



REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

February 3, 2026

Personnel / Administration: We celebrated two staff birthdays this month and we officially have an Assistant Director/Youth Services Librarian and a Technical Services Librarian! I am so happy to say Sam Wallace and Kate Davis, respectively, have accepted their offers and are officially part of the Medway Public Library Team. I have received nothing but positive comments on both of these members from the staff and patrons, so I am positive that we will only continue to exceed expectations.

We have interviewed for the Programming & Outreach Librarian position and will start interviewing for the Circulation Supervisor position soon since we are getting a new HR Director.

Lastly, I have finished the first of the Quarterly 1-1 meetings with the staff. Overall, staff morale is high and they are all excited about the future. While there has been a lot of change in the past six months, they all agree that it has been a breath of fresh air. We are all moving forward and focused on how to best serve our community.

Finance: Assistant Director and I met with the Town Manager and Finance Director to go over the budget we submitted. Our Programming budget line request was not accepted. As I said in our previous meeting, while having a higher budget from the Town is always the goal, we have been able to use other resources (and our creativity!) to bring new and exciting programs to our patrons. Many outside departments and community members have seen the changes happening in the Library and have reached out to offer any support they can give. As a first time Director, it has been amazing to have people offer support in many different ways.

An issue is that the gas bill is incredibly high which I know is a concern for many people at the moment. Due to these high bills we are already close to our line item limit.

Library Services: We are preparing for the summer and doing research on what other Museum Passes we can offer our patrons. In the past, one of our most popular passes has been the Massachusetts State Park pass, so perhaps more nature focused passes are the way to go.

Youth Services: The start to 2026 has been strong in Medway Youth programming. We have continued to see strong attendance at our story times, despite the snow and cold. Even on the slowest days, we still have 2-3 families coming out for story, with most of our story times having about 10-20 folks in attendance. Our middle school program is going strong and, from our meeting with the Board of Health, we hope to coordinate with the Lions Club to explore more substantial food at this program. Lego Club and Crafty Crew have some regular attendees and,

as we finish up organizing the Makerspace, we hope to have a clear list of programs we can offer with the supplies we have.

Our largest project is the Story Room mural that Sinead Bergeron has begun painting, with the help of several middle schoolers! Patrons have enjoyed dropping by to see the ongoing work, and the kids are having a blast!

As we onboard new staff, we hope to look deeper into collection development, school partnerships, and preparing our Summer Reading programs.

Technical Services: This past month I have been working on planning changes for the library collection, focusing on the Young Adult collection. We have removed the books and shelves under the director's office and plan to eventually utilize the shelving under the windows. After this, my focus has shifted to the Makerspace. I collected many of the books in the Makerspace and have cataloged what I thought would be good for a Makerspace collection of books, as well as helped with the gargantuan task of organizing and cleaning up the makerspace. I have also added any of the new Library of Things items to Assabet, so all of our platforms show the information.

Next month I hope to return to more cataloging and less cleaning, focusing on the collection as a whole and really diving into my new role. The layout of the Young Adult collection will be assessed, as well as making some small but important changes to the Adult Graphic and Travel collections.

Makerspace: We have been hard at work organizing, inventorying, and cleaning out the Makerspace. We are very lucky to have an overabundance of supplies. While it is a good problem to have, it does not make for a tidy and organized space. In going through all of the supplies we have been inspired by the many programs we can offer at no extra cost to the Library since we have more than enough supplies. We are also hoping to share the wealth with teachers soon.

Programs: We had an exciting end of month with our first Music at Medway concert and our Wingmasters owl program, in collaboration with Parks and Recreation. Over 50 people attended the owls program and a solid 15 attendees came out to the concert, despite the snow! Our regular adult programs have frequently received great feedback from patrons looking for scheduled time to be creative, and our Fiber Arts Meet-Up group has grown in numbers!

Building: The building has been behaving this month, thankfully.

Policy: I have drafted the Memorandum of Understanding for the Friends, Trustees, and Library staff. I have shared it with the Friends and am hoping to have some feedback on it by their next meeting. Any input from the Trustees is welcome so we can have an MOU that reflects all groups.

Community Partnerships:**Professional Skills & Meetings:**

- Department Heads Meeting on the 3rd
- Monthly Staff meeting on the 6th

Incidents: Child at story time tripped and hurt themselves. The child was fine and their parent was very calm and soothed the child. Caregivers helped out and soon the child was back to an activity bin.

Respectfully submitted,
Ivana Aguilar, Director

This month our most popular:

- **Library of Things:** Hotspot & Metal Folding Chairs
- **Museum Pass:** New England Aquarium
- **DVD:** Ballerina
- **Adult Fiction:** My Friends - Fredrik Bachman
- **Adult Mystery:** Billion Dollar Ransom - James Patterson
- **Adult SciFi/Fantasy:** Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation - Mo dao zu shi
- **Adult Romance:** Great Big Beautiful Life - Emily Henry
- **Horror:** The Library at Hellebore - Cassandra Khaw
- **Adult Graphic:** Soulless: The Manga - Gail Carriger
- **Speed Read:** The Wedding People - Alison Espach
- **Large Print:** The Plum Tree - Ellen Marie Wiseman
- **Periodical:** The New Yorker 2025
- **Biography:** Glitz, Glam, and a Damn Good Time [Mamie Fish] - Jennifer Wright
- **Adult Non Fiction:** The Ultimate Brownie Book - Bruce Weinstein
- **Museum Pass:** Patriot's Hall of Fame
- **Juvenile Fiction:** Cabin Fever - Jeff Kinney
- **Juvenile Graphic:** Dog Man: Fetch-22 - Dav Pilkey
- **Juvenile Easy Fiction:** Don't Eat Eustace - Lian Cho
- **Juvenile Easy Reader:** Super Ty! - Kelly Starling Lyons
- **Juvenile Beginner Chapter:** The Leprechaun is Finally Gone - Dan Gutman
- **Juvenile Non Fiction:** Guinness Book of World Records
- **Board Book:** When We Are Kind - Monique Gray Smith
- **Young Adult Fiction:** A Good Girl's Guide to Murder - Holly Jackson
- **Young Adult Non Fiction:** Teen Skincare - Caroline Hirons
- **Young Adult Manga:** Kaiju no. 8 - Naoya Matsumoto
- **Young Adult Graphic:** Morgana and Oz - Miyuli
- **Young Adult Biography:** Becoming Maria - Sonia Manzano

JanuaryFY26						
	Acct FY26	Start Balance	Expen. To Date	End Balance	% Spent	
Salaries - Full Time	5110	\$285,997	\$83,175.06	\$202,821.94	29.08%	
Salaries - Part Time	5111	\$137,120	\$62,656.48	\$74,463.52	45.69%	
Electricity	5211	\$23,000	\$19,654.71	\$3,345.29	85.46%	
Heating Fuel	5212	\$9,000	\$8,118.58	\$881.42	90.21%	
Water & Sewer	5231	\$800	\$355.23	\$444.77	44.40%	
Trash	5232	\$2,580	\$1,285.76	\$1,294.24	49.84%	
R & M Miscellaneous	5240	\$4,600	\$1,948.45	\$2,651.55	42.36%	
Telephone	5341	\$600	\$329.60	\$270.40	54.93%	
Supplies	5400	\$4,400	\$3,778.54	\$621.46	85.88%	
OPS - (Minuteman bill)	5380	\$28,066.00	\$28,106.46	-\$40.46	100.14%	
Programs	5380	\$3,000.00	\$8,920.97	-\$5,920.97	297.37%	
Books, Media & Periodicals	5521	\$88,000	\$50,747.54	\$37,252.46	57.67%	
Travel	5710	\$20	\$0.00	\$20.00	0.00%	
Dues & Meetings	5730	\$400	\$169.00	\$231.00	42.25%	
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND		\$587,583	\$269,246.38	\$318,336.62	45.82%	
	Original Approp	Transfers	Revised Budget	YTD	Available Budget	
Tuchinsky Other Purchases	\$129,882.00		\$129,882.00		\$129,882.00	
Tuchinsky Media	-\$1,681.00		-\$1,681.00		-\$1,681.00	
Tuchinsky Books/Interest	\$24,602.00	\$2,091.36	\$26,693.36		\$26,693.36	
Total Tuchinsky Library	\$152,803.00		\$154,894.36		\$154,894.36	
Memorial Donations	\$166,783.00	\$621.66	\$167,404.66	\$6,220.00	\$161,184.66	
Library Restitution Fund	\$6,124.00	\$351.61	\$6,475.61		\$6,475.61	
Copier & Printer Rev. Fund	\$11,686.00	\$486.40	\$12,172.40	\$1,196.79	\$10,975.61	
Meeting Room Rev. Fund	\$4,317.00	\$25.00	\$4,342.00		\$4,342.00	
Free Public Library (State Aid)	\$129,606.00	\$17,943.52	\$147,549.52	\$64,891.03	\$82,658.49	