

West Falmouth Library



FUNDING OUR FUTURE *\$1.1M Endowment Campaign*
CASE FOR SUPPORT

“The community was built around this epicenter of reading, learning, and conversation. The unique timelessness of the West Falmouth Library reminds us of the quintessential values of family, neighbors, and community...As such, the Library is the foundation for the community’s sustainability.”

Historical Highlights

The Library traces its roots back to the 1870's when five young women from West Falmouth formed "The Young People's Union," which met weekly for literary and musical programs. The Young People's Union became the state-chartered West Falmouth Library Association in 1893 with 800 books in its possession. R.J. and Abby (Grant) Mendenall of Minneapolis donated land for the Library and D. Wheeler Swift funded construction. The building was dedicated in 1896 and an endowment was established.

An addition to the building was completed in 1972 and adjacent land was acquired in 1997.

The Library became an active member of the Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS) Network in 2008, giving patrons access to a wide collection of materials to borrow.

Over the years, West Falmouth Library's central role in the community expanded. Beyond typical library services, it became a popular community meeting and gathering place for residents and visitors alike. As the building continued to age and its use became more dynamic, it was clear that the building needed capital improvements.

To address the host of building needs identified in the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors and the Building Committee accepted a conceptual design that proposed restoring the original 1896 building, renovating the 1972 addition, and building a new 2,100 square-foot addition at a project cost of \$2.9 million.

Restoration and expansion were designed to ensure that the structure would be accessible, useful, and aesthetically appealing for generations to come. Construction was completed on schedule and on budget, and West Falmouth Library resumed services on June 27, 2017.

The new facility can accommodate a wide range of both indoor and outdoor programs and activities. Renovations addressed many accessibility needs, including a modern elevator and new accessible restrooms on each floor.

Other improvements include:

- An updated lower-level activity room
- A new climate-controlled archive room
- New comfortable space for quiet reading
- A new deck and outdoor terrace
- Wireless service throughout the building and deck
- Computers available for public use

The building is up to code and nearly all the building's systems have been modernized. Additionally, the building project increased the building's occupancy capacity so it can accommodate expanded attendance at concerts, lectures, and other functions.

Today, the staff and Board of Directors are guided by an updated Strategic Plan, adopted in 2020, that sets the foundation for the future.

A Contemporary Library

A welcoming community center, West Falmouth Library provides contemporary library services that support the educational, cultural, social, and informational needs of patrons of all ages.

In addition to offering a varied collection of books, e-books, periodicals, movies, and other materials, the Library provides a myriad of community resources as well as diverse programming. Programs include author talks, speakers on current affairs, poetry groups, concerts, storytellers, after-school activities, and early literacy programs for children—to name a few.

The Library also serves as a meeting place for various activities, such as book groups, bridge, mah-jongg, and knitting. Meeting space is available for Town of Falmouth committees, local nonprofits, and community organizations.



The Need: Long-Term Financial Security

West Falmouth Library is an independent, private nonprofit responsible for generating approximately 90% of its income. Presently, the Library receives about 10% of its \$250,000 annual budget from the Town of Falmouth. The remainder of the operating funds come from grants, the annual fund, fundraising events, and our endowment.

Prior to the pandemic, strategic planning had identified the need to increase the annual budget to effectively operate the Library. Specifically, an increased budget is necessary to support staffing, the acquisition of materials, building maintenance, and technology improvements. Economic changes resulting from the pandemic have made this need even greater.

To meet the need for an increased budget, we must increase our revenue. The Board of Directors agree that the most fiscally responsible way to do this is by increasing our endowment.

FUNDING OUR FUTURE

\$1.1M Endowment Campaign

Why Give

A \$1.1 million increase to the endowment will support our vision of having the financial foundation necessary for the Library to reach its full potential.

Your donation to this Endowment Campaign will enable West Falmouth Library to:

- Fund the necessary operating budget increase
- Ensure appropriate compensation for skilled staff
- Operate at full capacity
- Create long-term financial sustainability
- Sustain a robust and modern library for future generations

Please help us sustain this community treasure by making a donation today!

Ways to Give

There are many ways to help the West Falmouth Library meet their needs for the future. The Library welcomes and appreciates gifts of all sizes — the generosity of our friends is an investment in an important community resource.

We are pleased to offer a wide variety of gift vehicles to support the endowment campaign and to make giving a comfortable and rewarding experience. West Falmouth Library will be pleased to work with prospective donors in determining how they may wish to make a gift. It is expected that donors will consult with their financial advisors before finalizing a contribution and to seek professional advice regarding tax guidelines and the deductibility of gifts.

Gifts of Cash
Retained Life Estate
Gifts of Securities

Company Matching Gifts
Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets
Memorial or Honorary

Gifts of Real Estate
Gifts of Life Insurance
Gift Bequests

Donor Recognition

To honor and recognize the generosity of our donors, those giving at or above the \$1,000 level over a three-year pledge period will be recognized on a donor wall in the Library.

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