

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask Lynnfield residents to vote yes for the Library at Town Meeting on April 25. We will be taking an important step 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 library construction. It simply allows us to apply for a grant to support the project.

State grants provided through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners can be quite substantial. 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 town. When I heard her speak at a public meeting last month at Huckleberry Hill School, she was bursting with the opportunities the new library at Reedy Meadow would bring to town.

This new, 21st century facility would be the crown jewel of Lynnfield. It would welcome 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 community space for enhanced library programs for kids, young adults and seniors. I attended a legislative breakfast at the Flint Public Library in Middleton last month. Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) hosted a great meeting to discuss library funding. He raved about the expanded facility in Middleton and spoke about the heavy use and popularity of the library since it was renovated. I learned that annual attendance at the library has increased by 97 percent since the renovation. State Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading) is a big supporter of library construction projects, too. I'm sure he'll stand behind our application. He supported our neighbors in Reading with their grant for major renovations of the library.

I urge you to vote yes on Article 20 on April 25.

Sincerely,
Greg Pronevitz

Editor's note: The author is a longtime Lynnfield resident and serves as executive director of the Massachusetts Library System, a state-funded group charged with providing services to all libraries in the commonwealth. Holly Mercer, Lynnfield Public Library's director, said she did not know how much a new library would cost taxpayers. West Springfield recently doubled its size and the budget was \$16.1 million to convert its former 19,300-square-foot library into its new 36,700-square-foot facility.

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