

WHAT'S HAPPENING

March, April, May 2024

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

Mon - Thurs 10 - 8:30 / Fri & Sat 10 - 5:30

Closed: March 29 / May 27

HIGHLIGHTS

Eclipse Programs

Food Preservation Series

Spring Break Programs

Rockstar Reader Reboot

Spring Book Sale



EXPLORE
DISCOVER
GROW

Have you put April 8th's nearly total Solar Eclipse on your calendar?

Make sure to protect your eyes with a pair of approved viewing glasses between approximately 1:50 pm & 4:30 pm that day!

Register for our spring break youth program on March 25 or 26 or our informational adult program on April 1 to get a FREE pair of viewing glasses.

Can't attend one of those?

Extra glasses will be available at the help desk beginning April 2, while supplies last. To keep as many community members safe as possible, please limit your request & consider sharing glasses with those you'll be with during this time.

Featured Adult Programs!

Spice Club

Tuesdays, March 19; April 23*; May 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Explore, discover, grow...taste! Welcome to Spice Club, offering one spice each month to experiment with in your kitchen. This spring, we will think green, with tips on how to make your kitchen & cooking habits more eco-friendly. Registration is required on each date & limited to one kit per household. Registration includes the month's spice; attendance at the gathering is optional. Marshall District Library is not responsible for any reactions or sensitivities to spices. Cook with caution. Ages 18+.

*In April, Dr. Abby from Grassroots Functional Medicine & Wellness Café hosts to share tips on food & health. Please meet at Grassroots Functional Medicine & Wellness Café (136 W Michigan Ave, Marshall MI 49068).

Drop-In Genealogy

Fridays, 10 am - 12 pm

Are you curious about how to begin researching your family history? Have you started researching but are hitting brick walls? Or do you just need some dedicated research time with others to provide some motivation? Librarian Chelsea Heisler will be ready to talk genealogy, show you what resources are available here at the library & online, & offer you a cup of coffee while you chat. Excluding Mar 8, Apr 5, May 17 & 31.

Crafty Fridays

Crafty Friday is free & is for those ages 18+. All supplies are provided.

Diamond Dot Keychains - March 15, 11 am - 12 pm

Glue small diamond-like jewels onto a springtime floral keychain to keep for yourself or gift to a friend. Diamond painting engages our brain's right hemisphere, which is linked to our imagination & intuition while also strengthening our fine motor skills.

Springtime Bunny - April 19, 11 am - 12 pm

Transform a single block of wood into a springtime piece of home decor using repair putty, paint, & patience.

Watercolor Doodle Flowers - May 17, 11 am - 12 pm

April showers bring...you know...May flowers! Join others for a relaxing morning of watercolor & doodling as we "grow" our own spring flowers.

Read It & See It Book Club

Fri, March 15, 10 am - 1 pm

We all have opinions when we read a book & view a movie based on that book. Read *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly & then meet up with Heritage Commons' Read It & See It Book Club to watch the film. A discussion will follow led by YourMDL library assistants & movie buffs Josh Heisler & Cade Carver. This book title is available in regular print, large print, & audiobook through MeL. It is also available via Hoopla. You do not need to be a member of Heritage Commons to attend but do need to be 18+. A pizza lunch is included. Meet at Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center (15885 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI 49068).

Adult Book Club



March 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
The Language of Flowers
by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

April 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
True Biz
by Sara Nović



May 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
The Maid
by Nita Prose

Adult Programs

What's New with the Marshall Historical Society

Mon, March 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Preserving, promoting, & protecting Marshall's history are the goals of the Marshall Historical Society. Join MHS representatives Kimber Thompson & Alena Guenther for an overview of the group's history & a sneak peak at the new things happening. Be among the first to hear about upcoming programs on the horizon as well as future plans. Marshall District Library's local history librarian Chelsea Heisler will also discuss changes that are underway with the society's archives. Ages 18+ only.

Be a Number: The Power of One in Community

Thurs, March 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Be A Number kicked off as a simple t-shirt initiative: for every t-shirt sold, one was gifted to a child in need in Uganda. Over the years, founder (& Marshall-ite) Kevin Herschok, with the guidance & insights of friends, started Be A Number's inaugural project: Magdalene's Bakery. Many other ventures grew from this one, but sustainability proved to be difficult at every turn. Fast forward to today, where Be A Number has joined forces with Simon Peter, a proud member of the Acholi Tribe, & his non-profit to uplift & rejuvenate the communities of this region. Meet at the library to hear about the organization's journey & what our community here might learn from this local/global work. Ages 18+ only.

A Charming Paper-Beaded Bookmark

Wed, March 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Learn to handcraft your own paper-beaded charm to accent a metal bookmark of your choosing. Your stylish new bookmark will be a reliable companion along your reading journey this year. This program is free & for those ages 18+. All supplies are provided.

A (Nearly) Total Eclipse Is Coming

Mon, April 1, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join University of Olivet Adjunct Professor of Astronomy Eric Sullivan for an informational session about the Solar Eclipse that will occur in April. Here in Marshall, the eclipse will start at approximately 1:50 pm & will end about 4:30 pm on the 8th. Although the eclipse will not reach totality in our area, it will still be an amazing event with the Moon covering approximately 95% of the Sun. Sullivan will share methods to observe & record this event, what to expect, & how to enjoy the eclipse safely. Those interested in viewing the eclipse are reminded to view it with approved viewing glasses; all registered attendees will receive a pair as part of this event. Eric has a Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics from Michigan State University & is a Marshall resident. Registration required. This program is intended for ages 18+; however, younger learners with an interest in the topic are also welcome to attend.

Victorian Southwest Michigan True Crime

Mon, April 22, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Do you love a good story of suspense & intrigue? Are you a fan of local history with a dark lining? If so, join local author Michael Delaware at the library as he shares his recently released book, *Victorian Southwest Michigan True Crime*. This is a collection of seventeen stories involving murder or mysterious deaths during the Victorian Era. All the crimes written about in the book were located in Southwest Michigan, including Calhoun County. Delaware will dive deep into the details of one particular account that took place in Marshall. A book signing will follow; copies will be available for purchase. Ages 18+ only.

Programs with this  require registration.

Adult Programs
Continue →

Youth Programs

Something On Saturdays

Saturday Morning Programs - 11 am - 12:30 pm

*Intended for grades 2-5;
younger attendees must be accompanied by an adult
See yourmdl.org/events for full program descriptions.*

Pokémon Club - March 2 & 30; April 27; May 25

LEGO Club + - March 9; April 13; May 4

Shrinky Dinks - March 16; April 6; May 11

Play Green - April 20

Perler Beads - May 18

The Library Poets Department:

Poetry in Screaming Color

Thurs, April 11, 5:30 - 7 pm

Artists of every variety use color in their work & this program will examine the uses of color through metaphors & similes in the writing of other poets...& our own. Together we will explore the work of classic poets like Robert Frost & Emily Dickinson as well as modern poets such as Nandi Comer & Taylor Swift, then create our own colorful poems using the comparison styles we've studied. This Poetry-Month program is reserved for young authors in grades 3-5 only.

Teen Programs

Grades 6-12 only.

Monthly Loot Box

Don't pass over this opportunity for amazing & free stuff! Sign up each month for a Loot Box & you will receive one-of-a-kind items, yummy snacks, & an expertly selected library book to read to expand your world. Save all the awesome loot inside & return the library book & box when you are finished. Loot participants must return their box in order to register for the next month's box. Sign up while supplies last! Teens who do not have a library card are welcome to participate; a non-library book will be provided.

Teen Night: Video Game Lounge

Fri, March 22, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

An after-hours special for teens only: enjoy your favorite video games with friends at the library! Bring back couch co-op for an evening & share the games that make you happy. You may bring your own console or play on one of ours. Whether you're Team Xbox, Sony, Steam, or Nintendo, we'll save a space for you!

Registration Note

 **Programs with this
require registration.**

All programs are FREE & open to the public. Watch your email for a response within 24-48 hours. As space & supplies are limited, your email will either confirm your registration or alert you to waitlist status.

When registering for programs, confirmation emails come from mdleventregistration@marshalldistrictlibrary.org. Use this address if you would like to search for them &/or alert your email that it is not spam. Emails often include details applicable to each program. (If you do not have regular email access, you may contact our Help Desk at any time.)

Our programs are free (& very popular)! We often have a waiting list; if you register but can no longer attend, please let us know!

Early Literacy Programs

Rockstar Reader Bash

Sat, March 23, 11 am - 12 pm

Young readers are rocking their way to stardom! This self-paced, rewarding, Early Literacy program helps little learners & their caregivers to read 1,000 books before entering kindergarten. New Rockstars & those already enrolled in the program are welcome to jam along at this special program to celebrate their progress. Let's rock! This program is intended for birth through kindergarten & their caregivers, but family members are welcome to join us. No registration necessary.

Morning Early Literacy Programs

Intended for ages 2-6; all ages welcome.

Please note there is a break week each month.

Family Storytime

Mondays - 11 am

March 4, 11, & 18; April 8, 15, & 22; May 6, 13, & 20

A half-hour introductory storytime for the whole family with a focus on those who are just learning to sit & engage with stories in a group setting. Playtime included!

Jumpin' & Jammin'

Wednesdays - 11 am

March 6, 13, & 20; April 10, 17, & 24; May 8, 15, & 22

Move your body & exercise your brain during a full half-hour of music & movement. We'll get to use our little muscles & big muscles, which helps our brains get bigger & get ready for school. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes.

Stretches & Stories

Thursdays - 11 am

March 14 & 21; April 11, 18, & 25; May 9, 16, & 23

There are so many ways to learn & grow. With a special combination of stretches, stories, & STEAM activities, we will build a base to encourage little learners as they prepare for school & beyond.

STEAM Explorers

Fridays - 11 am

March 15 & 22; April 12, 19, & 26; May 10, 17, & 24

Discovery is right around the corner as children learn while they play. Through guided activities, sensory bins, freestyle crafts, & group stories, your little explorer will delve into the worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, & math! Baby toys will be available for younger siblings.

Evening Early Literacy Programs

Zoom Storytime

Tuesdays, March 5, April 16, & May 7

5:30 - 6 pm

Welcome to a special storytime that meets wherever you are. Join us online for storytime over Zoom, featuring all the wonderful stories, songs & fingerplays you will find in-person. Zoom Storytime works in tandem with Virtual Storytime Kits to develop vocabulary, print awareness, & phonology.

Pizza & Stories

Thursdays - 5:30 - 6:30 pm

YourMDL, in partnership with the Great Start Family Coalition, invites you to a monthly storytime...with pizza dinner provided. Bring your own blankets to sit on & meet us for dinner, stories, & take-home kits full of fun! This program is intended for preschool through first grade & their caregivers, but other family members are welcome to join us.

March 21: Literacy Lovers @ Marshall District Library

April 25: Poetry Fun @ Marshall District Library

May 23: Flower Power @ Location TBD

Virtual Storytime Kit

Let's read some stories, share some songs, & learn something new together with Virtual Storytime. Little learners will expand their world & prepare for school through the Early Literacy practices of Talk, Sing, Read, Write, & Play. Kits will include a special link to YourMDL's YouTube channel along with supplies to create a themed craft at home.

Adult Programs

Tour of The Millhaven

Mon, April 29, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join Owner & Creative Director Jennifer Ederer for a tour of one of Marshall's newest businesses: The Millhaven. While touring, learn about the history of the space: from granary mill & factory, to garden center, to today. The space is now complete with two wedding venues, a European-style gourmet market & café, garden center, & more. Enjoy a mocktail while touring & find out more about what this women-owned business has to offer. Ages 18+ only. Please meet at The Millhaven (311 W Spruce St, Marshall, MI, 49068).

How to Apply for a Centennial Farm Plaque

Mon, May 6, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Thousands of family farms in our state have already been recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan as Michigan Centennial Farms. Could your farmstead join them? Librarian Chelsea Heisler presents an informational program about the history of the centennial farm program & a look at the application process. Chelsea completed the process in 2017 to certify the Heisler farm in Clarence Township as a Michigan Centennial Farm, & she will share how to find the documents & records necessary to certify your own farmstead. Ages 18+ only.

Medicare 101

Thurs, May 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Healthcare as we age can be a big decision, filled with lots of information & choices to be made...& people turn 65 years old every day of the year. Join Leslie Hurd & Jason Taylor for an informational program where you will learn about what Medicare is, when you are eligible to enroll, options for supplemental coverage, how health savings accounts & Medicare work together, what is & is not allowed when marketing to Medicare beneficiaries, & more. No information will be given about specific plans or carriers. Ages 18+ only.

Food Preservation Series

You may attend as many programs in the series as you like. Registration required for each program individually. Ages 18+ only.

Michigan Cottage Food Law Training

Mon, March 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Do you make great baked goods? Have you ever considered starting a food-related business from home? Join Kellie Jordan, Food Safety Instructor with the MSU Extension Office, for part one of our springtime food preservation series. Learn how to safely prepare & sell allowable foods made in home kitchens to the public. This Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop will review the food safety aspects & guidelines of preparing & selling cottage foods.

Canning Basics - Using a Water Bath Canner

Mon, April 8, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Whether you are a beginner to home canning or looking for a refresher on best practices while canning foods at home, this class is for you. Join us for part two of our springtime food preservation series. During this demonstration-style program, you will learn how to properly use a water bath to create safe home-canned foods.

Let's Make DIY Jams & Jellies!

Mon, May 13, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Blueberries, raspberries & blackberries are delicious when fresh. Have you thought about preserving them by freezing or canning to enjoy later? Join us for part three of our springtime food preservation series. Bring 2-3 lbs of your own berries, & we will preserve them during this hands-on jam & jelly preservation class. Don't have your own berries? Let us know at registration so extra berries can be provided. This month's program will meet at The Gathering (800 Industrial Rd, Marshall, MI 49068).


Something For Everyone!

Used Books Sale

Fri, May 24, 10 am - 5 pm, & Sat, May 25, 10 am - 4 pm

Remember the excitement of visiting the book fair when you were in school? Our used books sale is like that but without cute cat posters. A wide variety of books & media will be available at our spring used books sale! Monies collected will be used to fund library programming. Cash, check, or credit card accepted.

Spring Break Events: Grades 2 + up *

*These programs are designed for youth in grades 2+; however, younger ages are welcome with adult supervision. An evening & morning session are offered of each program; select the day & time that works best when registering. 

Spring Break: Fun with Physics

Mon, Mar 25, 10:30 - 12 pm OR Thurs, Mar 28, 6 - 7:30 pm

The most important part of science is being curious! Put your scientific mind to the test through liquid density experiments & marshmallow engineering tasks. We will ask questions, try new things, & face challenges together.

Spring Break: All Things Eclipse

Mon, March 25, 6 - 7:30 pm OR Tues, March 26, 10:30 am - 12 pm

Are you getting excited for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse? Join us at Marshall District Library to do all things Eclipse! Start out by working in small groups to re-create the "Big Sun, Small Moon" experiment & figure out "How Big?...How Far?...How Hot?" We'll also use chalk art to help visualize what an eclipse looks like. Wrap up the program by constructing your own eclipse viewing box.

Spring Break: The Lightning Thief: A Breakout Room Quest

Tues, March 26, 6 - 7:30 pm OR Wed, March 27, 10:30 am - 12 pm

Your first Quest from Camp Half-Blood is about to begin: Zeus' Lightning Bolt has gone missing! By solving puzzles, deciphering codes, & combining knowledge with fellow campers, can you retrieve the godly artifact before it's too late?

Spring Break: Mid-Break Mindfulness

Wed, March 27, 6 - 7:30 pm OR Thurs, March 28, 10:30 am - 12 pm

Take a break in the middle of...break! Step away from the world & check in with yourself. Learn tips & tricks to help bring you back to yourself when your mind feels too busy to think. Practicing mindfulness can help you reap the benefits of the present moment! Join Jessica McCrumb of Otterdance Yoga for an hour & a half of practice. Wear comfortable clothes for gentle stretching, bring a journal, & a yoga mat if you have one.

Spring Break: Pokémon Club

Sat, March 30, 11 am - 12 pm

Spend time with your Pokémon-loving peers. Each month, we'll have special events planned, from battling to card trading, video games to art projects—all in the name of our love for Pokémon. Please look for further instructions in the confirmation email on what materials Pokémon Trainers may want to bring in order to be the very best. Registration required each month; space is limited.



Director's Note

Angela Semifero

If you have any questions or suggestions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.

Springtime is filled with celebrations of literacy & learning at Marshall District Library. Between "National Reading Month" in March, "National Poetry Month" in April, "National Library Week" from April 7-13, & "National Preservation Month" in May, there are a number of ways the library will share our love of words, stories, & history, & we hope that our community will share their love of the same with us.

For many years, children around the State of Michigan had the opportunity to participate in a Young Authors program. This program taught students how to construct a story. I still have a copy of my story from 4th grade! Marshall District Library has launched a pilot program for students in grades 3-5 to see if this is something that we can bring back to the Marshall area on a larger scale. For those who may be interested in future sessions, please make sure to sign up for our e-newsletters.

We are grateful that many organizations & businesses in the area are willing to collaborate with us to bring new learning opportunities to our local residents. MSU Extension will be providing three programs about food preservation. We'll be joining Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center for a "Read It & See It" Book Club for the title *Hidden Figures* & will visit The Millhaven for a comprehensive tour.

We'll also welcome the Marshall Historical Society for an update on their archives, museums, & events. This fits right in with the library's preservation work. Our local history librarian, Chelsea Heisler, will be hosting Drop-In Genealogy 1:1s & will present a program on "How to Apply for a Centennial Farm Plaque." We are looking at opportunities to expand local history & genealogy services, including the potential creation of a local history & genealogy research center.

One final event this spring that is important for the library to acknowledge is "National Volunteer Week." Marshall District Library would not be able to do the work we do without our group of more than 50 volunteers who support programming, spread the word about MDL, & who help MDL to shine by helping to take care of our collection with our "Adopt-a-Dewey" program.

We look forward to you joining us this spring. If you have any questions or suggestions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.



Program Suggestions?

Please contact Shauna Swantek, Head of Programming & Community Engagement, at 269.781.7821 x1800 or swanteks@yourmdl.org.