

# FRIENDS OF THE UXBRIDGE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

15 North Main Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569  
[www.UxbridgeLibrary.org/uxbridge/friends.asp](http://www.UxbridgeLibrary.org/uxbridge/friends.asp)

RE: Library Budget Cuts

Dear Friend,

It has recently come to the attention of the Friends of the Uxbridge Free Public Library that the Uxbridge Board of Selectman (BOS) has proposed budget cuts to the Uxbridge Library at a recent Financial Committee meeting (A replay of the meeting can be found on Channel 11--the issue regarding the library comes toward the very end of the meeting). At the meeting a recommendation was made to make cuts in the Library budget, in order for the Department of Works (DPW) to fund an additional employee in their department. Though we respect the BOS, and understand that they are required to make difficult decisions for our town, we believe it is unreasonable to take funding away from the library since the library provides valuable services to the town residents. Some points to consider:

- The proposed funding cuts would be between \$3,000-60,000. This cut would be IN ADDITION to the already proposed \$6,027 reduction from last year's budget figure.
- The *library may lose certification* due to the lack of town funding. Loss of certification would cause:
  - The library to lose funding from the Massachusetts Library Board of Commissions State Aid Program for the Library Incentive Grant, the Municipal Equalizer Grant, Non-Resident Circulation Offset, as well as State and Federal Grants.
  - Membership in the C/WMARS would be impacted. This program is what allows our residents to borrow library materials from other area libraries. Loss of membership would impact information sharing, technical assistance, and other benefits.
  - Loss of access to state and federally funded online databases
  - The Uxbridge Library would have to pay to acquire circulation and cataloging software--a resource the library currently has through C/WMARS.
  - Loss of Library Page staff, and/or custodial staff, and/or other staff members.
  - Reduction of hours, limiting access to library materials, library staff, computers, internet connection, etc.
- After loss of certification, the process to regain it cannot begin until sufficient funds are returned to the library budget. On average it takes 1-3 years for the process, but can take as long as 5 years once funding is restored.

In these tough economic times, the Uxbridge Library is being utilized by town residents:

- The Uxbridge Library has seen an increase of 41.86% in computer usage over the previous year
- The Uxbridge Library had a 64.1% head count over the previous year
- 429 Museum passes were borrowed, saving our patrons a total of \$4,874
- 1,644 people attended at least one of 129 programs offered in 2010
- 230 Children/Young Adults, and 44 Adults participated in the 2010 Summer Reading Program

The Uxbridge Library is asking to keep the funding needed to maintain its current level of services and State/Federal funding. If you agree, we ask that you **voice your opinion by sending a letter of concern to : Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569.**

We thank you for your support,  
The Friends of the Uxbridge Library Board Members

Lisa Anderson, President; Laura Derderian, Vice President; Linda Fraga, Secretary; Cathi Harding-Cone, Treasurer; Bernadette Bazzett, Co-Treasurer; Tina Valliere Alberto, Publicity; Beth Snyder, Membership; Amanda Ayers, Nominations; Peggy Arnold, Member At Large.