

WATERTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

established 1865

Presentation to Town Council

11 February 2026

Serving The Community For 161 Years

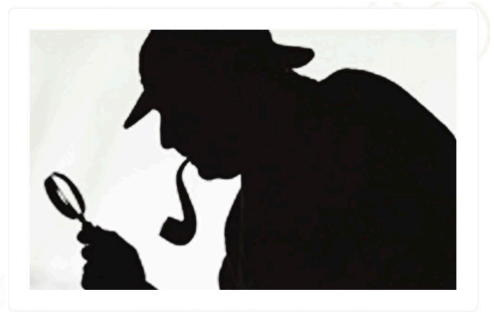
Providing a wealth of resources

- Collections for Adults, Teens and Children in a variety of formats including e-books and e-audiobooks
- On-site technology available with user support
- Quiet study space for students of all ages, an alternative space for those working offsite or traveling
- Programs and offerings continue to grow:
 - Adult and children's programs and events have expanded (Woodward Atrium has afforded space for broader subjects and larger audiences as well as hybrid program offerings)
 - Take-home craft kits for children
 - Book club
 - Meet the Author events
 - Meeting space for community groups
 - Notary Services offered by our Adult Service Librarian



LearningExpress Library

Targeted collections of practice tests, tutorials, e-books, articles and more.



2026 SCHEDULE

Mystery Book Club

The Mystery Book Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom or in person at Watertown Library.



TUESDAYS 2026 - VARIOUS DATES

Chair Yoga

Join us at the Watertown Library for Chair Yoga, a gentle yoga program incorporating the use of chairs led by Certified Chair Yoga Instructor Frances Harmeyer.

Tuesdays - February / March - Various dates available.

All sessions run from 10:15am to 11:15am.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Watertown Library Association is participating in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program!



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Performance

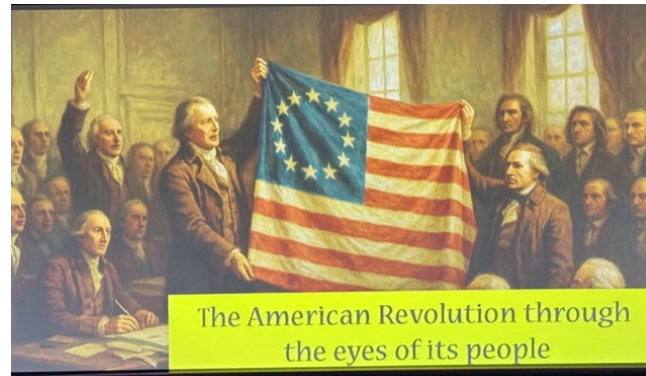
Borrowers, library hours, events, programs, etc.

- We served 11,501 registered borrowers in 2024/2025
- 46% of Oakville and Watertown residents have a library card (CT Avg: 32%)
- Total service hours between locations: 3,000 (State Avg: 2,947)
- Reference transactions: 14,500
- Total programs offered: 159 onsite 12 virtual
- Technical consultations: 2533

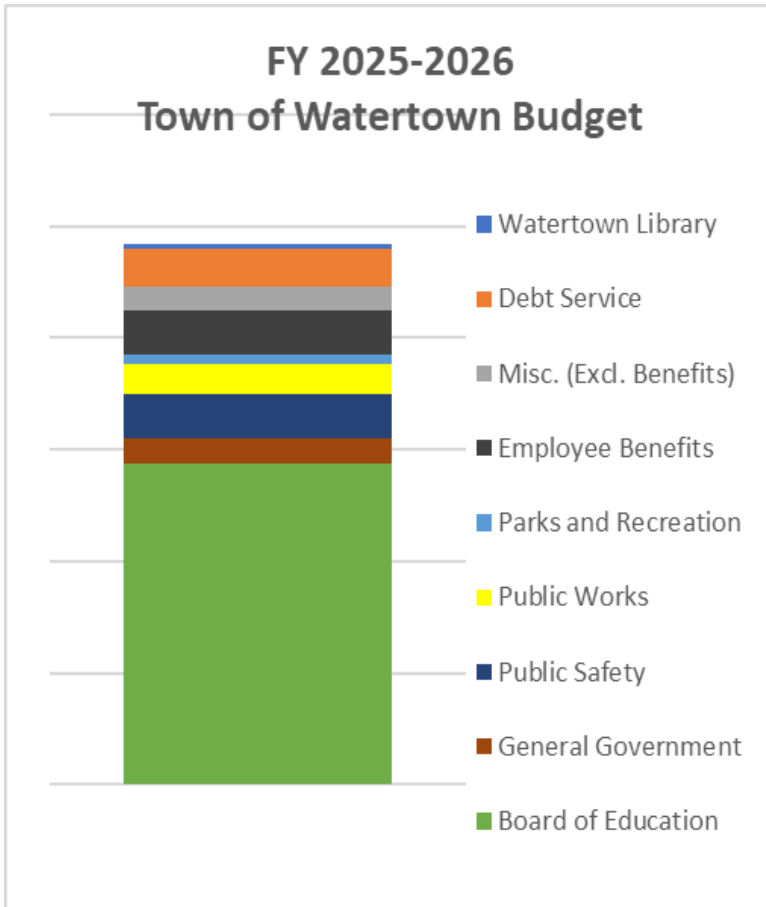
A very careful steward of public resources

- **Support for the Library is in line with area communities, on a per-capita basis:**

Town	Dollars	% of Town Revenue
Woodbury	\$71.72	1.96%
Thomaston	\$62.95	1.57%
Cheshire	\$56.09	1.29%
Statewide Average	\$54.88	1.12%
Middlebury	\$54.34	1.12%
Litchfield - OWL	\$51.06	1.24%
Bethlehem	\$42.06	1.17%
Southbury	\$41.67	1.18%
Plymouth - Terryville	\$40.41	1.03%
Prospect	\$38.34	1.04%
Watertown	\$37.78	0.95%



Partnership



The Town:

Annual appropriation funds ongoing services and operations

- Books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs
- Online information and database licenses, e-books, audiobooks, etc.
- Staff wages
- Cost of day-to-day operations: Utilities, Integrated Library System, Community space upkeep

The Library:

Responsible for ALL capital projects, aided by local foundations, The Friends of the Watertown Library and individual donations.

In last 10 years (>\$1 million)

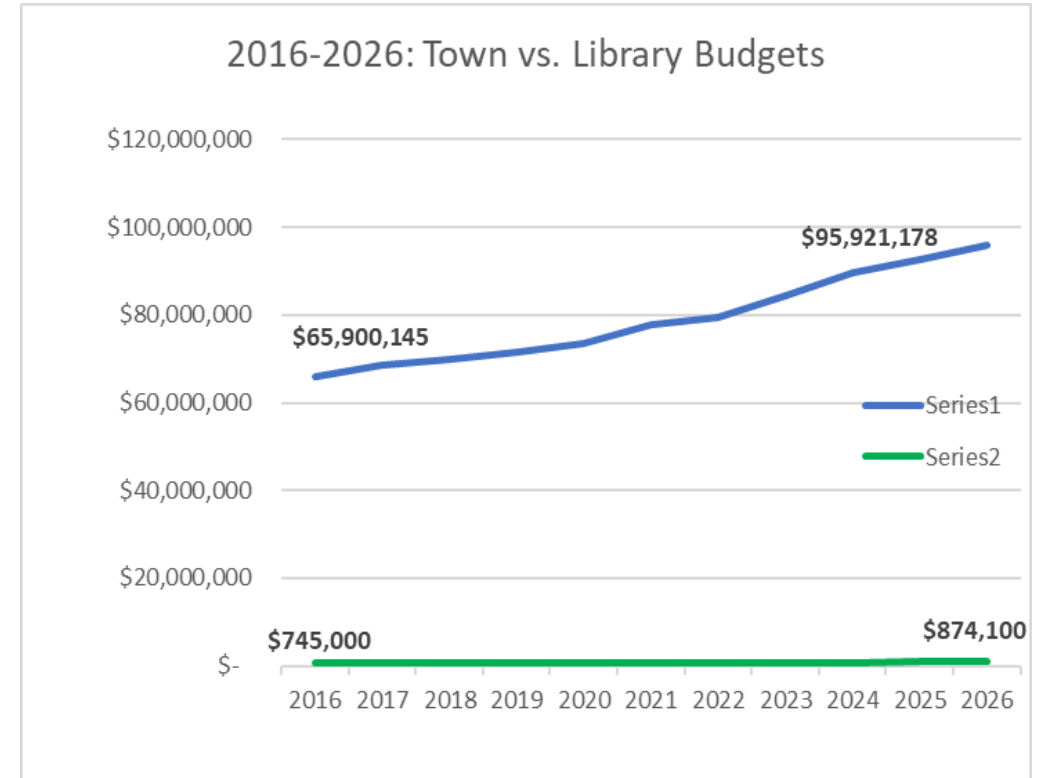
- Woodward Atrium and technology systems;
- New Book Nook;
- Water drainage, HVAC, Wi-Fi, and Lighting upgrades;
- Firewall system overhaul;
- Entrance, stairs, restroom upgrades;
- Furnace and hot water heater replacements at Branch;
- Staff IT equipment upgrades;
- Cost-effective landscaping/maintenance plan put in place



FY 2026-2027 Request

Requesting a 2.85% increase (\$24,900) over FY 2026 which will provide for

- A 2.8% cost of living increase for employees & 15% estimated increase in medical costs
- Maintain library service hours at Main ST and Davis ST locations and access to online resources
- Includes funding for the in-demand and well attended adult, children, and multigenerational program offerings
- Best estimates for anticipated increase in cost of utilities, service contracts, and maintenance supplies



	FY 2016-2026	
	Total Growth	Average Growth
Town	46.0%	3.8%
Library	14.0%	1.6%

	FY 26/27 REQUEST	
	Request \$	Increase
Library	\$899,000	2.8%





TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Story Time with Mrs. Butterly

Join us at the Watertown Library on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 from 10:30am to 11:30am for a story and crafts with Dinah Butterly! - children age 3 - 6.

Registration is suggested.

Thank you!



TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Story Time with Mrs. Piccolo

Join us at the Watertown Library on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 from 10:30am to 11:30am for story time and special craft with Mrs. Piccolo! - children age 3 - 6.

Space is limited. Registration is required.



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