

James R. Myers Bio

Victor Farmington Library Board of Trustees President James R. Myers' love of books began in childhood. He recalls the thrill adventure stories provided, and the faraway places they put at his fingertips. As a young man, he signed up to serve his country and fought in Vietnam. After almost two years in Southeast Asia, he returned home, married his loving wife Roxanne, and started a family.

Always good with numbers, James studied accounting at Rochester Institute of Technology, earning his Bachelor's of Science. His degree launched a 39-year career in finance and accounting. One of his favorite roles was serving as Chief Financial Officer at St. John's in Rochester, where the strong relationships he'd built with other leaders allowed him to guide the century-old 501c3 into the future.

Giving back to his community is important to James. He served on the Gates Chili School Board, and as President of the Gates Soccer League. As his children grew, his oldest daughter developed a love of reading which rivaled his own. "She was forever borrowing books, then forgetting to return them on time, which resulted in frequent visits to pay her overdue fines", James remembers. As a result, James got to know the library staff and was soon invited to serve on the Chili Library Board. Before long he was President of the Library Board, working closely with the Library Director and Town Supervisor.

When James and his wife downsized and moved to Victor in 2012, the Victor Farmington Library was already struggling with insufficient space. When the library's Board of Trustees learned of James' track record at the Chili Library and his recent move, they asked him to join the Board. His management abilities and vision were appreciated, and he was quickly nominated to assume the role of Board President. One of the things James likes best about the library is that there's something for everyone, regardless of their age or socio-economic group.

In addition to leading the way for the Victor Farmington Library, James works as the Hospital Services Coordinator for DAV (Disabled American Veterans), overseeing a team of drivers and making sure veterans have rides to medical appointments. As a member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 in Rochester, and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4 in Canandaigua, he advocates for better access to healthcare for veterans.

Asked about the new library project, James explains, "In the last 10 years there has been tremendous growth in both Farmington and Victor. Now, the existing building has outlived its usefulness to the community. As President of the Board, my role is to maximize what the library offers, while keeping a watchful eye on expenses." He continues, "A bigger library will increase home values and make Victor and Farmington a better place to work and live. I'm confident we can build a library that will serve the community well for generations, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers.