



**Report presented to the Board of Trustees  
by Margaret Morrissey, Director  
July 25, 2023**

**Anti Book Banning Legislation**

- Senator Cyr from the Cape has filed a bill SD.2673. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2673>
- Jacob Edwards Library along with other libraries in the area will host Ashley Hope Perez, author of *Out of Darkness* (2015) and one of the ten most challenged books reported by ALA.

**Budget FY 2024**

- Annual request for funding for Books and Materials to augment the operating budget of \$45,000. Request a matching gift from the board. The total municipal appropriation is \$574,884

**Building**

- Globe Signs has completed the refurbishment of one of the JEL mahogany – the Main Street sign and it is in place. The second sign is underway.
- The door handle at the North entrance is malfunctioning. Locksmith has repaired the lock. We are looking to replace the door locks
- Since 6/14 we have been experiencing intermittent issues with the elevator. The Elevator Maintenance Service has been here on many occasions and working on the issues as they present themselves. The budget line item for building and equipment maintenance has already been exceeded and other funding such as state aid will be needed. Currently in discussion with the vendors and preparing a proposal.
- Replace one of the security cameras. Not operating since a power outage 7/16.
- DPW has repaired potholes in the parking lot and change the filters (quarterly). Hedges and shrubs were trimmed. A request to have the trees trimmed has been submitted.
- Eric Wilhelm adjusted the Mary Minot Clock and it is keeping time again 7/13

**Chess Park**

- Met with landscaper designer Joe Coan on 7/11 to review the project in light of having the site survey. Present were Ben Marinelli, Southbridge Chess Club and Michael Brunelle, Recreation Director.

**Children's Room**

- Since school vacation started the room has been busy from opening time to closing.

- Programs offered in addition to the regular Story Time (Wednesdays and Fridays), Lego Club (Tuesdays and Thursdays), Crafty Wednesdays, STEAM and others.
- *Young Scientists Spring II* programs part of YFCP has been very successful. *Wiggles and Giggles* another YFCP sponsored program will resume in September.
- *Maggie the Clown* performed to an audience of 55 attendees on 6/26, officially launching the Summer Reading Program. The event was sponsored by the FOJEL.
- *Talking Hands Puppets* with Anna Sobel, funded by an LCC Grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council. 36 in attendance.
- *Tom Sieling* 7/10 funded by a grant from the Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti Donor Advised Fund at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. 21 in attendance.
- *Flying High Dogs* 7/17 funded by a grant from the Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti Donor Advised Fund at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. 47 in attendance.
- Mike Bent 7/24 Funded by an LCC Grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council. 43 in attendance.
- Diane Edgecomb - storyteller 7/31 Funded by an LCC Grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council.

#### Collection Development

- A 35 mm film was found in the Holmes Ammidown History Room and Archive in a can with a brief note indicating it was of Sacred Heart Church. It was a professional movie "Exclusive Pictures Taken for the Strand Theatre by Central Motion Picture Co. C.L. Raimondo Photographer". The film was thought to be in poor condition and it was vacuumed and is not deteriorated. I have spoken with Anthony Labbate, Preservation Manager at the Eastman Museum. He has provided some images of what we can expect from the digital version He was encouraging about the results we could anticipate from this process. A 4k scan will be done which would include editing and color correction. The funding for the project has been provided by Cornerstone Bank (\$500) and Southbridge Historical Commission (\$400.25) and Savers Bank have offered to cover the remaining cost. The film is at the George Eastman Museum and the process for digitizing has begun. 1,000 ft of film was salvageable and 50 ft. was destroyed by rust and environmental issues.
- The non-fiction inventory has been completed up to 346.794 U.S. 7/14

#### FOJEL

- Presentation on Beekeeping by Ken Warchol 7/13. The Friends provided sponsorship of \$150
- The Friends provided the funding for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Hope Perez joint online presentation with other area libraries (\$100).
- Eric Carle Museum passes now available.

#### Garden

- Opacum Land Trust planted a dogwood (Kousa) to replace the flowering crab apple. This is part of the 1,000 Tree Project,
- One of the petunia plants was stolen from the urn on Main Street. It was replaced with a similarly colored impatiens plant.

## Grants and Donations

- A request for funding to convert the 35 mm Sacred Heart/The Strand movie to digital format was sent to various financial institutions in the area and the Historical Commission for consideration.
- Cornerstone Bank sent a check for \$500 for the project.
- Southbridge Historical Commission is contributing \$400.25 to the digitizing project. In process.
- Savers Bank has offered to cover the remaining balance.

## Local History

- The 8 mm films recently digitized have been uploaded to YouTube by SCTV and we are working on metadata to provide a more granular description.

## Long Range Plan

- The fifth draft was circulated to the board in advance of the June meeting for review and comment. A few minor changes were suggested and approved. The final Long Range Plan is provided to the board at today's meeting, the MBLC, the Town Manager and available for viewing on the JEL website.

## Outreach

- Participating in the MOTT (MA Office of Travel and Tourism) grant for Historical Walking Tour.

## Programs

- Art Furtado is the artist of the month. A Facebook Live broadcast was conducted during the Meet and Greet 7/6, as well as the SCTV recorded the show for uploading to YouTube. The Southbridge News also covered the event.
- Ken Warchol gave a presentation on beekeeping 7/13, followed by a honey tasting. There was engagement online as well as in person. Funded by the Friends of JEL.
- Book Club discussed *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet* by John Green 7/12. This book is on the Summer Reading list for Bay Path students.
- Afternoon Author Talks Elena Palladino was the June presenter 6/28 *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley*. The event was not broadcast in keeping with the author's wishes.
- The July speaker will be Tom Ingrassia who will discuss his book *Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity by Following Your Dreams* 7/26
- *Blues and the Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* with Robin O'Herin 7/20 was broadcast on Facebook Live and recorded by SCTV for YouTube. The concert was sponsored by the Southbridge Cultural Council.
- The ongoing programs - Tuesday Knitting and Chess on Monday evenings are well attended.
- Game Night for all ages is on Mondays from 5:30-7:30 this summer.
- Chess is suspended until September. A group of players from the Southbridge Chess Club participated in a competition last weekend and won some awards.

## Reference

- During the month many research questions were responded to, including two property searches.

## Safety and Security

- Police officers are doing pedestrian duty on Main Street and are continuing to drop by the library frequently to do a walk through.

## Summer Feeding

- Volunteers from Open Sky are staffing the food service at the library.
- Average meal serving per day = 21

## Summer Reading

- The program for children, teens and adults started on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and run until Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Children's Room had *Maggie the Clown* to launch the series and there were 55 participants.
- Summer Reading registrations  
Children = 167                  Teens = 21                  Adults = 34

## Tax Abatement

- There are five program participants work a 2 hour shift each week until they reach 65 hours.

## Technology

- The AWE Early Learning computer in the Children's Room from 2014 is being replaced with a bilingual Spanish computer. An attractive 15% discount was offered and the computer was purchased for \$3,272 from state aid.
- Postings were made to social media
- CWMARS staff migrating all of their servers to the Google Cloud 9 Platform July 1. The upgrade for JEL is scheduled for Monday, 8/7.
- New computers will be brought onto the network during the CWMARS visit here on 8/7. Developed a list of software for the staff and public computers to have consistency.

## Teen

- The monthly *Take and Make* craft featured an Ice Cream Cone Keychain from beads
- Teen Advisory Group (TAG)
- Dungeons & Dragons – second program
- Artemis: Our Return to the Moon (Zoom) – cancelled due to technical difficulties

## Training/Professional Development

- Senior staff completed "Helping Libraries to be Autism-Ready" training from Web Junction.

## Trustees

- The MBLC was notified of Liz Golz appointment to the board and updated online.