May 4, 2022

Dear Patrons,

We’ve made quite an entrance…..literally! The renovations to our lobby and circulation area are complete, providing ease of entry, a roomier atmosphere and a new fresh air circulation system for a healthier overall environment. Next up are the computer and staff areas, expected to be finished by the end of summer. And, we are still on track with receiving up to 50% of the costs in state grants. Coupled with savings, these improvements have no impact on our regular operating budget or your tax rate.

That said, much like you, we are facing increases in operating costs that are out of our control. Utilities, insurance, supplies, the highest Cost of Living increase in 40 years (5.9%) and minimum wage mandates all conspire to “break the budget”, so to speak. On the other side, state library funding is down, local grants for telecommunications and community outreach have dried up and library fees have dropped almost $6,000 since the pandemic. We are asking you to approve a tax increase that exceeds the 2% cap, rather than reduce the services we offer you, to bring in a balanced budget. Final increase for the average household will be approximately $16.40 per year.

Live programming is back, running a gamut of interests – from Book Clubs, Gardening, Needlecraft and Basket Weaving to Music, Local History, Yoga, and Travel. The Summer Reading Program kicks off at the end of June for both kids and adults. We offer family passes to museums, state parks and our local beach (including fishing poles for kids to borrow), Appalachian Trail Maps for that weekend hike, designer cake pans for that special celebration, movies, TV series, music, magazines and audio books both in hard copy and streaming, and BOOKS – the latest, the greatest, the classics on every topic, for every age, genre and mood. Copies, printing, computers, databases, notary services and a helpful staff round out the offerings our community can rely on from their local library.

You can review the budget with us on Friday, May 6th from 1-3 PM, or on our website “gwllibrary.org” under General Information. Our budget and trustee vote is Thursday May 19th from Noon-8PM here at the library. Don’t hesitate to reach out with questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing more of all of you as Greenwood Lake resumes “normal” operations.

With heartfelt gratitude for your continued support,

Sandra Newman, Treasurer

gwllibrary.org 845-477-8377 Fax: 845-477-2043