

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
August 1, 2022

In July, 78 patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery.

Programs in July:

- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- Storyhours (twice a week)
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Teen Movie Friday
- Among Us Gaming Club
- STEAM up your Wednesday
- Pom Pom creatures in the Makerspace
- Creative Tinkerlab in the Makerspace
- Creative Art in the Makerspace
- Creative Engineering in the Makerspace
- Free Summer Lunch & Fun
- Creative Art in the Makerspace
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Read the Rainbow Book Club
- Cosplay Club (twice a month)
- Medway Library Environmental Club (weekly)
- Storytime at the Farmers' Market

Programs in August will include:

- Free Summer Lunch & Fun
- Storytime at the Farmers' Market
- STEAM up your Wednesday at the Medway Library
- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- Storyhours (twice a week)
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Dark Journeys: Urban Legends with Jeff Belanger (teens & adults)
- Cosplay Club
- Backpack Blast Off
- Adult Dungeons and Dragons Group
- Youth Pride Zine (Medfield)
- Tinkerlab

- Read the Rainbow
- Diane Edgecomb @ Choate (with Parks & Rec)
- Elijah T. Grasshopper @ Choate (with Parks & Rec)
- Creative Art
- Creative Engineering
- Pixie Festival Display
- Alec Carvin Author visit
- Pride Buttons at Park Street (Medfield)
- Oh Shoot Photo Group (at Medway Community Farm this month)
- Book Group at the Senior Center
- Summer Reading Price Cart

We have hired another new Substitute Library Assistant who recently finished her Masters degree in library science. A part-time Library Assistant will change her status to Substitute, as she will be returning to school to pursue a Masters degree in library science in September.

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

We're continually impressed by the dedication of our program volunteers, both those belonging to the Friends of the Library and the Medway teens who've given so freely of their time this summer.

Because of them, in July, we were able to amplify the excellent effects of the summer lunch program (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at noon) by offering programs beforehand for young children, and by offering family programs afterward. The Makerspace has coordinated the family programs afterward and has done a stellar job putting together scalable activities that work for multiple ages.

Miss Amy offers Toddler Jam in the park (by Cassidy Field) on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the regulars for that program are often also regulars at It's Story Time! on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These programs are held at 11.

Environmental Club was held on Monday nights, with the exception of one guest appearance at a post-lunch activity (making T-shirt bags) at the end of the month. The club worked to help finish one member's project, and Molly's endangered animal display is currently showing in the display case upstairs in the library.

Among Us had another consistent month, with a few new stalwart members joining. We are taking a break from this program in August, but will resume in the fall. The library Discord server, which we use to chat during Among Us, has seen a few members come in to hang out and

join forces for different games during other times of the week, giving them another library space to develop community.

Our First Friday movie did not bring in a ton of people, but those who attended enjoyed it. We will start up First Fridays (and other Fridays) again in the fall. A nonprofit gaming group sent the youth services department a package full of new and gently used board games, so we plan to have a combination of game nights and movie nights when we resume our Fridays.

Our summer partnership with Medfield Public Library, Medfield Together, and Park Street Books continued with the second Read the Rainbow book club meeting (small but productive) and craft event at Park Street. This month's craft was pride bookmarks.

The Farmer's Market Storytime events have brought in a number of regulars, and the timing often coincides with the end of a camp day at Choate Park, so there's an enthusiastic audience. We're happy to have been asked to participate in this community happening.

Summer reading has over 200 participants so far, and readers have started logging their titles and claiming their raffle tickets. August will see more of this, more of our regular programming and summer lunch programming, and all of the special one-off events of summer reading. Additionally, the library is partnering with the schools to distribute new backpacks full of school supplies as part of the summer lunch programming twice in August. It's going to be a very, very busy month.

Makerspace Report

Makerspace visitor count July: 226 (not everyone has been signing the guest book)

Workshops & Classes:

STEAM Wednesday - July 20 in the Makerspace - 6 children participated

Arduino Coding and Robotics - July 18, 25 in the Makerspace - 5 children / 5 mentors.

Cosplay Club - July 16 & 20 in the Makerspace - 9 children 7/15, 1 child 7/30

Groups & Classes using the Makerspace:

Dungeons & Dragons

Environmental Club

Summer Lunch Activities

Diane Busa has seen people using the DVD buffer, VHS converters, Epson scanner, Photoshop, laminator, poster printer, sewing machines, 3D printer, computers, soldering iron, glue gun 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)

STEAM Wednesday - August 17

Cosplay Club - August 20

Dungeons & Dragons Adult Session (Wednesdays)

Summer Lunch Activities (Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 1pm)

Meetings & Webinars in July included:

Department Manager Meeting

ARIS Workshop

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

SUP Medway Coalition Meeting

Ryan Dowd's Training on Mental Illness

Meetings & Webinars in August will include:

Department Manager Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Snap Circuits Children's Program

2022 United for Libraries Virtual: DEI in Libraries

Meeting with Select Board

Building and Grounds

- The sprinkler pipes in the attic have been replaced. Upgrading of fire alarm equipment will likely be required.
- The rubber section of the roof has been replaced.
- The formica countertops on the circulation desk and in the Technical Services office will be replaced within a few weeks.
- HVAC Roof Top Unit 2 needs repair.
- A small section of the plumbing infrastructure in the sprinkler room on the lower level was replaced due to leakage.
- Three of the dehumidifiers are being evaluated, with an eye toward replacement.

Other

We are adding several museum passes for FY23:

Historic New England

Garden in the Woods - Native Plant Trust

Tower Hill - New England Botanic Garden

Plymouth Patuxet

In July, 395 people attended 42 programs, 11 of which were off-site. In August, 44 programs for children, youth and adults are planned. Of these, 18 are off-site. Offsite programs include programs co-sponsored by Parks and Recreation, storytime at the Farmers Market, and programs co-sponsored by neighboring libraries. The summer lunch program welcomed 513 people in July.

In addition, about twenty-three children and their counselors came to a one day Parks and Recreation slime-making camp, which was held at the library due to the oppressive heat.

Several children have participated so far in answering “Focus Group” questions for the development of the Library’s strategic plan.

The ARIS report is due August 26th, and the State Aid report is due October 7th. In order to be eligible for an LSTA grant, the strategic plan must be accepted by October 1st, and the Action Plan by December 1st.

The lower level was open 15 nights in June, for 4 meetings and programs, and 20 individuals using computers and the Makerspace.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director