

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September October November 2026

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: September 7; November 26 & 27

(Closing at 5:30 on November 25)

RETURN TO NEW ZEBEDEE

Bellairs Character Walks Return



Celebrating the Bellairs Legacy

Bellairs Book Club for All Ages

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

Born & raised in Marshall, John Bellairs (1938-1991) is the author of 15 acclaimed youth Gothic mystery novels. Read (or reread) *The House With a Clock in Its Walls* &/or *The House Where Nobody Lived*. Then meet up with others to discuss the stories as well as the details about Marshall used to create the lore of New Zebedee.



Author Visit: Brad Strickland

Sat, October 3, 11 am - 12 pm

Brad Strickland has written & cowritten over 100 novels, many of them for younger readers. Following John Bellairs death, he was contracted to complete novels that had been outlined by Bellairs; he followed with 9 more, bringing both the Barnavelt & Dixon character series to 12 volumes. Join us as Brad shares a bit about this journey as well as the research he did while working on *The House Where Nobody Lived*. **Registration requested.**



Bellairs Character Walking Tour

Fri, October 2, 4:30 - 8 pm & Sat, October 3, 12:30 - 4:30 pm

This 1 1/2 hour walking tour covers approximately 1.5 miles & stops at many of the locations referenced in John Bellairs' books. This year's tours will feature characters from *The House With a Clock In Its Walls* as well as *The House Where Nobody Lived* (authored by Brad Strickland). The walk features costumed actors along the route as well as peeks into buildings often unavailable to the public. Tours leave the library every 30 minutes. Special thanks to the Marshall Historical Society for generously reserving the Honolulu House for this year's tours. **Registration is FREE but required. Registration opens September 1.**

Adult Late Night Events

Ages 18+ only.
Events are free.

Crow Party

Fri, October 30, 7 - 9 pm

You're invited to be part of a murder at the library! Gather up your trinkets, wear all black, & join our murder (flock of crows) for a night of good-natured squawking, crafting, & pecking (at provided snacks). Please bring 5-10 trinkets (buttons, polished stones, unique charms, shiny coins, pins, etc.) for showing &/or trading. Maybe you'll be crowned King/Queen Crow!



Adult Show & Tell

Fri, November 20, 7 - 9 pm

Show & Tell isn't just for kids. Share the personal story of a small object that has big meaning -- a collectible figure, hobby item, family heirloom, souvenir, or favorite book. (Want to share something that's too big to bring? You can show off a photo, or email us a photo/slideshow of the item.) An invitation to share will be sent upon registration; sharing not required.

Adult Programs



Programs with this
require registration.

Used Books Sale

Fri, September 11, 10 am - 5:30 pm &

Sat, September 12, 10 am - 4 pm

Make the library a stop during the 61st Annual Marshall Historic Home Tour. Shop a wide selection of gently used books & media. Cash & card accepted; all funds raised go toward library programming. Your shelves will thank you.

Meet MeL.org

Mon, September 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Tues, September 15, 1 - 2 pm

See inside for complete program description.



Headstone Cleaning Workshop

Sat, September 19, 1 - 4 pm

Have an interest in preserving history? Join Bobbie Mathis, president of the Union City Society for Historic Preservation, for a hands-on workshop focused on the cleaning, stabilization, repair, & preservation practices for historic headstones & cemetery features. Bobbie will provide a practical introduction to recognizing monument conditions, selecting appropriate methods, & approaching repairs with respect for historic materials. This event is for adults; however, teens with an interest may attend. This program is a partnership between the library & Marshall Rotary. Meet at Oakridge Cemetery 614 Homer Rd, Marshall, MI 49068.

Author Visit: Charlotte Whitney

Sat, September 26, 2 - 3 pm

Author Charlotte Whitney returns home for a discussion of how time, her imagination, & the landscape of her youth have shaped her historical fiction novels. Her stories are set in the farmlands of Calhoun County during the Great Depression & feature Marshall, Marengo, & Battle Creek, including familiar places like Cronin's Dry Goods, the Calhoun County Fair, Marshall Public Library, & more. A book signing will follow; New Story Community books will have copies available for purchase. Ages 18+. Also: see Sept 21 Book Club!

Medicare 101

Mon, September 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Don't let turning 65 & making healthcare choices spook you! Leslie Hurd, who has been in the health industry for 24 years & is an independently 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+.

Meet Your Neighbors: Hemmingsen Drug Store

Mon, October 5, 6:30 - 7:30 pm 

Join Hemmingsen's Matthew Schwartz & MDL's Chelsea Heisler as they trace the history of Hemmingsen Drug Store, our beloved local pharmacy. Through historic ledgers, antique drug-making supplies, newspaper clippings, & city directories, hear how research uncovered the store's surprisingly early origins & its place in Marshall's broader story. Attendees will get hands-on with the history, including a chance to view & decipher handwritten prescriptions & invoices from decades past. Come explore how Hemmingsen's neighborhood pharmacy connects to our community, & the story of small-town medicine over the years. This event meets at the library & is intended for adults. Teens with an interest may also attend.

Adult Programs. continued

Meet Your Neighbors: Alice & Giles

Mon, October 26, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Alice & Giles is an antique store with a wonderful selection of art, textiles, ephemera, & curiosities. Established in 2023 by Bob Hefferan, the shop features some of the best window displays in town & each object inside has a story to tell. Meet at 209 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI, 49068. This visit is recommended for ages 18+ but all are welcome.

The Magic Behind Moviemaking: Spooky Edition

Wed, October 28, 6:30 - 8 pm

Our library movie experts are back for another program about the magic of motion pictures. Join for a discussion-based presentation about the history of horror movies--from slashers to stop-motion--& all the ghouls, ghosts & gore this genre has to offer. Movie snacks provided. Caution: due to the nature of this program, some clips shown may contain frightening or violent content. Intended for adults but teens passionate about film & accompanied by an adult are welcome to attend.

Finding Your Roots in U.S. Census Records

Mon, November 2, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

U.S. Census Records are easily accessible online & the best resource to begin your family tree journey. Discover how to locate your ancestors among these foundational documents & explore the rich details that will branch out your family history research. This program is recommended for adults, but all interested in genealogy are welcome.

Letters from World War II

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

In anticipation of Veterans Day, join author Jana Nicol as she shares her experience in compiling the details of her father's service during WWII. Her research culminated in the publication of *Your Loving Son, Duane, Letters from WWII*. With the use of Duane's letters home, personal journal, photographs, & deck logs, Jana has published a unique glimpse into the life of a soldier. This event is intended for adults, but teens with an interest in history are welcome.

AI is Everywhere: Sorting Through the Chaos

Tues, November 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Nearly everywhere you use technology, AI is there: your computer, your phone, your television. This program will help you to recognize AI in your everyday environment, even in places it is difficult to spot. With examples from popular tools--such as ChatGPT, Claude, & Gemini--you will learn how to harness (or avoid) & fact check your AI use to its fullest potential.

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 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!

Ongoing Adult Programs

Book Club

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

September 21: *A Tiny Piece of Blue* by Charlotte Whitney

October 19: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

November 16: *Three Days in June* by Anne Tyler

Books On Tap

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Meet at Dark Horse Brewery Commons

September 1: *A Corner of White* by Jaclyn Moriarty

October 6: *Beloved Beasts* by Michelle Nijhuis

November 3: *The True, True Story of Raja the Gullible (& His Mother)* by Rabiha Adameddine

December 1: *Cinder House* by Freya Marske

MDL Eats: Spice Club 2.0

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Explore cooking & recipes with your friends at MDL Eats, the next evolution of Spice Club. With monthly themes, optional challenges, & good company to inspire you, it is easy to discover new things & have fun. Anyone is welcome to bring a dish to share, though it is never required. Help us grow our own MDL Eats cookbook as we compile shared recipes & experiences. Ages 18+ only.

September 22: Summer Harvest

October 27: Breakfast for Dinner

November 24: My Favorite Soup

Tech Times

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

Staffed History Center Hours

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

Adult Creative Programs

Ages 18+ only. Events are free.*

Crafty September: Mini Ghostie Portraits

Thurs, September 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, September 18, 11 am - 12 pm

Choose a color scheme & paint a wee layered portrait of a ghostie or a ghostie family. Magnets optional.

Crafty October: Painted Autumn Leaves

Thurs, October 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR October 16 11 am - 12 pm

Soar to new heights as we paint from an aerial view this fall. Using unusual painting tools, we'll create a canvas full of autumn colors.

Crochet 101

Tues, October 20, 6 - 8 pm

Want to know what the crochet craze is all about? Come give it a try at this introductory event where we will cover crochet techniques for the absolute beginner. Topics include: how to choose the right supplies for you, as well as creating the foundation chain, & single crochet stitch. Supplies will be provided, but if you already have your own, please bring them.

Learn to Sew: Reading Pocket Pillow*

Thurs, October 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm OR

Fri, October 23, 11 am - 1 pm OR

Sat, November 14, 11 am - 1 pm

Make a pillow cover with a pocket perfect for holding a book & reading light. All supplies provided; however, a supply list is provided with registration confirmation for those who like to bring their own fabrics.

*Ages 12+ invited; 8th grade & younger only with an adult. Let us know if you'd like an Introduction to Sewing 1:1 before your program date.

Crafty November: Personalized Tree Ornaments

Thurs, November 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, November 20 11 am - 12 pm

Using beads & ribbon, create holiday tree ornaments personalized for your favorite people. They make great gift tags too!

Morning Early Literacy Programs

See intended ages; all ages welcome. **Start time is 10:30 am.**
Please note there is a break week each month.

Jumpin' & Jammin'

Wednesdays

September 9, 16, & 23; October 7, 14, & 21; November 4, 11, & 18

Movement is literacy when you dance & exercise your brain. During a full half-hour of music & movement, we'll get to use our little muscles & our big muscles, which helps our brains grow. Start with a mindful breath, make some friends, & have fun. This program is planned with ages 2-6 in mind. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes.

STEAM Explorers

Fridays

September 11, 18, & 25; October 9, 16, & 23; November 6, 13, & 20

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. Baby toys will be available for younger siblings.

Evening Early Literacy Programs

See intended ages. **Start time is 6 pm.**

Toddler Time (R)

Wednesdays

September 9; October 14; November 11

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 for ages 18 - 36 months. Registration requested.

Baby & Me: Caregiver Connections (R)

Wednesdays

September 23; October 28; November 18

Take the opportunity to meet & learn with new caregivers. Those who have welcomed a little one in the past 18 months are invited to explore early learning basics for baby while in community with fellow caregivers. This program is designed with ages birth-18 months in mind & their grown-ups. Registration requested.

Homeschool Parents!
Educators!
Lifelong Learners!



Meet MeL.org (R)

Michigan eLibrary

Mon, September 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Tues, September 15, 1 - 2 pm

Whether you're homeschooling your kids, helping your high school student prepare for college, or just have a thirst for knowledge, there is something for everyone at MeL.org! Join Library Director Angela Semifero to learn about the many free online resources available through the Michigan eLibrary including encyclopedias, biographies, journals, reading recommendations, & practice exams. Recommended for parents, educators, & others who work with a K-12 population. Bring your laptop/digital device if you'd like to be hands-on or just follow along.

This program runs concurrently with an optional Shrinky Dink program if young learners would like a place to play; please register for that program separately as necessary.

Something on Saturdays

All ages welcome. **See website for program descriptions.**

Reading with Leona - 10:30 am

October 17 & November 21

Poké-Pals Meet-Up - 11 am

October 24 & November 28

LEGO Club - 1 pm

October 17 & November 14

Shrinky Dinks - 11 am

November 7

Farmers Market Storytime - 10:30 am

September 12 & October 10

Something on Weekdays

Reading with Leona - 6:30 pm

Thursdays, September 10; October 8; & November 12

Shrinky Dinks (R)

Monday, September 14 - 6:30 pm

Tuesday, September 15 - 1 pm

Teen Programs Grades 6-12

Check the online calendar for Afterschool Programs.

Monthly Loot Box (R)

Unboxing: Library Edition. Sign up to claim your very own Blind Grab of fidgets, stickers, snacks, & more. Rare Picks include a fantastic book to read (they're all rare picks). 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 is required & opens on the 1st of each month. Sign up while supplies last! Teens who do not have a library card are welcome to participate; a non-library book will be provided.

Werewolf: A Role-Playing Game (R) of Suspicion & Sneakiness

Thurs, September 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Awoooo000! In this game of logic & secrets, werewolves creep closer to the village every night & the inhabitants are none the wiser. When everyone wakes & discovers evidence of a vicious supernatural attack, there's only one thing the villagers can do: use the power of deduction to call out the werewolves before the entire village is doomed. Which team will come out victorious, & what role are you fated to play?

Potions 101: Slime (R)

Thurs, October 29, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Enroll now for an introduction to potions & potioning. Wizards-in-the-making will understand potion components, learn the process of creating various mixtures, & produce their own potion.

Ghosts in the Graveyard: (R)

A Spooky Game of Hide & Seek

Fri, November 13, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Be the last one standing in this ghostly game of hunting & evading. There's a ghost hiding somewhere...count to midnight & hunt it down. Don't get caught before you can go home, or else you're a ghost now!



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, "Unearth a Story" was a tremendous joy for the library staff. Not only did we get to hear about everyone's favorite dinosaurs, but we also learned all about the earth & held lots of fun, messy events. We especially enjoyed the connections we made with all of you, & we appreciate all our partners that worked with us during this busy season.

Now we are looking forward to a new school year, which always brings a variety of projects & programs for Marshall District Library. September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, so we'll be visiting classrooms & hosting school groups at the library. Not only does your library card get you access to everything in the library building, but it also gives you access to numerous other library services online. I am particularly excited to have the chance to host a program this fall to introduce some of the resources available through MeL.org, provided to all Michigan residents by the Library of Michigan.

We always look for ways to be involved in our community. Some of our outreach activities are ongoing. Each month, staff members visit several local preschools & daycare centers to provide early literacy story times & activities. We also hold a monthly Drop-In Tech Time at Marengo Township Hall. We deliver library materials to homebound patrons. We hold "Meet Your Neighbors" programs with a variety of businesses & organizations. You may notice us at community events or working with service groups & non-profits on different projects. If you have an event you would like to invite the library to attend or a classroom you'd like us to visit, please contact Shauna Swantek, our Head of Programming & Community Engagement, at 269.781.7821 x1800 or swanteks@yourmdl.org.

Sometimes we have the chance to move well beyond the walls of our building, like during our biennial Bellairs Walking Tour. This walking tour brings literature to life with tour stops at many locations referenced in John Bellairs' books. The walk features costumed actors along the route as well as peeks into buildings often closed to the public. This year, author Brad Strickland will also be joining us for our Bellairs weekend. We're excited to welcome him, you, & many out-of-town visitors as we return to New Zebedee.

We hope all of our library visitors enjoy everything Marshall District Library has to offer. Marshall District Library always 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.