

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES & NOTABLE EVENTS

- 9/4 – LIBRARY CLOSED for Labor Day
- 9/28 – Our librarians will be guest bartending at Unwined on this evening!
- 10/9 – LIBRARY CLOSED for Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 10/14 – Saturday hours start! 10AM-3PM every Sat.

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

- Every Wednesday** – Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM
- Every Wednesday** – Patient Navigator for Substance Use Disorders @ 10AM-12PM
- Every Thursday** – Career Center Consultant @ 1-4PM
- Every Friday** – Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM
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- 9/5 – YA Book Club @ 4:15PM
- 9/6 – Chicken Book Club @ 4:30PM
- 9/6 – Tech Class: Internet Safety @ 5PM (Part 1)
- 9/12 – Teen Poetry Club @ 4:30PM
- 9/27 – Chicken Book Club @ 4:30pm
- 9/13 – Tech Class: Internet Safety @ 5PM (Part 2)
- 9/14 – Tech Class: Applying for ACP @ 3PM
- 9/19 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
- 9/20 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
- 9/20 – Chicken Book Club @ 4:30
- 9/20 – Books & Brews @ 6:30PM
- 9/21 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
- 9/22 – Class: Using Devices for Better Health @ 12PM
- 9/27 – DIY Pressed Flower Bookmarks @ 1PM
- 9/27 – Chicken Book Club @ 4:30PM
- 9/28 – LEGO Club @ 3:30PM
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- 10/3 – YA Book Club @ 5PM
- 10/10 – Teen Poetry Club @ 4:30PM
- 10/17 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
- 10/18 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
- 10/19 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
- 10/19 – Books & Brews @ 6:30PM
- 10/26 – LEGO Club @ 3:30PM
- 10/26 – Author Talk w/Shannon Bowring @ 6PM
- 10/30 – Tech Class: Android Basics @ 3:30PM (Part 1)
- 10/31 – Tech Class: Android Basics @ 3:30PM (Part 2)

AUTUMN IS ON ITS WAY!

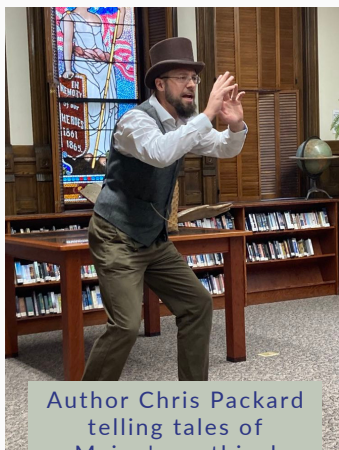
September is here, and that means Autumn is right around the corner. Where did the Summer even go?? Well, wherever it went - we have to say, it was full of so many fun and exciting events here at the library, especially in August! Between author talks, puppet shows, and educational meet & greets with exotic animals, we had so much going on it was hard to even keep up some days. Now that Summer is nearing its end, our programming is slowing down a tad, but don't mistake that to mean we don't have plenty of events coming up to keep everyone busy!

ADULT PROGRAMMING

We had two wonderful author talks in August - Chris Packard, author of *Mythical Creatures of Maine*; and Tim O'Brien, author of *The Maine Roadshow*. Both were so entertaining, and provided some fun insight into some of Maine's lesser known Maine history and oddities.

Everyone's favorite book club - Books & Brews - is back this month! Our first book discussion of the season will be on Peter Heller's *The River* -

the story of two college students on a wilderness canoe trip and a gripping tale of a friendship tested by fire, white water, and violence. If this sounds like something that might interest you, feel free to stop by and pick up a copy of the book at the library! There is no registration required. Our first meeting will be at Unwined (151 Water St.) on Wed., Sept. 20th at 6:30. We also have a whole host of technology and digital literacy classes coming up (registration IS required for these classes) throughout the fall, as well as the return of a well-attended fan favorite - our DIY pressed flower bookmark craft! Make sure to keep an eye on our event calendar to see these and more programs on the roster.



Author Chris Packard telling tales of Maine's mythical creatures



SUMMER READING HAS COME TO AN END

Our annual summer reading programs have come to an end, and what a great turnout we've had for participants this year! With over 150 kids signed up, and 78 teens and adults joining in the fun this summer, we've given out 54 gift cards to local shops and hundreds of kids prizes (donated by our wonderful Friends and community members!)

August was chock full of incredible children's programs, and each of those programs were chock full of kids! We hosted Northern Stars Planetarium at the Margaret Chase Smith Library at the beginning of the month; got to enjoy a great show with Lindsay and her puppet pals; learned all about exotic critters like pixie toads and blue-tongued skinks with Mr. Drew; and made a great big mess at everyone's favorite summer program - our annual slime workshop in partnership with the Margaret Chase Smith Library.



Some of the many fun events in our last month of the Summer Reading Program!





NEW & UPCOMING TEEN PROGRAMS

With Miss Gabrielle, our new children's librarian, finishing up her first round of Summer Reading, she is ready to start some new programming of her very own!

She'll be hosting a new version of 'Tween the Pages...starting with four consecutive weeks of Chicken Book Club! Held at 4:30 on Wednesdays in September, this book club for 4-7th graders will be full of all things feather-brained! Registration is REQUIRED for this program.

In conjunction with our fabulous library aide, Lydia, Miss Gabrielle will also be hosting a teen poetry writing club on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (no registration required). This poetry writing club will challenge teens to dig deep into their creative selves. Whether they're interesting in sharing what they've written or keeping their poetry for just themselves, this will be a great opportunity to try out some different styles of and genres of writing, and is sure to be a fun time.

Miss Angie, who previously led 'Tween the Pages, will also be hosting a new YA book club for those in grades 8-12 who love to read and chat (registration is REQUIRED for this program). Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month, there will be snacks, discussions, and bookish activities.

REMINDER ABOUT OUR LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Each week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, we are lucky to host two community partners - Cynthia, a patient navigator for substance use disorders, is here on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm; and Ross, a consultant from the local career center, is here Thursdays from 1pm-4pm.

Cynthia is a great resource for those looking to learn more about addiction, local Substance Use Disorder treatment and recovery resources, as well as how to build community connections to help prevent substance addiction in the first place.

Ross is here to help with all of your job search, career, or employment-related needs and questions. He's a great person to talk to for anyone looking to get back into the job market, change careers, or find help writing resumes, cover letters, and the like.

Neither of these community partners require sign-ups to meet with, you're welcome to just stop by their tables during the listed hours and have a chat!



Cynthia, our patient navigator from Somerset Public Health



Staff Picks of the Month

Angie - *The Wishing Game* by Meg Schaffer

Bree - *The Longmire Defense* by Craig Johnson

Josie - *The Weaver and the Witch Queen* by Genevieve Gornichec

Gabrielle - *Monster Club* by Darren Aronofsky

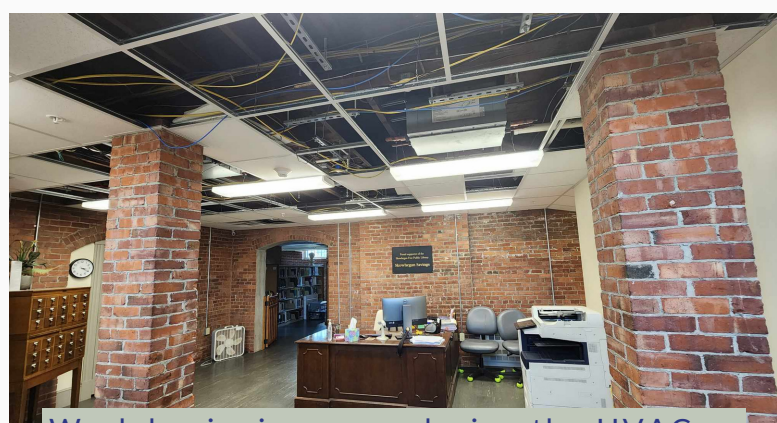
Lydia - *Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson

HVAC SYSTEM UPDATE

We finally have our new HVAC system in place! While we are still raising the money for this huge endeavor, we are so happy to say that the work on this project was finally able to start recently. This has meant a few days of last minute closures, but we think it'll be worth it to have a proper, efficient, *working* A/C and heating system in place!

We so appreciate everyone's patience throughout this whole process. It has been a big undertaking getting the old system removed and the new system put in place, and we always hate having to close unexpectedly as we know it prevents people from receiving the services we typically offer.

So thank you again for all of your recent support and understanding. We truly appreciate you!



Work beginning on replacing the HVACs...

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT
9 ELM STREET
SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

- Director: Angie Herrick
- Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald
- Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter
- Technology Librarian: Josie Pease
- Library Aide: Lydia Dore
- Volunteer: Lyn Demchak

LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Chair: Karen Lewia
- Treasurer: Kirk Karkos
- Secretary: Lynda Quinn
- Matt Dubois
- Gretchen Washburn

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

- Karen Lewia
- Devin MacMichael
- Patrick Dore
- Debra Sterling
- Lynn Perry
- Lynda Quinn