

FRIENDS NEWS

Spring 2026

VOTING MATTERS

The Library's 2027 Budget & 2026 Trustee Election will be held Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 9am to 9pm at the Cobleskill-Richmondville High School.

The proposed budget for 2027 is \$562,695. Over 11% of the budget is covered by state aid, grants, donations, and the fundraising activities of The Friends of The Library. The remainder is funded by the tax levy approved annually by voters in the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District. The tax levy request on the ballot this year is \$546,480 for budget year 2027. Your membership in the Friends is an important way to help our Library, but encouraging your friends, family members, and coworkers to turn out to vote in favor of the Library's 2027 tax levy on May 19 is another.

The eleven-member library board has three seats up for election this year. The candidates are Nathan Davis, Tania Konwinski and Colleen Mahar.

More information can be found at www.communitylibrarycobleskill.org/trustees

2025 LIBRARY USAGE BY THE NUMBERS

- ♥ 19,112 visitors
- ♥ 384 free programs attended by 3,864 participants
- ♥ 35,574 items borrowed
- ♥ 1,686 questions answered
- ♥ 1,434 public computer sessions
- ♥ 10,620 Wi-Fi sessions
- ♥ 980 organizations or individuals used library meeting rooms

Budget Note: The renovation/expansion project is funded through grants and donations and is not part of this budget. The cost of the new sign was covered through donations and grants and did not come from the Library's operating budget.

CONNECT WITH THE FRIENDS



FriendsCommunityLibrary@gmail.com

Friends of the Community Library on Facebook

2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Catherine Weidman
Vice-Pres.: Kim Walchko
Treasurer: Margaret Dafeldecker
Secretary: Jody Pugh
Membership: Sally Stroh
Fiscal Year: 7/1/25 - 6/30/26
Membership: 1/1/26-12/31/26

2026 MEETING DATES

(All meetings are on Saturdays at 10:15 am in the Study Room on the 2nd floor)

May 2
June 13 (Annual Meeting)
July 11
August 1
September 12
October 3
November 7
December 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In March, the Friends of the Community Library donated \$1,000 to support "Battle of the Books" at CRCS Middle School and the Library's May 9th Puzzle Race (see the last page for more details). Battle of the Books funds provide for the purchase of books, T-shirts, prizes, pizza, snacks and drinks. This year there were three middle school teams who battled it out on April 2. The students, coaches and volunteers had a great time.

Many thanks to all who volunteered to help. Special thanks to Courtney Little, Kim Zimmer, Laura Gagnon, Sally Stroh and Kim Walchko for all their hard work to make this possible for the students.

The winners were: CliffHangers

Last November was our first ever Art show silent auction. It was a huge success thanks to our local artists who painted on the old roof slates, our volunteers and all the generous people who supported us by bidding for the slates. The Friends donated \$4500 to the Library Renovation Project. Funds were dedicated to the new Teen and Children spaces.



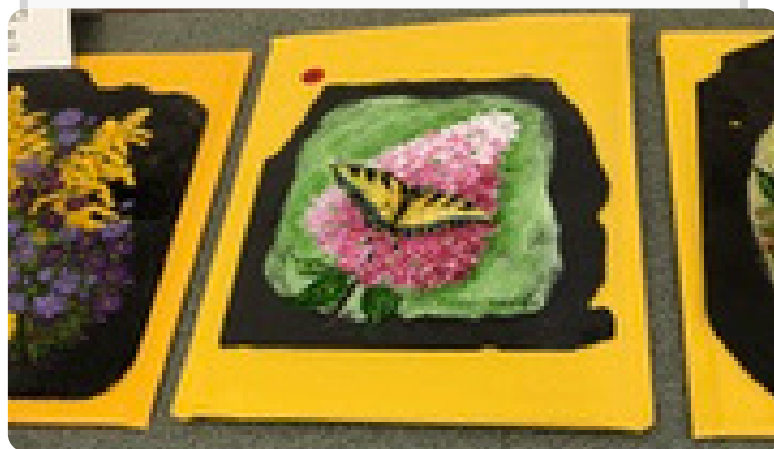
Team Name: CliffHangers



Team Name: Knight Readers



Team Name: Basketball Book Besties



PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

In April, the Friends donated \$3000 to the Library for the Summer Reading Program. We can't wait to see the Library all decked out for this year's theme.

We always need volunteers to help with our new and continuing projects. Please join us at any of our monthly meetings. Our next meeting for the basket raffle will be on June 13 at 11:15 in the Study room.

The Basket Raffle and Used Book Sale will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026 from 10am - 1pm. Ticket sales will start on Tuesday, September 1. Last year we had 48 baskets donated. We would like to increase that number this year. Please consider donating a basket this year. Forms will be in the Library this summer.

Our ongoing used book sale is happening at all times that the Library is open. Donations are always welcome.

County Libraries and the Friends were present at the Maple Festival on April 25, 2026 from 9am - 4pm at Progressland at the Fairgrounds.

If you have any questions about any of our projects or meetings, please contact me at friendscommunitylibrary@gmail.com

Enjoy Spring in upstate New York!

Cathy Weidman



SUMMER READING

This year's theme is "Dig Up A Story." Registration starts July 7th and runs through August 20th. The Wrap Up Party is on August 22nd. This program is for all ages!

The Friends donation supports decorations, book purchases, prizes, snacks, program supplies and more.



Our 2026 Membership Drive is underway. Membership donations account for a large part of our funds for the library. At this point we have 22 members paid since January and a total of \$1,370 raised from membership donations. Please renew your membership if you haven't already done so, or join us for the first time. We now have Venmo, making it easier to become a member.

THE FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Your membership helps fund special purchases and programs for our library.

Dues are a donation of at least \$10 a year.

A donation of \$25 or more entitles you to 10 free raffle tickets for our Basket Raffle in September.

Please check here if you prefer to decline the free raffle tickets.

Please fill out the form below and return to:

The Friends of The Community Library

The Community Library, 110 Union St, Cobleskill, NY 12043

Make checks payable to **THE FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY** or pay using VENMO (scan QR code and indicate that it is a membership donation).

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ Tax Receipt Yes No

Please check if you may be interested in volunteering to help The Friends with any of the following:

Basket Raffle Book Sales Staffing Events Publicity Battle of the Books Trivia Night

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

February is Love Your Library Month and many of you showed that love by purchasing books in support of our special February sale. Thank you for helping us raise almost \$160.

Don't forget that we have an ongoing book sale in the library basement. Check it out for books, audio books, DVDs and CDs. Happy Reading! Many thanks to all of you who donate your gently used books for our sales.



TRIVIA NIGHT @ THE LIBRARY

Our host librarian Don LaPlant will be holding Trivia Nights on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Contact us if you'd like to volunteer to help with the Friends Snack Table!

PUZZLE RACE

On May 9th at 11:00 am, teams up to 4 people have 2 hours to complete a 500 piece puzzle! Space is limited to 8 teams. The Friends are supporting the purchase of puzzles, prizes, and new card tables!

Register now at <https://bit.ly/PuzzleRace2026>

LIBRARY CARDS

Library cards now have a key ring card and are free unless you are replacing a card.



Replacement cards cost \$1.00.

♥ HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Sat., May 23rd for Memorial Day
Fri., June 19th for Juneteenth
Sat., July 4th for Independence Day
Sat., September 5th for Labor Day

♥ EVENTS @ THE LIBRARY

Visit the Library's events calendar and register for upcoming programs at:

<https://www.communitylibrarycobleskill.org/events>

♥ NEW LIBRARY ITEMS

You can view our new items at:

<https://bit.ly/CommunityLibraryNewStuff>

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10am - 8pm

Friday and Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

EARLY VOTING

Schoharie County Board of Elections is holding Primary Early Voting in the Library's Program Room June 13th to the 21st.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FRIENDS

The purposes of the Friends of the Library are to (1) create public support and awareness for the library and its programs, (2) raise money for campaigns or for gifts for items not in the library budget, (3) work for library legislation or increased appropriations, (4) sponsor and support library programs and events, (5) volunteer to work in the library or on specific tasks and projects, (6) and encourage gifts, memorials, and bequests to the library to be used as needed.