

Library books a new director

By Adam Swift
Editor

Holly Mercer said she has always had a deep love of reading and books.

In February, Mercer was named the director of the Lynnfield Public Library.

“It was a natural progression,” said Mercer. “I loved reading and loved the library as a place as a child.”

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Holly Mercer
is the new
director of
the Lynnfield
Library.

Photo |
Owen O'Rourke

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When she was young, Mercer got the chance to work in her hometown library. Since then, she has gone from shelving books to every other available library position.

Before moving to Lynnfield, Mercer was an assistant library director and director of fiscal services in West Virginia.

There were several factors that led to Mercer deciding to apply for and accept the position in Lynnfield. She had an aunt who lived in Massachusetts and she spent a lot of time with her in the state when she was growing up.

Mercer said she was also excited to be part of the process to build a new library.

In April, Town Meeting voters approved preliminary schematic designs and consent to apply for a construction grant for a new building at the Reedy Meadow Golf Course.

"The new building was one of the factors in deciding to move here," said Mercer. Since arriving in February, she said she has been working with the building committee to bring the project to the point where the application for the construction grant can be submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in January.

"Part of the vision of the new building is to be a 21st century library," said Mercer. The conceptual floor plan for the site includes

increased space for the children's room, a conference room, and small conference rooms.

But Mercer isn't waiting to expand services and add new technology at the library.

"We've been able to expand services now by adding new technology," she said. Some of those expanded services include an early literacy station, tablets for kids, and allowing patrons to check out Chromebooks.

There's also been a boost in family programs for all ages and the library's summer reading program.

In addition to keeping an eye on the big picture of the building project and library services, Mercer coordinates the nonfiction book lovers group and the popular Curious About Cuisine program.

"I see the library as connecting people to information and to each other," said Mercer. "People can come gather to learn and be engaged. It really is the heart of the community."

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