

Medway Public Library  
Director's Report  
October 4, 2022

In August and September, 129 patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery.

Programs in August & September:

- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- Storyhours (twice a week)
- Storyhour at Farmers' Market (weekly)
- Free Summer Lunch & Fun
- Dark Journeys: Urban Legends with Jeff Belanger
- Oh Shoot Photo Group (at Medway Community Farm this month)
- Book Group at the Senior Center
- Author visit: Alec Carvlin
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Tinker Lab
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Elijah T. Grasshopper @ Choate (with Parks & Rec)
- Creative Engineering in the Makerspace
- Creative Art in the Makerspace
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Read the Rainbow Book Club
- Pride crafts at Park Street Books
- Teen Movie Friday
- Matt York performing songs of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings (supported in part by a grant from the Medway Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency)
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Backpack Blast Off
- 13 Moons: A History of Wampanoag Culture (virtual, with other libraries)
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Teen & Tweens Dungeons & Dragons
- STEAM Up Your Wednesday
- PAWS to Read
- Medway Community Farm Fest story hour

Programs in October will include:

- Storyhours (twice a week)
- Outdoor Toddler Jam at Choate Park (twice a week)
- STEAM up your Wednesday at the Medway Library
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Teen & Tweens Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Creative Art Club
- Medway Area Rainbow Community & OUT Metrowest
- Read the Rainbow Book Club
- Medway Cable Access Makerspace Training
- PAWS to Read
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- PAWS to Read
- Adult Dungeons and Dragons Group
- Creative Art Club
- Indigenous Peoples Day: Story Hour, book display
- The Forgotten Nations: Native Tribes of New England (virtual, with other libraries)
- Water Protection Rights and Spirituality (virtual, with other libraries)

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

August was a busy month, with a dual focus at the library.

The first focus was the summer lunch program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and many excellent community partners. The goal was to help combat food insecurity in the summer, and to bookend the lunches with enriching programs. The lunches were held from noon to 1 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through August 25 (and staffed by the Friends). Miss Amy's Toddler Jam at Cassidy Field preceded the Tuesday lunch (she presented this program on Mondays and Tuesdays) and It's Story Time! in the library preceded the Wednesday and Thursday lunches. After lunch, family activities were held in the Makerspace, with planning and staffing from Diane Busa and Jennifer Kendall. Participants made domino runs, created clay sculptures, decorated tiles, and did other STEAM-inspired crafts and projects. One of the best parts of these programs was seeing parents not only assisting their children, but enjoying the process themselves.

In partnership with the Medway Schools, two of the lunch activities in the Makerspace were paired with backpack and school supply giveaways to help families prepare for their kids' return to school. Wellness Director Ryan Sherman coordinated the backpack and supply stashes, and

Sue O'Connor from the Medway Housing Authority helped with distribution. More than 60 backpacks were distributed.

One of the lunches also boasted a meet-and-greet with our newest PAWS to Read team, Jan and her Icelandic sheepdog Sprite. Thirty-two kids enjoyed getting to know this cheerful therapy dog, and we are looking forward to the return of in-person PAWS to Read later this month.

The second youth services focus last month was the summer reading program. Thanks to the Medway Cultural Council, we were able to partner with Medway Parks and Rec to bring entertainment to Wild Wednesdays. Storyteller Diane Edgecomb visited, as did Elijah T. Grasshopper's Rainbow Dance Party. Local author Alec Carvlin visited to do a reading of his picture book *How to Bake a Universe* and to lead a craft. We continued our partnership with Medfield Library (along with Medfield Together and Park Street Books) for a Pride buttons extravaganza, and continued the Read the Rainbow book club.

Aside from special programming, the summer reading program also offered every participant a book of their choosing upon completion of the program, and readers could earn raffle tickets by reading books. Kids earned 1 ticket for every 5 books read, and teens earned 1 ticket for every 2 books read. The Friends of the Library sponsored 7 amazing raffle baskets (2 for younger readers, 3 for older elementary kids and tweens, and 2 for teens). Over the course of the summer, we registered 198 children (ages 0-11) and 40 teens for the summer reading program. Readers logged a total of 3,409 books.

None of the above could have been managed without our summer teen volunteers. We had four regular volunteers who gave us a total of almost 60 hours of time this summer. One of those volunteers was responsible for more than half of that time, and among the four of them, they helped out at most of the storytimes and almost all of the after-lunch activities. Their helping hands and various talents were a huge asset, and we're looking forward to getting them more involved during the school year as their busy schedules allow.

We 3d-printed 4 chipmunks for our storywalk this month, and need to take down the current storywalk and prepare a new one. Additionally, I visited Mat Holt at McGovern Elementary to get a tour of the newly improved McGovern library. I hope to get to Memorial sometime this fall, and to start visiting the elementary schools as a guest reader. Mat created a great summer reading webpage for Memorial and McGovern at the end of last year, and we plan to put together elementary summer reading sections here at the end of the next school year, to complement the official lists we get from the middle and high schools.

Finally, Diane and I met with Yvette Sammarco from the Walpole CFCE about expanding programming for younger children. We have noticed since COVID that not only are our

storytime participants skewing way younger than usual, but that parents report worrying about social delays and isolation (that last part applies to parents, too). We discussed working with Walpole CFCE to present "Move, Groove, and Learn" later this fall, and also discussed instituting a less structured playgroup type of program, allowing for more socializing. A lapsit program is something we're looking into, as well.

September will look like a major dropoff in numbers, as the big summer push fades and kids get into the swing of the new school year. We will continue to do Toddler Jam and It's Story Time! and Farmer's Market Storytime. We will also kick off PAWS to Read, the fall session of Dungeons & Dragons, and Creative Art Club (with Jennifer Kendall), all during the second half of the month. We will use this short break to work on the programs that begin in October, including two reading groups and the Middle School Wednesdays, an 8-week series presented with the middle school, which Ryan Sherman and the school's transportation department are helping to put in place. They will handle the transportation (the middle school will have a bus stop at the library on Middle School Wednesdays) and we will provide a combination of anime afternoons (we were approved for a library membership to Crunchyroll), gaming days, and crafternoons. (Registrations will be required to ride the bus to the library.) The other big September priority, once we are past the first week of school, is to sketch out a plan with Tina Stoval at the middle and high school libraries for how we can best work together in the year to come.

September saw the end of the Farmer's Market storytimes and the return of the teen/tween Dungeons & Dragons group. We had so much interest in the D&D group that there's currently a wait list.

The other program that returned after being on hiatus was PAWS to Read. We welcomed Jan and her Icelandic sheepdog Sprite for a fully booked evening that was enjoyed by all, including Sprite. The team will return on the third Wednesday of the month for the fall.

Most of the month has been spent shuttling back and forth between states and preparing to go on leave. Amanda Busa will take over collection development for the next few months, and will liaise with Tina Stoval for books. Diane Busa, Jennifer Kendall, and Lauren Guagenty will handle programs.

#### Makerspace Report

Makerspace visitor count August: 244, September (not everyone has been signing the guest book)

#### Workshops & Classes:

STEAM Wednesday - August session was postponed until September 21

Arduino Coding and Robotics - 6 children / 5 mentors.

Cosplay Club - August meeting was cancelled, September 24

Groups & Classes using the Makerspace:

Summer Lunch Activities (3 times per week, attendance numbers are part of Audrey's report)

Fiber Art Group - meets every other Tuesday (open to anyone who love to knit, crochet, embroider, etc)

Dungeons & Dragons Adult group has moved to Thursdays. 8 participants

Dungeons & Dragons Kids group will start September 19 and meet every Monday for 10 sessions.

Creative Art - weekly wednesday craft session for kids grade 6+ - starts on September 28

certifications:

sewing machine - 1 person

Diane has seen people using the DVD buffer, 8mm converter, VHS converters, Epson scanner, Photoshop, laminator, poster printer, sewing machines, 3D printer, computers, soldering iron, glue gun as well as the fabric & yarn supply and general craft supplies.

Upcoming October programs in the Makerspace:

Arduino Coding & Robotics - Monday nights 6:30-8:30pm

STEAM Wednesday - October 12 - 4pm

Cosplay Club - October 29 - 12-1:30pm

Middle School Drop off - Wednesdays starting Oct 19 from 2:30-4pm

Creative Art Club - Wednesdays at 4pm

**Meetings & Webinars in August & September included:**

Department Manager Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Snap Circuits Children's Program

2022 United for Libraries Virtual: DEI in Libraries

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

State Aid Workshop

2022 United for Libraries Virtual: DEI in Libraries

SUP Medway Coalition Meetings

Native American & Indigenous Peoples Committee

Massachusetts Library Association Adult Program Planning

Minuteman Library Network Membership (Library Directors) Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Reference Meeting

Meeting with Cultural Council and Sculptor

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

Native American & Indigenous Peoples Committee

SUP Medway Coalition Meetings

SUP Medway Focus Group

Open Source ILS meeting

**Building and Grounds**

- Dehumidifier replace will commence on October 11, 2022
- Tree Maintenance
- The formica countertops on the circulation desk and in the Technical Services office have been replaced.
- HVAC Roof Top Unit 2 was repaired.
- Many of the sprinkler heads will need to be replaced because they were recalled.

Proposed Capital Improvements for FY24 and beyond are due on October 7th.

**Other**

I submitted the ARIS report, and have completed the State Aid Report.

The lower level was open 19 & 16 nights in August and September, for 7 & 12 meetings and programs, and 39 & 24 individuals using computers and the Makerspace.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director