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Director's Report

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on July 18, 2025

Joys and successes:

- Thanks to our Town Administrator, Town Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, and Town Clerk for all of their support through our leadership change, and visioning new programs and services such as disaster preparedness and expanding tech help through FRCOG.
- Kate Barrows has graciously offered to be on call for any questions or issues that may arise during our leadership change.
- Kudos to Val for facilitating their first program, the Summer Reading Club launch party. Also, thanks to Val and Dominique, and to the entire team for stepping up and taking on more responsibilities to help us through the summer and the change in leadership.
- Betty's Take and Make Craft for July, a jellyfish suncatcher, has been very popular.
- It has been a great honor to serve the Town of Colrain and to work with the library staff, the Trustees, and the Friends of the Library these past six years! It has enriched my life personally as well as professionally, and I will be a better advocate and leader as a result of the experiences we have shared. I look forward to celebrating with you all on August 31st, and to seeing how GML continues to thrive and grow in the years ahead. Thank you for all of your support and trust. Colrain is a truly remarkable community, and deserves nothing less than the best.

Building & Grounds:

- [Building and maintenance log](#); note that Aaron will be around soon to power wash the steps, and Chelsea has reported that a spotlight is out in the rotunda and needs to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Taylor of Dover Signs has welcomed a new baby, and apologizes that this has delayed our project. He estimates that it will be ready to install in September, and he will coordinate with Aaron to make sure that goes smoothly.
- Two invoices for Larocque Architects have been paid. One of these was for services that were outside of the scope of the Feasibility Study (wetlands demarcation and the topographic survey) and thus have been attributed to the LIG/MEG account.

Programs and services:

- The Library opened for the first "cooling day" on June 24th, when the high for the day was expected to be 97°. The GML team will be keeping an eye on the forecast and will communicate with one another and with the Town Office to facilitate opening for any heat advisories in the

coming weeks.

- We are piloting “Library Quiet Time” beginning July 9th, every Wednesday from 10:00-2:00. This will provide a “more traditional” library environment for those who prefer quiet to conversation, programs, or children at play, as we heard from some survey respondents.



- Note that GML has one license remaining on their licensing deal with [Swank Motion Pictures](#). So far we have hosted two matinees: *Elf*, and *The Wild Robot*.
- We will need to pause lending Roku devices, which are loaded with subscriptions to streaming services (e.g. Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, Apple TV, PBS) because each of these is tethered to Chelsea’s personal credit cards. However, our Hulu/Disney+ subscription is paid up for the year, so it’s just the others that will need to be reactivated.
- The Boston Public Library’s digitization specialists are nearly finished scanning all of the Colrain vital records. Our contact, Joel Sadow, has the contact details for Emma Coburn, the Colrain Town Clerk, to connect with her about storing these files at Town Office once their work is complete.
- Chelsea decided to pause our food basket at this time, because shopping for snacks is just one more thing to manage. Perhaps a library trustee would like to manage this for us? If that is the case, then submit receipts to be reimbursed from the library’s print/photocopy/lost book revenue.
- We have weeded and re-ordered the library’s nonfiction collection, moving the biographies adjacent to the local history and genealogy, and starting 000 from that point. We were able to free up a lot of space, so we can consider deaccessioning Betty’s shelf and continuing to make space for a better meeting area.
- The eFax that we implemented a few months ago through Crocker (the company that also installed the new phones) has been very popular! Note however that GML needs a new printer/scanner. It would be great if it had more capacity to quickly process a stack of papers. The last one that we purchased was through Tech Soup, which offers discounts to nonprofits, but it would make sense to get information from whomever is managing the copier lease at Town Office. Upgrading to a free-standing MFD would underscore the need to create more space by removing unused furniture and replacing the magazine shelf with a smaller unit. Aaron Foster is working on a design and quote based on some photos I showed him from another library.

Administration:

- The ARIS report is complete and ready for review and to be submitted. Dago or Cheli will need to sign the signature page, which we then email to Uechi Ng at uech.ng@mass.gov no later than August 15.
 - Circulation of adult print books has increased a bit, from 10,028 in FY2024 to 10,433 this past year. Circulation of print periodicals has likewise increased, from 387 to 471.
 - Adult eAudiobook circulation has climbed from 1,728 checkouts in FY2024 to 2,143 this past year. However, adult eBook circulation declined, from 1,396 to 1,164.
 - Circulation of young adult print books has increased also, from 92 in FY24 to 119. Digital loans to young adults decreased.
 - Children's print book circulation continued to decrease, from 3,138 to 3,003, continuing a trend that began the previous year.
 - Children's downloadable audiobook circulation increased from 130 to 191.
 - Overall, total print book circulation increased from 13,258 to 13,555.
 - Total video circulation has decreased, from 2,768 to 2,348. We hear more and more people say that they do not have a DVD player at home.
 - Colrainers borrowed 4,509 items through inter-library loan, an increase over 4,319 the previous year.
 - There were 4,776 total annual visits to the library, versus 4,985 visits the previous year.
 - The number of questions we answered in the year increased from 2,842 to 3,065.
 - Total program attendance decreased significantly, from 1,574 to 905. We have anecdotally noticed decreased program attendance, but also, we had less of a presence at the Transfer Station over the past year.
 - The number of registered borrowers decreased, from 740 to 699.
- Chelsea signed the CWMARS FY26 Annual Membership Agreement and Documents and paid the FY26 invoice for \$2,332.00.
- We submitted our final report and documentation for the \$10,000 IMLS National Medal Award, which included \$6,000 to Dover Signs and \$4,000 to Aaron Foster for installation and a small structure with a slate roof to cover the sign from the sun and precipitation. Our contact at the IMLS, Jill Connors-Joyner, is back at work and she wrote: *Chelsea, It was great talking with you. Good luck at Simmons and Knology. Both are lucky to have you. The sign sounds lovely. Best, Jill*
- Chelsea turned her library key over to Mara, who completed her training this month. We need to have another key made for Foster.
- CWMARS is creating a shared email account for Dominique and Val to use, and is likewise creating an institutional login they can share for Sitka/Evergreen.
- Chelsea attended a program related to Disaster Preparedness while at the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. One important takeaway is that libraries should appoint someone who is responsible for activating an emergency response plan, in such an event. Chelsea followed up with the Town Administrator, who advised that the Library and Trustees should connect with the Town's Emergency Response Coordinator, Nina Anzuoni.

Further reading/good to know:

- Maureen Amyot from the MBLC is quoted in this news story, ["Libraries warn federal funding cuts threaten 'bridge across the digital divide,'" from NBC10 Boston.](#)
- ["Checking in on Federal Library Funding,"](#) in *American Libraries*, July 15, 2025.