



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**October 16, 2023**

**Adult Services**

- The library submitted its State Aid Financial report to the state on Tuesday **Sep 28, 2023** . This report is essential to the library for receiving state aid funding.
- Minuteman Library Network has also unveiled a new library catalog, you can visit our own page by going to [westwood.minlib.net](http://westwood.minlib.net). We plan on rolling out the publicity to patrons in the coming weeks. The catalog has more integrated features for patrons including checking out digital eBooks and Audiobooks right from the catalog (instead of having to log in to Libby or Hoopla directly).
- At its July 13th meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved a Archives Arrangement and Description grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Westwood Library as part of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) special projects grants. We are very excited to take on this project to make sure our local history and archives collections are accessible and easy to use for our community. We plan on meeting a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners representative here at the library to discuss our grant and next steps.
- We had Emily Frankel, author of the *Lioness of Boston* visit the library and had over 70 attendees! Frankel spoke about her book and answered audience questions and stayed after to speak one on one with patrons while signing books. A successful event all around.
- The Friends of the Library's Museum Passes and More initiative (driven by data from the Strategy) has continued to expand its offerings with new museums and a partnership with LL Bean Outdoor Discovery. We offered patrons a chance to experience and learn new activities such as Stand Up Paddle Boarding, kayaking, and most recently archery! We want to broaden what the library can offer to the community.



## Youth Services

Harry Potter night “Back to Hogwarts” was a great success with at least 175 patrons of all ages attending and staff in costumes!



In collaboration with Lynne Viti, Westwood Poet Laureate, the library applied for a Mass Cultural Council grant for festivals and projects and was granted \$2500 for a Children’s Poetry Festival. The festival will be held during February Vacation. Poet Laureate Lynne Viti, and Youth Poet Laureate,

Lucie Sechler, are both planning and administering this project. Lynne is currently working on getting a big name poet for the festival.

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

The Islington Branch continues to be a busy hub in the neighborhood. Patrons look forward to knitting, bookclubs, storytime, and new programs such as Book Tasting at Neroli restaurant!

Faxing and copying continues to be a popular addition to the services provided in the Business Center.

We continue to update procedures and policies that facilitate keeping the new Branch library clean and welcoming to all.

### **Staffing Update**

- I am so delighted to announce Andy Northrup as our new Assistant Director/Head of Technology and Innovation! Andy comes from being the Assistant Director in Cumberland RI and has over 10 years experience working in a library. Andy is a perfect fit and I can not wait for him to join our team and help Westwood be the best library in the state. His first day will be Monday October 23rd.
- In other exciting news, Molly Riportella has decided to return to Westwood Library as our new (and former!) Head of Adult Services. We are so happy Molly is back and will continue to share her expertise and talent with the community.
- Suzie Canale has decided to step down as the programming librarian and will remain at the library as a part-time sub. Suzie will continue to plan and manage the Living Library and its corresponding programs as well as her new book clubs. We are delighted to have Suzie for as much she can offer the library! We are internally posting the 20 hour Programming Librarian position and will hopefully have a selected candidate in the next few weeks.
- We are also posting a 20 hour Library Assistant position in the Materials/Circulation Department as Pat Scannell has resigned from this position.

### **Policy Review**

- Please review the attached policy updates
  - Acceptable Behavior Policy
  - Fine Free Policy
  - Programming Policy

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director