



MONTAUK LIBRARY

SPRING
REVIEW
2025

WELCOME: FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Spring 2025 marks three years since the Montauk Library reopened following its expansion and renovation. Over this time, library use has skyrocketed across all departments—circulation, e-circulation, technology, adult and children’s programs, wellness initiatives, book and film clubs, tax return assistance, and local history exhibits and services—to name just a few.

In these three years, we’ve also introduced exciting new features, including our ever-expanding Library of Things, Toy Library, Seed Library, passport application and notary services, room reservations, live-stream bird feeders, social media outreach, community displays and exhibits, recycling programs, and collecting donations in collaboration with local charities and civic organizations.

The Montauk Library has truly become the heart of our community, offering family-friendly spots, open spaces for social engagement, and quiet areas for study and reflection. We remain committed to fostering lifelong learning, providing access to information, supporting educational opportunities, and preserving cultural heritage.

We continuously search for innovative ways to enhance our services. Your feedback and ideas are invaluable to us. If there’s something you or your family would like to see at the library, we’d love to hear from you. Stop by, give a call, or send an email—the Montauk Library is here for you!



Reading in the new Tween Room

Denise DiPaola

Executive Director

Marilyn Levine

President, Board of Trustees

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

2 PM to 8 PM



2025-2026 Operating Budget
Vote and Trustee Election

(See inside for more information.)

Voter Registration in the Library:
Friday, March 28, 2025 from 2-6 PM

Public Information Session:
Friday, March 28, 2025 at 6 PM

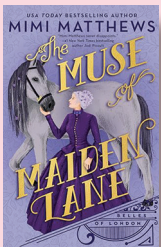
VOTE AND ELECTION INCLUDE:

1. To adopt the Annual Budget of the Montauk Library for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the Montauk Union Free School District.
2. To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030, to succeed Marilyn Levine, whose term expires on June 30, 2025.
3. To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030, to succeed Lisa Valcich, whose term expires on June 30, 2025.
4. To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library to fill the unexpired term due to the vacancy of the position previously held by Carter Tyler, commencing April 8, 2025, and expiring on June 30, 2027.

Absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the Clerk of the Montauk Union Free School District between 8 AM and 3 PM Monday through Friday. Applications for absentee ballots are due to the school district clerk by 5 PM on April 1, 2025 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or 5 PM on April 7, 2025 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The board of registration shall make a list of all persons to whom absentee voters' ballots have been issued and shall have it available in the Office of the School District Clerk during regular business hours on each of the five (5) days prior to April 8, 2025, except Sunday. Absentee ballots are due to the School District Clerk no later than 5 PM on April 8, 2025. Contact glightcap@montaukschool.org for more information.

Para obtener una versión en Español de esta información, por favor llama a la biblioteca al 631-668-3377.

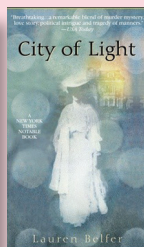
• MONTAUK LIBRARY STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS •



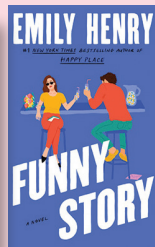
Kathleen



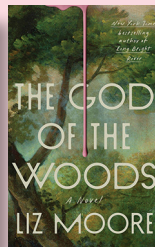
Brit



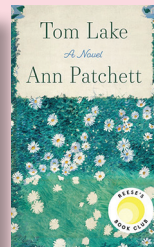
Anna



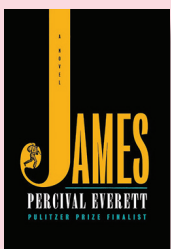
Terence



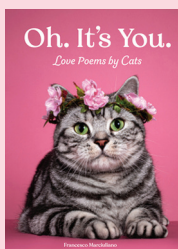
Kelsey



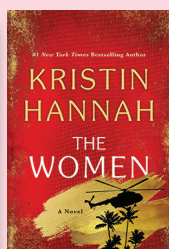
Virginia



Sally



Carolyn



Denise



Val



Friends Group



MONTAUK LIBRARY PROPOSED 2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET

FROM THE CIRCULATION DESK

What does the Montauk Library's circulation desk have to offer?

Books, books, and more books, not to mention magazines, puzzles, and back issues of newspapers. If a book isn't on a shelf here it can be requested from another library. Staff members are happy to provide reading suggestions.

There are also DVDs of movies and TV series, and a DVD player that Montauk Library cardholders can borrow from our Library of Things. Did you know that the library also lends music CDs and passes to places like the Children's Museum and the Montauk Lighthouse? Patrons will also find discounted tickets for the Long Island Aquarium and, in season, the Viking Fleet's whale-watching cruises.

The library has a bulletin board for displaying community flyers, as well as information about all of the library's free events and opportunities to socialize, including movies, concerts, yoga, Reiki, qigong, and art and knitting classes. We periodically offer AARP tax preparation assistance, driving safety classes, and workshops on trusts, elder law, Medicare, and other topics.



New this year, thanks to the introduction of a new staff member, Wendy Arias, are a growing number of bilingual services. Wendy is available to assist Spanish-speaking patrons, and provides Spanish-language versions of our weekly digests of library programs.

Did you know that proctored exams are available at the library? Email proctor@montauklibrary.org for details.

The Montauk Library is committed to serving the entire Montauk community — come on in and check us out!

Jane DeSousa
Head of
Circulation



INCOME

Taxes	\$ 1,682,000.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 577,000.00
Fines, Fees	\$ 24,600.00
Grants, Gifts, Donations	\$ 28,900.00
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 8,400.00
Other	\$ 28,000.00
	\$ 2,348,900.00

EXPENSES

Salaries & Expenses	\$ 1,279,500.00
Library Materials & Programs	\$ 144,500.00
Library Operations	\$ 62,400.00
Professional Services	\$ 34,500.00
Building Operations	\$ 231,000.00
Operating Reserve	\$ 20,000.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 577,000.00
	\$ 2,348,900.00

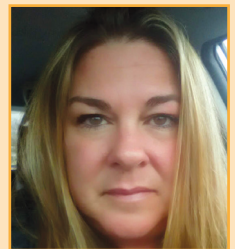
Annual property tax increase will be approximately \$22 per home with a market value of \$1,140,000.

TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

MARILYN LEVINE has been a Montauk resident for almost 25 years. Before moving to Montauk, she had a long career as a pediatric occupational therapist. Marilyn has served as a library trustee for 10 years. Prior to serving as president, she was the board's financial secretary. During Marilyn's tenure as board president, the Montauk Library undertook a major renovation and expansion that has helped it become the community and cultural center of Montauk. The library has evolved over the past several years and it will continue to evolve as our community evolves. Marilyn looks forward to continuing to help lead the library as one of the finest in Suffolk County.



LINDA NORRIS has been a year-round resident of Montauk for nearly 30 years. Originally from the Bronx, she started to spend summers here when her family built a home in 1980. After completing graduate school, she made Montauk her full-time home and took a position with the Town of East Hampton, where she has remained a dedicated civil servant for more than 28 years. Linda raised her two adult daughters, Emma and Lilly, in Montauk and volunteered as a Little League coach, Parent Teacher Association member, and with Montauk Youth. She is a longtime member and deacon of the Montauk Community Church, having served as a Sunday school teacher and on numerous committees through the years. The Montauk Library has been and remains an integral part of her life, she said, and she hopes to help ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the entire community. She is running for a five-year term on the Board of Trustees.



LISA VALCICH was born and raised in Montauk. As her daughter, Catherine, was growing up, the books and programs at the Montauk Library made it a regular destination. A purchasing agent for East Hampton Town who also works for her brother's local carting company, Lisa is a volunteer firefighter in the Montauk Fire Department and a member and treasurer of the Montauk Village Association as well as a member, lecturer, and catechist for St. Therese of Lisieux. She helps organize the annual Tyler Valcich Memorial Car Show to raise funds and awareness for the prevention of suicide. Lisa sat on the Board of Trustees for the library from 2008 through 2015 and in 2024 was elected to fill the final year of an uncompleted five-year term. She is running for a full five-year term this year.





The Montauk Library Youth Services Department is a vibrant part of our community — offering engaging, educational, and fun programs for young patrons from birth to 18 years.

Our Summer Reading Club was a standout in 2024. We expanded participation to children as young as two years old and we had a great response. With four grand prizes and weekly raffles, our program offered an abundance of themed books, engaging activities, and passive programs that brought the joy of reading to all all participants.

Our Children's Book Author Series was another highlight. We had the privilege of hosting several talented local authors, each of whom shared their book and performed songs or led fun activities. These events were thoroughly enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

We introduced a variety of exciting new programs, including Mommy and Me Yoga, Sensory Bin Play, Magna-Tile Club, Organic Gardening, Ducks at Story Time, and Video Game Character Drawing. They were met with excitement and a focus on creativity, learning, and making connections.

Our College Essay Writing Program was great for teens preparing college applications. It provided guidance and support to help students develop strong personal essays that reflect their unique stories and goals.

We officially opened our Tween Room, expanded our Toy Library, introduced oversized picture books to the children's area, and also added a tabletop puzzle station for our tweens.

Check out our Toy Library, featuring a mermaid castle, colorful Magna Tiles for hours of building, and a robot for imaginative play!



TECHNOLOGY NEWS



2025 is set to be another strong year for digital engagement and connectivity at the Montauk Library.

The Local History Center has become a favorite location for distance workers. With its wrap-around counter, high seating, built-in charge points, proximity to fast printers, excellent Wi-Fi, and pleasant views, patrons feel comfortable setting up their workstations.

Our new search station, self-check, and inter-library pickup corner is popular with independent patrons who manage their own library loans. The business center is always available for patrons to print, copy, scan, fax, laminate, trim, or shred. Many people come here to print, fax, scan, or copy their tax documents. If the area is already in use, we have a second workstation upstairs with a spectacular view where patrons can also scan, copy, and fax.

Visit montauklibrary.org/reserve, where patrons can schedule a time slot for our podcast room or small meeting room, and schedule appointments for passport, notary assistance, and proctoring sessions.

Don't forget: The library is also prepared to help visitors who conduct their digital life solely on their phone or iPad. Mobile printing and scanning, Zoom meetings, access to movies, books, audiobooks, and interlibrary requests are all just a few taps away.

Try our new search tool – VEGA! – on the library's website (montauklibrary.org). This intuitive, user-friendly program allows patrons to search for books, e-books, audiobooks, movies, and other resources. You can also bookmark items and, after logging in, see what's checked out and any holds, fines, bookmarks, saved searches, and reading history. Search results will also display the call number used at the patron's home or preferred library.



In 2024, we welcomed folks into the archives to engage with historical materials, local authors, and each other through programs, exhibits, and open research hours.

- We invited patrons to get hands-on with history at an inaugural Archives Show and Tell event.
- Local author **Bill Akin** read from his new book *The Equanimity of Fishes: Stories and Reflections from Seven Decades in Montauk*.



Archives Show and Tell Program at the library, December 2024

- **Betsy McCully**, writer and naturalist, presented on the natural history of Long Island.
- **Tony Caramanico** joined us for an exhibit and book talk about his Montauk surf journals.
- **Donna Corvi** shared her paintings of Montauk trees on the community room walls.
- The Montauk Playhouse Community Center Foundation donated materials documenting the foundation's project to build the new aquatic and cultural center.
- The Amagansett Life-Saving & Coast Guard Station Museum displayed objects and photographs from its collection in our Local History Exhibit Center.
- **Jack Perna**, **William Gosman**, and **Captain Donnie Braddick** contributed their stories to our Oral History Program.
- Patrons submitted over 250 photographs to our community slideshows.
- Family photograph collections from the **Duryea** and **Cahill-Stayton Eurell** families of Montauk were added to New York Heritage Digital Collections.

Can't make it to one of our programs or exhibits? Visit montauklibrary.org to explore digital history displays and collections.

“ The Montauk Library is the most important part of our community. You can read for hours on end and still find more that interests you. The library is the place to be to learn, to grow, and to have relaxation time for yourself. — Library Patron ”

A YEAR AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT

NUMBER

Library Visits	59,379
Library Programs	953
Program Attendance	12,858
Checkouts	60,818

E-ITEMS CHECKED OUT IN 2024

e-Books	15,272
e-Audiobooks	10,404
e-Magazines	778
Kanopy Movies	1,478

OTHER LIBRARY SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2024

Seed Library Packets	512
Passport Assistance	479
AARP Tax Return Assistance	97
Notary Public	523
Technology Assistance	786
Room Reservations	1,668

THE FRIENDS OF THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

Sally Krusch | President



Thank you all for coming in for our two big Friends events last year; the July Fourth Weekend Book Fair and the winter Holiday Book and Gift Sale. We loved our first Fruitcake Contest and congratulate Ed Lightcap for his win. We also wish to thank the Nauti Knitters, who made many beautiful items for the Friends to sell at our holiday sale.

Since the library's expansion and renovation, whenever I have some time to spare, I go to the new local history center. There is usually something new to see, and I am mesmerized by the changing photos and videos on the digital screens. I find it hard to accomplish much because images of familiar faces will pop up and I lose track of what I'm doing.

That is not a complaint. It is wonderful to see photos of people I know or knew in the past. Sometimes it brings a tear to my eye. Despite studying the history of Montauk for the 30 years I have lived here, there is always something I've never seen before, something I want to learn more about. Isn't that one of the reasons we visit the library? To explore things that are new to us? Not all libraries have this kind of resource. We are very lucky.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF MEMBERS CELEBRATING MILESTONES AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY!



DENISE DIPAOLO
10-Year Anniversary



BRIT MANSIR
10-Year Anniversary



LINDA DELALLA
earned a Master's in Library Science



KELSEY BURNS
earned a Master's in Library Science



In 2024, the Montauk Library offered a wide variety of outstanding Adult Programs:

- A Creative Communities/Long Island grant made it possible to co-sponsor some very special programs commemorating the 500th anniversary of Verrazzano's voyage to North America in 1524. These included an exceptional concert by the charismatic soprano Cristina Fontanelli, accompanied by pianist Alexander Chaplinskiy, entitled "Italian Songs of the Sea/ Canzoni Italiane del Mare." Another special event in this series was "Verrazzano in His Own Words." Performed by actor Bob Spiotto, this was a monologue based on a letter written by Verrazzano in 1524 to the King of France. Part of this special series was a dynamic concert by The Jordan Shapiro Trio of "Ballads and Folk Music of Long Island's Maritime Past."
- There were other superb concerts and programs. The incredible Alexander Chaplinskiy was so impressive we invited him to return to perform a stirring solo concert of works by Ukrainian composers.
- When photographer Laura Vanderbeek presented her guidebook to beaches in the Hamptons, percussionists Max Vanderbeek and Dalton Portella were on board with a dynamic concert that rocked the building. As the winter holidays approached, we enjoyed two delightful concerts featuring Montauk talent: an upbeat performance by The Ukeladies and a delightful singalong with singer/songwriter Lori Hubbard.
- A conversation with the singer, composer, and raconteur Joe Delia had us spellbound as he talked about his experiences in the music world. He also screened scenes from films he scored and shared an exclusive video message to us from the acclaimed filmmaker Abel Ferrara.
- Our guest speakers covered a wide range of subjects, including estate planning, feng shui, medical topics, fiction, and cuisine. Chef Mel Asseraf not only signed copies of her cookbook, *Sweet Treats*, but also made delicious crepes for everyone! Other regularly scheduled programs, which continue, included Book 'Tauk, a book club that meets once per month, and a series of classic films screened every Friday at 5 pm.

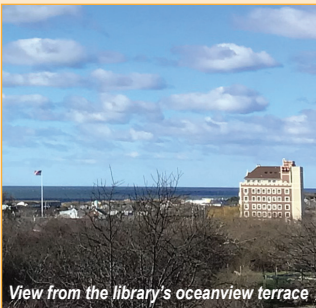


Images, top to bottom, left to right: The Jordan Shapiro Trio performance; yoga class participants; Reiki class participants; actor Bob Spiotto's "Verrazzano" performance.

“Montauk Library is like my home away from home. I feel so blessed to have all the amazing programs, events, and concerts that are offered here. Every staff member makes the experience that much nicer with their warmth, helpfulness, and generosity of spirit. — Library Patron”

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The library works in partnership with local organizations like the Montauk Food Pantry, the Retreat, the Lions Club, Kiwanis, ARF, and East Hampton Rotary to collect donations, especially during the days of our Great Giveback and holiday mitten tree.



View from the library's oceanview terrace

The East Hampton Town Board holds monthly work sessions in in the library's community room and many community groups, including the Montauk Playhouse Foundation, Montauk Citizens Advisory Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Church, and the Montauk School use the Montauk Library's spaces for meetings, exhibits, and storage.

Library staff have been reading stories to children at the Montauk Child Care Center and the village gazebo. Watch for new community outreach programs in 2025!

AROUND THE LIBRARY



The **NAUTI KNITTERS** group meets twice weekly at the library to knit, crochet, and socialize. The group has flourished, growing in both friendship and size, with outings, special celebrations, and shared moments captured on their own social media page. Many of their creations—scarves, hats, and stuffed animals—are donated to the Friends of the Montauk Library's holiday sale and the Retreat.

In 2024 we began the **TREX CHALLENGE**—collecting 1,000 pounds of discarded stretchy plastics, which we submitted to Trex, a composite decking company, for recycling. As a result, the library received a free bench manufactured, in part, from recycled plastic film. Stay tuned for details on this year's challenge!



DID YOU KNOW THAT MONTAUK LIBRARY HAS...



- The best sunset views & new sun umbrellas on the Ocean View Deck
- A bike repair station
- An exhibit space that local artists can apply to use
- Free classic movies screened every Friday at 5 PM
- Forms for passport applications and renewals, and forms to order commemorative bricks from the Friends of the Montauk Library
- A growing number of photo collections and oral history interviews online at New York Heritage (nyheritage.org)
- Baseball caps, mugs, and Montauk history books for sale to raise funds for the Friends of the Montauk Library
- A cart of free books
- A Library of Things and a Library of Toys
- Outdoor Wi-Fi spots with seating on all three decks
- Outreach services for patrons who are unable to travel to the library, including book recommendations by phone, home delivery—and more!



Check out our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@MontaukLibrary) featuring videos and clips of our happenings and visit our live bird feeding station webcam (montauklibrary.org/birdfeeder).



LIFE IS BRIGHTER
AT THE
**MONTAUK
LIBRARY**

871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954

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Linda Norris, Trustee

Denise DiPaolo, Library Director

Contact Us

631 668-3377 | contact@montauklibrary.org

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Hours

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Sunday: 1 PM - 6 PM

Spring Review editor: Virginia Garrison



2025 SPRING REVIEW



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