Welcome to the OurStoryBridge Newsletter! For our launch issue, we’ve provided an overview of OurStoryBridge and the first steps you can take to embark on this online local audio history initiative. In subsequent editions, our newsletter will provide resources, tools, examples, and success stories. We’ll highlight Adirondack Community, the first OurStoryBridge Project, and share what other communities are doing to start their own story projects. Librarians from 45 states have expressed interest since OurStoryBridge was released on September 29, 2020. Join us as we connect the past and the present in our libraries, our towns, our cities, and across the country.

Who is OurStoryBridge?

OurStoryBridge is you. It is your family, your neighbors, your library, your town, your city. It is the stories of your community told in the voices of the people and woven together to create a archival treasure trove of local history.
What is OurStoryBridge?

Combining oral tradition with digital tools, OurStoryBridge provides the framework to capture, preserve, and celebrate your past and your present. Each month our newsletter will have a Featured Story to demonstrate how OurStoryBridge captures the special moments, unique memories, and notable events that make our communities remarkable.

Featured Story of the Month

Click the link below to listen to Tommy Biesemeyer’s story, Olympic Dream Fulfilled. Tommy’s story was one of the over 180 narratives collected as part of Adirondack Community.
Why OurStoryBridge?
There are many benefits to starting an OurStoryBridge Project in your community. OurStoryBridge can:

- **Create** closer bonds and community connections
- **Preserve** stories and honor the legacies of older generations
- **Engage** the younger generations with their community's rich history
- **Increase** civic engagement of all community members
- **Celebrate** what makes your community special
- **Attract** new residents and visitors
- **Reveal** people, stories, and unique anecdotes not widely known
- **Re-ignite** a passion for your community

Learn what OurStoryBridge has meant to the Town of Keene:
How to Start an OurStoryBridge

1. Explore the first OurStoryBridge project at Adirondack Community
2. Review the User Guide, Sample Documents, and How-To Videos
3. Pitch OurStoryBridge to library Trustees and/or other community organizations
4. Form a planning committee that includes library personnel and community stakeholders
5. Seek funding sources including donations and grants
6. Create a planning document including a project timeline

Visit our website for the framework and resources you need to begin telling the story of your community.
OurStoryBridge represents an appreciation of the rich history that shaped your community. It honors the people, places, and events, and it celebrates yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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