FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2020

Worcester Public Library and City Officials Celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week and Honor Friends of WPL

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library (WPL) honored the Friends of the Worcester Public Library with the help of Mayor Joseph M. Petty and City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. on Thursday, October 15. The Friends received a proclamation from the Mayor proclaiming the week of October 18, 2020 to be Friends of Libraries Week in Worcester, MA.

The Friends of the Worcester Public Library is an organization of volunteers who help enhance the library’s services to the people of the Worcester area. They raise money to support programs and events at the library, including the popular museum pass program. They also advocate to help ensure the library continues to get the resources needed to serve the public. They are one of the oldest Friends groups in Massachusetts, and were established in 1956. During the 2020 fiscal year, a year that was shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friends volunteered over 600 hours in support of WPL.

“I commend the Friends of the Worcester Public Library for the amazing work they do in ensuring the continued delivery of services at the library, and promoting this valuable resource in our City,” Worcester City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. said. “I cannot thank these dedicated volunteers enough for their commitment to the library, particularly during the COVID crisis. At a time when folks could not physically come through the library doors, the Friends of the Worcester Public Library helped to make sure programs and services were still provided through their financial support and advocacy. They are truly deserving of recognition for their ongoing efforts.”
Representatives from the City of Worcester, staff from WPL, the WPL Board of Directors, and the Worcester Public Library Foundation have all contributed notes of appreciation to the Friends. The notes are posted online at https://mywpl.org/article/national-friends-libraries-week. Members of the public are invited to fill out the form on that page to write their own note to the Friends, in order to show their appreciation to the volunteers for all they do for the library and community.

“The Friends of the Worcester Public Library represent some of our most dedicated and tireless volunteers,” said Stephanie Pasha, President of the Worcester Public Library Board of Directors. “In addition to the work they do managing the book store and raising funds for programming, they serve as ambassadors for the Library in our community and when they are in any of our library locations. Those familiar, smiling faces mean so much to the staff and to the patrons. The Board of Directors is so appreciative of the work of the Friends.”

National Friends of Libraries Week is an initiative of United for Libraries, and will be held October 18 - 24, 2020. The celebration is in its 15th year, and is designed to not only honor Friends groups, but also as a way to raise awareness and promote membership. Member of the public can find out more about becoming a Friends member by visiting https://mywpl.org/membership-0.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit mywpl.org. For more information on National Friends of Libraries Week contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org.

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