

Library-Wide Highlights

- Members of the Green Team joined the Library Corporation, and Friends of the Concord Free Public Library for the 19th annual Ag Day, a once a year farmers' market celebrating local agriculture organized by the Concord Agriculture Committee. This collaborative effort showcased our sustainable efforts across the three organizations. Library staff gave out native plant seedlings from the Winter Seed Sows, promoted programming and services, and described our commitment to local sustainability; the Corporation shared their Sustainability Plan; and the Friends of CFPL sold cookbooks and gardening books.
- To recognize Climate Prep Week, the Library offered a series of programs and activities, some made possible through a Flyways grant from SciStarter. Assistant Fire Chief Latta had to postpone his Emergency Preparedness talk as he was deployed to help with Hurricane Helene, highlighting just how vital this programming is.
 - Naturalist and bird expert Peter Alden facilitated discussions during viewings of the documentary *Flyways* at both libraries and led a West Concord Nature Walk along the Assabet River Bluff as part of the SciStarter grant-funded programming. Both Make-It! Club and Craft Lab offered bird activities.
 - Christina Martin, a Pollinator Inventory Research Scientist at the Minute Man National Historical Park, explained this summer's pollinator inventory process, purpose, and findings.
 - Mothers Out Front led a Sustainability Studio at Fowler focused on helping caregivers prepare for and parent during severe weather.
 - Both libraries gave patrons a chance to share what they hope to protect in the face of climate change with the Climate Ribbon.



Reference Services

- Reference answered 338 reference questions, booked 244 meeting rooms, assisted 151 patrons with technology, and advised 9 patrons on reading choices. Three patrons used the Library's notary service.
- Reference ran a number of creative programs, including a talk with Henriette Lazaridis, author of *Last Days in Plaka*, and a screening of three independent films about Arabic culture from local filmmaker Raouf Zaki. Other programs included weekly meditation with Lara Wilson, as well as the monthly book discussion group and Cookbook Club.
- Kate created a wonderful display of books exhibited in the Goodwin Forum, while Barbara put together a display for Hispanic Heritage Month. Meanwhile, Gay celebrated Climate Prep Week by displaying alternatives to plastic (see photo below).



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 7 programs in September with a total attendance of 79 teen attendees.
- The new school year has brought the return of outrageous Dungeons and Dragons attendance numbers, which are creeping up towards 30 players. Stratifying back into an alternating high school game and a middle school game has let some of the pressure off, but already again it looks like we'll have to go to three individual games.
- After the success of the Saturday Magic the Gathering draft programs, teens have requested both more collectable card gaming programs, but also more Saturday programs in general. The teen librarian is working with Youth Services on scheduling to accommodate more weekend options for teen patrons.
- The teen librarian met with a representative of the Corwin-Russel school at Broccoli Hall in Sudbury on Monday, September 9th to discuss how the library could support their bright, neurodiverse students in exploring their community. Partnerships and class visits are in development.
- The think-tank behind Concord Pride '25 has begun meeting, and has invited the teen librarian to once again assist in the development of programs and events for the June celebration. Their first meeting was on Thursday, September 19th. The teen librarian has already booked meeting time with the Concord Carlisle Spectrum Club for their input on Pride starting in October, and he plans to use the new street team initiative to reach out to the other area schools' similar clubs for their input as well.
- The teen librarian visited Concord Middle School on Monday September 23rd to speak to the 8th graders at their volunteering fair. He was able to head-hunt the next generation of general volunteers, but also to recruit for a new teen "street team" initiative which plans to utilize students to help advocate for the library and advertise programs among their peers. The street team model will soon be implemented at Concord Academy and Concord Carlisle High School, as well.
- With the generous help of Sofia from the Concord Library Corporation, the teen librarian was able to secure a \$2,500 grant from the Mass Cultural Council to help fund a joint project with Concord Carlisle High School. The Young Adult Author Symposium (YAAS!) will be held on Saturday, November 16th at CCHS, and will feature a dozen authors of literature, graphic novels, and non-fiction aimed at YA audiences. The event aims to give teens access to authors for Q&A, writing workshops, and book signings. Save the date!

Children's Library

- Children's staff were thrilled to partner with Concord Girl Scout Troop 70542 to host a Kids' Mental Wellness Fair to kick off the month of September. Activities included crafts, stories about yoga and wellness, and a group yoga session hosted by Children's staff.
- After a short break, storytimes and Musical Mondays have returned and continue to be some of the most popular Children's Library offerings. In September, the Library hosted favorite returning performers Julie Stepanek and Alan Goodrich and welcomed the wonderful Matt Heaton for his first concert at CFPL.
- In recognition of Climate Preparedness Week, Workshop and Children's staff teamed up to present a month of activities celebrating birds during September Make-it! Club sessions. Participants had the opportunity to create bird feeders and standing bird sculptures from recycled books among other crafts. Children's staff also welcomed Concord Recreation After School back to Make-it! Club beginning in September and are looking forward to future events partnering with the program.

Circulation

- 78 people signed up for library cards.
- Cathy K. made a corridor display of library items with the theme "Back to School".
- Circulation staff worked on a corridor display of "Patron Picks" which consisted of books that patrons recommended during the adult summer reading program. There were quite a variety of books!
- Staff has greeted many visitors to the library who came to see the Goodwin Forum.
- 16,131 total items were checked out for both branches combined.
- Circulation welcomed new staff member Karin Carter as a full time library assistant.
- The felt birds flew back to the circulation desk to welcome the season of fall. Patrons also brought beautiful zinnias from their gardens as added decor. All the decorations brought many smiles among staff and patrons alike!



Fowler Library

- Art for All Abilities, Art for All's group for teens and adults with cognitive differences, has returned to Fowler! They are meeting Tuesday afternoons, bringing wonderful energy and creativity to the Library.
- Building on the popularity of the summer's Gentle Flow Yoga classes, Fowler is now offering a weekly series on Fridays at noon, which is routinely full.
- Preschool outreach continued with the return of weekly storytimes with Carousel classes and the addition of visits to Concord Children's Center.
- Ongoing programming for all ages -- including storytimes, play times, book clubs, English Conversation Circle, Stitch Circle, and crafts -- continued to bring in new and returning participants. Fowler staff led this month's Meet Cute book club at the Main Library, a group co-facilitated with members of the Circulation Department and Reference Department, and it continues to grow and attract new attendees.
- After a brief pause at the end of summer, staff and volunteers brought back Take and Makes, which as always have found eager takers. West Concordians have made pinecone spiders, canvas collages, and bird puppets.



Innovation & Communications



- The Workshop has announced its fall program series! Check out the calendar at cfpl.info/workshopevents.
- We've welcomed a new tool to its collection: a computerized embroidery machine! Learn more and submit a reservation at cfpl.info/reserveatool.
- To celebrate Concord 250, the Workshop is embarking on a community art project in collaboration with local artist and author Linda Booth Sweeney! Using a photogrammetric scan donated by local 3D artist Todd Taylor, patrons can help us recreate The Minute Man by Daniel Chester French through 3D printing. Learn more at cfpl.info/remake!

Technical Services

- Tech Services welcomed Nadine Petronko-Lin in August as a part-time Library Assistant. Nadine works at the Circulation Desk one evening a week as well.
- In July and August Tech Services ordered, entered and processed 1,500 new items for the Library collections.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library submitted the required State Aid Financial Report to the Commonwealth. The Library is once again certified and meets all required state standards.
- The Library posted job advertisements for several vacancies, including a full time Office Coordinator, one or more part-time Maintenance Custodians, a Library Page, and a full time Library Assistant.
- The Library celebrated Stacey Charbonneau who was promoted from Library Assistant to Senior Library Assistant in the Circulation Department.