

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for March 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 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.

March 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, March and April. Our hours will be as follows:
 - Tuesday- Thursday 10 AM – 6 PM, Friday 10 AM- 5 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
- **Children's Programs**. Programs are being presented by the Head of Youth Services, Amy Leonard, along with some special guests.
 - 3/3/22 *Where is Green Sheep* 19 patrons
 - 3/4/22 Amy Leonard attended Community Reading Day at Page Hilltop.
 - 3/10/22 *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* 37 patrons
 - 3/17/22 *Pete the Cat: The Great Leprechaun Chase* 27 patrons
 - Special Guest: Maureen Scott of the Nashoba Board of Health
 - 3/22/22 Music and Movement (The Family Partnership) 27 patrons
 - 3/24/22 Bang-a-rang Yoga: *Little Bear Sees Blue* (funded by the Friends of the Ayer Library) 42 patrons
 - 3/31/22 Strega Mama: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (funded by the Friends of the Ayer Library) 39 patrons
- **Kids Craft**: Sheep Finger Puppets, Sheep Color Identification, Leprechaun Seek and Find, Hungry Caterpillar Crowns, Iridescent Pot O'Gold, Snake Finger Puppet, Brown Bear Books, Brown Bear Colors, Cookie Monster Puppets, Music I Spy Sheets
- **Kids Displays**: March In like a Lion out like a Lamb, Spring, Women's History Month, Music in the Schools Month, Count the Gold Coins/St Patrick's Day, Spring Bloom Into Reading
- **Teen Craft**: Mandala Shamrock, Music Score Bookmarks, Women's History Month letter writing.
- **Teen Displays**: St Patrick's Day, Ides of March, National Pi day

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- Adult Programs:
 - 3/8/22 – Grounded Goodwives: Ginger Ale and Extract Class - 22
 - 3/25/22 - Book Club: *The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica – 4
- Adult Craft: Yarn Wrapped Birch Trees resistant painting - 23
- Spice Kits: Everything Sesame Bagel - 25
- Adult Book Displays: It's Not Easy Being Green, Green Witch (Grounded Goodwives), National Craft Month, National Happiness Month
- Seed Library: The Ayer Community Garden's Seed Library opened on 3/26/22. There has been a much interest, and many patrons have taken seeds for their gardens.
- Curbside pick-ups: 19
- Behind the Scenes:
 - Personnel
 - We welcomed Becca Kranz to the Ayer Library staff on March 1st. Becca is our new Circulation Librarian in Youth Services.
 - Staff Continuing Education:
 - Classes and webinars attended by staff
 - 3/31/22 - Quiet Leadership
 - 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.

Library Department Heads Activities:

- Meetings:
 - Town of Ayer Department Heads meeting via Zoom on March 9th.
 - Town Budget Forum on March 16th.
 - The Ayer Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting via Zoom on Thursday, March 17th.
- Continuing Education:
 - Classes, webinars and other education classes attended by library department heads.
 - 3/9/22 – Homelessness in Libraries (Mass Library System)
 - 3/22/22 – Mental Health First Aid Pt. 1 (Mass Library System)

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- 3/23/22 – Personal Burnout (Mass Library System)
- 3/24/22 – Mental Health First Aid Pt. 2 (Mass Library System)
- 3/29/22 – Envisionware Training (CWMARS)

Many thanks to the Ayer Library Staff for their contributions to this report.

Respectfully,

Samantha Benoit
Assistant Director

Barbara Cheeks
Head of Adult Services

Amy Leonard
Head of Youth Services