

Check it Out!

A newsletter of the Montague Public Libraries

April 2026

Happy April, Montague!

Spring is in the air and the sky is full of birds migrating back north. And gosh have we got a program series to meet the moment! The Montague Public Libraries and the Great Falls Discovery Center are collaborating on a month's worth of grant funded, bird-focused Flight Path programs. From an investigation station on nesting birds and an osprey story hour, to a bird decal craft and program on the difference between birds that migrate and birds that stick around for the winter. Please check out our separate program insert for details of our Flight Path Grant program series and note that while some programs are focused on families with young children, many are for all ages.

Other exciting programs to check out include our new series World Play: Cross Cultural Playgroup, facilitated in collaboration with Heartwings Center; a reading with local author and straw bale construction enthusiast, Babette Wills; a visit from a petting zoo; and a screening of animated short films.

For folks who weren't able to attend last month's information session about the new main library and its financial implications, I encourage you to check out the libraries' project page: www.tinyurl.com/MPLBuild, which was completely revamped and now includes a ton more information and recordings of the event. Want to learn more about the project in person and ask questions? Stop by the Brick House on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:00PM for a half-hour overview with Trustees Chair, Will Quale, and I.

Finally, do you support the library? Do you like playing trivia? Do you enjoy imbibing delicious beverages? Join the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries at Element Brewing Company on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 for an MPL edition of Thankful Thursday. I'll facilitate two rounds of trivia (plus a bonus picture round!). Winners will go home with an Element Brewing gift card. Each team can have up to four players with a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 for each teammate. A huge thanks to Element Brewing Company for donating a portion of the evening's sales to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

Happy reading!
Caitlin

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Carnegie Public Library

413-863-3214

201 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Monday-Wednesday

10:00 AM-7:00 PM

Thursday-Saturday

10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Millers Falls Branch Library

413-659-3801

23 Bridge St.

Tuesday & Thursday

1:00-7:00 PM

Montague Center Branch Library

413-367-2852

17 Center St.

Monday & Wednesday

2:00-7:00 PM

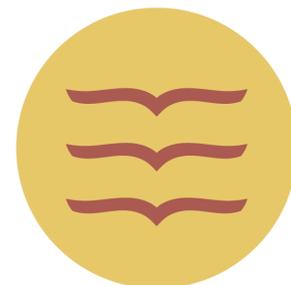
Friday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Website:

MontaguePublicLibraries.org

 /MontaguePublicLibraries

 @MontaguePublicLibraries





MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

Trivia, Tales, and a
Touch of Craft-Plus
Soaring into Something
New with Flight Path
Programs



**Tues.
7th**

An Evening with Author David Brule

5:00-6:00 PM. Come listen, learn, and enjoy an evening of local stories and conversation. Author David Brule will share some of his writings about local history, culture, and adventures in the local natural surroundings. **Millers Falls Branch.**



**Thurs.
9th**

Thankful Thursday Trivia and Fundraiser

6:30 PM. Support the library and show off your trivia skills! Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, will lead two rounds of trivia and the winning team will receive an Element gift card. **Element Brewing in Millers Falls, MA.**



**Tues.
14th**

Carnegie Crafternoon: Needle-felted Flowers

4:00-6:00 PM. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn the basics of this cozy fiber craft while creating your own felted flower to take home. **Carnegie Library. Pre-reg required.**



**Wed.
15th**

Jennifer Acker Launches Her New Novel

5:30-7:00 PM. Join us to celebrate the release of local author Jennifer Acker's second novel, *Surrender*, which is set in a fictionalized Montague. **Montague Center Branch.**

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media.

montaguepubliclibraries.org

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Ages
3-12

Ages
8-12

All
Ages

Adults

Mondays

- **SENSORY FRIENDLY HOUR**
April 6, 13, 20, & 27. 9:00-10:00 AM
Join us outside of normal library hours for a welcoming environment for preschoolers with sensory sensitivities. **Carnegie Library.**
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Tuesdays

- **DROP-IN CRAFT**
April 7, 14, 21, & 28. 2:00-7:00 PM
The craft bin is available in the children's area during library open hours. Designed for ages 5-12 but all are welcome. **Millers Falls Branch.**
 - **PLAYGROUP**
April 7, 14, 21, & 28. 2:00-3:00 PM
This program is designed to give preschoolers a space to explore, imagine, and develop social skills through play. It's also a wonderful opportunity for caregivers to connect. **Millers Falls Branch.**
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Wednesdays

- **LEGO AT THE LIBRARY**
April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29. 10:00 AM -7:00 PM
Build with LEGO at **Carnegie Library.**
For ages 6-12.
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Thursdays

- **BILINGUAL MUSIC & MOVEMENT**
April 2, 9, 23, & 30. 10:00-10:45 AM
Sing, dance, and move with Tom and Laurie. Made possible by generous donations from patrons. **Montague Center Branch.**
 - **DROP-IN CRAFT**
April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. 2:00-7:00 PM
The craft bin is available in the children's area during library open hours. Designed for ages 5-12 but all are welcome. **Millers Falls Branch.**
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Fridays

- **LOFI CREATIVITY ZONE**
April 3, 10, 17, & 24. 5:00-7:00 PM
Whether you're working on a graphic novel, filling a sketchbook, or just need a quiet place to write, we've got the beats and the space for you. Teen program, ages 11-17. **Carnegie Library.**
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Saturdays

- **COMMUNITY PUZZLE**
April 4, 11, 18, & 25th. All Day. Everyone is invited to drop by and add 1 or 2 (or 200) pieces to the library's community puzzle. **Carnegie Library.**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Saturday

4/4

- **FRIENDS USED BOOK SALE**
10:00 AM–1:00 PM. Browse fiction, paperbacks, and kids' books, DVDs/CDs & audiobooks. **Carnegie Library.**
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Monday

4/6

- **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Join Valley Health Regional Collaborative Nurse, Robin Neipp, in the Carnegie Library's Local History Room for a free blood pressure screening and information on home monitoring. **Carnegie Library.**
 - **KNITTING CIRCLE**
4:30-5:30 PM. Drop by our casual knitting (and crochet!) circle at the Carnegie with your work-in-progress. Needles and yarn available for your use. **Carnegie Library.**
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Thursday,

4/9

- **MILLERS FALLS BOOK CLUB**
5:30–6:30 PM. We will be discussing the graphic novel *The Hidden Life of Trees* at this month's book club. **Millers Falls Branch.**
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Thursday,

4/16

- **AN EVENING WITH BABETTE WILS**
4:00–5:00 PM. Join local author and farmer Babette Wils for a reading from her new book, *Big Foot Builds a Small Straw Bale Studio*, followed by a group discussion and questions. **Millers Falls Branch.**
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Friday,

4/17

- **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**
5:00–7:00 PM. DnD Club is for ages 11-19. The campaign will run on Fridays, from April 17 - June 12, outside of regular library hours. **Carnegie Library. Pre-reg required.**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Kids

Teens

All
Ages

Adults

Wednesday,
4/22

- **MAIN LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT INFO SESSION**
6:00-7:00 PM. Want to learn more about the Main Library Building Project? Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, and Library Trustees Chair, Will Quale, will present and answer questions. **The Brick House.**
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Friday,
4/24

- **CARNEGIE CRITTER CORNER WITH WHISPERING VINES**
3:00-4:00 PM. Get up close with some friendly farm animals when Whispering Vines brings a petting zoo experience to the Carnegie. The team from Whispering Vines will be on hand to answer questions and share fun facts about each bun. **Carnegie Library.**
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Saturday
4/25

- **MINECRAFT PARTY**
3:00-4:00 PM. The Montague Public Libraries are hitting the road for a special pop-up Minecraft event. Work together on creative builds, tackle challenges, and share your favorite strategies. **Sunderland Public Library.**
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Monday
4/27

- **KNITTING CLUB | MONTAGUE CENTER**
4:30-5:30 PM. Bring your fiber arts project or just your eagerness to learn. All ages and abilities welcome! **Montague Center Branch.**
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Tuesday,
4/28

- **WORLD PLAY: CROSS CULTURAL PLAYGROUP**
10:30 AM-12:00 PM. A unique monthly pop-up playgroup in a special collaboration between the Montague Public Libraries and The Heartwing Center. Bilingual group. ¡Todos son bienvenidos! **Carnegie Library.**
- **MOVIE NIGHT | ANIMATED SHORT FILMS AT MILLERS FALLS**
5:00-6:45 PM. Join us for a variety of family-friendly animated short films, including *Who's that Dog?* and *Unicorn (and Horse)*. Pizza provided. **Millers Falls Branch.**

ONLINE LIBRARY EVENTS CALENDAR:





Flight Path Programs

A collaboration between the Montague Public Libraries and the Great Falls Discovery Center

Friday, April 3, 3:00–5:30 pm

First Friday Flight Path Program:

Nesting Birds Investigation Station

Come learn about nests, eggs, and feathers at our nesting birds investigation station. Meet at the welcome desk to see a wide range of egg replicas from a hummingbird to a bald eagle, and more!

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Ongoing, April 18 – May 12

Outdoor Story Walk® – Ruby's Birds:

Enjoy a story, fresh air and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center's grounds for a free self-guided StoryWalk® featuring Ruby's Birds. For ages 3 and up and anyone who loves migratory birds!

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

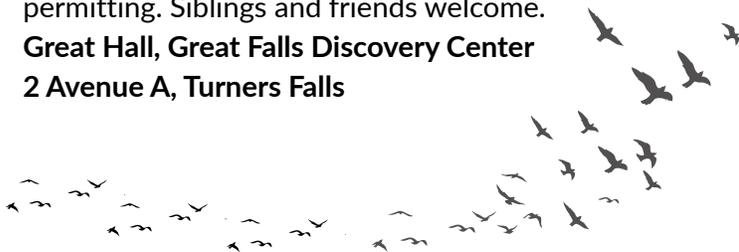
Friday, April 17, 10:30–11:30 am

Kidleidoscope Story Hour:

Flight Path Program: Osprey

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about our wildlife neighbors in the Connecticut River Watershed. Program includes a story, activities, and crafts. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome.

**Great Hall, Great Falls Discovery Center
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls**



Saturday, April 18, 10:30–11:30 am

Flight Path Program: Bird Scavenger Hunt

Learn about common local bird species and join us on a quest to find birds both inside our habitat dioramas and outside on the Center's grounds and along the Canalside Rail Trail. We'll practice using binoculars and read the story Ruby's Birds together. Wear clothing for mud season – sturdy shoes and layers. For ages 4 – 9 and their families. **Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls**

Sunday, April 19, 10:30 am- 12:00 pm.

Art Naturally – Bird Zines:

Design a zine to celebrate ongoing bird migrations. Learn how to make an 8 or 16 page booklet from a single piece of paper, finding out how birds migrate along the way. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up (accompanied by an adult). All materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30 a.m. for complete instructions.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Tuesday, April 21, 2:00–4:00 pm

Flight Path Program: Window Decals for Bird Safety:

Design your own window decals, inspired by local and migratory birds, and apply them to windows to reduce bird collisions. All ages.

Carnegie Public Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Wednesday, April 22, 3:00–4:00 pm.

Flight Path and Earth Day Bird Migration Program: Should I Stay or Should I Go Now?

Take a moment on this Earth Day to explore and compare the different survival strategies of seasonal birds vs. year-round residents. Learn how the activities of people have impacted bird migration. Find out how you can you make a difference! For ages 6-12 and their families.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls



**MONTAGUE
PUBLIC LIBRARIES**



Friends of the
Great Falls Discovery Center

Flight Path is the first campaign in the new Spark of Science@ My Library initiative. With the goal of sparking curiosity about science and creating a deeper understanding of how science can improve human health and the health of our planet, this initiative is a partnership between the STAR Library Education Network and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios.