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Director's Report

March-April 2025

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on April 14, 2025

Joys and successes:

- Congressman McGovern met with us at the Franklin County Jail to learn about the services that we provide and to hear directly from the staff and our patrons there how library services have benefitted them. One person spoke about how “Read to the Children” has helped him to have a relationship with his young son. This person, who is 19, said he had personally been in the justice system since he was a child, and he hopes that his son will have a better life.
- Thanks very much to Dago for helping to analyze and report the findings from the Community Questionnaire! The committee will go over this report one more time, and the final report will then be included in next month's Board package.

Building & Grounds:

- Aaron has reconstructed the stage in time for our first spring program, and is also working on plans for a structure to cover the new sign. He hopes to use some of the old slate tiles in the basement for its roof. Aaron is also working on a new magazine rack so that we can free up the entryway to the meeting area and thus improve accessibility.
- Chelsea is registered to attend a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant information session. The application for MOD's FY26 Municipal ADA Improvement Grant opens May 1st. We will be scheduling a meeting of the “Cornerstone” Building and Grounds Committee with the Larocque Architecture team in late May. Library trustees will be invited to attend, so it will also be open to members of the public. Please stay tuned for dates.

Programs and services:

- Prentice Crosier presented “The Griswold Legacy” on March 19th. There were only seven people in attendance but the talk was informative and interactive, and we hope that we'll be able to render the recording, plus another interview, into a new episode of the People's History of Colrain Podcast.
- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective met on April 4th, with six people, including one new member who signed on from Pennsylvania.
- The [newest episode of the People's History of Colrain podcast, with Bekki Tippens and David Nims, is now available on SoundCloud](#). Please note that this podcast was produced with funding from the LSTA and the IMLS.
- *The Wild Robot* movie matinee took place on March 15th. There were only three people in attendance. This was the second of three movies that we are able to show with rights that we

purchased from [Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.](#)

- *The Greenfield Recorder* provided some coverage for two library programs this month, the screening of PBS' *College Behind Bars* and panel discussion, which took place on March 29th at Greenfield Community College, with 29 people attending in total, as well as the author talk with Kostya Kennedy on April 7th at Greenfield Public Library.

Administration:

- Our former contact at the IMLS reached out and advised us to submit our request for reimbursement for the \$10,000 IMLS award. Chelsea submitted an invoice for \$5,600 for payment through the Town, and once that is processed, we can enter it into the "eGMS" system for reimbursement.
- Our new phone number, 413-624-2377, has been operational for about a month, and we have been able to send and receive faxes reliably. It is nice to have more than three rings to get to the phone and to be able to see at a glance if we have a new voicemail, and also who is calling.

Further reading/Good to know

- [PDF overview about Federal Funding for MA libraries from the MBLC](#)
- [AG Campbell Sues Trump Administration to Protect Libraries and Museums](#)
- [American Library Association, AFSCME Challenge Trump Administration Gutting of Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
- Publishers Weekly news round-up on April 4, 2025: ["The Dismantling of the IMLS Continues with National Library Week Set to Begin"](#)
- From the MBLC: ["Federal Uncertainty Causes Cuts"](#):
Among the services that have been eliminated:
Access to training and continuing education for all library directors, staff, Trustees, Friends of the Library groups, and foundations made possible through statewide memberships in United for Libraries, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, and the WebJunction Learning Place for Libraries.