

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
May 5, 2024

The people counter reported that there were 5,055 visits to the library during April. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 38 times. A total of 371 books and other items were added to the collection. Fifty-one new patrons got library cards, and a total of 8,256 physical items and 2,021 Overdrive items were checked out in April.

The lower level was staffed 14 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in April. During those evenings, twenty-one individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 56 people attended 9 meetings and programs.

Meetings & Webinars in April:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Minuteman Library Network Reference Meeting
Conflict Conversations Webinar
Minuteman Library Network Digital Content Strategy Task Force (Libby purchases)
SUP Event
Legislative Breakfast Hosts' meeting
Massachusetts Library System Leadership & Management Section - First Amendment webinar

Meetings & Webinars in May will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Full Coalition Meeting
Board of Health Inspection
Massachusetts Library Association Conference
Massachusetts Library System AI Community Chat
New England Library Association IT Section meeting
Medway Town Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Membership Meeting
Supporting Healthy Communities
Conflict of Interest Law Training for staff
Medway Pride Day

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director

April 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

Our early childhood programs (weekdays at 11am) continue to be popular, and we have added to Wednesday storytimes to give more value to the participants. The Stay and Play group on Friday has turned out to be a useful playgroup for the Move, Groove, and Learn participants.

Family Yoga with Katie from Sprouting Tree Yoga continued this month. We have received uniformly positive feedback and look forward to bringing Katie back in June for another month-long session. She will be returning over the summer for a weekly post-summer-lunch yoga session, too.

Monthly programs

We have nothing new to report on the monthly programs front. Things have been steady. Most of the monthly programs are school-year only, so we are looking at the last few iterations of those.

Passive programs

The passive programs are immensely popular all month long in the children's area, and more people have also been using the passive programming in the middle grade room. We are definitely seeing the value of this type of program, and definitely need to invest some funds into supporting it, instead of depending on staff members' collections.

Displays

April was National Poetry month, and we had displays in both the middle-grade and YA sections. We added some more display stands and are finding them to be effective at moving titles! The more face-out titles we can feature, the more books people take home.

Collection development

In April, I purchased 36 adult titles, 36 YA titles, and 73 children's books.

Deposit Collection/Schools

We were of use to both McGovern and the high school this month. Mat Holt required 70 copies of *Wonder*, and Sarah Doyle needed 5 copies of *The World Aflame*, 20 copies of *The Sun is Also a Star*, and 15 copies of *Flowers for Algernon*.

Notes for Trustees

None at this time.

Sincerely,
Audrey

Programming for Adults

We had 260 people participate in our adult programming in April. This number also includes the 175 people who attended our eclipse viewing party at Choate Park.

The Fiber Arts Group and the Medway Library Book Discussion Group have a steady monthly following and continue to be well attended every session. A very appreciative group of patrons participated in the The Mahan Circle Senior Housing Outreach program this month, borrowing thirteen books total. We held our third Adult Game Night which drew eleven participants. Our Morning Mend program also had its third session in April. One particular patron was extremely grateful that she did not have to discard her winter jacket after being shown how to replace the zipper.

We started a fun program called Silent Book Club. We held our first session during April vacation as a way to give parents a quiet hour where they could just read and have a break from any chaos. A couple of participants attended so we've decided to hold it again at the end of May.

The OH SHOOT! Photography Group was also back in session in April with six people attending.

This month also featured an adult passive program where patrons were encouraged to submit original poems to be displayed around the library for National Poetry Month. Quite a few participated over the course of April.

Next month will continue to be packed with adult programs. The OH SHOOT! Photography Group, the Medway Book Discussion Group, Silent Book Club, Fiber Arts group, Adult Game Night, Adult Dungeons & Dragons group, and Adult Sewing, as well as the Mahan Circle outreach program, will all occur throughout May.

Makerspace Trustees Report

We had a very busy April in the Makerspace. **545** people either used the Makerspace equipment or wanted a tour to see what we offered. There was an even distribution of adults and children using the space this month on both the tech and craft sides. Five patrons were certified on the 3D printer, which also continued to be utilized by both children and adults throughout the month. The sewing machines were heavily used by patrons especially during our mending program. The VHS and slides converting machines were highly sought after, particularly on Thursday mornings. The Girl Scouts used the room to work on their service project, taking advantage of the computers and open space to spread out. They enjoyed their time so much that they ended up praising the Makerspace and library on facebook afterward.

Our Monday night Robotics group is progressing towards having a fully functional robotic rover by the end of the school year. Their last component is to create a joystick application for controlling the vehicle.

April's STEAM session continued to focus on the eclipse and participants made pinhole projectors for viewing the eclipse on April 8th. They all received eclipse glasses to take home. The remaining glasses were given away at the library circulation desk and used for our viewing party at Choate Park where we had about 175 people attend. In total, we distributed 500 glasses to patrons and participants of our programs related to both eclipses (October's and April's).

Teen Dungeons & Dragons and Adult Dungeon & Dragons groups continued to meet in the space. Our older teen D&D group for ages 18 to 23 finished their first campaign and will start a new one in May. They have also decided to extend the age range to 25.

The Medway High School Art Club held an art class for elementary students in the Makerspace. It was so popular that the wait list was as long as the registration list.

The Morning Mend program has started to expand as word begins to spread to our patrons. We had seven people this month working on repairs which included hemming and zipper replacements. All were very satisfied with what they were able to accomplish.

Other library programs continue to utilize the Makerspace since it is an area where kids can be "messy". The middle schoolers enjoyed using the computers and 3D printers during the weekly Wednesday program. The Fiber Arts group met twice per month as well, and parents and caregivers stop by weekly to use the paper craft supplies which gives families an opportunity to spend time working on projects together.

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 photos to digital images. Other patrons used the VHS to digital converter and VHS to DVD converter machines. The 8mm converter, computers, DVD buffer, DVD duplicator, laminator, and 3D printers were also used. On the craft side, patrons used the glue gun and paper crafts supplies. Several used the sewing machines throughout the month, and patrons have also stopped by to use the fabric and yarn.

In May, we will hold two crafting sessions as well as STEAM. Morning Mend will be put on pause for May because of the Friends Book Sale and Memorial Day and resume June 1st. All three Dungeons & Dragons groups will continue to meet. May will also have a tween/teen sewing program and an adult sewing program where both groups will make a bowl cozy.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator