

November 7, 2023

Re: Friends of Maxwell Memorial Library Notice to Dissolve

Dear Maxwell Memorial Library Staff, Trustees, Friends, and Patrons,

The Friends of Maxwell Memorial Library would like to take this time to express gratitude to everyone who is a part of the Maxwell Library community.

For the past 30 years, the Friends have hosted bake sales, garage sales, geranium sales, fund drives, summer reading programs, Memorial Day parades, contests/giveaways, raffles, guest speakers, book chats, art exhibits, displays, holiday decorations, the bulk loan program at Fairmount Gardens, and more.

In 2019, the Friends were the recipients of the Daniel W. Casey Advocacy Certificate of Merit from the New York Library Association. This honor was given in recognition of their exceptionally active and creative service to a library in a smaller community.

In 2021, when many volunteer organizations went on hiatus or closed during the pandemic, the Friends continued to remain active. They started a Junior Friends program for tweens to become involved in supporting the library. That same year, the Friends received the National Friends of Libraries Week award from the American Library Association (one of two winners nationwide).

The group's mission has been to support and help fund library programs, collections, and materials not covered by the library's budget. The Friends have also promoted public interest in the library through a variety of outreach activities. Despite a continuing decrease in membership and fundraising activities, the Friends have given an average of \$2,000 annually to the library.

The Friends group would like to acknowledge everyone who has served as a Friend, including the "silent partners" who have unwaveringly supported the many projects the group has undertaken in this community. Thank you for your generosity and collaboration over the years.

It is with heavy hearts that the Friends of Maxwell Memorial Library have decided to dissolve their organization, effective as of November 21, 2023 (November 7 is the final business meeting). This was a difficult but necessary decision to make as many Friends continue to retire and/or move. Dissolving the 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation (established in 1998 by the New York State Education Department) will ensure that there will be no legal liabilities as the remaining Friends retire. Their remaining assets (\$4,700) will be used to purchase bookplate dedications in the library's collection.

It has been an honor and a privilege to support Maxwell Memorial Library for 30 years.

Sincerely,

The Friends of Maxwell Memorial Library