



**Report presented to the Board of Trustees
by Margaret Morrissey, Director
May 23rd, 2023**

Budget

- Town Council passed the JEL budget request of \$574,884.00, on 5/22.

Building

- Bay Path Instructor Justin Verham and electrical department students visited the library to review some small electrical projects 3/9. They are able to perform the work requested. The School Committee has approved the request. Project date to be decided. It may run into the new academic year, given how close we are to school closure date.
- Globe Signs has started the project 3/31 to refurbish the exterior JEL mahogany signs.
- Renaud HVAC here for the semi annual preventative maintenance 5/8. Issue with circulatory pump checked and is fully operational again.
- Bus tracker not connecting to the server. DPW installed new part and has resumed operation.
- DPW requested to repair the two pot holes in the parking lot.
- Tom Lesure, from ECI was here for the electrical system assessment. 5/11
- Team from ECI here to assess the site for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. There is a federal grant available that we are hoping to apply for, as one of the town buildings.
- The door handle at the North entrance is malfunctioning. Waiting for locksmith. Door does lock – handle is the issue.
- Norel worked on the battery-operated sensors (4) that are part of the intruder alarm. All other sensors are hard-wired. 4/28
- Retired US Flag sent to Veteran's Agent for proper disposal.

Children's Room

- New displays thematically linked to the season were installed.
- Programs offered in addition to the regular Story Time (Wednesdays and Fridays), Lego Club, Crafty Wednesdays was: Art on the Spot
- Young Scientists Spring II programs will start up May 4, 2023
- YFCP (YMCA Family and Community Partnership) sponsored a puppet show by Tom Knight on May 6, 2023 for Children ages 3-6 and their families (to introduce step up to preschool, kindergarten and first grade).
- YFCP is also resume the Wiggles and Giggles program at the library, due to its record success.
- Staff is busy working on Summer Reading and liaising with the elementary schools for recommended reading lists and programs to encourage reading during the summer.

- Trinity Catholic Academy K and 3rd Grade Buddies visited 4/26. Lots of social media coverage and compliments for the library.

Collection Development

- MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has circulated some sample statements on Book Challenges.
Having reviewed the statements, a proposal has been sent to the board to add some additional verbiage to the collection development policy to bolster its message, as follows:

Book Challenge Statement

At Jacob Edwards Library, we value the intellectual freedoms protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and uphold policies that protect the right to read. The First Amendment's provision of free speech includes the right to challenge books and materials at the library. Challenging books at the library is not new, and the Jacob Edwards Library respects the right to do so according to our Reconsideration Policy [\[link to policy\]](#). The library does not exclude materials based on origin, background, or views. The removal of such books is censorship that denies free access to information and restricts intellectual freedom. Libraries are for everyone. Adopted in 1939 by the American Library Association (ALA), the Library Bill of Rights emphasizes equal and equitable access for all individuals, including minors, to a diverse collection by and about a diversity of people and cultures. Living in a free society means we get to choose what we want to read unimpeded by others' beliefs or viewpoints. Our library collections strive to be inclusive of and relevant to all members of our community.

- Publisher's Weekly reports that ALA has recorded a challenges of 2,571 unique titles "a stunning 38% increase from the 1,858 unique titles targeted for censorship in 2021". Article shared with the board by email. The figure was 377 challenges in 2019.
- 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. On further investigation by Councilor Mike Marketti and Paul Zotos, 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 gave a general quote of \$4,070 for a 4k scan which would include editing and color correction. He was encouraging about the results we could anticipate from this process.
- The weeding in the Teen fiction and Adult nonfiction continues

FOJEL

- Annual book sale May 4-6. \$1,175 was the turnover for the event. Traveler's Restaurant, Union picked up the remaining books at opening time on Monday
- Coffee Service machine has stopped working. We are in the process of working with the Friends and a coffee service to replace the machine.
- The Friends have subscribed to the Samuel Slater Museum library pass program.

Garden

- Thank you to trustee Bernadette Meade for designing and installing the gardens at the library, this year. The DPW have completed the spring clean up and the property looks well cared for. The crab apple in front of the building had to be removed as it was dead. Opacum Land Trust will provide a replacement tree as part of the 1,000 Tree Project.

Grants and Donations

- A request for funding to convert the 35 mm Sacred Heart/The Strand movie to digital format was sent to the Historical Commission for consideration.

Local History

- Marcy Street/Mary E. Wells School and the Mills at Lensdale Gate have been added to the National Register of Historical Places, May 3, 2023.

Long Range Plan

- Senior staff worked on the plan and the data component.
- Created QR code and other promotional social media pieces to encourage completion of the survey.

Outreach

- Library Director and Children's Librarian visited WCAC open house on 5/19/2023
- Planning community outreach to Eastford Road School on June 9, 2023
- YFCP Young Scientists & Wiggles and Giggles returned for May and June
- Summer Reading decor and prizes are purchased and ready for kick-off on June 26

Programs

- Yuri was the artist of the month. A Facebook Live broadcast was conducted during the Meet and Greet 5/4, as well as the SCTV recorded the show for uploading to YouTube.
- Aaron Larget Caplan performed Spanish Candy concert on 5/11 Funded by the Southbridge Cultural Council's LCC grant. Concert was recorded by SCTV
- Book Club discussed *Three Martini Afternoons at the Ritz* 5/17
- New England Horror Writers presented some of the short stories from the anthology on 5/18 and recorded by SCTV
- Afternoon Author Talks – Janice Harvey, author and educator will present on 5/24 at 2 pm
- Pied Potter Hamelin event scheduled for 5/25 and funded by an LCC Grant.
- The ongoing programs - Tuesday Knitting and Chess on Monday evenings are well attended.

Reference

- During the month many research questions were responded to, including an in depth research on a local property as part of a Public Records Request.

Safety and Security

- Police officers are doing pedestrian duty on Main Street and are dropping into the library frequently to do a walk through.
- 5/3
- Wellness check was requested of the police department for a patron who was unable to be roused 5/3
- Some graffiti was found on the wall in one of the bathrooms. Removed by staff. Half-hourly checks being done on the restrooms going forward, in the hopes of eliminating this practice.

Summer Reading

- The program for children, teens and adults will start on Monday, June 26th and run until Friday, August

Technology

- Bus tracker malfunctioned. New part ordered and installed 5/16
- Postings were made to social media
- ILS/Evergreen changes- the gender field has been removed. The plan is to rename First Name to Given Name and Last Name to Surname.
- CWMARS reports that 90% of libraries are fine free.

Teen

- The monthly *Take and Make* craft featured "Lizard key ring"
- Participated in the Memorial Day flag
- Created displays for Teen area
- Teen Saturday - Decorate a poem

Training

- Technical Processing/Circulation Assistant participated in the Book Repair workshop offered by North Bennett Street School at Charlton Public Library 5/1
- Children's Librarian completed the Basic Library Techniques 4 course series this month with an in person workshop in Northampton

Trustees

- New trustee appointment Janet Jenkins has been appointed by the Town Council 5/8 for the remaining term of former trustee Beth Cournoyer who resigned 3/31.