PLEASE WEAR DAYGLOW COLORS WHEN WALKING IN THE WOODS DURING HUNTING SEASON!

MONTGOMERY MT. Breeze

November 2026
Printed 10/28/2026
Circulation 380

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

TOWN CLERK News

STATE ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026
7:00 am - 8:00 pm

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2026 AT 7:30 pm

Thank you to all my volunteers that help throughout the day!
I could not do it without you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Cheryl Masciadrelli
Montgomery Town Clerk
413-642-6927
clerk@montgomeryma.gov

"People who are late are often jollier than those who have to wait for them."
— E. V. Lucas

Thank you volunteers!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the Bulk Drop off on October 3rd. More than 53 families from Montgomery took advantage of this service. Pictured above are from left to right: Jack Godfry, Mike LaFleur, Chris Brown, Jason Stomski, Dennis Wassung. Not pictured is Dick Painchard.

Special thanks to Mike Lafluer who expertly packed the Roll Offs, so that more Montgomery families could take advantage of this free service.

And Curtis(Stumpy)Bush, monitoring the Roll-Offs in the Town Garage Yard. Chris Brown & Karen Bouquillon - Recycling Committee

You're invited to a Hampden Deeds event

Join us in December for Hampden County Register of Deeds Informational Seminar. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, Esq., Register of Deeds invites all homeowners in Montgomery to attend this event.See page 9.

Learn about:

- The Register of Deeds who we are and what we do
- The Homestead Act
- Consumer Notification System
- Title Fraud

All attendees are eligible to receive a FREE certified copy of their property deeds. **Register of Deeds contact info: (413) 755-1722**

If you would like to attend this event please **RSVP by November 17th** by calling the Montgomery CoA (413) 642-8143

MFD announces first tee shirt sale!

See page 7.

Important numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY: 911
AMBULANCE: 911
STATE POLICE: 911

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: 862-4037

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL: 685-1102
GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL: 685-1202
GMS ATTENDANCE: 685-1201
LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY: 685-1301

TOWN HALL OFFICE: 862-3386
Listen to the following extensions of each office.
townhall@montgomeryma.gov
Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FIRE DEPT: 862-4505
FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU
firechief@montgomeryma.gov

TOWN CLERK - CHERYL MASCIADRELLI 413-642-6927
OFFICE HOURS - BY APPOINTMENT
Email: clerk@montgomeryma.gov

POLICE DEPT:
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -
PAULA CHAPMAN Home 862-4949
Office 862-3386, x5
RUSSELL-MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPT: 862-6209
(Call 911 for emergencies)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:
DAN FLECHSIG 862-8095

TREASURER/COLLECTOR - RENEE CARNEVALE
OFFICE HOURS: Tues and Thurs 8 am to 2 pm.
collector@montgomeryma.gov, 862-3386, x1 or direct line 642-8139

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:
NATHAN SPERRY 413-221-0139.

PLANNING BOARD:
PHIL CAMP, Chairman 862-4976
Held on 3rd Tuesday of the month

SELECT BOARD:
JACOB CHAPMAN - CHAIRMAN
DONALD WASHBURN
DAVID MILLER
townhall@montgomeryma.gov 413-862-3386 ext 1

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:
PETER DEGREGORIO pdegregorio@grsd.org

LIBRARY:
LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894
montgomerylibrary3894@gmail.com
HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:
NEW: Office hours of the Board of Assessors will be held on the 2nd Thursday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm of each month. Assessors Clerk will hold hours from 11 am to 2 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meetings will be scheduled and posted when deemed necessary and can be reached at 413-862-3386 ext 2 or assessor@montgomeryma.gov.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - conservation@montgomeryma.gov
L.J. GAMELLI, Chairman,
MICHAEL CHELMINSKI
ANDREW SHEPARD,
Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, when needed.

COUNCIL ON AGING: 862-3386 x7
COA@Montgomeryma.gov

STATE SENATOR JOHN VELIS (413) 572-3920
Office address: 94 North Elm St., Suite 301-P, Westfield, 01085
STATE REP., 3RD HAMPDEN Nicholas A. Boldyga
454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077, · (413) 569-3137, Ext 103

For departments, boards and committees - contact information can also be found on our town's website - montgomeryma.gov

November Calendar

Nov. 4 9:00 am - 10 am - Tai Chi – Town Hall
Nov. 4 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Nov. 5 2:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – NEW HOURS
Nov. 11 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Nov. 12 2:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Nov. 16 10:00 am - CoA Coffee Hour – Backwoods BBQ
Nov. 18 9:00 am - 10 am - Tai Chi – Town Hall
Nov. 18 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Nov. 19 3:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day

Scheduled events and times are fluid at this time and subject to change.

Paula L. Chapman

MONTGOMERY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS
6:30 pm TO 8:00 pm FOR FIREARMS LICENSES ONLY.
Subject to change if necessary

November 5	November 19
December 3	December 17
January 7	January 21

MOUNTAIN BREEZE AD POLICY

Montgomery resident ads: $3.50 for ¼ page, $7.00 for ½ page, $10.50 for ¾ page and $14.00 for a full page.

Non-resident ads: $5.00 for ¼ page, $10.00 for ½ page, $15.00 for ¾ page and $20.00 for a full page.

Ads: email (digital file) to **i2mtlak@gmail.com**, or mail to: Laurie Flechsig, 1699 Russell Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9633. Include your name and phone number. Payment must be received by deadline date (usually on the 16th of the month) or ad will not be run. No cash, please; make check payable to Montgomery Mountain Breeze and **send checks directly to:**

Laurie Flechsig, 1699 Russell Rd, Montgomery, 01085.

MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF
Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818;
i2mtlak@gmail.com
Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Paula Long * Julie Pike * Lori Conley
montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

Pottery and Art Lessons Offered:

Whether a beginner or experienced, explore your own creative potential.

GRAY CATBIRD
POTTERY STUDIO
22 East Main St, Huntington, MA

November 14 – Glass Fusion Workshop
2:30–4:30 pm, with Denise Beaulieu
$65 to create 2 snowflakes or small winter scene.

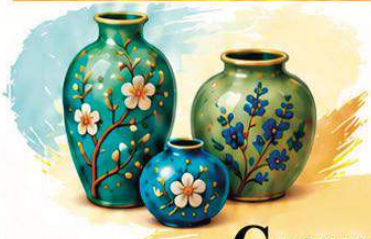
POTTERY CLASSES

Explore clay. Build skills. Create something uniquely yours.

$275 for six weekly classes
Instruction and supplies included

POTTERY WITH DALE ROGERS
Tuesday • 5–7:30 pm
Wednesday • 2:30–5 pm
Friday • 5–7:30 pm
Hand-building, wheel throwing, and surface decoration

HAND-BUILDING WITH DALE ROGERS
Friday • 10:30 am–1 pm
Slab, coil, and pinch techniques



WHEEL THROWING WITH LINDA SISKA
Wednesday • 10:30 am–1 pm
Saturday • 10:30 am–1 pm

To register, email Dale at
Graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com
Come create with us at Gray Catbird!

Gray Catbird Pottery & Art Studio
22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA

Spider plants not scary, they help improve home air quality

GardenNews
by Chris Brown

November is the month to:

- the spider plant is a pet-safe houseplant that improves air quality.
- Apply a weak fertilizer solution to potted herbs growing on the window sill.
- Make plans to force paperwhite narcissus in three to five weeks.
- The official state berry of Massachusetts is the cranberry.
- Remove debris from water gardens.
- Sensitive plants such as roses benefit from fall mulching
- Save seeds from fruits such as apples, oranges & avocado to grow with kids.

The above taken from The U MASS garden calendar.

When Walking in the woods, don't forget, It is hunting season, so wear day glow orange.

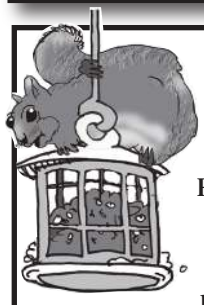
NOVEMBER RECIPES

PUFF PASTRY CAPRISE APPETIZERS

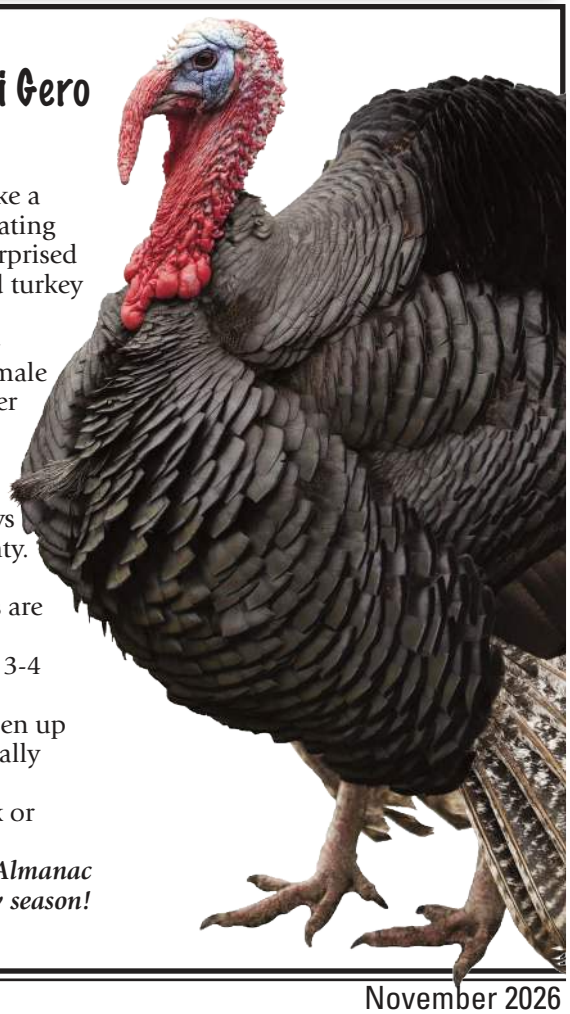
Recipe for Nov. 2026 Thanks again Jeanne Aras. If you have a recipe that you would like to share contact Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com

1 roll puff pastry
20 cherry tomatoes sliced in half
2-3 pinches salt
1-2 Tbsp. olive oil
8 slices cheese(Mozzarella, gruyere, fontina)
¼ -1/2 tsp oregano
4-5 chopped fresh basil leaves

Preheat oven to 375 (400 in some ovens, every oven is different)
Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Unroll puff pastry and use a rolling pin to even out the pastry. Cut sheet into 8 squares. With a fork, prick each square a few times. Place each square on prepared sheet pan. Top each square with cheese, sliced tomatoes. Sprinkle with salt, oregano, basil. Drizzle with olive oil. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden. Serve warm or room temperature.



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Gero



FUN TURKEY TRIVIA

Why do turkeys gobble? Only male turkeys (toms) make a sound called a gobble mostly in the spring & fall. It is a mating call that attracts the hens. They will also 'gobble' when surprised by loud sounds and when settling in for the night. The wild turkey can make 30 different calls!

What's the wobbly thing on a turkeys neck? The loose red skin attached to the underside of a turkeys beak is called a 'wattle'. When the male turkey is excited it turns a scarlet red. The fleshy flap of skin hanging over the beak is called a snood and the wobbly thing on the chest is the beard. it is made of the same thing that forms hair and horns on animals.

Is the turkey a game bird? Yes. By the 1930's almost all wild turkeys had been hunted and thanks to conservation efforts, there are now plenty. Can turkeys fly? Yes! Wild turkeys can fly and may perch in trees to stay safe from predators However it prefers to walk or run. Domestic turkeys are not agile flyers.

How long do turkeys live? The average life span of a wild turkey is 3-4 years. They feed on seeds, nuts, insects and berries.
How big do turkeys get? The wild tom can weigh up to 20 lbs and the hen up to 12 lbs. A domesticated tom can go up to 50 lbs! while the hen is usually around 12lbs.

What is a baby turkey called? A baby turkey is called a poult, chick or even a turklette.

From The Old Farmer's Almanac
Have a happy start to the holiday season!

Hike in the woods postponed until after hunting season

Historical Happenings

Happy Hallowe'en to one and all! Your Montgomery Historical Society has decided to postpone our hike-in-the-woods to the site of the former Moore's Mountain House (off Mountain House Road) until the spring when there will not be hunters in the woods.

It is disappointing to come to this conclusion but necessary to protect any of us who attend the walk. We will look at dates in April or May to reschedule, so be sure to check your Mountain Breeze again at that time to join us on the hike.

The next event we are planning will be the Society's annual post-Holiday dinner at a local restaurant. More information will be presented in December's Mountain Breeze.

Hope your Thanksgiving will be a celebration of family and comfort!

Have you been to the Montgomery Library lately? The latest exhibit in the Historical Society's display case features "Teapots Galore" – a collection of teapots belonging to the late Linda Stipek Lafond, loaned in her memory by her husband, "Sonny" Lafond. There is a large variety of teapots of all shapes and sizes, and we hope you will take the opportunity to view them while they are on display – until the end of November!

For the months of December and January, we would love to display items related to winter or the winter holidays. If anyone out there has a collection or items they would like to share with the Library patrons, we encourage you to contact Laurie at 862-8095 to talk about putting your items in the display case. Your help is appreciated in keeping the exhibits interesting and fresh!

Condolences to...

David Fuller and family on the loss of his wife Carolyn on August 26 in Georgia. Her committal service at Montgomery's Center Cemetery was held October 10.

The Noe family of Russell on the passing of Pastor Howard Noe of the Montgomery Community Church on October 24 at home. We also extend our sympathy to those who worshipped with Rev. Noe.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judy Dowd
Cory DuCharme
Ken Flechsig
Laurie Flechsig
Jason Harris, Sr.
Thomas Hyjek
Sonny Lafond
Brandon Matulewski
Donna Morrissey
Marlene Stanisewski
Emily Heeter

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None

Safety first when out hunting

Safe hunting requires strict adherence to firearm discipline, high-visibility clothing, and proper equipment management.

Firearm and Bow Safety

- Treat every firearm as loaded: Always assume a gun is active even if you believe it is unloaded.
- Control the muzzle: Keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Keep your finger off the trigger: Do not touch the trigger or enter the trigger guard until you have positively identified your target and are ready to shoot.
- Identify your target and what lies beyond: Verify the animal completely, and make sure buildings, roads, or other people are not in your line of fire.
- Respect safe zones of fire: When hunting in a group, maintain a clear 45-degree safe zone of fire directly in front of each hunter.

Tree Stand and Field Safety

- Use a full-body harness: Always wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS) and stay attached from the moment you leave the ground until you return.
- Use a haul line: Raise and lower unloaded firearms, bows, and heavy gear using a rope rather than climbing with them.
- Wear blaze orange: Wear high-visibility blaze orange or fluorescent pink to remain clearly visible to other hunters.
- Share your itinerary: Always inform a family member or friend where you are hunting and when you expect to return.

NEW HOURS:
Thursday @ 2 - 3pm
Where: Montgomery Town Hall,
161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

Music in Montgomery

November

As November quiets
the earth, music warms
the spaces between
the falling leaves.

Nov. 5	R & D: Rob Adams and Dennis Avery
Nov. 12	Jerry & Kara Noble
Nov. 19	Bob Cipolli
Dec. 3	Ravenwood with Barry Searle
Dec. 10	Kara & Jerry Noble
Dec. 17	Ed Bentley & Friends
Jan. 7	Larry Southard
Jan. 14	Kara & Jerry Noble
Jan. 21	Ravenwood
Jan. 28	Doug Pi & the Harmonics
Feb. 4	Psychedelic Farm Girls
Feb. 11	Larry Southard
Feb. 18	Jerry & Kara Noble
Feb. 25	Ed Bentley & Friends

"All are welcome!"
Music in Montgomery is sponsored by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Montgomery Town Library, and the Montgomery Council on Aging.

We encourage donations of baked goods. Money donations for refreshments will be split between two worthy local causes: Montgomery's Volunteer Firemen's Association and our Town Library. We have a tip can for thanking our fabulous musicians as well.

MFD hold first ever Tee Shirt sale! Get one now!

REMINDER! Please clean and service all your heating appliances including chimneys and vents. Replace smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

Thank you to ALL who participated in the chainsaw fund raiser raffle which was a great success for the Montgomery Fireman's Association. Proceeds will go directly to equipment, training, and the Chief Steve Frye scholarship. **Congratulations Jason Stomski on his new Stihl chainsaw!!**

Tee Shirt Sale!

The Montgomery Fireman's Association is pleased to announce our 1st ever Tee Shirt Sale! This long awaited and meticulously designed shirt proudly displays our still in service Brush 1 Dodge Power Wagon, Town Hall and Library, and our Town Flag (Yes, we do have a Town flag). Proceeds from the shirt sale go to the Association for training, equipment, and The Chief Steve Frye Scholarship.

Please fill out the order form below.

And give to your Favorite Firefighter or drop off in the dropbox at the Station or to Rene at Town Hall or Paula at the Library.

Thank you for your support!!
The Montgomery Fire Department

MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION

T-Shirt Fundraiser Order Form

All proceeds directly support the Montgomery Volunteer Fire Association's equipment and community operations.

1. Buyer Information

- **Full Name:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____ **Email:** _____
- **Delivery Preference:**

  [ ] Local Pick-Up at Fire Station

  [ ] Delivery to local Address: _____

2. Apparel Options & Pricing

Item #	Shirt Description / Color	Size (S, M, L, XL)	Price	Qty	Size (2XL, 3XL)*	Price	Qty	Total Price
1	"Support Your Local Firefighters" Tee (Black)		$30			$30		$ _____

GRAND TOTAL DUE: $ _____

3. Payment Method *(Check One)*

- [ ] **Cash** *(Exact amount preferred)*
- [ ] **Check** *(Make checks payable to:* ***Montgomery Volunteer Fire Association***

- **Questions / Contact:** Call 413-862-4505

Thank you for supporting your local volunteer firefighters!

MONTGOMERY CoA

neighbors helping neighbors

Contact: coa@montgomeryma.gov or (413)642-8143

Here's how neighbors are helping neighbors

Good Morning Neighbors!

Join us on November 16th at 10:00 am for CoA Coffee Hour at the Backwoods BBQ restaurant.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment

The SHINE Program provides free health insurance information, counseling, and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare and their caregivers. SHINE is a State Health Insurance Program partially funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

A SHINE Counselor can help compare the costs and benefits of Medicare and other health insurance options and help with enrollment into the program. A SHINE Counselor can also help beneficiaries with limited income and resources enroll in programs that help pay health insurance costs.

SHINE Counseling is free of charge and all information is kept confidential.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact the Westfield Council On Aging, (413) 562-6435.

Fuel Assistance

Fuel Assistance through Valley Opportunity Council Fuel Assistance (also known as the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP) helps eligible households challenged by the high cost of home heating fuel pay a portion of their winter heating bills.

This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to:
Oil, Electricity, Natural Gas, Propane, Kerosene, Wood and Coal.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (413)552-1548 or go to valleyopp.com/energy-assistance/fuel-assistance.

The Boston Post Oldest Citizen Cane Award

The Council on Aging is asking if any Montgomery residents are aware of this long time tradition of awarding a gold-headed ebony cane to the oldest citizen the town. This award began in 1909 through the Boston Post Oldest Citizen Program. Does any family still have a cane in their possession? **If so, please contact the COA. To learn about this award go to bostonpostcane.org/origins-of-the-tradition.**

My To Do List

If you would like some help with fall/winter chores the National Honor Society students from Gateway Regional High School are willing and ready to help with fall/winter clean up, yard and garden tasks, wood stacking, raking leaves or other home tasks. **If you are interested please call (413) 642-8143 and leave your contact information.**

Let's Play Nutrition Jeopardy

On Tuesday, December 1st from 10 - 11AM, at Town Hall, Highland Elder Services will be hosting this fun game - join us to play Nutrition Jeopardy. You'll have a chance to test your nutrition knowledge! We'll form teams, answer fun nutrition questions, earn points, and compete for a prize. Come learn something new while having fun!

Breakfast and Music

Gateway Regional High School senior breakfast and concert will be held on Wednesday, December 2. **Leave a message if you are interested in attending by calling the COA (413) 642-8143.**

Community Legal Aid

The CoA welcomes Kristen Small, elder law attorney, from Community Legal Aid (CLA) on Wednesday, December 9th from 10 - 11AM.

The CLA offers free legal support and representation to qualifying low income and older adults in a wide range of civil legal matters, including housing, employment, family law, healthcare access, and social benefit programs. Ms. Small will be giving an overview of the types of legal matters CLA can help with as well as a brief primer on health insurance programs for people 60+, pitfalls to avoid when assessing those programs and awareness of your legal rights.

If you would like to attend this informational session, please RSVP by December 2nd by calling the Montgomery CoA (413) 642-8143.

Lunch on Us

The Montgomery COA is inviting our elder residents to join us for a luncheon at Town Hall on Thursday, December 10 from 1 - 2pm. Stay a bit later to enjoy Music in Montgomery.

(Please turn to page 8.)

(Continued from Page 7.)

Avoiding Falls in Cold Weather

When entering your home, make sure you:

- Dry the wheels or tips of each walking aid before entering your home.
- Keep the entryway clear of clutter to avoid slipping or tripping. Use ice melt or sand to clear outside walkways.
- Keep a small table or shelf near the entry door to put items while unlocking the door.
- Use a different entrance if your home's main entrance is often icy during winter.
- If possible, stay inside when the weather is bad. Consider delivery services for prescriptions, groceries and other necessities.

When outside your home, make sure you:

- Avoid shoveling snow yourself when possible. There is a risk of heart attack for older adults while shoveling snow.
- Use railings to help avoid slipping on icy stairs and walkways.
- Wear nonskid, rubber-soled, low-heeled footwear.
- Ensure outdoor areas are well-lit.

Tai Chi improves flexibility, strength, and balance. Join us on Wednesday, November 4 & 18th at 10AM in Town Hall.

Our October Vaccine and Mini Health Fair was fun and educational. Attendees received their vaccines, had blood pressure checks, and learned about various programs and services available.

Library News

Grace Hall Memorial • November • 2026

Tues 10 - 5:30,
Thurs 11- 8 &
Sat. 9:30-12:30

Holiday Wreaths with Laurie & Julie

Nov. 28 at 1 pm

Create one-of-a-kind wreaths for your front door this Holiday season. Laurie & Julie will provide the know-how, greens, forms and ribbons. You bring gloves, a pruning shear and any other decorations you would like to add.

Please sign up in the library, seats are limited.

Fee $5 due day of event.

New Items at the library can be found at: Wowbrary and facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

Next Month: Cookie Exchange Dec. 17

Museum Passes: Zoo at Forest Park, Magic Wings, Springfield Museums, MASS MoCA, Berkshire Museum

Coming Events

Long Range Plan Community Meeting Nov. 5 at 6:30 pm.
Help us shape the future of the library. Community input is needed as we craft the pathway of the library's future.

Watercolor Greeting Card workshop with Sandie Mann Nov. 7 at 10 am.
Nature-Inspired Designs Create two beautiful handmade cards inspired by nature—a delicate dragonfly thank-you card and a tranquil woodland birthday card. Learn techniques including die-cutting, layering, textured backgrounds, dimensional embellishment, and creative sentiment placement. This workshop is geared towards participants who have taken Sandie's previous workshops and is comfortable with basic watercolor paintings. Pre-register required in the library

CookBook Book Club FRIENDSGIVING Nov. 19 at 6:30 pm.
Join us for Holiday potluck dinner! Test out that new recipe before the big day and find a new one to try. One of our regulars is providing Turkey. You can bring an app, side or dessert! Join the fun with other cooks.

CWMARS
LIBRARIES CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com, 413-862-3894, eBooks on Libby,
our Catalog on: montgomery.cwmars.org