

The Ayer Library

Monthly Report for October 2018

Submitted for the November 20, 2018 Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Adult Displays:

- Halloween Books & DVDs (decorated, w/thanks to Kyle Pickering)
- Great Group Reads (for National Reading Group Month)
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 – 10/15)

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program	Attendance	Date
Edible Wild Plants – Russ Cohen	20	Wed., Oct 3, 6:00 pm
Intro to Soap Making – Jennifer Hofman	9	Sat., Oct 6, 11:00 am
Genealogy	6	Tues., Oct 9, 6:00 pm
Thru-Hiking Appalachian Trail – Dan Ducharme	27	Wed., Oct 10, 6:00pm
Flu Shot Clinic w/Nashoba Nursing Svc.	128	Tues., Oct 16, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Crochet Crafting w/ Justine Paulson	5	Sat., Oct 20, 10:30 am
Bay Circuit Trail – Dan Brielmann	23	Thurs., Oct 25, 7:00 pm

- Nancy Askin & Thomas Tagliavento created a brief 5-question **event survey handout** to gather feedback from program attendees about the quality of the program, where they heard about it, what other programs they would like to see, etc.
- The **Ayer Community Garden** committee held two organizing meetings in the library on Oct 2nd and 16th.
- The library offered **Food For Fines** during the week of Oct 9th, giving patrons the opportunity to pay their overdue fees with donations to Loaves & Fishes. Patron participation was low; staff are discussing how to institute the program on a regular basis in order to familiarize patrons and increase participation.
- Thomas attended the CWMARS network's annual **Circulation & Resource Sharing Meeting** held at the Athol Public Library on October 30th. Library staff from member libraries across our network gather to learn about changes to policies and technology, and to share ideas about solving problems and meeting challenges to serving the public.
- Nancy attended an **Overdrive Tech Talk** (e-books/audiobooks/magazines) presented by the Mass. Library System on Oct 11. The Ayer Library is a member of the consortium's Advantage program, which will soon be updating to Advantage Plus. The workshop included information about CW/MARS purchasing strategy, patron access to digital material in other consortiums, Overdrive and Libby apps, e-Magazines, and Overdrive integration in the library catalog.
- Nancy **proctored an exam** for an NC State engineering student on Oct 13. This required several communications and directives from the school, filling out the exam proctor form, monitoring the student according to the testing requirements, and scanning, emailing, and mailing the completed exam to the college professor.

Library Building & Grounds

- Chuck Shultz, Ayer Facilities Dept., inspected the library's boiler on 10/2.
- Easton Electronics conducted annual inspection & testing of the fire alarm & sprinklers on 10/2.
- Renaud Electric repaired the switch plate on the automatic door of the Main entrance on 10/3.

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- Johnson Controls inspected a leaking circulator pump on 10/11 and prepared a cost estimate to repair it.
- Lookout Security repaired two faulty door alarm keypads on emergency exit doors on 10/12
- Johnson Controls checked boiler and system manager settings on 10/17 in response to our “no heat” call on 10/16.
- Chuck Shultz arranged for an inspection of the library roof to review overall condition and try to find a source for several small leaks in the building on 10/23.
- PK McGuane repaired worn and leaking valve parts in both public restroom toilets on 10/24.
- Chuck Shultz, Ayer Facilities Dept., and Muirfield Mechanical reviewed the HVAC system on 10/30.

Library Director’s Activities:

- Formally introduced to the Board of Selectmen and as Library Director at the 10/2 Selectmen’s Meeting.
- Attended the Ayer Fire Department Open House on 10/13.
- Attended the New England Library Association Annual Conference in Warwick, RI from 10/21-10/23. A great opportunity to speak with and learn from library professionals from the six New England states and to talk with vendors about new products and services. Found the Conference theme *Welcome: The Library is Your Space* particularly meaningful.
- Completed initial one-on-one meetings with library staff and most of the Library trustees.
- Began library department heads meetings on 10/26.

Library Director’s Meetings:

- Michelle Eberle, Massachusetts Library System (MLS Orientation for new Library Directors), 10/3.
- Massachusetts Library System Emerging Online Products Task Force, Marlborough, MA, 10/5.
- Ayer Treasurer Barbara Tierney, 10/10.
- Joan Kranich, CWMARS (Library Network policy review. Also attending: Samantha Benoit, Amy Leonard, and Nancy Askin), 10/12.
- Anne Savoie, CWMARS (Library systems and technology review. Also attending: Samantha Benoit), 10/15.
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 10/16.
- Ayer Department Directors Meeting, 10/17.
- Friends of the Ayer Library Quarterly Meeting, 10/17.
- Chris Hancock, CWMARS (Library WiFi survey), 10/25.
- Deb Roy, Library Director, Hazen Memorial Library, Shirley, MA, 10/29.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

- In October the Youth Services Department hosted 11 Juvenile programs with a total combined attendance of 295 people.

Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Ninja – <i>One Cool Friend</i>	21	10/2
Storytime – <i>10 Little Goblins</i>	38	10/4
Story Ninja – <i>Strictly No Elephants</i>	19	10/9
Storytime – <i>Pouch</i>	31	10/11

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Story Ninja –	18	10/16
Wooden Pumpkin Craft	34	10/17
Storytime – <i>Bangarang Yoga</i>	59	10/18
Read with Willow (the Read Therapy dog)	12	10/23
Story Ninja – <i>Monsters</i>	20	10/23
Storytime – <i>Pete the Cat</i>	31	10/25
Story Ninja – <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	13	10/30

- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**

- Book Displays:
 - Halloween Horror
 - Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 – 10/15)

Programs	#patrons	Date
John Green Book Club	4	
Family Game Night	4	
Teen Advisory Board	2	
<i>Magic: The Gathering</i> Card Game Instruction	2	
<i>Dungeons & Dragons</i>	4	
LGBTQIA+ Drop-In Night	2	
Anime & Manga Club	8	
<i>Dungeons & Dragons</i>	4	
Halloween Teen Night	6	

- Young Adult Librarian Autumn Dore received an unsolicited but exciting email from Julie Blazar, Director of Communications and Outreach for Out MetroWest (www.outmetrowest.org) stating:

We've been seeing your powerful outreach to LGBTQIA+ teens on social media, and we wanted to see if we could offer support. We've done collaborative movie/game/maker events for queer and allied teens with local libraries, but we know these events often need to be booked and budgeted far in advance.

It looks like you just started a drop-in space. Would it help if we provided \$100 for an upcoming meeting? We'd invite our participants from the MetroWest area, though I'm not sure how many will make the trek to Ayer. You could use the money however you think it'd help your group, and we'd drop by some rainbow and trans flag swag for your youth.

The only motivation behind the offer is that you're doing something awesome in a community where these kids are under-served, and we want to help.

Autumn will be working to strengthen this relationship with Out MetroWest in order to provide the best service possible to local LGBTQIA+ teens.

- Autumn attended a workshop entitled *Connecting the Dots: Use the Resources You Have to Help Students and Parents Meet Their Information Needs*, led by staff from the Massachusetts Library System and held at the Harvard Public Library on October 30th.

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- We've started a little Dungeons & Dragons chapter with one of the local high school students. Parents and children are welcome and it runs every Friday afternoon.
- The Makerspace had a make-over and we have more student-guided takeaway activities for our tweens. Justine Paulson and Autumn are going to partner more on crafts.
- To build attendance we've been posting daily on Instagram (@ayerlibrary and @ayerlibraryteens) and this is how Out MetroWest discovered us. Posts also go on the library's Facebook page and in the community groups on Facebook. We also have an events board above one of the computer stations to help advertise programs. We're additionally trying to increase the visibility of the Teen Room desk with lights and encouraging patrons to check out at the desk.

I would like to thank the following Ayer Library staff members for their contributions to this report: Nancy Askin, Samantha Benoit, Autumn Dore, Justine Paulson, Thomas Tagliavento, and Christina Zoller.

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director