

—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

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Please, no cuts to library budget

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I ask that the Selectboard not go forward with the proposed 8% cut to the Brooks Memorial Library budget.

The library is a unique institution in the town that serves all social classes, all income and education strata. It is effectively the living room of Brattleboro. And it serves many human and humane service needs of the community — heat, cooling, bathrooms, community, kindness, resources, information, culture, 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:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

32

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

33

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

34

###END LINKS###

VIDEO:

###BEGIN VIDEO###

35

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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36

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