

Friends of the Willimantic Public Library
905 Main Street
Willimantic, Ct. 06226
Supporting your local library

Newsletter – July 2020

Dear Friends,

We need your email so that subsequent newsletters and communications can be sent by email. Please email us at willimanticlibfriends@gmail.com.

We have been working on the annual goals set out at our First Membership Meeting in November.

Membership

In late spring, a mailing of 350 letters was sent to Willimantic residents to continue our membership drive. We now have 87 members of the Friends and have raised over \$2000 through our membership drive. \$440 in donations were made to the Book Fund and the library will receive a check for that amount. \$170 has been donated for the Program Fund and we encourage anyone who has an idea for a program, or who would like to host a program, to contact one of the board members. An additional \$300 has been donated to aid the library in improving services.

Becoming a Tax-exempt non-profit organization.

One of the annual goals was to register as a non-profit corporation in the state, file papers to get permission to raise funds, and to become a tax-exempt organization through filing federal forms. We are now a 501 (c) 3 organization with federal and state recognition.

Supporting the Library in Meeting It's New Strategic Plan Goals

(View the Plan on the Library's Board of Directors page under ABOUT THE LIBRARY tab)

1. Join a subcommittee of Board Members, library staff, and friends working on a goal of interest. (Programming, Outreach and Branding, Fundraising, IT & social media, Physical Plant.)
2. Let friends and family know about the Summer Reading Program for kids, the Library to Go Service providing you with books from the library, and ongoing programs.
3. Donate books printed in 2019 and 2020 that the library does not have in their collection.
4. Present an idea for a program that you or an acquaintance could present.

Supporting the Friends of the Library

1. **Volunteer to be a member of the Friends' Fundraising Committee that will plan and implement fundraising for the library.**
2. **Volunteer to help with the Friends' Facebook page and other social media. We need help?**

Advocacy- How You Helped

With our advocacy, the Town Council voted on a budget that included a \$22,000 increase in payroll and an increase in the line item for book purchases. In February, the Friends submitted petitions with over 100 signatures to Jim Rivers, the Town Manager, supporting an increase in funding to allow hiring of a Children’s Librarian and increasing the book budget to \$50,000. In addition, Friends wrote letters, emails, and postcards asking for the library budget to be increased.

Unfortunately, The Board of Finance who was under pressure due to current economic circumstances, reduced the budget proposed by Jim Rivers and the Town Council. As a result, the library budget increases were cut out and cuts were made to staffing at other departments. This is the second year in a row that the Town Council has supported increases in the library budget which have not been realized after the proposed budgets were defeated at referendum or cut by Board of Finance.

What You Can Do Now

It is important that you talk to Windham residents about the importance of the library and the services they provide to the community. Encourage them to use the library.

Once they know about the library, talk to them about the importance of supporting the town budget next year so that the library can receive increased funding that the town government would like to give it.

Stay Informed

1. Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Willimantic-Public-Library-113213870126662/>

(**Volunteer** - Help us keep our Facebook page up to date)

2. Visit our page on the library website.

<https://www.willimanticlibrary.org/about-library/friends.shtml>

If you know someone who wants to become a Friend of the Library, our membership form can be found on this page. In addition, payment of membership fees and donations can be made using a debit or credit card or Paypal from this page.

3. Visit the library on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/willimanticpubliclibrary/>

4. Visit the library website

<https://www.willimanticlibrary.org/index.shtml>

See the list of new books, search the catalogue, get Ebooks, and find upcoming events.

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