

Check it Out!

A newsletter of the Montague Public Libraries

February 2026

Happy February, Montague,

As we put on our big coats, shovel out our cars, and slog through the coldest, snowiest winter in recent memory, I can think of no better way to end the day than by escaping into a good book. I'm currently reading a novel set in Alsace, France during harvest season--the descriptions of sun-plumped grapes are most welcome! In winters past, I've turned to the lush prose of Toni Morrison, the warm characters of TJ Klune, and the rich landscapes of Silvia Moreno-Garcia's books. What kinds of books make the winter feel less biting for you?

Library staff are meeting the cold with several indoorsy and cozy programs this month. Crafters can make wooly handwarmers in Montague Center and needle-felted hearts at the Carnegie Library. A reception and poetry reading on the Art of the Book and David Detmold's author talk on his new work, *Keeping the People Alive*, are both certain to draw robust crowds. Of course, the adults don't get to have all the fun! Angela has been hard at work, making sure that this school vacation will be one for the books. Over February break, your kiddo's favorite toy can participate in a stuffed animal sleepover, LEGO club has been expanded to all day on Wednesdays, and on Saturday, 2/21, science students from UMASS will show program participants some of the coolest bugs that they study and answer your insect questions!

Finally, for those who are unaware, I want to acknowledge that at the end of January someone displayed a hate symbol in the Carnegie Library. After the symbol was removed, Library Trustees Chair, Will Quale, and I issued a statement, posted on MPL's website and social media, stating that such symbols have no place in the Montague Public Libraries and reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that the libraries are safe spaces for people of all backgrounds. This incident hurt my heart, but the outpouring of support and solidarity that we've received over the last several days has been truly inspiring. I'm grateful to work in a town where people care so much about their community.

Stay warm out there and 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





- **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**
Monday, February 2, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM
Free blood pressure screening and information on home monitoring correctly.
Carnegie Library
- **SENSORY FRIENDLY HOUR**
Mondays, February, 3, 9, 23. 9:00–10:00 AM
Join us outside of normal library hours for a welcoming environment for preschoolers with sensory sensitivities. Carnegie Library
- **COMMUNITY RESOURCE ASSISTANCE**
Tuesday, February 3, 1:00–2:00 PM
Get assistance with a wide range of programs and resources, from job search help to mental health services at Millers Falls Branch Library.
- **OFFICE HOURS WITH MARINA GOLDMAN**
Tuesdays 4:00–5:00 PM
Stop by the Local History Room to chat with Selectboard Member, Marina Goldman at Carnegie Library.
- **BILINGUAL MUSIC & MOVEMENT**
Thursdays, 10:00–10:45 AM
Sing, dance, and move with Tom and Laurie at Montague Center Branch Library. Made possible by generous donations from patrons.
- **LOFI CREATIVITY ZONE: WRITING & DRAWING HANGOUT**
Fridays, 4:00–5:00 PM
A chill, drop-in program for teens and tweens who enjoy writing and drawing.
Carnegie Library
- **LIBRARY LEARNING LAB: LIBRARY OF THINGS**
Friday, February 6, 1:00–2:00 PM
You may have seen our Library of Things, but here is your chance to become an expert on it. In addition to providing information on how to sign up for and use this collection, Elena will also demonstrate how to use some of the specific tech items we have available to borrow. Carnegie Library
- **FRIENDS USED BOOK SALE**
Saturday, February 7, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Browse fiction, paperbacks, and kids' books, DVDs/CDs & audiobooks. Carnegie Library
- **VALENTINE CARDMAKING**
Saturday, February 7, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM
Make a special card for someone you love at Great Falls Discovery Center.
- **DROP-IN CRAFT**
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00–7:00 PM
Lunar New Year activity at Millers Falls Branch Library. For ages 5–12.
- **LEGO AT THE LIBRARY: NEW TIME!**
Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Build with LEGO at Carnegie Library.
For ages 6–12. Younger & older kids welcome!
- **NEEDLE FELTED HEARTS**
Tuesday, February 10, 4:30–5:45 PM
Explore the art of needle felting! We will provide supplies and basic instruction for a simple felted hearts project. All experience levels welcome. Registration required.
Carnegie Library
- **ART OF THE BOOK RECEPTION**
Wednesday, February 11, 5:30–7:00 PM
Art about books or made from books will be on display in Feb. and Mar. Local poets will also read poems about books.
Montague Center Branch Library
- **MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**
Thursday, February 12, 5:30–6:30 PM
Discuss A Paradise Built in Hell by Rebecca Solnit at Millers Falls Branch Library. This month's club will wrap up early for David's talk.

**ONLINE LIBRARY
EVENTS CALENDAR:**





- **AUTHOR TALK: DAVID DETMOLD**
Thursday, February 12, 6:00–7:00 PM
Local author David Detmold will read from and discuss his new book at **Millers Falls Branch Library**.

- **COMPETITIVE PUZZLE NIGHT**
Friday, February 13, 6:00–8:30 PM
Teams of up to four will compete to see who can complete their 500 piece jigsaw puzzle first! **Registration required.**
Montague Center Branch Library.

- **STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER**
Tuesday, February 17, 11:00 AM–6:30 PM
DROP-OFF: Drop off and register your stuffed animal friend at the library.
Wednesday, February 18, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
PICK-UP: Pick up your stuffed animal and see what they were up to all night!
at **Carnegie Library.**

- **KNITTING NIGHT AT CARNEGIE**
Tuesday, February 17, 5:00–6:15 PM
Bring your work-in-progress, or use our yarn and needles to start a new project.
Carnegie Library

- **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**
Fridays, Feb. 20 thru Mar. 27 5:00–7:00 PM
DnD Club is for ages 11-19. The campaign will run on Fridays, from Feb. 20 to Mar. 27, outside of regular library hours. **Registration is required.** Everyone is welcome regardless of previous experience with the game! Dice set, character sheet, and snacks are provided.
Carnegie Library

- **UMASS ENTOMOLOGY COLLECTION**
Saturday, February 21, 2:00–4:00 PM
Have you ever held a praying mantis in your hand? Now is your chance! See a sampling of live and preserved insects up close.
Carnegie Library

- **KNITTING CLUB**
Monday, February 23, 4:30–5:30 PM
Bring a project or learn something new!
All ages/skill levels welcome.
Montague Center Branch Library

- **MOVIE NIGHT**
Tuesday, February 24, 5:00–6:45 PM
Enjoy pizza and a movie!
For library cardholders only.
Millers Falls Branch Library

- **MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**
Thursday, February 26, 7:00–8:00 PM
We will be discussing Theory and Practice by Michelle de Kretser along with works by Virginia Woolf.
Montague Center Branch Library

LATE OPENING

Friday, February 6
The Carnegie Library and Montague Center Branch Library will open at 11:00AM so that staff may attend a training. Thank you for understanding!

LIBRARIES CLOSED

Monday, February 16
The libraries will be closed for Presidents' Day.

FOOD PANTRY

Saturdays, 10:00-11:00 AM
Stop by the Millers Branch Library for fresh produce, canned goods, select hygiene items, and more.
Please note: Normal library service will not be available during this time.

**ONLINE LIBRARY
EVENTS CALENDAR:**

