

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
August 6, 2024

The people counter reported that there were 5680 visits to the library during July. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 21 times. A total of 351 books and other items were added to the collection. Seventy-seven new patrons got library cards. and a total of 10,218 physical items and 2,695 Overdrive items were checked out in July.

The lower level was staffed 17 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in June. During those evenings, 22 individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 95 people attended 10 meetings and programs.

Repairs and Capital Improvements

The area in front of the Library, the front parking lot, and the pavement directly in front of the upstairs exit were all replaced. DPW and I discussed with pavement installers the potential unsafe installation of part of the pavement in back of the Library. The problem has been rectified.

DPW added downspouts on several areas of the building. These downspouts will hopefully mitigate problems with leakage, including the area near the door to the Story Hour Room.

New Events

On August 8th, Public Artist Jenn Houle will offer two programs for adults and teens 13 and up - a lecture on native plants, followed by a butterfly craft. Jenn teaches at several colleges and is a frequent grant recipient.

Six of the staff participated in a CPR/AED/First Aid/NARCAN program this month.

Staff

Thirty people applied for the Library Assistant I position. Cheryl Houle (Human Resources) and I interviewed seven applicants. We welcomed Michelle Getz to our staff last week. To bolster the list of Substitute Library Assistants we have offered positions to two additional applicants (there are two currently, both very limited in availability).

Staff member Lorie Brownell's beautiful photography is on display in the Conference Room.

Volunteer (and retired librarian) Deborah Eastman's collection of cards are on display in the class case next to the computers.

Meetings & Webinars in July:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

SUP Coalition Informal Meeting/Celebration

Ceremony honoring Ishmael Coffee with Medway Historical Society

Completed Sustainable Librarianship 4-week class

Erin McCarthy (the Sculptor), DPW and I discussed possible installation of light fixture

Meeting with Becky Atwood, myself, and Trustee Chair John Scott Smith

Association of Small and Rural Libraries New England group meeting

Meetings & Webinars in August will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Department Heads Meeting

Blue Marble meeting (Massachusetts Library staff group - climate change/community building)

MLA Leadership & Management Section meeting

Staff Meeting

Margaret Perkins

Library Director

July 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

The early childhood programs were all over the place in terms of attendance in July. This is not unusual. Summer is a whole different dynamic here. We did lose a few days to illness (toddler jam) and parking lot construction (Move, Groove, and Learn). The numbers are there for lunch but not necessarily for activities afterward. Miss Katie's drop-in yoga at 1 on Thursdays has been getting some participation, though! We are excited to add her to the schedule on Saturdays in the fall, which will mean that every day we're open, there's a drop-in program for little kids and their families at 11.

Monthly programs

Monthly programs are mostly on hiatus. We did have a Read the Rainbow, and participation is holding steady. We are still working on planning for the fall.

Passive programs

In the children's room: We had a unicorn sensory bin and a mythology salt writing tray. The **I'm a Unicorn** flannel board story basket was popular. In the middle-grade room: Frame Your Masterpiece was very popular, as well as Finish This Comic.

Special programs

This month was solidly about the summer lunches, and making sure there were offerings before and after.

Displays

In July, the displays were about summer reading. In the middle-grade room, we used the MCBA list and in the YA section, the MTCBA list.

Collection development

In June, I purchased 35 YA titles and 83 children's books.

The middle-grade room is being used in the way we had hoped. People are sitting down in there to play games or to read. The expanded space for graphic novels is amazing.

The YA graphic novels have been recataloged into graphic novels and manga. The manga is now cataloged by title, not by author. This extensive project has been something we have wanted to do for a while. It drastically increases ease of use for both patrons and shelvees.

Deposit Collection/Schools

We have binders for Medway elementary, middle, and high school summer reading lists.

Notes for Trustees

Summer is, as noted, a strange time for our regulars. We were delighted to see a trio of our middle schoolers come in almost every day at the end of July, and they let themselves be drawn in as special guests for our Friday Move, Groove, and Learn program. They returned at the beginning of August as well, and stayed after the program to play with the children. Then they resumed their usual knitting and hanging out in the Makerspace. It is such a pleasure to see them engaging in the library community.

Sincerely,
Audrey

August Makerspace Trustees Report

We had a very busy July in the Makerspace. **570** people either used the equipment, wanted a tour to see what we offered, or hung out in the space. We have gotten a very healthy amount of children using the space to work on the 3D printer, play computer games, as well as to sew and craft. We have a very enthusiastic group who enjoys taking advantage of our fiber arts supplies. We have also been able to persuade them into helping out with other programs and tasks.

One patron certified on the 3D printer this month continued to use the equipment to create an element for their cosplay outfit for an upcoming convention. They were extremely pleased with how the project turned out. Two patrons in total were certified on the 3D printer and one patron was certified on the sewing machines.

The Morning Mend program has been rebranded to The Evening Mend. It was held Tuesday July 30 and August's session will be held on the 20th. The program will return to Saturdays in September.

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, documents, and photos to digital images. Other patrons used the VHS to digital converter. The computers, DVD buffer, laminator, and 3D printers were also used. On the craft side, patrons used the paper crafting and cutting supplies. Several used the sewing machines throughout the month, and patrons have also been heavily using the fabric and yarn.

In August, we hope that the Makerspace continues to be populated with young visitors. The Dungeons & Dragons groups and the Fiber Arts group will continue to meet this month as well. We will have two new monitors from the senior abatement program that are eager to learn the equipment on the tech side in order to assist patrons while they are watching the room.

We had 73 people participate in our adult programming in July.

Our monthly programs continue to be held during the summer. Since we have a core group of regulars, our attendance is steady so it is not necessary to break during the summer months. On the other hand, attendance for specialty programs is usually extremely low during the summer. These types of programs have better attendance during the months of September through June.

The Fiber Arts Group has been taking advantage of the nice weather by meeting at Choate park when possible. The Medway Library Book Discussion Group maintains a steady monthly following. Our Adult Game Night drew thirteen participants—we are very pleased with the response this program has received. Five people also attended July's meeting of the OH SHOOT! Photography Group. Our older teen (18-20 yrs olds) and adult Dungeons & Dragons groups have been very happy playing in the library. The Mahan Circle Senior Housing Outreach program was put on hold this month and will resume in August.

Our Adult Summer Reading Bingo is getting a lot of positive feedback. The Friends are providing coupons for free books for the bingo winners.

Alongside the regular monthly programs, in August we will be holding a Public Art, Plants & Our Planet program run by Jen Houle, a public artist who will discuss ongoing public art projects and lead a group through an art activity.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

Programming for Adults

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