

Looking to the Future

RUSHFORD FREE LIBRARY 2022 BUDGET VOTE

Our Story:

The Rushford Free Library has served as a vital community resource for over a century. Community members established The Rushford Free Library Association on January 12, 1915. In 1960, the library received its formal Charter from the N.Y.S. Board of Regents, joined the Southern Tier Library System (STLS), and relocated to the Town Hall. Later, the library moved to its current location. STLS membership continues to be a valuable resource, giving us access to books, audiobooks, e-books and e-magazines, and to training for librarians and board members. STLS membership also enables us to borrow books from STLS member libraries in five counties. In addition to traditional print books and magazines, the Rushford Free Library offers audiobooks, DVD's, electronic resources, and access to computers and wifi service. You can even check out a jigsaw puzzle or a science kit. The library offers a variety of programs for children, including StoryWalk ®. The library serves as a small group meeting place for adults, including a Book Club and the Needlers craft group. In 2022 we are looking to the future--hoping to update library facilities, expand adult programming, and continue to develop a circulating collection that will serve the community's 21st century needs.



The Library is pleased to provide the following Services to the Community

- ♦ Books for all ages
- ♦ Audios and DVD's
- ♦ Downloadable books, movies and magazines
- ♦ Electronic Databases
- ♦ Inter Library Loans
- ♦ STEAM Kits
- ♦ 4 public computers
- ♦ Free Wireless High Speed Internet Access
- ♦ Public Copier and Fax
- ♦ Preschool and Children's programs
- ♦ Pre-teen and Teen activities
- ♦ Summer Reading Program
- ♦ StoryWalk ®. Programs
- ♦ After School program once a month at the Rock
- ♦ Adult Knitting group and
- ♦ Summer Book Club
- ♦ Local History and genealogy resources
- ♦ Open 26 hours 5 days a week.
- ♦ Friendly staff to support your reading needs.

The library provides current, popular materials to serve the recreational and informational needs of patrons of all ages.

The library trustees believe this 2022 request will enable the library to provide quality services far into the future. To keep our library strong and to continue to grow with the changing needs of our community the library is seeking this increase that will provide sustainable funding well into the future. This funding will enable the library to purchase more library materials (books, audio, DVDs, STEAM Kits), and increase library programs for children and adults in our community. The increase will also enable us to continue to maintain our current building as we look into future plans for renovating or relocating the library. The library board's goal is to become an anchor and the heart of our town.

Why move full funding for libraries from municipal to school district support?



The Rushford Free Library has always received the largest part of its funding from the school district tax. While we are very grateful for municipal support, we feel that it is the best interests of both the town of Rushford and the library for us to transition to full funding for essential library services through the existing Education Law 259 public vote. With the school district, the library is a crucial educational resource for our community. To keep the library strong and to allow it to grow to meet our community's changing needs, we are seeking an increase that will make it possible for us to remain an anchor of our community. The increase will enable us stay up with the increasing costs of what we already do, and to meet increased payroll, materials and other costs of expanded adult and children's programs. It will help us to keep up to date with ever-changing technology and to improve our facilities. Our current location needs care beyond basic maintenance, so we are working toward the goal of renovating or relocating. We want our library to be a place that invites people and helps to revitalize Rushford.

How does this vote align with the Tax Cap?

In order to meet Public Library Minimum Standards set by the State Education Department, both libraries' trustees voted unanimously to override the Tax Cap. This override is a onetime measure to meet the service needs of the community.

What will future budget request from your libraries look like?

Library trustees believe this 2022 request will enable the libraries to provide services far into the future. Once approved, future budget requests will better align with the New York State Tax Cap which is set at 2% or the rate of inflation.

How will the proposition language read for school residents on the day of the vote?

Resolved: that the Board of Education of Cuba-Rushford School District shall be authorized to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$226,237.00 for Cuba Circulating Library and \$79,700.00 for Rushford Free Library to provide public library services and to deliver such funds to each library's Board of Trustees.

Local Tax Impacts for this Increase for Cuba Circulating Library & Rushford Free Library

	2021 Library Levy	2021 Library Tax Bill	2022 Proposed Levy	2022 Proposed Tax Bill	Change
Cuba Circulating Library	\$130,468	\$27.02	\$226,237	\$46.85	\$19.83
Rushford Free Library	\$40,225	\$8.33	\$79,700	\$16.51	\$8.18
Totals	\$170,693	\$35.35	\$305,937	\$63.63	\$28.01

The proposed increase for our libraries adds only \$28.01 to the annual bill of a home assessed at \$100,000. That is an extra 0.53 cents a week or less than the cost of a cup of coffee.

Copies of the 2022 budget are available for the public at the library. Feel free to stop in and ask for a copy.

What are the community benefits of this new library budget?

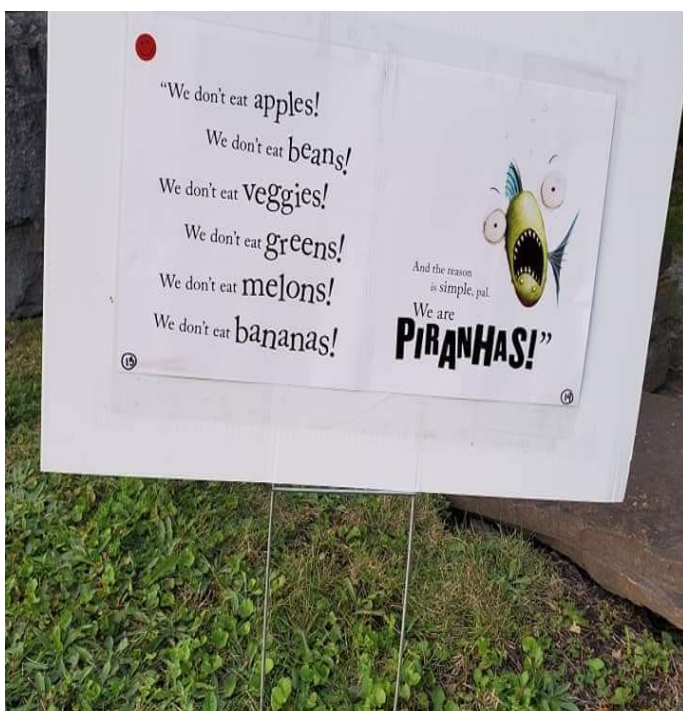
- Allow us to avoid deficit spending and to plan more effectively for library improvements.
- Provide more programs for children from pre-school to middle-school ages.
- Provide more programs and resources for teens.
- Provide more programs for adults.
- Provide more new books and library materials to create an updated collection.
- Provide more technology resources tailored to the community's needs.
- Create a more inviting space for browsing, reading, and working.
- Create a more usable and welcoming space for small group meetings and activities.

Are there sources of library revenue other than municipal or school district support?

Public libraries receive little support from New York State for essential services. We receive \$1382 through Local Library Services Aid. This amount is based on a NYS Education Department per capita formula. Public libraries in New York State receive 85-95% of their funds through local property taxes. Most libraries are fully funded by public votes through Education Law 259 or Chapter 414 of New York State 1995 Laws.

We seek grants, participate in fundraising, receive memorial gifts to purchase books and larger items when the funds are there, accept donations of new items and charge lost materials fees. However, these sources of revenue are not stable, and only represent five to ten percent of total operating revenue.

Children in our community have enjoyed the Summer StoryWalk ® program that we started in 2017. This photo was taken last year as a group of cousins read the book “Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas”



**Library Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the CRCS
Elementary School and Rushford Town Hall**

12:00pm. To 8:00 pm.



Please come out and support your local libraries.