

History of Galway Public Library From 1995 - 2024

December 1995 - Southern Adirondack Library System bookmobile ends its service to the Galway community meaning there is no library service in Galway.

May 1996 - Volunteer committee forms to explore the idea of starting a community library.

Spring 1996 - Survey sent out to Town of Galway residents, using donation from Lions Club, \$1,200. Committee and the community agree that Galway residents want a library.

Early 1997 - Formation of Friends of the Galway Public Library
The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) offers use of their hall in return for paying utilities.
Town of Galway governing board is unwilling to support/fund the library.

November 1997 - Galway Town residents pass a referendum to fund the establishment of a municipal library with an annual budget of \$9,500 to be raised in taxes. Snafu makes funds unavailable until January 1999.

November 1997 - The Galway Town Board appoints the first library trustees.

January 1998 - A lease agreement is signed between the library and the IOOF to lease their building on the main street in Galway Village. In exchange for the use of the building, the Library agrees to pay for heat, electricity, snow removal, and lawn mowing.

Spring 1998 - Community supports the library/ many volunteers offer help
Volunteers gather books, shelves, equipment for library

June 1, 1998-September 1998 - Friends conduct Founding Membership Drive and raise \$28,000

June 1998-June 2004 – Annual Open Houses held at the library.

July 2, 1998 - The library opens in the main room of the IOOF Hall with volunteer staff and donated supplies. Operating funds are provided by the Galway Lions Club and individuals in our community. The library is open 12 hours/week; there are 125 volunteers but no employees (which is how we operate for more than a year), and we circulate 2,424 items during 1998. The first library cards are issued on this date.

January 1999 - The first funds are received from the Town of Galway.

August 1999 - Library coordinator, Sara Pandori, is hired as the first Library Director and employee.

August 1999 - The Library Board offers the IOOF lodge \$35,000 for the purchase of the IOOF Hall, previously appraised at \$60,000.

September 1999 - Open hours are extended to meet NYS mandate of 25 hours/week.

October to December 1999 - Library Board officers attempt to secure a mortgage. These attempts are unsuccessful without a NYS Charter.

November 1999 - A referendum passes providing \$23,000 in funding for the library. That amount, plus contributions from the Towns of Providence and Charlton in lesser percentages, permit the library to apply for its charter.

December 30, 1999 - The Board of the Galway Public Library asks the Galway Town Board to purchase the building on behalf of the Library. The Library Board offers to provide a \$10,000 down payment using

capital funds from the 1998 Library Founder's Drive. The Town Board agrees to consider the request.

1999 circulation - 6,283 items

2000 - Home delivery of books to shut-ins begins (upon request).

March 2000 - The Galway Town Board passes a resolution to purchase the IOOF Hall for express use as a library.

April 2000 - First Volunteer Reception held – acknowledges 137 volunteers since the library opened in 1998.

May 25, 2000 - With monies from a \$35,000 legislative grant, the Town of Galway buys the IOOF Hall for use as a Town library.

July 14, 2000 - Provisional charter granted by NYS. The library is subsequently accepted into the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) and a contract is made with SALS.

August 2000 - Application filed for Library Registration

2000 - Budget expenditures - \$37,800; Circulation - 8,717; Summer Reading participation - 74 kids.

Summer of 2005 - Summer reading program: 68 children participated

Fall 2005 - Issues on funding and space leads to the questions of how to find stable, equitable funding, and whether to build/find a new library. It is determined that stable funding must come first.

January 2006 - Beginning of campaign to redistrict library as a school district library; Board members and community members do the PR.

May 2006 - Story Quilt project awarded SALS Program of the Year Award for 2005.

January 2007 - Library accepts gift of Dockstader property on East St.

April 2007 - Publication of a book, *Story Quilt, Poems of Place*. By 2008, more than 850 copies have sold with all proceeds, more than \$14,000, earmarked to fund art and literary programs at the library.

June 2007 - Referendum to form a school district public library passes 3 to 1. Library files papers with NYS to be chartered to serve the residents of the Galway Central School District.

October 2007 - Story Quilt project is awarded the New York State Public Library's Joseph L. Shubert Award for Library Excellence

October 23, 2007 - Provisional charter as a school district public library is received.

Spring 2008 - Town of Galway deeds the library property at 5264 Sacandaga Rd, Galway, to the library.

Fall 2008 - Library Board decides to move forward toward a new building initiative because: Not enough space for collection; building occupancy only 23 people; children's programs must be held outside under a tent; much input from community residents on the need for a new, expanded library; work space crowded, storage space inadequate; current space 1800 square feet; inadequate parking (5-6 spaces); statistics show growth in programs, circulation, web hits, etc.

Our aim is to provide the kind of library service the people in our community want. In order to do this, we need more space/new building (estimated size over 5,000 Square feet), ideally located in Galway

Village within walking distance of the school, as soon as is practical and possible.

May 2010 - Story Sculptures receives the SALS Program of the Year Award for 2009.

May 2012 - Arlene Rhodes receives the SALS Library Trustee of the Year Award for 2011.

June 2012 - Joint Publication with Galway Central School, *Reflections of Galway: From the Foothills of the Adirondacks*, including photos, art work, poetry and prose by students and other residents in the community.

October 12, 2012 - Receive Absolute Charter from NYS. The Galway Public Library is a School District Library chartered to serve the Galway Central School District. Our service area includes the Town of Galway, most of the Town of Providence, parts of the Towns of Broadalbin, Charlton, Milton, Amsterdam, Perth, and Glenville. Some of these are also served by other libraries, but are partially located in our school district.

September 2013 - Purchase of 12.8-acre parcel on East St. in Galway Village for the site of a new library building, funded by a NYS Construction Aid grant and the Dockstader Charitable Trust. This was determined to be the best property available and the least expensive of the 12 properties that were considered.

Fall 2013 to Summer 2015 - New Building Committee members work with Butler, Rowland and Mays Architects of Ballston Spa on new building design.

Spring 2015 - Library sells Dockstader house on East St.

September 2015 - Referendum for 7,500 square foot building, cost approximately \$3.4 million with a bond for \$1.8 million fails by 50 votes.

August 2016 - Library Board gathers input from community representatives on the services they wish for and a building plan they will support followed by meetings with the architects to develop a new conceptual building design.

November 2016 - Meeting of community representatives, those who had attended input sessions in January and August, to review a working plan for a new building.

January 2017 - Working plan for a new library that is smaller and less expensive is developed.

April & May 2017 - Community meetings held with community organizations to inform about the revised plan.

June 14, 2017 – Referendum for a 5,900 square foot building, costing approximately \$2.56 million with a bond for 1.15 million dollars passes by 133 votes.

August 25, 2017 - Community Ice Cream Social to celebrate the passage of the referendum and provide information about the next steps in the new building process.

January 2018 - Contract with Dockstader Charitable Trust for \$925,000 toward the construction of a new building. This is one of many grants obtained from businesses, New York State, and non-profits, as well as donations from private individuals, that provide the necessary funding to build a new library.

May 2018 - Construction Bids accepted.

June 30, 2018 - Groundbreaking Celebration held on the site of the new building with hundreds in attendance.

May 2019 - Fred Baily receives the SALS Trustee of the Year Award for 2018.

September 8, 2019 - Ceremonial Children's Book Move held. Community children and adults each carried a few books in a line through the Village from the old library to the new building at 2112 East Street.

September 21, 2019 - Grand Opening with Town officials from various towns, State Senator Jim Tedisco and Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh, staff, Board members past and current, Friends, and more than 300 community members. A very happy day!

February 2020 – The old library building on North Street sold to Janice and Jerry Brown for \$79,900.

March 2020 - Library closed by NYS along with the rest of society for COVID. We provided service again via curbside pickup as soon as we were allowed to. Services/programs were limited for the rest of the year.

September 10, 2022 - First Volunteer reception in new building to thank our wonderful volunteers and donors.

September 20, 2022 - GPL Foundation incorporated with the purpose of supporting the library with funding for special projects and unexpected expenses.

2023 numbers: circulation - 33,254; total annual attendance - 21,494; programs - 293 with 4,362 attendees

November 2024 - GPL awarded NYLA PLS Program of the Year Award for our programming series held during May of 2024 in conjunction with the Memory Project and SALS on the Holocaust.