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The Board of Library Commissioners is the agency of state government with the statutory authority and responsibility to organize, develop, coordinate, regulate and improve library services throughout the Commonwealth. The Board advises municipalities and library trustees on the operation and maintenance of public libraries, including construction and renovation. It administers state and federal grant programs for libraries and promotes cooperation among all types of libraries through regional library systems and automated resource sharing. It also works to ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth, regardless of their geographic location, social or economic status, age, level of physical or intellectual ability or cultural background, have access to essential new electronic information technologies and significant electronic databases.

### Commissioners

Joseph S. Hopkins, *Amherst*  
Chairman

John E. Arnold, *Westborough*  
Vice-Chairman

Dr. Em Claire Knowles, *Medford*  
Secretary

Edward L. Bertorelli, *Milford*  
Deborah Hill Bornheimer, *Duxbury*  
Walter L. Cameron, Jr., *Palmer*  
John E. Henderson, *Brockton*  
Elia D. Marnik, *Reading*  
Robert F. Mooney, *Nantucket*

Robert C. Maier  
Acting Director

## Governor Signs Bond Bill Authorizing \$75 Million for Library Construction

Following passage by the Massachusetts House and Senate, Acting Governor **Jane Swift** signed S2271, an omnibus bond bill that authorizes the expenditure of \$75 million for public library construction, into law on Saturday, August 10, 2002.

"This is wonderful news and we're grateful to the Governor and Legislature for sustaining the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program," said MBLC Commissioner **Deborah Hill Bornheimer**, Board Liaison to the Construction Program. "Our Commonwealth has the richest array of public libraries in America. This bond bill will enable 41 more of these libraries from Oak Bluffs to Great Barrington to undertake major restoration or new construction projects."

"Now that the Bond Bill has been signed by the Governor, staff from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will be meeting with the Governor's staff and the Executive Office of Administration and Finance to negotiate a budget for the actual expenditure of the authorized funds," said MBLC Acting Director **Robert Maier**. These offices have responsibility for state capital bond expenditures through a Five-Year Capital Budget that is limited by a variety of constraints to \$1.3 billion per year. "However," he continued, "since 1992, through three administrations, the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program has had a place in the Governor's Five-Year Capital Budget."

Among the issues that will be addressed are the following: the timing of the actual release of funds, how many contracts the MBLC can issue at this time, whether or not the payment schedule for all projects can be maintained as it is outlined in the Regulations.

Following authorization of annual spending targets under the Five-Year Capital Budget, the MBLC will be able to vote Provisional Awards to municipalities for Approved Public Library Projects, in the order of the Waiting List. Should a Waiting List community be unable to accept a Provisional Award, awards will then be made to communities still remaining on the Waiting List.

## State Budget Cuts and Vetoes of \$7.6 Million Damage Library Services Statewide

The FY2003 State Budget that was adopted in late July, along with the Governor's vetoes, will affect all libraries throughout the state. "This is a devastating moment for library service in the Commonwealth," said **Robert Maier**, MBLC Acting Director, "and the results will be felt by all libraries for many years. Our task now is to rebuild and to rebuild in a cooperative venture. In the days, weeks and months ahead we will work together to lay the groundwork for efforts to restore these cuts and regain funding for the programs that our users so clearly need and value."

Among those hardest hit were the State Aid to Regional Libraries account that includes the six regional library systems and the Library of Last Recourse (LLR). Due to budgetary language in that line item, the LLR was level funded at the FY2002 amount of \$6,515,960, with the remainder (\$8,464,401) being divided amongst the six regions. This is in effect a 24 percent cut that will seriously affect regional services across the state. "The regions will try their best to minimize the impact on their 1,722 member libraries," said **John Ramsey**, Administrator of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. "However, a cut of this magnitude will unavoidably have serious repercussions on regional services that in our region will mean that our offices will be closed on Fridays among other things."

The State Aid to Public Libraries account also received a large cut of approximately \$1.4 million that will impact every city and

town in Massachusetts. "This is the second year in a row that State Aid has been reduced," says **Dianne Carty**, MBLC Head of State Aid & Data Coordination. "This will mean fewer library materials will be purchased, libraries will be open fewer hours and staffed with fewer librarians."

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## Henderson Reappointed to the Board

John E. Henderson was re-appointed by Acting Governor **Jane Swift** in July to a five-year term as a Commissioner.



"I am honored to have been reappointed by Governor Swift to the Board, and am very proud of many of the great accomplishments that the Board has been able to achieve during the past few years," said Henderson.

"Libraries in Massachusetts now face some great challenges this year and in the future, and I hope to be able to contribute to their future successes," he continued.

Currently the Vice President of Eastern Bank in Salem, Henderson has served as a Trustee of the Millis Public Library and Salem State College, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Abington. He is a member of the Abington Knights of Columbus and Lions Club International. A graduate of Salem State College, he also has an MBA from Framingham State College.

## Board Meeting Highlights



Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli**, Chairman, called the **July 11th**

Board Meeting to order at the Board's headquarters in Boston. Following the approval of the May and June Board Meeting Minutes, he gave a brief report on the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in Atlanta where he and Commissioners **Joseph Hopkins** and **Dr. Em Claire Knowles** answered questions from prospective applicants for the position of the Director of the Board. Mr. Bertorelli then mentioned some of the recent library events around the state such as Methuen's opening, and groundbreaking in Canton, Williamsburg and Leverett. Finally, as this was **Keith Michael Fiels'** last Board meeting as director, he reiterated how Mr. Fiels has helped lead the Board in library advocacy, bringing libraries to the forefront, and advertising their accomplishments.

Director Fiels began his report by giving an update on the Massachusetts Center for the Book. He announced that Commissioner **Elia Marnik** was the new Chair of their Board, and that they would be working on their Bylaws, looking to expand their Board and seeking a new home for their office. He also announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Massachusetts Book Awards would be on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Worcester in an event that would tie Massachusetts into the National Book Festival that will be held in Washington, DC on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fiels continued his report by stating that he, Mr. Bertorelli, Ms. Marnik and **Robert Maier**, Deputy Director and Head of Library Development, had a very productive meeting with **Barbara Gardner**, Associate Commissioner for School Readiness at the Department of Education (DOE). Mr. Fiels said that the Board would be working with DOE on sending the Massachusetts Congressional delegation a letter supporting federal funding for school libraries, looking at existing sources of funding for school libraries, and collaborating on getting school library standards and funding into the Educational Reform Law.

As a follow up to a discussion at the June 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Mr. Fiels went over several financial reports with the Commissioners, and passed out the *MBLC Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001*.

In the Legislative Report given by **Maureen Killoran**, Head, Public Library Advisory and Government Liaison, she said that the House and Senate Conference Committee was still working on the State Budget. She reiterated that virtually no amendments to the Senate Budget were adopted, and that State revenues continued to be down. It is expected that the Budget would be reported out prior to the end of July.

In the first item before the Board, **Anne Meringolo**, State Aid Specialist, presented a waiver of the director education personnel standard from the Town of Brookfield, based on a plan to bring the library into compliance. After brief discussion the waiver was granted.

**Robert Maier**, Deputy Director and Head of Library Development, brought before the

Board for approval the final draft of the *Library Services and Technology Act: Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 2003-2007*. In it, he noted, Goal 1 has a new focus on developing a digital library for Massachusetts, Goal 4 has been expanded to reflect an ongoing emphasis on children and youth services, and Goal 6 reflects the library community's growing interest in pursuing a variety of public awareness efforts. He also acknowledged the work of the Steering Committee on this project and stated that this report would now be submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services who administer the federal program. The Board then unanimously approved the Plan.

In other action items, Mr. Maier brought before the Board two other items: 1) A revision to the Small Libraries in Networks Awards that were voted in March 2002 to approve "two revised Small Libraries in Networks Grants totaling up to \$300,000" to the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing Network for up to \$270,000 and to the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium for up to \$30,000. 2) To approve "alternate locations for Gates Foundation computer labs should the application of any of the four (previously) designated locations be denied by the Foundation: Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River."

There were also reports brought before the Board that included updates on the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Projects meeting their deadlines that included representatives from the Ames Free Library of Easton on the legal challenges still facing their project. A draft of Proposed Regulations relating to the Regional Library Systems was also given to the Board for their review prior to more discussion on the issue at the September Board Meeting.

In the final action before the Board, officers for FY2003 were unanimously elected. Commissioner **Joseph S. Hopkins** was elected Chairman; Commissioner **John E. Arnold** was elected Vice-Chairman, and Commissioner **Dr. Em Claire Knowles** was elected Secretary.



Commissioner **Joseph S. Hopkins**, Chairman, opened the **August 15th**

Board Meeting at the MBLC Boston headquarters with his assessment of the impact that the recent State Budget cuts would have on library services throughout the Commonwealth. "These past two weeks have been devastating to the library community," he said. "There is no library, large or small, that won't experience difficulties." He went on to say that everyone, both at the Board, the Regions and throughout the library community, worked hard to stave off and mitigate the cuts that were enacted.

"We need to look to the past for guidance. Ten years ago the State made drastic cuts that are not too unlike those today. The sharing, cooperation and collaboration of various programs and services among each of our organizations and programs are areas he would be looking at over the next few weeks, months and year. This is also a unique time to look for opportunities to reorganize the way we

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## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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State Aid to Public Libraries  
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### Publication Information

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## State Budget Cuts (continued from page 1)

However, the most serious cut to library services will be from the Library Telecommunications line item that had \$3 million vetoed by Acting Governor **Jane Swift**. Each of the statewide services and technology programs is hit hard by this veto and many will be suspended entirely. Programs suspended are Statewide Reference and Referral Center at the Boston Public Library (BPL), Consumer Health Reference Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, Legal Information Reference Center provided by the Massachusetts Trial Court Libraries, MassBedrock (business and economic development Web site) provided by the UMass/Amherst Library, MARC Conversion (support for adding holdings to online catalogs), Special Collections Database (used by researchers to locate historic materials), Education and Training on technology, Innovation Grants and Interlibrary Loan Net Lender Offset.

Programs that will receive greatly reduced funding include the MLIN Web site, Telecommunications for Resource Sharing (network telecommunications offset), Virtual Catalog (funding for networks), and Statewide Licensed Databases. The BPL has indicated that it will use LLR funds to continue the statewide delivery contract for FY2003 in support of statewide resource sharing. Discussions continue to determine how much of the core statewide databases can be preserved and what arrangements

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can be made to continue the availability of journal articles through the Journal Article Clearinghouse at the BPL.

The only line items in the Board's budget that were not reduced from fiscal year FY2002 were the accounts for the Talking Book Libraries at the Perkins School for the Blind and at the Worcester Public Library that were level funded.

"With this budget there is no library, large or small, that won't experience difficulties," said MBLC Chairman Commissioner **Joseph Hopkins**. "The sharing, cooperation and collaboration of various programs and services among each of our organizations and programs provides us with a unique opportunity to look at ways to reorganize the way we operate. Although many of our library programs may be popular, we need to ask if they meet our core service and the needs of our patrons."

### Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Appropriated Budget

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	FY2002	FY2003
7000-9101	Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,180,527	\$1,036,322
7000-9401	State Aid to Regional Libraries	\$17,623,954	\$14,980,361
7000-9402	Talking Book Library	\$318,777	\$318,777
7000-9406	Talking Book Machine Lending	\$1,628,550	\$1,628,550
7000-9501	State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,212,758	\$7,830,844
7000-9506	Library Telecommunications	\$3,838,471	\$366,718
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,803,037</b>	<b>\$26,161,572</b>

## YSLead Massachusetts Trains Librarians

Forty-nine youth services librarians, interested in expanding their leadership role, along with 14 mentors for YSLead Massachusetts, gathered in August at Endicott College in Beverly for YSLead Massachusetts, a youth services leadership institute for librarians sponsored by the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems.

**Maureen Sullivan**, a prominent national consultant facilitated the institute in topics that included change, risk taking, leadership styles and communication. Small group discussions and exercises helped those in attendance reflect on each topic as it pertains to libraries. The mentors served as role models as they demonstrated their leadership skills, knowledge and experience.

In the coming months, participants will work as mentors with other youth services staff, assist in the development and presentation of continuing education workshops focusing on leadership, and take an active role in selected regional, state or national library associations.

Jointly developed by the Massachusetts Youth Services Consultants, YSLead Massachusetts is a two-year initiative funded by



Participants of the 2002 YSLead Massachusetts Institute at Endicott College.

LSTA federal funding administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. More information about YSLead Massachusetts is available on its Web site [www.wmrls.org/YSLead](http://www.wmrls.org/YSLead).

Applications for YSLead Massachusetts 2003 will be available in October. Prospective candidates are practitioners of library science in youth services departments who may or may not hold a Masters of Library Science degree or School Library Media Certification.

**Doreen Metcalfe**  
Youth Services Consultant  
Central Massachusetts Regional Library System

## Spotlight on LSTA

### Framingham Public Library: Look Here First

A new program, "Look Here First," funded by a \$28,000 LSTA grant, was recently unveiled at the Framingham Public Library to make practical information easily accessible to the Framingham community. "The program's goal is to educate the Framingham community about the information resources and helpful staff available to them at the library, and to encourage people to look to the library first when they need practical information on any subject," says **Thomas Gilchrist**, library director.



Framingham Public Library Assistant Director **Elise MacLennan**, left, with **Susan Edwards** of Extra Mile Design; **Tom Gilchrist**, Library Director; **Rebecca Berkowitz**, Reference; **Mary Wasmuth**, Collection Development; **Deborah Ervin**, Head of Reference, and **Kristine McElman**, Periodicals.

Features of the program include a cluster of four new computers, as well as expanded resources and educational workshops on four key topics of interest: Personal Finance, Health and Wellness, Small Business Development and Home Improvement

Each month, the library will feature special programs and displays on one of the selected topics. In addition, the library staff has compiled comprehensive resource lists to help people get started with information searches. The new resource lists contain suggestions of books, reference materials, magazines, Web sites and databases with reliable and useful information.

"People are often surprised at the extent to which we can help them find the information they need and the range of resources we have available," says **Mary Wasmuth**, Collection Development Librarian. "Many people think of the library as a source for recreational reading, but it is actually a vital source of practical information for the community."

The goal of "Look Here First" is to enhance the library's resources, technology infrastructure and excellence in service to the community, says **Elise MacLennan**, Assistant Director. "The library has the range of resources and an experienced staff to help individuals use them. We want to help!"

## Fast Facts

### Circulation Desks @ Your Library™

Every public library has a circulation desk while 35% (128 of those reporting) have an additional, separate circulation desk for their Children's Room or Children's Area.

Source: FY2002 ARIS

## East Longmeadow Breaks Ground

After waiting seven years, residents of East Longmeadow turned out on a sunny Saturday afternoon on July 13<sup>th</sup> to write their names and congratulations on the walls of the old East Longmeadow library.

In welcoming the crowd, Board of Trustees Chair **Carol Munro** said, "What began 106 years ago with 100 books as the East Longmeadow Library is embarking on one of its most exciting endeavors, the building of a new town library. And, after many delays and countless hours of work, we made it."

Newly-elected Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners **Joseph Hopkins** congratulated all who had worked so tirelessly to make this project happen. "I want to thank you," he said, "because your success is our success, and the state legislators, trustees, town officials and local residents who have helped appropriate money for construction of not only this much needed library, but for libraries across the Commonwealth."



MBLC Building Consultant Patience Jackson, left, admiring the model of the new East Longmeadow Public Library with Jan Finkelstein, a member of the Building Committee, and MBLC Commissioner Joseph Hopkins.

Also offering their congratulations were State Representatives **Gail Candaras** and **Mary Rogness** who brought an official citation of congratulations from the House. Library Director **Gloria Carver** also expressed her thanks to the many volunteers, friends, trustees, town officials and staff who have worked so tirelessly. She also read a citation from State Senator **Brian Lees** who could not be present.

## Readers Choose Boston and Norton

Readers of *The Improper Bostonian* nominated the Boston Public Library Web site, [www.blp.org](http://www.blp.org) for the "Best Web Site Upgrade" in its annual "Boston's Best 2002" issue.

"In the past year, traffic has increased from 92,000 to more than 176,000 visitors per month," the paper said. "You can conduct research, request books (you'll be notified when your chosen tome has arrived at your local branch) and check hours of operation or the location of the closest branch. You can even contact a reference librarian 24 hours a day. A special Children's Page includes games and virtual homework help, and the Teen Lounge Page offers advice on getting into college," the award continued.

The Norton Public Library was also honored with a Readers Choice Award 2002 by readers of the Community Newspaper Company with a "#1 Choice Award for Place for Family Entertainment" in Norton. "We are pleased that so many of our patrons took the time to register their pleasure at our various offerings including an exciting summer reading program with weekly concerts in the park, monthly morning adult programs, adult book discussions, story times for all preschoolers, America Reads, Jr. Friends and Young Adult Club," said **Elaine F. Jackson**, Head Librarian.

According to **Mark O'Neil**, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing, "Readers Choice is a contest designed to offer the communities we cover the chance to speak out about their favorite local places and businesses." Among the newspapers published by the Community Newspaper Company are the *Country Gazette*, *Easton Journal*, *Mansfield News*, *Norton Mirror* and *Sharon Advocate*.

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### Residents Dig for Williamsburg

It was a long time in coming, but after what often seemed like insurmountable obstacles, the residents of Williamsburg turned out on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the beginning of the new Meekins Library.

Welcoming the large crowd of young and old, Meekins Library Director **Lisa Wenner** first hailed 'Stephen Meekins' and 'Anna Hayden,' founders of the town's two libraries as they arrived for the ceremony in a horse drawn carriage. Serenaded with a jazz saxophone, school chorus, poetry, letters from former Junior Friends of the Library and homemade Strawberry Shortcake, the day was more like a small town summer fair.



Meekins Library Director Lisa Wenner (5th from the left), along with dignitaries and townspeople from Williamsburg, digs the first shovels of dirt for the new and expanded library.

In her remarks Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Associate Building Consultant **Anne Larsen** said, "Our foremothers and forefathers, set a high standard for us - I salute you as a community for meeting that standard - preserving, protecting and improving library service. This day is a wonderful start for that future!"

State Representative **Stephen Kulik** congratulated the townspeople on their extraordinary effort in bringing all of the various resources together and for dreaming of what the project could be.

And in one final effort to include as many in the day as possible, everyone present was invited to bring their own shovels and stand together and dig for the new expanded Meekins Library that will continue to provide "treasures to learning."

### Cardboard Boat Race Highlight Books on the Beach

Eighteen homemade cardboard boats braced at Lake Whalom in Lunenburg on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> for The Great (Cardboard Boat) Race, sponsored by the Ritter Memorial Library.

As part of the Books on the Beach (BOB) initiative, the competition requires that all boats be made of corrugated cardboard with a little tape allowed to hold things together. "We encourage accessorizing," said **Karen Kemp**, children's librarian and race organizer. "This year we had a patriotic catamaran, a floating landspeeder from Star Wars fame, a "Hogwarts" ferry, and "Rub-A-Dub-Dub" complete with an overhead shower head and shower curtain. The goal is to have fun and not sink, but if you do, go with style," she continued. Prizes were given out for speed, creativity, attractiveness, most spirited team, most spirited individual, most spectacular sinking and the surprise award to the boat that surprised everyone that it floated.

Begun a few years ago to read books to children at the Lunenburg Town Beach, BOB is a Lunenburg Library Trustee initiative to bring boxes of board books, picture books, chapter books and teen novels to the beach for kids to use and return, says Library Director **Susan Tallman**. Each Thursday during the summer, Trustee Chair **Debbie Chapdelaine** reads to children



They're off! The USS Write Stuff, SK8 Team, New Olympic and Hertel take off in the 4th race of the Ritter Memorial Library's The Great (Cardboard Boat) Race.

## Construction Begins in Leverett

The dream of a new library in Leverett that will contain a bathroom and running water became closer to a reality with a ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday, July 3, 2002. "I still have a hard time believing it will happen," says **Lorna Rivers**,



D'Ann Kelly, left, Chair of the Leverett Public Library Building Committee, and Library Director Lorna Rivers, right, with the architect's rendering of the new library designed by J. Stewart Roberts Architects.

Director of the Leverett Library. "We have been developing plans, raising money and dreaming about this project for seven years," she said.

At the ceremony, **Rich Brazeau**, a member of the Leverett Board of Selectmen and Building Committee, said, "Without Lorna (Rivers), we wouldn't be building a library here today. This is a result of Lorna's efforts and ability."

State Senator **Stanley Rosenberg** said, "This is a milestone in the history of the community. I see great things happening here - You're a community on the move."

Commissioner **Joseph S. Hopkins**, who also took part in the ceremony, congratulated the perseverance of all those who had worked so hard to make this project a reality. "The trustees, friends, staff, legislators and town officials have all come together."

The new \$1.4 million facility will be more than five times the size of the current building and be handicapped accessible, have computers, community space, storage and parking.

## Watertown Honors Women of Achievement

A year-long display at the Watertown Free Public Library honoring "Watertown Women of Achievement" was capped by a gala reception at the town's historic Commander's Mansion at the Watertown Arsenal in April. Honoring 73 women whose volunteer efforts made lasting contributions to the town, the women were featured each month from December through May on a display in the library foyer.

Staff of the library's adult services department contacted agencies, civic and religious groups, and town departments requesting nominations.

Garden. Two children's authors **Andrew Clements** and **Emily Chetkowski** helped dedicate the garden to all Children's Authors. Individuals also donated flowers and the Children's Journal. **Barbara Despres** and her husband, **Frank**, did the gardening and donated a bench.

In July 10<sup>th</sup> Westminster Postmaster **David Miller** presented the library with a "postal cancellation" to mark the library's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, well as several framed library-related stamps (Library of Congress, Mentoring, etc.) as a memento of Forbush's 100 years. Since it was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rural Free Delivery, Miller, with the help of Co-Centennial Chair **Melinda Estelle**, ran a contest in the schools to come up with the winning design for the library cancellation stamp and rural free delivery. Students in the elementary, middle and high schools participated and were given stamp collecting packets as prizes from the postmaster.

To say that the celebration has been a success would be putting it mildly. "With a population of 7,000 in the town, 6,223 people attended a program during the year," said Friedman. "It has been a great year!"



Taking part in turning over the ground for the new Leverett Public Library are from left to right: John Ramsey, Administrator of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System; MBLC Commissioner Joseph Hopkins; State Senator Stanley Rosenberg; Sandy Corcoran, Trustee and member of the Library Building Committee; Rich Brazeau, Selectman and member of the Library Building Committee; D'Ann Kelly, Chair of the Library Building Committee, and State Representative Stephen Kulik.



Ritter Memorial Library Trustees Diane Guenard, Gare Thompson and Linda Kennedy ponder the waters before embarking in their boat The SS Mimow.

as a way to make sure every child in Lunenburg has access to books they will love and so that their reading skills can be maintained and improved during the long summer recess.

### Forbush Celebrates 100 Years

Beginning in August of 2001, the Forbush Memorial Library in Westminster has just finished celebrating its Centennial Year. "Because the wind blew over the door of the library reads 1902, 100 years after dedication," said **Barbara Friedman**, director.

"With at least two Centennial events in the month began with a Finnish tourist group, Margarit, and the Historical Society opening the library's 100 years at the Forbush Memorial Library," she continued. Other events included an original play "Our Library", by **G. A. Buckman**, performed by the Woman's Club. A library girl scout badge designed and awarded to girls who could complete the Library's Centennial History Scavenger Hunt, a blue pencil crock by local potter, **Nancy Sampson**, stamped on the bottom: "Celebrating 100 years - Forbush Memorial Library", and story hour participants made 100 cut outs, using their hands as patterns, and produced a banner that has hung in the Children's Room all year.

A few other highlights of the year had families cast garden stones with their family name for a Children's



The Watertown Free Public Library honored 73 Watertown Women of Achievement with a rotating display and gala reception.

"This whole effort has given the library stature in the community and much positive public relations as the library led the town in appreciation for the contribution of these amazing women," said **Beverly Shank**, Head of Adult Services.



Shoveling dirt for the new East Longmeadow Public Library are, from left to right, Charles Snell, President of New England Design Associates (general contractor); Marilyn Richards, Chair of the East Longmeadow Planning Board; Gary Delisle, Selectman; Gloria Carver, Library Director; Carol Munro, Chair of the Board of Library Trustees; Commissioner Joseph Hopkins, Chair of MBLC; Barbara Hill, Trustee and Co-Chair of the Library Building Committee; Cheryl Sheils, Trustee; Todd Marchant, Co-Chair of the Library Building Committee (hidden); Susan Grimaldi, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; State Representative Gale Candaras, and State Representative Mary Rogness. Not pictured but also present was Kimberly Wiczibicki, Selectman.

## Southwick Celebrates 110 Years with Summer Reading

This year's Summer Reading Program, "A Star Spangled Summer," got off to a running start at the Southwick Public Library, as it was combined with a celebration of the library's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

While children and young adults were signing up, viewing the weekly prizes they could win, and browsing books, audios and videos they planned to check out, their parents and invited guests attended a brief 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

State Representative **Daniel Keenan** expressed his congratulations, as did **Peter Miller**, legislative aide to State Senator **Michael Knapik**. A Senate Citation noting 110 years of service and an American flag were presented by Miller on behalf of Sen. Knapik, and Trustee Chair **Marcia Haar** presented mementos marking the library's anniversary to Rep. Keenan, Miller and Southwick Selectman Chair **Pat Ayotte**. Trustee **Lynda Daniele** recounted the history of the construction of the new library, and Haar explained that the library served as a center of both learning and fun.



Southwick Public Library Director Anne Murray, left, celebrating Southwick's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Library Trustee Adam Salerno, Legislative Aide Peter Miller, Selectman Pat Ayotte, Trustee Lynda Daniele and Library Volunteer Irene Wolfe.

## Board Highlights (continued from page 2)

operate. Although many of our library programs may be popular, we need to ask if they meet our core service and the needs of our patrons," he concluded.

**Robert C. Maier**, in his first report as Acting Director, said that this was an "exciting and challenging time." He mentioned several meetings he had had over the past several weeks with Commissioner Hopkins and the Executive Board, as well as with the Library of Last Recourse to discuss how they could work together on the current fiscal crisis. "We have just taken the largest cut ever in statewide library services," he said. He thanked the Commissioners, Board staff, Regional and Network administrators, for their efforts in responding to the cuts and for their efforts in staying focused and preparing to move forward to see how many of these programs could be restored.

**Maureen Killoran**, Head, Public Library Advisory and Government Liaison, in her legislative report, gave an overview of the way in which the State Budget had been finalized, enacted, vetoed and overridden. On July 19, 2002, the House and Senate Conference Committee reached an agreement to use the lowest amounts for each line item that was approved by either the House or Senate versions of the FY2003 Budget. That same day, MBLC Chairman **Joseph Hopkins** sent a letter to Acting Governor **Jane Swift** requesting to resolve the inequity in the Regions and Library of Last Recourse (LLR) line item by reducing the per capita distribution to LLR from \$1.06 to \$.901. After 10 days, the Governor signed the FY2003 budget that included vetoes of \$355 million. Among them was the MBLC Library Telecommunications line item where the Governor cut \$3 million, reducing it from \$3,838,471 in FY2002 to \$366,718 in FY2003. She also did not amend the per capita for the LLR. Finally, on August 1, 2002, the House and Senate overrode only eight of the Governor's vetoes, none of which included any items for the Board.

Although there is no information currently, said Ms. Killoran, it is hoped that some funding might be restored in any supplemental budgets that would be taken up by the legislature later in the year. She then announced that on August 10<sup>th</sup>, Acting Governor Swift did sign "An Act Providing for Capital Facility Improvements and Repairs for the Commonwealth" that included \$75 million for the public library construction program. **Robert Maier**, Acting Director, then outlined the steps the Board would need to take in order to guarantee that this money would be appropriated. Among them would be to meet with the Governor's office to insure that Library Construction would be in her Five-year Capital Budget, as well as with the office of Administration and Finance to work out the details of how much money would be released in FY2003. Although he could give no timetable, Mr. Maier said he hoped this could be accomplished by the end of August.

Given the 24 percent reduction in regional library funding, the Board voted to "approve a temporary modification of its Policy on Budget Revisions for Regional Library Systems to permit regions to reduce staffing levels during fiscal year

2003 without prior approval of the Board."

During October and November the regions will be coming before the Board with complete budget revisions at which time it is anticipated that most of these personnel issues will have been resolved and documented, said **Robert Maier**, Acting Director.

Several speakers gave reports on the "Impact of the FY2003 Budget on Agency Programs and Services." Among them were **Carolyn Noah**, Administrator, Central Massachusetts Regional Library System, who gave an overview of some of the anticipated cutbacks to services offered by the regions. **Deidre Brennan**, Administrator, Boston Massachusetts Regional Library System, reported on how the Boston Public Library as the Library of Last Recourse would be handling cuts to the city budget, as well as the impact of early retirement. She stated that cross state delivery would continue to be funded and that discussions were ongoing in regard to database support and statewide reference. **Ronald Gagnon**, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange, in representing the networks stressed that these cutbacks in funding would mean slower service to libraries and their users due to the inability to maintain and update equipment and telecommunications lines. **Robert Maier**, MBLC Acting Director, outlined the immediate cuts in the Telecommunications line that would halt MARC conversion, future development of the Special Collections Database, loss of the Specialized Reference Centers, ILL Net Lender Offset, and stressed that the Board would have to make some final decisions regarding a little more than \$200,000 left in the account after July's commitments have been paid. **Dianne Carty**, MBLC Head of State Aid & Data Coordination, gave an overview of State Aid for the past few years, as well as the FY2003 cherry sheet estimates for each city and town. "These reductions will touch each and every library user because State Aid to Public Libraries is used in every aspect of library operations," she said. **Barbara Glazerman**, MBLC Head of Operations & Budget, passed out a FY2002 Financial Statement, along with a projected budget for FY2003. "By moving some positions from the state account to the federal account, the Agency will be able to maintain current staff, but not fill any outstanding vacancies," she said.

In other reports to the Board, **Dianne Carty**, MBLC Head of State Aid & Data Coordination, gave an update on the *Benchmark Study of the Value of Board Service to School Libraries*. This study will provide: a) comprehensive listing of services provided, b) statistical information on the usage of these services, c) estimated dollar value of the services provided, and d) a standard 'value of service' tool that will be used to determine service values statewide, she said.

Commissioner **Elia Marnik**, Chair of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, gave a brief report on the Center's upcoming activities: the Massachusetts Book Awards to be held at the Worcester Public Library on October 3<sup>rd</sup>; participation, along with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, in the National Book Festival in Washington, DC, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and their search for new office space.

**David Gray**, MBLC Director of Commu-

nications and Public Information, gave a FY2002 report on the Public Awareness Campaign that included the *Read Into It!* Poster Contest, newspaper advertising, billboards, production of two TV and radio spots, and the airing of the spots on cable television. He also announced that the two TV spots will be airing on Channels 4 and 25 in the Boston area and Channel 40 in the Springfield area between September 16 and October 12, 2002, but that the radio spots would not be running this fall as originally planned due to cuts in the telecommunications line. After answering some questions regarding press coverage, he passed out an article from that day's (August 15, 2002) *Boston Globe South* edition on cutbacks to library services.

The Board meeting concluded with the Commissioners discussing the structure of their interviews with the final candidates for Director of the Agency that will be conducted in late September.

## Board Approves LSTA Long-Range Plan

After a lengthy review of the *Library Services and Technology Act: Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 1998-2002*, the staff of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Library Development Unit worked with a Steering Committee to develop a new five-year plan to guide the use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funds.

Viewed as a revision of the current plan, the Commissioners approved the final draft at the July 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The *Library Services and Technology Act: Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 2003-2007* proposes changes in areas of emphasis and makes mid-course corrections, but the overall thrust is the same.

### Some Highlights

The *Background* section has been entirely revised to bring it up to date. Wherever possible 2000 census data has been used along with the latest data from MBLC files.

*Goal 1* has a new focus on developing a digital library for Massachusetts that gives this objective the flexibility MBLC needs to initiate projects that further the development of a digital library as funds become available. If efforts to re-authorize LSTA at a higher funding level are successful, this would be one of the areas to be developed.

*Goal 4* has been expanded to reflect an ongoing emphasis on children's and youth services. This would be another area to recommend new expenditure levels as new appropriations become available.

*Goal 6* reflects the library community's growing interest in pursuing a variety of public awareness efforts. The intention is to expand current successful efforts to inform the public of the benefits of library service and to extend these efforts to the local level.

*General Policies* have been updated to further clarify the network upgrade program to make formal the grant limit of 60 percent of hardware and software costs; clarify the use of grant funds for personnel, especially in

(continued on page 7)

## 70 Massachusetts Libraries & Networks Receive LSTA Grants

At the July 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded \$1,980,873 in grants to 70 public, academic, school, special libraries and regional library networks across the Commonwealth under the Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for fiscal year 2003.

“These grants will be used to implement projects to train adults in the use of the library’s computers and electronic resources; offer programs for young children, their parents and caregivers; promote cross-cultural understanding; improve customer service; assist adult literacy students; train librarians via the Web; and help to preserve library’s valuable historical records,” said **Robert Maier**, Acting Director and Head of Library Development.

Grants were awarded in 12 categories:

- Community Languages
- Customer Service
- Discovery Kits
- Early Childhood
- Information Literacy
- Management of Special Collections
- Mother Goose Asks Why
- Network System Upgrade
- Open Projects
- Preservation Survey
- School Library Incentive
- Serving People with Disabilities

Each of the grants was recommended by the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) after having been reviewed by one of the subcommittees of SACL, Education, Resource Sharing, Special Services or by a special review panel that included one SACL member and three outside reviewers.

### Long-Range Plan (continued from page 6)

schools; establish a general policy of one grant per round per applicant, and establish a two-year grace period for expired long-range plans.

*Procedures* have been modified to delete the Innovative category of grants and replace it with the Open category.

The section on *Evaluation* places greater emphasis on the use of professional outside evaluators, consistent evaluation methods for mini-grants, and an overall evaluation of the program that leads directly into the next planning process.

*Appendix B – Long-Range Plans* section has been retained. The MBLC remains convinced that the planning requirement furthers the development of library service.

While the *Long-Range Plan* does not deal directly with questions about ease of completing applications and ease of reporting progress of grant funded projects, the Board will continue to examine both our application forms and report forms in an effort to streamline and simplify these processes.

It is expected that *The Long-Range Plan* will be printed shortly, as well as being available on the Board’s Web site, [www.mlin.org](http://www.mlin.org).

CITY/TOWN	LIBRARY / PROGRAM NAME	AWARD
Abington	Abington High School Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Amherst	Jones Library, Inc. / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$16,600
Arlington	Robbins Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$18,395
Arlington	Robbins Library / <i>Open Project - Family Literacy</i>	\$5,838
Athol	Athol High School - Armstrong Memorial Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Athol	Athol Public Library / <i>Hungering for Computer Knowledge in Bytes and Bits</i>	\$19,900
Barre	Quabbin Regional Middle/High School Media Center / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Berlin	Berlin Public Library / <i>Open Project - Tuning into Teens</i>	\$15,000
Beverly	Beverly Public Schools / <i>Information Literacy - B.A.M. (Books and More)</i>	\$19,979
Beverly	Memorial Middle School Library Media Center / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Bolton	Florence Sawyer School / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Boston	Boston Latin School - Harry V. Keefe LMC / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Boston	Boston Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Boston	BPL - Statewide Reference and Referral Center / <i>Open Project - MASSAnswers</i>	\$71,545
Boston	Fenway Libraries Online / <i>Network System Upgrade</i>	\$287,865
Boston	Massachusetts Prevention Center System / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Boston	Northeastern University Libraries / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Boston	Northeastern University Libraries / <i>Serving People with Disabilities</i>	\$19,979
Cambridge	Lesley University, Ludcke Library / <i>Information Literacy Tutorial on the Web</i>	\$20,000
Chicopee	Chicopee Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Chicopee	Chicopee Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Dedham	Dedham Public Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Dighton	Dighton Public Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$10,000
Douglas	Douglas Middle High School / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Dudley	Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Duxbury	Duxbury Free Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Everett	Parlin Memorial Library / <i>Early Childhood</i>	\$10,000
Everett	Parlin Memorial Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$12,000
Florence	Lilly Library / <i>Early Childhood</i>	\$10,000
Framingham	Framingham Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Hanson	Hanson Public Library / <i>Serving People with Disabilities</i>	\$20,000
Hanson	Hanson Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Haverhill	Haverhill Public Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$10,000
Haverhill	Northern Essex Community College / <i>Information Literacy</i>	\$20,000
Hudson	Hudson Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Ipswich	Ipswich Public Library / <i>Preservation &amp; Description of Archival Collections</i>	\$5,500
Manchester-by-the-Sea	Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$10,000
Mansfield	Mansfield Public Library / <i>Serving People with Disabilities</i>	\$20,000
Mansfield	Mansfield Public Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$8,000
Marlborough	Marlborough Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Monson	Monson Free Library / <i>Open Project - MFL Teen Advisory Board Grows Up</i>	\$27,690
Monson	Monson Free Library / <i>Early Childhood</i>	\$10,000
Natick	Minuteman Library Network / <i>System Upgrade - MLN - Next Generation ILS</i>	\$750,000
Natick	Morse Institute Library / <i>Early Childhood</i>	\$10,000
Natick	Walnut Hill School Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
New Bedford	New Bedford Free Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
New Bedford	New Bedford Free Public Library / <i>Open Project - Bookmobile Connect</i>	\$15,000
New Bedford	New Bedford Free Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Newton	Newton Public Schools / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Newton Centre	Newton Free Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$10,000
North Adams	North Adams Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
North Brookfield	Haston Free Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
North Reading	Flint Memorial Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Oak Bluffs	Oak Bluffs Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$10,105
Oxford	Oxford Free Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Pembroke	Pembroke Public Library / <i>Open Project - Homework Help Center</i>	\$8,505
Plainville	Plainville Public Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$7,100
Quincy	Thomas Crane Public Library / <i>Preservation Survey</i>	\$1,500
Rutland	Rutland Free Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Somerville	Somerville Public Library / <i>Somerville History Preservation Project</i>	\$20,970
South Deerfield	Frontier Regional School District / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
South Hadley	Gaylord Memorial Library / <i>Mother Goose Asks Why</i>	\$6,680
Springfield	Springfield Library / <i>Seuss-a-Mania: Community Outreach for Family Literacy</i>	\$30,000
Springfield	Springfield Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Stow	Hale Middle School Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Swampscott	Swampscott Public Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Uxbridge	Uxbridge High School Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Walpole	Walpole Public Schools / <i>RIDE THE WAVE: Safe surfing with your child</i>	\$10,000
Wareham	Wareham Free Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Wareham	Wareham Free Library / <i>Open Project - Reading Partners Adult Literacy</i>	\$15,450
Watertown	Braille & Talking Book Library, Perkins School for the Blind / <i>Serving People with Disabilities</i>	\$20,000
Watertown	Watertown Free Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Wayland	Wayland Free Public Library / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,440
West Boylston	Beaman Mem. Public Library / <i>Serving People with Disabilities</i>	\$20,000
West Boylston	Beaman Mem. Public Library / <i>Solving the Internet Puzzle for Middle School Students</i>	\$18,710
West Bridgewater	West Bridgewater Public Library / <i>Early Childhood</i>	\$10,000
Westfield	Westfield Athenaeum / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000
Weymouth	Weymouth High School/Vocational Technical High School / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Wilbraham	Wilbraham Public Library / <i>Management of Special Collections - I Remember...</i>	\$3,122
Williamstown	Mt. Greylock Regional School Library / <i>School Library Incentive</i>	\$5,000
Worcester	Assumption College, Emmanuel d'Alzon Library / <i>Customer Service</i>	\$7,500
Worcester	Venerini Academy / <i>Discovery Kits</i>	\$7,500
Worcester	Worcester Public Library / <i>Community Languages</i>	\$20,000

## Fast Facts

### Students Are in Good Hands @ Your Library™

All public libraries provide homework assistance to users at all grade levels. They give assistance on-site at the library and remotely by phone, fax, e-mail and the Internet. During FY2001, 73 public libraries (20% of those responding) also operated a “formal” homework center, a space dedicated to meeting the curricular needs of specified grades and/or home schoolers. The space is designated for use during specific times of the day and houses at least one CD-ROM or Internet station and a variety materials to meet the curriculum needs of the target grades. A distinguishing characteristic of homework centers is that they are staffed by library personnel and/or volunteer coaches, specifically trained by library staff to assist students.

Source: FY2002 ARIS

## Calendar of Events

### Board Meetings

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2002, 10 am  
Duxbury Free Library  
77 Alden Street, Duxbury

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 3, 2002, 10 am  
Anna Maria College  
One Sunset Lane, Paxton

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002, 10 am  
Newburyport Public Library  
94 State Street, Newburyport

### Conferences

#### New England Library Association Annual Conference

“New England Libraries: Our Heritage,  
Our Future”  
Sunday-Tuesday, October 20-22, 2002  
Sturbridge Host Hotel  
366 Main Street, Sturbridge  
Registration: [www.nelib.org](http://www.nelib.org)

#### Massachusetts Friends of Libraries & Massachusetts Library Trustees Association

Annual Conference  
Saturday, November 2, 2002, 8:30 am –  
2:30 pm  
Radisson Hotel  
75 Felton Street, Marlborough  
Registration: [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual David McCord Children’s Literature Festival

Thursday, November 7, 2002, 3 – 9 pm  
D. Justin McCarthy College Center  
Framingham State College  
100 State St., Framingham  
Registration: Contact Joan Claffin, 121  
Mechanic St., Framingham, MA 01701 or  
1-508-529-3367 before October 25, 2002.

### Special Events

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Massachusetts Book Awards

Thursday, October 3, 2002, 7 pm.  
Worcester Public Library  
3 Salem Square, Worcester  
Contact: [www.massbook.org](http://www.massbook.org)

## Massachusetts Libraries Receive \$32,000 in NEH Grants

Nine libraries throughout Massachusetts were the recipients of more than \$32,000 in Preservation and Access Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced **Bruce Cole**, Chairman, on August 6, 2002.

“These NEH grants will broaden our awareness of the historical events, people and places that provide us with knowledge and wisdom,” Cole said. “They will engage scholars, students and the general public in reflecting on the traditions and ideals that shape our culture and give meaning to our lives. Without the energizing force of the humanities, we cannot understand the world in which we live. The films, museum exhibitions, library programs, preservation projects and classroom activities we are funding today will provide a richer cultural world for all Americans.”

NEH grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Throughout the year, humanities experts outside of the Endowment assess all applications and judge the quality and significance of each proposed project.

The libraries receiving grants were:

Eugene L. Freel Library, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams	\$3,278
Genealogy & Local History Library, Conn. Valley Historical Museum, Springfield	\$4,555
Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester	\$3,092
Hancock Shaker Village Library, Pittsfield	\$3,303
Medford Public Library, Medford	\$3,079
Norton Public Library, Norton	\$2,550
Stockbridge Library Association, Stockbridge	\$4,932
Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange	\$3,118
Wheelock College Library, Boston	\$5,000

## Wampanoags Receive Federal Grant for Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that supports the nation’s museums and libraries, announced on July 16, 2002, that it had awarded \$4,000 to the Wampanoag

Tribal Library of Gay Head – Aquinnah to support core library operations.

Although the Tribal Library is intended primarily for members of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, as well as other tribal organizations, scholars seeking information about the Wampanoag and other Native American cultures are also welcome. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 pm.

“Native American libraries are much more than book repositories,” said **Dr. Robert S. Martin**, IMLS Director. “They contain cultural and historical artifacts and help preserve Native American traditions. They also provide much needed access to technology. The grants IMLS makes will help Native American libraries safeguard their tribe’s customs and connect their communities with the world.”

The IMLS’s Native American Library Service grant programs help provide improved library services for an important, but often underserved, part of the nation’s community of library users.

### TV Spots to Air in September & October

The 30-second TV spots, “*Why Do You Use the Library?*,” produced last fall by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will be airing on WBZ-TV Channel 4 in Boston and WGGB-TV Channel 40 in Springfield from September 16 to October 12, and on WFXT-FOX 25 in Boston from September 30 to October 12, 2002. “The spots will air more than 150 times primarily during news programs on these stations,” said **David Gray**, Director of Communications and Public Information. The spots can also be viewed by downloading them off of the Board’s Web site at [www.mlin.org/campaign/highlights.html](http://www.mlin.org/campaign/highlights.html)



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