



**Books Build Minds
People Build Libraries**

WATERTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Presentation to Town Council
February 20, 2018

153 Years and Growing



1865:
Watertown
Library
Association
Founded

1884:
First Library
opens on
DeForest
Street



1958:
Watertown
Library
opens on
Main
Street

1979:
Watertown
Library
renovated



2015:
150th
Birthday of
Watertown
Library
Association

2018: Construction
of the
Woodward Atrium
at the Main Library

Library
located in
upper floor
of
Academy
Building

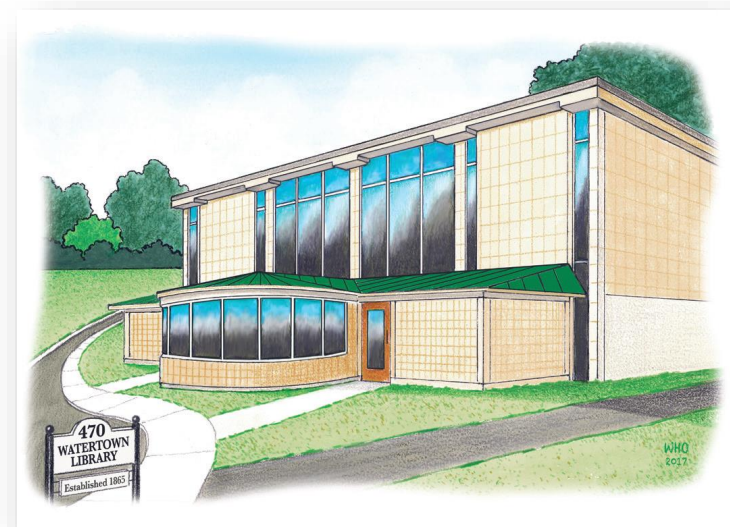


1914:
Oakville
Library
Association
Founded

1969:
Watertown and
Oakville
Library
Associations
Merge;
Branch Library
on Davis Street



2003:
Oakville
Branch
Library
renovated



PEOPLE BUILD LIBRARIES

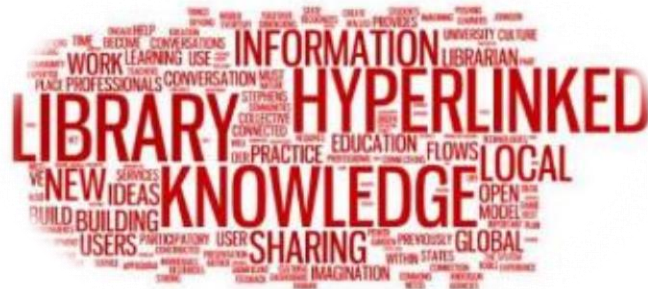
com· mu· ni· ty | noun | an interacting group of people linked by a common location, activities

The Main Library and Oakville Branch are school, senior center, and community center all at once.

- Story times and Summer programs
- Meetings at the Oakville Branch
- Friends programs
- Reading clubs
- The Book Nook—the only bookstore in town!

Our collection is virtually unlimited

- We provide access to information, e-books, audiobooks, and video streaming



PEOPLE BUILD LIBRARIES

People: It's the people—not just the books—that make a library, from our patrons to our staff who collect, curate, distill and dispense vital information and provide turn-by-turn navigation through it all.

Place: The Main Library and Oakville Branch are gathering, exhibition, and meeting places open to all, and house the resources that feed minds and fire imaginations.

Principles: Libraries are essential to a self-governing people, and remain free of commercial or political influence.

Pride: Libraries are conveners of public events that galvanize community pride. The programs we offer bring together the Library, the Friends, and both public and private schools in Watertown and Oakville around books and their authors.



PEOPLE BUILD LIBRARIES

Our meeting spaces are free to all, and used by public officials and community groups throughout Oakville and Watertown

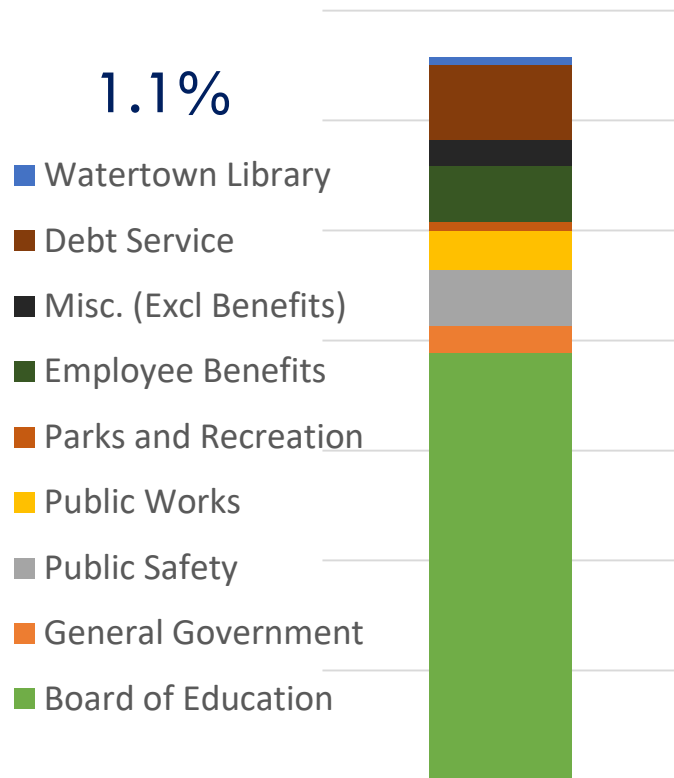
- WATER-OAK Crime Stoppers
- Watertown Oakville Little League
- Pop Warner Football
- Watertown Lacrosse
- Watertown Lion's Club
- Water-Oak Gold Circle of Sports
- Watertown Library Friends Book Club
- Watertown-Oakville GOP Town Committee
- Oakville-Watertown UNICO
- Office hours for the Superintendent of Schools
- John Trumbull PTO
- Watertown Foundation
- Watertown Tennis Club
- Watertown Historical Society
- Reflections Condo Association
- Propertyworx, LLC
- Private Tutoring Sessions



BY THE NUMBERS: HOW WE STACK UP

A careful steward of public resources, a cost-effective partnership

FY 2017-2018
TOWN OF WATERTOWN BUDGET



1.1%

The Town:

Ongoing services and operations:

- Books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs
- Access to online information, e-books, audiobooks, and video streaming
- Staff wages and benefits

The Library:

Capital projects, funded by local foundations and

The Friends of the Watertown Library

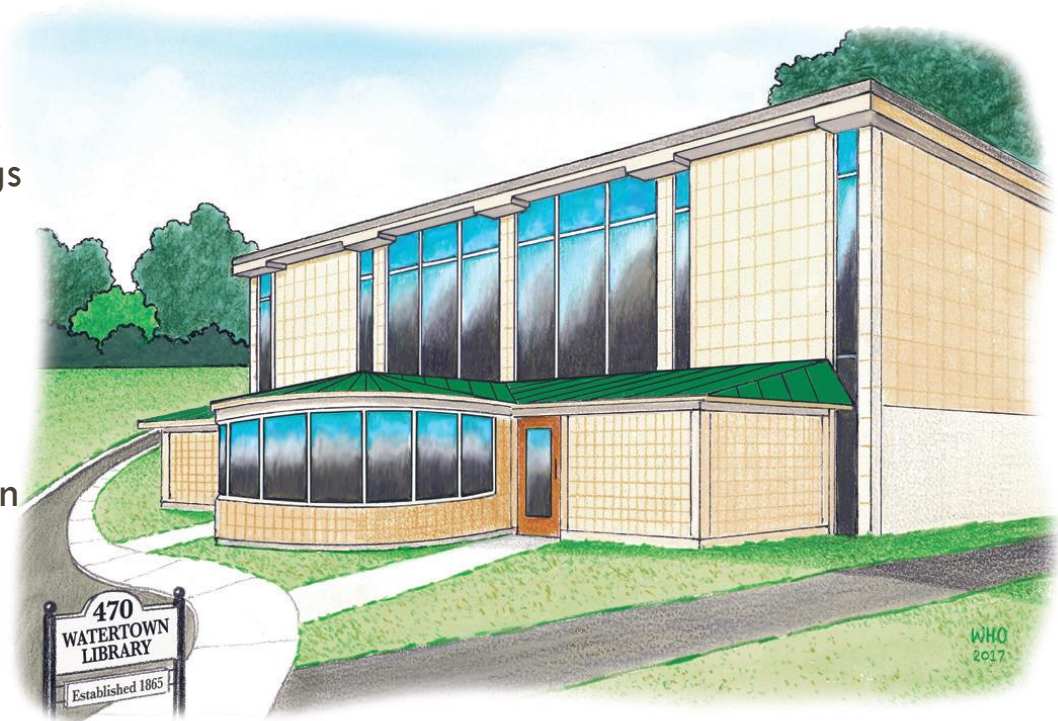
- Last 5 years: \$365,000
 - Water drainage improvements
 - Updated Wi-Fi service
 - Installed new HVAC and energy efficient lighting
 - New carpeting in Main Library
 - Renovated entranceway, stairs and restrooms at Main Library
 - New circulation desk

BY THE NUMBERS: HOW WE STACK UP

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The Library:

- **2018: The Woodward Atrium**
- A long-anticipated 1,300 square foot expansion that will enhance our ability to meet community needs for social gatherings, meetings and exhibition space.
 - An expansive multi-purpose event space
 - 2 conference rooms
 - A more accessible home for The Book Nook
 - Additional handicapped parking
- The renovation will begin in the spring, and should be completed in the fall.
- We have already secured \$483,000 through generous grants and will raise the remaining \$139,000 from community and foundation donations.
- This project is FULLY funded through the Library's fundraising, not the town appropriation



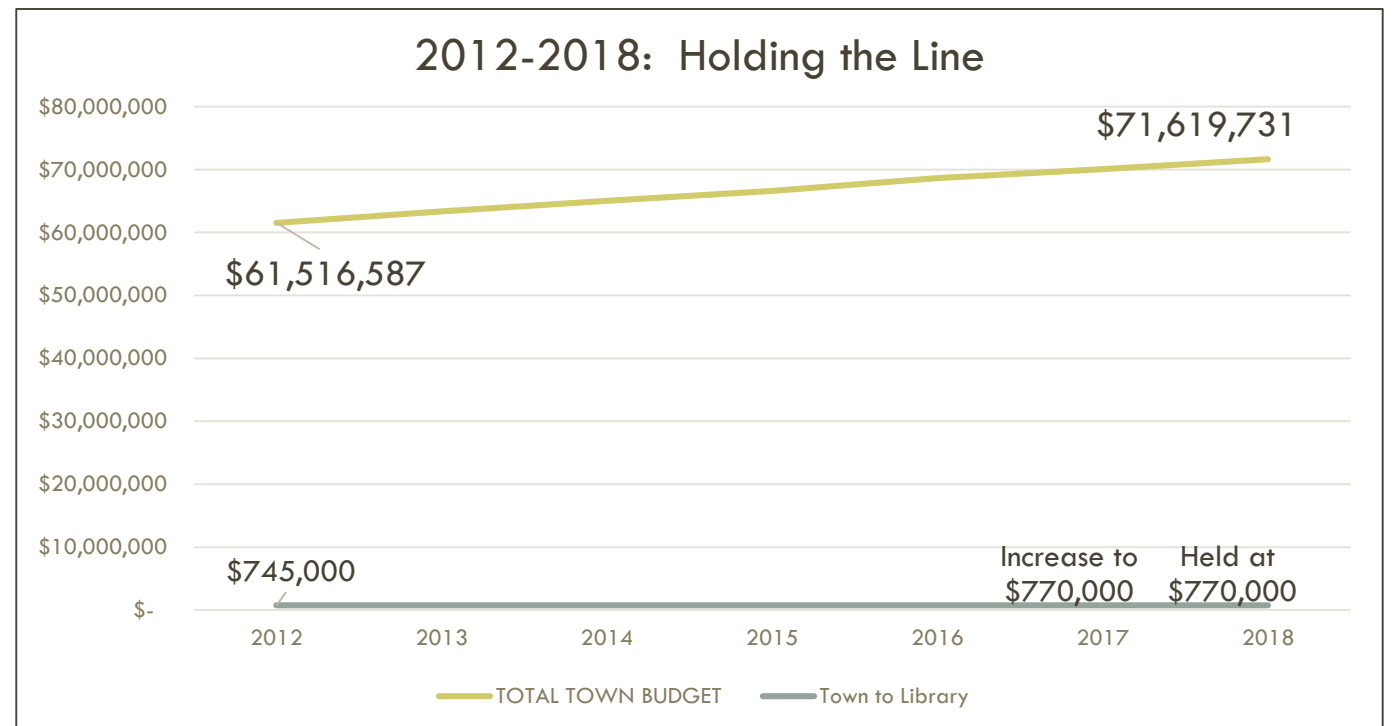
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A careful steward of public resources

We have been frugal with the Town appropriation—which has only grown 3.3% over the past 8 years

Despite flat funding last year, we:

- Maintained restoring Monday hours at the Main Library, allowing us to be open Monday-Saturday
 - **Monday & Friday: 10-5**
 - **Tuesday thru Thursday: 10-8**
 - **Saturday: 10-4**
- Maintained full-day hours to keep the Oakville Branch open on Thursdays until 4:00
- Covered rising health insurance costs
- Enhanced programming for children and adults



BY THE NUMBERS: HOW WE STACK UP



A careful steward of public resources

- ▶ The Main Library and Oakville Branch served 14,628 registered borrowers in 2017, posting attendance three times the town's population, and saw more than 68,000 items in circulation.
- ▶ 56% of Oakville and Watertown residents have a library card

[State average: 42%]

[State median: 40%]

[45% is considered excellent]

2017-18 by the Numbers

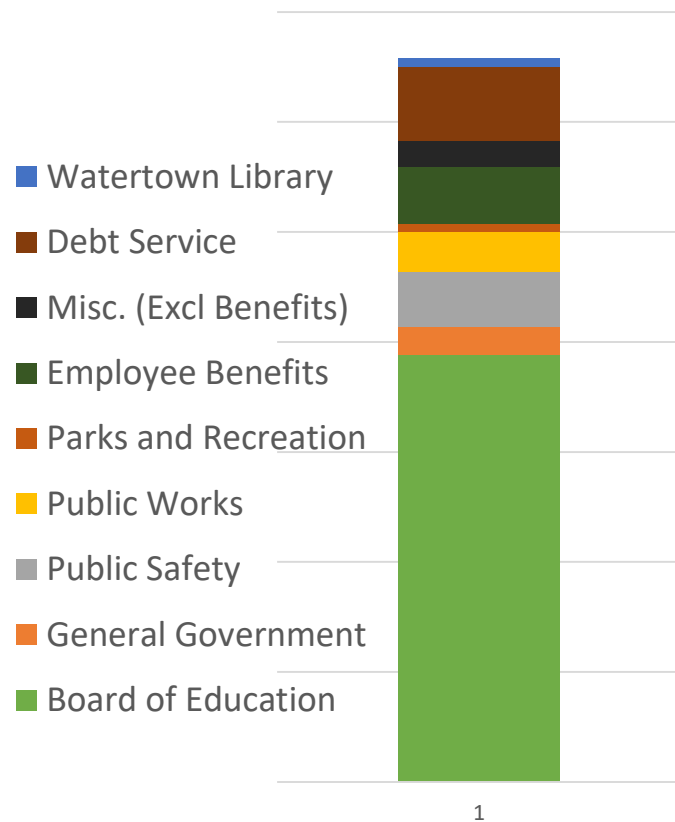
Registered resident borrowers	12,248
Attendance	62,822
Total service hours	3,826
Programs	53
Items circulated	68,441
Computer use	38,125

BY THE NUMBERS: HOW WE STACK UP

A careful steward of public resources

On a per-capita basis, support for the Library is very much in line with our surrounding communities

FY 2017-2018
TOWN OF WATERTOWN BUDGET



Library Appropriations Per Capita	
Woodbury	\$68.49
Thomaston	\$68.19
Statewide Average	\$50.00
Middlebury	\$54.58
Morris	\$47.11
Bethlehem	\$39.23
Plymouth	\$38.99
Southbury	\$37.00
Watertown	\$35.80

“IT’S TIME TO RENEW OUR LIBRARY”

We begin 2018 with an eye to boosting our value as Watertown and Oakville’s community center for all generations, inviting all to join us to:

- Borrow a book or download an eBook or Audiobook
- Visit our website at www.watertownlibrary.org
- Join us for our programs and reading groups
- Use our public meeting spaces
- Utilize our Wi-Fi with your own devices or use our public access computers and printers
- Take advantage of museum passes and discounts
- Come shop at The Book Nook





THANK YOU.