



## Westwood Public Library Update

Tricia Perry, Library Director

19 October 2020

### Staffing

Molly Riportella, Head of Adult Services will be leaving Westwood at the end of October to take on a new position as Assistant Director at the Walpole Public Library. In her five years as Head of Adult Services, Molly has provided exceptional library services, and has worked collaboratively with her colleagues and co-workers to introduce a variety of programming initiatives; focusing always on the patron experience and sharing her passion for literature and libraries. We wish Molly the very best in her new position.

### The “new” Patron Experience in our Covid-19 World:

**June 29<sup>th</sup> – Curbside Holds Implemented**

**October 6<sup>th</sup> – Express Browsing introduced**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>: Expanded Options???**

Curbside Holds continue to be very popular, with circulation staff fulfilling approximately 300-350 holds per week. The most popular time slot for Westwood is the 10:30 am – 12:30 pm option. In the last 30 days, 886 requests were made directly by patrons using the Capira Curbside App (link to schedule pickups is included in the holds notification that is sent when items are ready for pick-up.) Patrons are also able to schedule same-day pickups by telephone.

Express Browsing, with special hours for Seniors was introduced as a “soft” rollout initially, so that we could identify areas of concern or options for enhancement. Browsing Hours are currently available by appointment Monday – Thursday from 10 am – 1 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm (Senior Hours 9 am – 10 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays); Friday 10 am – 1 pm and 3 pm – 5 pm; and Saturday 10:30 am – 12:30 am. At this time, the browsing collections are housed in the Community Room and Gallery area. Library staff are working on additional options for increased access as we move forward with additional phased reopening plans.

### Outreach Services:

Homebound Delivery (coordinated by Karen Gallagher) continues to be an important part of our community outreach, and the “Books and a Bite” collaboration between the Library (coordinated by Claire Connors) and the Council on Aging continues to grow in popularity. This week, Claire, Caitlyn and Karen delivered \_\_lunches and book selections. Lina mentioned this week that funding for the provision of lunches (Hessco Elder Services) will likely be available until Thanksgiving (and perhaps longer if funding is continued.)

### Programming:

The Youth Services staff are working on two new reading challenges and initiatives. In collaboration with the Early Childhood Council (ECC), Janet Lucey and Lizzy McGovern are focusing on the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten.” A reading challenge will be set up using Beanstack (which was also the program used for our Summer Reading Program.)

The Children’s and Teen and Adult Librarians are also coordinating Read/Work – a reading program for readers of all ages.

*“Read Woke is a movement. It is a feeling. It is a style. It is a form of education. It is a call to action; it is our right as lifelong learners. It means arming yourself with knowledge in order to better protect your rights. Knowledge is power and no one can take it away. It means learning about others so that you*

*can treat people with the respect and dignity that they deserve no matter their religion, race, creed, or color."*

-Cicely Lewis, creator of Read Woke and School Library Journal School Librarian of 2020

This program will also use the Beanstack application, and is available for readers of all ages. Participants earn digital badges for every suggested book you read in each category and answer the questions about the book to complete the challenge for each badge. Beanstack challenge is also a great tool to start educating the whole family through reading diverse books and completing exercises as a group to promote positive discussions about different cultures, religions, and race.

The Library is collaborating with local groups to provide Zoom Access for joint programming. This week, the Historical Society and the Library co-hosted a program with Michael Tougias. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Westwood Historical Society and the Westwood Public Library will be hosting a special genealogy program on "Tracing your family history" with Joy Marzolf.

A virtual "art gallery" is available to be viewed on the library's website: it is the Dedham Art Association's Fall Members' exhibit. This was planned as an in-person art exhibit in the Westwood Library Gallery. Due to the pandemic the exhibit has been transformed into a virtual art exhibit that is open every day at all times. We hope that you enjoy the artwork and welcome comments. Special thanks to June Tulikangas for working with the group and coordinating the jpeg uploads.

#### **Wentworth Hall Update**

A pre-construction meeting was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> to introduce Tower Construction, the successful bidder for the GC contract. Site work will begin in October, with work on elevator footings and utilities identified as action items. The panelization of Wentworth Hall is also a priority and they hope to have that work completed before the November 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

During this first meeting, concerns relating to longer lead times resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic were raised. This could potentially affect delivery of major equipment (elevator) as well as siding, doors and windows. To mitigate potential schedule delays related to procurement of construction materials, the contractor agreed to be responsible for providing a purchase and delivery schedule.

The project is projected to take approximately 9 months or so for completion. When complete, the new Wentworth Hall will include the offices of Youth and Family Services, the Islington Branch Library, and an expansive basement that will be available for use by municipal and community groups.

The Islington Community Center (ICC) The Islington Branch "Pop-Up" Library is currently being packed up, with some of the shelving units already re-purposed for use in the browsing areas at the Main Library. This effort is being coordinated by Claire Connors – and it will likely be completed by the end of October.