

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
November 4, 2024

Statistics

The people counter reported that there were **6,011** visits to the library during October. Patrons used CapiraCurbside checkout **29** times. CapiraCurbside software is going to be discontinued March 31, 2025. A total of **321** books and other items were added to the collection. **Thirty-eight** new patrons got library cards. and a total of **7844** physical items and **2,576** Overdrive items were checked out in October.

The lower level was staffed 17 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in October. During those evenings, 38 individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 132 people attended 18 meetings and programs.

Other

We had a nice visit from the Bright Start preschool located down the street from us. The Medway Police escorted the children as they walked along High St to the library. The children and staff enjoyed the festive songs and costumes. The children also got to meet and sing to Momo. Later that evening we were visited by 52 trick-or-treaters, who were rewarded with stickers and candy treats.

The software for our museum passes, room booking, and event calendar and registration have been managed for many years by Plymouth Rocket, until the company suddenly announced, with only a few weeks notice, that except for museum passes, they will no longer support this software. Eight of the Minuteman libraries, including five small libraries including ours, are affected. Minuteman Library Network arranged for demos of several companies, including Assabet Interactive. Assabet has been very responsive, and is the definite leader, for both Medway and Minuteman Library Network. Many of the other Plymouth Rocket users are switching to Assabet as well. In addition to the software mentioned above, Assabet offers a Library of Things module. We have viewed the demo, and are pleased with the product. We are going forward with Assabet and are in the process of training so that we can complete the software configuration.

In mid-November, the Medway Public Library will soon join approximately 48 other Massachusetts libraries in offering access to the Library Speakers Consortium.

There is Capital Improvement Library money from previous projects that will be voted on in the upcoming Town Meeting. The brown carpet at the front door needs replacing, and there are several window shades in the front of the building that have fallen apart - they are at least 16 years old.

(Repurpose Monetary Articles – Library)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$4,205.91 from the funds authorized under Article 7 of the May 10, 2021, Annual Town Meeting warrant, and \$15,000 authorized under Article 7 of the May 9, 2022, Annual Town Meeting warrant, both for the purpose of replacing countertops at the Public Library and which amounts are no longer needed for this purpose, to fund carpet replacement and window treatments, and for the payment of all other incidental and related costs; or act in any manner relating thereto.

Adult Programming

We had 67 people participate in our adult programming in October.

Our monthly programs continue to have steady attendance. The Medway Library Book Discussion Group still has a consistent following of enthusiastic patrons. Our Adult Game Night drew six participants. Six people also attended October's meeting of the OH SHOOT! Photography Group, and the Mahan Circle Senior Housing Outreach program had four participants who borrowed 7 books combined. The outreach program also added the Glenbrook apartments to the visitation schedule with two participants borrowing a book each.

The Fiber Arts Group continued to meet in the Makerspace. For D&D, our older teen (18-25 yrs olds) group has ended due to participants' busy schedules, but the adult group continues to meet. The Medway Cable Access program 'An Introduction to the Makerspace', scheduled for October 16th, was canceled due to not enough sign ups. They will try holding it again in the spring.

The Tarot Reading program on October 10th was a huge success. Every patron was extremely happy with their readings. The Little Bee, Big World: Protecting America's Native Bees program on October 3rd was also very well received.

Along with our regular monthly programs for November, there will also be a free FAFSA Basics Workshop on November 14th at 7pm in the Cole room.

November Makerspace Trustees Report

For September, **568** people either used the equipment, wanted a tour to see what we offered, or hung out in the space. An additional **1000** people went through the Makerspace because of the Friends' book sales. 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.

Two patrons in total were certified on the 3D printer. Five people attended October's mending program.

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, DVD buffer, 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 November, 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, November 16th, and the regular programs that use the Makerspace will continue to meet as well.

I am also currently assisting with the Library of Things initiative. One of my tasks is to locate items in the Makerspace that can be added to the collection for patrons to borrow. I also recently finished setting up 10 hotspots so they can be cataloged for patrons' use.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

October 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

October saw the beginning of expanded teen/tween time in the Makerspace on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will take some time to build. The middle school program is off and running and has been embraced by more students than we had anticipated. The morning programs are settling back in. Weather has been an element in this: usually we are welcoming a few more people inside as things chill out, but when it's 78 degrees on Halloween evening, we may be missing out on some participants for a few more weeks before they come in to warm up.

Monthly programs

PAWS to Read returned this month and we had extra participants. We are set through the end of the year for our teams and look forward to this being another productive year. Read the Rainbow was again small but mighty.

Passive programs

In the children's room: We had a fall sensory bin and a pumpkin-themed salt writing tray. The flannel board book of the month was **Pumpkin Soup**. In the middle-grade room: Various examination table and drawing prompt activities saw frequent usage.

Displays

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

Collection development

In October, I purchased 27 YA titles and 54 children's books.

The world languages collection project will likely go forward before the end of the year. The middle-grade room reorganization project is very close to being completed; all the shifting has been done and now shelf heights are being adjusted.

Amanda and Allie completed a significant culling of the YA section. This section doesn't move well here, so we have cleaned out older items to help make the offerings more attractive. Moving the YA material is going to be a priority over the next year.

Deposit Collection/Schools

I visited with Sean Sullivan, the middle/high school library media specialist. We started brainstorming ways we can work together. I also assisted the McGovern librarian and other elementary specialists in preparing a promotional Medway Library one-pager to be sent home to the kindergarten and first-grade families.

Notes for Trustees

Thanks for sending along website examples. We were sidelined a bit by the event calendar going kaput but will be back on the trail this month.

Sincerely,
Audrey

Meetings & Webinars in October included:

Department Heads Meeting
Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee Meeting
ARSL Northeast Regional Focus Group Meeting
Staff Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
SUP Full Coalition Meeting & Policy Workgroup Meeting

Meetings & Webinars in November will include:

Department Heads Meeting

ARSL Directors', Managers and Administrators Networking Group
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
Staff Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee
ServeSafe Certification

Margaret Perkins, Library Director

