SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Getting to Know Spring Wildflowers
Location: Cooper Room B
Mon 4/8 6:00-7:00 PM
There's nothing like wildflower season in Missoula! Join local naturalist Drew Lefebvre for a presentation on some of our most iconic and beautiful species. Learn about a variety of local wildflowers, including tips and tricks for identification. Get ready to brush up on your wildflower knowledge just in time for spring.

Beginner-Friendly Birding
Location: Cooper Room B
Mon 5/6 6:00-7:00 PM
Don't be intimidated by learning to bird. Join local naturalist Drew Lefebvre for an introduction to identifying some of Missoula's most common feathered friends. You'll discuss identification skills, observation techniques, bird behavior, and more. Bring your questions and dive into spring birding.

Mushroom Identification with the Western Montana Mycological Association
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Tue 5/7 5:30-7:30 PM
Come and up your mycoliteracy game by learning how to identify mushrooms with some of Missoula's biggest mushroom nerds. Egan Jankowski-Bradley will talk about mushroom anatomy before breaking out into groups to identify different species of fungi brought along using portable keys and field guides.

STORYTELLING & CONVERSATIONS

Montana Conversations: Trust Me
Documentary Showing with Rosemary Smith
Location: Cooper Room A
Mon 3/18 5:30-7:00 PM
Enjoy showing of the documentary, Trust Me, a film about how humankind has coped with new media since the advent of the printing press and how human brains are wired to respond to information viewed on media platforms and the physical and mental health effects.

100 Things to do in Montana Before You Die
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Sat 3/19 6:00-7:00 PM
From the towering western mountains to the rolling eastern plains, Montana’s wide-open landscapes feature vast wilderness, quaint small towns, and fascinating sites. Join author Susie Wall in a conversational exploration of this wild and wonderful place when she discusses her new book. Fact & Fiction Bookstore will be on-hand with copies for sale.

Soup & Stories with All Nations Health Center
Location: Demonstration Kitchen
Mon 3/4, 3/18, 4/1 5:30-7:00 PM
All Nations Health Center and MPL invite you to join Soup & Stories 2024. Enjoy a soup recipe demonstration, mindfulness activity, and finish the evening with indigenous storytelling from people spanning the region. This is a hybrid event- there is limited in-person seating available on a first come basis. Zoom registration is available at: https://linktr.ee/allnationsmissoula. For questions contact Thomas at: tmclcliffe@allnations.health. Featured storytellers: March 4 - Helen Augare Carlson (Amskapii Piikan) March 18 - Mike TalksDifferent (Nakoda) April 1 - Linwood Tallbull (Northern Cheyenne)

Tales from the Trails: Wilderness Storytelling and Discussion
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Wed 5/15 6:00-7:30 PM
The Wilderness Areas of the Northern Rockies are vast and beautiful yet many have not had the chance to experience the backcountry firsthand. Join the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and Missoula Public Library for an evening of live storytelling from those who have spent their lives living, working, and protecting the Wildernesses that surround the Missoula community.

HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

PROJECT COMMUNITY CONNECT
MARCH 27
10:00 AM-3:00 PM
SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED WITH FREE:
- MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION RECOVERY
- MEDICAL CARE
- HOUSING SERVICES
- VETERAN SERVICES
- PET VACCINATIONS & LICENSING
- LEGAL SERVICES
- HAIRCUTS
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
HOT FOOD BEVERAGES AND MORE!

SCAN ME FOR DETAILS
This spring, Missoula Public Library and our All Under One Roof Partners invite you to join us for a week full of Earth Day programs and fun for everyone! Come and learn something new about the place we all call home.

**Missoula Public Library:**

**MPL Watercolor Class Art Show**  
April 15th - 30th - During Open Hours - Level 4  
Students from Missoula Public Library’s Watercolor Class display their works inspired by themes of climate, the Missoula environment, and the library itself.

**Nature Journaling for Youth**  
April 20 - 12:00-1:30 PM - Art Box  
Valerie Bayer and Kathy Settevendemie from Northern Rockies Nature Journaling teach nature journaling for kids aged 17 and younger. Take this hour to appreciate the beauty of nature and celebrate Earth Day.

**Hush of the Land: Storytelling with Arnold “Smoke” Elser**  
April 22 - 6:00-7:30 PM - Cooper Room A/B  

**Nature Journaling**  
April 27 - 1:30-3:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B  
Valerie Bayer and Kathy Settevendemie of Northern Rockies Nature Journaling will lead this adult class on nature journaling. Learn to connect with the natural world using a journal, curiosity, and focused attention.

**Families First:**

**Costume Decorating and the Wild Walk Parade**  
April 20 - 10:00 AM-5:00 PM - FF Classroom  
Join Families First for a drop-in costume decorating day! Come in to create your favorite animal mask and costume for Saturday’s Wild Walk parade kicking off the start of the International Wildlife Film Festival. Supplies will be provided.

**Missoula’s Community Media Resource (MCAT):**

**Earth Ecology Stop Animation for Kids**  
April 20 & 27 - 1:00-3:00 PM - MCAT Studio  
MCAT will provide Earth Ecology themed props for this drop in session!

**Video Screening of Fires Around Missoula**  
April 25 - 3:00-8:00 PM - MCAT Edit Booth  
Watch videos of hill fires that have erupted around Missoula in hot summer months. Local landmarks are featured in this omnibus collection of fires near the valley we call home. Missoula Health Department will have handouts on how to stay safe during fire season.

**spectrUM Discovery Area:**

**Hands-On Ecology Science Demonstrations**  
April 16-27 - 2:00-6:00 PM - spectrUM  
Celebrate Earth Day with spectrUM Discovery Area! Kids can participate in ecology themed experiments and demonstrations about everything from plants to fossils.

**Big Sky High School Art Show at spectrUM**  
April 20 - May 20 - 10:00 AM-6:00 PM - spectrUM  
Come visit spectrUM for a Big Sky High School climate watercolor art exhibition at spectrUM's museum.

**UM Living Lab:**

**Air, Wildfire, and Smoke**  
April 25 - 3:00-5:00 PM - UM Living Lab  
Enjoy hands-on activities and demos for elementary and middle school kids as they learn about one of the most pressing issues in our state with community experts on wildfire sciences, climate sciences, and air quality.

**COMING TOGETHER**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Location: Cooper Room A/B  
Wed 3/6 & Tue 5/21 11:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Give hope this spring by donating at one of Missoula Public Library’s blood drives. Make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org enter sponsor code missoulalibrary or 59801, or call (800) 733-2767.

**Story Time for Diverse Abilities**  
Location: Art Box  
Mon 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, 5/20 1:00-2:00 PM  
Engaging stories geared toward teens through adults with cognitive or other disabilities. This inclusive program aims to celebrate diversity and promote inclusivity.

**Mental Health Matters: A NAMI Forum**  
Location: Cooper Room A/B  
Wed 5/29 6:00-7:30 PM  
MPL partners with National Alliance on Mental Illness for part of NAMI’s *In Your Own Voices* presentations. Join in on a discussion covering mental illness and the impact of NAMI; fighting stigma, providing support, educating the public, and advocating for policies that support the millions of people in the U.S. affected by mental illness.
PROGRAMS JUST FOR KIDS!

**Lyla in the Loop Watch Party**
Location: Imaginarium
Thu 3/14 3:00-5:00 PM

Our friends at Montana PBS are hosting a special screening of the new animated family show Lyla in the Loop! Two episodes will be shown, and there will be fun swag for attendees. Lyla in the Loop is a funny and engaging animated series for kids aged 4-8. Lyla Loops and her fantastical blue sidekick, Stu, use creative and strategic problem-solving and critical thinking skills to help family, friends, and community! Lyla, Stu, and the whole Loops crew tackle challenges with humor and heart.

**Cooking for Kids!**
Location: Demonstration Kitchen
Thu 3/7, 4/4, 5/2 3:30-4:30 PM

Learn how to make tasty treats, simple meals, and fun foodstuffs at your local library! Kid-friendly recipes will be shared with young chefs, who will get the chance to make their own food to enjoy and take home.

**Read with Dogs!**
Location: Imaginarium
Every Tuesday 3:30-4:30 PM

Registered Pet Partners Therapy Dogs are just waiting for your child to read them a book. Great for hesitant readers or kids who just love dogs.

**Stop Animation for Kids with MCAT**
Location: MCAT Studio
Every Saturday 1:00-3:00 PM

A two hour workshop that fosters fun, computer skills, and artistic expression. Program suitable for ages 9-13.

**Kids' Spring Chess Tournament**
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Sat 5/11 10:30 AM-2:00 PM

Come and watch the Missoula Chess Club compete in their annual spring tournament! Kids 2-12 are invited.

**DELIGHTFUL DISPLAYS**

**National Youth Art Month:**
*Hellgate High School Art Show*
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Fri 3/1 5:00-7:00 PM

Hellgate High School and MPL celebrate National Youth Art Month with this First Friday reception and juried exhibit. View artwork from beginning to advanced students taking visual arts courses at Hellgate High School. Hellgate’s Jazz Band will provide entertainment for this reception. View artwork through March.

**Irish Dancing with the Caroll-Henderson School of Irish Dancing**
Location: Imaginarium
Sat 3/16 3:00-4:00 PM

Join dancers from the Caroll-Henderson School of Irish Dancing for a St. Patrick’s Day performance followed by an introductory dance lesson! All ages are welcome.

**MPL Watercolor Class Art Show**
Location: Level Four
Mon 4/15 - Tue 4/30 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

Students from MPL’s Watercolor Class display their works inspired by themes of climate, the Missoula environment, and the library itself.

**Trashformations:**
*Early Education Upcycled Art Show*
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Fri 5/5 5:00-7:00 PM

MPL and Clark Fork School partner to bring art from early education classrooms across the Missoula area and beyond for this First Friday event. Dress in a upcycled or thrifted outfit to get a ticket for fabulous raffle baskets! Refreshments and light appetizers will be provided by the Friends of the Library.
HISTORY BUFFS

Calling all history enthusiasts! Join guest speakers for lively and entertaining presentations of historical interest. Details at: https://tinyurl.com/4HistoryBuffs.

Location: Cooper Room A/B

The Grizzly Bear in Frontier History
Fri 3/29 7:00-9:00 PM

Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams
Fri 4/26 7:00-9:00 PM

Steamboats Montana 1864 with Ken Robison
Fri 5/24 7:00-9:00 PM

GENEALOGY @ MPL

Western Montana Genealogical Society
Location: Blackfoot Boardroom
Tue 3/12 & 5/14 6:30-8:00 PM

Join for general genealogy discussions and tips on making your family history research more productive.

Western Montana Genealogical Society Work Day
Location: Blackfoot Boardroom
Sat 3/16, 4/20, 5/18 12:00-4:00 PM

This work day gives genealogists a chance to share ideas, resources, and support. All experience levels welcome!

New Genealogy Book Group
Join us for the library's new Genealogy Book Group! To join email: desireef@missoulapubliclibrary.org

The Last Slave Ship by Ben Raines
Sat 3/2 3:30-5:00 PM - Ellingson Room

Last Rights by Todd Harra
Sat 4/13 3:30-5:00 PM - Blackfoot Boardroom

The Forever Witness by Edward Humes
Sat 5/11 3:30-5:00 PM - Blackfoot Boardroom

LISTEN. ENGAGE. LEARN.

Windows 11 User Group
Location: Blackfoot Boardroom
Mon 3/13, 4/10, 5/8 2:00-4:00 PM

Want to be more confident using Microsoft Windows? Participants will have fun learning with instructor and facilitator, Dan Hubing. Prior to attending, download the User Group Tips PDF file, find updates, and get the latest Tips document by visiting: http://tinyurl.com/Windows11UserGroup.

First Reads with Montana Repertory Theatre
Dance Nation by Clare Barron
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Sat 3/2 2:00-4:00 PM

Enjoy a staged reading series featuring local Missoula actors. If you are a theatre lover and you want to be the first to hear the plays the Rep is considering, don’t miss this program! https://tinyurl.com/MPLFirstReads.

Wednesdays with the Mayor
Location: Cooper Room B
Wed 3/27 & 4/24 6:00-7:00 PM

Join Mayor Andrea Davis for in-person discussions of local affairs and answers to your questions on all topics to do with City governance in a relaxed setting.

Missoula Writing Collaborative
First Friday Reception
Location: Level Four
Fri 4/5 5:00-7:00 PM

Missoula Writing Collaborative is celebrating their 30th Anniversary! Join MPL and MWC for a First Friday Opening Reception to enjoy some of the beautiful works created by their students, past and present. Art displayed April 1-14.

Movement Class with Gyrotonic Missoula
Location: Cooper Room B
Wed 5/11 10:00-11:15 AM

A flowing, low-impact class taught by Certified Trainer Kate Jordan Augusto. Based on the GYROKINESIS® Method, this class is intended to strengthen and mobilize the spine and joints, as well as calm the body through a seamless sequence of movement and breathing patterns.

AARP TaxAide Free Tax Preparation
Location: Cooper Room A
Tuesdays Until April 2

From students to seniors and everyone in-between, if you file a simple 1040 Form the AARP Foundation TaxAide would love to see you! Visit https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/ to make an appointment.

Oscars Watch Party
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Sun 3/10 5:00-9:00 PM

Lights, camera, OSCARS! Whether you're rooting for a Barbenheimer sweep or crossing your fingers for Montana's own Lily Gladstone, there's no better place to watch this year’s Academy Awards than at the library! Complete an Oscars Ceremony BINGO card for your chance to win a prize (including one from The Roxy), submit picks for winners, and enjoy refreshments. Come dressed in your best for our red carpet photo booth. Doors to the library will be open until 5:15 with the Oscars starting promptly at 5 p.m. so be on time! Attendees must enter from the library's Main St. entrance; all other doors are locked.
Preschool Art with a Purpose
Location: Families First Classroom
Tuesdays 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
A program that gives children an opportunity to get creative while serving our community!

CDC Playgroup
Location: Imaginarium
Tue 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Kiddos aged 0-3 will experience play based activities. CDC will also offer free child development screenings.

Community Connections
Location: Families First Classroom
Fridays 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Mini-interactive exhibits for children that inspire hands on exploration and play while focusing on building empathy & kindness, social-emotional development, cultural expression, and imaginative and dramatic play.

Kids Cooking Class
Location: Demonstration Kitchen
Wed 3/20, 4/17, 5/15 4:00-5:00 PM
This class brings families together by teaching children and adults lifelong cooking skills that can ignite creativity, build self-esteem, and create memories.

Volunteer Days
Location: Families First Classroom
Wed 3/6 & 5/1, Mon 4/8 12:00-1:00 PM & 5:00-6:00 PM
If you want a chance to give back and create a positive change in our community, volunteering is a great option! visit: https://www.familiesfirstmt.org/volunteer.html.

International Woman’s Day Celebration
Location: Families First Classroom
Fri 3/8 10:00 AM-5:30 PM
Celebrate International Women’s Day with activities.

Summer Camp Expo
Location: Level Two
Sat 3/9 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
This free event is brought to you by 406 Families and Families First. Meet all the organizations hosting summer camps, enjoy activities, and grab a printed copy of our new “Summer Camp Guide” with more than 50 camps listed for 2024!

International Happiness Day
Location: Families First Office
Wed 3/20 10:30 AM-5:00 PM
Help us celebrate International Day of Happiness. Stop by to learn more about the Montana Happiness Project and get some great wellness tips. For details visit: https://montanahappinessproject.com/.

Families First 30th Birthday Party
Location: Families First Office
Wed 3/27 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Families First is turning 30 years old and we need your help to celebrate! Stop by our office for a treat and a chance to share your favorite Families First memory. Thank you for making these 30 years so wonderful.

Week of the Young Child Kick Off
Location: Families First Classroom
Sat 4/6 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Come celebrate everything magical and fun about being a young kid. We will have art, sensory and dramatic play activities.

Wild Walk Costume Decorating
Location: Families First Classroom
Fri 4/19 10:00 AM-12:00 PM & Sat 4/20 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Come create your favorite animal mask and costume for Saturday's Wild Walk parade.

May Flower Planting
Location: Art Box or Parking Lot (Weather Permitting)
Sat 5/11 1:00-3:30 PM
Decorate a flowerpot and give to someone special.

Happy New Year
Celebrate International Day of Happiness. Stop by to learn more about the Montana Happiness Project and get some great wellness tips. For details visit: https://montanahappinessproject.com/.

Research Studies + Activities
The Minds Lab studies how young children's conception of others' minds inform their learning and their moral judgments.

UM Living Lab Appointment Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 3:00-6:00 PM
Friday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM & 3:00-6:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
Closures: March 18-23
Fun, brief, child-friendly research activities for kids. By appointment only: https://tinyurl.com/mindslab.

March Theme: Sticker Sharing Game
April Theme: Cardinal Numbers Game
May Theme: Novel Toy Game

Robot Obstacle Course Challenge
Location: UM Living Lab
Saturdays 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Hey kids do you like a challenge?! Then come and drive a human-sized robot through an obstacle course.

Air, Wildfire, and Smoke
Location: UM Living Lab
Thu 4/25 3:00-5:00 PM
Hands-on activities and demos for elementary and middle school kids as they learn about one of the most pressing issues in our state with community experts on wildfire sciences, climate sciences, and air quality.
To register for programs or for more details visit mcat.org or call (406) 542-6228

All About Podcasting Distribution
Location: MCAT Studio
Tue 3/19, 4/16, 5/14 5:45-7:00 PM
Join tech savvy instructor, Kathleen Shannon, to learn how to use the art and craft of audio to make compelling stories and podcasts. You can also learn how to distribute your podcast on Apple Music, Spotify and more.

Community Radio DJ Auditions
Location: MCAT
Every Sunday 2:00-5:00 PM
If you would like to have your own radio show, consider making an audition demo with help from MCAT staff.

Introduction to Podcasting
Location: MCAT Podcast Room
Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 PM & Thursdays 2:00-3:00 PM
Learn to use MCAT's podcasting equipment featuring headphones and microphones for up to four participants.

Learn Computer Video Editing
Location: MCAT
Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 PM
Learn how to edit your videos with computer software.

Learn MCAT's 3 Camera Studio
Location: MCAT
Select Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 PM
Learn how to operate our 3 camera studio effects switcher. Call to arrange a custom workshop.

MCAT Tour & Training
Location: MCAT
Monday 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturdays 10:00-11:00 AM
Tour includes the studio, computer editing, podcast rooms, and cameras for check-out.

Music Sunday at MCAT Studio
Location: MCAT Studio
Every Sunday 12:00-1:30 PM
Record yourself and your friends playing music in MCAT’s studio. We'll have lights and cameras - you supply the action!

Video Camera Tour
Location: MCAT
Every Tuesday 2:00-3:00 PM
Learn about MCAT's video cameras and find out which type might be right for your video project. Lessons are required before checking out cameras and accessories.

Virtual Reality Tour
Location: MCAT
Select Saturdays 4:00-5:00 PM
Drop into MCAT's media studio to experience the world of Virtual Reality. MCAT offers games and experiences with our VR headset.

KFGM Presents: The FreeSessions
Location: Cooper Room A/B
Mon 3/25, 4/29, 5/31 5:00-7:00 PM
FreeSessions is an improvised music and movement jam session to promote collaboration amongst creatives in Missoula. The aim is to cultivate a healthy musical eco-system across genres and ages, through the encouragement of active listening among all participants and a full acceptance of all musicians. Every month a curator presents a new piece of music, concept, or improvisation for the first 30 minutes. After, participants are invited to be a part of group improvisations throughout the evening. Curators include: Naomi Moon Seigel, Cole Bronson, and Jay Bruns. For details visit: https://www.1015kfgm.org/.

spectrUM Open Hours
Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

Discovery Bench Themes
Guided activities at our Discovery Bench every Tuesday-Saturday 2-6 PM. No registration required.

Nano Inventions
Magic of Chemistry
Aliens and Outer Space
Robots and Coding
Biology
Wildfire Science
Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils
Plants and Animals
Fun with Physics
Color in Science
Forensics
Science Extravaganza
Engineering

Special Discovery Bench Activity Themes
Volcanos and Earthquakes
Self-Inflating Balloons
Robot Race Tracks
Fire Triangle
Plant Dissection
Star Wars Day
Nebula Spin Art
DNA Extraction
Cardboard Construction
2nd Wednesday Book Group
Location: Blackfoot Room and Online
Discussions are in the library and online. To join, email chrish@missoulapubliclibrary.org with “2nd Wednesday Book Group” in the subject line.

- **The Maid: A Novel** by Nita Prose
  Wed 3/13 6:30-7:30 PM

- **Housekeeping** by Marilynne Roninson
  Wed 4/10 6:30-7:30 PM

- **Memphis: A Novel** by Tara Stringfellow
  Wed 5/8 6:30-7:30 PM

3rd Wednesday Book Group
Location: Ellingson Room
Join us for this lively book discussion where new members always welcome! Email pamc9701@gmail.com

- **Paradise** by Abduazal Gurnah
  Wed 3/20 6:30-7:30 PM

- **When Paris Sizzled** by Mary Auliffe
  Wed 4/17 6:30-7:30 PM

- **In the Garden of Beasts** by Erik Larson
  Wed 5/15 6:30-7:30 PM

**Potomac Library Book Club**
Location: 29750 Potomac Rd., Potomac
Join your fellow Potomac Valley readers for a lively book discussion each month. For more information contact Kayla: kaylaw@missoulapubliclibrary.org.

- **Wild** by Cheryl Strayed
  Wed 3/13 6:00-7:00 PM

- **One Sentence Journal** by Chris La Tray MT Poet Laureate Chris La Tray
  Wed 4/10 6:30-7:30 PM

- **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus
  Wed 5/8 6:30-7:30 PM

**Frenchtown Book Club**
Location: Frenchtown School/Community Library
Thu 3/21, 4/18, 5/16 5:45-8:00 PM
Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join. For details call (406) 626-2730.

**Seeley Lake Library Book Club**
Location: 456 Airport Dr., Seeley Lake
Thu 3/7, 4/4, 5/2 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
This book club meets the 1st Thursday of the month.

**Swan Valley Community Library Book Chat**
Location: 6811 Highway 83, Condon
Wed 3/13, 4/10, 5/8 1:00-3:00 PM
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Books are chosen by consensus. For details call (406) 754-2521.

Photo by Lara Swimmer