

# Support the Baker Free Library at Town Meeting on 5/13



**We need your help!** At Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 13th at 7 p.m. in the Bow High School auditorium, we will be asking town residents to add \$11,000 back into the library's budget. This amount was removed from the library's materials budget by the town budget committee. This cut equals 16% of the materials purchasing budget, which puts us back to our 2006 purchasing level. *The library is not asking for an increase in the budget to start new services. We are asking for the restoration of \$11,000 to offer the same level of service in 2009/2010 that we are offering to residents right now.*

Here are some facts for Bow residents and library users to consider:

- 2008 circulation increased 10% over 2007 circulation, with two-thirds of Bow residents owning a library card. This trend of increasing use has continued in 2009, with significant double-digit circulation increases for DVDs, new Adult books, CD Audio Books, and CD Music.
- The town budget committee's proposed budget for the library is \$427,840, which calculates to 1.6% (or 35 cents) of the projected 2009 tax rate. For this \$427,840 budget figure, the tax impact of the library on the average home in Bow (valued at \$325,800) would be \$114.
- By voting to restore \$11,000 to the library's materials budget, the library's overall budget would be \$438,840. Taxpayers would see 1 cent added to the library's portion of the projected 2009 tax rate. This means the library's portion of the average homeowner's tax bill would be \$117.
- **If a family used the library to borrow two new books and three DVDs *PER YEAR* instead of buying them, the value equals \$120, which offsets the annual tax impact of the library per average household.** This calculation was determined by using the [Library Use Value Calculator](http://www.bowbakerfreelibrary.org) tool on our website ([www.bowbakerfreelibrary.org](http://www.bowbakerfreelibrary.org)). If more library materials are borrowed or library services are used, the annual savings for the family will significantly increase.

Please consider supporting the library's effort to maintain current library services for Bow residents in 2009/2010. If you have any questions or comments, contact Library Director Lori Fisher at 224-7113 or [bfldirector@comcast.net](mailto:bfldirector@comcast.net). Hope to see you at Town Meeting!