



FOWPL Salute to our Children!

In the spirit of the season, the FOWPL have decided to devote this issue to the most important members of our community, our children. It is for their benefit that all of work so hard each day, and at the library, we recognize more than ever that it is in their hands that our future lies.

The Children's Room ☺

Frank Oliva, the architect for the new library project has created a separate children's room that is intended to provide space for many more children than can fit in the existing library space. The children's room in the new library will have available space for 40+ to attend the "Story Hour" program as well as designated spaces created for other learning activities or reading programs. There will be a space for arts and crafts and spaces to sit and read. The children's book collection will be housed in this special space. The furniture and all other facilities will be sized appropriately for the children in the community. This space, as planned, will be 1400 sq. feet and unlike the existing library space it will be fully accessible to the handicapped.

The Young Adult Room ☺

A new and safe place for teen-agers to meet, learn and study together in a stimulating environment away from their schools. A space designed with teens in mind and specifically for them.

The high school students in our community will have a place of their own in the new library. This new teen room will be situated with a clear view from the circulation desk. It will have the convenience of free wireless access (as will the rest of the building) so that our students can work together in a quiet space on their school work and enjoy free access to the almost unlimited resources that our new library will be able to provide.

There will be unlimited access to books and periodicals for research, as well as the ability to utilize ILL, a sophisticated interlibrary loan system.

A recent article in The Reporter would have us believe that the parents of Waterboro do not care about their children's education. The FOWPL firmly disagree with this sentiment and look forward to helping our students learn in every conceivable way.

Home Schooling

The home schoolers of Waterboro will be fully supported by the New Waterboro Public Library. The same resources that are available to the young adults and children will be available to the home-schooling population in our town. The new meeting room that will be attached to the library can be accessed during library hours as well as after hours. This room will allow for a quiet, private space for home schoolers to study and learn together. This room is approx. 912 sq. ft. It will allow up to 50 people to work comfortably and provide adequate space for projects and lessons.

The expanded access to high quality computers and software will benefit this home-schooling community as well. Computer access at the library will provide resources for not only those who lack even the most basic internet services, but also those who need specific software programs. The library will have a number of high-speed, high quality computers that will allow access to remote information and data bases. Free Wi-Fi will be available in the meeting room as well. This will provide valuable teaching and learning opportunities for our young, eager minds.

The Friends feel that this is another excellent benefit for our children.



Creating a Sense of Community for Ourselves and our Children.

The FOWPL would like you to consider a few questions...

~Where in town can I connect with others in my community who may or may not share the same interests as I do? ~Where can I see what is going on in the town, what groups meet when and where?

~How can I get involved?

~How can I meet new people and make new friends?

~How can I get my children interested in new activities?

It is the dream of the FOWPL that the “new” building will foster this sense of community. We live in a very fragmented society but people still desire the opportunity to connect with other people. The New Waterboro Public Library will provide that opportunity for everyone in our community.

A calendar of community events will be posted so anyone can see when groups meet there and when there are fun events going on at the library. This will provide the opportunity for you and/or your family to observe and/or join in.

For those of us with intellectual and aesthetic interests we will have book discussion groups, visiting authors, presentations by local artists and craft programs. For those of us looking for a space to come together with their groups, the meeting room will provide a clean and quiet space for knitting groups, painting classes, parent/teacher groups or sewing circles.

What ever your mind can imagine, we can come together as a community at our new library, with space enough for everyone and accessibility for the entire community.

Coming together as a community in this fashion perpetuates the life-long learning process in a community of people with similar interests.

Children can come to the library and participate in these groups or perhaps be inspired to create one of their own. Seeing a parent involved in the community and extra-curricular activities makes a child more likely to participate in these activities themselves.

The collective well-being of a town is fostered when there are a variety of opportunities for residents to come together around common interests. Participation in your community fosters an interest in your hometown as a whole.

The FOWPL hopes to help everyone in our community stimulate their imagination. We hope to invoke the inner joy that comes to us all when we experience something beautiful.

Some may question whether these experiences are a need or a luxury. Of course we don't *need* this stimulation in the same way we need food or shelter, but the FOWPL feel it is a profound human need to experience an emotionally rich life. The New Library will provide ample opportunity to experience many programs that will stimulate the imaginations of children and adults alike. It will provide a place where everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.

In closing, we feel the new library will provide things very necessary to any growing and thriving community. It will be a place to read, learn, grow, work, play and meet. It is a place for parents who want their children to read; a place for adults who love to read; a place for people to see art; a place for businesses to meet. In short, everyone in our community will benefit from the new library and we feel strongly that once it is built we will wonder how we ever lived without it!

Anyone with questions, concerns, feedback, ideas, etc. can contact one of the Friends at any time.

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FOWPL News Letter will be available at the Library and the Town Hall. The Friends meet the 1st Thursday of each month in the basement of the existing library at 6:30pm.

