



Director's Report August-September 2023

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on October 4, 2023 and verbally on September 11, 2023.

Joys and successes:

- Thanks were offered to the Smiths of Marietta, NY, who sent a donation and letter of thanks for the library's assistance in researching their family genealogy, including the "Purington/Puddington" line and with a personal note to Betty. This \$100 donation is earmarked for local history.
- Our Annual Report Information Survey was filed in August, and showed a 10% increase in circulation.
- Great day at the Transfer Station on August 26th with 24 new connections.
- We had 81 people come out to the 1st annual Library Social, and another 52 participants in total at the StoryWalk Launch at Pine Hill Orchards! There were 110 participants in this year's Summer Reading Club in total. This was acknowledged in a front-page article in the Greenfield Recorder, "[Griswold Memorial Library social marks end of summer reading program.](#)" Thanks to the Library Trustees, Nice Snack Parlor in Great Falls, the Local Cultural Council and "Two for Jazz," and the "Colrain Seniority Dancers" for helping to host this great program. Thanks too to Pine Hill Orchards and Mo's Fudge Factor for donating prizes for Summer Reading Club, and holding space for our new StoryWalk, *Arlo Rolled* by local author Susan Pearson. Thanks to Ms. Betty for facilitating a great craft at our StoryWalk launch party.
- Library patrons can now release their own print and scan jobs via our laptops, without needing assistance from the front desk. This helps us to protect patron privacy and encourage everyone to learn new tech skills.
- Thanks to our amazing team for coming together to cover all the bases this week when Chelsea got sick with Covid.
- GML was nominated by Congressman Jim McGovern for a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services! As part of the nomination process, we received letters of support from Congressman McGovern and from members of the community, all on short notice, which all go to show how people feel about GML and t

Building & Grounds:

- Renovations to our rear door are underway!
- New panic button is in here.

Programs and services:

- As part of Summer Reading Club, Robbie Murphy facilitated three Youth Earth Activists programs (one of four scheduled was canceled due to low enrollment). This program was paid

for through the Local Cultural Council. Participants made journals, learned about recycling and what happens to garbage in Franklin County, and learned also about vermicomposting.

Administration:

- Ellis Townsley is helping us to submit our report of “Colrain Vital Records and Living History Collection” materials to Boston Commonwealth for digitization. (This would include the remaining town reports, vital records file drawers contents, local maps, GML Trustee Minutes dating back to 1908, along with any remaining books or booklets from the [GML Historical Record Inventory](#) compiled by Liz Sonnenberg in 2020 that were recommended for digitization.) Ellis’ time is paid for through our LSTA “Go Local” grant.

Further Reading:

- Hilbert, E.R. 15 June 2023, “Is speaking at a library really a constitutional right?” MV Times, available at <https://www.mvtimes.com/2023/06/15/speaking-library-really-constitutional-right/> Accessed 12 July 2023.
- Jensen, K. 30 June 2023, “A censorship language primer: Book Censorship News,” *Book Riot*, available at <https://bookriot.com/a-censorship-language-primer/> accessed 12 July 2023.