



## Massena Public Library

41 Glenn St.  
Massena, NY 13662  
(315) 769-9914  
maslib@ncls.org  
massenapubliclibrary.org

The Badenhausen (Brasher) Library, a branch of the Massena Public Library, will be permanently closing by December 31, 2021.

In 2014, Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen saw the need in Brasher and the surrounding area for an educational and cultural center. She very generously funded the startup costs for the library, as well as the operational expenses for seven years. Dr. Badenhausen's friends, Pat McKeown and Karen St. Hilaire, were instrumental in setting up the library to honor her and her commitment to Brasher. The library operation was overseen by Elaine Dunne, Director of the Massena Public Library.

A practical and sustainable means to continue the library was sought in anticipation of the depletion of Dr. Badenhausen's funding at the end of 2021. Pat McKeown, as a Friend of the Badenhausen Library, approached the Brasher Town Council to financially support their hometown library, as well as provide financial management. The Brasher Town Council was unable to commit to the responsibility of even partially funding the library and leasing the space for it. The Brasher Town Council was presented the option to run the library on its own as a reading room and remain a member of the North Country Library System and its interlibrary loan system. The Brasher Town Council has declined to do this. Brasher Town Supervisor Mark Peets has stated that "We the board feel if we were to support a library which we have no legal responsibility to without the consent of the voters would be problematic." However, there is no legal impediment for the Town of Brasher to create a Brasher Reading Room without a public vote. A Brasher Reading Room would be completely new and have no relation to any existing libraries or prior library votes. The Massena Public Library cannot provide in-kind services for the Badenhausen Library indefinitely if the Town of Brasher cannot demonstrate any commitment to it.

Without a secure and stable source of funding, financial management, and commitment, the Massena Public Library Board of Trustees has unfortunately decided that the Badenhausen Library can no longer be practically operated and will need to close. Reading materials will be distributed to area libraries and organizations, according to Dr. Badenhausen's wishes in her Gift Agreement with the Massena Public Library. Any funds remaining after closing expenses will be donated to the Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen Legacy Fund held at the Northern New York Community Foundation. This Fund will continue Dr. Badenhausen's investment in programs enhancing the general health and well-being of St. Lawrence County residents, as well as arts, culture, education and wildlife conservation and preservation, in perpetuity. Those wishing to contribute to the Fund may contact the Northern New York Community Foundation at [www.nnycf.org](http://www.nnycf.org).



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While the closure of any library is a great loss to a community, the Massena Public Library and the libraries in the surrounding area continue to be open and welcome all. A North Country Library System library card allows access to materials and services at any of the 64 member libraries.

We thank the Brasher area community members for their patronage of the Badenhausen Library and know that Dr. Susan Badenhausen's value of learning and culture will live on.

If there are any questions regarding the Badenhausen Library, please contact the Massena Public Library at 769-9914.

Board of Trustees  
Massena Public Library  
October 12, 2021