

Goodnow Library

This year brought new partnerships, programs and leadership to the Goodnow Library. In March, longtime library director Esmé Green left to pursue another opportunity. Karen Tobin, Assistant Library Director assumed the role of Interim Director, leading the library through a 4-month transitional period. Amy Stimac was selected as Goodnow's next library director and began her tenure at the beginning of August.

Community Collaborations

Locally Grown Sudbury

The library was a principal partner of Locally Grown Sudbury, a two-year, \$92K grant initiative awarded to the town in late 2024. Accomplishments in 2025 included three library programs focused on gardening and a community wide read of *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver. The library also brought a pop-up library to the Locally Grown Farmers Market and Fair on May 31.



Good Neighbor Day

As a partner of the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community & End Loneliness, the Goodnow Library held Good Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 27. This large event featured a community collage, food pantry drive, communal coloring project, and socializing while enjoying cider, coffee, and donuts. The community collage was funded by a Cultural Council grant and is now a permanent part of the library's art collection.



Legislative Breakfast

Goodnow hosted a collective advocacy library legislative breakfast in March. Legislators and library leaders from the communities of Acton, Lincoln, Maynard, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston were in attendance as well as the Director of the Massachusetts Library System and a commissioner from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Speakers included Goodnow Library trustee chair Jean Nam, Town Manager Andy Sheehan, and two members of the Teen Advisory Board.



Pictured from left to right: MA Representative David Linsky, Aida Gennis, Christopher Lindquist, MA Senator Jamie Eldridge, and MA Representative Carmine Gentile

Yellow Tulip Project

In partnership with the Sudbury Health department, Sudbury Garden Club, and Sudbury DPW, the library partook in the Yellow Tulip Project, a youth-based movement that seeks to break the silence around mental illness and suicide. Communities plant yellow tulips that bloom in the spring, serving as a living reminder that even after the darkest winters, hope returns. Yellow tulips were planted in front of the library and when they bloom in the spring of 2026 the library will offer programming around suicide prevention in conjunction with the Health department.



Sudbury for Digital Balance

Goodnow partnered with Sudbury for Digital Balance (SDB) on a series of events to aid parents in exploring ways to navigate their children's digital world with intentionality. The year began with a Goodnow Community Read of the book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. A panel discussion with local experts on the topic was held mid-February. In March, the library partnered with over 30 other libraries across the state to host a virtual discussion of *Behind Their Screens* with authors Dr. Emily Weinstein and Dr. Carrie James. Throughout the spring, both the children's and teen departments offered screen-free programming including two Home Alone Safety programs sponsored by the Goodnow Library Foundation.

New Initiatives

Smart Lockers

Fully installed in late fall, Goodnow's Smart Lockers provide patrons with flexible 24/7 access to library materials. The Smart Lockers were provided by the Goodnow Library Foundation through a grant from the Sudbury Foundation.



LSTA Grant: "Unearthing Sudbury's Indigenous History"

Funded by a \$20,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, this two-year project to unearth Sudbury's Indigenous History concluded in September. The culminating event was a well-attended and engaging presentation on the discoveries of this project by lead researcher, Jasmine Goodspeed. The collection is now available to the public, both in the library and online, for all to engage with.

EV Chargers

Eight electric car charging stations were installed in the library parking lot allowing Goodnow to provide greater services to the community.

Second Floor Upgrades

Significant upgrades were made to the second floor. The library has a new Reference Desk with space for two workstations and plenty of seating for Passport and Notary appointments. Thanks to the Goodnow Library Foundation, the teen area has new tables and new seating, providing teens with the flexibility to arrange the space to meet their specific study needs.

Programming

Adult Programs

Responding to community requests for musical performances, the Adult Services Department established a seasonal music series featuring an artist each month from September through May. This series has been a hit with patrons. For the first time ever, Goodnow hosted a kickoff party for Adult Summer Reading. Held offsite at a local restaurant, 67 trivia goers joined in for a fun filled trivia night. To close out the year, Adult Services led a library wide celebration of the 250th birthday of Jane Austen. Highlights included a special afternoon High Tea, a Scents and Sensibility soap making event, a book group discussion of *Persuasion*, and a showing of *Pride and Prejudice*.



Teen Programs

2025 was a vibrant and engaging year for teen services, marked by a wide range of programs and activities supporting teens academically, socially, and creatively. Goodnow's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continued to be an enthusiastic group helping to shape teen programming. Teen Study Weeks (TSW) provided structured study spaces with snacks, art supplies, and stress-relief activities including a visit with therapy goats. Innovative and fun programming, including Oreo Day, Pride Day, Summer Sweets, college essay writing help, and a teen clothing swap, offered teens creative outlets while fostering social connection and community engagement. Summer reading was a major highlight, with hundreds of teens participating. In addition to welcoming new furniture in the teen space, the tween collection was relocated upstairs to better integrate middle school students into the teen area.



Children's Programs

To better serve the changing needs of the community, special children's programming was introduced this year including Little Learners, Screen Free Saturdays, Friday Crafternoons, and Little Siblings Club. Home Alone Safety classes and a computer coding series were provided for older elementary students. Annual cultural celebrations such as Holi, Passover, Eid and Diwali were once held again this year. "Level up at your Library", the 2025 Summer Reading program, kicked off with



Giant Library Candyland and ran from June 16th through August 27th. 790 children registered for summer reading and collectively read 10,395 hours. 2025 collection development highlights included the addition of social/emotional titles to Popular Picks and the relocation of holiday books from storage into the Children's Octagon to provide easier access for the community.



Added and Expanded Services

To better serve the community and its needs, the library continues to add and expand services, including:

Library of Things: 26 new items were added to the collection this year including lawn games, party equipment and a second carpet cleaner and pressure washer which continue to be the two most popular items. Library of Things checkouts totaled 1,227 in 2025.

Passport Services: In the month of February, the library executed 118 passport applications—the highest number in a single month since starting accepting passports in 2019.

Expanded meeting room availability: Due to increasing demand for meeting and study spaces, the library's Small Conference Room is now available to the public free of charge and groups may sign up to use the room once per week.

Sara Sherman NOW Lab

2025 saw the addition of new and popular programs in the Sara Sherman NOW Lab. Makers and Mocktails, an evening program, brought together members of the community to make tasty mocktails and work on a craft while sipping and snacking. Participants commented on how much they enjoyed the opportunity to engage with neighbors in a creative setting.

Due to a generous donation by the Goodnow Library Foundation, the library was able to purchase a new multi-color 3D printer and a photo scanner. In December, a member of the Sudbury Garden Club reached out to the NOW lab seeking assistance replacing a part in the electric candles used for the Wayside Inn holiday decorations. A NOW lab volunteer was able to design a prototype and then mass produce twenty to help keep the Wayside Inn sparkling throughout the season. This exemplifies the community nature of the NOW lab.



Historical Collections

2025 brought increased focus to the diversity and uniqueness of the library's local history collections. Behind the scenes, the growth of the library's digital collections and ongoing digitization projects provide library patrons the opportunity to do research from the library or the comfort of their own homes. New programming, like the library's Spooky Tours held in October, introduced patrons to spaces and artifacts in the library not frequently seen by the public. The library also continues to re-envision its relationship with Indigenous artifacts held in the library's collections through the work of the Sudbury Indigenous History project. The Goodnow Library Foundation continues to support local history efforts through the purchase of specialized software and supplies.

The Local History Librarian position transitioned from part-time to full-time in 2025, strengthening the library's role as a steward of community memory. This has enabled the library to expand local history programming and accelerate the digitization of historical materials. As a result, more of the community's stories are preserved, discoverable, and accessible both in person and online, connecting residents with their shared past in new and meaningful ways.



Volunteers

The library is indebted to its many community volunteers for their continued support, without whom many daily tasks at the library could not be accomplished, including processing requests for books, movies, and other items, assistance with program preparations, and many other unseen tasks that enable the library to provide excellent service to the community.



Goodnow Library Foundation



Annual GLF Giving	2025
Book Nook Funds (materials, staff appreciation, Children's Room programs)	\$15,000
Teen Area Furniture	\$14,500
Digital Collection:	\$10,000
Director Discretionary:	\$10,000
Museum Passes:	\$7,000
Total	\$56,500

In 2025, the Library's Foundation (GLF) continued to prioritize the Permanent Fund, an Endowment Fund to support the Goodnow Library in perpetuity. The Foundation was fortunate to secure a significant \$50,000 gift made in memorial for the Permanent Fund this year. The GLF also funded the Museum Pass Program, an expansion of the digital collection, Sara Sherman NOW Lab needs, maintenance of the Civil War Statue, library director needs, and various programs. The Book Nook, a partner of the GLF held two large book sales, the proceeds of which funded programming for all ages, staff appreciation events, and the library's annual volunteer recognition luncheon.

The Goodnow Library Foundation hosted an “Explore the Goodnow Galaxy” open house on Sunday, May 4th to highlight programs and equipment funded by the Goodnow Library Foundation. Over 250 visitors enjoyed an Intergalactic Passport program, a Summer Reading Program preview, a science program run by the Ecotarium, and space-themed goodie bags.

Statistical Snapshot

Statistical Report

Adult, Teen and Children's print circulation increased, while that of audiobooks and CDs continued to decline. Digital content use has been consistently increasing. Attendance at all programs continues to climb.

FY25 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)		
	FY2025	FY2024
Total Circulation	533,056	489,481
Visitors	145,042	138,889
Number of Children's Programs	494	536
Attendance of Children's Programs	22,856	21,440
Number of Teen Programs	103	87
Attendance of Teen Programs	1,906	1,784
Number of Adult Programs	710	755
Attendance of Adult Programs	2,354	1,299
NOW Lab & Self-directed Programs	228	124
NOW Lab & Self-directed Programs Attendance	17,732	12,531

Financial Report

The Library Services Revolving Fund expenditure limit was \$25,000, and the Meeting Room Fund expenditure limit was \$10,500. The Library Services Fund supports many Library services, including costs to fund the public copiers, passport services, and other programs. The Meeting Room

Fund supports the maintenance of the library's meeting rooms. State Aid is awarded annually for maintaining minimum standards, such as providing service to all members who live, work or attend school in the Commonwealth, are open to the public a reasonable number of hours per week, including weekends and evenings, and that spend a minimum of the overall budget on purchasing books and materials for the collection.

FY25 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)		
	Revenue	Expended
Library Services Revolving Fund	\$38,310	\$19,677
Meeting Room Revolving Fund	\$4,225	\$426
State Aid	\$55,409	\$35,005

Board of Trustees
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