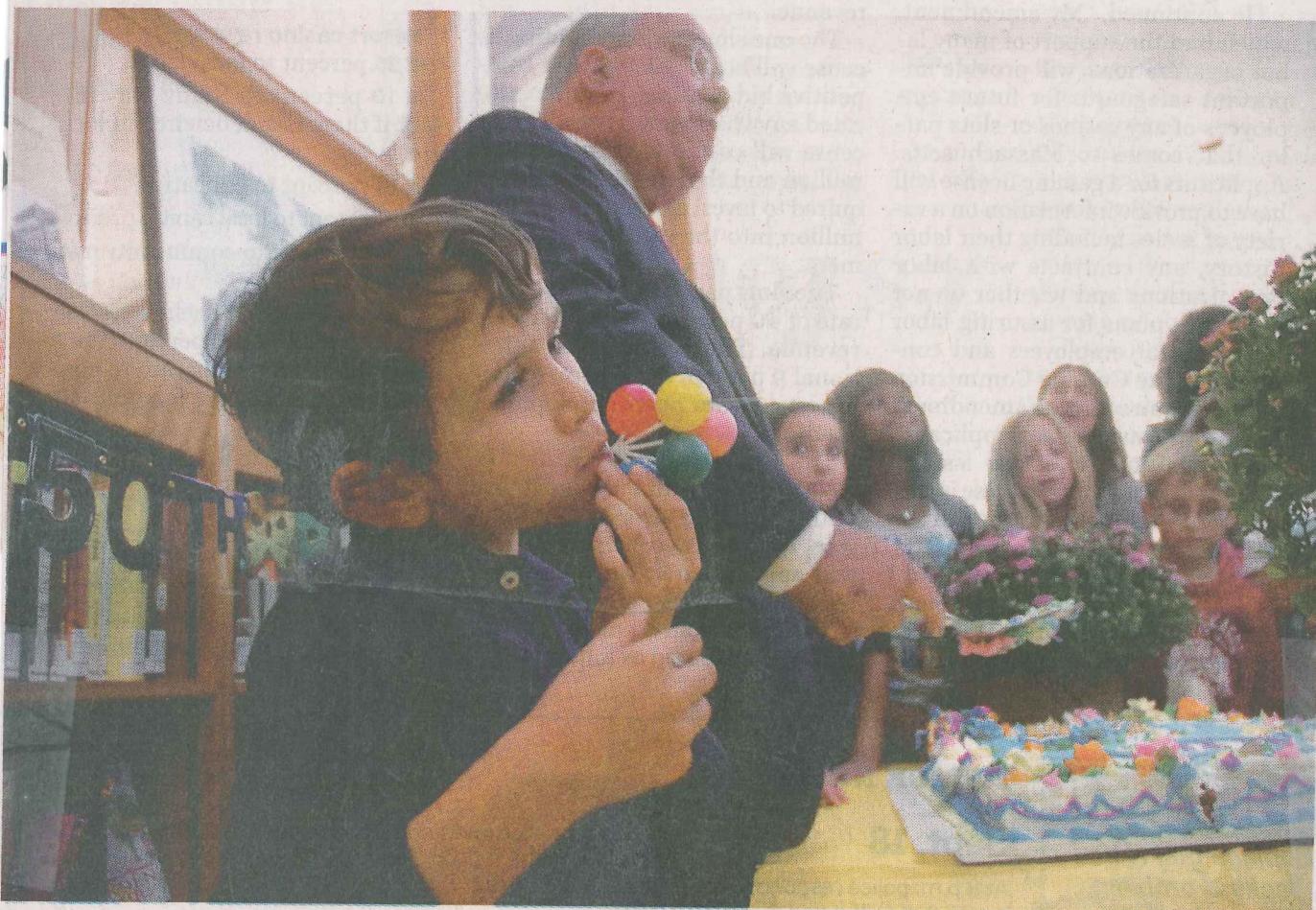


ROSLINDALE BRANCH LIBRARY



Paul Facklam, 5, of Roslindale, licks the frosting off a balloon decoration that Mayor Thomas M. Menino gave him while cutting the 50th birthday cake for the Roslindale Branch Public Library. For more photos, check out WickedLocalRoslindale.com and WickedLocalWestRoxbury.com. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY SEAN BROWNE

Celebrating 50 years

Residents and officials mark impressive milestone

By Jessica Bolandrina
Transcript@Wickedlocal.com

I love this library," said Roslindale resident Paul Facklam, 5, while munching on a slice of pizza at the Roslindale Branch Library's 50th birthday party last week.

That phrase was the shared sentiment at the event as community members gathered on Friday, Sept. 16, in the circular building from 3 to

7 p.m., reminiscing over past years and time spent in the building for anything from afterschool programs to community meetings.

"This has always been a busy branch," said Patrick O'Connor, a former Roslindale resident who now works at the Copley Library. "I remember when I was young, I'd come here all the time. All of the kids would come here after school."

When the building was completed in 1961, O'Connor recalled how stu-

dents at nearby schools would quickly rush to the library right after classes ended. "Back then, it was just the place to be."

Fifty years later, the Roslindale Branch Library continues to be "the place to be" for the community, with several activities and programs planned for patrons of all ages.

"We usually come at least once a week for story hour on Thursday

BRARY

on Page 1

the walls. A DJ was set up in front of the circulation desks, playing music from the '60s when the structure was built while visitors, young and old, danced.

"This library is one of the anchors of the Roslindale community," said City Councilor Rob Consalvo.

"It's always been here, welcoming and inviting, and it just shows the strength of Roslindale."

When threats of library branch closures circulated in February 2010, the Roslindale community rallied and petitioned to make sure that their library would be one of those that remained standing.

"People felt so strongly about this library," said Friends of the Roslindale Branch Library member Kelly Bates. "The people need a place to learn and read and use the Internet — this is a point of access for everyone."

The 50th birthday celebration was proof that the library not only lasted but it continues to grow and thrive.

"It has become a community center," said Kris Liberman, a Roslindale resident and librarian by training. Liberman, along with other members of the Friends of the Roslindale Branch Library, hope to continue the celebrations with programs to be held at the library during the fall and winter. "We'd love to show movies from 1961 and maybe have a jazz and poetry night," she said.



Mayor Thomas M. Menino cuts the ribbon, top, and Boston City Councilor Rob Consalvo spoke, right, during a re-dedication ceremony for the 50th birthday celebration for the Roslindale Branch Public Library. For more photos, check out WickedLocalRoslindale.com and WickedLocalWestRoxbury.com. WICKED LOCAL PHOTOS BY SEAN BROWNE

"This is a very special place," Menino acknowledged. "Please, stay involved so we can continue to work together to make this a better place not just for today but for tomorrow."

Mayor Thomas M. Menino was present to cut the ceremonial ribbon at the party where the community "rededicated themselves to the Roslindale Branch Library," as Friends president Laura Gang said.

This library is one of the anchors of the Roslindale community. It's always been here, welcoming and inviting, and it just shows the strength of Roslindale."

■ Councilor Rob Consalvo

"This library is one of the anchors of the Roslindale community. It's always been here, welcoming and inviting, and it just shows the strength of Roslindale."

■ Councilor Rob Consalvo

Lucid-Inezian pointed that, although her children love the library and opportunities it provides for their imaginations run wild, adults also find appealing.

"The kids can get their books here, but I get books, too," she said, "and it's a place for us to meet with others. That means a lot to us."

The library was decorated with brightly colored balloons and streamers, as well as shiny "Happy Birthday" banners that draped across