

MONTAUK LIBRARY

SPRING
REVIEW
2026

WELCOME: FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Bright ideas, shared stories, and a stronger community—hello from the Montauk Library!

The Montauk Library's programs, materials, and resources play a vital role in our community—offering residents a real bang for their buck while enriching Montauk's social life. By providing free access to books, e-books and magazines, audiobooks, movies, music, newspapers, and online databases, the library removes financial barriers to education, information, and entertainment. Free programs for all ages—from early-literacy storytimes and teen activities to adult lectures, clubs, and cultural events—deliver meaningful enrichment without admission fees.

Equally important, the library serves as a welcoming social hub where residents and visitors connect. Book clubs, discussion groups, concerts, knitting circles, art programs, and special events foster conversation, shared interests, and a true sense of belonging. It is especially heartening to see the many long-term friendships that have grown from these gatherings. Families meet other families, seniors find companionship, and new residents build lasting community ties in a warm, inclusive environment.

Together, these offerings help residents save money while strengthening social connections—proof that life truly is brighter at the Montauk Library.

With thanks for being part of our story,



Denise DiPaolo
Executive Director



Marilyn Levine
President,
Board of Trustees

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
2 PM to 8 PM

2026-2027 Operating Budget
Vote and Trustee Election

(See inside for more information.)

Voter Registration in the Library:
Friday, April 3, 2026 from 2-6 PM

Public Information Session:
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6 PM

VOTE AND ELECTION INCLUDE:

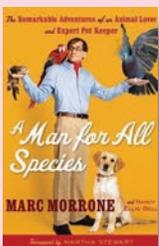
1. To adopt the Annual Budget of the Montauk Library for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the Montauk Union Free School District.
2. To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2031, to succeed Barbara Grimes, whose term expires on June 30, 2026.

Absentee ballots and early mail ballots may be applied for at the Office of the Clerk of the Montauk Union Free School District between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Friday. Applications for absentee ballots are due to the school district clerk by 5 PM on April 7 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or 5 PM on April 13 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

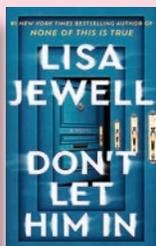
The board of registration shall make a list of all persons to whom absentee voters' ballots have been issued and shall have it available in the Office of the Montauk Union Free School District Clerk during regular business hours on each of the five (5) days prior to April 14, 2026, except Sunday. Absentee ballots are due to the School District Clerk no later than 5 PM on April 14, 2026. Contact mflaherty@montaukschool.org for more information.

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

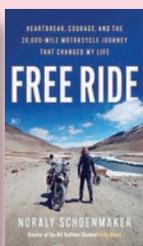
• MONTAUK LIBRARY STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS •



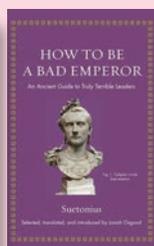
Kathleen



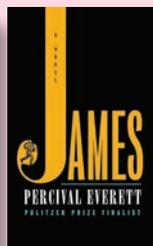
Jane



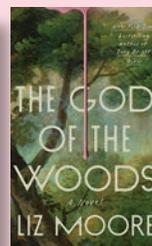
Brit



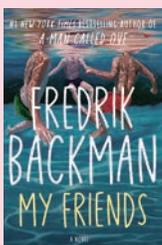
Carolyn



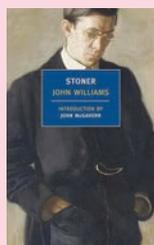
Val



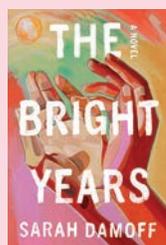
Virginia



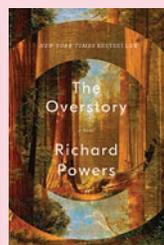
Denise



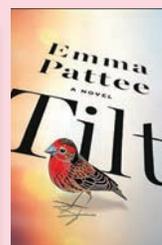
Friends Group



Kelsey



Sally



Aimee



MONTAUK LIBRARY PROPOSED 2026-2027 OPERATING BUDGET

INCOME

Taxes	\$ 1,850,000.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 581,375.00
Fines, Fees	\$ 27,200.00
Grants, Gifts, Donations	\$ 27,800.00
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 20,000.00
Other	\$ 21,000.00
	<u>\$ 2,527,375.00</u>

EXPENSES

Salaries & Expenses	\$ 1,332,000.00
Library Materials & Programs	\$ 158,400.00
Library Operations	\$ 65,600.00
Professional Services	\$ 35,500.00
Building Operations	\$ 334,500.00
Capital Reserves	\$ 20,000.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 581,375.00
	<u>\$ 2,527,375.00</u>

Annual property tax increase will be approximately \$16.37 per home with a market value of \$1,250,000.

TRUSTEE CANDIDATE



BARBARA GRIMES, who moved to Montauk in 1979 to work at the New York Ocean Science Laboratory, grew up outside of Albany, New York. She attended SUNY Oswego and SUNY Suffolk, and holds degrees in both Marine Science and Veterinary Nursing.

In addition to sitting on the Library Board since 2011, Barbara is on the Board of Third House Nature Center and is an active member of Montauk's Citizens Advisory Committee.

She has two adult children, Lee and Noah. Barbara's special interests include local history, natural history, animals (of all sizes and shapes!), reading, and lifelong learning.

2025: ONE YEAR AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

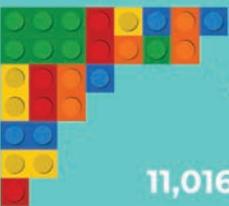


61,216 library visits and 30,324 checkouts

13,374 audiobooks, 17,057 e-books,
752 e-magazines, 1,902 Kanopy movies
35,174 New York Heritage views

608
free seed
packets

941 total programs



11,016 adults attending

2,727 children attending



855 tech assists
628 passports
608 notarizations
108 AARP tax
preparations
1,542 room reservations



AND SO MUCH MORE!

FROM THE CIRCULATION DESK

Ask at the front desk about these new and improved services, technology, and circulation items:

- Proctoring
- Assistance in Spanish
- Library of Things (glue gun, baking pans, karaoke machine, binoculars, metal detector, and much more)
- Passport Applications and Photos
- Family Photo Scanning
- Digital Photo Printing
- Laminating, Copying, and Printing
- Free WiFi
- In-House Laptop Loans
- Puzzles and Periodicals
- Digital Library Services
- Discounted Tickets & Free Museum Passes
- Notary Service

Jane DeSousa
Head of Circulation





The Youth Services Department has been highly productive this year, offering a wide range of interactive, educational, and engaging programs for children of all ages. Here are some highlights:

- Our weekly free programs including music, mommy and me yoga, and bilingual story time continue to attract consistent and enthusiastic groups of young participants eager to sing, move, and learn.
- We introduced programs for parents creating opportunities to connect with knowledgeable resource professionals.
- Our teen and tween spaces hosted a variety of creative and enriching programs, including origami art workshops, henna designs sessions, teen advisory meetings, college essay writing workshops, and painting programs inspired by the works of Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner.
- Our family programming featured hands-on apple pie baking, cookie decorating, a magic show, gingerbread house decorating, canvas painting, a visit from animal ambassadors, and programs featuring a variety of children's book authors.
- We strengthened collaborations with community organizations through initiatives such as partnering with the Retreat on a mitten and clothing drive, supporting the local food pantry with our new birthday box donations, and working with local professionals to expand educational and enrichment opportunities for parents.
- New additions to our children's area include a library of big books as well as a Tonies listening station.



TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Brit Mansir | Head of Technology Services



Digital connection and services are key components of what the Montauk Library provides. In 2025, people made more than 28,000 color prints, 29,000 black and white prints, and more than 650 4-by-6 prints of photographs.

Patrons in our building connect to our WiFi at an average rate of more than 800 times a month and can download or upload with high speeds and low latency thanks to our fiber optic internet connection. Staff and circulation computers use the same high-speed connections for library operations.

In the Local History Center, we loan laptops that feature Windows 11 and Microsoft Office. We logged more than 750 laptop uses last year.

Near the history center desk is the popular self-check station. It's positioned next to the public printer and catalog search kiosk. This centralizes activity for patrons who prefer self-service, but staff are always close by to lend a hand.

From home, our patrons are using digital access more than ever for e-books, audiobooks, to read magazines for free with the Flipster app, and to stream movies with the Kanopy app. If you haven't tried these apps yet, just ask at the desk and we'll help you connect!



The Montauk Library Archives continues to bridge collections and collaborate on programming with organizations that similarly work to preserve and share the history of Montauk and the East End. In the past year we did this by:

- Leading a History Hike of Fort Pond Bay, organized with support from the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society.
- Visiting the Montauk Senior Nutrition Center four times over the year for show-and-tell-style programs, where we shared historical materials while inviting seniors to contribute their own stories.



Fort Pond Bay History Hike

- Hosting a special screening of the film *Amistad*, followed by a panel discussion with The Plain Sight Project’s Donnamarie Barnes, Paula Mann-Agnew of Discovery Amistad, and Mia Certic of the Montauk Historical Society. The event was moderated by Dr. Georgette Grier-Key of the Eastville Community Historical Society.
- Uploading photographs, oral histories, maps, books, reports, and artworks to New York Heritage Digital Collections and the Internet Archive.
- Displaying quilts from the library’s collection at Duck Creek Arts Center’s annual community tradition of the Airing of the Quilts.
- Collaborating with local organizations to offer private tours for library patrons of the East Hampton Town Marine Museum (in partnership with East Hampton Historical Society), Second House Museum (with the Montauk Historical Society), and the William Flanagan Memorial Creative Persons Center (run by the Edward F. Albee Foundation).
- Applying for and being awarded an Archival Needs Assessment from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services of New York.

THE FRIENDS OF THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

Sally Krusch | Friends President



The Friends of the Montauk Library appreciate the generosity of our community and thank you for your donations to our year-end appeal. We welcome your continued financial support at any time of the year and hope you might become a member of the Friends and even volunteer some of your time to our efforts.

We continue to welcome donations of books that we can sell in our bookshop and at events. We ask that books in good condition be left at the front desk, up to two bags or boxes at a time.



Did you know that the Friends have a book group? Started in 1980, before there was a physical library, the group reads “literary fiction” rather than bestsellers. This genre emphasizes artistic quality, character depth, and thematic exploration over plot. It focuses on the human condition, complex emotions, and societal issues. So, the books we read are recognized with a National Book Award, the Booker Prize, or even a Pulitzer. If this sounds interesting, please join us. We meet one Sunday of each month at 1 pm in person and on Zoom. The dates and upcoming books are on the library calendar, montauklibrary.org/calendar, and copies of the book are provided a month in advance. Send an email to foml@montauklibrary.org if you’d like to receive information. *Left: New tote bags—now available at the library.*

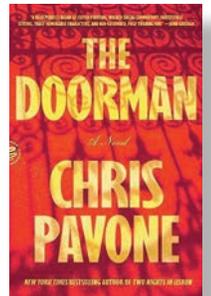
CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF MEMBER VIRGINIA GARRISON



ON HER 5-YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY!

longislandreads

The Doorman by Chris Pavone is this year’s selection for Long Island Reads, an Island-wide library reading initiative that encourages people to read and discuss a single book together. The Montauk Library’s Book ‘Tauk group will discuss *The Doorman* at its meeting on March 26. The library has 12 free copies to give away!



A WORD FROM OUR PATRONS: THE MONTAUK LIBRARY IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE...

“As a small business owner, this is where I can afford to work, use wi-fi, print documents, and focus away from home. It’s somewhere my family can join me on rainy days. It’s such an important place to me and my family.”



“It provides information, services, and entertainment at no cost to patrons from all places and backgrounds.”



“Besides the wonderful supply of books for reading and information, there are many community activities!”



In 2025, the Montauk Library offered a wide variety of outstanding adult programs, including:

- Wonderful concerts by the Tickleclap Jazz Trio and the Julie Bluestone Jazz Duo.
- An excellent talk with musical interludes by composer/performer Joe Delia.
- A concert by blues artist Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio.
- Solo performances by Anne Tedesco and Solomon Eichner.
- A string ensemble featuring harmonica virtuoso Jiayi He.
- A recital of selections of poetry by Michelangelo, performed by actor Bob Spiotto in honor of the 550th anniversary of the birth of the great artist.
- A very special holiday concert by the singer/songwriter Lori Hubbard in December.

Regularly scheduled adult programs include Book 'Tauk, a book club that meets once per month in person and on Zoom; and a Classic Film series that takes place every Friday at 5 pm. All are welcome!

Left: Jiayi He's Harmonica & String Ensemble, Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio concert, Art Class, Joe Delia performance

THE MONTAUK LIBRARY: A HUB FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

It would be difficult to find a community organization with which the Montauk Library *didn't* have some sort of collaboration in the past 12 months.

We hosted visits from Montauk School students as well as representing their creations, along with that of other local artists, in the rotating gallery on the walls of our community room. The library also provided a meeting space for Girl Scouts, the Montauk Playhouse Foundation, the East Hampton Town Board, and the Montauk Citizens Advisory Committee, among others. Stony Brook Southampton Hospital paid a visit to offer free flu shots, LTV Studios set up "office hours," as did State Assemblyman Tommy John Schiavoni, and, separately, an M&T Bank representative and an insurance broker made a number of visits to provide finance and health insurance workshops to library patrons.

AARP volunteers set up shop to provide tax assistance, Empire State Driving School offered a defensive driving class, the Suffolk County Health Department presented a food manager's course, and the East Hampton Town Harbormaster taught a boating certification class.

Library staff also reached out to the Montauk Senior Nutrition Center by dropping in to share stories and photos from the archives, and the library took part in the Duck Creek Museum's annual community airing of the quilts.

The library also collaborated with Montauk State Parks, Third House Nature Center, the East Hampton Town Trails Preservation Society, the South Fork Natural History Museum, the Montauk Historical Society, and the Edward Albee Foundation to offer tours, talks, and walks at local landmarks. Special guests from the Montauk Coast Guard Station and the East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery gave presentations thanks to the Friends of the Montauk Library, and the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center traveled east to present several programs with live animals for children.

The library also lent a hand to the Retreat, the Montauk Food Pantry, the Animal Rescue Fund, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, and the East Hampton Rotary by collecting donations, especially during the holiday season, even launching a birthday party package for food pantry patrons.

Below: Coat Drive, Albee Barn Tour, Birthday Boxes, Senior Center visit





MONTAUK LIBRARY BIRD CLUB: JOIN THE FLOCK!

Our patrons have shown a growing interest in bird-related programs. In response, we launched a Montauk Library Bird Club in 2025. In that capacity, we:

- Created a checklist of birds in Montauk and offered community service hours to students in grades 7 and above who participated in bird count sessions.
- Hosted beginner birding and osprey conservation lectures and two author talks.
- Led bird walks in local parks in partnership with the South Fork Natural History Museum, New York State Parks, and Third House Nature Center.
- Accepted a generous donation to purchase 10 pairs of binoculars to loan to patrons on our walks.

For more information, visit montauklibrary.org/birdclub



LIFE IS BRIGHTER
AT THE
**MONTAUK
LIBRARY**

871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954

Board of Trustees

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Lynn Hammer, Vice President
Yasna Schiappacasse, Secretary
Lisa Valcich, Financial Secretary
Linda Barnds, Trustee
Barbara Grimes, Trustee
Linda Norris, Trustee

Denise DiPaolo, Library Director

Contact Us

631 668-3377 | contact@montauklibrary.org

montauklibrary.org

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9 AM - 6 PM
Wednesday, Friday: 9 AM - 8 PM
Sunday: 1 PM - 6 PM

Spring Review editor: Virginia Garrison



Postal Patron
Rural Routes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
Montauk, NY 11954

2026 SPRING REVIEW



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