

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for September 2019

Adult Book Displays:

- **Book Bingo Adult Summer Reading Program** book ideas, with bingo sheets, instructions, and raffle ticket bags on display; Adult Summer Reading wrapped up September 10th – see below for details.
- **Latin American Heritage Month**
- **Wellness books**, continued from late August display for **National Wellness Month**
- **Deaf Awareness Month**
- **Banned Books Week**, week of 9/22-9/28
- **Climate Change Awareness**, for National Preparedness Month (September) and Climate Preparedness Week (September 24-30)

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program/Presenter	Attendance	Date
All Booked Club – Reading <i>Rising</i> by Elizabeth Rush – Tie in with Climate Change Awareness display	4	September 5
Family Board Game Night	12	September 12
<i>New England General Stores</i> with Ted Reinstien	15	September 18
<i>Climate Change and Human History</i>	17	September 19
<i>Needlepoint 101</i> with Bill Jersey	4	September 24
<i>Hiking through History</i> with Alison O’Leary	5	September 25
<i>Emergency Preparedness at Home</i> with Brendan Hurley of the Ayer Fire Department	8	September 26
Family Board Game Night	7	September 26
<i>Crochet Crafting</i> with Justine Paulson	0	September 28

- Adult Summer Reading Results: We drew five winners from the participants in our Book Bingo, summer reading program for adults. Winners won \$25.00 gift cards to Shop ‘n Save, Markoh’s on Main/Tipso Tacos/Lucia’s Tavola, Capri Bakery, O’Neil Cinemas, and Kimball Farms. 12 patrons participated by submitting raffle tickets, and with most submitting more than one each. Participants earned a ticket for each “Bingo” or completed row (four or five books read) on the Summer Reading Bingo Card. A total of 45 raffle tickets were entered into the drawing, which means that at least 150 books were read as a part of Book Bingo 2019.
- Circulation Librarian Thomas Tagliavento contributed some new information to the Community Resources page of the Library’s website, adding StartYourRecovery.org, a useful source of information about substance use and recovery options, with the option to search by zip code for local recovery treatment options.
- Thomas also printed and displayed some new informational brochures on how to set up and use the Overdrive and Libby apps in order to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks from the library.

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- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson was all set to re-start our monthly Crochet Crafting drop-in program on September 28th for the fall and winter seasons but apparently it was too warm and sunny for anyone to think about projects with yarn! Crochet Crafting will be back on Saturday, October 26th and on the last Saturday of most months between now and late spring 2020.

Library Director's Activities:

- I met with Adriane Quiroz of the U. S. Census Bureau on September 5th to learn about the rollout of the 2020 Census and to discuss how the Library could help.
- I organized and hosted an informational workshop about the Worcester Talking Book Library for library staff, social service providers, and the general public on September 19th. Kate Pontes of the Talking Book Library delivered the presentation on the Library's services and how Massachusetts residents can get free access to materials for the visually impaired. The workshop took place at the Hazen Memorial Library in Shirley. Nine people (representing four public libraries) including Ayer Library Clerk Barbara Breese and Board of Trustees member Becky Campaner attended. The program was recorded by Ayer Public Access Corporation (APAC) and is available for viewing on APAC's website.
- I finalized a new contract with All-Pro Cleaning to provide basic cleaning and janitorial services for the Library.
- IT work & troubleshooting: In addition to taking a more active role in maintaining our current PCs and systems for staff and public users, I'm researching options for upgrading some of our systems and outsourcing ongoing maintenance and support.
- Assistant Director Samantha Benoit and Head of Youth Services Amy Leonard and I worked together to refine the job description for the Library's Head of Adult Services position. This is an updated and re-titled version of Nancy Askin's position. The job was posted in mid-September and a dozen applications had arrived by the September 30th deadline.

Library Director's Meetings:

- Ayer Department Directors' Meeting, September 11th
- Rueben Hoar Public Library Director Sam Alvarez, Littleton, September 12th
- C/WMARS Users Council Meeting, Palmer Public Library, September 17th
- Central Mass. Library Advocates Annual Meeting, Leominster Public Library, September 23rd
- Mass. Higher Education Consortium Annual Expo, DCU Center, Worcester, September 26th

Library Operations:

- On September 10th, Assistant Director Samantha Benoit met with a private collector to conclude the purchase of roughly 200 glass photographic negatives to add to the Library's historical collection. The photos were taken by Edward A. Richardson, a former Ayer resident, selectman and Library Trustee, and depict scenes from Ayer, Shirley,

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Groton and several other locations in Massachusetts and New England. We have begun digitizing the images with a photo scanner while collecting relevant information about them from the notes written on the paper envelopes in which they were wrapped. We are excited to add this collection to our existing trove of images of Ayer and we hope to host an unveiling event at some point early in 2020.

- On September 18th we installed three new Cisco Meraki access points as part of an upgraded WiFi network for the Library. This new network provides features that the old one didn't, including:
 - Better coverage - one WiFi network now covers the entire building;
 - We can count the number of network users;
 - Users must now acknowledge our internet use policy before connecting.
 - Service and support for the new WiFi is provided by staff at the C/WMARS library network.
- At the All-Staff meeting held at the library on Friday, September 27th, we all bid a fond farewell to Nancy Askin, our Head of Technical Services on her last day at the library. Nancy is leaving the library after 15 years to pursue other interests.
- At the same staff meeting, library staff reviewed building safety procedures, alarm systems, and the location of safety equipment and emergency exits, concluding with an evacuation of the building to a designated meeting spot next to the parking lot.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Ninja	9	September 10
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	32	September 11
Story Time	34	September 12
Story Ninja	23	September 17
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	51	September 18
Story Time	24	September 19
Story Ninja w/ guest reader Eben	16	September 24
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	22	September 25
Story Time (Ayer Fire Truck visit)	53	September 26
Homeschool Class event	27	September 27

- September brought us back to our regularly scheduled programming after Summer Reading. We are grateful to be welcoming back the Ayer Family Partnership Center for a weekly Music and Movement event for local families. On September 24th we had our volunteer Eben as a guest reader for Story Ninja. He read the story 'Where Oliver Fits' by Cale Atkinson which is a story about being true to yourself and proud of who you are. On September 26 we welcomed members of the Ayer Fire Department for a special touch-a-truck visit. Firefighters Brett and Jared deserve a special thank you for finding the time during a very busy morning to visit with our families.

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- Circulation & Outreach Librarian Christina Zoller attended Open House Night at the Page Hilltop Elementary School on September 18th. She had a chance to meet with local families, some of them brand new residents, and offer information about the library and its offerings. It was an excellent outreach opportunity that helped us reach around 100 people.
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
 - Book displays
 - Reading Banned Books!

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

- In September, the Makerspace craft projects consisted of anime/graphic novel picture frames and woven cloth headbands.

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

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director