

**From:** [Francine Boullosa](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** September 18, 2023 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:44:47 AM

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Mayor Hoy and City Councilors:

RE: September 18 Salem City Council Work Session: Revised FY2024 Budget

The Library is an investment of municipal resources that delivers directly to our community. Please consider the following data as you make difficult decisions on the FY2024 Budget.

The City Librarian's report to the Library Advisory Board (LAB) indicated "In first-time check outs and Digital downloads the library saved our community \$1,391,575". That was just for one month - April, 2023!

The value to the community is increasing monthly.

In July, there were 35,000 visitors to the library, increase of sixteen percent from April. 127,000 physical items and 27,000 digital items were checked out.

This figure does not include the value of patron use of the 26 computers (valued @ \$12/hour\*) which staff indicate are used close to 100% of time at West Salem and at least 75% of the time at the main library.

This savings to the community does not factor in study and meeting room use (valued at \$25/hour\*). Nor does it include the value of children, youth and adult programs attended (valued @\$7-15/hour\*). It also does not include Outreach and homebound services, Center 50+, the Discovery Room, the Library of Things, and many other services in high demand.

There were over 3,000 sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program. With staff support Teens developed the Take What You Need; set up and manage the Seed Library.

Teens engage other youth in many diverse innovative events, Early evening and weekend hours are needed for non-school hour access and to provide a safe quiet place for youth to work on homework and access resources.

The Library is critical part of Safe Salem: warming and cooling, helping people find resources and develop skills. Interact with others they might otherwise not encounter. This builds a strong diverse community.

Francine Boullosa, Chair LAB 2022-23  
547 King Arthur's Ct SE  
Salem OR 97302

\*American Association of Libraries Ilovelibraries website: What's Your Library Worth?

**From:** [Karen Freeman](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding the City Council Work Session on 9-18-2023  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:43:16 PM

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Hello Mayor Hoy and City Council Members,

I understand and appreciate the need to evaluate potential cuts to the City budget should the Payroll Tax initiative not pass in November. I am interested in learning whether the potential cuts to the Parks budget will include irrigation and/or water supply. The Lord & Schryver Conservancy maintains the historic L&S-designed gardens at Deepwood. We have a contract with the City to provide 8 hours of work a week from our Head Gardener, plus we have volunteer gardeners there every Thursday from 9 to noon for nine months each year. The gardens are a popular destination for visitors and help make the property attractive for weddings, quinceaneras, family photo shoots, and other cultural activities. Loss of water would greatly impact the beauty of the gardens and could result in the loss of several thousands of dollars worth of plant material that we have invested over the years. Whatever information we know about budget cuts ahead of the election will help us pass the word to our supporters about the impact of their votes. Thank you for your consideration.

And I would be remiss not to mention the awesome work of the parks staff who already do so much and are spread thinly throughout the parks. You rock!

Cordially,

**Karen Freeman**

Board President – Lord & Schryver Conservancy

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**From:** [Yvonne Putze](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding the City Council Work Session on 9-18-2023  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:54:53 AM

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Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council Members,

What an overwhelming situation we all find ourselves facing as the funds fail to even come close to keeping up with the increasing strain on the resources needed to provide a safe place people want to continue calling home. Thank you for your leadership in sorting through this monstrous task.

As the Executive Director of the Friends of Deepwood, I of course have a very major concern knowing the many proposed cuts (in the event the payroll tax fails) will make a dramatic impact on the immediate and future sustaining of parks like Deepwood and Bush which have such rich historical significance and quality of life impact. I do recognize all the proposed cuts are significant in a wide range of ways, but encourage as much engagement with key stakeholders to identify how to assess and prioritize whatever cuts may become necessary.

Cutting resources like park staffing, maintenance and year-round care of the properties will lead to decades of development quickly plummeting. The impact has already been seen with cutbacks over the past few years that often end up causing greater cost to fix what needed basic maintenance that didn't happen to save- in the end the cost was magnified instead. We'll also have escalated safety concerns if the unsheltered and drug addiction resources are also cut and those of the law enforcement personnel. Each day as I go to work, I'm already faced with fear of my safety and of greatest concern to me is I fear assault of my staff, volunteers or park visitors. Unfortunately, the similar risk is felt in other places around the City, but more so in these park settings that offer places for people wishing to do harm or just those who are mentally ill or drug addicted to attack from places that don't offer good advance visibility. Having previously been assaulted personally on the grounds makes me fear this increasing risk due to this loss of resources.

Please ask for help in finding the answers and dealing with the difficult decisions. We are all in this together heading down the same road to destruction, but you are in the driver's seat- at least for now.

With Sincere Concern,

**Yvonne Putze**  
**Executive Director**  
**Deepwood Museum & Gardens**  
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