

# WATERTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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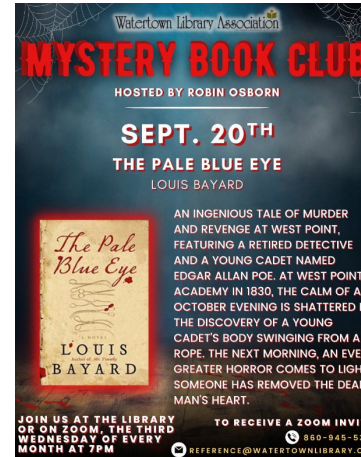
established 1865

**Presentation to Town Council**  
*20 February 2024*

# Serving The Community For More Than 150 Years

## *Providing a wealth of resources*

- Ever growing and rotating selection of titles with virtually unlimited access to e-books, audiobooks and video streaming
- On-site technology availability and support
- Quiet study space for learners and mentors
- Programs and offerings continue to grow:
  - Adult and children's programs and events have expanded (Woodward Atrium has afforded space for broader subjects and larger audiences as well as hybrid program offerings)
  - Take-home craft kits for children
  - Book clubs
  - Meet the Author engagements
  - Meeting space for community groups
  - Notary Services offered by our Adult Service Librarian

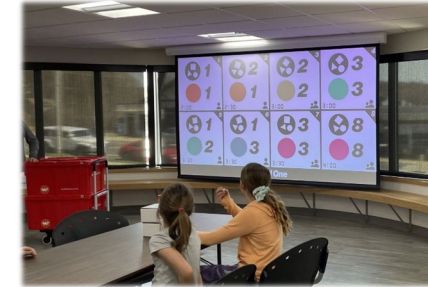


### ■ Watertown Author E.J. Yerzak

Award Winning Author and Cybersecurity practitioner E.J. Yerzak will discuss his work in Cybersecurity, his latest book, Denial of Service, and his writing process.

TUESDAY MAY 23  
6:30pm - 7:30pm  
Watertown Library  
470 Main Street

Registration Suggested: Call 860-945-5360 /  
Email: [Reference@Watertownlibrary.org](mailto:Reference@Watertownlibrary.org)



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# Performance

*Borrowers, library hours, events and programs continue to be on the rise*

- We served 11,250 registered borrowers in 2023, continuing to trend upwards
- 47% of Oakville and Watertown residents have a library card (CT Avg: 37%)
- Total service hours between locations: 3,150 (State Avg: 2,562)
- Total attendance: 52,100
- Total programs offered: 52



**BE CYBER AWARE!**  
Join Cyber Advocate Bryan Holmes to learn how to:

- Protect Yourself Online Shopping
- Safely & Securely Use Your Devices
- Be Aware of WIFI Usage

Wednesday November 8 @ 2:00pm  
OR  
Thursday November 9 @ 6:30pm  
(Both Sessions Contain the Same Content)  
Watertown Library 470 Main St.  
Registration Suggested 860-945-5360  
Reference@Watertownlibrary.org

**ADVENTURE BEGINS at Oakville Branch Library**

Thursday, August 10 at 11am  
Basics of Illustration with Bill O'Connell  
Children 8-11

Thursday, August 17 at 11am  
Stuffed Animal Workshop  
Children 6 and up

Thursday, August 24 at 11am  
Bubbles, Bubbles and MORE Bubbles  
Children 6 and up

Registration is Required for each date.  
Please email OakBr@watertownlibrary.org  
Or call 860-945-5368  
For more info see WatertownLibrary.Org



**Tales from Connecticut's Aviation History**

**Our Speaker - John Gilio**

- Author of seven historical books. Helicopter Evolution is listed as a Smithsonian reference guide.
- Inducted to the Smithsonian for a grant funding a CT speaking tour of the history book, Women's Work in WWII.
- A credentialed researcher in the U.S. National Archives, a member of the Organization of American Historians and the Association for the Study of Connecticut History.
- He has presented his historical research in over 500 events across the country.
- Retired from corporate America after earning a U.S. Presidential Volunteer award for his work with Partners in Education.
- Multiple history courses at University of London, an MBA, with additional training through Executive education at Wharton School.

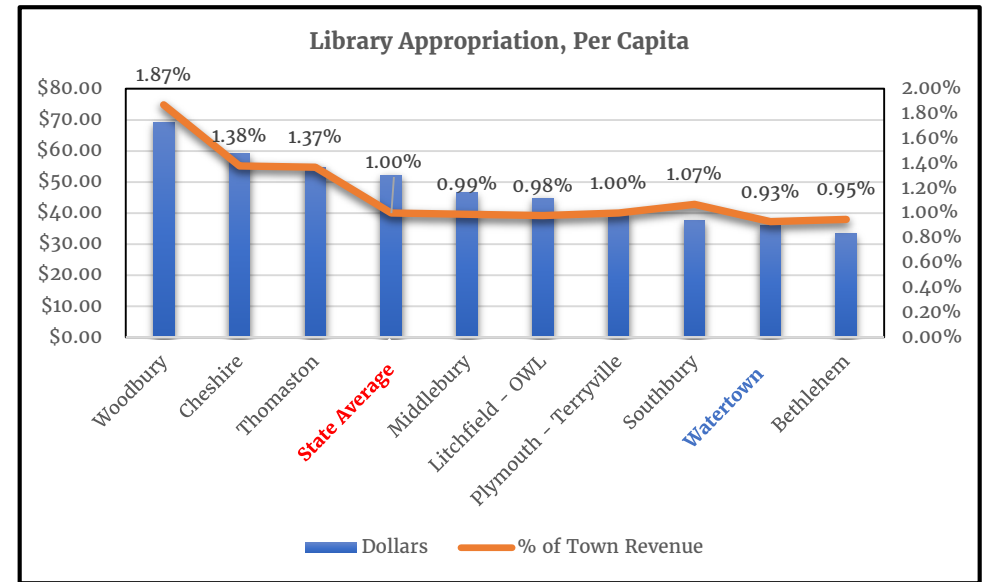
Author of seven historical books

and 25+ presentations

[vintagefyer.com](http://vintagefyer.com) for the most current listing

*A very careful steward of public resources*

- Support for the Library is in line with area communities, on a per-capita basis:



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# Partnership

## The Town:

### Annual appropriation funds ongoing services and operations

- Books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs
- Access to online information using available technology or open Wi-Fi connectivity, e-books, audiobooks, and video streaming
- Staff wages and benefits

## The Library:

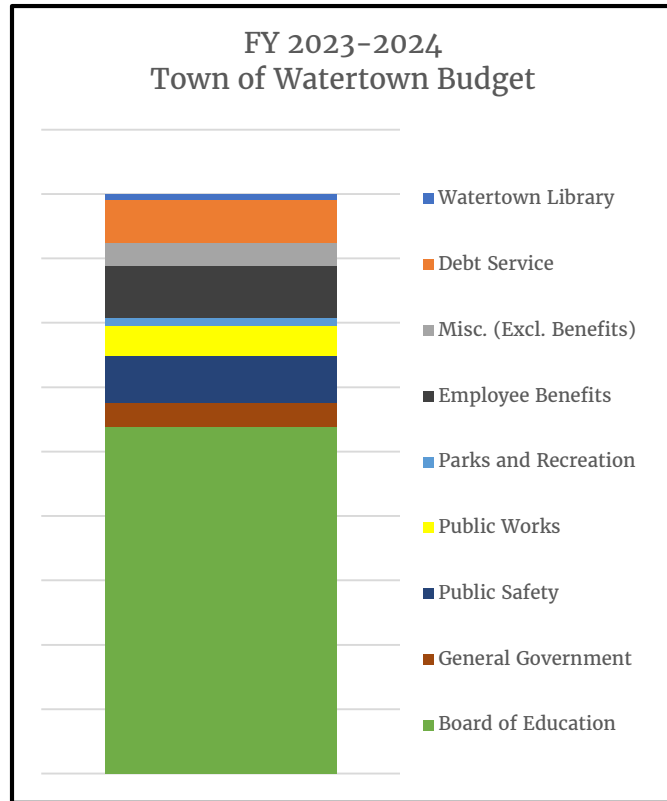
### Responsible for ALL capital projects, aided by local foundations and The Friends of the Watertown Library

*In last 10 years (>\$1 million)*

Woodward Atrium and technology systems; New Book Nook; water drainage, HVAC, Wi-Fi, and lighting upgrades; Telephone and firewall system overhaul; entrance, stairs, restroom upgrades

*In 2023*

Furnace and hot water heater replacements at Branch; Staff IT equipment upgrades; cost-effective landscaping/maintenance plan put in place



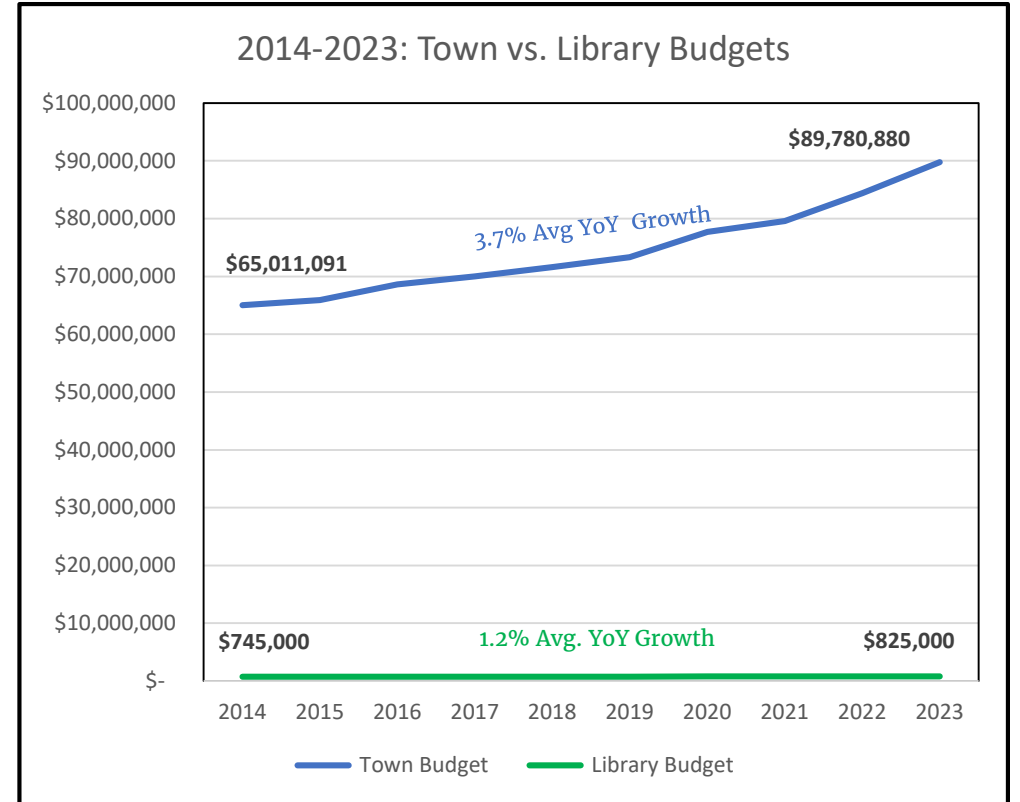
# FY 2024-2025 Request

Requesting a 3% increase over FY 2024 which will provide for

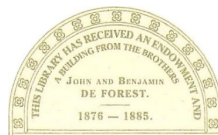
- A 3% wage increase for employees
- Provide funding for the best-in-class library service hours and online resources
- Includes funding for the in-demand and well attended adult, children, and multigenerational program offerings
- Assures funding for the realized and expected increased cost of utilities, service contracts, and maintenance supplies

	FY 2014-2023	
	Total Growth	Average Growth
Town	38.1%	3.7%
Library	10.7%	1.2%

	FY 24-25 Request	
	Request \$	YoY Growth
Library	\$850,000	3.0%



# Thank you!



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