



Riverhead Free Library Shares Update on Changes Involving Friends of the Riverhead Free Library

We understand that many in the community have questions about the Riverhead Free Library's (RFL) transition away from its long-standing relationship with Friends of the Riverhead Free Library (Friends), an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

This decision was carefully considered and follows years of effort to realign priorities. Over time, the Friends' focus has shifted away from fully supporting RFL's programs and needs. Despite numerous attempts to reconcile these differences, it became clear that the best path forward was to seek a new nonprofit partner that is fully committed to supporting RFL's mission and services.

We recognize that the Yellow Barn holds a special place in the hearts of many Riverhead residents, and we want to assure the community that RFL is committed to reopening it as soon as possible. While there may be a temporary pause in operations as we work through this transition, our goal is to ensure the continued availability of affordable, gently used books at the Yellow Barn as well as other library programs.

We are currently engaged in discussions with the Friends to facilitate an amicable transition, including determining the future of the book inventory housed in the Yellow Barn. As these discussions are ongoing, we appreciate the community's patience and understanding. It's important to note that this transition will not impact the library's proposed 2025-2026 budget or tax rate. The programs previously funded by the Friends were never part of RFL's core budget, and we fully expect to continue offering similar programs with future nonprofit partners.

We value the community's support and engagement during this process. Updates will be shared as more information becomes available.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Library Director Kerrie McMullen-Smith at 631-727-3228 or email kerrie.mcmullensmith@riverheadlibrary.org.