

STRATEGIC PLAN
2008 – 2013

Mission Statement

The LaFayette Public Library strives to enhance the quality of life in the LaFayette community by fostering a love of life-long learning.

LaFayette Public Library

History and Current Environment

The Lafayette Public Library was organized by the Town Council in 1936 and granted a provisional charter by the Board of Regents in that same year. In 1938, it was reported that the collection included 2,930 volumes and, after 2 ½ years of operation, 11,500 additions had been tabulated. As of this writing, the library's holdings are in excess of 29,000 items and the annual circulation is over 55,000. Funding is provided by the Town and Onondaga County, supplemented by private donations and a contribution from the Town of Pompey.

In 1966, the library purchased the Farrington homestead (built c.1878) located on Route 11 near the intersection with Route 20 in the center of LaFayette. In December 1996, the library moved to its present home on the lower level of the Town Commons, a little north of the prior location on Route 11. Funding for the new facility was primarily from the resulting sale of the old library, the money from which was turned over to the town. Monies were also received from a variety of foundations and fundraisers. The library currently pays a nominal rent for the space. Both the library proper and the community room are wheelchair accessible. The community room is located on the top floor adjacent to the court. There is ample, free parking.

The LaFayette Public Library is chartered to serve a population of 4833 (as per the 2000 census), yet is estimated to serve over 6,051. 1980-1990 population growth in the served area has increased 13.8% in the Town of LaFayette, 29.4% on the Onondaga Nation, and 18.4% in the Town of Pompey. These areas have demonstrated some of the greatest growth in Onondaga County. **This section can /will be updated after the 2010 Census.**

Since the library inception, a paid librarian has overseen the operations of the library, and a town-appointed Board of Trustees is responsible for its administration. The current staff includes one full-time librarian with an MLS degree, five part-time clerks, two pages and several volunteers. There are also two independent (but paid) people that run children's story hours. The library has had a "Friends of the Library" group in the past and hopes to rejuvenate it in the future.

Operating expenses include personnel (70.1%) library materials (14.8%), operations and maintenance (9.7%), equipment (2.2%) and other expenses (3.3%). The 2008 budget is \$139,363.

VALUES

- ❖ Reading is the most basic of survival skills in an information-driven society and we strive to increase the rate of literacy and reading comprehension.
- ❖ Provide free and equal access to information for the enrichment, empowerment and enlightenment of all individuals.
- ❖ Freedom of information and the right to privacy are essential elements of democracy; protecting intellectual freedom protects a democratic society.
- ❖ Library collections and services provide diverse points of view to meet the needs of our community.
- ❖ Library employees are committed to expanding their knowledge of ever-changing information and to applying that knowledge to make a difference in people's everyday lives.

ROLES

- ❖ **Child's gateway** ~~ to instill a life-long love of reading and learning in children through a rich array of materials and experiences shared with parents, caregivers and educators.
- ❖ **Homework connection** ~~ to help school-age children meet educational challenges through active collaboration with schools, parents, volunteers and youth.
- ❖ **Path for life-long learners** ~~ to serve as the focal point of inquiry and advice for adult education and independent living.
- ❖ **Info-place** ~~ to answer questions and provide reference and referral services using up-to-date resources and technologies.
- ❖ **Community-link** ~~ to initiate community exchange and information transfer through library programs, accessible meeting space, and co-sponsorship of community events.
- ❖ **Alliance for literacy** ~~ to provide, in partnership with the community, resources and services that foster individual and family literacy in English and other languages of the world.
- ❖ **Reaching out** ~~ to coordinate a planned and integrated program of library services to targeted populations.
- ❖ **Professional know-how** ~~ to bring the expertise of the information specialists to planning and decision-making councils within our profession and throughout our community.

GOALS

I Provide a secure, safe facility to:

- House and protect the library collection
- Meet technological changes in the library

II Provide sufficient space for library and community programs

- Conduct a public opinion survey
- Hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a building expansion
- Investigate funding sources
- Collaborate with town of LaFayette on expansion
- Hire an architect
- Implement proposed plan