

Brief History of Galway Public Library until 2017

Bookmobile ended its run in December 1995/ no library service in Galway

May 1996, volunteer committee forms to explore the idea of starting a community library

Survey sent out to Town of Galway residents, using donation from Lions Club, \$1,200

Committee and the community agree/ Galway residents want a library

Formation of Friends of the Galway Public Library

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 referendum to fund a municipal library passes, but snafu makes funds unavailable until January 1999

Spring 1998 Community supports the library/ many volunteers offer help
Volunteers gather books, shelves, equipment for library
Friends conduct Founding Membership Drive/ 200 donors, \$28,000

July 2, 1998 the library opens in the IOOF Hall with volunteer staff and all donated supplies. We operated on funds provided by the Galway Lions Club and individuals in our community. The main room of the IOOF Hall was ours to use in exchange for paying the utilities. The library was open 12 hours a week, we had 125 volunteers but no employees, and we circulated 2,424 items.

Library operates for more than a year with volunteers

August 1999, Library co-ordinator, Sara Pandori hired

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

July 14, 2000 Provisional charter and soon after a Contract with SALS

Summer of 2005 Summer reading program, 168 children participated

Fall 2005 Issues on funding and space Question Go for a new library or stable and equitable funding? Stable funding must come first.

May 2006 Story Quilt project awarded SALS program of the year for 2005

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

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

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

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

June 2007 Referendum to form a school district public library passes 3 to 1

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

Spring 2008 Town deeds library property to the library.

Fall 2008 Board decides to move forward toward a new building initiative
Not enough space for collection
Building occupancy only 23
Children's programs must be held outside under a tent
Much input from community residents on the need for a new or expanded library
Work space crowded, storage space inadequate
Current space 1800 square feet
Inadequate parking (6 – 7 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
Ideally located in Galway Village
Within walking distance of the school
Size estimated somewhat over 5,000 square feet
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.

September 2013 Purchase of 12.8 acre parcel on East St. in Galway Village for the site of a new library building, funds from a NYS Construction Aid grant and the Dockstader Charitable Trust.

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 approx. 3.4 million dollars with a bond for 1.8 million dollars fails by 50 votes.

August 2016 Library Board gathers input from community representatives on the services they wish 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.

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