

Director's Report August-September 2024

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on September 9, 2024

Joys and successes:

- Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and skills for another successful Fix-It Day, including the Colrain Fire Department and Colrain Historical Society! Special thanks to the trustees for spearheading and championing this community gathering, and managing all of the logistics, from volunteers to parking to glue! Someone stopped by the library this afternoon to make a donation because they were so grateful to have received help with their mending.



- Thank you to Clint Dodge for addressing the electrical issues that were flagged in the FRCOG report, and to Aaron, Betty, Kevin, and the Fixers team for all of their help in clearing items from the basement. We are making good progress!
- Congratulations to Dominique and to Val, who will be sharing the responsibilities of the Assistant Director position, and both working one regularly scheduled 5.5 hour shift per week, at the rate of \$26.47 per hour. Their combined skill sets will help us to strengthen our communication and improve services for our community.
- Congratulations on another successful year of Summer Reading Club! There were 107 participants in total, and 33 people came out to our Awards Ceremony/StoryWalk launch party

at Pine Hill Orchards. Congratulations to Kimberly Tefft who won the adult gift basket full of goodies from local businesses like Pine Hill and Hager's Farm Market. Altogether, Colrainers read more than 1,000 books as part of Summer Reading Club. One caregiver was excited to report that she had read over 2,000 pages.



Building & Grounds:

- The library's feasibility study is officially underway. The first phase of this project entails digging soil pits, wetlands delineation, and a topographic survey, all of which is being led by Doug Macleay, who is keeping in close communication with the Laroque team.
- Aaron will refinish the front door in the next month.
- Charlie Busch attempted to power wash the front steps but we need to replace our hose before that will be possible, because the water pressure was not sufficient as is.

Programs and services:

- The library provided outreach services to 15 women at Franklin County Jail on August 13th, and at the Re-Entry Center on August 15th, where we met 6 patrons in total.
- The library will soon have Naloxone available for the public, thanks to Maureen O'Reilly at FRCOG, and the Colrain Select Board. The new Naloxone kit will be installed on one of the posts on the accessibility ramp so that it's available 24/7.

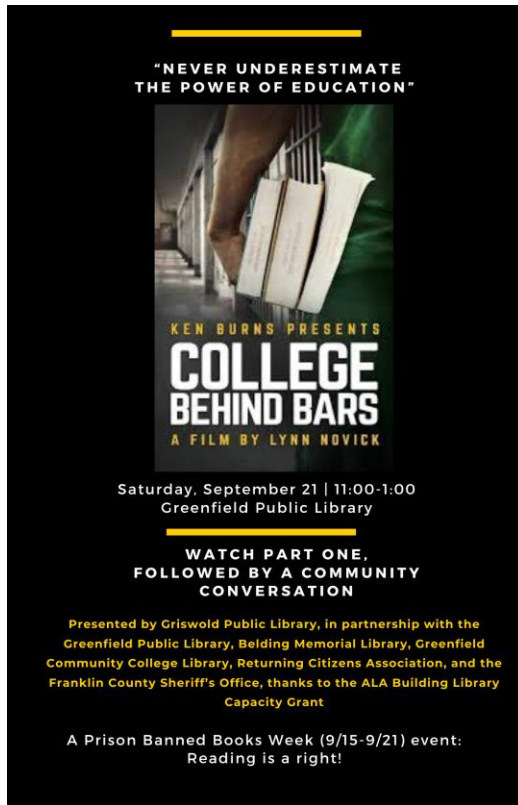


- Chelsea attended the first-day-of-school celebration and assembly at Colrain Central School on Wednesday 28th. Dago and Dominique were also there. This event is a good opportunity for us to connect with caregivers and to let them know what the library offers. There were about 40 people present.
- As mentioned above, 33 people attended the SRC Awards/StoryWalk Launch at Pine Hill on August 31st. Be sure to visit the StoryWalk, which will be on display through the Pick-Your-Own season.



- The library will be co-hosting a screening of PBS' *College Behind Bars*, together with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield Community College, and

Belding Memorial Library (Ashfield) at the Greenfield Public Library on September 21st. This event is paid for by the ALA Expanding Information Access grant. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. [Here is a link for the event posting on the Greenfield Recorder site.](#)



Administration:

- Chelsea, Dago and Nancy met with Oscar Lanza-Galindo from the Massachusetts Library System (<https://masslibsystem.org/>) to talk about strategic planning and how MLS may be able to support the trustees through this process. Oscar is not able to assist with the analysis or with drafting the plan based on the data we collect, but can host a workshop for trustees and stakeholders regarding the strategic planning process or to collect data from stakeholders. We have collected 124 responses to our Community Input Survey, which has been open since January. We've promoted the survey online and in person, including at the transfer station. Our target sample size was 310 or more. Chelsea posted a "news item" on the town website today in an effort to get more responses, but we should probably think about moving on to analyze this data soon, as our original goal was to complete a draft of the strategic plan by the year's end. It is necessary to have our strategic plan on file in order to be eligible for any LSTA grants. That said, we probably would not apply for another of these grants until 2026, after the feasibility study has been completed.
- The FY 2025 State Aid application is due no later than Friday, October 4th. We submitted our annual statistics report on August 16th.
- Chelsea, Val, and several trustees will be attending the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Springfield this week, and will focus on learning about library advocacy and connecting through books. Our library will be recognized for winning the IMLS Medal at the Awards Ceremony on Friday afternoon.

Further Reading/Good to know:

- Maura Healey recently signed the \$57.78 billion state budget with increases of more than 13% for State Aid to Public Libraries and State Aid to Regional Libraries. State Aid to Regional

Libraries funds the Massachusetts Library System and the Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library. Both increases were well above the amounts the MBLC requested in its FY2025 legislative agenda.

- Library Advisory Office Hours are open to all Directors, Trustees, Library Friends, and Foundation Members. They are designed to be an open-ended, safe space to ask Al Hayden, Library Advisory Specialist, questions and offer opportunities for interaction among participants. These sessions will not be recorded and chats will not be saved. The next session will be held on Monday, September 23, 2024