



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**May 9, 2022**

**Library Services and Programs**

Youth Services Department:

April vacation highlights: We had a very successful and busy week in the Children's Department with over 100 people at Harry Potter Book Night (the first since covid!) and over 60 people at the Reptile program held at Wentworth Hall. We also held a Harry Potter Escape room program and an interactive movie showing. All our vacation programs were very well attended. It seems that patrons are ready to return to the library and are looking forward to activities. We were especially thanked by parents for holding the Harry Potter Night again after the absence of it during covid. The Children's Department also celebrated National Poetry Month with a special Poetry Workshop for Kids in grades 4-6th. We had 6 kids learn how to write poems from a professional poet and heard such great feedback for this quality program.


Adult Services Department

Open Mic Poetry Big success. Many of the poets brought one, two or three friends or family members, we had three open mic poets, and the event ran about 45 minutes. We had about 30 people in the room all told. Great evening.



“Living Library”!: Our popular Bloom Zoom programs have sprouted a new name. Welcome to the Living Library series! Started in Spring 2022, the Living Library promotes horticultural education through gardening programming, a specialized botanical collection, a seed catalog, a “Garden of Things” (items you can check out of the library to help you start and maintain your own garden) and an informative resource section containing pamphlets and “How-To” guides. The Living Library is located on the 2nd floor of the Main Library. For more information please visit the Living Library page on the library website: <https://www.westwoodlibrary.org/services/living-library>

Philbrick: We are happy to see the beloved Philbrick Collection hung on the walls of the library for all to enjoy! Each print has a QR code next to it that links to a page about the particular painting (history, material etc). This was all put together by Tricia London who works Monday nights and weekends. She has diligently been plugging away at this project over the last couple years. Thanks to the facilities team for hanging the paintings! We still have more to hang but it has made such a big difference to the space having artwork displayed among the books and study spaces. Example of QR Code linked

 Country auctioneer

Check out the LibGuide that Tricia has created and worked on over the last year:

<https://westwoodlibrary.libguides.com/c.php?g=1138285>.



### Facilities Update

The new chiller for the main library was ordered in January but due to supply chain issues, will not be delivered until August 4th. Jimmy McCarthy and his team have come up with a plan to rent a chiller for the months of June and July so there will not be interruption to service. This will work the same as last summer and take over parking spaces in the back parking lot for the duration of its use.

Funding for repairs to the paving, curbing, and parking lot was approved at town meeting on May 2nd. There is not yet a date in place for when this work will be done but I have been assured by Facilities Director Jimmy McCarthy that they will try to schedule this work to limit the interruption of library services as much as possible.

### Islington Branch

We were very excited to host one of our most popular programs in the lower level of Wentworth Hall on Wednesday April 27th. Suzie facilitated her *Seedlings 101* program for 20 enthusiastic participants. All participants were supplied with the necessary supplies to begin to grow their own garden.



It was a delightful crowd who were very excited to be back at the Islington Branch with new and exciting programming.



### Staffing

In accordance with the Personnel Policies for the Town of Westwood, I would like to request that Abby Walsh begin her accrual rate of 4 weeks vacation which she is now entitled to as a Professional Librarian and Department Head after completing one year of employment. Abby started in March 2021 and has been a wonderful addition to the Department Head team. She was instrumental in reopening the second floor and adult services safely for the community and supporting staff with new programming initiatives as well as creating new and dynamic content on our Libguides site. With your consent and permission I would like to make this request to the Personnel Board.

This year we have two staff recognitions:

- **Tricia London**

Congratulations on 25 years with the Westwood Public Library! Tricia has dedicated many hours to helping patrons tech help, booktalking favorite YA books, weeding, and most notably--creating, organizing, researching the library's Philbrick collection into something we can permanently display throughout the library for all to enjoy. In fact, thanks to Tricia, we've submitted an entry to the MBLC for their "Road Trip" website highlighting the curation of the collection of artwork by former Westwood Residents, Margaret Philbrick, etcher, painter and lithographer, and her husband, Otis Philbrick, artist and professor of art. This work is a masterpiece! Thank you, Tricia, for all that you do for the Westwood Library.

- **Alli Palmgren**

Alli Palmgren is celebrating 5 years at Westwood Library! Alli subs in reference and is always willing to pick up shifts and pinch hit when we are in need, even though she is also the Assistant Director at Weston Library. Alli is a powerhouse of knowledge and I have personally leaned on her knowledge over the last few years but especially last winter when I became interim director. She always has a joyful demeanor and is a professional in all that she does, especially in the area of weeding and technology.

**Strategic Plan**

We have finished our research phase and are in the process of synthesizing the data to inform our planned initiatives that will be included in the final version of our Strategic Plan. Please see the enclosed materials of preliminary findings that will show you highlights of what we learned throughout the research phase. We are still in the process of having one on one strategy meetings with partners such as FOL, 21st Century Fund, Youth and Family Services, and the School Superintendent. Those meetings are scheduled for the next couple of weeks and results from these sessions will be included in the final plan. We will be presenting the final executive summary of the Strategic Plan at the June Trustees meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director