

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

Abigail Hafer – Candidate for Library Trustee

Incumbent and Caucus Nominee



Events:

No events scheduled

Contact information:

2016 Citizen's Caucus Statement

My name is Abby Hafer, and I'm running for re-election as a library trustee. The library is an invaluable resource for the citizens of Bedford, and the trustees work to help it remain so. As the resources for accessing information have changed with technology, so have the library's offerings. At present, in addition to printed books and periodicals, and recorded DVDs and audio books, the library also offers the use of its computers and access to the internet, downloadable books and audio books, and access to databases that are useful in doing research on line. People have asked me if I see the library as a part of the social safety net. It is that, but it is also a social springboard that gives people many resources that allow them to improve their lives.

The library is a community resource as well. People benefit from the many programs offered by the library, from a cook book book club, to weekly films, to help with tax forms given by a retired accountant.

Library use is counter-cyclic. That is, when the economy is bad, library use increases. We had a string of record-breaking years for circulation in our library. In fact, circulation may still be breaking previous records, but it is harder to tell now, because books that are downloaded online onto electronic reading devices are not added in to our official circulation numbers, and numbers of these downloads (which we do count) have risen dramatically in the past few years.

I have been a member of the Trustees, member of the Library Corporation (a subgroup of the Trustees devoted to managing the use of bequests to the library), and Chair of the Trustees. I have enjoyed all these roles and look forward to continuing to help the library as a member of library's Board of Trustees. We have two members stepping down from the Board of Trustees this year, so I also look forward to providing continuity on the board and in the governance of the library. I hope that you will vote for me as a member of the library's Board of Trustees in this year's town election.