



Welcome Letter from the Library Director

To the Woodbury Community:

Welcome to the Woodbury Public Library! I am looking forward to leading the library team as the new Library Director for the Woodbury Public Library, having started my journey on December 6th. I am grateful for the opportunity, and I love being back in Connecticut, where I have family.

My vision for the Woodbury Public Library is to be the “go-to” resource in the community for everyone, for literacy, educational endeavors, and self-directed enrichment, through reading, storytimes, programs, events, and online resources.

The Woodbury Public Library is already a very welcoming community gathering place, and it will be a priority for the library staff to continue this best practice. I want to ensure that the citizens feel that the library is an asset that brings value to their community.

I believe it is important for the Woodbury community to know what resources are available to them through their library. I would love it if I never heard these words: “I didn’t know the library DID that!” or “I didn’t know the library HAD that!” Rather, when the townspeople have a need, let them think of turning to the library first for assistance!

I’ve been working in libraries my whole life, having gotten my start at the early age of 15 in a public library in New Jersey. Since then, I’ve worked in a college library, middle school library, and five public libraries. Most recently, I came from a five branch public library system in Florida, where I worked for 15 years in the capacity of Region Manager and Acting Library Director. I hold a Master’s Degree in Library Information Science from the University of South Florida, and multiple certifications.

I am passionate about libraries, literacy, and learning. In Florida I was very involved with the State Library and the Florida Literacy Coalition, in a train-the-trainer and mentor role, in helping libraries and other community based providers start up adult literacy initiatives, including Adult Basic Education, Workforce Development, English Language Learning, Citizenship, GED, Career Online High School, and more. It was very rewarding to see how the library’s services could empower people and change lives, through improved literacy skills and employment opportunities.

Early literacy is so important because strong reading skills lay the foundation for all future success in a child’s life. Exposing children, ‘tweens, and teens to reading materials, classes, and events with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) and socialization components is crucial for their growth, development, and critical thinking skills. Over the years I’ve spent working in libraries, I’ve seen just how impactful librarians can be as positive role models to youngsters. No doubt that public libraries play a vital role in getting children Kindergarten Ready.

Please feel free to stop by and meet me. I’d love to get to know you and hear your input about the future of the Woodbury Public Library and our services.

Sincerely,

Susan Mutschler