An Invitation to Visit the Library

by Glenn McNamara

WOODBURY — Town residents are invited to stop by the Woodbury Public Library from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 15, for a social gathering marking the rededication and "official" reopening of the newly renovated building.

The open house will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a few remarks from town officials, refreshments, live music and an opportunity to view the redesigned interior.

Welcoming activities will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. followed immediately with refreshments served by the Friends of the Library and a live performance from the Summertime Blues Band. The festivities will conclude at 4 p.m.

The library went through a major overhaul throughout the spring and summer, which saw the reading area enlarged, the lighting enhanced, the reference desk relocated, and the addition of new furniture, carpeting and computer terminals. The project was funded through a state grant and by the town.

Dart Building Systems, under the close eye of Robert Coochola, Jr., was the general contractor for the entire renovation job.

"We see it as an opportunity to thank the community and thank those who have helped make it possible," Library Director Elaine Wyden said of the rededication ceremony.

"People will be welcome to browse around and get an informal tour," she continued. "We are hoping people will come and celebrate with us and have a nice time. Most of all, we are eager to welcome citizens of Woodbury. It is their library and it is for their service that we are here."

In a recent survey conducted by the Planning Commission, the library received positive feedback from 83 percent of town residents who responded, the highest among all town services.

"We're really delighted that the vast majority of people said they were pleased with us," she told Voices, adding that the renovations have met with

The staff of the Woodbury Public Library includes: (seated) Library Director Elaine Wyden (left) and Adult Services Librarian Patricia Esten; (standing) Children’s Services Librarian Ann Drummond (left) and Adult Reference and Young Adult Service Librarian Lisa Zandonella.

Enhanced lighting, new furniture and carpeting are just a few features of the redesigned interior at the Woodbury Public Library.
Library
(Continued from page 81)
praise from the public. 
Although no additions were made to the building, the redesigned interior makes better use of the available space and can be best summarized in two words — user friendly.
"People think it is bigger, when in fact, we haven't added any space," Ms. Wyden noted. 
The reading area has been expanded and refurbished with comfortable chairs which, when accompanied with the enhanced lighting, makes a visit to the library all the more relaxing. Each newspaper and magazine title has its own spot on the display fixtures with the most recent issues located under the binged shelves. 
To the right of the entrance is a larger new-book section, allowing library patrons to easily examine the selection of the latest releases. 
The local history section is now located in a specially designed, glass-fronted bookcase. Ms. Wyden said this will help preserve and protect the material, while at the same time, make it more visible and accessible.
Six computer terminals have been installed, providing the latest in research tools including Internet access, C.D. Romas, a NovelList program, Everybody's Catalog and magazine data bases.
In response to public demand, she said the library has also acquired a word processing program which allows people to write their own letters or bring in material on their own disks.
Ms. Wyden said the library will resume its normal Sunday hours of 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on October 26. Starting October 29, the children's room will remain open on Thursday evenings. 
"We see this day as a chance to thank the public for their patience and good grace through the many months of disruption, discomfort, dirt and noise, while construction forced temporary, crowded arrangements for service, or necessitated the closing of the library altogether," said Ms. Wyden.

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The Woodbury Public Library
Board of Trustees
cordially invites you to a
Rededication
of the Woodbury Public Library
289 Main Street South
Woodbury, Connecticut
Sunday, October 19, 1997
to celebrate recent improvements to the library

Welcoming Ceremony 2 to 2:30 p.m.
Music and Refreshments 2:30 to 4 p.m.

THANK YOU
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Construction workers were a common sight at the Woodbury Public Library throughout the spring and summer. The building was gutted and taken apart during a renovation project.

A floor in the Woodbury Public Library served as the temporary home for hundreds of books while the building was refurbished.

Congratulations Town of Woodbury
Best Wishes
in your new Library

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