

# FRIENDS OF THE Ayer Library

## WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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**Friends Fundraising News:** During the holiday season the Friends sponsored two fundraising events which raised about \$100 to support library programs & services. The ShopWithScripts gift card program is now **inactive**, but the AmazonSmile program is **active** and we encourage you to enroll.

**amazon**smile The Friends have added the Ayer Library to the list of non-profit organizations you can choose to receive a portion of your Amazon purchase price by using AmazonSmile. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to sign up and choose "Friends of the Ayer Library Inc" as your charity to start generating donations at no cost to you. Any members interested in helping with the Friends with this or other fundraising programs should contact [friendsoftheayerlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheayerlibrary@gmail.com).

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**Friends Membership:** The Friends' Annual Membership Dues cover the calendar year, so we hold our membership drive in January and February. If you have not yet paid your 2021 membership dues, please do it now. You can send a check for \$10 made out to the Friends of the Ayer Library c/o the Ayer Library at 26 East Main St., Ayer, MA 01432 or use the PayPal link on our website at [ayerlibrary.org/friends](https://ayerlibrary.org/friends) to pay online. You can also become a new member by downloading the membership form on the website and mailing it along with your \$10 check. Some membership forms will also be available inside the shed used for curbside pickup. The Friends of the Ayer Library is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your membership dues are tax deductible. Dues are used to support the programs and services of the Ayer Library.

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**Mark Your Calendars!** The next Friends of the Ayer Library meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21; whether in the Library or via Zoom is to be determined. The remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2021 include July 21 and October 20.

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### **New 2021 Friends Executive Committee Elected at Annual Meeting in January:**

Carol Horgan, President | Liz Nonis, Vice President/Treasurer  
Laurie Sabol, Secretary | Elaine Sullivan, Member-at-Large

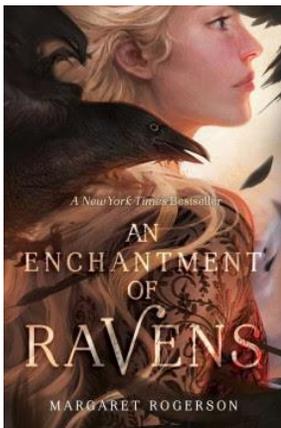
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**New Curbside Branch Opens:** The Curbside Branch of the Ayer Library is now open! It is a custom-designed shed on the porch of the library making it easier for staff to provide ongoing curbside pickup, especially during the winter when snow and wind make the use of a canopy tent impractical. The additional space in the shed allows plenty of room for curbside craft kits and information on Library and community services. Faxing, photocopying and document printing is also available through curbside pickup.



**New WiFi Hotspots and Tablets Available:** The Library recently purchased 18 Wi-Fi hotspot devices to loan. Each device can connect up to 15 other devices (laptops, smartphones, etc.) to the internet over T-Mobile's cellular network. In addition, there are 6 tablet computers for loan. These tablets can connect to the internet over T-Mobile's cellular network and also connect up to 10 other devices. A standard loan period is three weeks, but borrowers that meet certain criteria may borrow the devices for longer periods of time. Call the Library or visit their website for more details. Funding for these devices comes from the COVID Impact Community Development Block Grant, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development

Library Director Tim Silva noted, "The goal of this program is to help members of our community stay connected to information while the Library building is closed because of the pandemic. So much of what we do takes place online now, so these hotspots could help people who didn't have access to the internet at home, or who might need a little more bandwidth than they can afford."



**New Young Adult Book of the Month Packs:** The Ayer Library is excited to now offer a Young Adult Book of the Month pack available through curbside pickup. Every Book of the Month pack will include a book, review sheet, and fun goodies like custom bookmarks, stickers, and a craft project. The Book for the Month of February is ***An Enchantment of Ravens* by Margaret Rogerson**. An instant New York Times Bestseller that School Library Journal called, "A funny, action-packed, and sweet romance." And the Book of the Month of March is ***All Your Twisted Secrets* by Diana Urban**. And just a reminder: you don't have to be a teenager to read young adult books, adults read them too! Call the library at 978-772-8250 or email [ayerlibrary@cwmar.org](mailto:ayerlibrary@cwmar.org) to request a YA Book of the Month pack today! You can also make a request using our digital Curbside Request Form, which can be found on the Library website [ayerlibrary.org](http://ayerlibrary.org).

### Other News from the Library:

- Kids, Teens and Adult craft kits are now available for curbside pickup. They change monthly. Call or email the library to request a kit.
- The Library has a large variety of board and card games available for patrons for curbside pickup. Some offerings include the Apples to Apples Party Box, Othello, Ticket to Ride, Candy Land, a Dr. Who card game, and many more. The Library website has a full list of games.
- The Library is planning to put more information out via email. Use the link [bit.ly/3tPDzko](http://bit.ly/3tPDzko) to sign up for the Library's email list or click the yellow *Sign Up for Updates* button at the bottom of the webpage to get updates on programs and service changes during the pandemic.

**Build America's Libraries:** On January 28, 2021, the Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127) was introduced. This legislation would provide **\$5 billion** in funding to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities. Federal funding for library buildings has not been provided in more than 20 years. Please ask your Senators to co-sponsor the Act to invest in our nation's library infrastructure by completing the form at [tinyurl.com/zblo5i4p](http://tinyurl.com/zblo5i4p).

**Sale Room Donations:** The Book Sale Room is currently closed and no new donations are being accepted. The Books on Wheels Program also remains on hiatus until further notice.