

Medway Public Library  
Director's Report  
September 7, 2023

The people counter reported that there were 6,360 visits to the library during August. Meeting rooms were used approximately 94 times during that period. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 44 times.

### **Programs in August:**

In August, 716 children and teens participated in 52 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
- Unicorn Club
- Read the Rainbow Reimagined: Mooncakes
- Summer Lunch Program
  - Early childhood programming (see below)
  - Family activity
  - Teen activity
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Library Book Group
- "Oh, Shoot!" Photo Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Medway Area Rainbow Community & OUT MetroWest
- Pixie Open House with Ms Moffatt

### **Programs in September:**

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- Dance Party Playgroup

- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- STEAM up your Wednesday
- Project 351 9/11 Remembrance & Read Aloud (planned and run by students)
- Library Book Group
- Oh, Shoot! Photography Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group

### **Youth Services and Makerspace Report for August 2023**

August numbers eked out July numbers by a hair, despite our major summer reading events being held in other months.

We had a short teen Dungeons & Dragons campaign (Mondays from 12-2 throughout August), which was predictably successful, and spawned an ongoing weekly teen campaign, which will begin on Wednesday, September 20 from 4-6.

We also participated with Medfield Library in a few events at Park Street Books. This ongoing partnership is a privilege, and we're pleased to be invited to collaborate on this summer series with them.

The real summer focus was the ongoing summer lunch program. Our commitment to having something for young children every weekday morning at 11 is paying off, and the Tuesday-Thursday lunch days were especially good for families who met up for the program and stayed for lunch. Alternately, families with older children met for lunch and stayed for the activities.

Lunchtime featured passive programming provided by Walpole CFCE and included coloring activities, take-and-make crafts, and fine motor toys, as well as our own supply of Duplos. The after-lunch activities were variations of themed Tinkerlabs, open-ended crafts with prompts, or game afternoons, with a few therapy dog visits thrown in to spice things up. We offered a teen time after the family activity, which was not nearly as popular as the family activity was. Even so, we had a number of good bullet journaling/stop, drop, and color sessions that were good for those involved.

The Makerspace worked with Ryan Sherman at Medway schools and the Hockomock area YMCA to put on a backpack giveaway again, and 57 backpacks were distributed along with school supplies to 88 participants. We could have distributed significantly more, and next year, we plan on requesting 100 backpacks. Our goal for the summer was to help keep kids fed while

schools are closed, and to provide enriching activities and a welcome place in which to enjoy them during the hot summer days.

Our summer reading program numbers grew, and we registered 286 readers. Among them, they logged 4,281 books. The Friends of the Medway Library created five attractive and treasure-filled raffle baskets for our readers, and 924 tickets in all were submitted. Five lucky winners claimed their baskets very quickly. All participants chose their own books from the Friends-provided prize carts.

The summer reading program was well-received, and runs well in concert with the summer lunch program. We plan to run both similarly next year, especially given the numbers: our summer reading program certainly grew, but the summer lunch program exploded, with 1,450 lunches served over the course of the summer. Many community groups and organizations donated to the program as well as anonymous patrons. The donors were: Friends of the Medway Public Library, Medway Lions, Middlesex Savings Bank, Restaurant 45, Roche Bros, Shaws, Stop & Shop (Franklin & Milford), BJ's Wholesale Club, Team Rice Realty, Medway Jewelers, Connections Physical Therapy, Medway Oil & Propane Inc., Lane McNamara LLP, Garelick Farms, Shear Magic, TLC Cleaners, Charles River Bank, Fasolino Landscape, Market Basket, Medway Cafe, Russo Insurance Agency, Inc, Popularis Construction Inc., Uno Pizzeria and Grill, Subway, Needham Bank, and Congress Asset Management. We received an abundance of positive feedback from the community and we look forward to running the program again next year.

Makerspace numbers were also high in August. Over 160 people visited, which is a very conservative estimate and does not include casual visitors after summer lunch and during the backpack giveaways. There has also been an increase in teens & tweens hanging out in the room using the computers, working on crafts and just playing board games, likely a by-product of the middle school hangouts on Wednesdays. Along with the planned programs in the space, people have been using gaming computers, the Epson slide scanner, DVD buffer, DVD duplicator, Large Format Printer, Sewing Machines, 3D Printer, Adobe Audition, and even our snap circuit kits. Three people were certified on the sewing machines. Barry from Medway Cable Access has been assisting patrons on Thursday afternoon from 2-4. He will be teaching a "Introduction to the Makerspace Video Equipment" on November 8th.

September will see a drop in programming (we will have the 11 AM weekday programs, with a number of programs starting at the end of the month) while families settle into school routines and while we plan and prep for a new slate of programming in October. STEAM will be starting up again on September 27. Jennifer is in the process of developing some exciting lessons. We are planning on having an activity every Wednesday starting October for children to participate in from 4:30-5:30. This will occur after the middle school hangout, which should also start up again in October. Finally, Arduino Robotics & Coding is also slated to start up again in October. We will meet on Monday evenings throughout the school year.

Thanks,  
Audrey and Diane

**Meetings & Webinars in August included:**

Department Managers Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Niche Academy Intro Training (Now available: tutorials on how to use our most popular apps like Libby and Hoopla, plus how-tos on popular online research resources, social media sites, and more!)

**Meetings & Webinars in September will include:**

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

New ILS Introductions (Minuteman Library Network will likely switch to a new ILS)

Minuteman Membership Committee Meeting

SUP Policy Workgroup & SUP Full Coalition Meeting

Research Institute for Public Libraries Regional Event (public library data and evaluation) - Margaret & Audrey will attend

**Building and Grounds**

One of the HVAC units on the roof is not working properly, resulting in excessively high humidity on the 2nd floor. It will probably have to be replaced.

Several projects have been or will be completed this fall, using encumbered funds from the previous year. These include a new exterior front door and extensive work on the flagstone, improvements in ventilation, and new computer/work table chairs for patrons, which have arrived. The improvements in ventilation will be delayed due to contractor-related issues. Several tiles are coming up in the Story Hour Room. It appears that there may be a slow leak under the floor. DPW has been notified and has examined the area. They will probably need to dig up an area on the outside of the building, near the driveway that runs from the street to the back of the building.

**Other**

The lower level was open 19 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in August. Twenty-nine individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 42 people attended 5 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

The Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS report) was submitted, and the Financial Report is in progress. The Financial Report is due on October 6th. These reports are administered by the

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and are required in order to receive State Aid to Public Libraries.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director