

—Slug:.....COMM-0848.opin.letter.000\_schiff  
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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....42903

[REDACTED]

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

<sup>1</sup> Please, no cuts to library budget

#####END HED#####

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<sup>2</sup>

#####END SUBHED#####

<sup>3</sup> TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

<sup>4</sup> I ask that the Selectboard not go forward with the  
<sup>5</sup> proposed 8% cut to the Brooks Memorial Library budget.  
<sup>6</sup> The library is a unique institution in the town that serves  
<sup>7</sup> all social classes, all income and education strata. It is effectively  
<sup>8</sup> the living room of Brattleboro. And it serves many human and  
<sup>9</sup> humane service needs of the community — heat, cooling,  
<sup>10</sup> bathrooms, community, kindness, resources, information, culture,  
<sup>11</sup> and education, all free to the patrons.

12 Cutting the budget means either fewer hours or fewer  
13 staff. Either choice makes incumbent staff work harder, as the  
14 demand won't decrease along with fewer dollars. As it was, the  
15 budget also proposes cutting \$20,000 for backup/substitute  
16 coverage, necessary as there are no provisions under current  
17 funding for covering vacation and sick time for the current  
18 workers.

19 I have been on the library board of trustees for the past  
20 eight years and have worked in human services in Brattleboro for  
21 more than 30 years. And I understand the need to rein in costs to  
22 minimize tax increases.

23 I would like the town to consider the idea that the library  
24 funding, alongside the BRAT Team, effectively covers a  
25 respectable public sector obligation to human services needs.  
26 What we fund through these services accomplishes far more than  
27 the symbolic amounts of money we give to the various nonprofit  
28 human services organizations.

29 An open and staffed library saves the town money  
30 through the reduced social costs that it helps prevent. Please  
31 don't cut its budget.

#####END TEXT#####

Bio/COATTAIL:

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#####END BIO/COATTAIL#####

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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