

The Malden Public Library Has So Much to Offer Families on a Budget

Free Resources to Help in Unstable Times

In the wake of the government shutdown, the pause in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, rising prices, and other economic uncertainties, people are understandably concerned about affordability and navigating through these difficult times. The Malden Public Library is here to help local community members, offering much more than books.

The Library provides a wide assortment of free resources, items, and events to meet the Malden community's needs. Did you know that – in addition to books and movies in multiple languages – community members can borrow items from the Library of Things? These items span multiple categories, including craft items, sewing machines, video games, A/V equipment, home improvement supplies, camping gear, and more. Patrons are also invited to use Library's computers, Wi-Fi, study rooms, and meeting spaces at no cost. Additionally, the Library offers free job support and re-

sources, including help with resume writing and access to online job listings. The Library's English as a Second Language materials include books, audio CDs, videos, and a weekly English Conversation class where community members can practice their English in a friendly, supportive environment.

During challenging economic times, people often cut back on entertainment expenses, but the Library has a variety of fun – and free – events for people of all ages. Visit the Malden Public Library for children's story time and crafts, teen movies and board games, and adult lectures, concerts, movies, gallery tours, crafts, and more. The Library's upcoming events include holiday-themed concerts, movies, crafts, and story time.

Community members can also visit the Malden Library to pick up passes for free or heavily discounted admission to local museums and attractions, including the Boston Children's Museum, Franklin Park Zoo, Museum

of Science, New England Aquarium, and many other locations. This is a great opportunity to see some of the most popular, local, family-friendly attractions at no cost.

The Library's hidden gem is a magnificent onsite art gallery – featuring art from the 1600s through present day – including pieces from Malden artists. The gallery is free and open to the public.

As the weather turns colder, the Library is also a clean, warm, safe shelter for those in need. Also, watch for information on the Library's upcoming food drives for the local community.

Did you know, compared to other Massachusetts libraries, the Malden Public Library costs taxpayers less while providing the same essential services. The Library is a private, non-profit corporation with endowment funds established by Elisha and Mary Diana Converse in 1885. Some expenses – the cost of employees' salaries, utilities and some books – are paid for by



the taxpayers of Malden. But the building's maintenance, renovations, artwork, books, special programs, and more are funded by the historic trust, with help from generous donations from individuals and private foundations.

Libraries are vital parts of every community. Malden is fortunate that its public library is able to

offer so much at so little cost to the residents and taxpayers. This partnership benefits all without burdening the residents who rely on it the most. In bad economic times and good, the Malden Public Library is ready with free resources, items, and events. Learn more at <https://malden-publiclibrary.org/>.

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