



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
February 14, 2022

Library Services and Programs

We are very pleased to announce that we have started new and improved newsletters via constant contact. The FOL are generously sharing their constant contact account so the library can better improve the quality of publicity and newsletters that we send out to our community.

Corinne Coveney, Reference Librarian, created templates for both the adult/general news newsletter and a Youth Services specific newsletter. We will be sending these out monthly. Corinne is in charge of creating content each month focusing on upcoming events, reference information, book news, and even highlighting past recorded programs we have available. Kristy and her team did a fantastic job on the Youth Services newsletter adding events and bookish content as well.

We are also going to create a *Book Buzz* book specific newsletter to send out quarterly, after our popular Book Buzz events. We are working on getting an increase in subscribers and have added it to the most recent Westwood Wire as well.

To see an example of the newsletters that went out, click the below links:

[Adult News and Events](#)

[Youth Services Newsletter](#)

Covid19 Update

The town municipal buildings are still requiring masks as we head into February. The Board of Health and town are hoping that by the end of February and beginning of March the latest covid surge will be over and we can return to some aspects of normalcy. We are looking forward to nicer weather to give us flexibility with programming outside if we need it for larger events etc.

Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library Update:

We are so excited to announce that the library and Wentworth Hall will be opening to the public after the ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday February 14th at 4pm. Starting Tuesday, February 15th the library will begin its new regular hours. We are delighted to welcome back the public to their beloved neighborhood library. We are still waiting for a copier kiosk with faxing/printing/scanning capabilities as it is backordered for another 6-8 weeks; although in the meantime, we do have printing and copying available in the branch. The circulation department for both the main and the branch will begin their new schedules this week which means you will be seeing the same friendly faces at *both* locations.



Programs such as knitting and bookshare will be held at Wentworth Hall starting the week of the 14th and children's programming will begin after February vacation. The plan is to have a Grand Opening Celebration for Wentworth Hall and the Library sometime in the Spring where covid cases will hopefully go down and we can more fully and properly celebrate this new beginning! It has been quite the journey, but we are so happy to be at this destination together.

Staffing

We are happy to announce that we have a new 20 hour library assistant. This position became available when Patti Wade moved to the open 12 hour position and her 20 hour position became available. We interviewed three more candidates this round and have offered the position to Caitie Imbergano. Caitie will be starting February 16th. We are also bringing in some new on-call substitute library assistants to help with weekends and covering vacation/sick. We will be training Brenna Hyland and Zoe Dickerson, both of which we interviewed for the 20 hour library assistant positions.

Poet Laureate update

Chris Coleman and I have been working on redrafting the initial document explaining the Poet Laureate initiative. The “What is a Poet Laureate” document is attached in this month’s Trustees materials and will be going out to the Select Board at their February 28th meeting. Chris has asked both a representative from the Trustees and myself to attend this meeting in support of the initiative.

Philbrick Portraits Update

We have the Philbrick portraits and paintings organized, RFID tagged for security purposes, and ready to be hung around the library. Jimmy and the facilities crew will begin to hang them piece by piece starting this month. We are also sending out the few pieces that need reframing, matting replacements, and other restoration. We received three quotes and ultimately decided to go with West Roxbury Framing gallery. With the approval from the board, I would like to use state aid to fund the cost of the restoration and reframing which totals \$535.

Human Rights Task Force

Chris Coleman reinstated a Human Rights Task Force for the Town of Westwood last June. The current group is made up of residents and other relevant representatives such as from the disability coalition as well as other town department heads. It is currently being chaired by Danielle Sutton, Director of Youth and Family Services and Melinda Garfield, Executive Director of Westwood Media. I was appointed by the Town Administer to join this task force in November and have started attending meetings. The group was brought together with the goal to educate, inform, provide resources, and recommendations to the community and town government. One of the educational and informational initiatives is a Human Rights Task Force Roundtable podcast being developed by Westwood Media that will have conversations about what the task force is working on and introduce the members of the task force and the community.

Strategic Plan

We are in the middle of phase 2: Research and staff have started wave 1 of their research projects. We are gearing up to deliver a community survey and hold focus groups beginning in March. I have attached a thorough strategic process update for the board included in this month’s meeting materials. Please see the attached document for a detailed overview of where we are in the process. I am inviting Connie Cranos to the next meeting if we would like to ask any specific questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director