

## Director's Report

### November-December 2025

Respectfully submitted by Val Finkel on December 6, 2025.

#### Joys and successes:

- We're grateful to the Friends of the Library for putting up the buntings and other beautiful winter decorations.
- We're also grateful to Jade Mortimer for diligently sanding and shoveling the walkways, and for donating new sand containers and a new snow shovel.
- Many thanks to Chelsea, who continues to volunteer to offer our services at the Franklin County jail.
- Staff members Dominique & Mara stepped up to provide coverage to allow me to see my family over Thanksgiving, which was very appreciated!

#### Building & Grounds:

- The new sign will be installed perpendicular to and closer to the road. We have two options: 1) postpone installation until the ground thaws and we have a better idea of exactly where it should be placed in order to avoid interfering with the feasibility study plans and any underground infrastructure, or 2) go ahead with getting it in the ground in the existing post-holes, then uproot the posts and move the sign when we're ready. Aaron will advise on the best course of action in the next week.
- We may want to think about installing ground lighting for both the sign and for the building.
- I will meet with Stephen Larocque by the end of the year to discuss next steps. Currently Stephen is waiting for guidance from the MAAB regarding the possibility of obtaining a variance on reconstructing the front entrance of the building.

- Snow removal - for now Jade Mortimer is shoveling; our town administrator will let me know the results of the Select Board's meeting on 12/2 about continuing to accept Jade's volunteer work. Jade will be away 1/1 - 1/8; Everett Jones with the Fire Department will provide coverage during this time.

### **Programs and services:**

- The Native American Heritage Month display for November was popular, with many circulations of its books, especially the picture books. Our new winter display has had good engagement so far.
- We held a Sourdough Starter Class on 12/1, which was very well attended at 20 people. We had more signups than room to fit people & cars, so will plan to offer a Part 2 of this class in a few months for those on the wait list.
- We held a Hand Sewing Workshop on 12/6. This class filled up all its registration spots (12 people) as well!
- We will hold a Smartphone Skills workshop on 12/8, which currently has four registrants.
- Our "Knit with Friends" program, led by Jan Jones, continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. Attendance is steady.
- The Cyber-Seniors Tech Help program continues on Wednesdays 3 PM - 5 PM. We are still on the lookout for a Mohawk Trail or other local high school student to host the Tech Help hours on Wednesday afternoons, but for now Donna Dusell with GCC continues to host.
- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective is now a jointly hosted program by GML with the Heath Free Public Library, and now has a hybrid meeting format by Zoom and in person at GML. The first meeting with this new format was held on 12/5, and was attended by three people.
- The Colrain Community Meeting was hosted by community member Judith Roberts at GML and on Zoom on 11/17, and was well attended.
- The Patron Picks display for the kid's room has landed, with Maggie Korby as our first "picker." Tesia Elani has volunteered to be our first Adult Room Picker, and has suggested an excellent expansion to these displays: we will let any Picker write blurbs about their books who wants to, and we will keep past Picks & blurbs in binders available for patrons to access and flip through.
- Program plans in the works:

- Story Hour is settling into place! We've secured grant funds from the CFCE. We're circling around Friday afternoons at 1 PM as the weekly time, with Ms. Betty hosting 1-2 Hours per month and a contact from CFCE to host the rest. We are in talks to add "Read to Lamby" as a follow-up program hour.
- Dyeing workshop with Gail Callahan, the Kangaroo Dyer.
- Dog Man movie party at Colrain Central School on 1/30.
- We rescheduled Davis Bates for Saturday 2/14 to present "A Stories and Songs Celebration" with a Valentine's theme.
- Coppercrafting workshop
- Bonsai workshop
- Game Night

#### **Administration:**

- The BenQ has been updated and is now available for meeting use!
- The mailer insert is in progress and will be submitted to the Town Clerk on 12/11.
- Strategic Planning is progressing. The town's Emergency Management Coordinator Nina Martin-Anzuoni has advised on the language we will use for the Crisis Center priority.
- We are planning for a Community Discussion to serve as one large focus group to take place at the library in January.
- We are still waiting to hear about use policies for the new municipal credit card.
- Dominique and Val have begun Incident Command System training per Nina's recommendation.
- The grant application to the ALA's fund for Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is in progress.
- We have begun work on the budget for FY2027.

#### **Other Thoughts/Good to Know**

- IMLS federal funding is back! [Link to full press release at MBLC website](#)
- Senate Democrats scheduled for action legislation to address book bans. [Link to full article via The Berkshire Eagle](#)

- The Massachusetts Senate voted unanimously to help Massachusetts Public Libraries more accessibly provide in-demand digital resources such as eBooks and audiobooks. [More information from the MA State Legislature site.](#)