn't always obvious. If you give nothing, you'll get nothing and the fabric that holds Salem will decline.

On a selfish note, I need the library. I've been going since I was a kid and the amount of knowledge I've learned since then I could not quantify. It has truly been a gift. Should the library be further cut or removed, that gift that I enjoyed would be taken from countless others. The damage would be invisible but no less painful. The burden would be on us as a community.

That is why we must properly fund our city. It will better countless lives and make our city a better place to live. To paraphrase a poem by John Donne (which can be found at the library). "No man is an isle to himself. Ask not for whom the bell tolls, for the bell tolls for thee."

We are all connected and we can make Salem better. Vote for the livability tax.

-Victoria Timm