April 21, 2023

Dear Patrons,

Come see the difference! If you haven’t ventured back since the pandemic shutdown (three years ago!), you are in for a big surprise. A new entrance and lobby, dedicated space for children and young adults to explore, a quiet area for reading, puzzling, working or meeting, a new computer department and lots of in-person programming are awaiting your rediscovery! For those of you keeping track of our ongoing projects to update and upgrade your library, we are getting ready for the final part of the building-wide HVAC renovation, providing a fresh air circulating system throughout the facility. The plan is to be completed by late Fall with little to no interruption to events that take place in our program room. Between state construction grants reimbursing 50% and savings, these improvements have not hit our operating budget or your tax rate.

Our 2023/2024 proposed operating budget stays within the allowable tax cap and will only increase your total annual library tax by approximately $11.60 for the average household (or 29 cents per thousand). While your library tax appears as a line item on your school tax bill, we hold our own, separate annual budget and trustee vote. You can see a full breakdown of the budget on our website – gwlibrary.org – under General Information/Budget. There will be a public hearing of the budget on Friday, May 5th from 1-3 PM in the library where we will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Library use is finally returning to the levels we enjoyed pre-Covid. It is wonderful to see our regular patrons again, and to welcome the new groups who are just discovering us. Come browse our books - from print to audio to digital, we’ve got your genre. Take home some great music, movies, TV shows or kids entertainment, or stream them on one of our digital platforms. Want to research your family tree or local history? Need help composing your resume and getting “Linked In”, or preparing for your SAT’s or professional exams? Want to learn a new language or get your used car’s value? We have all that information and more available to you either right from our website, or from the computers in the library. Just come in and ask us about our databases to expand your world. Grab a pass and take in a great museum or park. Grab a trail map and take a hike. Put that extra flair in your entertaining with one of our
specialty cake pans. Take home a jigsaw puzzle, video game or fishing rods for some leisure activities. And check out our kids, young adult, and adult programs, offering music, crafts, cooking, gardening, information and FUN for every member of the family.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and entire staff, we want to thank the Greenwood Lake Community for their ongoing, unwavering support. It has helped us transform from a building with books, to a center for all to pursue life-long learning and personal enrichment. We hope to see you at the budget vote on Thursday, May 18th from noon-8 PM here in the library....and regularly thereafter.

Sincerely,

Sandra Newman, Treasurer
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