

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As the Library Board and staff look ahead to 2019-2020, we can be assured of two continuing trends: increasing attendance at Library programs and growing demand for “downloadable resources” – books, audiobooks, and magazines that can be downloaded to a personal device through the Internet.

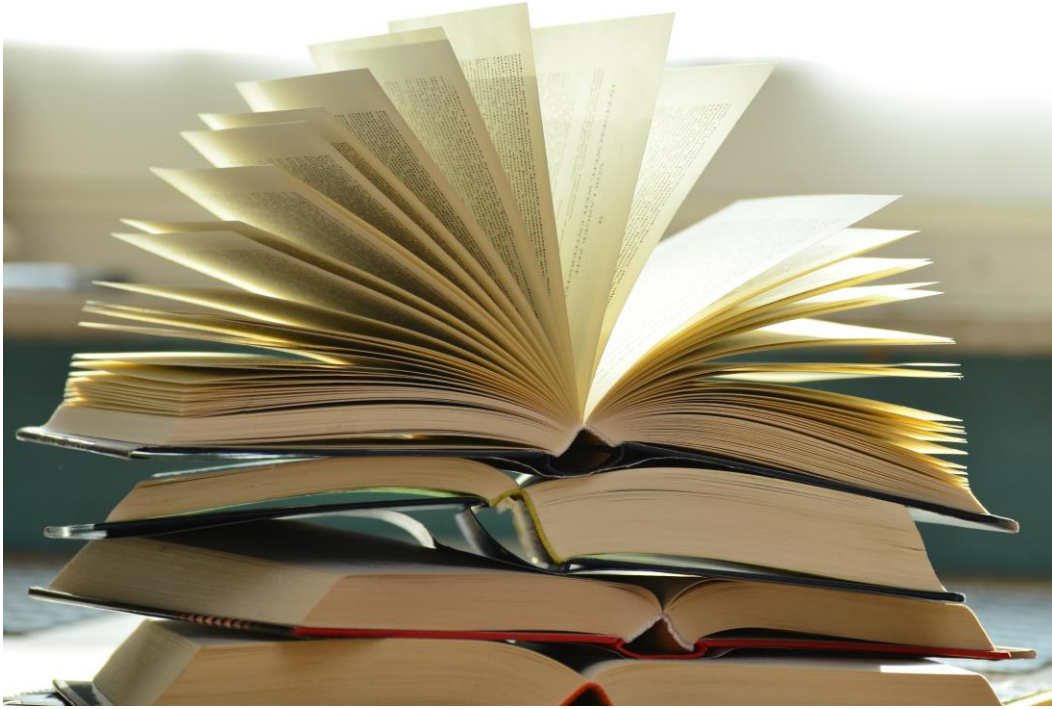
In 2018, program attendance was up 6.3% from the prior year, and every age bracket saw increases. The uptick was a function of a number of factors – our new Outreach Department, the shifting of a second librarian into the Teen Department, the ability of librarians to keep a finger on the pulse of patron interests, and the expansion of programming in the Children’s Room. With these developments comes a need for more promotion of Library happenings. Accordingly, we are revamping our library website to make it more user-friendly and polished. We are also expanding our mailing newsletter so we can keep you apprised of Library events and services (in a font size that is actually conducive to reading!). Lastly, we are working to upgrade our social media presence because we understand that so many of you use social media to feel connected and to make connections, and we want to facilitate stronger ties to our community residents.

As debate about the future of downloadable books continues, here is what we know for sure: many people still swear by the visual and tactile satisfaction of physical books, but for others, the convenience of downloadable reading material is irresistible. Within our own community, the increasing popularity of downloadable books, audiobooks and magazines has been pronounced. In 2018, our patrons downloaded nearly 25,000 items onto their personal devices. That’s nearly a 20% increase in just one year!

The challenge for the Library Board and staff is to keep one foot in both worlds – to safeguard traditional public library services and to stay on top of the trends that reflect changing times, expectations, and technologies. The proposed 2019-2020 budget presented by your Library Board of Trustees manages both. Those services and collections you take for granted will be maintained and supplemented, while cutting edge initiatives will be thoughtfully supported. Overall, the proposed budget (once again) falls under the New York State tax cap. Reflecting an increase of only 2%, the proposed budget will add only another \$8.92 in taxes *for the year* for the average homeowner.

As you review the budget, note that the Board continues for the second consecutive year to properly fund a Capital Equipment line that is in sync with the cost of maintaining a 26,000 square foot facility. Wear and tear is inevitable in the areas of roofing, heating and cooling, electric, furnishings, property, computers, and more. Any unspent funds from this Capital line will be saved in assigned funds for larger future projects. An example of such good planning for future needs is our upcoming parking lot refurbishment. Foreseeing the need for significant site work, the Board put aside monies over a period of years so as to protect residents from a tax spike.

Overall, the proposed budget promises another year of exceptional services and value, and the Board respectfully requests your support of both our Library budget and our incumbent Trustees, Lois Overton and Madeline Hanewinckel, on Tuesday, April 2nd. Feel free to reach out to the Director, Mary Schubart, if you have any questions or concerns at this or any other time of the year.



The Library Budget Hearing will take place Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 pm.

The Library Budget Vote is Tuesday, April 2th
from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in the Library lobby.

Election of two terms of five years will be held.
Candidates: Lois Overton and Madeline Hanewinckel

Based on the total proposed budget increase, the estimated Homestead tax
increase will be .0224 for each \$100 of assessed valuation ~
only \$8.92 more per year for a house assessed at \$40,000.

~ Board of Trustees ~

*Nora Berlin, President
Lois Overton, Vice President
William Wexler, Esq., Madeline Hanewinckel, and Kevin Ford*



Proposed 2019-2020 Library Budget

		<i>Budgeted</i> 2018-2019		<i>Budgeted</i> 2019-2020
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$	2,539,591	\$	2,582,066
<i>Mandated</i> NYS Retirement System Costs	\$	270,000	\$	262,000
Library Materials & Programming	\$	372,800	\$	394,860
Capital Equipment	\$	99,500	\$	98,500
Operation & Maintenance of Building	\$	289,100	\$	299,100
Library Administration	\$	289,750	\$	301,950
 TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	 \$	 3,860,741	 \$	 3,938,476
Anticipated Income	\$	24,000	\$	24,000
	\$	3,836,741	\$	3,914,476
 <i>Proposed Budget Request</i>	 \$	 3,836,741	 \$	 3,914,476

***The proposed budget increase is only 2%
and falls under the New York State tax cap.***

***Based on current assessments, for a home assessed at \$40,000,
Library taxes will increase by less than \$9 for the coming year.***

***Board candidates: Lois Overton and Madeline Hanewinckel
are up for re-election to fill two unexpired terms.***

