

Monthly Digest – September 2023

learn, play, and explore

The Final Touches

We're almost ready to unveil the newly renovated library at 35 West Main Street! Because we have no intention of making you wait any longer than absolutely necessary, we'd like to mention some final touches that, happily, won't delay our grand reopening. Among these are landscaping, finished elements of the hardscape, and some remaining details related to the restoration of the Carnegie Building (such as a beautiful, custom-made mahogany door that will be installed sometime this fall, and the Palladian window on the east-side of the building that had to be completely reconstructed). In addition, the much-anticipated secondary parking lot will be paved when the city re-paves Witherbee Street (which understandably withstood a fair amount of construction wear-and-tear over the past two years). When this secondary lot is finished, we will have more than TRIPLE the amount of parking as before, which will make it well worth the wait!

Celebrating our Hero, Andrew Carnegie

Tuesday, 9/12 at 7pm

(Image: a black and white portrait photograph of Andrew Carnegie)

Andrew Carnegie was a late-19th century philanthropist who funded libraries across the United States. With our renovation, we are proud to have restored the original Marlborough Public Library "Carnegie Building" to its original splendor! To learn more about Andrew Carnegie and his philanthropic efforts, tune in to the virtual program, "Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Libraries," presented by Rick Feingold, professor of American Business History.

Click here for full program information, and to register, visit: bit.ly/MPL_Carnegie

Adult Book Club

Tuesday, 9/12 at 6pm

(Image: The cover of this month's selection, *Hour of the Witch*, by Chris Bohjalian)

A young Puritan woman—faithful, resourceful, but afraid of the demons that dog her soul—plots her escape from a violent marriage in this riveting novel of historical suspense by Chris Bohjalian. Please note: This month’s meeting will be held virtually.

To register, visit: bit.ly/AdultBookClub_Sept

“LEED” Certification

(Image: the LEED Certification seal)

You already know that the new library is going to be awesome, but did you know that it was sustainably designed? LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world, and provides a framework for healthy, efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. Pending official LEED certification from the US Green Building Council, we will qualify for additional funding from the MA Board of Library Commissioners through the MA Public Library Construction Program Green Library Incentive! Click here to learn more about LEED certification., visit: bit.ly/MPL_LEED

Moving FAQ

(Image: the letters “Q” and “A,” each in a conversation bubble)

You’ve got questions, we’ve got answers. To view our Moving FAQ page, visit: bit.ly/TheMoveHome

From the Director’s Desk

A building update, straight from the desk of our director, Sara Belisle

Dear Marlborough Community,

Happy September!

We had some great news the other day about some of the final touches being completed on the new library. The terracotta pieces that we had to have custom-made to repair the façade on the front of the Carnegie Building arrived earlier than expected. This means that the front pediment will be completed ahead of schedule! In addition, the Palladian window that was revealed when the old addition was

removed from the historical Carnegie is in the final stages of reconstruction, and is also on track to be finished earlier than originally anticipated. Speaking of the Carnegie Building, be sure to attend our virtual program on September 12th, featuring the history of our benefactor, Andrew Carnegie, and his legacy referred to as the “Carnegie Libraries.” Sign up for this timely program using the link in the newsletter, or through the library’s event calendar.

As you all know, we recently closed the temporary library at the Walker Building. This was a major milestone. We spent 2 ½ years there! A library-specific moving company moved our collection of just over 78,000 items. This was neither quick nor easy, but we’ve officially returned all of our materials to 35 West Main Street!

After all this time, you may be asking yourself, “what could there possibly be left to do before opening?” ... Plenty! Most importantly, we need to complete the installation of our extensive technology infrastructure. Getting our phone system and Wi-Fi installed, public computers up and running, new self-checkout stations, staff workstations, and all the other new and exciting public technology is a time-consuming process. As for library staff, we want to make sure we have new and exciting books and other materials cataloged, processed, and ready for checkout upon opening; we need to have directional and shelf signage in place so you can locate books and other material easily; we need to complete a meticulous process known as “shelf-reading” to ensure that every single item is exactly where it is supposed to be; we want to have attractive displays ready to greet you; we want to have a slate of fun programming planned for the fall and beyond. Finally, we need to make sure library staff are fully trained on all the new things in the building so we’re ready to help you use it all! As always, I appreciate everyone’s patience with this process. I know you’re eagerly awaiting opening day plans, and I am happy to say that we will be sharing this information very soon!

Warm Regards,
Sarah Belisle
Director of the Marlborough Public Library

Library Links

Library Website: marlboroughpubliclibrary.org

Access Your Account: bit.ly/CWMARSAccount

Calendar of Events: bit.ly/MPL_CalendarOfEvents

English Language Learning Resources: bit.ly/MPL_ESL_Resources

Crisis & Community Resources: bit.ly/MPL_CrisisAndCommunityResources

Contact Us

Social Media

Facebook: facebook.com/MarlboroughPublicLibrary

Instagram: instagram.com/MarlboroughPublicLibrary

Phone number: 508-624-6900

Online Contact Form: bit.ly/MPL_Contact_Form