

WHAT'S HAPPENING

January & February 2025

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: January 1

ENJOY COMFY COZY SEASON *with*

HAPPY CAMP PROGRAMS
ARE DESIGNED TO HELP US
FEEL JOY THROUGH THE
WINTER MONTHS!



EXPLORE
DISCOVER
GROW

WHAT'S HAPPENING

December Adult Programs

December 2024

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: December 24, 25, 26, & 31 / January 1



Santa & Singing

Wed, December 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

'Tis the season...it's time for the highly anticipated return of Santa & Singing. Join the library staff for a social evening full of holiday cheer featuring a guest performance by the Briton Singers from Albion College. Marshall District Library's "house band," The Long Overdues, will return to close the evening with our traditional carol sing-a-long. There will be treats, music, family activities, & a visit with Santa. Bring your camera for this well-loved free community event on Wed, December 4 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Reading With Leona

Thurs, December 5, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Sat, December 28, 11 am - 12 pm

Drop in & spend some time reading to Leona, a six year-old American Staffordshire Terrier who was rescued from Calhoun County Animal Center when she was a puppy. She is a certified Canine Good Citizen through the American Kennel Club as well as a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She loves meeting new friends & cuddling up to listen to a good book. (You'll receive a minimum 15 minute time slot during the hour once you sign in at the Help Desk; first come, first serve.)

Cocoa & Stories

Thurs, December 12, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

YourMDL in partnership with the Great Start Family Coalition invites you to spend a magical night at the North Pole & visit with Mrs. Claus...hot cocoa provided. Bring your blankets to sit on & meet us at the library to camp at Santa's Workshop for holiday-themed 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.

Pizza & Puzzles

Mon, December 30, 6 - 8 pm

Participate in puzzle-making while munching on pizza! This program celebrates friendly competition as teams try to be the first to finish their puzzle. Everyone ages 5+ is invited to join!

Teens Only!

Holiday Hoopla

Fri, December 20, 5:30 - 7 pm

An after-hours special for teens only: 'Tis the season to party at the library with friends! Get into the holiday spirit with crafts, games, & magical amounts of sugary treats, of course! Grades 6-12 only.

The Pere Marquette 1225:

The Real Polar Express

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

Did you know that the Pere Marquette 1225 Locomotive is one of the largest steam locomotives ever to operate in Michigan? It is rightly referred to as "The Spartan Locomotive," because it was on the Michigan State University campus for 26 years where it was restored by MSU students—from a scrap heap to full operation. Today, it is owned, maintained, & operated by the Steam Railroading Institute (SRI) out of Owosso, Michigan. Bill Struck of the Steam Railroading Institute returns to share more about the history of this enchanting locomotive! This program is geared toward ages 18+, but is open to anyone interested.

Books On Tap

Tue, December 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

At Books on Tap, we read titles that you likely will not run into at your neighbor's book club. No celebrity lists, no high-profile awards, but plenty of thrills, twists, & theatrics. December's title is: *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King. If you've read King before, this novella is unlike his usual offerings. "[A] uniquely frightening suspense about a young girl lost in the woods as night falls, with only the voice of her beloved Red Sox relief pitcher to sustain her & help her survive—maybe" (Amazon). Meet at Grand River Brewery: 101 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI. No purchase necessary to participate; however, special Happy Hour menu available. Take the Books on Tap Selection Survey to vote for our next read at: <https://bit.ly/BTHC25>.

Crafty Holidays

Register for the Date & Time best for you!

Thur, December 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Fri, December 13, 11 am - 12 pm

Sat, December 14, 11 am - 12 pm

Let's add some class to our holiday packages this year by creating hand-embroidered gift tags. All supplies provided. Ages 18+ only; event is free.

Book Club: *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*

Mon, December 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join the Monday night book club for an in-person chat about *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. This novel "beautifully demonstrates the rewards of closely observing nature...an inspiring & intimate story of her (Elisabeth Tova Bailey) encounter with a *Neohelix alborlabris*—a common woodland snail. While an illness keeps her bedridden, Bailey watches a wild snail that has taken up residence on her nightstand" (Amazon). Available at the library & via mel.org in regular & large print. This title is also available as an ebook via Hoopla & Libby.

Spice Club

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

Explore, discover, grow...taste! Spice Club offers one spice each month to experiment with in your kitchen. Embrace cozy vibes at Spice Club this winter, with themed cookbooks & warming recipes. Stop at the Help Desk to pick up your spice packet & borrow each month's title. Meetings are held monthly; 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+ only.



HAPPY CAMP

Programs with this require registration. Reading Dragons & Friends program.

BEGINS JANUARY 2025

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE...

Winter Reading Challenge

Take the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge in celebration of Smokey's 80th birthday. Read 5 books during Happy Camp & get a Marshall District Library flashlight.



Throughout the Reading Challenge, special activity sheets will be available each week as well as monthly scavenger hunts within the library. The USDA Forest Service is collaborating with public library systems across the country to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday by providing a fun & easy way to engage all of us in learning about wildfire prevention, forests, & natural resource careers, while exploring their local environment.

Happy Camp Little Free Puzzle Library

Enjoy a community-wide puzzle swap throughout the winter months of January & February. You can take one home anytime you like. If you have one to add to the little free library, simply drop it by the Help Desk & we'll put into the rotation of puzzle fun. Thanks, in advance, for sharing.



MORNING EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Intended for ages 2-6; all ages welcome.
Please note there is a break week each month.*

Baby Time*

Mondays - 10:30 am

December 2, 9, & 16; January 6, 13, & 20;

February 3, 10, & 17

Engage with your baby in a whole new way! Come share songs, stories, & sensory playtime with your baby to help your little one develop listening & language skills. Also, use this time to meet & connect with other families.

*This program is planned with ages birth to 12 months in mind.

Jumpin' & Jammin'

Wednesdays - 10:30 am

December 4, 11, & 18; January 8, 15, & 22;

February 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. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes.

Family Storytime

Thursdays - 10:30 am

December 5, 12, & 19; January 9, 16, & 23;

February 6, 13, & 20

Come together for storytime. Little learners will expand their world & prepare for school through the Early Literacy practices of Talk, Sing, Read, Write, & Play. Stay afterward for interactive playtime.

STEAM Explorers

Fridays - 10:30 am

December 6, 13, & 20; January 10, 17, & 24; February 7, 14 & 21

Discovery is right round 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.



SPECIAL EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Rockstar Reader: Bow Wow Meow!



Sat, January 25, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Our favorite furry pals take over the library to celebrate our Rockstar Readers! Featuring a themed storytime & crafts, this special event includes a PAW-fect guest. Stay afterward to Read with Leona, YourMDL's favorite therapy dog. She loves sharing stories & helping little learners read 1,000 books before kindergarten. This Rockstar Party is designed for preschoolers & their families. If your little learner is not signed up for Rockstar Reader yet, this program is the PAW-fect opportunity to begin the journey. Registration requested.

Pizza & Stories

Thursdays - 5:30 - 6:30 pm

YourMDL in partnership with the Great Start Family Coalition invites you to a relaxing family storytime each month this winter...with pizza dinner provided. Bring your own blankets to sit on & meet us at the library for dinner, reading-focused stories, & take-home kits full of fun about that month's theme! This program is intended for preschool through first grade & their caregivers, but other family members are welcome to join us.

January 9 @ Ms. Nikki's Noodle Studio (211 E Michigan Ave)

February 13 @ Marshall District Library



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pokémon Club



Tues, January 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Celebrate the New Year at this special edition of Pokémon Club. Welcome the Year of the Snake with themed crafts & games, & learn about the new Pokémon Pocket app. All ages are invited, though activities will be planned for grades 3-6. Those younger should also register their adult to attend with them.

Tues, February 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

After thrilling adventures & nail-biting battles, all Pokémon enjoy a good night's sleep. Join other Poké-fans in painting a cozy portrait of a sleeping Pokémon, perfect for your bedroom décor. All ages are invited, though activities will be planned for grades 3-6. Those younger should also register their adult to attend with them.

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.

Morning Movie - February 1

Shrinky Dinks - February 8

Perler Beads - February 15

...AND MORE FOR EVERYONE!

Reading with Leona

Thursdays, December 5, January 2, February 6, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturdays, December 28, January 25, February 22 11 am - 12 pm

Drop in & spend some time reading to Leona, a six year-old American Staffordshire Terrier. She is a certified Canine Good Citizen through the American Kennel Club as well as a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She also loves meeting new friends & cuddling up to listen to a good book. (You'll receive a minimum 15 minute time slot during the hour once you sign in at the Help Desk; first come, first serve.)



Programs with this require registration.



Reading Dragons & Friends program.

TEEN PROGRAMS



Grades 6-12 only.

Check the online calendar for Afterschool Programs.

Monthly Loot Box

Welcome to YourMDL Loot Box! Each month you register, you will receive a collection of goodies, all cozied up in a classy white box, with snacks & comfy vibes. Plus, each box includes a carefully curated book for ultimate chill. Keep the 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: DIY Snow Globes

Thurs, January 23, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Save your favorite slice of winter in this crafty keepsake. Create a magical snowy scene with miniature figurines & lots of glitter!

Teen Night: Video Game Lounge

Fri, January 31, 5:30 - 8 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! Pizza dinner included with the event.

Teen Night: Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Fri, February 14, 5:30 - 7 pm
An after-hours special for teens only: We are NOT celebrating love this year. Boycott Valentine's Day with games (that are NOT for couples), & crafts (that are NOT for anyone else). Dinner is not included, but there will absolutely be snacks (that we are NOT sharing).

Teen Night: Pancakes & PJs

Thurs, February 27, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Get cozy with your favorite PJs (or your comfiest clothes) for a yummy evening at the library. We'll test our pancake art skills, test the boundaries of pancake toppings, & of course, eat pancakes! Nom.

WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNOLOGY

Add More Libraries On Libby!

Add up to TWELVE Partner Libraries & borrow eBooks/digital audiobooks across the collections. Visit the library for help.

- Download Destination
- Genesee District Library
- Great Lakes Digital Libraries
- Lakeland Digital Library
- Metro Net Library Consortium
- Midwestern Michigan Library Cooperative
- Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
- St. Clair County Library System
- Suburban Library Cooperative
- Traverse Area District Library
- Up North Digital Collection
- White Pine Library Cooperative



NEW Streaming Service Available!

Visit [kanopy.com](https://www.kanopy.com) or download the app to check out this new FREE library service, providing access to a large selection of movies, documentaries, TV shows, & educational videos. Each library card gets 25 tickets/month. Kanopy Kids, a curated collection for children, is "ticket free". Acceptance of user agreement & email address required; ages 18+ only.



NEW ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Books On Tap

Tuesdays, December 10, January 7, February 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
At Books on Tap, we read titles that you likely will not run into at your neighbor's book club. No celebrity lists, no high-profile awards, but plenty of thrills, twists, & theatrics. Take the Books on Tap Selection Survey to vote for our next read at: <https://bit.ly/BTHC25>. Copies of each monthly read are available at the library or through MeL.org in regular & large print. Meet at Grand River Brewery: 101 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI. Special menu & pricing available for Book Club participants; no purchase necessary to participate.

Adult (Only) LEGO Club

Wednesdays, January 29, February 26, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
If you're 18 or 18+ & love LEGOs, this night is for you! Leave the kids at home, & meet at Grand River Brewery for some fun challenges using the library's LEGO collection. You'll be surprised at what you build when asked to rise to the occasion. The Brewery is located 101 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI. No purchase necessary to participate; however, a Happy Hour menu will be available for participants.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Explore: Isle Royale

Mon, January 13, 6:30 - 8 pm

Did you know that Isle Royale National Park is the least visited of America's national parks? Presenter Harry Campion, a retired high school English teacher, is the founding member of The Jardin Expedition. He shares his love of Michigan (especially Isle Royale) by presenting photos & information during speaking engagements & by helping people navigate the "how-to's" of visiting the island. Ages 18+; however, highly interested younger guests are welcome.

Weekend Wind Down

Saturdays, January 18 & February 22, 10 am - 12 pm
Step away from the world & check in with yourself. Pause to reflect, consider a fresh start, & take the opportunity to tap into the power of your mind! Practicing mindfulness can help you reap the benefits of the moment, helping you remain present no matter what the week ahead brings your way. Join Jessica McCrumb of Otterdance Yoga for a morning of mindfulness & stretching to help you connect with yourself. The January & February Saturday sessions with Jessica are the perfect bookends to the Mid-Week Mindfulness series on Wednesday evenings. Wear comfortable clothes for gentle stretching; bring a journal & a yoga mat if you have one. This program is similar to past Mindfulness Mondays & Wind Down Wednesdays, & is intended only for ages 18+.

An Evening of Ecosystems with the Garden Club

Tues, January 21, 6:30 - 8 pm
Join the Marshall Area Garden Club to learn about ecosystems with Professor Leah Knapp from The University of Olivet's Biology Department. Those interested in learning more about the club are invited to stay for a short business meeting to follow. This program will be available both in-person & via Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided upon registration.

Mid-Week Mindfulness

Wednesdays, January 22 & 29, February 5, 12, & 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Welcome to Wednesday. Let's wind down & check-in. Everyone's journey looks different day to day & week to week. So, let's take a mindful moment in the middle of it all to connect with intention. We'll practice light mediation, journaling, & gentle stretching to help us relax, reset, & reconnect. Wear comfortable clothes for gentle stretching, & bring a journal & a yoga mat if you have one. This program is similar to past Mindfulness Mondays & Wind Down Wednesdays, & is intended only for ages 18+. Please register for each week you plan to attend.



ADULT CRAFT PROGRAMS!

Programs are all free. Unless otherwise noted, they are for ages 18+ only & include supplies.

Macramé Snowflake

Wed, January 8, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Learn how to macramé a forever snowflake that will last all winter long! While not a beginner project, this is a 2 out of 5 for difficulty.

Learn to Sew: Cuddly Cat Neck Pillow

Sat, January 11, 11 am - 1 pm, OR

Wed, January 15 OR Thurs, January 30, 6:30 - 8 pm

Bring your own sewing machine or use one of the library's to create a cuddly cat neck pillow. This kitty can be stuffed with poly-fill for fluff or rice to make it a microwavable heating pad. Supply list provided with registration confirmation; some supplies provided. This is an intermediate-level project requiring the ability to sew curves & is recommended for those ages 12+ with some sewing experience. 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 January: Love is a Puzzle Wreath

Thurs, January 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, January 17, 11 am - 12 pm

Upcycle jigsaw puzzle pieces into an adorable little heart-shaped wreath perfect for adding a splash of color to your door or gifting to a Valentine. This program is offered on two different dates; register for the date & time that works best for you.

Valentine's Day Book Décor

Mon, February 3, 6:30 - 8 pm

Join our programming staff for some guided book-folding fun! Use a provided discarded book & follow along with instruction to create your own special Valentine's Day décor.

Crafty February: Lucky Sand Jars

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

Fri, February 21, 11 am - 12 pm

You're never too old for sand art...especially if it is made of rainbows. Create a lucky little piece of home décor by layering many colors of sand before planting a little bit o' clover. This program is offered on two different dates; register for the date & time that works best for you.

Your First Day of Crochet

Wed, February 26, 6:30 - 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 bring your own if you have them.

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! 

It's a Reading Dragons & Friends program!

At these programs, attendees will receive at least one trading card to help build a deck of cards featuring mythical creatures that can be used to play fun games.

Decluttering Basics with The DeClutter Bug

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

Let's be sure your home is feeling as comfy & cozy as possible in 2025. If you are feeling overwhelmed with too much clutter or feeling like your schedule is just too full, Heather Barta, the DeClutter Bug can help! Join us at the library for an interactive session that will inspire you to clean out & organize your space & your calendar. Heather will walk you through the steps of how to decide whether or not to get rid of things & where to donate those items to someone who can use them. Bring your questions! Ages 18+ only.

Valentine Cookie Decorating with Sprinkles & Sparkles

Mon, February 10, 6:30 - 8 pm

Join us for a delightful sugar cookie class with Brittany Bennett from Sprinkles & Sparkles! You'll learn tips & tricks for making perfect sugar cookies & buttercream, explore creative decorating techniques, & even create your own beautifully decorated Valentine's Day sugar cookies. After a brief demonstration, you'll get hands-on experience to make your cookies shine! Ages 18+ only.

Tour of The Hub @128

Mon, February 24, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Meet up for a Happy Camp Field Trip downtown at The Hub @ 128! Join Jaimie McAllister & staff for a tour of the coworking & event space where professionals, freelancers, creatives, artists, techies, entrepreneurs, community members, & more are able to come to work, network, & collaborate. We'll also get a glimpse at the two loft AirBnB apartments housed above the downstairs business. The Hub @ 128 is a fully renovated space located at 128 W Michigan Ave, Marshall MI, 49068, formerly the Eric Heidenreich Dentist Office. Ages 18+ only.

Snug Home; Safe Home: A Technology Program

Tues, February 25, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join the YourMDL Technology Department to learn how to keep your home safe & snug! With topics including the latest cameras, smart locks, motion sensors, doorbells, & other cutting-edge technology, we'll cover everything you need to create a secure yet welcoming haven. This program is perfect for anyone looking to add a layer of comfortable protection to their cozy abode. Ages 18+ only.

ONGOING MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS

Spice Club

Tuesdays, December 17, January 21, February 18
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Explore, discover, grow...taste! Spice Club offers one spice each month to experiment with in your kitchen. Embrace cozy vibes at Spice Club this winter, with themed cookbooks & warming recipes. 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.

Monday Night Book Club

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

December 16 - The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating
by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

January 20 - James

by Percival Everett

February 17 - I Cheerfully Refuse

by Leif Enger



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.

Welcome to our fifth annual Happy Camp program. Happiness can look very different to different people & for the last few years, the library has spent some time during the gray days of winter exploring things that can bring people joy.

For those who are not aware, one of the popular services that the library offers our community is historical & genealogical research assistance. We have a variety of print materials in the library including City & County directories from 1860, yearbooks starting from 1899, county atlases & plat maps, family histories, church records, & cemetery record indexes. We have also spent the last twelve years working towards digitizing much of this material including making digital copies of newspapers from 1838 to present available through our website at www.yourmdl.org.

This year we are particularly happy & grateful that we are going to be able to bring to life the long-time dream of building a Local History Room in the library thanks to the generosity of Laura R. (Withee) Bliss, who passed away in September of 2023. This Local History Center will be built in the northeast corner of our building, taking the place of a storage room & shifting a portion of our adult-nonfiction collection. This area will include shelving for local history materials, comfortable furnishings, research computers, a binding machine, & digitization equipment for books, photos, slides, & various forms of media. We look forward to working with local individuals & organizations to help them digitize & make available their unique historical treasures. While we don't have the date for construction at this time, the library has been going through a bidding process. The Building Plan for this room is available online at: <https://www.yourmdl.org/research/local-history-room-project/>

According to Laura's family, Laura's love of reading & libraries started early on due to the encouragement from her mother, Eleanor M. (Rushford) Withee, a former Marshall Public Library employee in the 1930s, & her father, Alton B. Withee. She was a faithful supporter & patron of Marshall District Library all her life.

Upon retirement as a purchasing manager at Denso in Battle Creek, Laura devoted much of her free time to her lifelong passion: conducting genealogical research on behalf of her family & friends. We are grateful that she provided the funding through the Laura R. Bliss Trust for the development & enhancement of an MDL Local History Center which will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Marshall District Library is looking forward to spending another year helping our community to explore, discover, & grow. If you have any questions or suggestions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.



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.