

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
July 9, 2023

In June, patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 56 times.

Our people counter reported that there were 5,141 visits to the library during June. Meeting rooms were used approximately 68 times during the month.

Programs in June:

In June, 364 children and teens participated in 36 library programs. These programs included:

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Big Ryan's Tall Tales, presented in conjunction with the Walpole CFCE
- Pride Prep
- Pride Social with OUT MetroWest
- Pride Gayming Drop-In
- Pride Pop-Ups with Medfield Library at Park Street
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Unicorn Club
- Summer Reading Kickoff
- Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons

Library Programs for Adults

- Library Book Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Create a Pixie with Ms Moffatt (This program is funded in full by a grant from the Medway Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency,)
- Medway Area Rainbow Community and OUT Metrowest

Programs in July:

- Summer Lunch Program
 - Early childhood programming (see below)
 - Family activity
 - Teen activity
- Toddler Storytime

- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Library Programs for Adults

- Library Book Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group

Youth Services

Youth Services and Makerspace Reports, June 2023

June was a busy month! Our regular weekly programming is bringing consistent numbers. Toddler Jam is now held in the library, not in the park, and although Miss Amy misses the fresh air, she does not miss the wet ground and presumably does not miss the incredibly high RealFeel temps we have been experiencing. Additionally, having Toddler Jam in-house, especially on Tuesdays, makes it easy to send more families to the summer lunch program. Storytimes are chugging along, and Move, Groove, and Learn! is now on its summer season playlist.

Our regular monthly programming did fairly well. Dungeons & Dragons remains consistently well attended, with 6 players in June. We finally got Unicorn Club where we wanted it (a Tuesday afternoon), which resulted in some teens showing up--but lost a previous member due to scheduling. We'll work on it in the fall, as most of the monthly programming is on hiatus for the summer. Our last PAWS to Read evening was canceled due to thunderstorms.

The Walpole CFCE funded Big Ryan's Tall Tales on a Saturday morning, and although we did not have a full room, Big Ryan and his audience had a lovely time. Our other June events were Pride-related. We held a session for making Pride swag the Thursday before Medway was scheduled to raise flags. We also held our first Pride Social, which was co-hosted by OUT MetroWest. It was a small but merry band of kids, some of whom were local and some of whom traveled. By the end of the evening they were all acquainted, and at least one group chat was started. We were happy to see some of our middle schoolers show up.

There was a significant amount of decorating for the Pride Social, and Andy and Diane Busa were a huge amount of help. We decided to leave the bulk of the decorations up for a few days, as our last Pride month program, Pride Gayming, was the following week. Although not many kids dropped in for gaming, it was a fun option, and it began our summer of collaboration with Medfield Library, which also offered Pride Gayming at the same time on the same evening. We offered video gaming, and they offered board games and tabletop gaming.

We are partnering with Medfield Library and Park Street Books to offer a monthly Pride craft this summer, as well. The June event was scheduled on the day of our Summer Reading Kickoff, so

we were not a presence there, but we will be joining in for button-making in July and pottery painting in August. Jim James at Park Street Books graciously provides space and materials for these programs, so there is no cost for us to offer them to our patrons. This is the second year that we have been invited to participate in this summer series with Medfield Library, and we're looking forward to these activities.

The Summer Reading Kickoff was bigger this year. We borrowed materials and help from various organizations, and were happy to post that the event was made possible with help from Medway Area Rainbow Community, Medway Marches, OUT MetroWest, and Walpole CFCE. We signed people up for summer reading and offered outdoor games, temporary tattoos, a science table, and a kindness rock painting activity. Although the PAWS dogs' last session was canceled, they were able to show up to this event, and they were a popular addition. The other popular addition this year was...tents.

Last year we had one tent. It was hot. This year, DPW showed up before our event and set up 6 tents. No one scorched this year. It was lovely. They showed up promptly at event close to remove and whisk away the tents, and sometime in between tent setup and the beginning of the program, they came through to spruce up the library landscaping. We very much appreciate their help! We also lucked out on volunteers, and in addition to the core programming trio of Diane, Jennifer, and Audrey, we welcomed Crystal, Aurelia, Stella, Max, Other Crystal, and Russell, all of whom ran different stations and were indispensable. We conservatively estimated 300 people attended this event.

The Friends of the Library have sponsored five raffle prize baskets to support the summer reading program. For every five books read, children receive one raffle ticket (for young adults, it's two books per ticket). We have already had children bringing in their logs to be stamped in exchange for raffle tickets, and the baskets are even more attractive than last year's, which is quite a feat. Diane and Amanda Busa are responsible for these lovely packages. For the readers who don't win a basket, we have a book prize cart, and all registrants in the summer reading program are welcome to choose a book from the prize cart, regardless of how many books they've read, just for registering. The Friends support our book prize cart as well, and we are grateful to them for putting together the incentives for our reading program and for organizing and staffing the free community lunches, which are sponsored by local organizations and local businesses.

Passive programming suffered a building-related setback due to a humidity issue on the children's side of the top floor. The story basket was fine, but the salt tray and sand bin were not. We have a new story basket out but are working on trying to improve conditions before setting out the July writing tray and sensory bin. Children and parents have been miffed! (DPW is on this, and are working hard on solving this complex issue.)

The Makerspace saw at least 120 guests in June (not everyone signs the guest book). Our regular programming currently includes Dungeons & Dragons for both adults and for teens/tweens, with the adults meeting weekly and the teen/tween group meeting monthly. Other

library programs also used the Makerspace: as usual, it was the meeting/crafting place for Unicorn Club, and served as the setting for Pride Prep at the beginning of the month.

The Makerspace is also used by non-library groups. Currently a Fiber Art group meets every other Tuesday, and is open to anyone who loves to knit, crochet, embroider, and cross-stitch.

June saw one patron receive 3D printer certification, and we noted a few patrons using the Adobe Creative Cloud software for ongoing projects. This month, patrons used the following equipment and supplies: 3D printer, 8mm converter, VHS converters, Large format printer, computers, laminator, fabric & yarn supplies and general craft supplies.

July will be packed in the Makerspace due to the Summer Lunch program activities for families and teens. The program involves not only lunch, but an early childhood program beforehand at 11, the actual lunch from 12-12:45, a family activity at 1, and a teen activity at 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey and Diane

Meetings & Webinars in June included:

Department Managers Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Coalition Meetings
ARIS training
Central Massachusetts Library Advocates meeting

Meetings & Webinars in July will include:

Department Managers Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Medway Coalition Meetings
Minuteman Library Network Membership (Directors') Committee Meeting
Minuteman Library Network Keyuser (Technology) Group Meeting
Indigenous People's Committee meeting

Building and Grounds

DPW has contracted for several upgrades, including a new front door and improved air circulation on the lower level. The library has ordered additional and replacement seating, including two very nice children's chairs. The library has also ordered a new book drop to replace the well-worn one.

Technology

In order to improve the patron experience, the library has purchased 12 computers, Microsoft Office and Deep Freeze software, which wipes out any patron data upon reboot.

Other

The lower level was open 16 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in June. Eighteen individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 62 people attended the 9 programs after 8:00 pm.

Diane Busa and I met with Medway's Health Director, Derek Kwok, to ensure that the summer lunch plans and facilities meet all health codes. The library has received many generous donations from businesses and individuals to fund the summer lunch program.

Long term Library Assistant Paula Belanger retired in June. We greatly appreciate her years of service.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director