

Submitted by Anna Bognolo, Director

February and March 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The library provides space for a variety of activities each month. Library staff organize and lead many of the events, which are made possible by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library's generous sponsorship, while other events are arranged by outside individuals and organizations. Here's a quick look at the past two month's library-sponsored activities:

February Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS

SKILL BUILDERS

- Spice Club: Cayenne Pepper
- Greenfield Ukulele Players
- Writer's Workshop
- WordPress Meetup
- Nail Polish Swap Drop-In

CONVERSATION GROUPS

- Community Conversations 413
- Conversational Italian
- Conversational French

DIGITAL SKILLS

- Digital Skills Training with Tech Foundry
- Drop-In Tech Help with Tech Foundry
- How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer with Marc-Anthony Arena

GAMES

- Library Chess Club
- Drop in Scabble Night

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

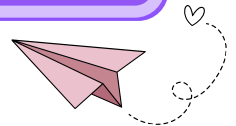
- Mystery Readers Book Club
- Silent Book Club
- Bookends Intergenerational Book Club
- Literary Teas
- Personal Growth Book Club NEW!

IN THE MAKERSPACE

- Zine 101 Workshop NEW!
- Drop In and Draw with Kemah NEW!
- Drop-In Knitting & Crochet
- Paper Flowers Workshop
- Digital Art Drop In
- Upcycling with Heidi:
- Boro Style Clutch Bag

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY EVENTS ALL MONTH LONG

- Share Your Library Story
- Date at the Library
- Tiny Art Show
- Make a Valentine or Write a Letter



Thank you to the
Friends of Greenfield Public
Library who generously
support and fund all of the
Library's programs.



February Programs continued...

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

STORY TIMES

- Storytimes with Mya and Winston
- Book Babies
- Toddler Time

ACTIVITIES

- Scavenger Hunt
- Drumming Class
- Chess Club
- Vacation Lego Club
- GPL Lego Club

FOR CAREGIVERS

- Babywearing with Jennifer Hydefrost

TWEEN PROGRAMS

ACTIVITIES

- Lights, Camera, Action: Make a Movie in a Day!
- Crafty Teen & Tween Fake Food Mix Ups
- Book to Movie Club
- Middle School Meet Up (drop-in)

TEEN PROGRAMS

READING

- Book Bingo Challenge
- Return of the Teen Book Subscription Book Box

ACTIVITIES

- Shorty Shorts: Short Form Filmmaking
- Mid-Winter Movie Marathon & Crafts

VOLUNTEER

- Teen Advisory Board

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STORYTIMES WITH MYA AND WINSTON

Come meet Mya and Winston the dog! Mya and Winston are gentle, kind, book-loving friends, and are hosting two afternoon storytimes on Thursdays in March.

Join them for stories and tips about meeting service dogs.

MARCH 6 AND 20- 3:30 PM

FEBRUARY TEEN TWEEN MIX UP

FEBRUARY 20 1-2PM

PAINTING WITH CAKE DECORATING TOOLS

FOOD CRAFTS!

FEBRUARY 27 3-4PM

TINY PIPE CLEANER PASTRIES

STARRING 2 FUN-LOVING LIBRARIANS!!

STELLAR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN SHANNON

CRAFTY TEEN LIBRARIAN FRANCESCA

This program is generously funded by

Introducing Teen Book BINGO

It's easy!

Win a small prize for each challenge you complete!

Read 5 books in a row and win a Jellycat or Squishmallow, your choice!

Fill the bingo sheet and win an after hours pizza party at the library for YOU and up to 10 friends!

It's fun!

Read books! Win prizes!

- Challenge runs from February 1 to June 12
- For anyone ages 13 to 20!
- Stop by the teen room to pick up your bingo card and get all the details!

March Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS

SKILL BUILDERS

- Spice Club: Chinese five-spice
- Consumer Debt Protection: Know Your Rights!
- Drop-In Knitting & Crochet
- Writer's Workshop
- Greenfield Ukulele Players
- WordPress Meetup
- Pagan, Jewish and Christian Women in the Roman Empire
- Springfield Symphony Musical Petting Zoo
- How to Change Gender Markers on your Identification Documents

GAMES

- Library Chess Club
- Drop in Scrabble Night

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- Children of the Night: the Horror Readers Discussion Group
- Contemporary Fiction
- Mystery Readers Book Club
- Silent Reading Club
- Bookends Reading-Buddy Match-Up
- Exploring Non-Fiction

LOCAL AUTHORS

- Kat Miller
- Rebecca Daniels

CONVERSATION GROUPS

- Community Conversations 413
- Conversational Italian
- Conversational French

INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Greenfield Community College
- Greenfield Recycling Program
- LifePath
- Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Medicare

MAKERSPACE SPRING ROUNDHOUSE SERIES*

- Miniature Prom Dresses
- Painted Pet Portraits
- Pysanky Eggs
- Contemporary Patchwork/Improve Quilting
- Felt Flowers
- Nature Sketching
- Macrame with Nicole
- *this series has been generously funded by the Franklin County Fair*

LET'S TALK ABOUT DEATH

- Death Cafe
- On Death and Dying: a panel discussion
- Getting the Last Word In: An Obituary Writing Workshop

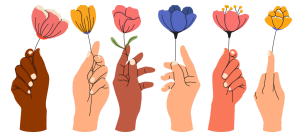
WINTER FARMER'S MARKET, MARCH 8

- Makerspace Craft: Flowers
- Information Sessions:
 - Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity
 - Greenfield Recycling Program

WICKED WEEK

- The Wizard of Oz
- The Wiz
- Wicked

MARCH
2025



LIBRARY
PROGRAMS



March Programs continued...

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

STORYTIMES

- PJ Storytime *NEW*
- Storytimes with Mya and Winston
- Book Babies
- Toddler Time
- Local Author Storytime: Eric Bennett

FOR CAREGIVERS

- Babywearing with Jennifer Hydefrost

ACTIVITIES

- Chess Club
- Drop-in Playgroup *NEW*
- GPL Lego Club
- Springfield Symphony Petting Zoo

TWEEN PROGRAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE

TEEN PROGRAMS

READING

- Book Bingo Reading Challenge
- Book to Movie Club

ACTIVITIES

- Pot O' Gold Party
- Manga Club

VOLUNTEER

- Teen Advisory Board
- Bookends Reading Buddy Match-Up

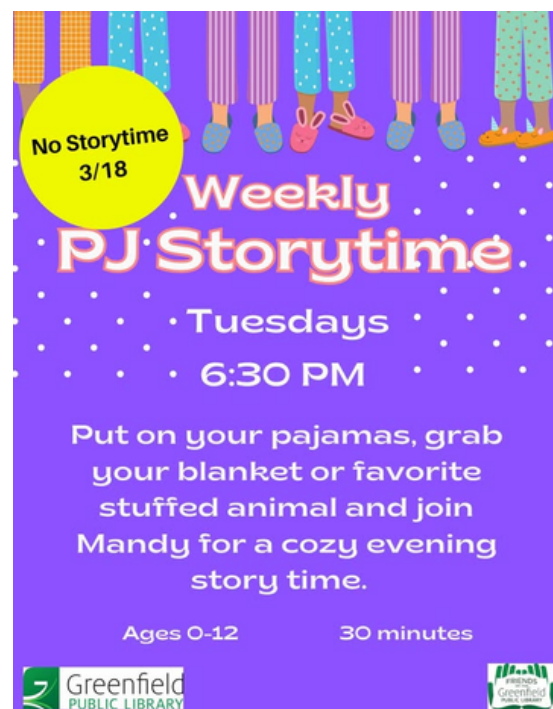


**NUMBER ATTENDEES
LIBRARY SPONSORED EVENTS
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024**

446

**NON-LIBRARY EVENTS
HELD AT THE LIBRARY
FEBRUARY/MARCH**

35



Statistical Highlights (library usage):

PEOPLE COUNTERS/TOTAL	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	14,158	13,056	11,642	13,500	13,270	12,704	12,624	12,174	13,757
FY2024	0	3,502	10,032	11,195	10,581	11,048	11,740	13,347	12,998

STUDY ROOMS	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	319	325	270	306	242	274	372	327	364
FY2024	115	171	159	199	156	198	185	321	377

NEW YORK TIMES (sessions)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	1,024	813	544	615	662	656	759	753	752
FY2024	452	405	490	435	289	297	337	310	428

OVERDRIVE -- adult	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
eBook	1,274	1,192	1,049	1,041	1,133	1,136	1,210	1,045	1,147
eAudio	1,384	1,352	1,308	1,402	1,321	1,523	1,673	1,439	1,595

eMagazine	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	3,068	3,088	2,858	3,044	3,120	3,353	3,727	3,185	3,667
FY2024	2,647	2,713	2,699	3,008	2,800	2,876	3,212	3,017	3,116

OVERDRIVE -- YA	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
eBook	146	94	66	75	97	103	108	105	119
eAudio	134	110	93	91	92	108	101	96	99
FY2025	280	204	159	166	189	211	209	201	218
FY2024	210	212	166	185	174	196	207	177	260

OVERDRIVE -- Juv	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
eBook	232	247	127	135	195	221	216	214	196
eAudio	166	130	125	101	181	237	210	213	209
FY2025	398	377	252	236	376	458	426	427	405
FY2024	262	276	343	266	327	395	280	376	428

Statistical Highlights (library usage):

LEA Overdrive	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
FY2025	760	707	641	694	732	631	637	531		
FY2024	701	791	655	739	737	757	805	718	904	940

TECH HELP	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	55	88	85	135	69	76	81	64	68
FY2024	20	110	70	55	50	64	65	67	59

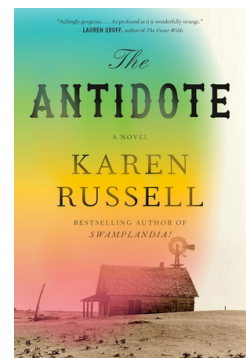
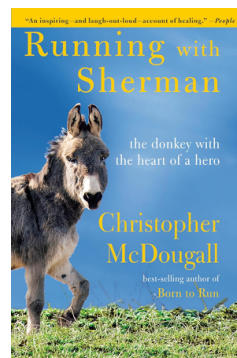
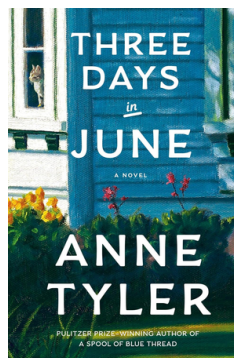
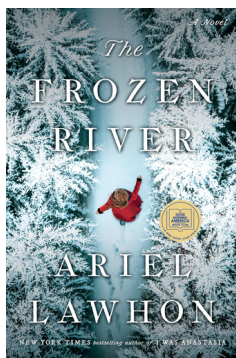
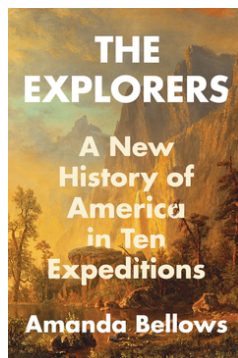
WIRELESS USE (Granted Access)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2025	2,164	1,951	2,227	2,471	2,265	2,187	2,525	2,324	2,606
FY2024	875	1,569	1,659	1,731	1,699	1,587	1,720	1,899	2,074

Circulation:

Patron borrowing (by item): February: 20,850 March: 22,114

Newly added materials: February: 466 March: 581

Top borrowed titles:



Staff News:

We are pleased to announce a new staff member in Borrower Services! **Marko Packard** joined us in March and has seamlessly transitioned into his evening and weekend role. Marko has many years of experience in library services, coming most recently from Springfield Technical Community College where he was the Collection Development librarian. In addition to his vast knowledge of libraries, Marko also brings to the GPL a love of music and fluency in Spanish.

We are also excited to share that **Jeremiah Rood** has been appointed Head of Borrower Services. Jeremiah has worked at the GPL for the past decade, and was until very recently, the Assistant Head of Borrower Services. While Jeremiah fills big shoes left by Marjorie Curtis, who retired at the end of February, we know that he is well equipped to fill them!

Professional Development:

In order to remain current and aware of happenings inside librarianship and adjacent professions, GPL staff participate in a variety of professional development opportunities. From monthly committee meetings to one-off training, staff are committed to ensuring they stay up-to-date and have the skills needed to fulfill their job duties and serve our community. We thank the Greenfield Public Library Foundation for their continued support of staff professional development.

Following are some of the professional development trainings that GPL staff have participated in these past two months:

- 2/5/2025 *Frontline Staff: Balancing Challenges from Patrons to Workplace Expectations* - Library Works (All Staff)
- 3/6/2025 *Defusing Encounters with Angry Patrons* - Library Works (All Staff)
- 3/26/2025 *Data Security training for Library Directors* - CWMars (Anna Bognolo)
- 3/28/2025 *Mental Health First Aid* - CSO (All staff)

Library staff, along with other City departments and volunteers from the Greenfield warming shelter, participated in "Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)" led by the outreach team from Clinical Support Options (CSO). The 7.5 hour course focused on recognizing the patterns of thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and appearance that show there might be a mental health challenge. Learners are taught an "Action Plan" that they apply to non-crisis and crisis situations. At the end of the course, participants received a course completion certification in Adult Mental Health First Aid USA which is valid for three years.

Professional Development, con't:

A survey was sent to participants following the course. The general consensus was that the training was very informative but that we would have benefitted from de-escalation role playing and more helpful solutions to handling an active crisis (alternatives to calling the police and unavailability of CSO Crisis response). We will be addressing these concerns in the coming months and hope to continue conversing with others in our City who work with diverse populations in order to provide them with meaningful support.

- 3/29/2025 *Human Library - Duxbury Public Library* (Pamela McBride)
- 3/29/2025 *College Behind Bars* A documentary viewing and panel discussion regarding education programs in prisons across the nation - GCC/GPL/Griswold Library/Belding Memorial Library hosted this event at GCC (Anna Bognolo)

Facilities Updates:

- Bicycle racks: Josh Ruder, a Greenfield-based sculptor, who received the commission to design and build new bicycle racks for the library, has finished and consigned the bike racks! They will be installed by our colleagues in Central Maintenance as soon as the weather permits.
- The children's room glass mural, designed by local artist Sarah Adam, is in the fabrication stage and has an installation date of early May! Stay tuned!
- Wayfinding will be completed in-house under the direction of our Children's room assistant Shannon Gilcreast. We decided to make this an in-house project following an inconclusive procurement process. We have ordered the material needed to create the wayfinding and expect to have the project finalized during the summer months.



Josh Ruder in his studio with the bike racks before coloring



Children's room mural design by Sarah Adam



From the wayfinding presentation by Shannon Gilcreast

Community Feedback:

A big "Thank You" to the Information Services staff from a community member who has been frequenting the library over the past month, using the public computers and the library staff to help him job search. After 5 months of endless applications and lots of help from the staff, he was overjoyed to share with us that he has found a job. (March 30, 2025)

Other:

On March 14, 2025, President Trump's **Executive Order 14238** targeted a number of entities, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS is the single largest source of critical federal funding for libraries. IMLS' entire program of service costs 87 cents per person (US population July 2024). The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) estimates that for every dollar spent on public libraries, we return five dollars in services. More than half of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners 23 staff members are at least partially funded with federal dollars, including the entire State Aid to Public Libraries staff. Even though the State Aid is funded with state dollars, the program depends on staff who are partially funded with federal dollars.

What does this mean for my local library? The long term effects of this executive order remain unclear for the time being. On the state level, the cuts will have a major impact on the Summer Reading program, the statewide interlibrary loan service (ComCat), the statewide ebook and audiobook lending program, and statewide databases.

As with everything else that is happening right now, there is a lot of uncertainty and there are many questions. We will certainly keep you posted as updates come in to us. Want to know how you can help? Visit the MBLC website for regular updates and show your support of your local library by writing to your elected officials, municipal government, local newspapers, etc. You can also use your library services and tell your neighbors and friends about the benefits of having a public library card! Finally, visit the American Library Association website for further suggestions. <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>



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