Worcester, MA – The City of Worcester has collectively read for more than one million minutes over the last several weeks as part of the Worcester Public Library’s 2018 Summer Reading Program. The program encourages people of all ages to read during the summer months, with a special focus on encouraging kids and teens to read for twenty minutes a day to prevent summer reading loss.

“By meeting this challenge to read one million minutes, our city has collectively illustrated its commitment to summer reading as an important way to continue learning during school vacation,” said City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. “I extend my thanks to everyone for participating in this community-wide effort, especially the Worcester Public Library for facilitating such a successful and enjoyable program.”

The summer reading program began June 16, 2018, with patrons signing up to log their minutes, participate in events and activities, and win prizes. The theme this year is Libraries Rock! and music-related events and programs are running throughout the summer.

“Our Summer Reading Program is an amazing opportunity to turn the community on to reading through a wide range of programs, classes and events,” said Geoffrey Dickinson, Head Librarian. “It is our most anticipated program of the year, with thousands participating all across the city.”

The summer reading program is an important initiative that is designed to reach kids and teens during school vacation months. On average, students who do not read over the summer lose two months of reading skills. By grade six,
students who have experienced summer learning loss over the years are an average of two years behind their peers.

“By creating a challenge and providing incentives, the library strives to make reading active and fun,” said Cynthia Bermudez, Youth Services Coordinator. “We want kids to develop a love of reading because we know that will help prevent summer learning loss. More than that, it will help kids build fundamental skills needed to succeed in today’s information age.”

This year, more than 1,900 readers have signed up for the program, which runs through August 18, 2018. Participants are encouraged to continue logging their minutes, and a final minute tally will be announced at the end of the program.

For more information on Read a Million Minutes at the Worcester Public Library, contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org.

Check http://www.mywpl.org/ for updates on the Summer Reading program, and for a complete listing of all programs, please visit: http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/w/wp/ek.cfm.

The Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Worcester Public Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Summer Reading Program is made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, UniBank, Enterprise, The Office of District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Fallon Health, Cornerstone Bank, Worcester Credit Union, the Price Chopper Golub Foundation, the Worcester Public Library Foundation, and Friends of the Worcester Public Library.

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