Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting of November 9, 2026 7:00 PM

(DRAFT until Accepted in Meeting)

AGENDA

I. Call to order - 7:00 PM

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Review and Approve Agenda

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Agenda as presented.

IV. Privilege of the floor

V. Approval of the Minutes.

a. [Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

VI. Personnel

VII. Finances

a. Financial Report
   [Action item] RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report for October 2026.
b. Warrant Schedule for October 2026
   [Action item] RESOLVED to approve the October 2026 Warrant Schedule as presented.

VIII. Director's Report – Rose Chiocchi, Library Director

IX. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees
   i. Physical Resources Committee
   ii. Community Resources Committee

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iii. Human Resources Committee
iv. Sunshine Committee

b. Ad hoc Committees
i. Historical Society Committee

X. Reports from Partner Groups

a. Friends
b. Junior Friends

XI. New Business

a. Skoufis Grant Opportunity
i. [ACTION ITEM] RESOLVED to fully support the library in joining the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification Program, with the goal of becoming a certified sustainable library.

XII. Executive Session
[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board enter Executive Session

XIII. Report of Trustee Continuing Education Credits

XIV. Adjournment
[Action item] RESOLVED that the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees adjourn.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Privilege of the Floor
Pursuant to Article II, Section 6 of the bylaws of the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society, any member of the public, present at the meeting, may speak during privilege of the floor. The Chair of the meeting shall designate a maximum amount of time for privilege of the floor in order to run the meeting in an efficient manner. Comments may not personally denigrate staff or Board members. Attendees' behavior shall be held to the Library Rules of Conduct. Members of the public wishing to speak will be recognized by the Chair and be asked to stand, state their name and address for the record, and face the Board when making their comments.

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Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of October 7, 2026

Draft Minutes

I. Call to order

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society (GPLHS) was called to order by President Emily Collado at 7:05 PM on October 7, 2026.

Attendance:

Board members present: Emily Collado (exited at 8:25 PM), Tina Fortugno, Heather LaBruna, Julie Markey, Alison Newman (entered at 7:17 PM), Michael Panzer (entered at 7:31 PM), and Lynn Tabbott. Also in attendance: Library Director Rose Chiocchi and Clerk of the Board Meghan Boroden.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Review and Approve Agenda

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion, Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by, Trustee Markey. (Approved 5-0-0)

IV. Privilege of the floor – None.

V. Approval of the Minutes.

a. [Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 14, 2026 as amended.

Punctuation correction under Attendance. Date of next meeting updated to October 7, 2026.

Motion, Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by, Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 5-0-0)

b. [Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 23, 2026 amended. Date of next meeting updated to October 7, 2026.

Motion, Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by, Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 5-0-0)

VI. Personnel – None.

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VII. Finances

a. September Financial Report

As the Library enters the second quarter of the fiscal year, Director Chiocchi reported that she is awaiting the first of three tax levy payments from the Goshen Central School District. It is expected to arrive no later than October 15th. Payment to Cornerstone Theater was made as part of a long-standing partnership that provides performances to patrons in the Pomares Community Room and the annual Shakespeare in the Park. All performances are well attended.

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the September 2026 Financial Report.

Motion, Trustee Markey. Seconded by, Trustee Fortugno. (Approved 6-0-0)

c. August 2026 Warrant Schedule

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the August 2026 Warrant Schedule.

Motion, Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by, Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 6-0-0)

e. September 2026 Warrant Schedule

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the September 2026 Warrant Schedule.

Motion, Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by, Trustee Markey. (Approve 6-0-0)

VIII. Director's Report – In her report, Director Chiocchi highlighted that the Library's popularity is reflected in its statistics, which continue an upward trajectory in circulation, patron visits, assistance from reference librarians and use of spaces. Chiocchi reported that a plumber has come up with a plan to identify the source of a water leak.

For the first time in at least 15 years, fees for services offered at the circulation desk have been increased. Copier fees are now $.25 and color copies are $.70. The first page of a fax is $2.50 and every page thereafter remains at $.50. The microfiche machine in the Local History Room has been repaired at a cost of $1,000.

For the month of October, the Library has partnered with RCLS and the Orange Library Association to participate in a state-wide community initiative called The Great Give Back, which collects new diapers for children. Donated diapers will be given to the Diaper Bank of Orange, Ulster, Sullivan. The Library is also hosting a Pajama and Children's Book Drive for the month to benefit Beyond Books, a non-profit that helps children nationwide experience the benefits of a good and cozy night's sleep. The Library's toiletry drive continues and a procedure is in place for patrons in need to discreetly gain access to donated items.

Chiocchi praised the organizers of the successful GoCon event held on September 19th. The door counter recorded 671 people visiting that day, while a typical Saturday has about 225 visitors. The event was put together with the help of Amber

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Kirkwood, Krystal Coleman, Charles DeYoe, Clarisa Rosario-DeGroate, Melissa Tidd and Barron Angell.

Chiocchi reported that the response from the community about the newly available bicycles for borrowing from the Library has been overwhelmingly positive. The social media posts announcing this new offering received the most 'likes' in the history of the Library's social media accounts. Chiocchi again thanked Goshen-based Orange County Snowboards, Ski & Bike Shop and Librarians Ruth Mallard and Charles DeYoe.

Library staff will again participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 18th. Staff member Erica Gati is serving as team captain with a goal of exceeding last year's fundraising goal of $1,000.

The Library hosted the Orange Library Association's (OLA) Annual Meeting on October 1st. Eleven representatives from Orange County's 17 libraries and representatives from Orange County government departments attended. Chiocchi said the gathering was very informative for OLA members who learned how libraries could partner with county government to better serve library patrons.

The Library will next host a gathering of new library directors at a meeting of the Directors Association.

Chiocchi reported that the publisher of Goshen Living Magazine visited the Library for a feature in an upcoming issue of the publication.

Chiocchi attended several trainings through RCLS.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Physical Resources Committee – Director Chiocchi shared an initial proposal by the Rotary Club to fund a project on the grounds of the Library in celebration of the Rotary's centennial.

ii. Community Resources Committee – None.

iii. Human Resources Committee – None.

iv. Sunshine Committee – None.

b. Ad-hoc Committees

i. Historical Society Committee – Trustee Panzer reported the next edition of the journal is complete and ready for printing. The Battle of Minisink monument has been cleaned.

X. Reports from Partner Groups

a. Friends of the GPL&HS resumed meeting monthly. The next speaker for the Friends Lecture Series is Alex Prizgintas, Woodbury town historian, whose presentation will examine the contributions of renowned landscape architects to the Hudson Valley.

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b. Junior Friends – None.

XI. New Business

a. 2027 Library Hours/Holiday Closings & Board Meeting Schedule

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the 2027 Library Hours/Holiday Closings & Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule as amended.

Motion, Trustee Markey. Seconded by, Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 7-0-0)

b. Snow Removal Proposals

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve an agreement with Landscape Impressions of Goshen for snow removal services for fiscal year 2026-2027 through fiscal year 2028-2029 at a cost of $12,000 annually.

Motion, Trustee Newman. Seconded by, Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 7-0-0)

c. Domestic Partner Dental Insurance

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve allowing domestic partners to join the EBF dental plan at no cost to the Library.

Motion, Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by, Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 7-0-0)

XII. Privilege of the Floor – None.

XIII. Executive Session

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board enter Executive Session at 8:08 PM to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

Motion, Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by, Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 7-0-0)

No action was taken.

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board exit Executive Session at 8:51 PM.

Motion, Trustee Markey. Seconded by, Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 6-0-0)

XIV. Report of Continuing Education Credits – Trustees reported on classes they have participated in to fulfill the continuing education credits required by NYS law.

XV. Adjournment

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board adjourn at 8:51 PM.

Motion, Trustee Tabbott. Seconded by, Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 6-0-0)

Next Regular Meeting: November 9, 2026 at 7 PM.

Submitted by: Meghan Boroden, Clerk of the Board

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Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through October 2026

	Jul - Oct 26	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Real Property Taxes	1,543,603.26	2,604,060.96	-1,060,457.70	59.28%
4010 · PILOT	0.00	75,000.00	-75,000.00	0.0%
RCLS Grants	5,480.00	5,000.00	480.00	109.6%
Other Grants	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Library Charges	1,268.76	7,000.00	-5,731.24	18.13%
Copier Charges	2,891.04			
Interest Income	3,909.57	35,000.00	-31,090.43	11.17%
Unrestricted Gifts & Donations	100.00			
Donation Historical Room	20.00			
Donation - Friends of the GPLHS	250.00	10,000.00	-9,750.00	2.5%
Appropriated Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Appropriated Fund Balance	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
Total Income	1,557,522.63	2,787,060.96	-1,229,538.33	55.88%
Expense				
Salaries & Wages				
Librarian Salaries	138,195.18			
Other Salaries & Wages	230,567.39	1,160,865.00	-930,297.61	19.86%
Salaries & Wages - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Salaries & Wages	368,762.57	1,160,865.00	-792,102.43	31.77%
Employee Benefits				
FICA	22,447.15	71,502.00	-49,054.85	31.39%
Medicare	5,249.72	16,722.34	-11,472.62	31.39%
Worker's Compensation	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.0%
Unemployment Insurance	898.10	10,000.00	-9,101.90	8.98%
Disability Insurance	-2,076.79	7,000.00	-9,076.79	-29.67%
Health Insurance	65,094.88	220,000.00	-154,905.12	29.59%
Vision Care	-59.98	0.00	-59.98	100.0%
State Retirement	0.00	150,000.00	-150,000.00	0.0%
Direct Deposit Fees	0.00	9,000.00	-9,000.00	0.0%
Data Processing Fees	2,005.00			
Total Employee Benefits	93,558.08	492,224.34	-398,666.26	19.01%
Library Materials/Services				
Books - Adult	15,703.02	40,000.00	-24,296.98	39.26%
Books - Teen	674.39	6,000.00	-5,325.61	11.24%
Books - Juvenile	3,174.21	17,000.00	-13,825.79	18.67%
AV-Audio Music	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Books - Reference	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Reference Databases	0.00	4,500.00	-4,500.00	0.0%
Serials	6,446.06	6,500.00	-53.94	99.17%
AV - Audio Books	357.52	2,000.00	-1,642.48	17.88%

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through October 2026

	Jul - Oct 26	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Library Materials-Memberships	-200.00	0.00	-200.00	100.0%
AV	1,242.99	5,000.00	-3,757.01	24.86%
E Content	10,379.87	23,000.00	-12,620.13	45.13%
Tech Lab	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
Total Library Materials/Services	37,778.06	107,000.00	-69,221.94	35.31%
Building				
Equipment	1,562.46	2,500.00	-937.54	62.5%
Building Repairs	553.50	25,000.00	-24,446.50	2.21%
Utilities	18,072.73	65,000.00	-46,927.27	27.8%
Insurance	17,910.00	43,000.00	-25,090.00	41.65%
Building Services	7,164.18	50,000.00	-42,835.82	14.33%
Custodial Services	2,058.04	7,500.00	-5,441.96	27.44%
Total Building	47,320.91	193,000.00	-145,679.09	24.52%
Electronic Resources				
IT Services	23,341.00	46,500.00	-23,159.00	50.2%
Computer Hardware	319.85	4,000.00	-3,680.15	8.0%
Computer Software	3,141.64	5,500.00	-2,358.36	57.12%
ILS	9,120.00	23,000.00	-13,880.00	39.65%
Electronic Materials	3,515.00			
Total Electronic Resources	39,437.49	79,000.00	-39,562.51	49.92%
Programs/Public Relations				
Local History	2,939.12	4,000.00	-1,060.88	73.48%
Newsletter/Marketing	517.30	2,500.00	-1,982.70	20.69%
Programs - Adult	9,846.15	18,000.00	-8,153.85	54.7%
Programs - Juvenile	7,364.97	18,000.00	-10,635.03	40.92%
Programs - Teen	1,060.87	4,500.00	-3,439.13	23.58%
Programs-Community Dev	2,529.99	11,500.00	-8,970.01	22.0%
Total Programs/Public Relations	24,258.40	58,500.00	-34,241.60	41.47%
Administrative Expenses				
Human Resources	466.05	3,000.00	-2,533.95	15.54%
Telephone	3,776.31	10,000.00	-6,223.69	37.76%
Printing	906.28	6,000.00	-5,093.72	15.11%
Postage	371.19	3,000.00	-2,628.81	12.37%
Professional Services				
Legal fees- HR	1,056.00			
Accounting	3,400.00	34,000.00	-30,600.00	10.0%
Legal	2,015.00	10,000.00	-7,985.00	20.15%
CSEA Matters	1,075.00	10,000.00	-8,925.00	10.75%
CSEA Contract Negotiations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Professional Services	517.00	2,500.00	-1,983.00	20.68%
Total Professional Services	8,063.00	56,500.00	-48,437.00	14.27%
Library Supplies	1,665.51	11,000.00	-9,334.49	15.14%

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through October 2026

	Jul - Oct 26	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Toshiba Lease	2,288.00	3,300.00	-1,012.00	69.33%
Continuing Education	4,490.63	3,500.00	990.63	128.3%
Election	0.00	4,500.00	-4,500.00	0.0%
Membership Dues	550.00	1,800.00	-1,250.00	30.56%
Credit Card Fees	136.71			
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Total Administrative Expenses	22,713.68	104,600.00	-81,886.32	21.72%
Judgements & Claims	0.00	101,277.62	-101,277.62	0.0%
Debt Service				
Mortgage Principal	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Interest on Indebtedness	240,594.00	240,594.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Debt Service	490,594.00	490,594.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	1,124,423.19	2,787,060.96	-1,662,637.77	40.34%
Net Ordinary Income	433,099.44	0.00	433,099.44	100.0%
Net Income	**433,099.44**	**0.00**	**433,099.44**	**100.0%**

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2026

	Oct 31, 26	Oct 31, 25
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Cash - Key - Checking	88,754.64	132,061.73
NYCLASS	969,267.44	1,021,809.73
Cash - Orange County Trust	5,440.78	5,439.29
Petty Cash	99.25	99.25
Total Checking/Savings	1,063,562.11	1,159,410.00
Other Current Assets		
Prepaid Insurance	6,853.36	6,531.14
Grants Receivable	0.00	8,650.00
Total Other Current Assets	6,853.36	15,181.14
Total Current Assets	1,070,415.47	1,174,591.14
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,070,415.47**	**1,174,591.14**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	44,856.28	65,997.33
Total Accounts Payable	44,856.28	65,997.33
Credit Cards		
Credit Cards		
US Bank Card	1,015.85	2,990.86
Sam's Club	261.88	0.00
Total Credit Cards	1,277.73	2,990.86
Total Credit Cards	1,277.73	2,990.86
Other Current Liabilities		
ERS owed to Employees	0.00	207.26
Accrued Expenses	46,573.00	54,473.25
Payroll Liabilities		
Life Insurance	0.00	665.91
Paid Family Leave	0.00	1,546.15
ERS Withholding Payable	3,095.92	3,261.02
Unemployment Taxes Payable	0.00	329.09
Due to AFLAC	-39.04	0.00
Payroll Liabilities - Other	0.00	46.62
Total Payroll Liabilities	3,056.88	5,848.79
0631 · Due to Other Governments	72,848.51	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	122,478.39	60,529.30
Total Current Liabilities	168,612.40	129,517.49
Total Liabilities	168,612.40	129,517.49
Equity		

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2026

	Oct 31, 26	Oct 31, 25
Fund Balance - Appropriated	50,000.00	50,000.00
Fund Balance - Non-Spendable	6,853.36	6,531.14
Fund Balance - Assigned	1,214.51	1,015.32
Fund Balance - General Fund	410,635.76	669,226.96
Net Income	433,099.44	318,300.23
Total Equity	901,803.07	1,045,073.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**1,070,415.47**	**1,174,591.14**

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Warrant List
October 1 - 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Debit	Credit	Balance
Cash - Key - Checking								**48,460.10**
Deposit	10/02/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	9.59		48,469.69
Deposit	10/02/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	15.43		48,485.12
Check	10/05/2026	20275	US Bank		Multiple charges on CC		3,427.47	45,057.65
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20276	Blackstone Audiobooks		Adult Books		167.16	44,890.49
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20277	Bluestein Shapiro Frank & Barone LLP		Legal Fees		675.00	44,215.49
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20278	Cengage Learning		Adult Books		272.80	43,942.69
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20279	Cintas Corp		Custodial Supplies		550.59	43,392.10
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20280	Clarisa Rosario-DeGroate		Continuing Education		16.57	43,375.53
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20281	Cornerstone Theatre Arts		Adult Programs		2,500.00	40,875.53
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20282	CSEA, Inc.		CSEA Dues		578.95	40,296.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20283	Culinary Helping Hands		Adult Programs		350.00	39,946.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20284	Deer Guys		Building Services		109.73	39,836.85
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20285	Devine Design		Computer Software		540.00	39,296.85
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20286	Fox Ledge Inc.		Library Supplies		45.60	39,251.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20287	Frontier Communications-NY		Telephone		80.45	39,170.80
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20288	Gustavo Lopez		Telephone		30.00	39,140.80
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20289	Ingram Library Services		Adult/Juv/Teen Books		2,623.33	36,517.47
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20290	Joseph Vento		Adult Programs		100.00	36,417.47
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20291	Livia Kohn		Adult Programs		90.00	36,327.47
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20292	Meghan Boroden		Professional Fees		143.00	36,184.47
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20293	Metro Imaging Services Inc		Local History		373.75	35,810.72
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20294	Midwest Tape		AV		34.48	35,776.24
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20295	OverDrive		E-content		28.44	35,747.80
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20296	RCLS General		Computer Software		150.24	35,597.56
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20297	Scholastic Library Publishing	Account # 4253980	Electronic Materials		1,008.00	34,589.56
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20298	SRI Fire Sprinkler LLC		Building Services		958.93	33,630.63
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20299	Suffern Free Library		Adult Books		15.00	33,615.63
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20300	Tammy Quinn		Adult Programs		190.00	33,425.63
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20301	The Davey Tree Expert Company	customer # 7939101	Building Services		294.00	33,131.63
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2026	20302	Toshiba Financial Services	578239725	Leases/printing		1,290.85	31,840.78
Check	10/05/2026	ACH	Sam's Club		Custodial & Library Supplies		308.01	31,532.77
Deposit	10/05/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	17.38		31,550.15
Deposit	10/05/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	2.77		31,552.92
Bill Pmt -Check	10/06/2026	20303	Christine Adams		Adult Programs		375.00	31,177.92
Deposit	10/06/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	23.03		31,200.95
Check	10/07/2026	ACH	United Healthcare		Health Insurance		15,732.96	15,467.99

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Warrant List
October 1 - 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Debit	Credit	Balance
Bill Pmt -Check	10/07/2026	20305	Angela Twik		Juvenile Programs		300.00	15,167.99
Bill Pmt -Check	10/07/2026	20304	Audrey Mazzola		Adult Programs		400.00	14,767.99
Transfer	10/08/2026			Funds Transfer	NYCLASS	60,000.00		74,767.99
Check	10/09/2026	ACH	Intermedia Cloud Communications	Sept 26	Telephone		533.35	74,234.64
Check	10/09/2026	ACH	AFLAC New York	INv#906727	Employee deduction		204.55	74,030.09
Deposit	10/09/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	3.02		74,033.11
Deposit	10/10/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	20.06		74,053.17
Deposit	10/10/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	12.02		74,065.19
Check	10/13/2026	ACH	Allstate Life Insurance Company of NY		Health Insurance		9.60	74,055.59
Deposit	10/13/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	6.67		74,062.26
Deposit	10/13/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	9.59		74,071.85
Deposit	10/13/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	3.02		74,074.87
Deposit	10/14/2026			Deposit	Copier & Library Charges	835.00		74,909.87
Check	10/14/2026	ACH	Payday		Payroll		44,049.52	30,860.35
Deposit	10/14/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	6.67		30,867.02
Deposit	10/15/2026			Deposit	RE Taxes/Charges	1,053,252.26		1,084,119.28
Deposit	10/16/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	13.49		1,084,132.77
Deposit	10/16/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	27.12		1,084,159.89
Deposit	10/19/2026			Deposit	Copier & Library Charges	84.00		1,084,243.89
Check	10/20/2026	ACH	Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest		Insurance		396.50	1,083,847.39
Deposit	10/20/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	56.59		1,083,903.98
Deposit	10/20/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	3.02		1,083,907.00
Deposit	10/20/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	11.29		1,083,918.29
Check	10/21/2026	20306	M & T Bank		Multiple charges on CC		2,018.35	1,081,899.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20307	Andrew P Donnelly		Adult Programs		285.00	1,081,614.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20308	Arlene Kobylinski		Adult Programs		190.00	1,081,424.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20309	Billco Landscape Contractors		Building Services		300.00	1,081,124.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20310	Cengage Learning	Acount # 100235318	Adult Books		206.40	1,080,918.54
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20311	CSEA - Dental	Group#099	Employee deduction		521.93	1,080,396.61
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20312	Culinary Helping Hands		Juvenile Programs		350.00	1,080,046.61
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20313	Hoopla		E-content		1,955.34	1,078,091.27
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20314	Ingram Library Services		Adult/Juv/Teen Books		4,315.05	1,073,776.22
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20315	Janice Vilardo		Adult Programs		190.00	1,073,586.22
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20316	Karen Golding		Adult Programs/ontinue Ed		1,286.01	1,072,300.21
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20317	Lynn Banghart		Continuing Education		625.44	1,071,674.77
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20318	Maggie Edkins		Juvenile Programs		300.00	1,071,374.77
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20319	Metro Imaging Services Inc		Local History		643.00	1,070,731.77

Management Use Only

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Warrant List
October 1 - 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Debit	Credit	Balance
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20320	Midwest Tape		AV		227.16	1,070,504.61
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20321	Norma Fives		Health Insurance		809.55	1,069,695.06
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20322	North Carolina State University		Adult Books		15.00	1,069,680.06
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20323	P.N. Fire & Burglar Alarm Co.		Building Services		343.50	1,069,336.56
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20324	Phyllis L. Hunter		Health Insurance		809.55	1,068,527.01
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20325	ProQuest LLC		Local History		1,682.37	1,066,844.64
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20326	RCLS General		ILS/IT/E-content		17,714.50	1,049,130.14
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20327	Robert W. Schultz, CPA		Accounting Services		1,300.00	1,047,830.14
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20328	Rose Chiocchi		Telephone		107.52	1,047,722.62
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20329	ShelterPoint life		Vision Insurance		77.68	1,047,644.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20330	Silly Goose Games		Adult Programs		195.00	1,047,449.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20331	SRS Inc.		Adult Programs		97.74	1,047,352.20
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20332	Suffern Free Library		Adult Books		18.00	1,047,334.20
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20333	Utica National Insurance Group		Insurance		3,852.00	1,043,482.20
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20334	Wallaby Tales		Juvenile Programs		555.00	1,042,927.20
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2026	20335	William Seaton		Adult Programs		200.00	1,042,727.20
Check	10/21/2026	ACH	Payday		Payroll		831.48	1,041,895.72
Check	10/21/2026	ACH	Orange & Rockland	8/12/26-9/11/26	Utilities		3,177.71	1,038,718.01
Deposit	10/21/2026			Deposit	Library CHarges	48.55		1,038,766.56
Deposit	10/22/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	2.77		1,038,769.33
Deposit	10/23/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	2.77		1,038,772.10
Check	10/26/2026	ACH	Orange & Rockland	9/11/26-10/9/26	Utilities		2,710.71	1,036,061.39
Check	10/26/2026	ACH	AFLAC New York	INv#917815	Employee deduction		204.55	1,035,856.84
Check	10/26/2026	ACH	TIAA-CREF	payweek end 10/15/26	403(b) Withholding		1,840.00	1,034,016.84
Deposit	10/26/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	16.89		1,034,033.73
Deposit	10/26/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	12.02		1,034,045.75
Transfer	10/28/2026			Funds Transfer	NYCLASS		900,000.00	134,045.75
Check	10/28/2026	ACH	Payday		Payroll		43,542.77	90,502.98
Check	10/29/2026	ACH	TIAA-CREF	payweek end 10/29/26	403(b) Withholding		1,840.00	88,662.98
Deposit	10/29/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	35.40		88,698.38
Deposit	10/29/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	2.77		88,701.15
Deposit	10/29/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	4.72		88,705.87
Deposit	10/30/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	17.38		88,723.25
Deposit	10/30/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	6.28		88,729.53
Deposit	10/30/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	10.32		88,739.85
Deposit	10/30/2026			Deposit	Copier Charges	9.10		88,748.95
Deposit	10/30/2026			Deposit	Library Charges	5.69		88,754.64

Management Use Only

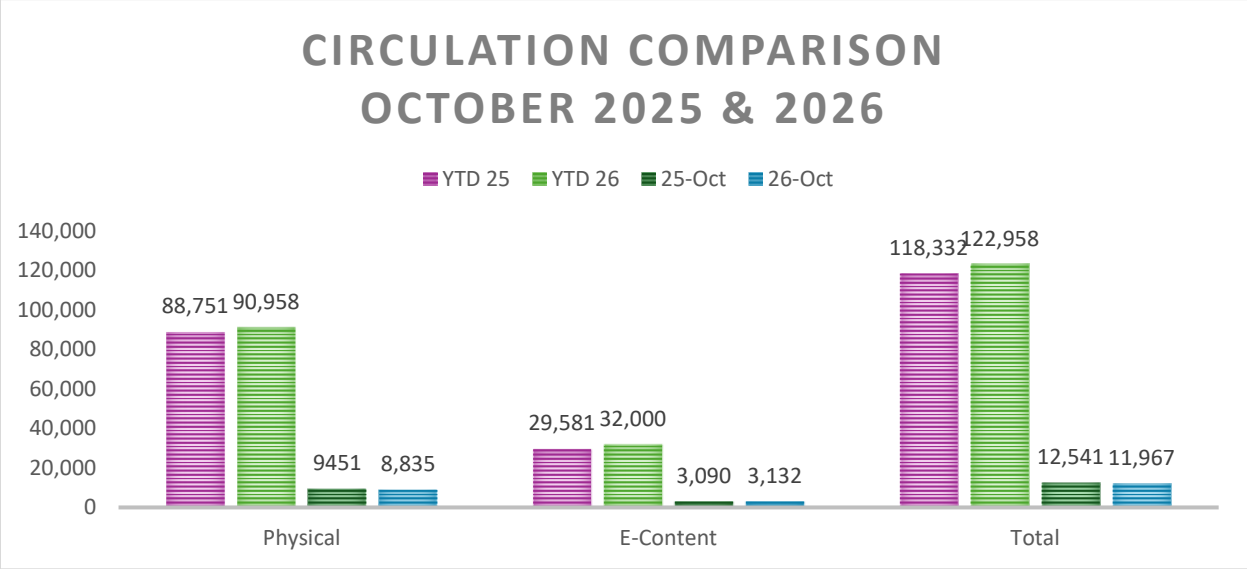
Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
Warrant List
October 1 - 31, 2026

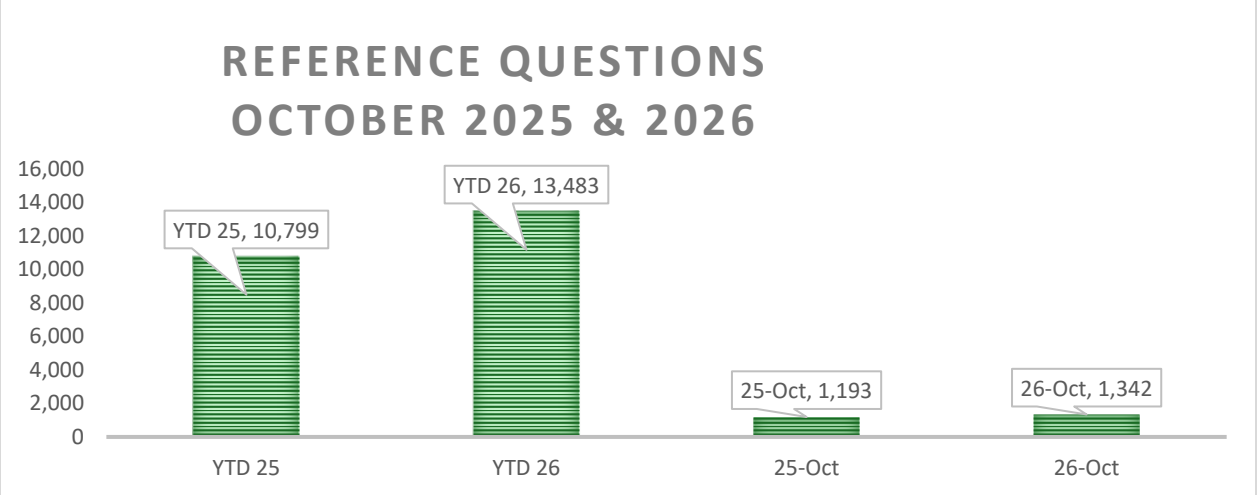
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Debit	Credit	Balance
Total Cash - Key - Checking						1,114,586.68	1,074,292.14	88,754.64
TOTAL						**1,114,586.68**	**1,074,292.14**	**88,754.64**

Management Use Only

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

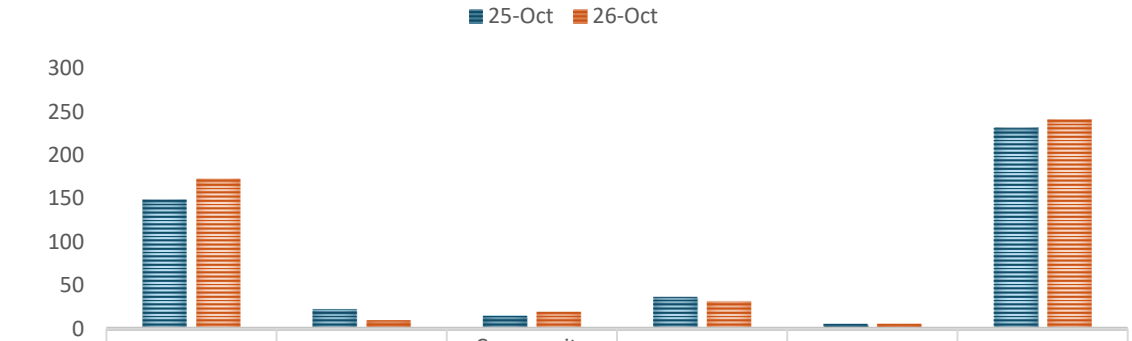
Director's Report
November 9, 2026





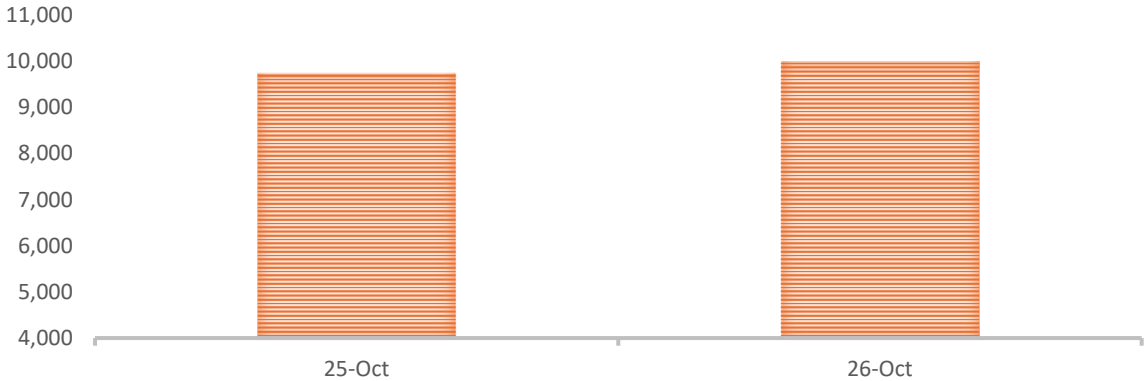
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

MEETING SPACES
OCTOBER 2025 & 2026



	Study Rooms	Meeting Rooms	Community Room	Study Pod	Librartory	TOTAL
25-Oct	149	23	16	37	6	231
26-Oct	173	10	20	32	6	241

VISITS OCTOBER 2025 & 2026



	25-Oct	26-Oct
Series1	9,734	9,989

Building
After a test performed over the last holiday weekend, it is determined that the toilets are leaking. Gustavo Lopez has been in touch with a plumber, and I am hoping to cover these costs with a sustainability grant from Senator Skoufis that was recently announced.

Finances
We received the first 50% of the real estate taxes on October 15th. The next 40% should arrive sometime this month. We have also paid the second installment of over $30,000 in accordance with the tax cert agreement.

The annual worker's comp audit was submitted at the end of the month. Bridget Van Horn and Linda Hannigan also submitted the Annual Financial Report to the state comptroller (previously distributed).

Grants

Karen Golding, Anne Tichey, and I are working on a grant through the Association for Library Service to Children (part of the American Library Association). This $3,000 grant would bring speakers and hands on experiences for the homeschool hub families without straining the programming budget.

Senator James Skoufis recently announced a $50,000 capital grant for libraries seeking to become a Sustainable Library. The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is a national organization based in New York that offers a certification to libraries achieving determined levels of sustainability. Currently in Orange County, RCLS is certified, and the Albert Wisner (Warwick) and Monroe Free libraries are pursuing certification.

Programs and Outreach

We proudly hosted the Board of Elections on Election Day to serve as a voting site. Everything went very well throughout the day. We registered 10 new patrons for library cards, and 1460 people came through our doors.

Congratulations and thank you to the group of staff members who raised over $1,000 for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

Misc.

Many thanks to Erica Gati for putting together our annual Halloween Costume Contest and a new Pumpkin Decoration Contest. We had a lot of fun throughout the day with staff and patrons.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Chiocchi

Meeting Date: 11/26 Reporting Month: October 2026
Submitted by: Ruth Mallard Department: Adult Services

Current Activities:

- Displays:
  - Sweater weather – cozy crafts
  - Dead Authors Still Tell Tales
- Reading Challenges:
  - Party Hard with Your Library Card - 2026 year-long adult reading challenge.
    - 50 registered
    - 5 completed the month's challenge
- Collections:
  - Weeding nonfiction: 600s (technology) – Completed evaluating the 610s covering health and medicine.
- Continuing Education
  - Webinar: RCLS Mobile Overview
  - Intellectual Freedom Seminar @ RCLS
  - Book Repair Workshop SENYLRC
  - Webinar: Library Beat- Adult Mystery & Thriller

Financials:

- Books ($40000) [*does <u>not</u> include vendor discounts (20-40%) or processing charges*]:
  - $4500
  - 36% remaining
- Ebooks ($23000):
  - Hoopla: $2028
  - Libby/Overdrive: $267
  - 61% remaining
- Audiobooks ($2000):
  - $263
  - 69% remaining
- A/V Materials ($4000)
  - 76% remaining
- Videogames ($1000)
  - $200
  - 80% remaining
- Music ($500):
  - 68% remaining
- Library of Things ($1000)
  - $190
  - 81% remaining

Statistics:

- Reference/ Readers' Advisory interactions: 970
- Study Rooms:
    - Unique users: 100
    - Bookings: 215
        - Study Room 1: 96
        - Study Room 2: 87
        - The Pod: 32
- E-content:
    - Libby
        - Unique users: 539
        - New Users: 23
    - Hoopla
        - Unique users: 309
        - New users: 18

Select Adult Collections Circulation	2026	2025
New Fiction	534	619
New Nonfiction	194	202
Fiction	933	916
Nonfiction	676	791
Large Print	375	420
Audiobook	66	97
DVDs	390	336
Videogames	180	127
Puzzles & Board Games	36	30
Museum Passes	32	19

Digital Circulation	2026	2025
Libby (Overdrive)	2310	2346
e-book	*776*	*966*
audio	*1067*	*1050*
Hoopla	822	744
e-book	*175*	*178*
audio	*543*	*462*
Total	3132	3090

Meeting Date: 11/9/2026 **Reporting Month:** October 2026

Submitted by: Charles DeYoe **Department:** IT/Adult Services

Department Summary: RCLS unveiled a new catalog for phones and tablets, other services continuing as normal.

Accomplishments/Current Activities: The most significant thing we had to adapt to in October was the launch of RCLS Mobile, the new version of the app, along with the upcoming sunsetting of RCLS Go. Instead of being an app patrons can find on their phone's store, it's web-based and requires going to our online catalog using a web browser. This is occasionally challenging for patrons but by and large, the change has been smooth.

October saw an increase in WiFi connections over the past two months. We also had multiple patrons looking for one-on-one computer help which I was able to provide. We also had a fair amount of Libratory use, much of which was helping a patron make a Halloween costume.

Upcoming Events: 11/12/26 – The Midnight Society – *The Halls of the Dead* by S.M. Hallow
12/10/2026 – The Midnight Society - *Never Whistle at Night* edited by Shane Hawk & Theodore C. Van Alst

Financial Impact:
Libratory expenses: $0 (approximately $1,418.22 remaining in budget)
October Libratory revenue from materials: $19.50
[Total Libratory revenue for fiscal year: $67.00]

Statistics:

- Libratory appointments: 6
- 1-on-1 tech help sessions: 4
- Total public PC users: 526
- Total time spent on public PCs: 358 hours, 32 minutes
- Average PC session length: 40.897 minutes
- Total monthly Wi-Fi users: 8729
- Average Wi-Fi users per day: 281.580

Notes:

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

Meeting Date: November 9, 2026 Reporting Month: October, 2026

Submitted by: Ann M. Roche Department: Local History

Department Summary:

Genealogy, house and land history, cemetery records, Maps, Histories of Goshen, Church records, Birth Records, Death notices, Haight Property, Revolutionary War, Salesian School and cemetery, history of mid-wives in the area (1800's)
Accomplishments/Current Activities: obituary indexing (up to date), accessioning artifact. (Total to date 508). The storeroom is still being organized (portraits and painting being accessioned or deaccessioned). The map drawers have been reorganized and catalogued.

The room was open, during the Friends of the Library Fall lecture series.

Battle of Minisink Monument: It has been cleaned and we are making arrangements to have it moved. Mark Gargiulo will move it when he returns from Italy vacation.

We are preparing for an "Artifacts Exhibition" to be held on Tuesday, November 10th – 11am – 2pm. We will be displaying objects recently received, photographs, baseballs, etc.

Statistics: Phone calls 7+; Emails 4; Visitors 17+ (New Jersey, Washington, Michigan, local).

Donation: 1930 wall map of Orange County New York

"The History Journal" publication is now available.

Thank you to my volunteers Don and Liz.

Ann M. Roche

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

Meeting Date: November 9, 2026 Reporting Month: October 2026

Submitted by: Kitty Ruberte-Smith Department: Marketing & Communications

Department Summary:

October marketing efforts focused on promoting library programs, community outreach and new library services. Highlighting community participation in the October Breast Cancer Walk, providing information about the new RCLS Mobile, promoting the library's new "Book a Bike" Program and diaper and pajama drives. Also began planning upcoming November communications and seasonal outreach efforts, including Holiday donation drives, monthly program newsletters, and holiday closing announcements.

Accomplishments & Current Activities:

- **October Cancer Walk:** Promoted the October Cancer Walk to encourage community awareness and participation. Prepared a follow-up article highlighting the event.
- **RCLS Mobile Overview and Promotion:** Participated in an RCLS Mobile overview session and worked on marketing the new RCLS Mobile to increase patron awareness and encourage use of this digital resource.
- **New Bike Promotions:** Developed promotional materials and communications to raise awareness of the library's new bike initiative.
- **Diaper Drive Promotions:** Promoted the diaper drive to encourage donations and community involvement in supporting families in need.
- **Pajama Drive Promotions:** Shared promotional information about the pajama drive to encourage community participation and support the initiative.

Upcoming Events / Promotions

- **Holiday Toy Drive:** Prepare promotional materials to publicize the upcoming holiday toy drive and encourage community participation.
- **November Programming Newsletter:** Develop and distribute the November program newsletter to inform patrons about upcoming library programs and activities.
- **Library Chef Newsletter:** Prepare and distribute the monthly Library Chef newsletter.
- **Book Club Newsletter:** Compile and share the monthly book club newsletter with updates and information for book club participants.
- **November Holiday Closings:** Prepare and publish holiday closing announcements to keep patrons informed of changes to library hours and service availability.

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

Financial Impact:
$45.88 - Promotional program supplies and promotional Display Materials

Statistics: Facebook Analysis; October 2026

- **4094 followers**
- **51.13k views**
- **2.186k engagement**
- **1.78k Visits**
- **23.2k viewers**
- **37 Follows**

Statistics: Instagram Analysis; October 2026

- **1757 followers**
- **12.7k views**
- **429 content interaction**
- **188 Visits**
- **1.3k Reach**
- **44 Follows**

Budget Year 2026/2027	Vendor	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Promotional Supplies	AMZN	$ 42.32	$ 35.99	$ 262.08	$ 45.88								
$ 2,500.00	TEMU												
	CHACKTOC	$ 79.99											
	Social Media		$ 30.00										
TOTAL		$ 122.31	$ 65.99	$ 262.08	$ 45.88	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ -	$ -	$ -
remaining		$2,377.69	$2,311.70	$ 2,049.62	$2,003.74	$ 2,003.74	$ 2,003.74	$2,003.74	$ 2,003.74	$2,003.74	$2,003.74	$2,003.74	########
percentage		95%	92%	82%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%

Meeting Date: November 9th, 2026 Reporting Month: October 2026

Submitted by: Amber Kirkwood Department: Head of Programming

Department Summary: October Highlights and Upcoming Programming

Accomplishments/Current Activities:

For adults and craft enthusiasts we had Bat Felting with Chistine Adams and Spooky Sea Glass Painting with Audrey Mazzalo. We added Music Bingo to our Gaming programming and patrons had a blast, arm in arm and singing along with classic 70s and 80s music. For kids, Lynn had an amazing Spooky Trail that included a Pirate Ship manned by Skeletons, Jack, Sally and Gizmo from Nightmare before Christmas and Steven, a creepy pumpkin man. The Friends had their October Book Sale, which brought the library around $1400 and the community brought in many donations as well for Beyond Bedtime, OC Diaper Drive and Hygiene Kits for the Great Give Back.

Upcoming Events:

For November, programming begins to slow down for the Holiday season, but we have some events to look forward to. The Friends Lecture Series has the History of Salesian Park with Alan Sorenson (The Orange County Planning Commissioner). Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project are back towards the end of the month for their much-anticipated Taste of Korea program, where patrons learn about Korea's history and enjoy a full Korean meal with traditional table setting. Sandra's Crochetiers Club is gaining momentum this month, and her class can either make a snowflake, scarf or both!

Financial Impact:

We have used 35% of the Children's Programming budget and 39% of the Adult Programming budget thus far.

Children's Programming:

Storytimes:

Program	Sessions	Total # of Patrons
Fetching Reads	**6**	**14**
Wee Read	**3**	**73**
Circletime	**3**	**20**
Once Upon a Storytime	**3**	**73**

Toddletime	**3**	**94**
Bilingual Storytime	**4**	**21**
Friday Fun Storytime	**4**	**79**
Sensory Storytime	**1**	**15**

Specials:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Pokemon Club	**4**	**51**
Homeschool Hub	**6**	**145**
Sunset Crafts	**3**	**18**
Manga and Comics	**4**	**25**
Autumn Arts	**3**	**37**
Preschool Art Club	**3**	**54**
Basket Weaving 101	**1**	**13**
Bootiful Candy Jars	**1**	**33**
Halloween Showdown	**1**	**15**
Little Ghost Makes a Friend	**1**	**33**
Spooky Trail	**1**	**155**

Outreach:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
1st Grade Library Cards	**1**	**122 New Library Cards**
Diaper Drive	**1**	**716 Diapers Collected**
Beyond Bedtime Drive	**1**	**64 Donations Collected**

Asynchronous:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Scavenger Hunt	**1**	**21**
My Favorite Book Apples	**1**	**56**

Adult Programming:

Clubs:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Tai Chi	**2**	**31**
Meditation	**2**	**30**

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

Cookbook Club	**1**	**8**
Midnight Society	**1**	**7**
Romance Book Club	**N/A**	**N/A**
Murderous Monday	**1**	**11**
Saturday Book Club	**1**	**9**
Herbal Hour	**1**	**17**
Gentle Yoga	**2**	**28**
Gentle Zumba	**2**	**12**
Salute and Sip	**2**	**5**
Chess Club	**1**	**6**
Second Helpings	**1**	**9**
Yarn Gang	**4**	**36**
Fiber Arts	**1**	**10**
Creative Writing Workshop	**1**	**4**
Crochetier's Club	**2**	**8**
Mahjong Freeplay	**1**	**7**

Specials:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Cornerstone Theatre	**1**	**52**
Felt Like a Bat	**1**	**21**
Apple Cinnamon Rolls	**1**	**17**
13 Ghosts	**1**	**15**
Music for Humanity	**1**	**7**
Spooky Seaglass	**1**	**25**
Halloween Music Bingo	**1**	**29**

Outreach:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Inspire - Boredom Busters	**2**	**24**
Inspire - Doodle Lab	**2**	**44**

Asynchronous:

Program	**Sessions**	**Total # of Patrons**
Library Chef	**74**	**52**

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

Meeting Date: November 9, 2026 Reporting Month: October 2026

Submitted by: Karen Golding Department: Children's and Teen Services

Department Summary: We held fall programs all month and began preliminary planning for Winter programming.

Accomplishments/Current Activities:

- Fall programs were held all month and had good attendance overall.
- Lynn and I attended the ALSC Institute Conference in Buffalo which is held every 2 years and hosted by the American Library Association. It focuses on services for children and families. Separate reports on the conference from Lynn and I are attached. It was a great conference and we brought back lots of valuable ideas.
- Lynn and I also attended Fall Into Books this month. This is a continuing education program/conference held annually by RCLS and MHLS for public and school librarians from 8 New York counties. It focuses on literacy, discussion, networking and insight. I was a group leader for 2 discussion groups and Lynn attended 2 discussion groups focusing on picture books and STEAM books. We both enjoyed the groups and came back with some great programming and collection development ideas.
- I held my first RCLS Teen Librarian's meeting of the season this month. We meet every other month so we will meet again in December at Fallsburg Library. I am the Orange County chair for the group. We currently have a vacancy for the co-chair position so until that is filled I will be running each meeting with Michelle from RCLS. We completed a continuing education course this month on Vibe Coding through Niche Academy during the meeting. We will offer a continuing education course at each meeting this season focusing on different, relevant topics for teen librarians.
- I completed my judging assignment for the Indie Author Project this month. We choose an overall winner and 2 runners-up which will be announced on Indie Author Day on November 14.
- Clarisa had a second successful round of book boxes go out to tweens this month. These boxes are very popular with the tweens and celebrated the slightly spooky side of October with books and treats.
- Anne's Homeschool Hubs wrapped up this month and our Homeschool parents are already anxiously awaiting the next round of this popular series.
- Krystal has found a devoted group of teens interested in learning how to create webcomics and they have been hard at work on their art in October.
- Lynn wrapped up the month with a very successful Haunted Trail program which featured our meadow all decked out for Halloween. We welcomed over 100 families who were thrilled to take a walk through the spooky trail on a beautiful October afternoon.

Upcoming Events:

- Fall programming finishes in October.
- We will be attending Books for the 'Burgh at the Newburgh Brewing Company on November 12.
- We will all be planning our winter programs this month so our next flyer will be ready to go out in December.

Financial Impact:

- J book purchases: $954.35
- YA book purchases: $222.62
- YA Programming: $86.40

Statistics:

- Dungeons and Dragons: 2 sessions, 17 teen attendees
- Fetching Reads: 2 sessions, 6 teen attendees
- Chess: 1 session, 2 teen attendees
- Homeschool Hub: 3 sessions, 16 teen attendees
- Web Comics: 1 session, 4 attendees
- Volunteers: 5 actively volunteered, 21 hours volunteered
- Teen Take and Make: 15 kits taken

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY & Historical Society

ALSC National Institute 2026 Report

I attended the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) National Institute in Buffalo from October 1-3. The sessions on October 1 focused on teen services while the sessions on October 2-3 were more oriented to children's services. The Institute offered a mix of educational sessions on programming, collection development, management, literacy and trends in library services. There was also ample time for networking and sharing ideas with professionals from all over the country.

I attended several sessions that focused on collection development for children and teens. One examined trends in middle grade fiction and focused discussion on finding appropriate books for this age group. This can be a difficult group to appeal to as children's books are often seen as too young, while young adult books are seen as too mature. We have a dedicated middle grade collection to ensure that this population doesn't get lost and has an easier time finding books they will enjoy. This session brought my attention to more options and authors that fit in this category so we can improve our current collection. I also attended sessions on award winning books for teens and finding adult books that appeal to teens as well.

One of the most valuable sessions I attended was called "Leading from the Middle". This session focused on how to effectively manage a children's services department. There was a focus on how to develop a strategic plan for your department and how to inspire accountability from your team. The presenters gave some very practical tips on how to hold effective meetings and how to help your staff navigate change. There was a lot of focus on building relationships within your team and effectively delegating to help build trust and develop strong working relationships. I am always looking for ways to improve my ability to lead and build a stronger department within the library.

Another very valuable session was entitled "Beyond Compliance: How Community Partnership Derives Meaningful Library Accessibility". This session focused on how to make your library and your collection more accessible to children and families with disabilities. The presenters spoke about creating sensory friendly spaces, holding accessible programs, using adaptive technology in the library, and having accessories on hand to help patrons with limitations access library services. They suggested several different types of programs that could be held including a fidget petting zoo, an open house that includes professionals who could do hearing, learning and vision screenings for children, an adaptive art program for children and teens, and including adaptive supplies in your library of things. All of these ideas would enhance services for families who might otherwise struggle to access library services.

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& Historical Society

I also attended sessions on using therapy dogs at the library, effective management techniques, art programming for all ages, and mitigating conflict in the library among other topics. I found all of the sessions to be valuable and brought lots of ideas back to try and implement here. It was also a great opportunity to network and meet professionals from other library systems. We were able to tour the Buffalo Public Library and learn about how they transformed their service plan to appeal to families and teens. It was very interesting to learn about how they adapted to a changing population. There were also many authors and publishers in attendance and we were very lucky to come home with many books to add to our collection. This was a very valuable experience and I am so thankful that we were able to attend this year.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Conference

ALSC National Institute

October 1-3 2026, Buffalo NY

Submitted by Lynn Banghart

I had the opportunity to attend the ALSC National Institute in early October. A number of informative sessions were offered throughout the conference and I was able to attend seven different sessions on a variety of topics related to information literacy, building book collections such as graphic novels, early readers and non-fiction. I attended a few programming based presentations focused on babies and toddlers, using non-fiction books in programming and STEAM based programs. I found all of these presentations to be helpful and beneficial.

Innovative Play Programs for Babies and Toddlers to Boost Language, Early Learning and Parent Engagement was presented by a number of librarians from New York Public, Queens Public and Brooklyn Public Libraries. These librarians have worked together to develop a program called The Big Playdate. This program was created to support development by using simple, everyday materials that can be easily replicated at home. Some examples include using cardboard boxes as blocks, paper tubes and pom poms for ball drops. Colanders, pipe cleaners, fabric, tissue boxes and other household items were used to demonstrate simple concepts to young children. Sensory activities using water and sand through outdoor play were a few other examples. One library offered an instrument "Petting Zoo", where children had the opportunity to play with drums, xylophones and other instruments. Simple Science concepts like air and motion were introduced through play, as well. The libraries shared how to make these programs adaptable to various group sizes and ages. Many ideas were shared throughout this session giving me some great ideas to create new programs or incorporate them into existing activities.

I attended two separate presentations on Non-Fiction, which I enjoyed as a fan of non-fiction books. In the session, *Making the Case for Non-Fiction: Inspiring Readers and Celebrating Informational Books,* the speakers shared techniques for introducing non-fiction and increasing its circulation through dynamic shelving and programming focused around non-fiction. Some examples included non-fiction reading challenges, shelf talks, and a focus on Sibert award winners, which is an honor awarded to distinguished informational books. A personal favorite idea is a "Know-Vember" display, in which informational titles are displayed along with fun facts and trivia, as a way to increase interest in non-fiction books.

Using Photos, Videos and Webcams to Enrich Informational Literacy was presented by children's author Melissa Stewart. Ms. Stewart has written numerous non-fiction titles and she shared her process when writing a book. Many of her books have companion activities and resources that she has made available on her website. Ms. Stewart demonstrated how she incorporates visuals, such as photos and videos to enhance her books when reading with children. Through group discussions, everyone had a chance to exchange ideas and give and receive feedback. Having used Ms. Stewarts book *Meet the Mini Mammals* in a fun and successful library program, it was exciting to share with her and the group.

My final session of the conference was *Scalable STEAM Programs for Any Budget and Bandwidth.* Having planned STEAM programming here at the library, I looked forward to this presentation. Our speaker provided us with a vast number of resources for STEAM programming that she has developed to fit all age levels, group sizes and budgets. She started with basic simple, easy and budget friendly activities, such as having children build toothpick towers and index card bridges all the way to more in-depth programming including candy potions and gingerbread architecture. A variety of topics and ideas were covered throughout this presentation and the speaker was quite knowledgeable and was happy to share her plans and resources to develop great STEAM programs.

The conference opened with a wonderful keynote speech from author Angie Thomas and ended with a fun closing Q & A with children's authors Kari Lavelle, Rhode Montijo and Deborah Marcero. Along with so many dynamic presentations, great exhibits from publishers and the opportunity to meet new people, the ALSC National Conference was a rewarding and educational experience.