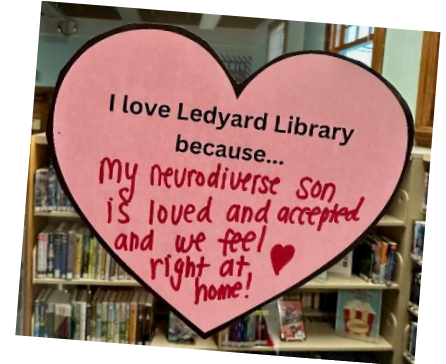


Director's Report to the Library Commission February 24, 2025

Budget News:

- The Library Preliminary Budget Work Session is scheduled with the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 13 at 1:15 p.m. Erica Christofferson, our Administrative Assistant, has agreed to represent the library as she is familiar with the library budget.
- We have several hearts on display at both Bill and Gales Ferry Library as part of our "I Love Ledyard Library" campaign. Donations are slow, but we are really enjoying seeing all the great things our patrons have to say about their library!



Library News:

- The Library Director job has been posted. John and I met with the HR Director to discuss details and ensure the Commission would be included in the interviewing process.
- Adult program highlight – Best Day Hikes in CT and RI with Steve Fagin on Monday, March 10, 6:00 P.M. Bill Library
We welcoming outdoor writer and Ledyard resident Steve Fagin as he discusses his newest book, *AMC's Best Day Hikes in Connecticut & Rhode Island*, an illustrated guide featuring maps and color photographs for 60 different local hikes.
- Teen program highlight – Cookie Canvas Challenge on Saturday, March 1, 10:30 A.M. Bill Library. Decorate plain cookies with colorful icing, sprinkles, and other confectionery embellishments to create unique and imaginative designs. Registration required for ages 10 – 18.
- Children's program highlight – Dig In! Saturday, April 12, 10:30 A.M. Bill Library. Join us for this popular Ledyard Seed Library program! We will once again have Allyson Angelini from Full Heart farm here to do a planting workshop. NEW THIS YEAR! We are happy to announce that Ledyard Middle School teacher and composting expert Eric Wellman will be a part of this event. He will be bringing microscopes so that participants will be able to observe what is in worm tea on the microscopic level. We will also have Jean Scialabba, a worm composter and organic gardener, here to explain worm composting. Registration required for ages 4-12.

Building News:

- Heat update: The Bill Library has been maintaining a fairly comfortable temperature. Thermostats in the main area of the library are set higher to try to keep temps moderate during this cold weather. The back work areas always get cold and space heaters are necessary. We are still waiting for the technician to come out to the Gales Ferry Library to inspect that system and make recommendations.

Finally, since this will be my last Library Commission meeting in Ledyard, I wanted to thank each of you again for allowing me to work alongside you for nearly three years. Time has flown, but together as a team, we have achieved great things. I am proud of all our accomplishments, especially the overall increases in library usage and securing grant funding to make both library buildings more welcoming and accessible to everyone.

While it is never easy to say goodbye, I am confident that the Ledyard Library will continue to succeed in future years. I will always cherish the memories and relationships I've formed here. Thank you again for all your hard work, dedication to the community, and for making this experience so rewarding!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Smith
Library Director