



Fall 2024

★ Election Issue ★

theBookmark

Check our website or call us for open hours & holiday closures.

Virtual library is open 24/7/365

Capital projects update

Exciting renovations are underway at our library.

We're excited to announce that our library is undergoing a transformative renovation project to enhance your experience! Funded by 50% New York State construction grant funds and 50% from our library's capital reserve funds, these improvements mark the latest phase of ongoing enhancements to our facility.

This renovation includes a new EIFS (building skin) to improve energy efficiency and aesthetics, new windows to brighten our spaces and keep our building envelope secure, and refreshed entryways with refurbished canopies, including updated lighting and interior tile work. These updates follow

significant improvements over the past two years, which included new furniture, interior painting, and upgraded audio-visual (AV) systems. Our goal is to keep the library accessible with minimal disruption. Entryways will be rerouted as needed, particularly during concrete curing. We will keep you informed with regular project updates posted on our library's website and available in the library. Exterior way-finding signage will ensure you can easily navigate the building during the renovation. Looking ahead, Phase 2 and Phase 3 of our improvement plan will bring further upgrades, including a roof replacement

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'Adventure Begins At Your Library'

It was a wild summer filled with fun adventures and activities.

Summer Reading is our favorite time of the year! We plan and discuss for months in order to offer you the best summer reading experience possible!

Over 950 kids, teens, and adults signed up to track their reading and do activities to earn raffle tickets for prizes. Folks recorded 6,194

Uncharted Wild Reptile visit.

combined days of reading! We welcomed many performers—Jeff Boyer with his Big Bubble Bonanza, Nick Eliopoulos who taught us how to write and draw Minecraft

stories, Mr Erik with a bilingual concert, and The Science Chef who taught us about magic and flight! Holding a snake brought by Uncharted Wild was, well,

wild! The teens made dragon eggs, thrifted ghost paintings, and cryptid cupcakes! Adults discussed paranormal activity in the Capital Region, participated in a Tarot card reading, and learned how to paint with acrylics. Families flocked to the library lawn for three concerts and free treats provided by the EGPD. We really enjoyed having a Modern Pop Art night with Michael Albert where adults and kids of all ages learned how to create collage art. Special thanks to our 63 teen and tween volunteers who helped with programs, shelving, and weekly check-ins. Thank you to everyone for joining us this summer!



Michael Albert teaches kids and adults how to make pop art.



End of summer Reading glow parties.



Whispering Willow Wild Care "Birds of Prey."



Live music concert with 5 Left.

Ready for another reading challenge? "Bundle Up with a Book" and join us for our 2025 Winter Reading Challenge starting January 6th. Stay tuned for details.



Library Budget Vote & Trustee Election

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 9 AM to 8 PM at the library

The proposed 2025 budget is 2,595,600

East Greenbush Tax Levy of \$1,995,455. Estimated rate increase: \$0.97 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed value. Average homeowner impact: \$5.18/year or \$0.43/month.

Budget Summary

Income Estimates		Budget '24	Proposed Budget '25	Expenses		Budget '24	Proposed Budget '25
EG Tax Levy		\$1,915,000	\$1,995,455	Books & Materials		\$ 159,100	\$ 161,500
State/County		\$ 16,500	\$ 6,700	Programming/Planning		\$ 24,200	\$ 34,700
Contract Svcs. (Schodack)*		\$ 346,125	\$ 487,945	Salaries & Benefits		\$1,709,725	\$1,883,760
Library Charges		\$ 13,500	\$ 15,000	Human Res./Staff Dev.		\$ 6,500	\$ 7,000
Interest & Earnings		\$ 2,000	\$ 12,000	Library Operations		\$ 37,425	\$ 43,050
Gifts & Grants (new)		\$ 36,500	\$ 52,500	Professional Services		\$ 64,000	\$ 61,650
Appropriated Fund Balance		\$ 21,125	\$ 26,000	Technology/Comm.		\$ 96,650	\$ 115,000
<i>*Contract not finalized</i>				Facilities		\$ 143,300	\$ 143,940
				Transfers To:			
Total Public Sources		\$2,277,625	\$2,490,100	Capital Reserves		\$ 105,000	\$ 145,000
Total Other		\$ 73,125	\$ 105,500	Gift/Grant (Restricted)		\$ 4,850	\$ 4,850
TOTAL INCOME		\$2,350,750	\$2,595,600	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$2,350,750	\$2,595,600

Supporting Community Priorities and Expanding Services

This budget reflects our commitment to enhancing library services based on community feedback from our strategic plan and capital improvement processes.

- **Increased Programming & Planning** to expand programs and better meet community needs.
- **Capital Projects** funded through grants and reserves to modernize library facilities.
- **Website Refresh**; investing in a user-friendly and accessible online experience.
- **Staffing Enhancements** 3% COLA, new Assistant Director, and wage equity upgrades to improve patron service.
- **Strong Financial Support**; maximizing gifts, grants, and higher-interest funds with ongoing support from a stable Friends organization.
- **Schodack Contribution** negotiations are ongoing.

These priorities will help us better serve the community and ensure the library remains a vibrant and essential resource.

PROPOSITION #1: 2025 Budget Vote

Whether the budget in the amount of \$2,595,600 proposed by the Board of Trustees of the East Greenbush Community Library shall be approved.

PROPOSITION #2: Trustee Election

A second proposal on the ballot is the election of two Trustees to each serve on the Library's Board of Trustees starting January 1, 2025.

Information about the budget and candidates is available in the library and online at eglibrary.org/about/board

Annual library highlights 'By The Numbers'

A year of growth, connection, and achievement.


In 2023, the Library enhanced its new strategic plan, *You Belong Here (2023-2028)*, focusing on inclusivity and engagement. This plan guides our mission to offer a welcoming space that inspires learning, imagination, collaboration, and compassion by providing equitable access to resources for all.

Strategic Priorities:


1. Building Community Connections
2. Engaging with Your Community
3. Satisfying Curiosity & Stimulating Imagination
4. Promoting Literacies
5. Advancing Local Economic Vitality

2023 Key Achievements:

- Adopted the *2023-2028 Strategic Plan* and formed a Community Advisory Council.
- Updated policies: Fine Free Borrowing, Loan Periods, Public Exhibits, Programming, and more.
- Introduced Chromebooks for lending, expanded art gallery space, and upgraded meeting rooms with new digital capabilities.
- Updated library furniture, renovated offices, conducted a Building Conditions Survey, and installed a backflow preventer.
- Completed equity training for staff and the board.
- Honored Syma Lapides and Lynne Oudekerk as Volunteers of the Year.
- Most visited library location in UHLS Library Expedition.
- Partnered with Friends of the Library to launch the Great Greenbush Quest, a month-long treasure hunt across the towns of East Greenbush and Schodack.
- Offered diverse programs for all ages– from Taylor Swift and Bluey events to reading challenges, crafts, concerts and teen game nights.



2023 By The Numbers ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS




Library Visitors

Open 63 hours/week | 3,276 hours (+16%)

228K+
total visits


126,015 people visited in-person (+13%)
102,904 people visited online (+13%)



Information Services

Librarians answered
33,477 reference questions


+23%
questions answered



Content Borrowed

180,492 digital content (+1%)
296,335 physical items (+3%)

476,827
items loaned **+2%**




Technology Usage

14,233
Wi-Fi users
+14%

Users can reserve computer time, check out laptops and hot spots, or access Wi-Fi in the building and on grounds


12,041
computer sessions **+95%**



Summer Reading

4,604
participants
+29%


101 sessions provided to
3,893 kids, 260 teens
and **451 adults**



Library Programs

+27%
programs offered

27,291 people attended 789
programs provided in-library,
offsite and virtually



2nd Place Finisher for Best Library (2021-2024)
Times Union Best of the Capital District Readers Poll.

UHLS Trustee of the Year Award
Michael Poost, long-time Library Board President and current Trustee, was recognized for 32 years of service.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Golden Shovel Award
Awarded to Adult Librarian, Jody Squadere, for her contributions to Family & Consumer Science Program.




eglibrary.org

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East Greenbush Community Library

10 Community Way, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Phone: 518-477-7476 | eglibrary.org   

Fall Hours: Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu 9-8; Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5
Drive-thru closes 15 minutes before closing.

Library Closures: Labor Day (8/31-9/2), Staff Development (10/21),
Thanksgiving Eve (11/27, close 5pm), Thanksgiving (11/28),
Christmas Eve (12/24, close 5pm), Christmas Day (12/25), New
Year's Eve (12/31, close 5pm), New Year's Day (1/1/25)

Board of Trustees

Mari Harris, *President* Charlie Pensabene, *Vice President*
Katie Sheehan, *Treasurer* Camille Engel, *Secretary*
Amanda Miller, *Trustee* Nichole Krisanda, *Trustee*

The public is invited to Board of Trustees meetings.
Please check eglibrary.org for more details.

Jill Dugas Hughes, *Director* | Susan Bell, *Designer*
The Friends of the Library, *Contributing Authors*

Capital project updates

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and a public bathroom renovation project. As our 23-year-old library building continues to evolve, we remain committed to creating a modern, comfortable space that meets the needs of our growing community. Rest assured, essential services like Wi-Fi will remain uninterrupted, and there are no changes planned to our library or drive-thru hours during the renovations. We can't wait to share our updated library with you!



September is library card sign-up month!

Kids who get their first library card during September receive a goody bag!

2025 Library Budget Vote & Trustee Election

September 17, 2024 | 9 am—8 pm in the library

Information is available in the library, online at eglibrary.org; See budget summary on page 2.



Fall Book & Media Sale October 4-6, 2024

Don't miss the big sale! There will be a great selection of hardcovers, paperbacks, DVDs and puzzles! The sale is Friday (12-5), Saturday (10-4) and Sunday (11-2:30).



Great Greenbush Quest

Ahoy Matey! This year's townwide clue hunt kicks off on September 14th at the East Greenbush Community Day happening in the Town Park. Participate 9/14 through 10/13 for a *yo-ho-ho* time. Stay tuned for details on the library website and social media.

Local Author Fair—November 10th

Mark your calendars! The East Greenbush Community Library will be hosting its first ever Local Author Fair on Sunday, November 10 from 2-4 pm. Join us as we celebrate our community's literary talent. This is your chance to win prizes, connect with authors and readers, and maybe even discover a new favorite book! If you are a local author, we are excited to invite you to participate! This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work and engage with a supportive community! Please keep an eye on the library's website and social media for instructions on how to secure your spot!

