



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**November, 2024**

**Library Updates**

- Andy is working with our IT consultant, Town IT, and Westwood Media Center on the AV media upgrade for the Community Meeting Room. We are focusing on updating the Projector, audio, and microphone system as well as making it as easy as possible for patrons and staff to use.
- Call for applications for the next Poet Laureate will be going out December 1st. The term will be for May 2025-June 2027. Lynne Viti will be contacting community members to form a selection committee for the next Poet Laureate of Westwood.
- Student Resource Officer, Christopher Elcock, has been a welcome addition this year. He has been a regular positive presence on early release Wednesdays and is known to both staff and middle school students.
- Library Department Heads had their first meeting with the Website design firm Bartlett Interactive to develop the new library website.

**Readers Services**

This month we had a super fun and successful Witch's Night at the Library program, a relaxing, self-care themed program that attracted a lot of adults who surprised us by sitting down to color and chat for up to an hour. It has actually inspired us to come up with more relaxing, low key programs as we go into winter. Julia also showcased the library's access to streaming movies with her cool Kanopy film nights after hours and with free popcorn! Julia has also collaborated with Becca Heyman for a "Novel Writing November" program where every Tuesday evening in November, writers can gather at the library to work on their novels. Finally, we are about to put out our Read Next Cozy Kits for November, signups were almost full within a few hours of posting!



**Information Services:**

Vicki has finished up her part on the Local History Grant. She has submitted information for the final report. We had such positive feedback from her presentation at the end of September and

are hoping to have her present it again or portions of it. She also has been training staff and writing up instructions for the microfilm machine. The local newspapers from 1998 through 2004 are on microfilm now.

Molly took over the Highland Glen book group. She has promoted the bookmobile at Highland Glen and will be visiting them in the future. She is busy making connections in town. A few programs at the Main in October were Author Marjan Kamali, yoga nidra, Demystifying Disney, Movie Night and Witches at the Library. On top of all the book clubs the library was a busy place the month of October.

### **Islington Branch Library**

The Branch hosted Janis Robinson early October for an author talk. Our Historical Fiction Book Group read her newest book and enjoyed her presentation. This is the second time she's come to the Branch. It was open to the public, we had about 15 people on a Tuesday morning.

The beginner Mah Jongg wound down, but a group of 5 asked if they could still meet and practice. We have the materials and the room. They'll practice until they are able to move on to a more advanced group.

I was lucky to go to the New England Library Association conference in October in Portland, ME. It was a great conference and I came back with a lot of ideas and was able to go to a few author talks while there.

All in all it's been a busy month, in a good way.

-Respectfully, Claire Connors.

### **Youth Services**

Youth Services had a busy past month!

Halloween is always a hit for all our patrons, but especially our youngest ones. We had two spooky programs with over 60 people- a spooky music program with Sarah Gardner and our special Halloween Storytime with the whole Youth Services staff (and our special guest Lizzy!).



We also held our first ever after-hours program at the Islington Branch in the way of a murder mystery event for teens. Caitlyn worked with the Westwood Fire Department to host a Fire Truck Storytime outside and all the kids loved seeing the truck and all the tools the firefighters use on a daily basis. This was such a hit that we will be hosting a Police Storytime this month with the Westwood Police Department.

Respectfully, Felicia O'Keefe

## **Budget**

FY25 budget is on track. We received the FY26 operational budget sheet this week and will begin working on this for submitting to the Finance department by November 26th. To stay certified by the state and be eligible to receive state aid we must make sure to increase the operational budget by 2.5% from a 3 year average. We also need to make sure 15% of the total budget goes towards library materials that directly impact patrons.

## **Bookmobile and Outreach**

- Bookmobile had another successful event attending the Trunk or Treat at University Station on October 26th. The Bookmobile clocked over 140 visitors on the busy morning; kids and adults were delighted to browse books, get library cards, and learn all that library has to offer!
- Molly and Suzie took the Bookmobile to the COA for their Halloween luncheon event on October 29th. Seniors got to visit the new Bookmobile and give insight and information on the kind of resources and materials they would like to be able to check out from the mobile library.
- Molly MacDougald is building a regular schedule of stops that will soon be available on the library website that will include the COA and others locations in town. The four agencies she has connected with are COA, Highland Glen, Youth and Family Services and the Housing Authority. We are excited that bringing on additional hours to the Youth Services department will help us create more dedicated time for Bookmobile visits focused on kids and teens as well as seniors.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director