

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
September 1, 2020

- Curbside pickup is going very well. There were 3,581 checkouts during August, to more than 780 patrons.
- The Library served lunch to 415 people in July and August.
- A subscription to Wowbrary has been added. This weekly newsletter includes library news, book reviews by a volunteer, and brief summaries of most of the books purchased by the Medway Library during the previous week. These summaries link to the catalog, allowing patrons to find and request new titles easily.

Programs in August:

- Thursday and Friday Story Times - Online Live
- Summer Lunch Program
- Bounce Back Summer Camp (Virtual)
- Thursday and Friday Story Times - Online Live
- Monday and Wednesday Yoga & Mindfulness for Kids and Teens - Online Live
- Dungeons & Dragons Lite

Programs in September will include:

- Thursday and Friday Story Times - Online Live
- Monday and Wednesday Yoga for Kids and Teens - Online Live
- Climate Preparedness Week programs
- Getting Started in Homeschooling

Children's/YA Librarian Report:

Numbers fell off in August to 326 participants in children's and young adult programs, but Lauren Masse's Yoga for Kids programs remain popular. They are consistently pulling good numbers and she is developing an online following for this program! Most summer reading programs were in July, and August is the end of the summer (and carries with it that end-of-summer blah), so the drop in the rest of the programming is not unexpected. We will continue offering book clubs and hope those pick up. I am keeping storytime on Zoom for one more month, to see if I can make it work there. The advantages it offers over Facebook Live (interaction and no publisher restrictions, vs. better numbers) mean it would be to our benefit to get it to succeed on Zoom. We'll see. The D&D Lite sessions really picked up at the end. Alex Krebs is an excellent presenter/game master and I hope we will be able to book him again.

Books, audiobooks and DVD have been purchased. A two-session program on mental health in the time of coronavirus was very well received. I am working with the Massachusetts

Department of Mental Health to find speakers for virtual programs on the opioid crisis and on homelessness and hunger.

Technology

The Friends of the Library purchased four Chromebooks. We plan to use these, as well as two or three laptops, to check out to patrons for two hour sessions. We plan to put at least one table outside on the rear porch for laptops. Patrons can also use the chromebooks anywhere in the parking lot, or at home, for the two hour session. Initially we will loan the laptops three afternoons a week, and quarantine them for a week. We are also considering purchasing one or more additional hotspots through TechSoup to add to the two the library already owns, so that patrons can check out a hotspot along with a chromebook.

Meetings in August included:

Zoom library status meetings for Massachusetts Libraries (mostly small/medium ones)
Minuteman Library Network Membership
Minuteman Technology Interest Group
COVID: How to deal with problem behavior webinar
Meeting with Medway Cultural Council
Website Redesign Meeting - Design almost completed

Meetings in September

Department Heads Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Membership

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director