

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
February 7, 2025

Statistics

The people counter reported that there were **5,582** visits to the library during January. A total of **210** books and other items were added to the collection. **Fifty-eight** new patrons got library cards, and a total of **8163** physical items and **2,768** Overdrive items were checked out in January.

The lower level was staffed **14** nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in January. During those evenings, **28** individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of **87** people attended **10** meetings and programs.

Building Maintenance

We have had a very busy and informative couple of months dealing with building maintenance issues. Not only have we had HVAC/furnace repairs and replacements, but DPW and the multiple skilled tradespeople working on the Story Hour Room furnace repair and replacing the leaking gas pipe went above and beyond to restore the full functioning of the equipment during a period of very cold weather. We are very grateful for their efforts.

Other

We had 59 people participate in our adult programming in January.

Our monthly programs continue to have a steady attendance. The Medway Library Book Discussion Group and OH SHOOT! Photography Group has a consistent following of enthusiastic patrons. Our Adult Game Night was cancelled due to the library closure. The Senior Housing Outreach program had four participants.

Our young adult Dungeons & Dragons group (18-25 yrs olds) has grown in numbers and will be meeting regularly on Mondays. The adult D&D group continues to meet during the weeks that work for everybody in the group.

The Library Webinars and Online Events (Library Speaker Consortium) subscription held three virtual online talks. There were 9 registrations and 5 views for the TJ Klune program. Amanda Montell's talk attracted 4 registrations and 6 views. The last talk for the month did not see any registrations or views. We are aggressively publicizing all three of the monthly programs.

In February, Mark Gostkiewicz will be presenting his Art of Container Gardening program.

February Makerspace Trustees Report

For January, **470** people either used the equipment, wanted a tour to see what we offered, or hung out in the space. We continue to have a healthy amount of children using the space to work on the 3D printer, play computer games, or sew and craft.

Participation for the Morning Mend in the Makerspace is growing. Seven people stopped by on January 18th seeking help mending their clothing.

The Fiber Arts Group met once in January but should be meeting regularly in February.

The January STEAM program was a very productive session. The children used lemons to create batteries and successfully powered LEDs. They learned how a battery works and how to use a multimeter to test voltage. In February, we will learn how temperature affects solutions and molecules.

We also held a Tween & Teen Sewing session as well as an Adult Sewing session in January. Both groups created card wallets and were very happy with the finished product. Additional sewing programs will be planned for March.

The Medway High School Art Club held their bi-annual kids' art class. As always, the kids produced exceptional works of art. The club will be hosting another class in April.

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Patrons used the large format printer and also took advantage of the Epson scanner to convert slides and documents to digital images. Other patrons used the VHS to digital & DVD converters. The computers, 8mm converter, laminator, DVD buffer, and 3D printers were heavily used. On the craft side, patrons used the Silhouette along with the paper crafting and other cutting supplies. Several patrons used the sewing machines throughout the month along with the large conference table to work on projects. Patrons have also been using the knitting needles, fabric, and yarn supplies.

Several patrons have donated their sewing machines to the space. This month, I have serviced most of the new ones along with several of our existing machines to make sure they maintain a high level of performance. Two more need to be cleaned and serviced. Once this task is complete more patrons will be able to participate in the sewing programs.

In February, we will continue to open the Makerspace to middle schoolers on Tuesdays and Thursdays to come and hang out. Morning Mend will be held on Saturday, February 8th, and the regular programs that use the Makerspace will continue to meet as well.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

January 2025 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

Family yoga is starting to catch on. We are working on better promotion of the Tuesday/Thursday Makerspace Hangout. The big news in January, though, is that we were able to continue relocated storytime programming while the storytime furnace unit is being replaced. Although the storytime room and technical services office have had no heat, we have been able to relocate programming to the Cole Room for the time being.

Monthly programs

OUT MetroWest had a nice showing, and Read the Rainbow was small but solid again. We needed to cancel PAWS to Read, but do have signups for February's program.

Passive programs

In the children's room: We had a snowman sensory bin and a star-themed salt writing tray. We had a winter-themed book for a flannel board. In the middle-grade room: Various examination tables and drawing prompt activities saw frequent usage.

Displays

We've kept Lorie Brownell's beautiful winter wonderland on the bulletin board in the children's area.

Collection development

In December, I purchased 26 YA titles and 92 children's books. At the end of the month, I purchased a supplemental awards order of 49 titles.

Deposit Collection/Schools

Sean Sullivan visited for a library tour and left with bags of middle-grade books to freshen up his shelves.

Notes for Trustees

Website

Our site is scheduled to be delivered Monday, 2/3/25.

Policies

Susan followed up on our lack of an art policy and should have one ready for review in the February meeting packet.

We also lack a social media policy. Although we need a straightforward social media/marketing policy, we also need to reconsider the platforms we've traditionally used. Meta's shift to the right and its removal of both fact checkers and curbs on hate speech are deeply concerning. Are Facebook and Instagram viable places to have a library presence, anymore?

Teen Programs

Fatima and Rachel at Millis were open to cross-promoting programs and were interested in collaborating via Zoom on middle school programming.

Underserved Groups

We are working on reclassifying any non-English materials to be more visible and accessible.

That Terrible Intermittent Smell in the Children's Room Closet

It was a gas leak. It is therefore probably good you could not smell it the night of the trustees meeting when we all traipsed into the children's room. Although the heat should be fixed, inspected, and running by the time you read this, the unevenness of the floor has now extended about halfway across the room and some of the floor tiles are pulling away from the wall. Until the structural integrity of this room has been sufficiently established, we are keeping our morning programming out of that room.

Sincerely,
Audrey

Director's Meetings & Webinars in January included:

Department Heads Meeting
Zoom meeting with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Policy Committee Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
ASRL Membership Meeting
Indigenous Peoples' Committee

Director's Meetings & Webinars in February will include:

Staff Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Library GreenScapes: Cultivating Climate Resilience, Community, and Learning
Outdoors
SUP Full Coalition Meeting
ASRL Northeast Regional Forum

Margaret Perkins, Library Director