

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for February 2022

Current operations:

- As of March 4, 2022, the Library is following the Town of Ayer's mask mandate. Masks are recommended but not required for library visitors and staff.
- We continue to offer curbside pickup service via the Curbside Shed. The default pickup location for requested items is the Main Desk. Please call us to have your requested items placed in the shed.
- The Friends' Book Sale Room – now officially renamed the Friends' Book Cellar - on the Ground Floor is open.
- The Reading Room in the historic wing of the building remains closed to the public until we can repair the plaster ceiling that partially collapsed in May 2021.
- Some programs are now available in person (Story Time), virtual programming is still be offered.

February Updates

- **REDUCED HOURS** - Effective February 1st: Due to a staffing shortage, the Library will close two hours earlier than usual on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings for the months of February and March. Our hours will be as follows:
 - Tuesday- Thursday 10 AM – 6 PM, Friday 10 AM- 5 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
- **Website:** Assabet Interactive has been added to the library's website. This allows patrons to book the Study Room and reserve Museum Passes from home. This has also given the library a more functional Events Calendar, allowing patrons to sign-up for programs through the calendar.
- **Story Time** is going strong. Programs are being presented by the Head of Youth Services, Amy Leonard, along with some special guests.
 - 2/3/22 *The Thing About Yetis* 23 patrons
 - 2/10/22 *Valentine's Surprise* 41 patrons
 - 2/17/22 Strega Mama: *The Mitten* (funded by The Friends of the Ayer Library)
43 patrons
 - 2/24/22 Bang-a-rang Yoga: *The Snowy Day* (funded by the Friends of the Ayer Library) 47 patrons
- **Curbside pick-ups:** 27
- **Kids Craft:** Yeti Costumes, Valentines: Send a hug, Valentines Monsters, The Mitten Craft Kits, Snowy Day Fuzzy Murals, and Yoga Journals.
- **Teen Craft:** Valentine's Letters, Wooden Bookmarks
- **Kids Displays:** Lunar New Year, Olympics, and Black History Month
- **Teen Displays:** Valentines, Translate Gender Co-Act Theater Flyer
- **Adult Craft:** Homemade Card Kits (by Becky Campaner) - 16
- **Spice Kits:** Buffalo Spice Mix - 20

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- Adult Book Displays: True Love vs. Heart Break, We Don't Talk about Bruno (the black sheep of the family), Black History Month, Top of Their Game (Olympics).
- Adult Book Group: *The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica – meeting was rescheduled to March 26 due to the library being closed with no heat.
- Digitization of the Public Spirit: The Community Preservation Committee approved the application for digitization on February 2nd. The application will be presented at a public forum at the end of March.
- Summer Reading: Planning for Summer Reading is underway. The Library will be hosting three programs, Adult, Teens, and Kids. The Library will be partnering with iRead for all promotional materials. This year's theme is *Off the Beaten Path*.
- The library was awarded a Cultural Council Grant to host *Grasshopper and Friends* in July.
- Schedule:
 - The Library closed on Wednesday, February 16th, because of a lack of heat in the building.
 - The Library closed at 3 PM on Friday, February 18th for a staff meeting and safety training review.
 - The Library closed on Saturday, February 19th in observance of the Presidents' Day Holiday.
 - The Library closed on Friday, February 25th, due to a winter storm.
 - The Library closed on Saturday, February 26th, due to no heat.
- Behind the Scenes:
 - Personnel
 - We are pleased to announce Becca Kranz as the newest member of the Ayer Library team. Becca is a Circulation Librarian (Youth Services) and will be working primarily in the Children's Room with Amy Leonard beginning March 1st. Becca visited the Library on February 23rd to complete some paperwork and was introduced to most of her new colleagues. Welcome Becca!
 - Maintenance & Repair
 - Historic Reading Room Ceiling Repair: There has been no change in the tentative scheduling of the repair work. As of February 28th, the Town's Capital Planning Committee has approved the Library's request for \$48,500 to make the necessary repairs. These funds would be available following the Annual Town Meeting on April 25th, provided the voters approve the capital budget.
 - The heat went out multiple times this month. Chuck Shultz helped to facilitate the repairs. One of the dampers to the outside malfunctioned and

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caused the boiler to leak water. The damper has been repaired, and will be replace along with the main heating coil in the near future.

Library Director's Activities:

- Meetings:
 - Town of Ayer Department Heads meeting via Zoom on February 9th.
 - The Ayer Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting via Zoom on Thursday, February 17th.

My thanks to Amy Leonard, Barbara Cheeks, and the rest of the Ayer Library staff for their contributions to this report.

Respectfully,

Samantha Benoit
Interim Director