

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

March, April, May 2026

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: March 27 / April 3 / May 25



## Read Write Books

Preparing To Celebrate  
America's Semiquincentennial



Programming intended to slow us  
down & return us to our foundation.

Three Saturdays of LIVE Music!

Hands-on Experiences

American Revolution Series

Spring Break Staycation Programs  
for Families!

History Center Programming

Library After Hours for Adults\*

Marshall's First Author Hop!

## Three Saturdays of LIVE Music!

### American Scenes: Songs from the New World

Sat, March 7, 2 - 3 pm

Join talented violin & piano duo, Kelly & Darryl Roenicke, for a performance that explores & celebrates the diverse American composers who shaped our nation's musical landscape. From Antonín Dvořák to Scott Joplin, Amy Beach to George & Ira Gershwin, & more, the United States has a rich musical legacy to enjoy. This program is intended for adults; but all ages are welcome.

### American Songbook with the Boogie Woogie Kid

Sat, April 4, 2 - 3 pm

The Boogie Woogie Kid, Matthew Ball, returns to the library for an energetic piano performance of classic American songs from yesteryear, movies, & pop culture. From "Can't Help Fallin' in Love with You" to "New York New York", "What a Wonderful World" to "Dream a Little Dream of Me", & more, get your groove on at this celebration of America's showtunes & jazz. This program is intended for adults, but all ages are welcome to boogie.

### America the Beautiful: Celebrating 250 Years with Kellogg Community College

Sat, May 2, 2 - 3 pm

Commemorate the USA's semiquincentennial anniversary with the Kellogg Community College's Jazz Ensemble & Choir as they perform the patriotic music we cherish. Enjoy the melodies of student & faculty soloists & delight in the beautiful music that evokes pride in our nation. This performance is intended for adults, but all ages are welcome to celebrate.

## Marshall's First Author Hop

Sat, May 16, 12 - 4 pm

Marshall District Library is excited to coordinate Marshall's first Author Hop. What is an author hop? Take a turn around town visiting local businesses & meet & greet area authors along the circuit. Strike up a conversation with authors about your preferred genre or venture into new literary subjects. Take the afternoon to explore the Marshall area, discover new authors & grow your book collection. Start at the library with the Used Books Sale (free tote bag with purchase) & pick up a printed map of the hop! No registration required to attend; authors should contact the library directly at [sheperdm@yourmdl.org](mailto:sheperdm@yourmdl.org) for application information. Application deadline is March 14.

## Used Books Sale

Fri, May 15 & Sat, May 16, 10 am - 5:30 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 toward library programming. Your shelves will thank you.

## Library After Hours for Adults\*

Fridays: March 20, April 17, May 15, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Gather at the library for an after-hours evening of reveling in rustic entertainment & the less electronic aspects of technology. Each month, library staff will share their favorite ways to unplug, such as: film cameras, vinyl records, musical instruments, fabric crafts, typewriters, board games, & more. Bring your own item or interact with staff; the goal is to share time & experiences while building community. Snack bar & mocktails provided.

\*This program is designed for adults 18+; however, non-mobile infants & high school students are welcome. No registration required; drop in & hang.

## Tech Times

Mondays 5 - 8 pm & Wednesdays 1 - 4 pm

## Staffed History Center Hours

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

## Adult Programs

### Resources & Research Techniques for Historic House Records

Mon, March 9, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Ever wonder about the history of your home, but not sure where or how to begin researching? Using Marshall properties as examples, library staff will share resources to help any property owner learn about the records, resources, & research methods recommended to start uncovering their home's past. Ages 18+.

### Introduction to the Sourdough Revolution

Mon, March 23, 6:30 - 8 pm

The sourdough process has been passed down through generations & helped sustain our predecessors. Reconnect to this baking heritage by attending this hands-on introductory class presented by Jen Rice. Learn what a sourdough starter is, how to keep it alive, & how to prepare, score, & bake a delicious loaf. This is a beginner-baker friendly program intended for adults; however, teens enthusiastic about baking are welcome to attend. All materials are provided.

### Revolutionary War & the Birth of a Nation

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

Two & a half centuries ago, the Kingdom of Great Britain & thirteen American colonies were in conflict over American independence. Join professional genealogist Derek Blount for a review of the Revolutionary War & the available records, including enlistment, pensions, muster rolls, & others, which allow us to peak into the war & birth of our nation. This program is intended for adults, but teens with a passion for history are welcome to attend.

### Why Should I Look at Revolutionary War Pension Records?

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

Pension records are an invaluable source for learning more about your Revolutionary War ancestor, his family, military unit, & fellow servicemen. Using storytelling & real-life examples, staff will help you discover how to access these rich files & what family history information could await. Ages 18+

### Meet Marshall's DAR

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

Have you wondered about who takes care of the Governor's Mansion here in town? Meet at the library for an introduction to the Mary Marshall Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). With over a century of commitment to historic preservation, promotion of education, & patriotic endeavor, the members of this chapter have a rich legacy in community service. Learn about this organization's mission, history, preservation efforts, patriotism, membership process & how to be involved without being an actual DAR. This program is intended for adults, but teens with an interest in history are welcome to attend.

### Clothing a New Nation: Fibercrafting During America's Founding

Wed, April 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

What skills were used to construct Colonial Era textiles & how did these methods influence the period's fashion? Join accomplished fiber arts craftswoman, Suzanne Pufpaff, as she unfolds the history of how spinning, weaving, & knitting formed the fabric of a new nation, how these arts inspired a revival of American handicrafters, & demonstrates how Colonial Era artisans spun raw fibers into yarn. This program is intended for adults, but teens with a penchant for fiber crafting are encouraged to attend.

Adult Programs, continue 

## Adult Programs, continued

### Michigan in the American Revolution

**Mon, May 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

What was happening on the Michigan frontier during the Revolutionary War? Although this area was not at the center of the conflict, controlling the Great Lakes territory was still considered vital during the struggle. Join historian Andrew Kercher to learn about the British stronghold in Detroit, alliances with Native Nations in the region, & how Michilimackinac was used to protect trade & communication networks. This program is intended for adults; however, teens with an enthusiasm for history are encouraged to attend.

### Meet Your Neighbors:

#### Get Growing with Of The Land

**Wed, May 6, 6:30 - 8 pm**

Celebrate Plant a Garden in Michigan month by joining farmer Trent Thompson at Of The Land farm in Marshall Township. Visit the property & learn about common planting techniques, plant maintenance, & tips to get the highest yields from your garden. Enjoy a tour of the greenhouses & take home free plant starts to get your garden growing. Meet at 14201 H Dr N in Battle Creek. This program is intended for adults, but teens with a passion for gardening are welcome to attend.

### Exploring Ancestry Library Edition

**Mon, May 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Interested in uncovering your genealogy? Ancestry Library Edition provides access to census, vital, court, immigration, & many more genealogical records from the United States, Canada, & Europe. Library staff will help you explore how to search & navigate the collections to discover your family history. This program is intended for adults, but teens with an enthusiasm for genealogy are welcome to attend.

### Author Hop

**Sat, May 16, 12 - 4 pm**

Marshall District Library is excited to coordinate Marshall's first Author Hop. It's the same weekend as our spring Used Books Sale! See center of the newsletter for full details!

## Ongoing Monthly Adult Programs

### Monday Book Club @ the library

**Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

March 16 *The Jane Austen Society* by Natalie Jenner

April 20 *The Ride: Paul Revere & the Night That Saved America* by Kostya Kennedy 

May 18 *A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon 

### Books on Tap @ Dark Horse Brewing Company

**Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

March 3 *The Teller of Small Fortunes* by Julie Leong

April 7 *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin 

May 5 *The Conjuring of America* by Lindsey Stewart 

### Spice & Cookbook Club @ the library

Honor the USA's upcoming anniversary by revering the Melting Pot that is American cuisine. Spice Club dips into a series of cookbooks this spring that highlight diverse authors & experiences, all with the purpose to answer: what is "American" food to you? Stop at the Help Desk to pick up your spice packet & the month's featured cookbook. 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 Craft Programs

*All are free. Unless noted, for ages 18+ only & include supplies.*

### Crafty March: Colorful Star Hanger

**Thurs, March 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, March 20, 11 am - 12 pm**

Make your door extra stellar at Crafty March with a colorful star hanger! Using popsicle sticks, twine, beads, & glue, create a patriotic star-spangled door hanger, a rainbow spectrum of stars, or another colorful constellation of stars to add a little shine to your home decor! Ages 18+.

### Crafty April: Felt Bow Garland

**Thurs, April 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, April 17, 11 am - 12 pm**

Join us in continuing to prepare for the red, white, & blue celebrations as we make a charming bow garland. While this is a modern TikTok trend, we're taking it back to 1776 with the colors provided...feel free to bring your own felt for a different look.

### Learn to Sew: Fabric Postcards

**Thurs, April 30, 6:30 - 8 pm, OR Fri, May 1, 10:30 am - 12 pm OR**

**Sat, May 2, 10:30 am - 12 pm**

This quarter we'll get creative & explore the decorative stitches your machine/the library's lending sewing machines have to offer. Our end product will be a set of 4 postcards, made of 100% fabric, that you can actually add a stamp to & drop in the mail. 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 swanteks@yourmdl.org or calling x1800.)

### Crafty May: Book Bedazzling

**Thurs, May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 pm OR Fri, May 22, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

It's BYOB to this crafting event! Book, that is! Bring your own book & spend some relaxing time blinging up the cover. Think diamond art... but with your favorite book cover as the canvas. Paperback, hardcover, or book jacket covers will work. You'll choose an element of the artwork to emphasize & then add jewels until it sparkles like a patriotic sky filled with fireworks!

## Morning Early Literacy Programs

*Intended for ages 2-6; all ages welcome.*

*Please note there is a break week each month.*

**Toddler Time Mondays - 11 am**

**March 2, 9, & 16; April 6, 13, & 20; May 4, 11, & 18**

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.

**Jumpin' & Jammin' Wednesdays - 11 am**

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

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.

**STEAM Explorers Fridays - 11 am**

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

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 & Me: Caregiver Connection

**Wednesdays - March 25; April 22; May 27 - 6 pm**

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 commune with fellow caregivers. Come for the literacy, stay for the community.

### Rockstar Reader: Unicorn Parade

**Sat, May 9, 11 am - 12 pm**

Listen to the beat & march along as our magical Rockstar Readers show off their progress. At this Unicorn-themed storytime, we'll celebrate the power of self-esteem & imagination, & finish with a special Rockstar Instrument parade. This event is designed for preschoolers & their families. If your little learner is not signed up for Rockstar Reader yet, this event is the perfect opportunity to join the program. Registration requested.

# Spring Break Staycation Programs

\*These programs are designed for youth in grades 2+; however, younger ages are welcome with adult supervision. Two sessions are offered each day; select the day & time that works best.

## Reading with Leona

Sat, March 28, 11 am - 12 pm

See Youth & Family Programs for description.

## Open LEGO Play

Sat, March 28, 12 - 2 pm

See Youth & Family Programs for description.

## Bookbinding & Michigan Lore

Mon, March 30, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1 - 2 pm

Design & bind a miniature book all on your own. If you're not sure what to write/draw inside, be inspired by the shared legends & lore of the indigenous Anishinaabe people. What would a legend about Marshall look like?

## LEGO Printmaking

Tues, March 31, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1 - 2 pm

Explore the art of the printmaking using LEGO! Drawing inspiration from printing throughout history, make your own design with LEGO bricks & print your works of art.

## Water Fun with the Kalamazoo Watershed Council

Wed, April 1, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1 - 2 pm

Enjoy a special reading of a recently published picture book all about the Kalamazoo River Watershed! After the story, kids & families can participate in a fun, hands-on activity to learn more about water, nature, & how we can all help keep our watershed clean & healthy.

## Colonial Games & Crafts

Thurs, April 2, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1 - 2 pm

Let's party like it's 1776! Ever wonder what children during Colonial times did for entertainment? Take a step back in time & discover classic colonial activities like Ten-&Four, punched tin artwork, & making a whirligig.

## Teen Programs *Grades 6-12 only.*

Check the  
online calendar for  
Afterschool Programs.

### Teen Night: Game On

Fri, March 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us for an after-hours hangout featuring everything from classic card games to modern tabletop hits. Plus, we're taking over the big screen for a Mario Kart 8 tournament that's larger than life. Come for the games, stay for the snacks, & claim your bragging rights.

### Teen Night: DIY Slime

Thurs, March 26, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Sticky, soupy, gloopy, & perhaps glittery, celebrate the plethora of forms of slime. Brew a batch to fidget & play with, & make an extra to trade.

### Teen Night: Stuffed Animal Taxidermy

Thurs, April 23, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Plush & perfectly posed, ready for display, these stuffed animals will be repurposed into works of art. Mix & match or keep to a more traditional aesthetic with provided materials—or bring your own to immortalize. They're not trophies; they're treasures.

### Teen Night: Celebrate Hamil-TEN

Fri, May 8, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

It's been a decade since Hamilton changed the game & we aren't throwing away our shot to celebrate! Join us after hours to be in "The Room Where It Happens." We're turning the library into a stage for a "greatest hits" karaoke sing-a-long. Grab the mic, belt out some King George sass, or rap every word of your Hamilton favorite at top speed.

### Monthly Loot Box

What mysteries & nonsense await you inside the white box? If you dare to take the leap & explore the randomness that is YourMDL Loot Boxes, you may find a variety of trinkets, snacks, activities, or...miscellaneous. But always a book, because reading a curated title is the ultimate gift. Keep the loot inside & return the library book & box when you are finished. You must return the box in order to receive the next month's. Registration opens on the 1st of each month. Sign up while supplies last! Teens who do not have a library card are welcome to participate.

### Library After Hours For Adults\*

Fridays: March 20, April 17, May 15, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

\*Low-tech teens in grades 9-12 invited. See first page for information.

# 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 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!**

## Youth & Family Programs

### Celebrate Pi/Pie Day

Sat, March 14, 11 am - 12:30 pm

When the date is 3.14 (March 14th), we celebrate pi/pie! Join us on International Pi Day for pi-themed crafts & activities...& delicious pie treats. All ages welcome. Registration requested but not required.

### Pizza & Stories

Tuesdays, March 17 & 24, 6 - 7 pm

Meet at the library for a very special storytime dinner this spring. Bring a blanket & get cozy as library staff share their favorite stories & songs. This program is designed for those in grades PreK-2; family members are welcome to join.

### Poké-Pals Meet-Up

Saturdays, March 21 & April 11, 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!

### Reading with Leona

Thursdays, March 12, April 9, & May 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturdays, March 28, April 25, & May 23, 11 am - 12 pm

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 time slot during the hour once you sign in at the Help Desk; first-come, first-serve.)

### Open LEGO Play

Saturdays, March 28, April 25, & May 23, 12 - 2 pm

Design. Construct. Create. Build based on the provided theme or do your thing with library-provided LEGOs. This program is designed for youth in grades 2+; however, younger builders are welcome with adult supervision. Drop in & build.

### Liber-TEA Party at the Governor's Mansion

Sat, April 18, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Calling all young patriots & princesses! Bring your favorite doll or stuffy to the Governor's Mansion for tea. We'll enjoy a light lunch of finger sandwiches & sweet treats, meet dolls from the Revolutionary War era, & be introduced (or reintroduced) to the American Girl Doll book series. You are encouraged to dress your best -- red, white, & blue is optional. Intended for ages 5+; each child must be accompanied by 1 adult & is invited to bring 1 doll/stuffy.

### Farmers Market Storytime

Sat, May 30, 10:30 - 11 am

Meet us at the Market! 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; no registration is required. All ages welcome. In case of inclement weather, storytime will meet inside the library.

## Tween Program *Grades 3-8 only.*

Tween Night: IRL Among Us Fri, April 10, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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



## 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](mailto:semiferoa@yourmdl.org).

This spring we are celebrating American history & the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Last spring we traveled all around the world & this year we're traveling back in time & appreciating the things we have right here at home.

Whether you love to read, to write, or to create, there is something for you to learn this spring at MDL. We will explore the many flavors of American cooking through our Spice & Cookbook Club. We have 3 Saturdays of live music ahead, sharing the sounds of America. We will learn about the Revolutionary War & Colonial America. We will craft, sew, bedazzle, & build with LEGOs. We'll also be visiting our schools, daycare centers, & other spaces in the community for "March is Reading" month. I am particularly excited to attend our "Liber-Tea" Tea Party in partnership with the Marshall DAR at the Governor's mansion.

The last year has been a wonderful opportunity for Marshall District Library to celebrate the history of Marshall & Calhoun County with the opening of the MDL History Center. We are grateful to the Laura R. Bliss Trust for the development & enhancement of this space. The History Center is always open for researching the history of your home, tracing your ancestry, or digitizing your family photos & videos. Library visitors can make one-on-one appointments with our librarians & tech staff to get started on family research or to find out more about what digitization resources are available. We also have several programs this season based in MDL History Center resources such as learning how to research the history of your home, about Revolutionary War Pension records & about Ancestry Library Edition.

For those of you who enjoy adventuring around town, we'll be holding our first Author Hop on Saturday, May 16. There are many talented writers in Calhoun County & the surrounding areas that cover a wide variety of genres. We're partnering with local businesses to arrange a walking tour around Marshall so that you can chat with these creators about their processes & your favorite types of books.

Marshall District Library is always committed to the stewardship & safety of our building. We have one project coming up this spring that library visitors should be aware of. We will be adding an emergency exit for our building to our Teen Space. This will also involve replacing the windows in that area. We expect this project to start sometime in March. It will take less than 2 weeks to complete. Construction should not interfere with library hours or services.



EXPLORE · DISCOVER · GROW

124 W. GREEN STREET · MARSHALL, MI 49068

## Program Suggestions?

Please contact Shauna Swantek, Head of Programming & Community Engagement, at 269.781.7821 x1800 or [swanteks@yourmdl.org](mailto:swanteks@yourmdl.org).