

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
February 2, 2021

There were 3,733 checkouts during January, and 730 patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery.

Programs in January:

- Thursday and Friday Story Times - Online Live
- Monday and Wednesday Yoga & Mindfulness for Kids and Teens - Online Live
- Growing Mushrooms Outside
- Ted Reinstein - Fighting Back: New England Underdogs (Partnered with the Holliston Library)

Programs in February will include:

- Thursday and Friday Story Times - Online Live
- Monday and Wednesday Yoga for Kids and Teens - Online Live
- Stitch Along
- Animal Crossing Open House
- STEAM Thursday
- PAWS to Read

Children's/YA Librarian Report (Audrey Snowden):

Providing services to a zoomed-out population continues to be tricky, but we are making new inroads using kits. We had planned to do two kits per month, and we are up to four, split between kids and teens--our teen kit numbers may need to go up. The kit we put out at the end of the month had an accompanying video and will have a live (Zoom) portion this week as well. The coming month should see a continuation of current services plus a few new virtual options (Animal Crossing open house, virtual PAWS to Read session), and a Blind Date With a Book teen promotion.

Makerspace

Arduino - 4 children have been attending the class each week.

There is an ongoing effort to create a weather balloon society called "Medway Balloon Society". The hope is to have families work independently or together on a weather balloon which will be launched this year.

STEAM Thursday meets twice each month. Sign ups have been good.

The Silhouette paper cutter has been very useful with the creations of the take & make kits.

Patrons have been emailing designs to be printed using the 3D printer.

We have been offering similar services for the poster printer & laminator via the Makerspace facebook page.

Received 2 grants from the Medway Cultural Council for painting sessions via Zoom. One is for a Teen Paint n Sip, the other is for an adult watercolor class.

Technology

In addition to printing, scanning, copying documents and loaning the hotspot, patrons have borrowed the laptop for use outside or in their cars. In February, we will start loaning a chromebook and a hotspot together for patrons to check out for a week. If this goes well, we will start lending more chromebooks and hotspots.

Meetings in December included:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Department Heads Meeting

New England Library Association/Information Technology Section meeting

Minuteman Library Network Membership (Directors') meeting

Massachusetts Library Association - Leadership and Management Section meeting

Metrowest Program Planners meeting

Meetings in January

Department Heads Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

MBLC/Trial Court Libraries Program

New England Library Association/Information Technology Section Virtual Conference

Building

After DPW received a very high quote for measuring air exchange rates of the HVAC units at the library, I communicated with other directors, the MBLC, and an engineering professor from Boston University about alternatives. I am working with Makerspace Coordinator Diane Busa to obtain the equipment needed to use with the Arduino platform to estimate air exchange rates by measuring CO2 levels.

On Sunday, January 31st, when I stopped at the library to feed the fish, I discovered a flood in the story hour room, the hall, the custodial closet, and surrounding areas. The water heater had sprung a sizable leak. I turned off the water, and contacted Mike Legendre, Bobby McGee and the police dispatcher, who contacted the fire department, which sent over several firefighters. There was no major damage, except the loss of toilet paper stored in the custodial closet. Mike contacted a contractor who happened to be cleaning carpets at the police station, who was able to clean up almost all the water. Mike also contacted the plumber, who installed a new water heater the next day. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all the departments and individuals involved.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director