



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**March 13, 2023**

**Library Services and Programs**

The Children's department had a very busy February vacation week of programs that were all very well attended including a Puppet show, Bunnies at the branch, Trevor the Games Man, and more! They are also hosting Buildwave, a STEAM program where kids in grades 2-5 can compete in building challenges that combine the spirit of an art program, the materials of a hands-on building workshop, and the elements of a video game to create a high energy, interactive experience! This program is full and has a wait list.

We had over 200 participants in the Winter Reading challenge with most of the participation coming from adults! Winners won a Cozy Reading Basket full of prizes. Although smaller than our Summer Reading Program, we are excited to make the Winter Reading Challenge an annual event.



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

Our Creative Library Assistants Caite and Caroline have done a wonderful job of bringing new color and life to the branch with thematic installations. March is Women's History Month and you can see the beautiful way they add to the space while celebrating the theme:



Branch programs (bookclubs, Tech help, and Knitting) continue to remain popular with the Branch Books and Boogie Storytime being one of the most busy! Claire is looking forward to hosting more author events and most especially the Book Tasting program which will be held at the newly opened Neroli Restaurant across the street from the branch.

### Strategic Plan: Action Items 2023

- Please review the attached document that features the monthly work towards goals.
- I am in talks with a company that designs Bookmobiles and awaiting their quote for work.
- Myself and some staff also plan to visit Watertown's bookmobile and talk to their librarian on how it is designed and currently being used.

### Facilities Update

- Jimmy and I have a meeting scheduled with a Sound Engineer company to help with the sound dampening project for the Teen Room/Magazine area.
- Facilities staff have been wonderful in helping us reconfigure spaces for current use. We now have new shelves in the Children's Department for our board games, puzzles, and Library of Things kits!
- We also have a brand new display table for thematic book displays!



## **Staffing Update**

We have been in the interview process for the new Adult Services Librarian (this is the position that was part time and is now Full time at 35 hours). We plan on having a successful candidate ready to be announced by the next Trustee meeting.

I plan on having the annual Staff Development Day this Spring. I am still trying to nail down a date but I am thinking of Friday May 5th and would like to close for the entire day so we can get a full day of training. Staff has requested that we have training on security and de-escalation measures.

## **Budget**

The Human Services department heads met with the Fincom subcommittee in February and reviewed the FY24 operating budget. There were no specific questions for the library budget. I will be attending the public Fincom sessions on March 14 and 28.

FY23 Budget is in good shape and although there are some budget lines that are tight based on the increase of prices of materials, we are ultimately on a good course for the end of the fiscal year in June.

## **Poet Laureate Update:**

At their February 27th meeting, the Select Board unanimously appointed Lynne Viti as the first Poet Laureate for the Town of Westwood! Lynne is a teacher, poet, fiction writer and community advocate for poetry. During her term, which runs through June 2025, Viti will present poetry workshops in the Westwood schools, run poetry workshops for adults in the library and senior center, and write poems to commemorate the town and civic holidays. Additionally, she will partner with the library and the schools in a town-wide poetry contest, a slam poetry event, and a poetry course at the Westwood Senior Center. She will also select and mentor the first and second Youth Poet Laureate, a position also established by the Select Board. The positions of Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate are supported by a gift from the Westwood Public Library's 21st Century Fund.

Viti is the author of four books of poetry, most recently, *The Walk to Cefalù*, from Cornerstone Press. She has published widely in online and print journals and newspapers, and has won prizes in local, national and international competitions, including the WMOR/Joe Gouveia Outermost Poetry Contest, The Fish Publishing Poetry Contest, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Contest, and the Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards. A lecturer emerita in the Writing Program at Wellesley College, she and her family have lived in Westwood since 1991.

Her first task will be to select a candidate for the Youth Poet Laureate position. The call for applications will go out this week in hopes to have a selection by May 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director