

Library Director's Report

April 2024

2024 Trustee Election/2025 Budget Vote

As a final reminder, the Trustee Election and 2025 budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 7th at the Library. Polls open at 9 am and close at 8 pm. Trustee Gretchen Copella is seeking reelection to a full 5-year term. No one else picked up a nominating petition, so unless there are write-in candidates, she will be running unopposed.

As in past years, we will host a variety of popular programs that day to hopefully bring in lots of Library supporters. The Children's Department will host Story Time with Percy and Pals at 3:30. Percy the miniature horse will be there, as well as at least one therapy dog team, for kids to read to. There will be crafts, snacks and activities. The Investigation Stations with stories, songs, crafts and activities will be held at 6:30. Library Assistant Amy Chaffee is running two craft programs that evening: Pressed Flower Bookmarks at 5:30 for ages 13 and up, and Pressed Flower Candle Jars at 6:30 for the same age range. There will also be a passive programming table set up featuring seed bombs for spring! Anyone can stop and make one to take home to plant their garden. Library Assistant Cherish Inman is planning a paint pouring class for teens at 3:30. Librarian Sheryl Soborowski has arranged an Outreach Table Fair that day as well. Tables will be set up by the Friends of the Olean Library, the League of Women Voters, Bonas Health Professions Interns, the Girl Scouts, the Catt County Health Dept., Bright Alternatives Parenting Resources, and others.

There will be a public hearing in the Library on April 23rd at 6 pm, for constituents to ask questions about the proposed 2025 budget. While the Director runs the hearing, it is recommended that Trustees also attend, particularly the President and Finance Officer, to help answer questions and show support for the proposed budget (this year, Lanna is unavailable to attend). I have also requested the Treasurer and Business Office Manager to be present at the hearing. It is likely we'll have a reporter or two show up to ask questions.

PILOT Check

Earlier this month, we received the 2023-24 PILOT check from the school district in the amount of \$1,942.80.

2023 Annual Report to the Community [Action Item] (see attached)

In March, I emailed the attached 2023 Annual Report to the Community to Trustees, so it could be reviewed before being released to the public. This report is produced every year, providing highlights, statistics, and other information about the prior year, so the public is kept informed of how their tax dollars are being used.

Much of the information comes from the Annual Report to NYS that libraries are required to complete every February. We typically get the final report from the state sometime in March after DLD has a chance to review it. After we receive it, we produce the annual report to the community, which we post in April ahead of the public hearing for the annual budget vote. For this reason, we always include Return on Investment (ROI) figures, letting the public know what a bargain they are getting in return for their library taxes. The Board should vote to approve the report.

March Gifts/Donations [Action Item]

Per our Policy on Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the Library, the Board must formally accept the following donations to the Library: in March, we received a donation of \$100 from John MacRoy to help pay for his art reception held in the Gallery (artists do not normally contribute, so it was a very nice gesture of support). We also received another \$500 in memorial donations for Fred Eade.

Friends of the Library [Action Item]

At their April meeting, the Friends approved the annual gift of \$4,000 to the Library to assist with paying for programming presenters and supplies. They also approved \$279.92 for the purchase of 4 new long white tables, as some of our current ones are getting old and are in disrepair. The Board needs to vote to approve both gifts.

The Friends participated in National Library Week activities earlier this month by hosting a table in the Library lobby on Thursday, April 11, the day dedicated to library advocacy. They gave out winning bookmarks from last year's bookmark contest, encouraged people to sign up for their newsletter and become a member. People who signed up for either, received a ticket for a free book from their book sale.

News from the Library

The Library celebrated National Library Week all of last week. It kicked off on Saturday, April 6th, with the Baby Farm Animal Petting Zoo in the Children's Department. It featured baby bunnies, goats and ducks, and children got to learn a little about raising these animals while petting and interacting with them. We also had a basket raffle featuring three different library-themed baskets; patrons could win by putting a ticket in one of three boxes on each day of the week (limit one-per-person-per-day). The Olean Teen Advisory Board hosted a Library-wide scavenger Duck Hunt for all ages. It was a fun way to get patrons to explore areas of the Library they may not visit regularly or even know about. For completing the Hunt, which involved finding little rubber ducks throughout the building, they won an additional ticket for the basket raffle. There were also "Patron Appreciation" giveaways including Library pens and pencils, button pins, bookmarks, magnets and keychains (there was a different item each day of the week). We also held a "Celebrate Your Freedom to Read" #ReadEverywhere social media campaign. We asked patrons to snap a photo or video showcasing where they are reading and to post these to Instagram or Facebook (and tag the Library in the posts). Participants were entered to win a prize. We also celebrated National Library Workers Day on Tuesday with treats in the breakroom and a Tim Horton's gift card for each staff member. Lanna also brought cookies! Thank you Lanna!