

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
June 2, 2024

The people counter reported that there were 6,375 visits to the library during May. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 33 times. A total of 307 books and other items were added to the collection. Forty-two new patrons got library cards.

The lower level was staffed 17 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in April. During those evenings, twenty-nine individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 113 people attended 18 meetings and programs.

Worcester Consumer Rights Program, which works in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office, set up a table and offered brochures about protecting rights as a consumer.

Repairs and Capital Improvements

Town Meeting voted:

- 1) To appropriate \$5,000 to repair damage in the Story Hour room - a section of flooring appears to be sinking.
- 2) To appropriate \$30,000 for Story Hour room and area ventilation improvements

Met with DPW on June 3rd to discuss paving improvements in front of and behind the Library. The work will begin in early July, and will require that the Library close at least one day, which will probably be a Friday to minimize disruption.

Meetings & Webinars in May:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Leadership & Management Section (MLA): Library Journal's Library of the Year: Book Bans
Board of Health Inspection & provision of drug deactivation and disposal pouches
Massachusetts Library Association Conference
SUP Medway Policy Meeting and Full Coalition Meeting
Supporting Healthy Communities: Public Library Responses to the Opioid Crisis
New England Library Association IT Section meeting
Medway Town Meeting
Conflict of Interest Law Training (myself and two staff members)
Staff Meeting
Medway Pride Day

Meetings & Webinars in June will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Medway Policy Meeting
Staff Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Circulation Meeting
NELA IT Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Membership Committee Meeting

Leadership & Management Section (MLA)

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director

May 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

Early literacy programs are continuing to do well. We welcomed Yvette Sammarco from Walpole CFCE for another Center Story Time this month, and she is planning to supply us with activities to supplement the summer lunch programming in July and August.

Middle School Wednesdays are almost done for the school year. We've had a lovely group, for the most part, and have recruited some summer volunteers from the participants. Using the 3-D printer is one of the most popular activities, but we've had lots of Mario Kart tournaments as well, and there is a subset of kids who are getting really into sewing.

Family Yoga with Katie from Sprouting Tree Yoga took a month off but will continue in June. Katie will provide a weekly program this summer.

Monthly programs

Most of the monthly programs are school-year only, so we are looking at the last few iterations of those. We will be assessing the year and planning for the fall.

Passive programs

Passive programming is still a hit! Our regulars at storytime programs plan after-program playdates upstairs in the children's area, and the passive programming is an integral part of their time with us.

Displays

In May, the middle-grade section featured a display on Mental Health Awareness. The YA display featured titles by AAPI authors.

Collection development

In May, I purchased 50 YA titles and 88 children's books.

The Beginner Chapters project is essentially complete. The space where series fiction used to live is now given over to beginner chapter books, and those seem to be going out nicely. Things are moving along on the middle-grade room reorganization but may have to pause for an ER nonfiction weed.

Young Adult Nonfiction (along with new YA nonfiction and graphic) has been relocated to the other side of the YA graphic case. This will free up space for a growing manga collection, which needs to be recataloged.

We will also be working on a pull-out section of non-English materials, because more patrons are starting to ask for them, and they're hard to find amongst the 400s.

Deposit Collection/Schools

We ordered copies of The Little Prince for Sarah Doyle. Mat Holt was in touch regarding summer reading, and has given us titles lists and a copy of the McGovern reading log, which we will feature in summer reading displays. He's promoting our summer reading program to his library classes during the first week of June.

Notes for Trustees

None at this time.

Sincerely,
Audrey

Programming for Adults

We had 70 people participate in our adult programming in May.

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 twenty-two books total. We held our fourth Adult Game Night which drew six participants. While our May Morning Mend program had to be delayed until June 1st, our separate adult sewing workshop was very successful. Six people also attended May's meeting of the OH SHOOT! Photography Group.

We held our second session of our Silent Book Club which gives patrons the ability to have a quiet hour where they can just read and have a break from any chaos. Attendance is small but we think it will increase once word spreads.

In June, we are hosting Songs of Johnny Cash featuring the talented Matt York. There will also be a workshop teaching participants about the art of Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Egg) in which attendees will learn how to create beautiful eggs using a wax-resist technique. In preparation for her amazing Pixie Festival, Judy Moffatt will be holding a Pixie House Workshop in the Makerspace later in the month. Our ongoing programs of the OH SHOOT! Photography Group, the Medway Library Book Discussion Group, Silent Book Club, Fiber Arts group, Adult Game

Night, Adult Dungeons & Dragons, Morning Mend, and the Mahan Circle outreach program will all continue to occur throughout June.

June Makerspace Trustees Report

We had a very busy May in the Makerspace. **951** people either used the Makerspace equipment, wanted a tour to see what we offered, or passed through because of the book sale. Two people were certified on the sewing machines, and the 3D printers were heavily utilized by both children and adults throughout the month. The sewing machines were used by patrons for personal projects as well as during programs. The VHS and slides converting machines continue to be highly sought after. This month, I also assisted patrons with converting DVDs to mp4 files. The large format printer was used extensively this month, producing posters for events such as honoring the graduating seniors of the Medway track team.

Our Monday night Robotics group finished for the school year. The participants were excited at the possibility to join again in the fall to work on another project.

May's STEAM session focused on aerodynamics. The children enjoyed experimenting with gliders while learning about the different forces in play. We plan to start up STEAM again in September.

We held two craft sessions where children were able to express themselves by making hanging ornaments for the spring as well as pop up cards for special occasions.

Our Adult sewing program was a huge hit. We had 7 patrons attend. They made bowl cozies and asked about starting a regular weekly sewing session where they could work on small projects and socialize. I hope to implement this program sometime in the future once summer programming is settled.

The Adult Dungeon & Dragons group continued to meet in the space. Our older teen D&D group for ages 18 to 25 started working on a new campaign which will continue throughout the summer. Our Teen Dungeons & Dragons will end their current session in June but we are planning a summer campaign.

The Morning Mend program was not able to be held in May but will take place during the first weekend in June.

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 computers, DVD buffer, laminator, and 3D printers were also used. On the craft side, patrons used the paper crafting supplies. Several used the sewing machines throughout the month, and patrons have also stopped by to use the fabric and yarn.

In June, Judy Moffatt will be taking over the Makerspace with her Pixie House Workshop. As previously mentioned, Morning Mend will be held on the first Saturday of the month. While the last Wednesday middle school hang out session will occur in June, the afternoon summer lunch activities will begin in the Makerspace at the end of the month. The Dungeons & Dragons groups will continue to meet as well as the Fiber Art group throughout June.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator