



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**June 14, 2021**

**Library Services:**

As of June 1st, 2021 the library is reopening to pre-covid procedures. The library is following Governor Baker's lifting of restrictions and are encouraging all unvaccinated individuals to wear masks but are not requiring patrons or staff to wear masks. We are still slowly adjusting to putting the library back together in terms of moving furniture and reimagining spaces. We are delighted to see patrons return to the library and resume normal activities. Curbside pickup is still available on a limited basis as it continues to be a popular additional service: Mon 10-7, Wed 10-7, and Friday 10-5.

The chiller was out of commission early in May and the part needed for the chiller to operate correctly has a lead time of 10 weeks for it to come in. To maintain a suitable temperature in the building for the safety of staff and patrons, a temporary chiller has been brought in for the summer. This rented chiller is located in the back parking lot outside of the children's department and will be taking up 7 parking spaces for the remainder of the summer. It was a very uncomfortable few weeks for staff but I am happy to report that the building is now fully air conditioned. We are thankful to Jimmy and his team for this proactive solution.

We are beginning to receive requests for the meeting room spaces. We are still in the process of "moving back in" to the library so we need to first move furniture back to their homes around the library. We also need to work on making sure the technology in the room is ready for use and add additional elements for possible hybrid programming. We are also setting up room booking via Libcal site and should also review the meeting room policies. We aim for the rooms to be bookable soon for use beginning in September.

**Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library Update:**

The carpet is installed and they are finishing up the millwork and plumbing this week. The front siding is done and they are working on finishing up the back of the building. Claire and I are invited to a walk-through that is scheduled for Monday June 21st. Due to delays in lead times for furnishing and shelving, the opening day may be postponed until September. The Friends of the Library have reached out to collaborate with the library and other groups to sponsor an opening celebration! We are very thankful for their support and can't wait to welcome the public back to their new and improved building with bells and whistles on.



## Staffing

- **Part time Adult Services/Reference Librarian**

After an extensive search, we have selected a final candidate for the part time reference position. We hope to make an offer this week to the candidate with a start date of June 21st.

- **Technical Services Library Assistant:** Patrick Scannell has accepted the position of Technical Services Library Assistant! This position works primarily in Tech services with shifts in Circulation and Children's departments. Patrick is extremely enthusiastic about putting his skills and talents to further the goals of the library. Patrick has great attention to detail that will be an asset in the tech services role and is excited to use his background of working with Children of all ages at Westwood's extended day program to use in the Children's department.

- **Evening Custodian**

Due to Patrick's acceptance of the Library Assistant position, we now have an opening for the evening custodian. We are taking this opportunity to pause and begin a conversation with the town administration and facilities to discuss the best course of action for the cleaning and maintenance of both the main library and Wentworth Hall for the future. We are holding off in filling this position until we finalize how we should proceed in this matter.

## Strategic Plan

I will be meeting with Mary Masi-Phelps and Maureen Von Euw as well as with April Mazza from MLS (Massachusetts Library System) to gather some information to begin our first steps on the journey to a new strategic plan. I am very excited about this process and think it is a great opportunity to not only plan for the next few years but also to define our values that will shape policy, procedure, programming, and services.

## May Highlights:

### Adult and Youth (Children's and Teens) Services:

In May, Kristy Pasquariello held our first outdoor storytime of the season on the grassy area next to the Children's Garden for 12 families. Since Gov. Baker's announcement, we have increased the number of participants to 16 families while keeping in mind the space and comfort of families. We are looking forward to returning to an indoor space for programming later in the summer.

The Jane Healey event for the FOL annual meeting was very successful and received many positive comments. We had a total of 47 participants attend this virtual event!

Kristy Pasquariello and Felicia O'Keefe and myself were selected to present at this year's virtual Massachusetts Library Association's annual conference held on May 18th. Our presentation *How has Reader's Advisory Changed in a Post Pandemic World?* was featured as part of the Youth Services Section's program and was about our successful book bundle initiative during the last year and how to deliver quality reader's advisory when you can't be face to face.

I am excited to encourage fellow library staff to think about getting more involved with the library profession and presenting on topics we are passionate about. It is a great way for Westwood to continue to put its mark on the library world by sharing ideas and having a presence at conferences.

## Summer Reading:

Thankfully with the Friends of the Library's support, we can once again offer a high quality program for patrons of all ages. Kristy has been busy coordinating virtual Summer Reading visits for the elementary schools and getting Beanstack website up and running for this year's program. We also re-envisioned our beloved and famed summer reading lists created by Westwood Children's librarians that are much sought after by families and teachers each summer. Kristy designed a more visual format that features book covers and our top ten picks as well as grouping of books by theme (see attached list). The kids, Teens, adults, and preschool challenges are all held on the Beanstack site/app. We also created a [Summer Reading Libguide](#) that has all the information you could want about the program including booklists. Abby and Suzie are developing their first Westwood Summer Reading program for adults and created beautiful prize baskets that will be big incentives for the community.

- Are You Feeling Lucky? Basket (All you need to a fun game night)
- Just Breathe Basket (Wellness items to promote relaxation)
- Let's Dig In! Basket (Gardening gifts for all levels of gardener)
- Summer Foodies Basket (Fun summer themed treats and foods)

We are also challenging the community as a whole to read a total of 40,000 hours! Last summer, all together we read 36,586 hours. We are gathering pictures of members of town departments with books to promote this exciting reading goal. I would love to invite members of the Trustees to come by the library for a photo op with a chosen book to share with the community as well! Let me know if you are interested in participating.



In May, the YA for Adult Bookclub met in person for the first time in over a year outside the library in the grass next to the children's garden. It was a delight to see friendly faces in person. We talked for over an hour and were shut down by the surprise sprinklers turning on at 7:30PM and dowsing us with refreshing water and abruptly ending the meeting!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director