

# Gleason Public Library

## Mission Statement

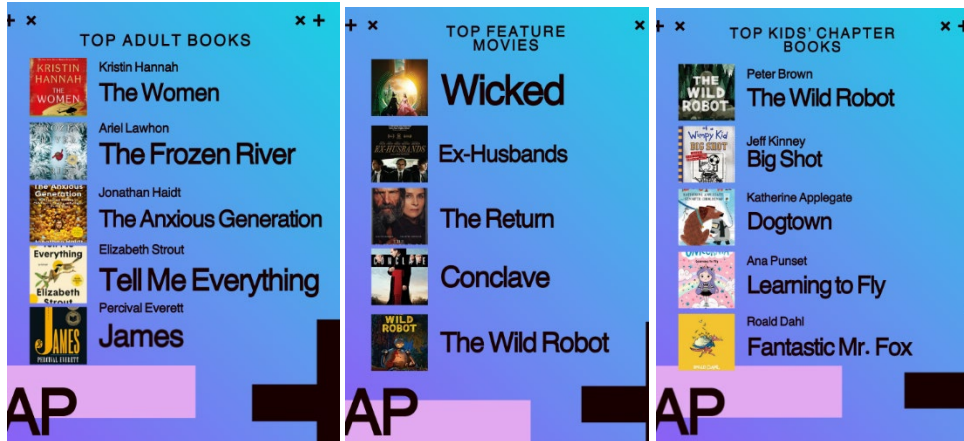
The Gleason Public Library facilitates life-long learning and growth for all community members through free access to materials and services; collaborative partnerships; and opportunities to engage and learn from one another.

## General Services

The Gleason maintained a wide range of established services, including access to about 43,000 locally-held books, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, periodicals, and equipment, 122,664 downloadable eBooks and e-audiobooks, and three million items via membership in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (M VLC). The Library also provided access to computers, printing, online research databases, and the Internet. The Library building saw its highest number of visitors in years, and meeting rooms were frequently in use by community members and groups.

Library circulation continued an upward trend, with physical circulation 6% higher than the previous year, and digital circulation up 14%. Total circulation was over 100,000 for the first time since 2013.

The most-circulated books of the year for adults included *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout, and *James* by Percival Everett. The most popular DVD was *Wicked*, and *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown and *Big Shot* by Jeff Kinney were the most-used children's books.



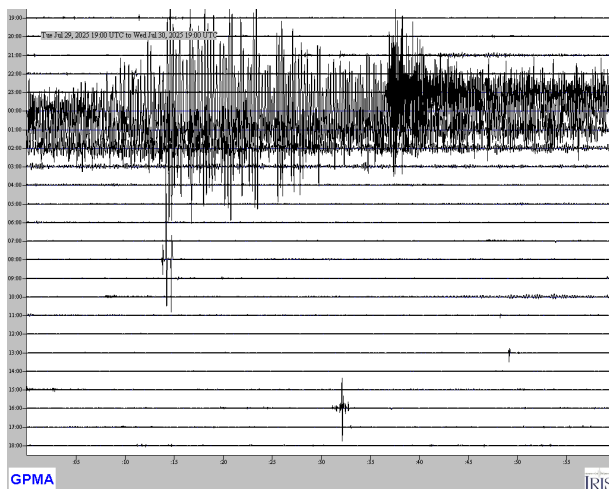
Collections with notable increases in circulation compared to the previous year included:

- Teen print books, especially graphic novels: +53%
- Print magazines: +17%
- Overdrive eBooks, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines: +14%
- Children's print books: +10%

Usage numbers for adult print books, music CDs, and miscellaneous materials (Library of Things and museum passes) were similar to the previous year, while usage of CD audiobooks and DVDs declined.

## New and Noteworthy in 2025

- Concord-Carlisle High School's Green Team began planting a pollinator garden outside the east entrance, in order both to provide an educational opportunity for the public, and to beautify a corner of the grounds.
- The MVLC Mobile app was updated with customized Gleason branding.
- Meeting Owl added for hybrid meetings and programs.
- "HOT" titles relocated to its own shelf and expanded. HOT titles are extra copies of popular books that can't be put on hold and that check out for 7 days with no renewals.
- Novelist Plus database updated with a more modern look, more mobile-friendly interface, and updated content.
- Curbside compost pickup service started with Black Earth
- Federal cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services led to a reduction in funding for statewide databases, online language learning, consortium ebook collections, and state grants to libraries.
- The Gleason's seismograph registered the largest earthquake it has recorded to date, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake off of Russia on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## Program Highlights

A lively lineup of programs included weekly story times, monthly book groups for all ages, presentations on nature, music, art, health, and other topics, movies, teen crafts and weekend reading kits, and more. Programs were primarily coordinated by Jenn Buliszak (Children's and Intergenerational Programming January through August), Jill Sirois (Children's starting in November), Tahleen Shamlian (Teen and Children's), Jennifer Pike

(Adult), and Martha Feeney-Patten (Adult), with assistance from other staff members and volunteers.

Programs were funded by the Friends of Gleason Public Library, Carlisle Cultural Council, the Gleason Library Endowment's Susan P. Zielinski Natural Science Fund, and through partnerships with the Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services, Carlisle Recreation Department, Carlisle Conservation Foundation, and Carlisle Garden Club.

Continuing traditions included the Great Pumpkin Spectacle, the all-ages Winter Reading Challenge, Gingerbread House workshops, Craft Supply Swap, and the Carlisle Poetry Contest and Festival. The Gleason partnered with several local organizations on the third annual community Pride Festival on the Town Common.

The Summer Reading theme was "Level Up!" Participation was up about 21% over last year, thanks in part to collaborations with the Recreation Department and COAHS on special events. 5269 tickets were entered in the reading raffle, representing 316,140 minutes read. Events included crafts on the lawn, a "Walk Across the Solar System" with Steve Golson, "Peter and the Wolf" with the Storytime Quintet, "Trevor the Games Man", "Family Retro Gaming", "Stuffed Animal Sleepovers", "Super Mario Story Time" with Strega Mama, "Henna on the Lawn", "Sea Turtle Mosaics", and summer concerts with the Party Band of Lowell, Riverboat Stompers, and Music at the Blissful.

Special children's and family programs included a "Grandparents & Grandkids' Valentine Story Time and Breakfast", "Drive-In Movie Night", "A Musical Morning with Mara and Motoko", "Who's Watching You: Owls of the World", two "Stargazing Parties", "Read to Rudy the Dog", "Playdough Palooza", "Llama Story Time", and "Beaded Fairy Wands".



For teens, there was a "Jar Lantern Craft Workshop", "Valentines Craft Party", "Crafting Wee-Felted Mice" with Rachel Benson, "Felted Pikachu Hoops", and "Crafting Felted Owls". The tradition of movie showings for grades 5 through 8 on early release days continued, and the Teen Advisory Board for high schoolers met monthly during the school year. Use of the library space by middle school students increased following the closure of

Fern's Country Store, and Friday afternoon drop-in teen hangouts were started in December.

Special adult programs included "Monarch Butterflies" film showing, "The Smaller Cut: Early Training of Young Trees", "Wire Tree Art Class", "Adventures in Trees with Owls and Cats", "Life in Madagascar" with Kay Hurley, "Panama Canal" with Barry Pell, "Snowy House Luminaria" with Pop Up Art School, and "The Golden Age of Silent Movies" with Richard Hughes. In May, the Gleason partnered with the Taiwan Film Festival of Boston to bring two Taiwanese documentaries to Carlisle, including Zoom conversations with the filmmakers.

### **2025 Art at the Gleason exhibits:**

- *Organic Abstractions* by Patricia Morchel, Deb Richardson, and Sinéad Sinnott
- *Children's Book Illustration and Some Magical Mice* by Priscilla Alpaugh, Wayne Geehan, Julia Miner, Ilse Plume, Jean Winslow, Wilmot Winslow, and Wee Forest Folk
- Carlisle Public School Student Show

## **Renovation Project and Capital Campaign**

Work on the Gleason's interior renovation design plans continued, with Schwartz/Silver Architects finalizing the construction plans. Updates to the schematic plans included changes to the mechanical room layout and structural updates to the staircase plans.

The Capital Campaign to fundraise for the renovation continued, including a Books & Brews trivia night and silent auction event in November.

## **Building & Grounds**

Town facilities technician Steve Munroe, along with the Library's two custodians, performed a variety of maintenance tasks, reducing the need for work by outside vendors. Building repairs included boiler pump replacement and work on the parking lot lighting and the elevator, which was out of service for a period of weeks while parts were ordered.

Town Meeting passed a warrant article for funding to replace the Library's elevator.

## **Personnel**

In 2025, joining the Gleason team were Circulation Assistant Liz Briggs, Assistant to the Director Heather Wright, Page Sandra Haskell, and Children's Librarian Jill Sirois.

Jane Iwanowicz, Seema Peterson, and Jenn Buliszak left the Gleason. Sinéad Sinnott was promoted to the Head of Circulation position.

Jill Sirois and Claire Gordy completed master's programs at Simmons University, with both earning a Library & Information Science degree and Jill completing a Children's Literature

degree as well. Other staff professional development included Succession Planning, Supervisory Training, Equity 101, Workflows, Libby, AI in Libraries, and CPR & First Aid.

## **Support and Collaboration**

### **Friends of the Gleason Public Library**

The Friends continue to support the Library with funding for special events and services. Donations from 269 members supported a variety of museum passes, many special events, and technology enhancements. The Friends fundraised through their annual membership drive, pop-up book swaps, and an Old Home Day Book Swap. Their annual meeting in November featured author David Daniel. Annie Luttmann was President of the FOGPL board for most of the year, succeeded by Emma Boettcher at their annual election in November.

### **Volunteers & Senior Tax Program**

In addition to the Friends, dozens of volunteers and tax workers donated their time and energy in 2025. Volunteerism and the involvement of Senior Tax Workers keep the Library rolling by helping with shelving, cleaning, displays, programs, landscaping, marketing, and completion of special projects. Additionally, the Library Trustees and other committees and groups, including the Art at the Gleason Curators, donate countless hours of their time to keep the Gleason operating. Altogether, over 900 hours of work were contributed by about 47 volunteers, board members, Friends, and Tax Workers.

### **Other Partnerships and Outreach**

The Library continued and expanded successful collaborations with other town departments and community organizations including the Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services, Carlisle Recreation Department, Carlisle Public School, Carlisle PTO DEI Community Advisory Committee, Environmental Sustainability Committee, Carlisle Cultural Council, Carlisle Conservation Foundation, Carlisle Garden Club, Gleason Knitters, Carlisle Boy Scouts, and Carlisle Fire Department.

Outreach activities by staff included participation at the Pinewood Derby, Read Across America, Meals on Wheels ride-along, COAHS Coffee Hour, Carlisle Family Connection story time, Carlisle Kids House story time, and Carlisle Public School class visits.

The Gleason partnered with other organizations on a community food drive in the fall. Over 9,000 pounds of food were donated to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell.

## **Library Statistics**

*Notes on statistics: Data in this section is based on FY2025 (July 2024-June 2025) as reported to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. MBLC statistics reporting made a change this year to include more collections in “digital circulation.”*

Weekly hours open (September-June): 55  
Weekly hours open (July-August): 51  
Items owned (physical): 43,046  
Items owned (downloadable): 122,664  
Items provided by other libraries: 17,048  
Items provided to other libraries: 22,429  
Registered Carlisle patrons: 2,970  
Total direct physical circulation: 91,841  
Digital circulation (ebooks, e-audio, e-video): 23,507  
Usage of electronic subscriptions (databases, e-magazines, etc.): 26,695  
Number of visitors: 73,539  
Number of reference transactions: 3,371  
Meeting room uses by public: 265  
Public computer sessions / wifi sessions: 3,016 / 17,262  
Number of programs / attendees: 288 / 5,497

### **Library Staff**

Director: Martha Feeney-Patten

Assistant Director/Head of Technology: Jennifer Pike

Children's Librarian: Jill Sirois

Staff Librarian: Tahleen Shamlian

Reference Assistants: Joseph Sorrenti, Julianna King

Head of Circulation: Sinead Sinnott

Library Assistants: Liz Briggs, Claire Gordy, Cheryl Kelly, Helen Lyons, Ellen Royalty (substitute), Deena Scaperotta (substitute), Alexa Skrivanek, Cassidy Wenstrom

Assistant to the Director: Heather Wright

Custodians: Dan Brainard, Dan Flannery

Library Pages: Claire Beckley, Sandra Haskell, Chen-An Lin

## Board of Trustees

Karen Gettings, Chair (Term expires 2026)

Kaitlin Waterson, Secretary (Term expires 2028)

Jennifer Saak, Treasurer (Term expires 2026)

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Feeney-Patten

Library Director

