

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING REGARDING

### The Haxton Memorial Library

For Oakfield-Alabama Central School District Residents  
Regarding the Proposed Vote to Allow the Haxton Memorial  
Library to Become a School District Public Library  
Online information is at [www.HaxtonLibrary.org](http://www.HaxtonLibrary.org)

Details of the proposed district initiative and funding will be explained at a presentation at the Oakfield Government and Community Center, 3219 Drake Street in Oakfield, on Tues., March 28 at 7 p.m. by Carol D'Alba, President, Justin Staebell, and Lynette Crawford, of the Board Trustees of the Haxton Memorial Library. Residents of the Oakfield-Alabama Central School District are encouraged to attend.



*Your Windows  
to the World*

### PRESENTATION DETAILS

The Board of Trustees of the Haxton Memorial Library has formally requested that the Oakfield-Alabama Central School District hold a vote on whether the Haxton Memorial Library's governance and funding structure should change to a school district public library. The voters will be asked to vote on the proposition on May 16, 2023 at the same time and place of the Oakfield-Alabama School budget vote.

The Haxton Memorial Library's Board of Trustees invites all residents of the school district to attend this informational presentation to learn about the proposed transition of the library to a school district public library.

The Haxton Memorial Library Board of Trustees has decided to pursue becoming a school district public library in order to stabilize its funding and provide elected representation to the residents of the school district. The Haxton Memorial Library is not alone in this effort. In fact, the New York State Board of Regents urges libraries like the Haxton Memorial Library to become districts in order to subject library funding questions to a direct public vote.

As a school district public library, the Haxton Memorial Library's chartered service area would become larger than it is currently as it would become the same as the school district's, thus the name School District Public Library. The library's community-based funding would be voted upon by the qualified voters who live in the Oakfield-Alabama School District.

The library itself would remain housed in the same building, staffed by the same professionals, and governed by an independently elected board of Trustees. The school district would collect taxes on behalf of the library and turn those funds over to the library.

The school district would have no direct control over the operations of the library.

The change to become a school district public library is being proposed as a means to provide enhanced library services to all residents of the school district and to provide a secure and sustainable source of operating income for the library, which has seen a steady, growing use of services by residents in recent years. This would allow the library to be open 35 hours per week, an additional 10 hours from its current weekly schedule.

If passed, the voters would vote to establish the school district public library with \$158,790 in community-based funding. The library would no longer receive funding from the Town of Oakfield. This proposed level of community-based funding amounts to an estimated 57 cents per \$1,000 of assessed values on properties within the school district. Any future changes to the annual amount of this community-based support would be required to be put to vote again.

### WHY CHANGE?

The library has operated with a flat and/or decreasing budget while its funding has decreased over the past several years. The Haxton Memorial Library has not been able to order the materials, keep up with technology, and provide the programs to meet patron needs. In addition, patrons have asked for the library to increase beyond its 25 hour per weekly schedule. The impact of New York State's mandatory minimum wage laws that took effect from 2017- 2021 have also created significant budget challenges for the library. Without a secure and sustainable source of operating income, the future of the Haxton Memorial Library is uncertain.

Without stable funding, it is likely that the number of hours the library is open would need to be reduced, there would need to be reductions in staffing and programs, there would be fewer purchases of books, periodicals, and other materials and services, and the library may eventually have to close.

Residents are encouraged to attend the Public Meeting

or view the online information on the library's website at [www.HaxtonLibrary.org](http://www.HaxtonLibrary.org) to learn more about this initiative. For questions contact Board President Carol D'Alba by calling the library at 585-948-9900.

### **HOW WILL LIBRARY TAX DOLLARS BE USED?**

The community-based funding will pay for operating expenses, salaries, building operations and maintenance, enhanced library programs and services, computer software and upgrades, as well as the purchase of new materials.

### **HOW MANY EMPLOYEES DOES THE HAXTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY CURRENTLY HAVE?**

There is one salaried part-time Library Manager and two part-time Clerks that provide service for patrons during the 25 hours a week that the library is currently open.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS AFTER THE PRESENTATION?**

There will be two small one-on-one sessions at the Haxton Memorial Library for residents. They will take place on Thursday, April 13 from 7PM to 8PM and Saturday, April 15 from 11AM to 12PM at the library.

Residents can also contact Board President Carol D'Alba by calling the library at 585-948-9900 or ask questions via email at [haxmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:haxmemlib@gmail.com).

Haxton Memorial Library  
3 N. Pearl Street  
Oakfield, New York 14125

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

Regarding Haxton Memorial  
Library's Vote to become a School  
District Public Library online  
at [www.HaxtonLibrary.org](http://www.HaxtonLibrary.org)

In Person Meetings  
at the library on  
Thurs., April 13 at 7PM-8PM  
Sat., April 15 at 11AM-12PM

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## **HAXTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY Programs and Services**

**Preschool Storytime**  
**Baby Storytime**  
**Book Club**  
**Craft Nights**  
**Summer Reading Program**  
**Music and Dance Programs**  
**Art Programs**  
**Technology Classes**  
**Special One-time Adult, Family & Youth**

**Books, DVDs, Audio Books, Periodicals, Newspapers**  
**Copying, Faxing, Printing**  
**Job Search Assistance**  
**Interlibrary Loan through the Nioga Library System**  
**Training Classes for Technology**  
**Computer Workstations**  
**Internet Access**  
**Wi-Fi 24/7**  
**Electronic Services – Overdrive, Hoopla, Tumble Books, Libby**  
**Meeting Room**  
**Homeschooling Programs**  
**Workspace Available / Tutoring**