

Submitted by Anna Bognolo, Director

November 2025

Message from the Director

What a wonderfully busy month November has been! Our Winter Farmer's Market returned in full force, we re-launched our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and we hosted a live simulcast of Yo-Yo Ma's final performance of the Bach Cello Suites. We also introduced a laptop and hotspot lending program, offered an Introduction to AI class in partnership with the United Way's Digital Navigator, Rich Valden, and began implementing our new outreach project with Greenfield Middle School and Libraries Without Borders, a national nonprofit that supports library initiatives in underserved regions and nontraditional spaces.

In addition, we launched the lending of blood-pressure monitoring cuffs—a collaboration with the American Heart Association and several libraries across the region. And we are thrilled to share that the Teen Room mural is complete! This project, led by our Teen Advisory Board under the guidance of Teen Librarian Francesca Passiglia, has been nearly two years in the making. We are so thankful to our artists.

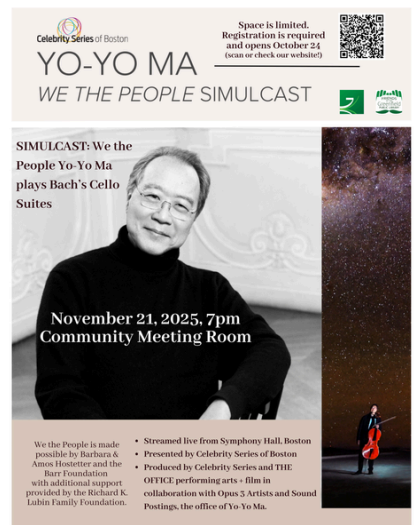
All of this comes on top of the everyday work our staff do to keep the library running and serving our community.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want to thank all of you who come to the library and take advantage of our programs and materials. With the holidays approaching and people finding moments to gather, we encourage you to ask your friends and family whether they use their public libraries, and if not, invite them to start! Our mission as public libraries is shared across communities, and if you love yours, we hope you'll spread the word so others can experience all that their libraries have to offer.

Other November Highlights

- *Meet a Therapy Dog* (children)
- *Kid's Graphic Novel Book Club* (Tweens)
- *Technical & Creative Sector Career Pathways* with GCC TRAIN (Teens)
- *Maintaining a Healthy Sourdough Starter in Your Home Kitchen* (Adult)
- *I Don't Want To Talk About It: A book group for Parents & Caregivers of Teens* (Adult and Teens)

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



Statistical Highlights (library usage):

- Number of library sponsored events: 41
- All non-library sponsored events: 13



MONTHLY DOOR COUNT

Total: 12,751 (circa 580/day)



MONTHLY STUDY ROOM USAGE COUNT

Total: 357

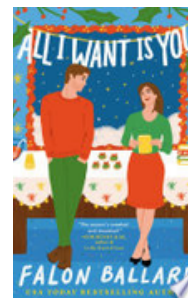
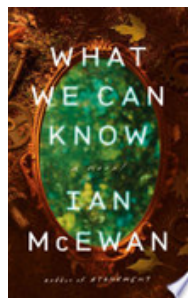
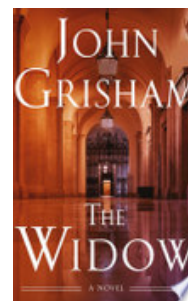
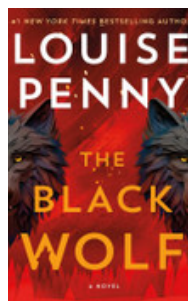


MONTHLY WIRELESS USAGE

Total: 2,714

Circulation:

- Patron borrowing: 15,684
- Newly added materials: 217
- Top borrowed titles:



In Our Gallery:

MOMENTS



Photographs by
ALFRED MITCHELL

On exhibit through November
in the Conference Room Gallery

Artist's Reception:
Monday, November 17, 6-7:45pm



WORKS BY KELLY POPOFF



On exhibit through November
in the Community Room Gallery

STARING CONTEST
Oil and wax on canvas
43 x 54 inches
2024

"For me, making art is the practice and unfolding of empathy. A kind of prayer for humanity. A way to give form to something that I do not understand. It momentarily makes some sort of sense of the mystery and stalls it in time to further contemplate."



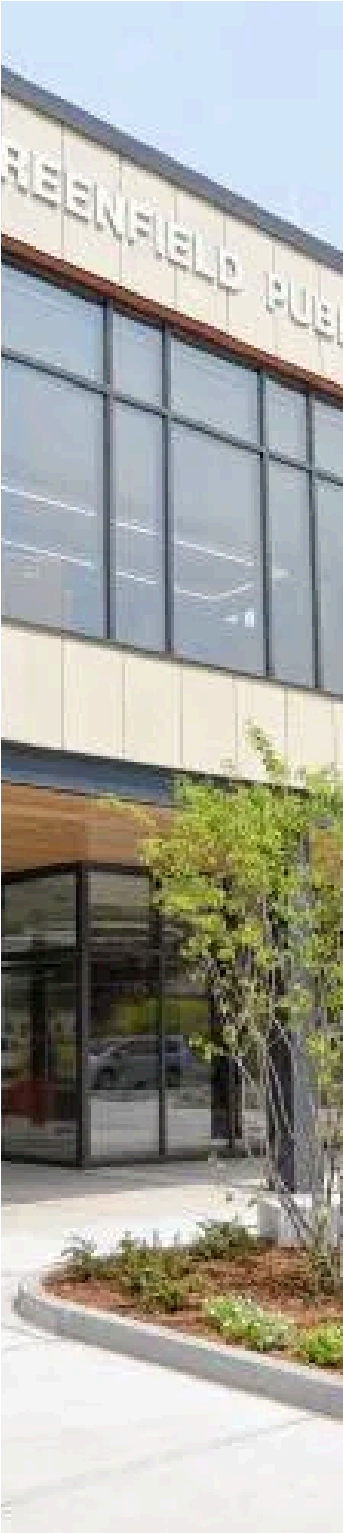
Professional Development:

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 the past month:

- NYC Comic Con (Jesse Cole, October 2025)
- Spirits in the Stacks (Jeremiah Rood, October 2025)
- Libraries Without Borders Partnership Meeting
(Francesca Passiglia, Ellen Lavoie, November 4, 2025)
- Massachusetts Library System Annual Meeting (Anna Bognolo, November 5, 2025)
- Cut the Line: For readers of Memoir (Jeremiah Rood, November 6, 2025)
- Franklin County Technical School ServSafe Training
(Francesca Passiglia, November 6 & 13, 2025)
- New England Teen Summit (Francesca Passiglia, November 14, 2025)
- Beyond the Stacks: Reimagining the future of libraries
(Jeremiah Rood, November 19, 2025)
- Western Massachusetts Historical Coalition (Anna Bognolo presentation to members of the Coalition, November 19, 2025)
- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Municipal Finance 101
(Anna Bognolo, November 19, 2025)
- Massachusetts Library System Pathways to Inclusion
(Anna Bognolo, November 19, 2025)

Facilities Updates:



In our first year of inhabiting 412 Main Street, we encountered a few facility issues that required attention. These included several windows in the Children's Room with humidity trapped between the panes, as well as cracks in the exterior paneling in various areas around the building. All of these repairs were covered under warranty, as they occurred within our first year of occupancy. However, as is often the case with construction-related work, obtaining materials and scheduling contractors can take considerable time and patience, hence the delay in getting these items fully replaced. Fortunately, the bulk of the work was completed the day before Thanksgiving.

Additionally, we have, on multiple occasions, experienced difficulties with our elevator, entrance doors, and plumbing, and I thought this would be a good opportunity to explain how building issues are handled. As a city department, we report equipment problems to the Director of Central Maintenance through a ticketing system, followed by a call or email as needed. The Director of Central Maintenance manages all service contracts and coordinates onsite visits, ensuring that repairs are carried out by the appropriate vendors. Given that some service providers must travel to Greenfield, and that the city sometimes bundles mechanical issues across buildings to be mindful of municipal spending (as was the case recently with both the library elevator and the Hope Street parking lot elevator not functioning properly), delays can occasionally occur.

I want to assure you that we take every equipment malfunction seriously, and whenever something isn't working correctly, we close off access to the public until the issue can be safely repaired. We appreciate our patrons' understanding that, while safety is our top priority, some repairs can take longer to resolve than any of us would like. You are always welcome to share your concerns with us, and we promise to do our utmost to address issues as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

In the News:

The GPL received some great local media coverage during the month of November! If you missed the articles, you'll find the headlines below.

If you're unable to access them from your device, don't worry—we have print copies available in the library's Local History Room, and we can also help you access the digital versions. Just visit or call our Information Services staff for assistance.

Greenfield Library Relaunching 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Greenfield Recorder, November 13, 2025

American Heart Association Program Brings Health Resources to Greenfield and Montague Libraries, Greenfield Recorder, November 26, 2025

New Legislation Aims to Strengthen Protections for School and Public Libraries, Greenfield Recorder, November 26, 2025

Yo-Yo Ma Centers Community in Concert, Boston Globe, November 21, 2025



PHOTOS: Serving up sweet treats by Paul Franz, November 28, 2025



Logan Clayton, James Shippee Jr. and Nadia Hampton snack on whipped cream-covered Eggo waffles as part of the "Stranger Things" activities in the Teen Room at the Greenfield Public Library on Wednesday.



Tahlia Coble, Gracie Medina and Ruby Bogdanove make designs with plastic beads before melting them together in the Teen Room at the Greenfield Public Library on Wednesday.

Library Snapshots:



Pillow-making class in the Makerspace



Staff practice using the blood-pressure cuffs, available to borrow from our library of things collection!



Our Teen Librarian's, temporary desk while the Teen Room mural was being installed



Hot Glue Crew monthly art workshop



Tom and Laurie leading song and dance in celebration of 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten re-launch



Families sign-up to participate in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten with help from Library Trustee, Ann

Library Snapshots:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Fun!



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten fun!



Local author/illustrator Astrid Sheckels shares her new book with families attending 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



The "Quiet Drawing Space" during 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Fun!



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Fun!

Library Snapshots:



The Greenfield Ukulele Players perform the pre-concert show for Yo-Yo Ma's Live Simulcast "We The People"



Audience viewing Yo-Yo Ma's performance



Mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu, and Yo-Yo Ma perform the concert encore!



Teen Wednesday Resources: "Technical & Creative Sector Career Pathways" with GCC and Launchspace presented by MassHire Youth Workforce



Assistant Superintendent Stephen Sullivan, GMS Librarian Hillary O'Malley, Ellen Lavoie, Francesca Passiglia and 7th grade ELA teacher Ashley Winn

Library Director's Monthly Report: November 2025



Ellen and Francesca meeting students at the Greenfield Middle School as step 1 of our Libraries Without Borders collaboration

Upcoming Events of Note:

Here are some highlights for December:

More details available on our calendar at greenfieldpubliclibrary.org



- Needlework Guild
- Jinglefest activities
- Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange
- Local Authors Book Fair
- Teens & Tweens: Nintendo Switch Tournament
- Wednesday Resources in the Teen Room
- Nutcracker Storytime & Craft

