



Fall 2020

theBookmark

The library building is now OPEN! Check our website for hours. Virtually 24/7/365.

Library budget vote and election

Vote and election will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, 9 am-9 p.m. in the library.

As a public library district, the Library Board of Trustees has the sole fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the library remains viable. The COVID-19 crisis has impacted all non-tax sources of revenue, which made this an especially difficult budget year.

A public hearing regarding the 2021 Preliminary Budget (focused on stretching library resources to maintain core services and minimize the impact on the East Greenbush taxpayer) was held

on August 4th. The proposed levy is below the 2021 tax cap and will result in a library tax which will remain essentially flat. The estimated cost will be \$90 per assessed \$100,000 property value for East Greenbush property owners.

The proposed 2021 budget of \$2,067,581 represents a total budget reduction of 3.2%, total income loss of \$68,967, and will be presented to the community for a public vote on Tuesday, September 15th (See summary on p.5).

A second proposition on the ballot is for the election of two, 5-year term, Trustee positions that are open on the Library Board of Trustees.

Biographies for the qualified candidates can be found on page 4.

A **Virtual Meet the Candidates Night** is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 7pm . Visit <https://events.eglibrary.org> to learn more or email: director@eglibrary.org.

Serving the community

Rallying together to deliver the same great programs—with a virtual twist!

Throughout these challenging times, we have not skipped a beat in our efforts to provide programs and services to the community. We ramped up our technology to deliver virtual programs and reference services, expanded our digital collection, and increased access to our resources by temporarily relaxing lending restrictions and waiving fines.

In collaboration with our community partners, the library board

and staff, we prepared the building for a safe reopening. On May 28th we began accepting returns with lending resuming through our drive-thru window in June. We partially reopened to the public in July, adding limited Grab and Go services such as in-library browsing, lending and reference services.

Since closing our building on March 18th, it has been nonstop, all hands-on deck for our team of librarians, support staff and administrators.



Miss Joelle records storytime for our on-demand YouTube channel.

Staff continues to ramp up their creativity and technology skills to deliver our most popular programs virtually such as storytime, summer reading

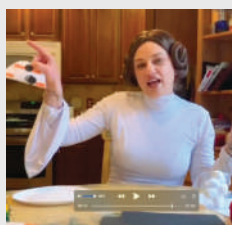
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highlights



Summer Reading Challenge engages readers of all ages.

Virtual Storytime, crafts, trivia, digital materials & more!



Charlie's Cheer pops up all around town.



Stronger Together. Working with EGCSO to donate 100 books.



At-home programs for teens & kids

Our librarians turn up their creativity to support the community.

Though we were unable to host our traditional in-person events this summer, the Youth Services librarians were quick to pivot and get creative in how we support our community.

For our youngest patrons storytime has continued virtually, through live Zoom meetings and pre-recorded YouTube videos. For families of all ages, this summer we offered a variety of virtual events including Uncharted Wild Animal Show and the Price Chopper Cooking Club @ Home!

One of the biggest hits was Take & Make Craft Kits for kids, conveniently picked up at our drive-thru window. Some of the weekly themes included unicorns, sock puppets and robots! For our teens and tweens we offered fun virtual meet ups including Anime Club Online Gaming, and Harry Potter Trivia.

Check our website or give us a call to learn more about our fall events!



On Thursday, August 6th, fans of last year's most popular summer program joined us for a virtual reptile and animal show featuring Adam from Uncharted Wild LLC.

Serving the community

(Continued from page 1)

challenge, cookbook club, book chat, book discussions, trivia night, crafts, and teen meetups. Staff continue to create videos, curate booklists, host virtual events via Zoom, engage and inform patrons on social media with book chats, activities, library news and funny memes.

Sully (pictured) helped Paul from maintenance paint, repair, sanitize & prepare for reopening.



For light-hearted fun, Sully, our beloved (and now retired) mascot, entertained his fans with his mischief

and assured us that the library was safe while we were closed.

We continue to connect with patrons by:

- Providing new online Readers' Advisory service for adults and book bundles for kids.
- Making personal connections with patrons by phone and letters.
- Providing virtual Reference services prior to transitioning to in-person services.
- Delivering on-demand programming and news via *Greenbush Bookmark* and *Greenbush Bookmark for Adults*.

Stay connected! Subscribe to our e-newsletter today at <https://eglibrary.org/newsletter>.



"Thank you for continuing to do storytime! Charlie misses everyone!" — Meaghan

"I love my library! The staff is always friendly and helpful to me and the kids. They even called me to check up on me during quarantine! Seriously the sweetest." — Theresa

"I love this library because of all the things that it has to offer and the ability to check out books on my kindle." — Haley

"Love this place! Staff are so friendly and helpful! Books and activities for all ages! Thanks so much!!!" — Florence



Essential partnerships

Together, we helped to nourish the body and soul!

In June, our librarians teamed up with the East Greenbush Central School District to provide reading materials for students in their Grab 'n' Go meal bags; a lunch program provided by the district that serves local families in need.

Over 100 free books were distributed to students.



Sponsored by the Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library.

Another summer reading success!

Can a community celebrate summer reading in the midst of closures and social distancing?

YES, East Greenbush sure can! With the school year's unexpected transition to learning at home, the East Greenbush Library believed reading over the summer was more important than ever. To help prevent the dreaded "summer slide" in literacy skills, we were excited to introduce *Beanstack*, an online program that allowed participants of all ages to track their reading and complete fun challenges to earn prizes!

Our goal this summer was to reward young people for practicing the

healthy daily habit of **READING**. During the Summer Reading Challenge we were thrilled to have almost 400 kids and teens log more than 7,780 days of reading this summer!

Be on the lookout for our Super Summer Reader lawn signs popping up around town in the yards of families who read 45 days and completed our 2020 Summer Reading Challenge! Congratulations to Riley (pictured here) and his siblings Logan and Zachary for being the first family to finish.



Congratulations to Riley and siblings Logan & Zachary for being the first family to finish!



Charlie's cheer

Our new mascot arrives for training.

When the East Greenbush Community Library announced a design contest last fall, 11-year-old Allison Hutton was excited to turn her



Sully & Charlie at the SRC finish line!

favorite animal into our new children's room mascot. A large plush version of Charlie the Elephant arrived at the library this spring to learn the mascot business from everyone's favorite monster, Sully. Though he couldn't travel this summer, Charlie's colorful image began spreading cheer around town.



Post a picture on our Facebook page to let us know where you spotted Charlie!



Let's talk tech

Free on-demand courses!

Introducing *Tech-Talk*, the library's newest digital offering. *Tech-Talk* has tutorials about software from *Microsoft*, *Google*, *Canva* and much more! Get targeted information or take whole courses. Watch videos or read instructions. Learn how to communicate more effectively with friends and colleagues with their communication tips. To get started, go to *Tech-Talk* at <https://bit.ly/egtechtalk>. If you are prompted to login or prefer to use the app, use *eglibrary* for both the username and password. Visit our blog at <https://techtips.eglibrary.org> for more tech tips.

Learn anytime, anywhere from your desktop, tablet or phone.



Book picks just for you!

We select books and place on hold for you to pick up at our drive-thru—simple & convenient!

Do your kids miss getting books from the library while staying safe at home? Are you too busy to search the online catalog and request titles that will keep them engaged? Or if you are just looking for new recommendations for your kids and teens fill out our Book Bundle form, found on the children's page of our website and let our Youth Services

Librarians select books for you! Based on your preferences we will hand select a collection of materials suited for your family's needs and place them on hold so they can be picked up at our drive-thru window. **We also offer Readers' Advisory Services for adults, see page 6 for details.**



A message from the Friends

Our financial support will be essential for the continuation of library programs.

As the state and our community begin to “un-PAUSE” in the coming weeks, the East Greenbush Community Library has begun to prepare to reopen the library and reinstate services to patrons. The impact of the pandemic has not only been a health emergency for many, it's also been a financial crisis for individuals and institutions alike. From reduced state and local government funding and new, unanticipated costs to safely open and maintain a healthy environment, the library's budget is facing a critical time ahead. Now more than ever, the Friends will be needed to provide financial support to ensure that the library's mission and programs continue.

Here's how you can help us support the library

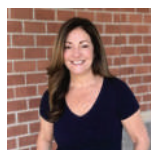
- Renew annual membership or become a Friends member (form on <https://eglibrary.org/friends/>).
- Get “involved,” send us your fundraising ideas.
- Designate us as your charity on **Amazon Smile** for purchases on <https://smile.amazon.com/>
- Vote for the library's budget in September.

Please contact me with your ideas or questions at 518-258-8869 or foegcl@gmail.com. Be well and stay positive!

Liz Reyner, president of the Friends

Meet the Library Board of Trustee Candidates

There are two open positions for Library Trustees. Virtual Meet the Candidates Night scheduled for September 3 @ 7pm



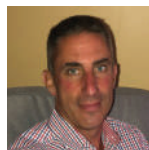
CAMILLE ENGEL—Faith, community and family are the cornerstones of my life. I received my masters degree from Regent University of Virginia Beach, with a concentration in grief counseling. The position on the Board of

Trustees of the East Greenbush Library, is an opportunity for me to expand this passion for serving others. Aside from working in human resources at the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, I am also a certified yoga instructor. Married to Town Justice Kevin Engel, we have 6 children between us, 5 grandchildren, and 3 lively Labrador retrievers. As a member of the East Greenbush Library Board of Trustees I hope to bring my experiences to our community and foster growth, inclusion, and creativity.



LOUIS DUBUQUE—Public Libraries have always been a significant part of my life. As a voracious reader and regular public library visitor, this

passion for the library continued when we would bring our children to the library for story time and programs. My wife, Jennifer O'Brien, served on the Library Board for several years, and it is now my opportunity to give back to the this great library in our community. I attended the University at Albany and am currently the Executive Vice President of the New York State Builders Association which represents 2,000 builders, developers, remodelers, building and property managers and suppliers. I just finished serving on the Habitat for Humanity, NYS board, where I was chairman from 2014-2018.



MICHAEL THOMA—The minds of Encyclopedia Brown, Danny Dunn and The Hardy Boys. The worlds of Narnia, Dune and Middle Earth. This is how it started with me. The library is the

pinnacle of learning within any community. All of our members, from preschool through post school would and should come to the library to explore, learn and escape. I believe that it is our obligation to not only enjoy, but protect and nurture our East Greenbush Library. A graduate of Columbia High School and University of Albany, I invested 24 years into our family business Thoma Tire. Then focusing my energy towards our three sons, I became involved with our church and school. I believe my life experiences through my education, business, family and now employment at a school, will allow me to contribute to our Library.



CHARLIE PENSABINE—I am a lifelong reader, and since my wife and I purchased our home in East Greenbush three years ago, we have

enjoyed our weekly trips to the library and look forward to the day when our newborn daughter can get her own library card and begin her path to reading. I hope to contribute my passion for reading and community-based activities to the Board's mission of ensuring continued access to the enriching services that the Library provides to our town. If elected, I would strive to ensure that our Library continues to operate in a stable yet dynamic manner for and alongside our town's residents.

Summary of proposed 2021 budget

Total 2021 proposed budget is \$2,067,581— A budget reduction of 3.2% and a total income loss of \$68,967. A detailed budget is available in the library or at <https://eglibrary.org/board>.

	2020 Adopted 1.5% Increase	2021 Proposed 3.2% Decrease	% Change	Notes
INCOME ESTIMATES				
				COVID-19 Crisis has impacted all non-tax sources of revenue, in addition to already declining fines/fees; \$ 24,450 expected revenue loss.
Fines & Fees	\$ 53,500	\$ 29,050	-45.7%	
State/County	\$ 4,800	\$ 3,764	-21.6%	State budget cuts; \$1,036 estimated revenue loss.
Interest	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000	-85.7%	Interest rates dropped significantly; \$6,000 estimated revenue loss.
Other Income	\$ 38,481	\$ 0	-100%	2020 included funds from Friends and Reserves to balance budget; \$38,481 estimated revenue loss.
Public Funds	\$ 2,032,767	\$ 2,033,767	0.0%	\$1,000 estimated revenue increase (includes East Greenbush Library District Tax Levy and Schodack Contract for Services).
TOTAL INCOME ESTIMATES	\$ 2,136,548	\$ 2,067,581	-3.2%	Estimated \$68,967 Total Revenue Loss

	2020 Adopted 1.5% Increase	2021 Proposed 3.2% Decrease	% Change	Notes
EXPENSES				
Library Books & Materials	\$ 131,075	\$ 122,500	-6.5%	One-year materials cut (print), decreased demand AV (CD, DVD), increased digital demand; \$8,575 reduction.
Programming & Planning	\$ 11,000	\$ 7,000	-36.4%	Decrease in-person programming (COVID-19); \$4,000 reduction.
Facilities	\$ 147,900	\$ 146,400	-1.0%	Budget includes required matching funds for multi-year NYS Construction Grant— total amount awarded: \$97,781. Replace meeting room dividing door, increased supplies (COVID-19), utilities savings; \$1,500 reduction.
Technology/Communications	\$ 43,300	\$ 52,044	20.2%	Budget includes required matching funds for multi-year NYS Construction Grant (Total Amount Awarded: \$97,781). Meeting room AV upgrade, <i>People Counter</i> upgrade, increase parking lot Wi-Fi, replace (4) computers; \$8,744 increase.
Professional Services	\$ 50,000	\$ 48,000	-4.0%	Increased UHLS membership fee, savings with new CPA firm, increased payroll company rate; \$2,000 reduction.
Operations	\$ 33,700	\$ 35,200	4.5%	Library supplies decrease, newsletter update, increased route of newsletter to include all Schodack addresses; \$1,500 increase.
Personnel	\$ 1,432,573	\$ 1,455,701	1.6%	Increased safety training (COVID-19), no travel to conferences, no salary raises, mandatory benefit rates increased; \$23,128 increase.
Capital Reserves (formerly Annual Bond Payment)	\$ 287,000	\$ 200,736	-30.1%	Last bond payment made 2020. Replenishment of Capital and Operational Reserves, savings for upcoming facilities expenditures (roof, repave road, furniture replacement, replacement of HVAC units, etc.); \$86,264 reduction.
Total Operating Expense	\$ 1,849,548	\$ 1,866,845	0.9%	\$17,297 increase.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,136,548	\$ 2,067,581	-3.2%	\$68,967 Total Budget Reduction

East Greenbush Community Library

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Public is invited to Board of Trustees Meetings.

Please check eglibrary.org for more details.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



Winners Circle: *Lance the Lone Wolf, Coast to Coast Triviators, Syma & Jennifer, and Hotalen's Heroes.*

Virtual Trivia Night is a hit!

Always a fun time with our creative & clever hosts Jody and Selena.

Inspired by their love for trivia and technical know-how staffers Jody and Selena created the library's first virtual trivia night for adults which "aired live" on June 24th via Zoom. The event was a success, hosting a total of 30 participants across 18 teams, all excited to compete

for bragging rights in a variety of categories. Since its inception, the library has hosted 5 programs with at or near capacity attendance.

The next Trivia Night is September 16th, 7pm. Go to <https://events.eglibrary.org> to register for a chance to join the winners circle!

Delivering more digital content

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Available anytime, anywhere with your library card you have access to a plethora of e-books, audiobooks, and magazines, PLUS free access to research databases, articles, career resources, training videos and materials. Now with **hoopla**, our new streaming service, you can get the content you want instantly! eglibrary.org/digital.

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