

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for May 2019

Adult Book Displays:

- National Photography Month – May is National Photography month – the display went up at the end of April.
- Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;
- Jewish American Heritage Month;
- Butterflies, tie-in with “Gardens, Conservation, and the Monarch Butterfly” program on May 8th;
- Stone walls, tie-in with Kevin Gardner Stone Walls program;
- Gardening, also a tie-in with the May 8th Monarch butterfly program.

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program/Presenter	Attendance	Date
Book Club – Reading <i>The Fixer</i> by Jennifer Lynn Barnes	5	May 1st
Book Roses Craft Program w/ Christina Zoller	6	May 4th
Board Game Night	5	May 7th
Gardens, Conservation, & Monarch Butterflies w/Cynthia Dunn of Mass. Audubon	15	May 8th
Energy Healing w/ Hannelore Nalesnik	15	May 15th
Quest for the Eastern Cougar w/ Robert Tougias	15	May 16th
Board Game Night	5	May 21st
Discovering New England Stone Walls / Kevin Gardner	35	May 22nd

Library Building & Grounds:

- Prescott Landscaping completed a spring clean-up of the library grounds on May 3rd, and continued mowing the lawn.
- Turf Unlimited serviced the Library's irrigation system in preparation for the growing season on May 3rd. Given the Town-wide watering ban that went into effect on the 15th of May, we will not be turning on the irrigation system for the foreseeable future.
- Bob Owen of A-Bob Stumps spent parts of several days grinding stumps left behind from last month's tree cutting. He finished up on May 24th.
- Fish Window Cleaning cleaned the glass on the Library's exterior windows and doors on May 24th.
- Keystone Elevator performed a routine safety check of our elevator on May 24th.

Library Director's Activities:

- Assistant Director Samantha Benoit and I met with Anna Popp of the Mass. Library System on May 2nd for a tour of the library and a discussion of potential ideas for using the existing space in the building more effectively.
- I spent some time meeting with and preparing information for three new members of the Library's Board of Trustees – Robert Gardner, Becky Campaner, and Julie DeWitt – all of whom were elected to the Board in the April Town election.
- As the Commonwealth's FY2020 budget wound its way through the House and Senate, I encouraged members of the Library's Friends group and Board of Trustees to reach out to their local representatives and ask them to support several budget amendments to increase funding for libraries across the state. The good news is that both chambers of the legislature approved

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funding levels that met nearly all of the amounts requested by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for FY2020.

- As a member of the New England Library Association (NELA) and a graduate of the 2017 New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS), I was honored to participate in the selection process for Massachusetts applicants to this year's NELLS cohort via a May 7th conference call.
- I attended an informational event and tour on May 7th hosted by Loaves & Fishes where I learned about the operation of the food pantry and met a number of other service providers working to assist underserved people in the community.
- Ayer DPW Chief Mark Wetzell and I met at the Library on May 9th to discuss the general timetable for the E. Main Street reconstruction project and how it might affect Library operations. We also talked about a number of potential infrastructural improvements that Ayer DPW may be able to assist the Library in completing and about some projects that the DPW's summer youth worker program might be able to work on.
- Jeannette Lundgren, the Executive Director of the Central/Western Massachusetts Library System (C/WMARS), visited the Library on May 15th. This meeting was an opportunity for her to meet with me as a new library director within the C/WMARS network and to answer questions about network policies and services for member libraries.
- Assistant Director Samantha Benoit and I have been reviewing outstanding expenses and making plans to wrap up the fiscal year's operating budget.

Library Director's Meetings:

- Town of Ayer Department Director's Meeting, May 8th
- Ayer Annual Town Meeting, May 13th
- C/WMARS Quarterly Area Directors' Meeting, Winchendon, MA, May 16th
- Library Department Directors' Meetings, May 17th & May 31st
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, May 21st

Library Operations:

- The Ayer Library was selected as the May beneficiary of Shaw's Market's *Give Back Where It Counts* program. Every time a customer purchased a reusable Shaw's shopping bag from the Shaw's Market on Boston Road in Groton, Shaw's donated \$1 to the Friends of the Ayer Library. The total donation for the month of May amounted to \$51. Although the monthly purchase program has ended, Shaw's customers can still donate by using the Giving Tag affixed to each new reusable bag and designating \$1 to the Library.
- Library Director Tim Silva, Assistant Director Samantha Benoit, and Circulation & Outreach Librarian Christina Zoller attended portions of the Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference, held this year in Framingham on May 20-22.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Time -	17	May 2nd
Story Ninja -	15	May 7th
Read with Willow the Therapy Dog	6	May 7th
Story Time - with Bangarang Yoga	23	May 9th
Story Ninja -	14	May 14th

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Story Time - Garden Day	31	May 16th
Story Ninja – w/Officer Jen Bigelow of Ayer PD	21	May 21st
Outreach visit to Seven Hills- Devens	32	May 22nd
Story Time -	15	May 23rd
Story Ninja -	17	May 28th
Story Time –	14	May 30th
2 nd graders Walking Field Trip to the Library	120	May 31st

- May was a very busy outreach month for the Youth Services staff. We had a special visit from School Resource Officer Jennifer Bigelow at one of our Story Ninja Programs. She read a story to the kids, did a craft with them and spent time visiting with the parents.
- We were invited to visit Seven Hills Academy in Devens, MA. Seven Hills is a day habilitation facility that offers innovative and creative programming that provides opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, and brain injury. Amy had a wonderful time visiting with staff and participants of the program and we are excited for the opportunity to return for another visit.
- Christina and Tim also attended the Annual Title One Bingo Night at the elementary school. Christina gave a presentation on the Library's Summer Reading program and highlighted some of our most anticipated programs. They stayed and helped facilitate the Bingo games and continued to answer questions from families about the library and its programs.
- Christina and Amy also hosted the 2nd grade class on their annual walking field trip on Friday the 31st. Four classes came through and got to ask any questions they had about the library. We showed them the variety of books, movies, and other materials they can find in the library. We are happy to report that the library won the popular vote for the favorite stop on the field trip.
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
 - Book displays
 - It Isn't Easy Being Green

Programs	Attendees	Date
<i>Board Game Nights & Book Club</i> are now being reported under Adult Programs		

- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson set up the Maker-space with a National Pet Month theme for May. Craft options included fabric ring cat toys and braided fabric dog ropes.

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

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director