



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**May 13, 2024**

**Library Updates**

- Hope to launch the Passport Acceptance service by appointment to the public in the beginning of June 2024.
- The Town is facilitating a Class and compensation study. Library staff among other town departments will be participating in the study that will review job descriptions/salary and measure against the going rate of similar sized towns. This process begins in May and will end in December of 2024. I am unclear on how the results will impact FY26 Budget planning.
- LSTA Grant has gone through a few different iterations as staffing has changed. Most recently we are excited to announce that we have worked with the town's procurement department to purchase the "cadillac" of Microfilm scanners. This scanner will live out in the public area of the second floor and patrons will be able to review microfilm articles and easily email or print selections or entire articles.
- Bookmobile update: The Bookmobile was fully retrofitted with new shelving, floors, awning, lights, and skylights! After talking with the town mechanic and the mechanic who retrofitted the van, it was decided to remove/repair the small amount of rust on the bottom half of one side of the van before getting the graphics wrapped around it. It is back with the mechanic and then will head to the graphics place after that. We are still on target for a soft launch this summer and will make its big debut at Westwood Day in the Fall! The project would not have been possible without the extra funding from the 21st Century fund.
- Communication team efforts have been incredibly successful! We have grown our reach and follower count on both Instagram and Facebook. Our two favorite videos recently have been the collaboration with DPW on how to properly recycle and our Bigfoot around town promo for the upcoming author visit. Both videos incorporated other town departments. We hope to increase visibility and educate the community not only on library happenings but also on town projects and initiatives.

### **Adult Services**

- Karen and her team finished weeding the adult fiction, there is more space on the shelves and has room to grow! Similarly, the Non-fiction has been heavily weeded and areas that needed additional materials have been identified. Large sections of non-fiction books have been ordered and are being processed to return to the shelves.
- We continue to have a popular slew of author visits: last month we hosted mystery author Hank Phillippi Ryan to a crowd of almost 50 people and next up we will be having Ann Hood talk about her new book *Stolen Child*.
- Summer Reading is around the corner so staff have developed a small subcommittee on the planning and execution of an amazing Summer Reading challenge for adults. The 21st Century bags were so popular that the library plans on offering more merch for the public to purchase through a website Bonfire. Part of Summer Reading prizes will be original baseball hats, tote bags, and tshirts celebrating westwood library's most popular initiatives: Living Library, ReadNext, and the new Bookmobile! More to come on this project!

### **Youth Services**

We had a successful and busy April vacation week with a magician, animal show, Children's band and of course, Swiftie Celebration (all funded by the Friends of the Library!). Then the following week, Children's Librarians did Kindergarten Outreach at the local Elementary Schools (except for Sheehan, who is visiting us in May) to talk about the library, getting a card, talking of books and Summer Reading!

### **Islington Branch Library:**

We had a great month at the Branch in April. The book clubs were well attended. We hosted the spring Book Tasting at Nerolis. Suzie Cananle ran a Living Library seed program for families which is always popular. Lots of new faces, we are still giving out more library cards than ever. We love getting people into the Branch.

### **Staffing Update**

I have another bittersweet update from Adult Services: Molly Riportella and her family are moving to Washington D.C. and as a result Molly's last day was May 1st. We can't wait to see all the great things Molly will continue to do with the BiblioUnderground and we thank Molly for all she has done for the library and wish her the best of luck on her next adventure!

As part of our continued effort to rebrand and revitalize the adult service department and the features of the second floor, we have decided to shake up the staffing model. Instead of hiring a department head of adult services, we have posted two different positions that highlight the two biggest aspects of the adult services department: Community engagement and outreach coordinator and a Readers Services Librarian. Andy Northrup, as Assistant Director will absorb the administrative duties of the former Head of Adult Services job description.

This is part of our ongoing initiative to be on the forefront of library services of the future!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director