

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
October 1, 2024

September 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

One of the things we find constant about September is its inconstancy. Some of our regulars have started school, some are working out new schedules, some are taking advantage of the great weather—September is an unpredictable month for early childhood programming numbers. We were pleased to begin welcoming middle schoolers in September this year, despite issues with the busing system, and are expanding programming opportunities for this age group due to the fact that they show up anyway.

Monthly programs

Monthly programs were still on hiatus, with the exception of Read the Rainbow. October will bring the return of PAWS to Read, but instead of resuming monthly programming, we are working on expanding after school weekly programming for teens and tweens.

Passive programs

In the children's room: We had a farm sensory bin and an apple-themed salt writing tray. The **Napping House** flannel board story basket was popular. In the middle-grade room: Various examination table and drawing prompt activities saw frequent usage.

Special programs

We held a storytime and impromptu honk honk singalong at the Farm Fest on September 7. The "honk honk" theme was due to the storytime being smack in the middle of a circle of large rescue vehicles. It was 360-degree surround sound sirens and honks! We will be revisiting our approach for the next Farm Fest!

Displays

Our theme for middle grade and YA displays was Hispanic Heritage Month. The children's bulletin board has been replaced with a fall-themed magic display, thanks to Lorie.

Collection development

In September, I purchased 43 YA titles and 88 children's books.

Next up for revamping is our world languages collection. The juvenile non-fiction was very crowded, so Amanda and Allie kindly shifted some columns of middle-grade fiction and gave the non-fiction some room to breathe.

Deposit Collection/Schools

The new middle/high school library media specialist, Sean Sullivan, and I will be meeting during the first week of October.

Notes for Trustees

I noted at the last meeting that at least one patron reported difficulty getting honors/AP summer reading assignments through the library. Thank you for this feedback; I will make sure this issue is resolved for next summer.

Website: The sites mentioned at last month's meeting for investigation were Westwood and Newbury. Please complete this short form, bit.ly/MWYwebsite, to provide feedback as we gather information about developing a new site.

Pursuant to the April 2024 Department of Justice ruling applying to public library websites, the library's website must be ADA compliant—that is, it must meet Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 standards—by April, 2027. Our site will likely be compliant earlier than that, because our new-site deadline is October 2025.

Although Massachusetts has not been hit as hard as some other states with book bans, the next line of attack for freedom auditors and library detractors may well be virtual. It is in our best interest in myriad ways (legal prudence, fiscal responsibility, and simply being the right thing to do) to make sure the library's website is fully compliant with accessibility standards as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Audrey

October Makerspace Trustees Report

For September, **503** people either used the equipment, wanted a tour to see what we offered, or hung out in the space. We still have a healthy amount of children using the space to work on the 3D printer, play computer games, or sew and craft.

Four patrons in total were certified on the 3D printer and a couple of patrons have inquired about being certified on the Silhouette vinyl/paper cutter.

Two people attended September's mending program, and four tweens/teens participated in the Cozy Bowl Sewing Workshop.

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Patrons used the large format printer to create various sized prints. Several patrons took advantage of the Epson scanner to convert slides and documents to digital images. Other patrons used the VHS to digital converter. The computers, laminator, and 3D printers were also used. On the craft side, patrons used the paper crafting and cutting supplies. Several patrons used the sewing machines throughout the month. Patrons have also been heavily using the fabric and yarn supplies.

In October, Makerspace will be open to middle schoolers on Tuesdays and Thursdays to come and hang out in the space. The Dungeons & Dragons groups and the Fiber Arts group will continue to meet as well. Morning Mend will be held on October 5.

Medway Cable Access will be holding a community ed class in the Makerspace on October 16th to demonstrate the media equipment in the room. Last year's class was a huge success, and almost all of the participants returned to the space to work on their projects throughout the year. We hope for the same results this year.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

Programs for Adults

We had 55 people participate in our adult programming in September.

Our monthly programs continue to have a steady attendance. The Medway Library Book Discussion Group had a slightly larger group than normal. Our Adult Game Night drew eight participants and continued playing long past the scheduled end time. Five people also attended September's meeting of the OH SHOOT! Photography Group, and the Mahan Circle Senior Housing Outreach program also had four participants who borrowed 9 books combined. This outreach program will expand to an additional senior housing location in October. In addition, magazines were brought to Mahan Circle and five books were transported to and from Salmon at Medway. The Fiber Arts Group continued to meet in the Makerspace as did our older teen (18-25 yrs olds) and adult Dungeons & Dragons groups; both groups have been very happy playing in the library. We are seeking additional members for our older teen group to replace two members who have returned to college.

Along with Medway Cable Access' program 'An Introduction to the Makerspace,' we will have two other adult programs in October. One is Tarot Reading on October 10 which has already been filled to capacity and the other is Little Bee, Big World: Protecting America's Native Bees on October 3.

New Events

Our long-time vendor of our website unfortunately plans to retire within about a year, so we will need to find a replacement.

I attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries four day conference, during which I talked with librarians from all over the country, including many from Texas, Illinois, Kansas, and, of course, Massachusetts. Programs included Library Policies: What You Need and Why, HR for Small & Rural Libraries, Environmental Health at Your Library, and Feeding Your Community: Mind, Body & Soul.

Staff

We have hired Ivana Aguilar as Staff Librarian - Technical Services. Ivana has approximately 5 years of experience working at libraries, including two in our network, Natick and Newton. She graduated recently from Simmons.

Meetings & Webinars in September included:

Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Springfield, MA
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
SUP Coalition Kick-Off

Meetings & Webinars in October will include:

Department Heads Meeting
Staff Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee
MLA Leadership & Management Section
SUP Full Coalition Meeting & Policy Workgroup Meeting

Margaret Perkins, Library Director