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Trustees of the Bacon Free Library Announce Bacon Free Library Capital Campaign

Natick Mass., May 28, 2019 – The Trustees of the Bacon Free Library today announced the launch of the Bacon Free Library Capital Campaign with a kickoff event scheduled to coincide with the BFL Summer Reading Kickoff Party on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm.

The Bacon Free Library first began in the parlor of Mrs. Sarah Griffin Bacon’s home in the 1800s as the Ladies Social Circle Library. After she passed away, her husband, Oliver Bacon, obtained the land where the library is sited and first built a small library. When Oliver Bacon later passed away in 1878, his will established a trust to build and operate a more substantial structure, which is still the current Bacon Free Library building. In 1908, the Massachusetts legislature passed a statute forming the library as a charitable corporation, and it has operated in that form for well over one hundred years.

While the Town of Natick has provided financial support for the library services since 1951, including salaries of the library director and staff and financial support for the collection, operating costs, maintenance and upkeep of the library building are the responsibility of the non-profit corporation. The library relies on generous donors and volunteers to operate. For instance, charitable contributions and the library endowment fund the library programming as well as building maintenance and improvements, while volunteers (through the Friends group and separately) help with programs and special events.

The goal of the Bacon Free Library capital campaign is to address several maintenance issues which are key to the longevity and health of the library building and its operation. The first phase of the BFL capital campaign, which totals \$255,000, focuses on the replacement of the existing and failing library windows with more historically accurate and energy-efficient windows as well as the repair and redesign of the interior space.

The Trustees of the Bacon Free Library look forward to kicking off the Capital Campaign – and Summer Reading! – with this special event on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm. Award-winning children's singer & songwriter Stacey Peasley will perform, snacks and further information regarding the capital campaign will be available.

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