

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

March, April, May 2025

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

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

Closed: March 28 / April 18 / May 26

# Oh, the Places

# You Can Go!



EXPLORE  
DISCOVER  
GROW



Can you find 9 Picture Clues from the cover beside their programs?

# Programs for Everyone!!!

## **Around the World in 80 Ducks:**

### **A Duck-O-Rating Contest**

**Wed, March 12 - Sat, April 12**

Have a quacking good time this spring & participate in our duck-o-rating contest. Beginning March 12, stop by the library to register & pick up a rubber ducky. Duck-o-rate your new friend, keeping a travel theme in mind. Voting by library patrons will commence between April 15-28. Winners of the contest will be announced on May 3. Registration is required to participate. Ducks will be available while supplies last. All ages are welcome.



## **Local History Center Open House**

**Tues, April 15, 5 - 7 pm**

Celebrate the official opening of the Marshall District Library History Center, a room in the library for conducting family research, seeking local history information, & starting digitization projects. The center will contain materials from the Marshall area & surrounding communities. This project is possible thanks to a generous donation from Laura R. (Withee) Bliss.

## **Basic Gardening for the Whole Family**

**Thurs, May 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Make gardening an engaging activity for the whole family this summer with suggestions from Marshall resident & award-winning gardener Duane Dupee. Learn about planting a vegetable garden, organic practices, the role of pollinators, & the benefits of growing your own plants whether for food or beauty. After the garden talk, learn more about the community flower show at the library in June. Everyone is encouraged to participate alongside Marshall Area Garden Club members by entering the horticulture division, Painting with Plants, or the design division, Colorful Expressions. Youth participating in select library programs will also be creating pieces for the non-judged exhibit: Youthful Blooms. It is free to enter & to attend the flower show. This program & the flower show are made possible through a partnership between the library & the Marshall Area Garden Club, giving both youth & adults the chance to explore design & color while creating a visual display for the entire community to enjoy.

## *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**

**March 3, 10, & 17; April 7, 14, & 21; May 5, 12, & 19**

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**

**March 5, 12, & 19; April 9, 16, & 23; May 7, 14, & 21**

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**

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

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**

**March 7, 14, & 21; April 11 & 25; May 9, 16, & 23**

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



**Programs with this  
require registration.**



**Reading Dragons &  
Friends program.**

# Youth Programs

## Rockstar Reader: Rail Tales



Sat, April 19, 11 am - 12 pm

All aboard the Rockstar Reader Express as we journey to reading 1,000 books! Stories help us travel all over the place, & reading with our friends makes it even more fun. Join in this special storytime celebrating the Rockstar Readers & our favorite stories featuring trains. 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 hit the rails. Registration requested.

## Reading with Leona *All Ages*

Thursdays, March 6, April 3, May 1, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturdays, March 22, April 26, May 24, 11 am - 12 pm

Drop in & visit with Leona, a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She is a seven year-old American Staffordshire Terrier who was rescued from Calhoun County Animal Center when she was a puppy. Leona loves cuddling up to listen to a good book & encouraging her new friends on their awesome reading 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.)

## Poké-Pals Meetup *All Ages*



Wed, March 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Can't wait to show off your card collection? Need to add friends for the next Raid battle in GO? Just need to talk about your favorite Pokémon with friends who understand? This meetup is the perfect place for Pokémon fans to gather & talk about these adorable pocket monsters in an open & friendly atmosphere. We can't wait to see you there!

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

Check the online calendar for Afterschool Programs.

## Monthly Loot Box



Library Loot is cheerfully given; so why not give it a try? Each month you register, a magical box of goodies awaits. Along for the journey is an expertly selected book to enjoy. 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!

## Teen Night: Snacks Around the World



Fri, March 14, 5:30 - 7 pm

Snacks abound as we sample flavors from around the world & learn about what makes them popular. Can you guess where each snack comes from?

## Teen Night: Alien Adoption



Thurs, March 27, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Aliens have landed at YourMDL! Create your own out-of-this-world pet using clay & paint. What does a dog from space look like? You decide!

## Teen Night: Travel Libraries



Fri, April 4, 5:30 - 7 pm

Create a mini library to take with you wherever you are! Decorate tiny shelves with tiny books & other tiny items to customize it just for you. Oh, & a mini library card too, of course!

## Teen Night: Block Printing



Thurs, April 24, 6:30 - 8 pm

Dip into the world of printmaking & try your hand at block printing. Using special tools we'll carve our designs into Lino blocks, then cover our blocks in ink & press them onto sheets of paper to create a picture. Once you've made your stamp, use it over & over to create art for all your friends.

## Teen Night: Video Game Lounge: Roblox Edition

Fri, May 9, 5:30 - 7 pm



It's Video Game night at the library & we're playing: Roblox! There are so many worlds to visit...it will be hard to decide where to go first! Pizza dinner included with the event.

Note: participants must have access to a valid Roblox account prior to the event in order to play.

## Teen Night: Popcorn Party



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

POP into the library for this popcorn party! We will explore the vast possibilities of toppings & push the boundaries of popcorn-making.

Spring Break Programs →

# Magical Mastermind! *All Ages*

## An International Mystery Room



Mon, March 31 - Fri, April 4; various times

Angela Sandiego travels the world, looking for unique & sparkly artifacts. She sometimes even steals them for herself. A recent trip has brought her to Scotland, where she hopes to learn more about their enchanting history & culture. While researching Scotland's mystical past, she stumbles upon something she must have for her collection.

She nabs it...Your goal: solve a series of clues to retrieve this stolen item before time's up & thwart this magical

mastermind. This is a mystery room program that involves various puzzles. Basic math & problem solving are required to reach the goal. Participants are expected to help one another with clues in order to succeed as a team. Recommended for those in Grades 3+. Younger participants are welcome with an adult. A maximum of 8 participants per session; smaller groups may be combined.



## Spring Break Events

\*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.

### Create & Connect: Beaded Bracelets



Mon, Mar 31, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1-2 pm

Whether your friends are near or far, you can stay connected through friendship bracelets. Make a pattern, spell out your name, or surprise yourself! Come connect with others in a calm atmosphere of creating while beading bracelets to keep or give away.

### Bug Hunters: Gear Up!



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

Calling all insect investigators! Receive a Bug Box - the perfect contraption to hold creatures while you study them. Use paint to decorate your new tool & make it uniquely you! Bug boxes generously built & donated by Marshall Hardware.

### Pizza Box Pinball



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

Explore game design by creating a simple pinball machine from a pizza box. Combine your creativity with the science of forces & motion. Game on!

### Fantasy Field Guides



Thurs, April 3, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1-2 pm

Spring is here & that means more time to explore outdoors. Among the bugs & trees, you might be able to find some fairies & gnomes! Create your own fantasy field guide to help others discover the magic of nature.

### Canvas Creations: Travel Edition



Fri, April 4, 10:30 - 11:30 am OR 1-2 pm

Aren't traveling over break? Pretend! Select one of the provided travel-themed images to use as inspiration & create your own spring break masterpiece on canvas.

### Open LEGO Play



Sat, April 5, 10 am - 5 pm

Drop in anytime & create using the library's LEGO collection. No rules, no instructions...build using all the creativity your brain can provide. LEGOs are intended for school-age youth; children must be accompanied by an adult during this open play session.

# Adult Programs

## Songs & Stories of Ireland

Mon, March 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us at Marshall District Library & let the wonderful songs of Ireland & the voice of Irish singer & songwriter Enda Reilly transport you across the Atlantic. Enjoy some well known Irish songs & the sound of the Irish language, learn about Irish culture, & hear the bodhrán (Irish drum) & Celtic guitar. Ages 18+ only.



## Tracing the Travels of Your Ancestors

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

Have you ever wondered about your ancestors' travel routes? Are you interested in learning how to discover more about your ancestors' origins, residences, & locations they may have traveled? During this program, you will learn about resources available to help you explore the migration routes, transportation options, & resources relevant to this time in history. Ages 18+ only.

## Women in Air & Space: Pioneering Women in Early Flight

Mon, March 31, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Round out Women's History Month at Marshall District Library & travel back in time with presenters from the Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Center as they share riveting stories of three trailblazing women who defied societal norms to make their mark in early aviation. Katharine Wright, a driving force behind the success of her famous brothers, Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman with a pilot's license, & Katherine Chung, a pioneering Asian American aviator, each overcame unique challenges to contribute significantly to the history of flight. This program explores their indomitable spirits & groundbreaking achievements, shedding light on their enduring legacies that expanded opportunities for women in aviation & left an indelible mark on aviation history. Registration required; geared towards ages 18+, but is open to anyone teen & up if interested.



## Destination: South Africa

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

Marshall residents Gabriela & Andrei Radelescu spent 18 days in Africa in May of 2024. Join them for an informational evening & learn about their thrilling wildlife experiences & outdoor activities as they share stunning photos of the natural beauty across the continent. A few highlights will include their safari through Kruger National Park, hunting in the Northern Cape with a visit through Augrabies National Park, & visiting Cape Town City, Cape Peninsula National Park, Robben Island, & the wine region. Please note that some hunting photos will be shared. Ages 18+ only.

## Medicare 101

Mon, April 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

As we journey through life, some ages are destinations unto themselves. One important year is when we turn 65 & have important healthcare choices to make. Leslie Hurd, who has been in the health industry for 25 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.

## Local History Center Open House

Tues, April 15, 5 - 7 pm

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## Behind the Scenes of History:

### 300 Years of Mackinac

**Mon, May 5, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Visited by millions, Mackinac is a special place for many Michiganders. Hear the incredible histories of the indigenous peoples, fur trade & logging, 19th century battles, & fudge production! What is it like to wear the wool uniforms & fire muskets for a living? Also, hear tales from behind the porch! What was it like to live on the island in the winter & work security for the Grand Hotel? Presenter Andrew Kercher will examine the history & the present of the Straits of Mackinac. Registration required; geared towards ages 18+, but is open to anyone interested.

## Tour Marshall's U.S. Postal Museum

**Mon, May 12, 6:30 - 8 pm**

Humans & animals are not the only things that travel all of the world. Millions of letters & packages travel across the world each day, too! Did you know that Marshall's United States Postal Service Museum is the second largest Postal Service museum in the United States, second in size only to the National Postal Museum? Join former Postmaster, Michael Schragg, on a tour through the largest collection of U.S. Postal memorabilia outside of Washington's Smithsonian Institution. The Postal Service Museum houses thousands of items spanning the entire history of U.S. mail delivery, with new items being added to the collection regularly. Please meet in front of the museum annex on Madison St. (The actual post office address is 202 E Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI). Ages 18+ only.

## Basic Gardening for the Whole Family

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Make gardening an engaging activity for the whole family this summer with suggestions from Marshall resident & award-winning gardener Duane Dupee. Learn about planting a vegetable garden, organic practices, the role of pollinators, & the benefits of growing your own plants whether for food or beauty. After the garden talk, learn more about the community flower show at the library in June. Everyone is encouraged to participate alongside Marshall Area Garden Club members by entering the horticulture division, Painting with Plants, or the design division, Colorful Expressions. Youth participating in select library programs will also be creating pieces for the non-judged exhibit: Youthful Blooms. It is free to enter & to attend the flower show. This program & the flower show are made possible through a partnership between the library & the Marshall Area Garden Club, giving both youth & adults the chance to explore design & color while creating a visual display for the entire community to enjoy.

## Ongoing Monthly Adult Programs

### Monday Book Club @ the library

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

March 17 *Trespasses* by Louise Kennedy

April 21 *Enemies in the Orchard* by Dana Vanderlugt

May 19 *Long Island* by Colm Tóibín

### Books on Tap @ Dark Horse Brewing Company

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

March 4 *Legends & Lattes* by Travis Baldree

April 1 *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera

May 6 *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa

### Spice Club & Cookbook Club @ the library

**Tuesdays, March 25, April 22, May 27, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Explore, discover, grow...taste! Spice Club offers one spice each month to experiment with in your kitchen. Dig into international flavors at Spice Club this spring as we travel through cookbooks. Stop at the Help Desk to pick up your spice packet & borrow each month's title. 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.

## Traveling with Technology

**Wed, May 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Discover must-have gadgets like smart luggage tags, power banks, & Wi-Fi hotspots. Learn about translation apps, trip organization apps, & augmented reality to enhance your travel experience. Whether you're navigating a new city or lounging on the beach, this program will show you how to make every trip a fun, stress-free adventure!

Intended for 18+, but anyone with the travel bug is welcome.

## Adult Craft Programs

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

### Crafty March: For the Love of Michigan

**Thurs, March 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, March 21, 11 am - 12 pm**

Recall your favorite Michigan adventures while crafting with actual maps to create meaningful keepsakes. We'll make magnets, buttons, & more while sharing stories of our favorite spots around the Great Lakes state.

### Crafty April: Button Bouquets

**Thurs, April 24, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, April 25, 11 am - 12 pm**

Bring your button jar(s) or tin(s) & create one of a kind bouquets where the blossoms are made of buttons. Have a favorite little vase or salt or pepper shaker? Bring that too! Don't have a collection? Just come & use the library's craft supplies to start one.

### Beyond the Basics: Crochet 102

**Wed, April 23, 6:30 - 8 pm**

You've learned the basics & now you're ready for more! Welcome to "Crochet 102," where we will learn the half-double & double crochet stitches as well as begin to learn how to work in the round. Participants should already know how to create a foundation chain, single crochet stitch, & work in rows. Supplies will be provided, but if you already have your own, please bring them.

### Learn to Sew: Japanese Knot Bag

**Thurs, May 1, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, OR Fri, May 2, 11 am - 12 pm OR**

**Sat, May 3, 11 am - 12 pm**

Drawing from Japan's iconic "furoshiki" knotting, this project is one of refined simplicity. The reversible bag is very versatile & can be used for travel ... or for craft projects, lunches, eco-friendly gift wrapping, & more. Supply list provided with registration confirmation; some supplies provided. This is a beginner-level project requiring the ability to sew curves & 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](mailto:swanteks@yourmdl.org) or calling 269.781.7821 x1800.)

### Crafty May: Shabby Chic Friendship Bracelets

**Thurs, May 22, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, May 23, 11 am - 12 pm**

Using fabric scraps & beads, create an upscale version of the friendship bracelet using a simple braid. Each bracelet is resizable making them perfect for gifting.

## 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@marshallshilldistrictlibrary.org](mailto:mdleventregistration@marshallshilldistrictlibrary.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!**



## 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).

One of the wonderful things about books is that they can take us on adventures without leaving home. This season, MDL would like to take our community on a trip around the world (& maybe into some fantasy worlds) with our upcoming programs. While we're at it, we also plan to travel travel back through time to celebrate the Marshall area with the opening of our new MDL History Center in April.

Whether you love to read, to cook, to create, or to listen, there is something for you to learn this spring at MDL. We will explore many flavors of cooking during Spice & Cookbook Club. We will hear musicians, travelogues, & history lectures. We will decorate ducks, paint, make jewelry, & crochet. We will learn about our family history & visit the US Postal Museum. We'll also be visiting our schools & daycare centers for "March is Reading" month.

One of the things that we hope people in our community will take some time to learn about is our local history & genealogy collection. Many people come to the library to research the history of their home, trace their ancestry, or research events of the past. 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 digital copies of newspapers from 1838 to present available through our website at [www.yourmdl.org](http://www.yourmdl.org). We also give access to Ancestry Library Edition within the library. Visitors can make 1:1 appointments with our librarians to get started on family research or to find out more about what resources available.

In April, we plan to celebrate the opening of the MDL History Center. Thanks to the generosity of Laura R. (Withee) Bliss, who was a faithful supporter & patron of the library. 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 the MDL History Center. Additional funding from the Laura R. Bliss Trust is being used to digitize newspapers from some other areas across Calhoun County that have links to Marshall. These will soon be available through the library's newspaper database. The Building Plan for the MDL History Center is available online at <https://www.yourmdl.org/research/local-history-room-project/>



## Program Suggestions?

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