

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
March 27, 2025

Statistics

The people counter reported that there were **4,962** visits to the library during February, and **5,004** so far in March. There were **49** new patrons in February. A total of **7,774** items were circulated. Additional statistics will be available in April.

Building Maintenance

There was an issue with odor coming from the HVAC in the Makerspace. The Fire Department and DPW turned it off for about 24 hours and the odor dissipated. Later in the month an odor appeared on the second floor, which also resulted in a visit by the fire department. This problem was due to an issue on one of the roof top units. There are 5 units on the roof. The smallest unit is fairly new. The compressors have been replaced on two of the units recently. The HVAC servicer checked out the roof top units, determined which of the remaining two units was causing the odor, and replaced the malfunctioning part. Replacing the part costs about \$5,500. The remaining unit will probably require replacement relatively soon. The HVAC servicer will continue to check on this unit.

Bronze Statue - update as of 3/18/25

As you know, the bronze statue will include statues of two children, a boy and a girl. The statue of the girl is not yet complete, and the statue of the boy is not yet underway. The next update will be in June. The boy will be available to model for the statue next winter.

In February, I purchased 45 Adult books.

Director's Meetings & Webinars in March included:

Department Heads Meeting
Zoom meeting with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Staff Meeting
ASRL Adult Services Networking Group Meeting
ASRL Membership Meeting
SUP Policy Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Executive Director, Phil McNulty, Library Visit
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
Community Chat: The AI Hour

Director's Meetings & Webinars in April will include:

Department Heads Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Staff Meeting
ASRL Adult Services Networking Group Meeting
ASRL Membership Meeting
SUP Policy Meeting
Connect Data Visualization Training (ARIS and Financial data - tables and graphs)
Libraries as Catalysts for Social Cohesion

Margaret Perkins, Library Director

March 2025 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

Our regular programs have been well attended overall, especially the Middle School Hangout. Next month we begin a chess club on Mondays.

Monthly/special programs

The Makerspace coordinator spearheaded a Wicked viewing event on an early release day, and that was well attended. It was a steady but not particularly different month.

Passive programs

In the children's room: We had a bugs sensory bin and a rainbow-themed salt writing tray. We had a "going on a bear hunt" book for a flannel board activity. These were all incredibly popular. In the middle-grade room: Various examination tables and drawing prompt activities saw frequent usage.

Displays

The Girl Scouts' annual art show is underway. As usual, it is a vibrant and lovely display, and we're so glad to showcase their art. March featured Women's History Month displays in the middle grade and YA sections. With federal erasures of DEI initiatives, we will continue to prioritize minority recognition months and endeavor to make sure we offer, in the words of Rudine Sims Bishop, "windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors."

Collection development

In March, I purchased 42 YA titles and 94 children's books.

Deposit Collection/Schools/Outreach

I am sad to say that the Millis library was unable to re-muster their Rock, Paper, Scissors team. We are looking for a group to crown its own champion and hoping the Friends of the Library will agree to do that, because Harper B. is ready for another crown. One of our teen volunteers offered some helpful strategies for developing useful relationships with the music department and the NHS, and she and I will be working on that together over the coming month.

Notes for Trustees

Website

It's live. We're trained. We're not done fixing everything up yet and are still learning the ropes. However, it's integrated with our calendar and museum pass software and is changing our outreach strategies for the better (eventually).

Policies

Social media policy: draft sent prior to April meeting

ICE guidelines: Worcester Public Library implemented a set we're adapting

AI in collection development: we are adding a section to our collection development policy to exclude AI-generated content.

A general note on policies: According to the MBLC Bylaws, which this board has asserted to be the bylaws it follows:

“Section 2.6 Procedure on Policy Changes.

Matters involving new or changed policy or exceptions to policy shall not be voted until having been considered in at least two (2) successive meetings. The applicability of this section to any issue shall be determined by the Chair.

The Board shall review all policies at least once every five (5) years and such policies shall become null and void unless acted upon by vote of the Board every five (5) years.”

Although the Medway Public Library Trustees Bylaws from 2020 make provision for the two-successive-meeting requirement to be waived by majority vote, the MBLC bylaws do not contain this provision.

We would like to post the current, accurate bylaws as soon as the board has reached a decision regarding which bylaws it follows (MBLC or Medway Public Library from 2020).

Underserved Groups

Ivana has completed the picture and board book reclassification and in addition created our first Spanish section. It is small but mighty and we hope it gets lots of use!

The Children's Room Again (Again)

The floor has, indeed, become more uneven. (The floor above this room, from the middle-grade room by the historical room, has also developed a dip.) The ventilation has not been fixed. Because money has already been appropriated for these fixes, we look forward to them being resolved before July 1, so we may resume using this room for programming.

Sincerely,
Audrey

February 27th - March 26th Adult Programs Report

We had 102 people participate in our adult programming.

Our monthly programs continue to have a steady attendance. The Medway Library Book Discussion Group attracted eight enthusiastic patrons. In place of our regularly scheduled OH SHOOT! Photography Group session, Barry Schneier presented his *The Song is Still Being*

Written presentation which explored the Folk Revival of the 1960s, along with the artists who are redefining what folk music is today. The program was very well received. Twenty-six patrons attended. Ten people also attended the Irish in America program.

The Senior Housing Outreach program had six participants who borrowed 19 books in total. Our Adult Game Night on February 27th continued to draw its regular participants as well as newcomers.

We held our second Murder Mystery on March 20th. Ten patrons participated in the 1920s English Manor Tea themed Mystery. The feedback was extremely positive. The next Murder Mystery is currently being planned.

Our young adult Dungeons & Dragons group (18-25 yrs olds) continues to meet on Mondays, and the adult D&D group continues to meet during the weeks that work for everybody in the group.

The Library Webinars and Online Events (Library Speaker Consortium) subscription held three virtual online talks. There were 0 registrations for *Power of Reset and How to Change What's Not Working with Author Dan Heath*, 1 registration and 2 views for *How Women's Liberation Transformed America: In Conversation with Clara Bingham*, and *Dreams We Chase: An Author Talk with Novelist Jennifer Weiner* received 2 registrations and 3 views. We have also partnered with Groton Library to provide additional virtual programs at a more economical cost to the library. Our first collaboration was on March 4th with *Changing Perspectives: Five Women Writers with Bill Thierfelder*.

From February 27th to March 26th, nine people accessed the AtoZ World Food website to view 71 pages.

Upcoming programs:

On March 31st, we will be hosting *Willie Nelson Songs and Stories with Matt York* at 7pm in the Cole room.

In April, we have scheduled *Farm Girl on the Front Lines: Deborah Sampson's Secret*, *The Art of Psyanky -The Painting of Easter Eggs in the Traditional Ukrainian Style*, and a virtual program about Grim(m) Tales with Bill Thierfelder, as well as three Library Speaker Consortium virtual programs.

Starting in April we have also decided to implement a monthly "Tech Help" hour where patrons can get assistance with things such as Libby, Hoopla and the Minuteman app on their various devices.

February 27th - March 26th Makerspace Trustees Report

There have been some questions regarding the reported number of people using the Makerspace. The Makerspace contains an electronic people counter which records the number of people entering and exiting the room. At the end of the month, these two numbers are averaged together and then divided by four (to account for multiple times a single person might exit and enter the room).

For March, the overall people counter in the Makerspace is 2603. Dividing it by four produces an estimated count of **650** people either using the equipment, wanting a tour to see what we

offered, or hanging out in the space. The space continues to have a healthy amount of children as well as adults using the space to work on the 3D printer, play computer games, or sew and craft.

Five people stopped by during our Morning Mend session to seek help mending their clothing, and The Fiber Arts Group still meets twice per month in the room.

The March STEAM program had ten participants who were very excited to learn about invisible ink and the principles behind it.

The room has also been used by the Girl Scouts as well as the Stamp Club for their monthly meetings.

Three new people were certified on the 3D printer and four were certified on the sewing machines

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Patrons used the large format printer and VHS to digital & DVD converters. The computers and 3D printers were heavily used. On the craft side, a patron used the soldering station and supplies to repair a piece of jewelry. The paper crafting and other cutting supplies were used throughout the month. Several patrons, including elementary age children, used the sewing machines along with the large conference table to work on projects. Patrons have also been using the knitting needles, fabric, and yarn supplies.

In April, 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, April 12th, and the regular programs that use the Makerspace will continue to meet as well. On April 5th, we will have a Heritage Craft: Making Twine Mats class for adults, and the High School Art Club will be teaching another elementary art class on April 8th.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

March Report - Tech Services

This month I:

- Catalogued 257 Adult books, 119 Children's books, 34 Spanish Children's books, 34 Young Adult books, 2 Library of Things items, and 14 Media items
- Publicized upcoming monthly programs on Instagram, Wowbrary newsletter, and Facebook
- Ordered and maintained inventory of office supplies and Ingram book orders

Thanks to some changes in the Tech Services workflow, I was able to focus more on cataloging this month. The circulation staff stepped up and offered to help process the backlog of books and it allowed me to finally create our first World Languages collection in the Children's section. I chose Spanish due to the recent influx of Spanish speaking patrons. I am excited to continue to see what our patrons need in terms of different language collections.

Our circulation staff has let me know that the Library of Things collection continues to be well received. I also was able to attend our Friends of the Library meeting as a staff representative and many of them were unaware of what a Library of Things was and became excited about it and showed enthusiasm for supporting it.

Best, Ivana