



Westwood Public Library Update

Charlotte Canelli, Interim Library Director

October 2022

I've enjoyed the past two months here in Westwood, including all challenges. The staff continues to be welcoming and helpful. Westwood is lucky to have a friendly staff, and youth and adult services that are specialists in readers' advisory. My 9-year old granddaughter was thrilled when I brought 10 bookmark children's book lists to her. She is a voracious reader and would be excited to chat with the librarians (if she lived closer!)

I continue to work closely with Danielle Sutton, Town of Westwood Human Services Director and Molly Kean, Assistant Town Manager and HR Director. I attended Town Department Head meetings on September 14 and October 12 and will attend the next on Thursday, November 10.

I helped to facilitate the Westwood Poet Laureate meeting on October 1, and attended the 21st Century Fund remote meeting on October 27. Abby Walsh and I will attend the Massachusetts Library System annual meeting on November 7.

My contract as Interim Library Director was extended by the Town through December 22. I will come to WPL one or two days a week, but will help facilitate both the Board meeting on December 12, a Poet Laureate meeting on December 13, and a WPL department head meeting on December 8 or 15. In addition, I will attend the meeting of the four departments (Recreation, Council on Aging, Library, Family and Youth Services) directed by Danielle Sutton, Human Services Director. The December meeting has yet to be scheduled. Danielle has been a great help to me and other library departments (in Lizzy's absence.)

Library Services and Programs

Adult Services

Programming beginning again in the fall continues to be popular. Open Mah Jongg changed to Wednesdays at 7pm, with Beginners on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. The Westwood Poets Writing Club facilitated by Lynne Viti meets biweekly on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm (but was at the Branch on October 11.) The Yankee Dahlia Society Bloom Exhibit was held on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2 despite work on the library's paving project (painting the lines at the back of the building.) Other programs in the Main Library included Leaf Rubbing on October 5, an author talk by Stephen F. Knott on October 18, and The Rise of a True Crime Podcast on October 25.

Adult Services' Living Library still receives lots of compliments and is a wonderfully creative project, full of seeds, live plants and books. Adult Services continued a handmade greeting card

program with a *Dear Reader* table in adult services where patrons are invited to send a snail mail greeting card complete with postage stamps.

Book groups continue at the library and I am thrilled to know the library knows how popular they are for adult readers.

The art display in the Gallery continued through October with the beautiful collection of wall quilts created by the Bobbin Chasers.

Youth Services

The youth services staff are busy with story times, book groups and events.

All of the programs are listed in the Youth Services Newsletter, including Lego Builders, One Up Games, Read to a Dog, Fri-Yay! and Creative Kids. The Youth Advisory Board began meeting each month on the 2nd Wednesday beginning in October. There was a well-attended scavenger hunt in the children's room the week before Halloween. On Halloween, a special holiday storytime was attended by 46 children. Children's department staff all dressed in costume. There are a handful of elementary school-aged children downstairs each day with no behavioral issues.

Many middle-schoolers are visiting after school to participate in the gaming program. Half-day Wednesdays and early releases may see as many as 50. The Collaboration of Youth and Family Services High School Mentors were trained and are volunteering at the library and they are helping the staff.

A few issues have arisen with some older high school students who come to study in the library in small groups. Staff have been helped with the expertise of Danielle Sutton of Youth and Family Services about how to best respond to these challenges.

Islington Branch

The Branch's True Crime Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month with 7-8 participants. Along with its Business Center, Sit N Knit and the Technology Help, the Branch remains a popular place. Danielle Sutton held a meeting of all users (Recreation, Youth and Family Services, COA and the Library to coordinate use of the rooms.

Poet Laureate

Maria Ryan will report on the committee at the board meeting. The committee's meeting on October 11th was discussed at the last Board meeting. The Town is hosting the position statement that includes instructions on applying for the Poet Laureate post in Westwood. The Selectmen will appoint the final choice of the committee. The next Poet Laureate meeting is scheduled for December 13.

Facilities

The new chiller is turned off for the season, as heating has begun. The Town Facilities Department is attending to all of the Library's needs in a timely manner. The paving project ended the week of October 17-21, when lines were completed. The cobblestones were not replaced. Patrons were a bit confused during the project and we fielded many calls from them as to the library's

open hours. The library was closed to the public all day on October 17, 18 and 24. The library closed early on October 25 at 4 pm for the retirement party.

Staffing

Matthew Radulski is working on the short archival project and is supervised by Abby Walsh, Adult Services Department Head. They will meet the second week of November to discuss progress.

During the Board meeting on November 14, I will ask for approval of the Holidays 2023. Both the 2022 (approved) and 2023 (draft) calendars will be included in the packet.

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners State Aid Application 2022

The State Aid Application submitted on October 4 will be approved either at the November 10 or December 8 meetings of the MBLC with the grant award announced soon after those dates.

Minuteman Library Network

I will attend the Minuteman Library Network meeting remotely on November 16. We should receive final FY24 budget numbers for the assessment at that meeting, although the Membership will not vote on that FY24 budget until January. That assessment will be included in the Town Budget FY24 Data Processing line.

Budget FY24

All documents for the FY24 budget request are due on November 18. I will submit it when I have the final MLN assessment after the meeting November 16.

21st Century Fund

The 21st Century Fund meeting was facilitated by Mary Beth Persons online on October 25 and she will have a report at the Board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Canelli".

Charlotte Canelli, Interim Library Director