

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September October November 2025

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: September 1; November 27 & 28

(Closing at 5:30 pm on November 26)



Everyone
Has a Story...

*discover some
at the library!*

If These Stones Could Talk...returns!
October 3 & 4

Programs For Everyone!!!



Programs with this
require registration.

Project Runway: Skeleton Edition

Everyone Has a Story...you're invited to "let the skeletons out of the closet" & tell us one. We don't want you to reveal any deep dark secrets...but join us for spooky season by creating a fictional character & costuming them up for Project Runway: Skeleton Edition.

Beginning September 10, stop by the library to register & pick up a mini toy skeleton & character creation sheet. Return your "model" by September 22. Voting by library patrons will commence between September 29 - October 18. Winners of the contest will be announced on October 20. Registration is required to participate. Skeletons will be available while supplies last. All ages are welcome.

If These Stones Could Talk

Fri, October 3, 6:30 pm OR Sat, October 4, 11 am

"If These Stones Could Talk" is a return of the much-loved living history portrayal at historic Oakridge Cemetery. Attendees will enjoy a short walking tour & "meet" residents from Marshall's rich, colorful, historic past at their gravesites.

Anticipate an approximate 1 mile walk on sometimes uneven ground as you visit these costumed actors. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the 2 hour walking/standing event. Registration opens September 1. Oakridge Cemetery is located at 614 Homer Road, Marshall, MI 49068. Free parking is available across Homer Road at the City DPW garage & at Stuart's Landing or within the side streets located on the west side of the cemetery. No motorized vehicles will be permitted in Oakridge Cemetery during the event. Please arrive 15 minutes before your tour time to check-in & join your tour group.

Used Books Sale

Fri, September 5, 10 am - 5 pm, & Sat, September 6, 10 am - 4 pm

A wide selection of gently used books & media are waiting for their next adventure - going home with you. Cash & card accepted; all funds raised go towards library programming. Your shelves will thank you.

Reading with Leona

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

September 11; October 9; November 13

Saturdays, 11 am - 12 pm

September 27; October 25; November 22

Leona is in the building! Leona is a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy dogs. Her favorite things are meeting new reading friends, eating all the snacks, & playing disc-golf with her humans. Reading with Leona can help to build a young reader's confidence, improve comprehension, & boost communication skills. (You'll receive a minimum 15 minute session once you sign in at the Help Desk.)

Poké-Pals Meet-Up

Saturdays, September 13; October 11; November 8

11 am - 12:30 pm

Pokémon Trainers of all levels are invited to gather for a bit of fun & friendship. This event is your chance to meet other Pokémon enthusiasts, share your passion, & chat about all things Pokémon. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an amazing Poké-Pals community!

Learn to Sew: Zippered Flat-Bottom Pouch

See next page for description, dates, & times!

Adult Programs

Crafty September:

Ghostie Family Portrait

Thurs, September 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, September 19, 11 am - 12 pm

Let's get ready for spooky season & decorate with a bit of whimsy & class. Create a ghostie in a gilded frame perfect to display in October, but cute enough to mix into the family photos all year. All supplies provided; ages 18+ only.

Historic Bridge Park: A Restoration Story

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

Learn from the man who restored the 5 bridges that make up Calhoun County's Historic Bridge Park. Seated along the Kalamazoo River & Dickinson Creek, the bridges make up a series of short trails & also serve as a "hands-on" exhibit of Michigan's transportation history. Vern Mesler will visit the library to share about the ten year restoration project of the bridges, the history & technology of wrought iron & steel, & his efforts to continue educating & encouraging preservation.

Medicare 101

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

As our story of life unfolds, there are many decisions to make. One important decision happens when we turn 65 & have important healthcare choices to make. Leslie Hurd, who has been in the health industry for 24 years & is an independent licensed insurance agent certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), will visit the library, along with Jason Taylor, for a presentation about the basics of Medicare. During this informational program 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. Note: no information will be given about specific plans or carriers. Ages 18+ only.

Murder in Victorian Western Michigan

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

Local author Michael Delaware returns to the library to share stories from his most recent book, *Murder in Victorian Western Michigan*. Delaware, a Battle Creek author, researched these stories extensively, even visiting the Michigan Archives. The author hosts the podcast, "Tales of Southwest Michigan's Past," where he discusses local history & forgotten stories. A book signing will follow; copies will be available for purchase. Ages 18+ only.

Dark Side of the Mitten

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

Author Tom Carr visits to share stories of murder, robbery & mayhem through the ages in the Great Lakes state. Delivered in a lively manner with humor & historical context, Carr's stories include crimes of passion, greed, insanity & just plain awfulness. Attend if you dare. Tom Carr's latest book, *Dark Side of the Mitten*, is the third in his "Blood on the Mitten" series of Michigan true crime & dark history. Carr is an award-winning reporter & columnist, who has worked at daily newspapers in Michigan for more than 25 years. As a freelance writer & broadcaster, his work has appeared on NPR, the New York Daily News, the Detroit Free Press & many other local, regional & national news outlets. Ages 18+ only.

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Ongoing Monthly Adult Programs

Monday Book Club @ the library

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

September 15 *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei
October 20 *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles
November 17 *The Lost Family* by Libby Copeland

Books on Tap @ Dark Horse Brewing Company

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

September 2 *The Last Murder at the End of the World*
by Stuart Turton
October 7 *The Twisted Ones* by T. Kingfisher
November 4 *The Hitchcock Hotel* by Stephanie Wrobel

Spice Club @ the library

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**September 23 (Pie); October 28 (Mac 'n' Cheese);
November 25 ('Chip Cookie)**

One dish, endless applications. Each cook has their own methods & favorites when it comes to classic foods. This fall, Spice Club is giving you an assignment. Make your version, your favorite, your icon, & show it off. Meetings are held monthly; registration is required each month & is limited to one spice 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+ only.

Adult Programs, continued

Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses

Wed, October 22, 6:30 - 8 pm

What is it about lighthouses that attracts ghostly spirits? Maybe it's simply a passion that will not go away. Lighthouse keepers were known to be extremely dedicated to their profession, & it seems that many were never able to give it up — even after death. More than 30 lights in Michigan are rumored to be haunted. From the smell of cigar smoke at Seul Choix Point Light to the mysterious housekeeping at White River Light Station & the antics at Waugoshance Shoal, these stories will entertain all ages. The stories in this program come from the pages of *Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses* by Dianna Higgs Stampfler.

Crafty October: Macramé Floating Bookshelf

Thurs, October 23, 6 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, October 24, 11 am - 12:30 pm

With a few simple materials, craft a floating bookshelf to cradle a selection of your favorite books. This is a beginner-friendly macramé project, perfect for those who are just learning the knotting basics. All materials are provided; ages 18+ only.

Your Ancestor's Immigration Records

Mon, October 27, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Want to discover how to find your immigrant ancestor? Learn what records were created, the information that was collected, & watch your immigrant ancestor's story come alive. Ages 18+ only.

Learn to Sew: Zippered Flat-Bottom Pouch

Register for the Date & Time best for you!

Thurs, November 13, 6 - 8:30 pm

Fri, November 14, 10:30 am - 1 pm

Sat, November 15, 10:30 am - 1 pm

A zippered pouch is handy anytime anywhere. Add a flat bottom, & it's perfect for holding cosmetics, stationery items, or travel items. In addition to learning about zippers, we'll use fusible interfacing in this intermediate project. Supply list provided with registration confirmation; some supplies provided. This is a project requiring being comfortable with an iron; it is recommended for those ages 12+. Those not yet in high school should attend with an adult. (Brand new? Let us know you'd like an Introduction to Sewing 1:1 before your program date by emailing Shauna at swanteks@yourmdl.org or calling 269.781.7821 x1800.)

Crafty November: Faux Stained Glass

Thurs, November 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, November 21, 11 am - 12 pm

With fir trees as the focal point, create a mosaic work of art using a frame, permanent markers & a "secret ingredient". It's stained glass without the stain & only one piece of glass! All materials are provided; Ages 18+ only.

Ongoing Services

Tech Time

Mondays, 5 - 8 pm & Wednesdays, 1 - 4 pm

Our technology team is on hand to assist you with questions regarding smart phones, laptops & more during drop-in Tech Time. Up to 30 minute sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign in at the Help Desk.

History Center Hours

Tuesdays, 10 am - 12 pm & Fridays, 1 - 3 pm

The MDL History Center—where you can explore unique documents, yearbooks, & digitization tech—invites you to drop in during open hours twice a week. Local history librarians will be on hand to aid in research, technology, or help get you started on your genealogy journey.

Something for Everyone 1:1 Appointments

By appointment

Need a notary (for free)? Help with your resume? Looking for just the right next book or movie recommendation? Want to learn how to use a sewing machine or troubleshoot a knitting, crochet, or craft project? Interested in local data for your small business? Contact the Help Desk, & we'll connect you to the right staff member.

Registration Notes



**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 programs@yourmdl.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!

Morning Early Literacy Programs

See intended ages; all ages welcome.

Start time is 11 am.

Please note there is a break week each month.

Toddler Time

Mondays

September 8, 15 & 22; October 6, 13, & 20; November 3, 10, & 17

Grow together in this storytime designed for beginning early literacy.

Through the practices of Talk, Sing, Read, Write, & Play, caregivers & their little learners will build a base for reading, social-emotional learning, school readiness & more—all through fun stories, fingerplays, & songs. This program is planned with ages 18 months-3 years in mind, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Jumpin' & Jammin'

Wednesdays

September 10, 17, & 24; October 8, 15, & 22; November 5, 12, & 19

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. This program is planned with ages 2-6 in mind, but all ages are welcome to attend. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes.

STEAM Explorers

Fridays

September 12, 19, & 26; October 10, 17, & 24; November 7, 14, & 21

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! This program is planned with ages 2-6 in mind, but all ages are welcome to attend. Baby toys will be available for younger siblings.

Special Early Literacy Programs

Baby & Me: Caregiver Connection®

Wednesdays, 6 - 7 pm

September 17; October 15; November 19

Take the opportunity to meet & learn with new caregivers. Those who have welcomed a new little one in the past 18 months are invited to explore early learning basics for baby as well as to craft & commune with fellow caregivers. This program is designed with ages birth-18 months in mind & their caregivers. Come for the literacy, stay for the community. Registration requested.

Farmers Market Storytimes

Saturdays, 11 am - 12 pm

September 20; October 18

Meet us at the Market! This fall, join YourMDL staff to celebrate the season with storytime favorites. Stop by to say hello before grabbing some veggies to-go. In partnership with the Marshall Area Farmers Market. All ages welcome. In case of inclement weather, storytime will meet inside the library.

Rockstar Reader: Wild About Reading®

Sat, November 1, 11 am - 12 pm

The library has always loved reading, & now it's going to be wild. Little Learners are invited to a special storytime featuring our favorite zoo stories, songs, & crafts. Bring your favorite stuffed zoo creature to meet new friends! This event is designed for preschoolers & their families. If your little learner is not signed up for Rockstar Reader yet, this program is the perfect opportunity to start the safari. Registration requested.

Youth Programs

Reading with Leona

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

September 11; October 9; November 13

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September 27; October 25; November 22

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Teen Programs Grades 6-12

Check the online calendar for Afterschool Programs.

Monthly Loot Box®

Here at Loot Ltd., we take care of our teens with monthly boxes of carefully selected goods to support their interests (did someone say stickers & snacks?). Each month you register for a YourMDL Loot Box, you can rest easily knowing the little white box that awaits you also includes a wonderful book to read. Keep the loot inside & return the library book & box when you are finished. Participants must return their box in order to register for the next 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. Registration opens on the 1st of each month.

Teen Night: Just Dance Party®

Fri, September 12, 5:30 - 8 pm

Get ready to boogie! It's video game night at the library & we're playing: Just Dance! Power up with pizza & play together on one of the library's Nintendo Switch 1 consoles or feel free to bring your own.

Teen Night: DIY Leaf Lanterns®

Thurs, September 25, 6:30 - 8 pm

Embrace the fall vibes & craft a lantern that will always make it feel cozy. Using recycled glass jars, we'll celebrate the season by decorating with leaves (& maybe glitter). All supplies provided.

Teen Night: IRL Among Us®

Fri, October 10, 5:30 - 8 pm

Calling all Crewmates! Work to prep the library for space travel by completing your task list, but beware of the IMPOSTER! Admin has received word that 1 Crewmate is determined to get rid of the rest of the Crew. Ensure the library is space-ready or discover the imposter to survive!

Teen Night: DIY Haunted Pumpkins®

Thurs, October 30, 6:30 - 8 pm

It's getting spooky at the library! Magically transform a foam pumpkin into a ghost using clay & paint. Will your ghostie be friendly or a fright? You decide! All supplies provided.

Teen Night: Bloody Breakout-Murder at Work®

Fri, November 7, 5:30 - 8 pm

This has been the most profitable year for Worldwide Prestige yet! Please remember, all employees are required to attend the annual conference. Despite our CEO's disappearance, there is work to be done! This is an interactive murder mystery dinner. The character you will play will be assigned upon arrival. Costumes encouraged, though not required.



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.

This year's Summer Reading Program was a tremendous joy for the library staff. We enjoyed exploring the arts with all of you & we are thankful for the many businesses & organizations who partnered with us & who participated in our annual community scavenger hunt. We especially enjoyed the connections we made with all of you & the stories of creativity, library joy, & learning that we got to hear about from you.

October is Family History month. If you have not had the chance to drop in & visit our History Center, please consider doing so. Library staff members are happy to give tours of the room at any time & show you the resources we have for genealogy & local history research. Marshall District Library's grant-funded Newspaper Archive is available to all area residents at home & currently includes all microfilmed Marshall newspapers from 1838 to 2024. This last year, thanks to the support of the Withee-Bliss fund, we have also been able to add Albion newspapers from 1849 to 2011 to this resource, as well as Tekonsha newspapers from 1967 to 2019. If you would like personalized assistance with research, we hold History Center Hours twice each week. You can also make an individual appointment with one of our librarians.

One of the events we are most excited about this fall is "If These Stones Could Talk," which is the return of the much-loved living history portrayal at historic Oakridge Cemetery. In 2003, an amazing group of volunteers in Marshall created a "Living History" steering committee, a partnership of the Marshall Historical Society & the Marshall Civic Players. For a decade, more than a hundred local volunteers gave of their time: conducting research, writing scripts, acting as tour guides, portraying characters, & working behind the scenes. They made this event, which raised funds for cemetery preservation & other historic preservation work, a reality.

In 2019, Georgia Marsh contacted us about the possibility of reviving "If These Stones Could Talk" & the library was fortunate enough to work with a steering committee of volunteers from Marshall Historical Society, Great Escape Stage Company, Marshall Chamber, & City of Marshall to form a "Living History" non-profit & hold an event. That event was very successful & showed how much interest there still was in the community, but we were unable to continue in 2020. In 2023, it was decided by the committee that all funds raised from this project would be donated to the Marshall Community Foundation Cemetery fund. It was also decided that the library would serve as an archive for materials & take the lead on bringing a new, free version of "If These Stones Could Talk" to our community. We are honored to continue this work & we are delighted to continue working with many organizations & volunteers to bring Marshall history to life.

We hope our library visitors enjoy everything Marshall District Library has to offer. Marshall District Library welcomes feedback & suggestions for library services. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at 269.781.7821, x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.