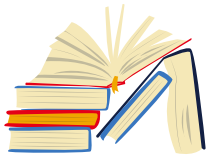
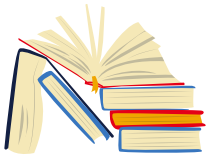
MARION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

September 2026

The Container



"Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container."
–Unknown



National Endowment for the Arts Big Read 2026

Foster discussions on the themes of Freedom and Courage.

Marion Carnegie Library is participating in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read 2026. We're joining Artspace Southern Illinois and five neighboring libraries to read *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton and to foster discussion on the themes of Freedom and Courage.

On **Thursday, September 17th**, stop by the Main Floor any time between 5:30pm and 7pm to learn more about NEA Big Read 2026 and MCL's participation. Free copies of our NEA Big Read 2026 book selection, *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton, will be available while supplies last. No registration required.

"Quilt Whisperer" Connie Martin, MA. will provide an American historical information presentation titled "Pre-Civil War Quilts: Secret Codes to Freedom on the Underground Railroad™" with research on her family history to reveal secret codes in quilts as a 6th generation descendant of enslaved Africans in Kentucky. Learn the untold history of secret safe routes and codes used on the Underground Railroad at 5:30pm on **Monday, September 21st**.

Don't forget to attend our Book Club on **Saturday, September 26th** at 10am to discuss our NEA Big Read 2026 book selection, along with a film showing on **Tuesday, September 29th** from 3pm to 7pm of *Harriet Tubman* starring Cynthia Erivo.

All NEA events are intended for ages 18 and up.

Library Card Sign-Up Month

No matter your taste, a library card hits all of the right notes!

It's time to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a library card can hit all the right notes, no matter the taste!

Your Marion Carnegie Library card provides access to so much - books, DVDs, audiobooks, video games, digital offerings - and during Library Card Sign-up Month in **September 2026**, your card gets you access to special offers from several local businesses.

Community members are invited to take part in the "Show Your Card" program, which provides Marion Carnegie Library cardholders with special offers and discounts at a number of local businesses. A full list of participating businesses and their offers is available on MCL's website at marioncarnegielibrary.org/show-your-card.

A library card provides access to tens of thousands of books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs, video games, and more, along with eBooks, streaming video and audio, and other digital resources through Marion Carnegie Library's online services. Members of the Marion community are invited to visit the library or its website, or to call 618-993-5935 with any questions.

Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State

See the traveling exhibit from the Illinois State Archaeological Survey.

Illinois State Archaeological Survey's (ISAS) traveling exhibit, *Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State* will be displayed on the Main Floor at Marion Carnegie Library from **Tuesday, August 18th** to **Saturday, September 26th**.

History in Illinois didn't begin when the first Europeans arrived 350 years ago. Euro-American communities have existed here for less than three percent of all the time people have lived in Illinois. *Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State* is a quick look at where and how people have lived in Illinois for the last 12,500 years. It explores how things like conflict, climate change, and new technology altered the ways people lived.

The exhibit was produced by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey which is one of five scientific surveys that make up the Prairie Research Institute of the University of Illinois. The Prairie Research Institute unites scientific expertise in geology, ecology and biodiversity, archaeology, hydrology and water, weather and climate, pollution prevention, and sustainable energy to benefit the people, economy, and environment of Illinois, the nation, and the world.

The Container is a free monthly publication of Marion Carnegie Library.
206 S. Market St., Marion, IL | 618-993-5935
Shelley Hudspath, Director

www.marioncarnegielibrary.org

September 2026 Library Events

Check the MCL website or ask a staff member for a full list of events!

All Younger Children | Ages 0-12 | Ages 8-12 | Ages 10-18 | Ages 12-18 | Ages 18+ | All Ages

Library Card Sign-Up Month
Month of September

Closing
Labor Day
Monday, September 7th

Story Hour
Wednesdays & Thursdays
10:30AM

Library
September 2nd & 3rd

Breakfast
September 9th & 10th

Mermaid
September 16th & 17th

Fall
September 23rd & 24th

Pumpkin
September 30th & October 1st

Playroom Playdate
Tuesdays 10AM - 12PM
Thursdays 4PM - 7PM

Story Walk
Searching for Wocks
by Lucy Knisley

Builder's Club
Monday, September 28th
5:30PM - 7PM

Tween Craft
Scratch Art Leaves
Begins Friday, September 4th

Tween Movie
Saturdays at 1PM

PNG at MCL Saturday Sessions
Forensics
Saturdays at 1PM

PNG at MCL
Open Lab
Mondays - Thursdays
3PM - 7PM

Teen Craft To-Go
Melted Cup Keychain
Begins Tuesday, September 1st

Movie Monday
Monday, September 14th
4PM

Teen Craft Night
DIY Kinetic Sand
Wednesday, September 16th
4PM

Teen Lounge
Mondays - Thursdays
4PM - 7PM

Illinois Archaeology: The Deep Roots of the Prairie State
by Prairie Research Institute
August 18th - September 26th

Lawyer in the Library
Tuesday, September 15th
5PM - 7PM
Registration required

Adult Craft
Harvest Moon
Thursday, September 10th
3PM or 5:30PM
Registration required
begins September 2nd

NEA Big Read Opening Reception
Thursday, September 17th
5:30PM - 7PM
Come and go event

Pre-Civil War Quilts: Secret Codes to Freedom on the Underground Railroad
Monday, September 21st
5:30PM
NEA Big Read Event

MCL Book Club
Saturday, September 26th
10AM
Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom
by Catherine Clinton
NEA Big Read Event

Film Showing
Harriet Tubman
Tuesday, September 29th
3PM - 7PM
NEA Big Read Event

For a full description of events, visit:
marioncarnegielibrary.org/events

Marion Carnegie Library

@marioncarnegielibrary

All participants and parents understand and agree that photos taken at events may be used in social media postings and future promotions.

MARION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Children 10 years and younger must be accompanied by a guardian at all times while attending MCL Children's Department events.