



Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

Your Community Center For Lifelong Learning

Three Trustee Seats Open

Residents of Halfmoon will have an opportunity to vote for two positions on September 15. The terms of Linda Fennelly and Azita Hirsra expire on December 31, 2011.

Clifton Park residents will vote for one open trustee position created by the expiration of John Coniglio's term.

Information on declared candidates was not available by publishing time but can be obtained on our website, www.cphlibrary.org or at the Library.

The Library Board of Trustees is made up of eleven elected representatives, seven from Clifton Park and four from Halfmoon. Trustees serve a five-year term and are elected by their town's residents.



2012 Budget & Trustee Vote

Thursday, September 15, 2011
7AM-9PM

Clifton Park-Halfmoon
Public Library
475 Moe Road

Voter Information

What am I voting for?

The proposed 2012 Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library Budget and the election of three trustees. See sidebar for trustee details.

Where will the voting be held?

The vote will take place in the Library, 475 Moe Road, between the hours of 7AM to 9PM on Thursday, September 15 as prescribed by our legislated charter.

Who's eligible to vote?

Registered voters in the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon, living within the Library District, with proof of residency, including both renters and property owners. Absentee Ballot applications are available in the Library or online at www.cphlibrary.org for those unable to vote on the 15th.

How do I get more information?

2012 Budget information can be found in this newsletter, at the Library or on the Library's website at www.cphlibrary.org or attend a **Budget Information Meeting on Thursday, September 8 at 7PM**. You can use the QR code to access up-to-date information about trustee candidates and press releases.



2012 Proposed Library Budget-Revenues

	Adopted 2011 Budget	Proposed 2012 Budget	Description
Total Tax Levy	\$3,546,932	\$3,651,139	<i>Levy for Voter approval</i>
Other Public Funds	23,754	21,254	<i>Funds from state aid and grants</i>
Gifts	5,000	5,000	<i>Annual gift from the Friends of the Library</i>
Interest	45,000	5,000	<i>89% decline due to low rates (a)</i>
Fees & Fines	91,800	94,300	<i>Incremental increase in Library volume</i>
	\$3,712,486	\$3,776,693	2012 Proposed Budget
Appropriated Funds	104,253	97,835	<i>2011 bond payment on former building (b)</i>
	42,830	79,653	<i>Contingency (c)</i>
Total	\$3,859,569	\$3,954,181	A 2.45% increase for total budget

- (a) Note the precipitous fall (down 89%) in interest revenues due to historically low interest rates, presenting a significant challenge to the budget.
- (b) Included in the 2012 budget is the bond payment offset for the prior building.
- (c) The Board, in order to mitigate the impact of this increase, has applied previously appropriated funds, ensuring that the total budget remains within the cap. The **2012 budget proposal** contains a 34% or \$110,000 year-over-year *increase* in state retirement obligations.

The Tax Impact of the 2012 Library Budget on District Taxpayers includes a 3.29% tax increase for Clifton Park residents. This amounts to approximately an \$8.00 annual increase in Library Tax on a house assessed at \$235,000. Due to a change in equalization rates, Halfmoon property owners would see a 1.26% decrease amounting to a \$3.00 annual reduction in Library Tax for a house assessed at \$235,000.

2012 Budget 2% Cap Override

The 2012 Library budget is subject to the recently passed legislation establishing a 2% property tax cap. However the law allows for exemptions of some categories of cost and provides for a cap override if 60% of the members of the governing body pass a resolution to that effect.

The cost exemptions applied to the 2012 budget were minor and had little effect on the overall budget. Therefore, faced with the only other alternative of reducing services to meet the cap limit, the Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to override the cap by 0.59% at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on August 15, 2011.

The Library in the Community



Growth in patrons and services increase both value and return on investment. When the new Library was in the planning stages the Board of Trustees envisioned that a right-sized, modern library would attract a growing number of residents. History has proven the Board right as patronage has grown 33% since opening in late 2006 until today. Your Library is now serving 45,000+ active card holders. Other measures illustrate the growth. In 2010 we held 850+ programs for 22,000 attendees of all ages. A half million visitors walked through our doors in 2010 with another 350,000 visiting our website, now loaded with several conveniences and features that place library resources as close as a computer with Internet access.

The Library is at the crossroads of our community, a prime destination for residents young and old to satisfy a million different needs. In pursuing the highest mission, as the community's center for lifelong learning, the Library stands as a gateway for literacy, learning, self-improvement and fulfillment.

Everyone who uses the Library appreciates its value in more practical and personal terms. Many parents see the Library as a special place to bring their children for inspiration while developing skills vital to succeeding in school and throughout life. Job seekers see the Library as a placement center, a refuge where they can get help, write resumes and prepare for interviews. Many look to the Library as a place to save money by borrowing or downloading books, music or to take a continuing education course, learn a language or access the Internet. To others the Library is simply a welcoming place to meet friends, read a magazine, or attend a program.

For those focused on the bottom line, the Library delivers a 300% return on its annual cost when compared with commercially available alternatives. For these and many other reasons the Library has thrived with the support of the community. We thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to bringing the very best of Library services and programs to the community in the future.

Alexandra Gutelius, Director

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