

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
October 2, 2023

The people counter reported that there were 4,573 visits to the library during September. Meeting rooms were used approximately 45 times during that period. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 46 times.

Programs in September:

In September, 329 children and teens participated in 23 library programs.

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- STEAM up your Wednesday

- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group

Programs in October:

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- Dance Party Playgroup
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Unicorn Club
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino
- STEAM up your Wednesday
- PAWS to Read
- Middle School Hangout
- Fandom Forward: Friends of Momo (middle school to new adults)
- Kids Crafternoon (grades 1-12)
- Discord Gaming Meetup - Fall Guys
- Homeschool Hangout
- Teen Connect Hangout

- Sewing 101 for Tweens and Teens
- Tinkerlab (grades 1-12)
- Read the Rainbow: Beetle and the Hollowbones
- LEGO Club (grades 1 and up)
- Medway Area Rainbow Community & OUT Metrowest
- Puzzle It Out (all ages)

- Library Book Group
- Oh, Shoot! Photography Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Halloween Hauntings with Michele LaRue
- Metalsmithing with Heather Beck

Youth Services and Makerspace Report for September 2023

September was a relatively even month, which we used to maintain the early childhood programming and to develop more teen and tween programming. We noticed that Toddler Jam stayed strong. The midweek to end-of-week programming leveled off a little, largely due to the kids who went on to kindergarten this fall. We received feedback that parents were welcoming other parents at Toddler Jam and letting them know that this library has an early childhood program every weekday at 11, so they could just show up on whatever day they needed a program and we would welcome them. That sentiment is exactly what we were going for, and we have changed up our fall messaging accordingly.

We expected the middle schoolers to stay away until October. They kept showing up. Some of them have shown up frequently enough that we have given them volunteer duties. While we know that this type of thing has an ebb and a flow, it's still gratifying to see the kids feel some ownership of their tasks and of their library.

October will see the return of some successful programs like Middle School Hangout, and Unicorn Club, and will introduce some new offerings like Homeschool Hangout and Fandom Forward.

In the Makerspace: September was a busy month. Over 122 people visited the space. Once again we had visits from teens & tweens who just wanted to hang out in the room to use the computers, work on crafts or just chit chat. Four people were certified on the sewing machines, and 2 people were certified on the 3D printer. Patrons used the large format printer, Silhouette vinyl cutter, and VHS to DVD converters, as well as the VHS to digital file converter, 3D printer, sewing machines, computers, and the rubber stamps & card making supplies.

Our monthly STEAM program started on Wednesday September 27. Thirteen children signed up and 10 participated. Teen Dungeons & Dragons started on September 20 and will be a weekly event on Wednesday afternoons until the end of the school year. Adult Dungeons &

Dragons continues to meet every Thursday. Fiber Art Group meets every other Tuesday in the space.

Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino (formally Arduino Robotics & Coding) is starting Monday October 2. This introduction session will continue until December and then will be followed by a more advanced session in January. We will meet Monday evenings from 6:30-8 PM. Middle School Hangout will start again on Wednesday, October 4. Every Wednesday, we will have activities until 5pm that the middle schoolers can participate in. A sewing class will be offered on Wednesday October 18 from 1-3 PM because it is an early release day.

Sincerely,
Audrey and Diane

Meetings & Webinars in September included:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Niche Academy Widget Training
New ILS Introductions (Minuteman Library Network will likely switch to a new ILS)
Aspen Discovery Implementation (new catalog)
Minuteman Membership Committee Meeting
SUP Policy Workgroup & SUP Full Coalition Meetings
Research Institute for Public Libraries Regional Event (public library data and evaluation) - (Margaret & Audrey attended)
Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium event

Meetings & Webinars in October will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Department Managers Meeting
Minuteman Library Network (Directors') meeting
Keyusers (Technology) Meeting

Building and Grounds

One of the HVAC rooftop units is not working due to a leak in the evaporator coil, causing condensation, water dripping from the unit, and high humidity in the Children's area of the library, resulting in dampness of the carpet and curling of book pages. The humidity is currently under control with the use of three dehumidifiers. The evaporator coil will need to be replaced, requiring dismantling the unit. DPW has received a price quote for the repair of \$9,950. DPW and the library plan to use funds left over from last year's temperature control capital improvements (\$11,322) to pay for this repair.

The state now requires an upgrade to the elevator involving the firefighters' keyswitch. The cost is \$3,690. This will be paid by DPW, with a reimbursement to DPW of \$2,000, funded by a transfer from the Signage capital improvement approved by Town Meeting. This capital

improvement was never spent, because other town departments supplied the signs and funded their installation.

The condenser part of the sprinkler equipment was replaced two and a half years ago. A routine inspection on October 2, 2023 discovered that the condenser is once again broken, and will need to be replaced in order for the sprinkler system to work.

Other

The lower level was open 16 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in September. Twenty-three individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 85 people attended 10 meetings and programs after 8:00pm.

The State Aid Financial Report was completed. The Capital Improvement requests for FY25-29 were submitted to the Town. I will meet shortly with a liaison from the Capital Improvement Committee to discuss the library's plans and ideas.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director