



**Director's Report – Tricia Perry**  
**Westwood Public Library**  
**3 December 2018**

**Staffing**

**Teen Librarian:** The Teen Librarian position was re-advertised as a 24-hour benefit eligible position, and we received 42 applications. We have selected a candidate, and this individual will be moving through the final interview process this week – so we hope to have a new librarian on board sometime before the new year!

**Custodian:** Matt Kuchta has been promoted to the position of Senior Library Custodian – as Kevin Craven has taken a new position at the Westwood DPW. On behalf of all of the staff and the Friends and Trustees and patrons, I want to thank Kevin for his 10 years of service to the Westwood Public Library and wish him every success as he takes on the new responsibilities at the DPW.

**Programming**

**Read Next!** – the new Readers' Advisory service inspired by the subscription box model—pairing readers with hand-selected reading options from library staff was rolled out in early November – and there are now 66 Library patrons registered initially for the new service.

Several staff are participating as selectors, including Lizzy McGovern, Molly Riportella, Kristy Pasquariello, Caroline Tighe, Liz Keefe and me. If you might be interested in opting in, please contact Molly Riportella at [mriportella@minlib.net](mailto:mriportella@minlib.net) or Lizzy McGovern at [ehmcgovern@minlib.net](mailto:ehmcgovern@minlib.net).



**Westwood Reads 2019: In process...** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Molasses Flood. Stephen Puleo's book "Dark Tide" will be paired with a teen read, "Joshua's Song" by Joan Hiatt Harlow. For younger readers, "Molasses Flood" by Blair Lent will also be highlighted. Stephen will be at the Westwood Public Library on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> to talk about his book, and we are working on adding additional programming options.

**Harry Potter Night** is returning – and will take place on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Winter Merriment** is a multi-author event which will take place at the Library on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Authors will be hosting one-on-one conversations with patrons and their books will be available for purchase and signing. Authors: Fiona Davis, Hank Philipi Ryan, Meredith Goldstein, Casey Sherman, Dave Wedge, John Harrison, Kim Nagy, and William Martin. Holiday crafts and refreshments will also accompany the author event. Was thinking that this might be an opportunity for the Friends to host a "pop up" book sale as well?

**Making Mystery – Holiday Improv Edition** – Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **Adopting a sister library in Iowa: Item for discussion by members of the Friends**

I wanted to share with you some correspondence that I recently received relating to a proposed partnership between the Westwood Library and FOL and an as yet to be identified library that we would potentially be "adopting" as a sister library in Iowa... This idea came about when J. Courtney Sullivan was here in Westwood - and there were a few of us standing in the gallery prior to her talk - and she mentioned the dire straits that some libraries in Iowa were in. I don't remember exactly who was part of the conversation - but I have followed up with the person that J. Courtney Sullivan suggested - and her message is below.

**From:** Tamara Deal <[tamaradeal@gmail.com](mailto:tamaradeal@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 4:11 PM

**Subject:** Re: Westwood Public Library partnering opportunity with Iowa Library

Your email moved me to tears. Thank you!

Meeting Courtney this summer was such a blessing! Through her assistance there are several rural libraries being helped.

I live in a very rural area - there are no stoplights in the entire county. Farming has been tough in recent years, especially for smaller scale farmers. The small towns where these libraries are located are definitely struggling. Many serve as a youth community center and a senior center as well as more traditional library functions. In the town near the farm where I grew up, the only time people even have access to a vending machine is when the local public library is open. There are no restaurants, no grocery stores, and no gas/convenience stores in the town. When I moved back to the area in 2011, it was shocking for me to see the boarded up windows, unpainted houses and unkempt yards. Meth is a problem in these rural areas. Yet there are bright spots like the public library where librarians offer programs and my church provides after school snacks. I have a reading education assistance (therapy) dog and we tutor there after school. It is tremendously heart warming to see positive things happening!

I'm sending this email just to you. I saw another email that suggested maybe your library should partner with a library facing one of the many disasters around our country. I recognize that they would also benefit from having a sister library. I tried to paint a word picture of what I see locally. Most are more economic disasters than natural disasters. If you would like me to find a sister library for you there are several towns which come to mind as very worthwhile candidates. Please let me know what your group decides - I would be very happy to help you arrange this!

Tamara

**On Tue, Nov 13, 2018, 4:24 PM Tricia Perry <[TPerry@minlib.net](mailto:TPerry@minlib.net)> wrote:**

Dear Tamara:

A few months ago, our library had the distinct pleasure of hosting J. Courtney Sullivan for an author event. She was one of the most enjoyable speakers we've had over the years, and her passion for literacy and libraries is amazing. J. Courtney and Molly Riportella, our Head of Adult Services, really hit it off together, and bonded over being new and working moms with children of a similar age.

Before her program, we were chatting in the gallery area – and she mentioned that she had recently traveled to several libraries in Iowa that were struggling financially and were unable to provide new books or materials to their patrons. One of the libraries had even started a “go fund me” page to solicit donations to purchase materials. Courtney had shared that information on her personal twitter account – and the response that she received was immediate and very generous. Even actor Alec Baldwin and Hilaria got involved, as did Hearst Media and a number of other publishers and individuals who contributed a selection of books for a variety of age ranges.

This prompted us to think about what the Westwood Public Library and our Friends of the Library group might be able to do for some other library that might be in similar straits. Our Friends group hosts two major booksale events at the Library every year, and many of the donations are practically brand new books or books that have been used so very gently that they appear to be new. And we thought that it might be a great idea for the Westwood Public Library to pair up with a “sister library” in Iowa and work with them to augment their collections.

I did briefly mention this idea to several of the Friends who were attending the author event, and they were all supportive and thought that the Friends would love to get involved. I've cc'd our Friends Booksale committee members as well on this email, so that they will be in the loop as well.

So, I guess the next question would be to find a library that you could pair us up with – and then we could work with their staff on developing a profile for what types of materials might be useful. I look forward to talking with you as we look at next steps that might lead us to be able to create this new outreach opportunity.

**Collection Development: Library of Things:** Several new items have been added to the Westwood Library's Library of Things – including a Wolverine Film Converter, portable dvd players, selfie sticks and knitting needles. We have been working with the staff of the Westwood Media Center as well on creating documentation to accompany these materials. Maggie McGinnis has created a video tutorial for the Film Converter, and is currently working on finalizing documentation and a video for the Video 2 Digital Converter tutorial.

**Picture Book Neighborhoods:** Throughout this past summer, the Children’s Department Staff redesigned the way in which picture books are shelved. Instead of arranging all of the titles by author, they have now pulled out a variety of “neighborhoods” which group books of a similar topic together. So, for example, “Things that Go” will have a collection of books about planes, trains, automobiles, etc., and “Dinosaurs” will be a collection all on its own. Claire and Caitlyn are now working with Kristy and Lizzy to complete the transition to a similar “Neighborhoods” arrangement at the Branch Library.

Books have a colored label for each neighborhood. The other 10 categories include:

- Concepts
- Favorites
- Feelings Friends and Family
- Holidays and Celebrations
- Longer Picture Book Stories
- Animals
- Tales: Fairy and Folk
- Seasons and Nature
- First Experiences
- More to Explore