



June 15, 2107

Dear Members of the FM Community:

The mission of the Fayetteville Free Library is to provide free and open access to ideas and information. The FFL creates and sustains this access with vision and with purpose. Our core belief is simple: by creating equal and open access for individuals to cutting-edge technology, unique and innovative learning opportunities and powerful ideas, people and communities will transform their lives.

In light of the recent budget vote we want our constituents to know of our commitment to maintain a balanced budget and retain the high quality of services that has been offered by the FFL.

Some community members have expressed interest in learning more about the structure and details of our operations and budget. As a result, we have compiled information on our operations and budget and placed it in the context of information from our sister libraries and local government bodies.

A brief overview of the compiled data is given below. We invite interested community members to visit the FFL website at www.fflib.org to view the full dataset.

The FFL, compared to its sister libraries, stands out in a number of ways:

- The FFL is open more hours than any other free library or public branch library in the Onondaga County system.
- It has more program sessions and the highest program attendance of any library.
- The FFL has the highest per capita and total collection use of physical and electronic material.
- It has the most Internet connections and highest computer use by library patrons.

In short, *the FFL is outstanding in the extent to which it serves the citizens of Fayetteville-Manlius and citizens of Onondaga County more broadly.*

The FFL budget and spending is in line with other libraries and local government institutions:

- The FFL has exceeded the tax cap levy, as have other local institutions (when calculating averages since 2012). Please see relevant documents on the FFL website, www.fflib.org for more detailed information.
- Spending on salaries at the FFL is largely in line with the majority of other libraries, and the amount of tax dollars going toward benefits is lower than many libraries.
- On a per capita basis, the FFL spends more than other libraries. However, the FFL serves a much larger population than its “charter to serve” area. The FFL has become widely known around the county as a premier community library and thus attracts patrons from a broad geographic area.
- The facility in which the FFL is located provides an extraordinary location for our activities as well as acting as a community center. However, the additional operating costs of this facility are a challenge.

We hope that the information on our website answers any questions you may have. Please get in touch with us at **board @fflib.org** if you have further questions. And thank you for your continued support of the Fayetteville Free Library.

The Fayetteville Free Library (FFL)