

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
July 5, 2022

In June, 82 patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery.

Programs in June:

- An Evening with Foster & Twain
- Catherine Marengi Author Talk
- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- Storyhours (weekly)
- Creative Lettering Club
- Teen Makerspace Takeover: Pride Swag
- Dungeons & Dragons Campaign 3
- Arduino Coding and Robotics
- Among Us Gaming Club
- STEAM up your Wednesday
- Teen Friday at the Library
- Creative Tinkerlab in the Makerspace
- Free Summer Lunch & Fun
- Summer Reading Program Kickoff
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Read the Rainbow Book Club
- Cosplay Club (twice a month)
- Medway Library Environmental Club (weekly)
- Domino Mayhem in the Makerspace
- Storytime at the Farmers' Market

Programs in July will include:

- Free Summer Lunch & Fun
- Creative Art in the Makerspace
- Creative Engineering in the Makerspace
- Creative Tinkerlab in the Makerspace
- Creative Lettering
- Storytime at the Farmers' Market
- Pom Pom Creatures in the Makerspace
- STEAM up your Wednesday at the Medway Library
- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- Storyhours (weekly)

- Children's Book Week
- Among Us (weekly)
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Dark Journeys: Urban Legends with Jeff Belanger
- Cosplay Club (twice a month)
- Crafting with Medway Library Environmental Club
- Teen Movie Friday

We have just hired another new Substitute Library Assistant I.

Children's/YA Librarian Report (Audrey Snowden):

June saw lots of activity in the youth services department. We had our regular programming, which included Toddler Jam on Mondays and Tuesdays, It's Story Time! on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Environmental Club on Mondays, Among Us gaming sessions on Tuesdays, and Creative Lettering on Wednesdays. We had a number of Dungeons and Dragons sessions on Mondays, and finished up our school-year campaigning; all of our campaigners plan to pick up the session in the fall with our amazing volunteer DM, Pam. We also opened on Friday nights twice in June, once for First Friday, a Pride swag-making event to support the raising of the Pride flags in Medway the next day, and we showed a movie in the middle of the month, which drew a nice bunch of kids. We worked with our school contacts to get events in the school newsletters, and to get our advertising materials posted in the schools. Our final school visit of the year took place on June 8, and summer reading was promoted heavily!

June also saw some special events, and began our summer season. As part of the summer LGBTQIA+ slate of programming offered in conjunction with Translate Gender, we partnered with Medfield Library to offer the Read the Rainbow book club for teens. The theme for June was romantic comedies. For this same slate of programming, we were welcomed by Medfield Library, Medfield Together, and Park Street Books for Summer Pride Crafts, and this month was Paint Your Pride.

We also had our Summer Reading Kickoff. The Makerspace Coordinator helped to source some large games (giant Connect 4, cornhole, etc.) from the community, and with the help of the Makerspace, all of our teen summer volunteers, library staff, and a representative from Medway Marches, we held the Summer Reading Kickoff in the back parking lot and served more than 150 people in an event filled with arts and crafts, STEM activities, and games. Summer reading is off and running, with more than 100 people signed up before the end of June. The Friends of the Medway Library have sponsored amazing raffle baskets for our readers to try to win (every 5 books read garners 1 ticket entry for kids, or every 2 books read is 1 ticket for our teen readers), and every participant will be able to choose a book from our prize cart at the end of the summer,

regardless of how much they read. Our summer reading signup and logging materials are available in the library, or for download/printing from our website. Also available in the library, and on the website, is information on Medway Public Schools' summer reading lists.

When the Farmer's Market began on June 23, we began providing an outreach storytime every Thursday afternoon at the Farmer's Market. And the following week, the summer lunch program began. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the library provides a free lunch. There are activities before the lunches for small children (Toddler Jam and It's Story Time!) and activities (organized with the Makerspace Coordinator) held in the Makerspace after the lunches for older children. Those thus far have involved Tinkerlab, domino engineering, and creative lettering (future offerings will involve different arts and engineering activities). The program will run through the last week of August, until kids head back to school.

As always, the youth services programming is heavily intertwined with the Makerspace programming and relies heavily on Makerspace assistance in preparing craft ideas and materials for storytimes and programs. We anticipate a full summer and are pleased to note that not only did our teen volunteers wish to assist with the after-lunch activity sessions, they've also signed up to assist with some storytimes and other events.

On the administrative side, I joined the Evaluation Work Group of the SUP Medway Coalition. I attended two meetings of the LGBTQIA+ summer planning group. The Makerspace Coordinator and I met with Sue O'Connor of the Medway Housing Authority and Ryan Sherman, the Medway Public Schools Wellness Coordinator, to plan August events that will disseminate backpacks (filled with school supplies) to Medway schoolchildren. We are working with Mr. Sherman to try to get a school bus stop for the library, to provide transportation for middle schoolers who cannot get to programs (this is going to be a process, but we're starting that conversation). I also attended the monthly meeting of the Youth Services Section of the Massachusetts Library Association. July looks to be a continuation of June, with most of our special summer events taking place in August, usually in conjunction with Medway Parks & Rec. Our collection development focus this month was on filling in manga titles for the younger crowd, because demand has grown and most manga is for teens, and on getting titles in stock in different formats for the school reading lists. The middle and high school reading lists were heavily revamped, and especially on the high school level, we hope to offer these titles in audio format (Playaway, particularly) in addition to print.

Makerspace Report

Makerspace visitor count June: 157 + a dog (not everyone has been signing the guest book)

Workshops & Classes:

STEAM Wednesday - June 15 in the Makerspace - 11 children participated

Arduino Coding and Robotics - June 6, 13, 27 in the Makerspace - 6 children / 5 mentors.
Cosplay Club - June 11 & 25 in the Makerspace - 6 children participated.

Groups & Classes using the Makerspace:

Creative Lettering Club
Dungeons & Dragons
Environmental Club
Teen Makerspace Takeover
Summer Lunch Activities

Certified 4 patrons on the 3D printer.

Diane has seen people using the VHS converters, Epson scanner, Photoshop, laminator, poster printer, sewing machines, 3D printer, computers, soldering iron, glue gun, pom pom makers as well as the fabric & yarn supply and general craft supplies.

Upcoming July program in the Makerspace:

Arduino Coding & Robotics Summer Session (every Monday night) starts July 18
STEAM Wednesday - July 20
Cosplay Club - July 16 & 30

Dungeons & Dragons Adult Session (will meet every Wednesdays starting July 20)
Summer Lunch Activities (Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 1pm)
Environmental Club (Monday evenings)

Meetings & Webinars in June included:

Department Manager Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Directors Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
HR Series: Manage the Interview
Open Meeting Law
MIIA EAP Presents: Expert Communication: Working Effectively with Others
Substance Use Prevention Medway Coalition Meeting
United for Libraries: The ABC's of Preserving Intellectual Freedom (ALA Conference, D.C.)

Meetings & Webinars in July will include:

Department Manager Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Medway Coalition Meeting

ARIS Workshop

Building and Grounds

The sprinkler pipes in the attic will be replaced, starting July 8th. The formica countertops on the circulation desk and in the Technical Services office will be replaced, most likely in July.

Other

Due to the small number of children and teens signing up for the focus group, the consultant suggested that our Children's Librarian talk with children and teens individually.

The lower level was open 17 nights in June, for 5 meetings and programs, and 23 individuals using computers and the Makerspace.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director