

Photographer-in-Residence – Town of Westborough

Adway S. Wadekar

Junior year – SATs, grades, and extracurricular activities all leading up to that final college application. Junior year will also mark the beginning of an end; the end of the phase where I call Westborough my home and start the search in earnest for a new hometown where my college would be. Although I was born in Connecticut, so far in my vivid memory, Westborough is the only hometown I know having lived here since I was 4 years old. I have literally grown up in this town by learning, living, and exploring the world through the myriad of cultural, educational, and entertainment opportunities that the town has to offer. During this process, I have lost my innocence but have gained a new appreciation of how young children are truly carefree, how they can immerse in the moment and how they find joy in simple things and activities.

My vision for the photographer-in-residence project is to capture young children against the cultural and iconic landmarks, traditions, and experiences that my hometown offers. Through this project, I will relive those precious moments of my childhood all over again; be it getting a cone of ice cream at Uhlaman's, touching a fire truck at the fire station, attending a summertime concert at Bay state commons, waiting for Santa to arrive at the rotary, hiking along the trails preserved by Westborough Community Land Trust, or participating in Harry Potter's birthday celebration at the library. For the past year and a half, I have been covering various events around Westborough, in articles and photographs, for the Community Advocate. I am grateful for this opportunity that has given me a platform to explore, understand, and appreciate my own community better. Many of the events I have covered have involved children of all ages, from infants to teens, which has made me realize the pleasures of capturing the experiences of young children and also the challenges in doing so. With this historical project, I hope to preserve my treasured images of Westborough for myself and for many generations to come, who may have different experiences as times change and along with it, the town itself. However, some traditions may continue and some places may remain the same – only the people would be different. The new generation would be curious about its past, and I would love to be a part of capturing it today. As Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girls Scouts has said "The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."