



Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees
152 Water Street
Gardiner, ME 04345

June 10, 2020

Dear Farmingdale Residents,

This letter is to ask for your continued support of the Gardiner Public Library. Our library offers immeasurable value to the people of Farmingdale, adding to our quality of life. Since we rejoined the Library in 2018 the number of card holders has increased 42% going from 205 to 291 with circulation increasing over 400% from 1500 pieces to well over 6,000.

While the Library has been closed during COVID19, they've continued to offer downloading of eBooks and audiobooks, streaming movies and TV shows, and Digital Maine Library resources. At this time the library's offering take out window services and hope to offer limited access into the building sometime in early July. In lieu of the library being closed these last few months, all library cards have been extended until 12/31/20.

In January of 2019, a fee structure was established so member towns (Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner) would pay an equitable share of the library's operating costs. This is based on a per capita charge that would be phased in over 4 years. Towns outside of the Gardiner School District pay \$7.50 per capita (Farmingdale included), while towns within the Gardiner School District pay \$10.00 per capita. This year our share was scheduled to increase to \$16,237.50. In light of COVID19 and the financial impact, the Gardiner City Council has agreed to freeze the charges to the equivalent of last year's charge of \$13,271.25.

Farmingdale's share is a small part of the library's total operating budget as we receive \$437,000 (COG), and the Gardiner Library Association's budget of \$82,000, worth of information and services, for a fraction of the cost. The building and grounds are paid for by a separate entity, the Gardiner Library Association, which has invested over \$1 million in renovations. What we pay goes directly to the vital information and services we receive.

Normal Library Hours: Monday 10:00-5:30 Tuesday, 10:00-7:30 Wednesday 10:00-5:30, Thursday 10:00-5:30, Friday 10:00-5:30 and Saturday 9:30-12:30 – staffed at all times with professional librarians who hold degrees in library or information science.

GPL Contact Information: Main Desk: (207) 582-3312, Children's Room: (207) 582-6894, Director (Anne Davis): (207) 582-6893, visit the Library's website and catalog: <http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/> or **connect with us on Twitter of Facebook.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Choate

Farmingdale Library Trustee to the Gardiner Public Library

Gardiner Public Library

- A truly regional library that serves the municipalities of Gardiner, West Gardiner, Litchfield, Randolph, Farmingdale and Pittston with a population base of about 17,000.
- With more than 61,000 visitors to the library last year, we are the anchor store to downtown.
- GPL circulates books, magazines, music on CD, books on CD, movies in Blu-ray, or in DVD format.
- GPL belongs to a consortium of more than 90 libraries across the state, and users may access the collection from any of these libraries with items requested coming to the GPL. This includes most public libraries, colleges, and universities in Maine.
- GPL received a grant to purchase e-readers and e-titles, so users may access online titles.
- GPL has an agreement with Waterville Library so that you may walk into that library and access the collection.
- Laptops that you may borrow and use within the library.
- Computers available to the public so they may access health information, career guidance and keep in touch with families.
- Fax service for a nominal fee.
- We have a 24 hour free wireless network.
- Staff is available for computer instruction. Please call for an appointment.
- Users may also download e-books at home from our website with a valid library card.
- Users have access to **Hoopla**, a site that allows free movie streaming and the ability to download music, books and graphic novels.
- Community Archives Room has a professional librarian to help you research your local history and your genealogy.
- Work has been completed to restore our Community Archives Room so that there is better air quality and lighting for researchers. No tax dollars were used in this project.
- Free access to the full version of ancestry.com within the library network.
- Story hour and crafts hour during the year.
- Staff will show you how to access the statewide database called **Marvel!**
- Staff manages 2 book discussion groups every month.
- Sources are recommended through website to enhance learning from home.
- Allows access to GPL calendar for viewing pleasure of upcoming events.
- Blog includes a wide range of remote learning links and more.
- Multiple ways the community can help the library is by becoming involved with book sales, building and grounds, exhibits, finance, Peg Shaw Garden, programs, special collections, and telephone/mailing.
- Contact information and location are easily found through website under Contact tab.