

4/15/16

THE LYNNFIELD ADVOCATE - Friday, 4/15/16

~ Letters-to-the-Editor

“Say Yes for the Library”

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask Lynnfield residents to say yes for the Library at Town Meeting on April 25th. We will be taking an important vote to allow our community to apply for a state grant to support construction of a new library. This vote will not obligate the town to spend money on building the new library; it simply allows us to apply for grant funding to support the project.

State grants provided through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners can be quite substantial and this could be a game changer in making this important project to modernize our town infrastructure affordable to the community. I'm excited about the possibilities for Lynnfield now. Our new library director, Holly Mercer, is already bringing great new ideas to Lynnfield. She was bursting with the opportunities the new library at Reedy Meadow would bring to town when I heard her speak at the public meeting last month at Huckleberry Hill School.

This new, 21st Century facility would be the crown jewel of Lynnfield – welcoming to residents of all ages to support education, economic development, lifelong learning, and to enhance our quality of life. We can all watch the sunset over Reedy Meadow as we enjoy a good book, eBook, magazine, or use the library's computers to do research. A new contemporary library fits nicely with our information economy and avoids disturbing our historic town center.

This facility puts us in a great position to transition to stronger use of electronic materials. The plan also provides the flexibility to offer physical community space for enhanced library programs for kids, young adults, seniors, and everyone, all kinds of community use of a comfortable meeting space, and use of traditional library materials which continue to enjoy heavy use.

I attended a legislative breakfast at the Flint Public Library in Middleton last month. Senator Bruce Tarr hosted a great meeting to discuss library funding in Massachusetts. He raved about the expanded facility in Middleton and spoke about the heavy use and popularity of the library since it was renovated and expanded. I learned that annual attendance at the library has increased by 97 percent since the renovation. Our own State Rep., Brad Jones, is a big supporter of library construction projects too. I'm sure he'll stand behind us in our application. He supported our neighbors in Reading with their current grant for major renovations of the library.

I urge you to vote yes on Article 20 on April 25th. Say yes for the library!

Sincerely,
Greg Pronevitz

—The author is a 17-year Lynnfield resident, and he is executive director of the Massachusetts Library System, a state-funded not-for-profit charged with providing services to all libraries in the Commonwealth, including public, academic, school, hospital and museum libraries.