Director's Report: Submitted by Patrick Pittman

October 2026

Director's Focus:

Pending grants; 2027 renovations; year-end operations.

Personnel: See Personnel Committee report.

Finance: See Finance Committee report.

Facilities: See Facilities report.

Policy: See Policies Committee report.

Library Function: October library use followed familiar seasonal patterns. Since 2023, visits have generally increased beginning in mid-October. The Friends of the Seymour Library's book sale and the Seymour Library Foundation's After Hours event also brought additional activity to the building. The library recorded 7,159 patron visits in October 2026, compared with 7,646 in October 2025. Although visits were lower than a year earlier, usage rebounded from September. With comparable operating hours, changes in programming, events, and patron habits may contribute to fluctuations in attendance.

Circulation remained essentially flat compared with 2025, with roughly 12,000 items circulated in October of each year. Physical circulation increased from September, alongside the seasonal rise in library use. Seymour made no new e-book or audiobook purchases in October. The status of out-of-county cards remains unresolved, as does the question of how to balance overall digital circulation with access for the library's immediate service population. Clarifying these priorities will help guide future digital purchasing decisions.

The library held its second research and database-search session using Boolean search techniques. Fourteen participants took part in the over-9 group, while 12 participants in the under-9 group used Stickerbot. Offering separate activities allowed the program to engage two age groups through different approaches to learning. Participation provides a starting point for planning additional sessions; feedback would help determine whether to repeat introductory activities or offer more advanced instruction.

In collaboration with Circle K, a SUNY service organization, and Brockport Community Connections, the library hosted a pumpkin-carving event on October 29. Volunteers from participating institutions and the community supported the event as part of the broader Midnight Madness program in the Village of Brockport. Sixteen carvers worked on 25 pumpkins. Beyond the carving activity itself, the event brought the library into a shared

community celebration and demonstrated the role partners can play in supporting programming. Future collaborations could build on this format while assessing volunteer needs and participant interest.

The library welcomed Mrs. Hendel's second-grade class from Cornerstone Christian Academy in Brockport. Students learned about local history, the library, and its book and literacy services. The visit brought these topics together in a setting where students could connect school learning with community resources. It also provided an opportunity to introduce library services early in students' reading lives. Follow-up visits could develop a particular topic in greater depth, guided by class interests and instructional needs.

With the budget approved, planning has begun for 2027 contractual expenditures and salaries. Preparations for employee reviews are underway with department heads, and reviews are scheduled to begin November 30. The approved budget provides the financial framework for this work, while departmental discussions offer an opportunity to clarify needs and priorities for the coming year. The next planning step is to translate those commitments and discussions into a coordinated approach to 2027 operations.

The Friends of the Seymour Library and the Seymour Library Foundation reported successful October fundraising efforts. The Foundation's After Hours event took place October 17, and the Friends held their biannual book sale October 21–24. Book sale proceeds return to the library and primarily support the Summer Reading Program. These events illustrate two complementary forms of community support: participation in library-centered gatherings and financial contributions toward programs and future initiatives. Final revenue and expense figures would allow a fuller assessment of the events' financial impact. The library extends its appreciation to both organizations and the volunteers who supported their work.

Looking Ahead: The library will prepare a presentation of the community survey results for public review, with an emphasis on making the findings clear, accessible, and useful for understanding community feedback and future priorities. Planning will also account for anticipated holiday foot traffic and programming around upcoming school breaks, with attention to opportunities for students and families to use the library during time away from school. Year-end work will include completing outstanding grant requirements and finalizing 2026 financials to support a clear transition into the new year.

A second session with Livingston Associates will take place on November 4 to plan a coordinated effort with the Seymour Library Foundation for internal library renovations over the next one to five years. The session will focus on planning and executing this work in coordination with the Foundation.

In Closing: October saw library visits rebound from September, circulation remains steady year over year, and community partnerships support programming and fundraising. Looking ahead, the library will present survey findings to the public, prepare for holiday visits and school-break programs, and complete outstanding grant requirements and 2026 financials. Coordinated renovation planning with Livingston Associates and the Seymour Library Foundation will help shape improvements over the next one to five years.