

## CULTURE AND RECREATION



New Recreation Director Christopher Fitzgerald came to Weston from the University of Massachusetts' Boston campus having served as the Director of Intramurals and Recreation Programs

## REPORT OF THE WESTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Weston Cultural Council is charged with distributing money allotted to the Town by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Weston's allocation for fiscal year 2016 was \$4,300 from the state. After combining the 2015 balance of \$968.13 with the 2016 allocation and setting aside administrative funds and revenue from bank interest, the Cultural Council had \$5,150 to distribute for 2016.

Grants are awarded to individuals or groups in support of projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences that benefit the residents of our town. By the October 15<sup>th</sup> postmark deadline, the Council had received 25 eligible applications, totaling \$10,350.00, for the funding year. On November 18, 2015, a public business meeting was held and Council members voted to partially fund seven grants and fully fund five grants for a total of 12 for fiscal 2016.

Grant Title	Council Liaison	Grant Amount	Performance Date
<b>Ed Cope / Ed the Wizard</b> Reading is Magic	Fang Liu	\$100.00	October 2016
<b>The Discovery Museums</b> Especially for Me	Jinshan Shen	\$200.00	November 2015 – October 2016
<b>Elyse O'Connor</b> Musical visits with seniors at senior residential facilities in Weston	Fang Liu	\$700.00	Throughout 2016
<b>Land's Sake</b> Open Farmyard	Jinshan Shen	\$750.00	June – September 2016
<b>League of Women Voters</b> Civics Bee	Tricia Liu	\$250.00	March 6, 2016
<b>Regis College</b> Meaning and Mask-Making	Cheryl Alpert	\$250.00	April 2016
<b>The Umbrella Community Arts Center</b> African Artistry: Exploring Diverse Cultures	Amy Gerson	\$200.00	February 4 and June 18, 2016
<b>Weston Drama Workshop</b> Design and construction of the carriage and horses for production of Cinderella	Tricia Liu	\$500.00	June 6 – July 24, 2016
<b>Weston High School Asian Students Union / Angela Lee</b> Asia Night/Chinese Folk Arts Workshop	Diane Sherlock	\$600.00	March 4, 2016
<b>Weston High School Chorus / Community Chorus</b> Performance of Durante Magnificat	Amy Gerson	\$750.00	February 3, 2016

<b>Weston High School Foreign Language / Cortland Mathers</b> Weston High School Foreign Language Week	Thomas Szekely	\$350.00	March 7 - 11, 2016
<b>Weston High School Drama/Mass. Educational Theater Guild</b> Massachusetts Theater Celebration	Diane Sherlock	\$500.00	March 12, 2016

New members Tricia Liu, Jinshan Shen, and Amy Gerson were appointed to the Cultural Council by the Selectmen on April 13, 2015.

2015 Weston Cultural Council Member

*Appointed by the Board of Selectmen*

Audrey Pepper, Chair	March 2016	Tricia Liu	April 2018
Fang Liu, Treasurer	April 2018	Carmenelisa Perez-Kudzma	March 2016
Cheryl Alpert	February 2018	Jinshan Shen	April 2018
Inge Thorn Engler	March 2016	Diane Sherlock	April 2018
Amy Gerson	February 2018	Thomas Szekely	November 2017



## REPORT OF THE WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Trustees of Weston Public Library

As 2015 drew to a close, the Library looked back on a busy time and looked ahead to extending increasing service to a broader range of library users. We were inspired to review what we presently have to offer and look forward for new opportunities to serve the whole Weston community. As always, the future demands more, and we strive to offer more. The Library's value is what it can contribute to everyone who uses it or who would like to use it; our mission is to always be more active and more creative. Our responsibility is to have foresight and to assess the future needs of library users, to continue what we already do, but to do it better and to look for services that the community will need in the future.

The Library's longstanding tradition has been to offer books and other media to the public, to offer programs that educate and enrich, including English as a Second Language classes, concerts, programs and technical assistance to a population of Weston residents trying to keep up with the ever changing world of technology. We are always looking at what we already do and always looking to anticipate services and needs of the future.

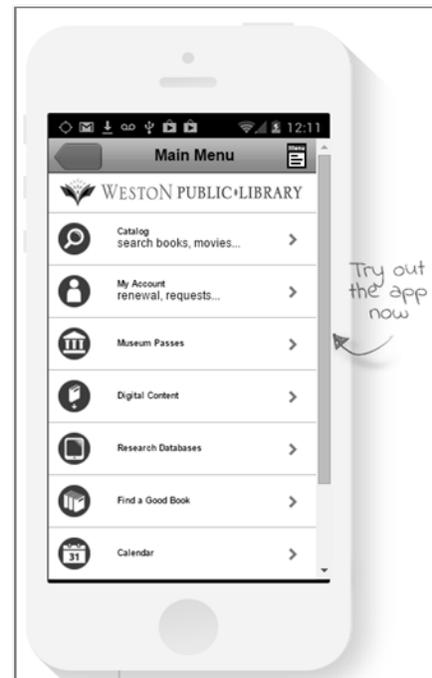
Early in 2015 we explored the possibility of responding to many requests for a cafe within the building; however permanent septic constraints prevented us from pursuing that opportunity. We then turned our attention to the Weston Art and Innovation Center proposal for reusing the old library building in Weston's Town Center; a more ambitious long term project, which we had been considering for some time and which would serve a much greater community need.

Just a glimpse inside the Old Library Building, even in its present condition, gives us a hint of the extraordinary space available to dedicate to the purpose of all libraries: to expand knowledge, learning and creativity, and to enhance appreciation of our imagination's endless possibilities. This treasured building has belonged to all of Weston, to every citizen, since its completion in 1900. It is a public building for every resident. There is sufficient satisfaction in everything we learn to inspire us to further inquiry. The Weston Arts and Innovation Center could provide for that inquiry. The availability of the Old Library for the Weston Arts and Innovation Center provides a great opportunity for creating a new learning center for the whole community.

### Adult Services Department

As many will remember, the beginning of 2015 featured record-breaking snow for our region and the Library, like everyone, struggled with cancellations, snow removal, and parking issues. In spite of these challenges, the Library's circulation was robust. A total of 364,418 items circulated, which translates to a weekly average of 7,008 items or 1,001 check-outs per day. Of the adult items circulating, the top three categories were print books, DVDs, and audiobooks. Adult print books, which include selections from the New Books, Quick Picks, and Large Print collections, as well as items from the main collection and paperbacks, represent 26 percent of all circulation. In comparison, movie and television DVD borrowing represents 15 percent of all borrowed items.

In the spring of 2015, we released the Weston Public Library mobile app for smartphones and tablets. Patrons can download the free app and log in with their library card number and PIN for



*We launched a free mobile app so patrons could have everywhere access to the library catalog and services*

on-the-go access to library services and platforms, such as requesting materials, renewing items, reading e-books or digital magazines, listening to music or audiobooks, and reserving museum passes. The app also shows the library event calendar and book recommendations. If patrons are at the library and wish to borrow materials, the app stores their library card information allowing the patron to use their smart phone as their library card.

In addition to the app, there are many items and services available to residents from their home. The Library offers 125 digital magazines through a platform called Zinio. Patrons can access Zinio from the library website or the mobile app, enter their library card number, set up an account, and have access to magazine titles, such as Car and Driver, Bloomberg, Businessweek, Dwell, Saveur, Yoga Journal, Forbes, Cooks Illustrated, O, Atlantic, and the New Yorker, among many others.



*4.5 Inch Orion StarBlast Telescope  
Provided by the Friends of Weston Public  
Library*

We have audiobooks and e-books to download for free with 1,100 Overdrive Advantage titles purchased especially for Weston residents. This year, 2,500 free e-books were downloaded by Weston users from a wide variety of Overdrive Advantage selections. The total number of e-books our patrons used this year averaged 50 per week. Some of the titles available include "All the Light We Cannot See," "Me Before You," "After You," "Barefoot Contessa Foolproof," "Being Mortal," "Big Little Lies," "Career of Evil," "Fates and Furies," "Gathering Prey," "Girl in the Spider's Web," "Boys in the Boat," "Girl on the Train" and "Goldfinch." In 2015, there were over one million downloads by all Minuteman Library Network users accessing the Network's larger collection of digital books.

Patrons can elect to receive email notifications for different categories of items using the green Request Our Latest box at the bottom of the front page of the Library's website. Click on the category of books, films, and audio to see curated lists of our newest and most popular items. Each list is updated weekly and features a picture of the work and a description of the book or movie. This year, some of our lists included New and Noteworthy, Great Mysteries, Downloadable E-books, Fiction and Nonfiction Bestsellers, Our New Movies,

Audiobooks, and Recent Favorites. Visitors can subscribe to receive any of these lists via email and can also request all the titles desired.

In the fall of 2015, the Friends of Weston Library generously donated funds to purchase a 4.5 inch Orion StarBlast Telescope. In doing so, Weston Library joined the Library Telescope Program started in 2014 by the Aldrich Astronomical Society. Aldrich, whose mission is to "promote an understanding of the night sky," customizes telescopes for public libraries so that they can be loaned to the public. Patrons 18 years or older with a library card in good standing can borrow the telescope and accompanying information guides for one week.

### Youth Services Department

The Youth Services department is among the busiest areas of the Library and 2015 was no exception. Children and Teen book circulation is still climbing, despite perceived competition from e-readers and other digital material. In 2014, a total of 168,458 items circulated and that number rose by over a 1,000 in 2015. Interestingly, the increase was all in books. Circulation of both teen books and children's books increased significantly with the biggest jump being the teen print collection, which increased by more

than 15 percent. Teen media actually decreased slightly this year and children's media decreased by almost 2,000, mostly in DVDs and music CDs. Of our media categories, only books on CD for children increased. But even though media circulation was down, our print material (books, paperback books, magazines, and holiday books) more than made up for it. Weston kids are reading!

The weather was a big factor in 2015. Nine feet of snow fell during January, February and March causing issues everywhere, including the library. Several programs were cancelled due to weather, and many children went straight home from school rather than walking to the library; however, when families were no longer snowbound, foot traffic rose. Families with small children who wanted to get out of their houses were happy to spend time in the cozy library space. In addition to the large snow banks, the razing of the old Field School also caused some access problems in April and May.

In the spring and summer of 2015, we held very successful Police Storytime programs with officers from the Weston Police Department. We also held several programs in collaboration with the Weston Community Children's Association (WCCA) and Beverly Mobilia from the Newton Community Partnerships for Children and Families. Jeannie Mack's regular monthly singing program and Sheryl White's signing program for babies and toddlers attracted younger crowds, as did the Read to a Dog program, run by Weston resident Connie Fulenwider and her reading buddy Luna, which has stayed quite popular with elementary-age new readers. New programs that proved popular with audiences of all ages were Awesome Robb's Halloween Pirate Show and Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig, a book and ballet program for the WCCA's annual Book Week event.

The number of Reference questions answered was comparable to last year, but computer use dropped due to a new policy instituted in January where the computers were allowed for homework use only after school and no games or videos until after 5:00 p.m. Parents seem to love it, the kids maybe not as much. Our statistics for computer use started rising in December from several Field School teachers assigning some math games as homework.



*Jedi Jim duels with a young Jedi*

Over the course of the year, our Young Adult Department hosted Girls Who Code, a wonderful national program that teaches and inspires middle and high school girls the skills and knowledge in computer sciences. Other well-attended teen favorites included a college admission seminar and several computer programs, such as a workshop on Raspberry Pi and another on Minecraft. There was also a successful program on writing college essays.

Our Summer Reading Program was bigger than ever this year thanks to the assistance of the Friends' Summer Reading Book Sale in June. Summer Superhero Craft Kits, which contained materials for each child to create their own superhero and information about the summer reading programs, were handed out. For the three Summer Reading Programs, we had 43 preschoolers in the Young Readers Program, 250 elementary age kids in the Reading Program, and 74 teens in the Teen Reading Program. That was a total of 367 active readers, with 319 kids who read and recorded 6,529 books and 48 who read for 34,375 minutes. Elementary students can choose to keep track by time or by book. For our final parties, we had about 220 people join us for the kids Summer Reading Celebration and 52 teens and siblings for the Teen Party.

The Summer Reading Program also features crafts, programs, and prizes. This summer, some of the favorite crafts were Jungle Jim's Superhero Training; Avengers Assemble!, a family program about



*Daphne Pulson (and sister, Penelope) are surprised by her winning guess*

everyone's favorite heroes; a series of teen photography workshops; Animal Adventures, whose animal guides brought in a skunk, a skink, and an alligator (and plenty of other creatures) for kids to touch and learn about; a fun Teen Wilderness Survival program; and the inflatable Blue Star Planetarium. We also had visits from METCO's summer SOAR students for two weeks during which we organized some fun activities at the library. Our annual Guessing Jars this summer were won by Owen Rabel and Daphne Pulson and our biggest prize winner was Rachel Kim, who won a Bruins hockey puck signed by Tuuka Rask in the state-wide Bruins Read raffle.

In July, we added Playaway Launchpads to our circulation. This new device is a handheld tablet, loaded with seven to ten educational games for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. They have proved to be very popular and we had days when our whole collection of 40 titles was checked out! Also new this year, we replaced our chairs, which after 20 years of hard use were looking a little worn and we added some new signage to the children and teen collection. In the fall, we welcomed a new employee named Hope Kisivuli.

Our gerbils are doing well. Despereaux, after a year of health crises in 2014 is now our elder statesman. He lost his teeth this year, but he's surviving on a lovely diet of stale Cheerios and Rice Krispies, as well as good granola and the occasional blueberry. Winter and Frosty, who joined Despereaux at the end of last year, are, perhaps not surprisingly, quite hale and hearty as they get to eat regular gerbil food as well as Despereaux's fancy menu.

### Reference Department

Centrally located in the Library, the Reference Desk is often the first stop for visitors with information needs. The Department is staffed by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic librarians whose responsibilities include responding to both routine questions and providing research assistance; instructing patrons one-to-one and in groups in the use of library resources; helping people to select books, movies and audiobooks; managing museum passes; facilitating interlibrary loan services; planning programs for adults; designing marketing materials and research aids; creating displays; researching and choosing new books and materials; engaging in outreach efforts; and proctoring exams. This year our team responded to more than 11,300 queries across the desk, via telephone, email and in off-desk consultation.

A key aspect of reference service is guiding patrons in the use of technology in the library. Patron requests for assistance include a wide-range of issues from downloading e-books to using web-based resources. Many patrons access the internet via the library's robust wireless network. We also provide desktops, laptops, and wireless printing and usage reached over 6,100. The library's flatbed scanner is used dozens of times each month.

Readers looking for book recommendations found ready assistance from our staff who took a variety of approaches to readers' advisory. The library's adult book blog FeastOnBooks saw a 53 percent increase in visitors over last year and there were 49 new recommendations made by staff. Community outreach by librarians, including Mary Marder and Madeleine Mullin, who appeared on Weston Media's local cable

channel, extended the library's range in the community. Each month Casey Stirling prepared the "In the News" flier detailing what's hot in books and entertainment. The monthly non-fiction book club, hosted by Madeleine, drew a total of 92 participants.



*Merlin ultra, a high definition video magnifier for low-vision reading was introduced this year*

The library's collection was enhanced with the addition of new equipment and other resources. A new, low-vision reader, the Merlin ultra, was purchased to replace the library's old reader and a 4.5 inch telescope kit was introduced to patrons in October. Foundation Directory Online, a research tool for nonprofits that provides in-depth information about U.S. grant makers, and ProQuest Obituaries, an online resource for genealogical and historical research, were made available both in-library and remotely.

With funding from the Friends of the Library, the Reference Department coordinated a variety of programs for adults throughout the year, including Digital Photography Demystified; Alexander Technique workshops; Connecting with Facebook, Click by Click; Logo Programming; Mindfulness Meditation; Technology You Can Use; Drawing the Still Life; Sensational Summer Entertaining; Perfect Party Dishes; Fixing Our Broken Sleep; Paris, Off the Beaten Track; Birds of the New England Swamp; Non-fiction Book Discussion Group; Small Talk ESL Conversation Group; Knitting with Iris; Parliamo Italiano; and one-to-one ESL tutoring.

### Local History Room

The staff of the Local History Room, which is supported by the Friends of the Weston Public Library, assists library patrons in their historical and genealogical research pursuits. Over 150 questions were answered in 2015 ranging in complexity from obituary searches in the Weston Town Crier to background research carried out for numerous Town of Weston departments including the Police Department, the Parks and Cemeteries Division, the Solar Photovoltaic Panels Exploratory Committee, and the Measurers of Lumber. In addition, 60 students and their teachers from the Field School attended a presentation on the "Green Books" of the Hillcrest Gardens run by Marion R. Case from 1910-1940. The students were working on a project on the history of the Field School, which is located on land formerly owned by the Case family.

The Local History Librarian, has also been working on an index of names listed on numerous historical maps of Weston that date from 1794 - 1889. Maps are a valuable resource that brings local history and genealogy to life.

The Weston Historical Society continues to display exhibits in the library including "Schoolwork in the Days Before Technology," "Ready, Willing and Able: A History of Weston Fire, Police and DPW," and "Are You a Deltiphile?" a display of scenes of Weston on old postcards.

### Technical Services Department

In 2015, Technical Services was responsible for adding approximately 11,775 new items to the library collection. Included in this amount were:

- 7,306 books
- 883 DVDs
- 448 books on CD
- 358 music CDs

- 269 Overdrive Advantage e-books and audiobooks
- 118 Playaway audio and view devices
- 22 Playaway tablets

The 22 Playaway tablets, which circulate from the Youth Services Department, are a very exciting addition as is the Orion StarBlast Telescope, which can be borrowed from the Reference Department. All parts were labeled and documentation written to ensure safe circulation of this special item.



*The Weston Historical Society curated an exhibit featuring the history of Weston's public safety departments*

comprised of dedicated volunteers and a representative from the Board of Library Trustees. Artists are allowed one month to exhibit their work for the public and the gallery is booked for the entire year, with the exception of August. The Committee is also responsible for choosing an artist who can display a piece of sculpture on library grounds. Weston residents are always welcome to apply for an exhibit of their work to the Arts and Exhibitions Committee. In April, 2015 the Weston Historical Society created a special exhibit entitled "Ready, Willing, and Able: History of Weston Fire, Police, and DPW." Artist Harvey Berman generously donated the proceeds of artwork sold in June 2015 in the library. We are extremely thankful to all of the artists and volunteers whose talents and hard work make such a beautiful contribution to Weston Library and our community.

The Friends of the Weston Public Library

In 2015 the Friends of the Weston Public library celebrated 50 years of service to the library. To commemorate this milestone, the Friends organized festivities in October 2015. Members and donors were invited to a "members only" cocktail party that was held at the library the evening of October 16<sup>th</sup>, after the library closed. Members mingled and munched on hors d' oeuvres, while listening to a jazz band. On the following Sunday, the Friends held a birthday party for everyone, complete with birthday cake, clowns, and face painting. Both events were well attended and appreciated by the community. The Friends of the Weston Public Library would like thank all of our members and donors for their generous patronage, and our volunteers for their dedication.

It was a year of transition as Renee Hake left her position as our Tech Services Assistant and Dominique Viglas took her place in mid-September. The staffing change brought positive energy and creativity to the Department. Our volunteers, Ellie and Gail, gave us about 250 hours of their time in 2015 and we also had the pleasure of working with Charlotte and Bejana, two Weston High School interns.

We continued to offer our Interlude program over the fall and winter. Last season (October 2014 - April 2015) 375 visitors enjoyed cookies, coffee, and tea while listening to relaxing music and playing games. This season saw additional activities including coloring mandalas and a jigsaw puzzle from the Circulation staff. Dominique is providing a themed display each week for added interest and visual appeal.

Arts and Exhibitions Committee

The mission of the Arts and Exhibition Committee is to bring a revolving display of art to the library gallery. The Committee is



*Audrey Yett having fun at the Friends' 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party*

The Friends Annual Book and Bake Sales held in early November were a huge success. In 2015 the bake sale broke previous records. The book cart is very popular and internet sales have been very strong.



*The Friends' Annual Book and Bake sales were huge successes with the bake sale breaking previous records*

The Friends Programs committee has sponsored several interesting programs at the library, including an author series in October. These programs are diverse in subject matter and appeal to broad segments of our community. Authors hosted this year included Julia Glass, Patry Francis, Jessica Treadway, Nina MacLaughlin, and Rita Zoey Chin. The Music Committee also brings world class concerts to the library every month, which are very well attended and much loved.

The Friends Hospitality Committee hosts a Staff luncheon at the library each year to allow a relaxed atmosphere for the library staff, the Friends, and invited guests to mingle. In February, the Friends transformed the Community Room into a Pop Up Café where Weston baker, Rose Hattabaugh created amazing treats available for the public to purchase.

The Newsletter committee publishes a newsletter each year in the fall, winter, and spring. These newsletters are sent electronically to members with paper copies available at the library for everyone.

The Friends continue to sponsor museum passes to 24 museums and the community is welcome and encouraged to use these passes. We are pleased that pass usage has gone up in the last year.

We are very thankful to our more than 400 members, book donors, and 29 board members for their continued commitment and support. We would like to extend a special thank you to Weston Media for their ongoing support and collaboration, as well. By taping and broadcasting author talks, concerts, book recommendations, and other library related events and news, they provide invaluable access to our library programs, making our community more cohesive and inclusive.

#### Board of Library Trustees

*Elected by the Voters*

Doris A. Sullivan, Chair, 2016	Denise Mosher, 2018
Joel Angiolillo, 2018	Joseph W. Mullin, 2017
Emily Hutcheson, 2016	Julie D. Panagakos, 2017



## REPORT OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

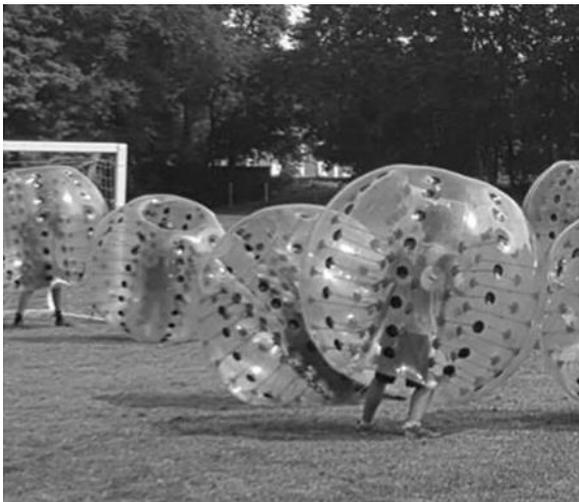
The Weston Recreation Department experienced a landmark year in 2015 with the retirement of its well-respected director, Doug MacDougall. Doug ended his tenure in April, after 26-years of directing the program and contributing to the community in countless ways – from expanded programming to creating memorable events such as the Summer Concert Series and the September 11 Flag Memorial. Probably his most visible project was the effort he led to build the Weston Community Center. He was also heavily involved with various community organizations. We thank Doug for his many contributions and wish him well.



*After 26 years serving as Weston's Recreation Director, Doug MacDougall retired this year. Of course, his retirement party was quite the event and he was the life of the party*

The new Director, Chris Fitzgerald, began on April 21<sup>st</sup> and brought with him more than 20 years of recreation experience, including 11 as the Director of Intramural and Recreation programs at the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts. Chris was excited to join the Weston Community and continuing the great programming and services for which Weston Recreation is known.

Department staff consists of seven full time employees who are assisted by numerous dedicated part-time and seasonal staff. Seasonal orientation and staff training are essential in helping these employees learn their responsibilities and keep the programs and services operating smoothly.



*Bubble Soccer was a hit at the Recreation summer camps*

The Department continued to seek opportunities for outreach and have an active online presence. This year, staff was involved with the Town's transition to a new website, and was heavily vested in keeping its department-specific web pages current and attractive. It also had a social media presence via Facebook and Twitter.

Summer camps were a big hit as usual, as the Department once again hosted camps ABC, Outer Limits, KWEST, Adventure, and Sports. This summer, participation increased 10 percent over last year's. Camps have become so popular that one parent described the experience as "the best thing in Weston."

This year, after school programs continued to be the cornerstone of the Recreation Department. Cooking classes, gymnastics and karate all remained popular, while new classes focusing on computer programming and engineering developed a new following.

Aquatics programming continued with swim lessons, open swim, and aquatic exercise classes. The Red Waves Swim Team also enjoyed another successful season, with numerous swimmers placing in the year-end league meet.

Memorial Pool remained a popular destination during the summer months. As usual, users could take advantage of group and individual swim lessons and special events, such as the Rubber Duck Regatta, took place on the weekends. A new designated picnic area was created this year and became a popular spot for families to reserve for birthday parties.

The Summer Concert Series continued its weekly tradition, and Mother Nature was friendly enough to allow all shows to take place. The series was kicked off with the Ice Cream Social on June 17<sup>th</sup>, featuring the Reminisants. Cambridge Trust Company was gracious enough to sponsor again, and each show averaged more than 150 attendees. Musical styles included classic rock, country, Cajun Zydeco, and jazz.

Adult programming continued to offer popular group exercise and aquatics classes, along with cultural classes such as musical

training and ballroom dance. The men's Open Basketball offering remained popular and met twice each week. New this year was a fall tennis tournament, which took place on the High School courts and was well received by Weston residents.

Rentals of space in the Weston Community Center increased in the fall and winter, reflecting the efforts of the maintenance staff keeping the building attractive. Weston Junior Broadway also continued its annual tradition for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students by performing "Annie" and raising money for the Make A Wish Foundation.

The budget for fiscal year 2015 was \$1,515,420 and was offset by \$986,401 in user fees. The tax levy was responsible for \$464,432 and \$64,587 of retained earnings was used to offset expenses.

Finally, the Weston Recreation Department continued supporting many community based organizations with their events, including the Rotary Club, Weston Community Children's Association (WCCA), Weston Dad's Foundation, Boys Scouts of America, and various youth sports organizations.



*Red Waves had a successful season, including a new Town record in the 9&10 Boys 25 yard freestyle event*

2015 Weston Recreation Commission Members

*Elected by the Voters*

Matthew Schulman, Chair	2016	Elly D. Pendergast	2017
Michelle Callanan	2018	Xinsheng Zhu	2017
Franz Loeber	2018	Victoria A. Whalen	2016

## REPORT OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The Weston Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee was formed in October 2005 for the purpose of acting as the advocate for the playing fields and outdoor recreational facilities in the Town. A Master Plan for renovation and improvements to the Town fields and outdoor recreational facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, was developed. It called for capital expenditures over 10 years in the form of capital improvements and maintenance, and through a collaborative effort of the Town and townspeople, the Fields Master Plan is 95 percent complete. In total, over \$6,000,000 in funds has been raised – 30 percent public and 70 percent private – to provide for the preservation and renovation of the fields and facilities, as well as construction of new fields.

This year, the Committee focused on coordinating maintenance of all Town fields. It identified a need to centralize coordination of field maintenance, and enhance the efforts required for specialized seasonal needs such as aeration and fertilization. Past efforts of this committee helped justify the need for a full-time Field and Grounds Coordinator. This position, approved in the FY16 budget, will focus on the maintenance efforts described above, and the person will sit on the Committee moving forward.

In addition to the maintenance efforts, the Committee conducted a town-wide survey to determine the quality of fields and need for improved maintenance efforts. Results showed that residents saw value in high quality fields as it relates to building community, pride, and real estate prices among other things. These results clarified that the Committee needs to continue efforts to better coordinate field maintenance.

The Committee also began investigating upgrades to Proctor Field at the school complex, a project that will be vetted and explored more in 2016.

### 2015 Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Members

*At-large members jointly appointed by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee*

Allison Abrams	President, Weston Youth Lacrosse
Edward Heller	School Committee
Patrick O'Donnell	Weston Youth Soccer
Trevor MacDonald	At-large
Tani Marinovich	At-large
Alan Orth	At-large
Matthew Schulman	Recreation Commission
Robert Scott	President, Weston Little League
Peter Foley	Athletic Director (retired), Ex-officio
Gerard McCarty	Director of Facilities, Ex-officio
Michael McGrath	Athletic Director, Ex-officio
Chris Fitzgerald	Recreation Director, Ex-officio
Doug Campbell	Recreation Field Maintenance, Ex-officio