

KALEIDOSCOPE

Kent District Library // Information. Ideas. Excitement!

Fall 2026

Staff Picks pg. 6

The Baby-Sitters Club Secret Weapon pg. 8

Fall Fun! pg. 10

Escape the Chill @ KDL pg. 12

KDL Vibes pg. 22



15
YEARS

pg. 18

More than
1,500

Programs Inside!

Welcome to Fall

One of the things I love most about Kent District Library is how many ways there are to express your creativity. Whether you enjoy writing, making music or discovering new artistic talents, KDL has something for you.

If you have a story to tell, consider entering the **15th annual** Write Michigan Short Story Contest. Each year, writers from across Michigan share their imagination, creativity and unique voices through original short stories. Whether you're an experienced writer or trying your hand at storytelling for the first time, it's a fun opportunity to challenge yourself and connect with a community of readers and writers.

Music lovers and musicians will want to check out KDL Vibes, KDL's collection of local music. Vibes helps shine a spotlight on the incredible artists who call West Michigan home.

You can explore and stream albums, create playlists of your favorite tracks and discover new music from a wide variety of genres. Best of all, KDL cardholders can download and keep music from the collection for free. It's a wonderful way to support local artists while expanding your own musical horizons.

Creativity takes many forms, and at KDL we're proud to provide opportunities for everyone to create, share and be inspired. Whether you're writing the next great short story or discovering your new favorite local band, your library is here to help you explore your creative side.



Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Lance Werner
Executive Director



Submit your Write Michigan story at **WriteMichigan.org**. Entries are accepted through Nov. 15.





Contents

- 4 KDL Updates
- 6 Staff Picks
- 8 *The Baby-Sitters Club Secret Weapon*
by Kelsey and Eva Little
- 10 Fall Fun!
- 12 *Escape the Chill @ KDL* by Jenny Furner
- 13 Stump the Librarian
- 14 Important Topics @ Your Library
- 16 *How the Write Michigan Contest
Jumpstarted My Writing Career*
by Andy Rogers
- 17 Write Michigan Days of Learning
- 18 Write Michigan Short Story Contest
- 19 Teen Graphic Novel Contest Author Panel
& Awards
- 20 *Stampworthy Is Back!* by Josh Mosey
- 21 Legendary Readers
- 22 *Kent District Library Vibes*
by Josh Garvelink
- 24 Literacy Champion Award Recipients
- 25 Welcome to KDL
- 26 Fall 2026 Program Guide

.....
kdl.org | 616.784.2007
.....

Summer Wonder Success!

More than 22,000 people completed Summer Wonder as of this magazine's printing! It was a summer of reading, exploring, learning and amazing programs. Thank you to Kent County Parks, our program presenters and all the participants for making Summer Wonder such a success. See you next summer!



About the cover:

A bird. Fish. Deer. Turtles. Fireflies.

And now a **frog** joins Adolfo's amazing menagerie of critters he has created for KDL and Write Michigan. Speaking of which, *hop* on over to page 18 to learn about Write Michigan's 15th year!



KDL Updates



Big sibling headed back to school? Feeling a little left out?

When the backpacks come out and the school bus rolls by, younger siblings can feel like they're missing out on all the fun. Good news – KDL has plenty of adventures just for preschoolers! The next time you stop by for storytime or a stack of books, don't miss these exclusive favorites designed especially for little learners.

WonderKnook

Did you know play is one of the best ways young children build early literacy skills? Every KDL branch houses a unique WonderKnook play space that features natural materials and open-ended activities that inspire curiosity, creativity, vocabulary and social development. From driving a giant car at Plainfield to serving customers at Kentwood's food truck or creating masterpieces in Cascade's art studio, every visit is a new adventure. Visit five different WonderKnooks and you'll even earn your very own WonderKnook coloring book!



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1KB4K)

Has your child joined 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten? Pick up a special reading booklet, track the books you share together (yes, even reading the same favorite again and again counts!) and celebrate every 100 books read with a new sticker for your booklet. Reach the finish line and your child will earn an adorable 1KB4K book bag to celebrate this incredible milestone.



Preschool Booster Packs

Bring the fun home! Our Preschool Booster Packs are filled with books, games and hands-on activities centered around early learning themes like letters, numbers, colors and shapes. They're an easy way to keep curious minds exploring long after you've left the library. Check out our feature on page 8 for another fun way to put the packs to good use!



KDL Gives Back

KDL is partnering with Meals on Wheels Western Michigan to collect shelf-stable food for local seniors. Every donation helps support nutritious meals while fostering independence, healthy aging and meaningful connections throughout our community. Drop off shelf-stable food items to any branch during the month of September.



It's a Wrap! On the Same Page 2026

Are you still basking in the afterglow from On the Same Page 2026 with Kristin Hannah and Megan Chance? We are too! As we work behind the scenes for next year's author reveal, here's a look back at some highlights that made this year's event one to remember!



6,200

Attendees filled Van Andel Arena



2,229

Copies of *The Women* and *The Vermillion Sea* were checked out between the author announcement and the event.

1

Ten-week-old baby was signed up for a library card at the event. We can't say for certain, but they just might be our youngest patron yet!



Evan and Kaylee Johnson
with little Elowyn

Want to stay in the know about information related to On the Same Page? Be sure to subscribe to our email newsletter at kdl.org/samepage.



Construction Updates

The future of KDL is taking shape as exciting construction progress continues at two KDL branches. At the Krause Memorial Branch in Rockford, the expanded library is coming to life with interior finishes underway and the future plaza and Children's Secret Garden taking shape outside. Meanwhile, the new Walker Branch is nearing completion, with final interior details, landscaping and preparations for opening day in progress – including the new outdoor Sound Garden. These incredible new spaces are getting closer to welcoming their communities for more opportunities to read, learn, play and connect!



kdl.org/growingkrause



kdl.org/walker-makeover

Staff Picks



House of Leaves

by Mark Z. Danielewski

Have you heard of this new horror movie called *Backrooms*? Has your teen been going on and on about the perception-warping, existential dread brought on by liminal spaces? This is 100% the book for you! It's one of those books that's written in a "cool" style that's just oozing with 90s' subculture. The book takes you on two simultaneous narrative rides, one through a man's descent into insanity by reading into the notes of a dead man on a mysterious film. The other is through the notes/records themselves as they literally switch, twist, subvert and trick your eyes and mind and leave you asking, Did any of that happen at all? Freak yourself out. Read this now, then listen to the companion record *Haunted* by the artist Poe (the author's sister).

Michael | Cascade Twp. Branch

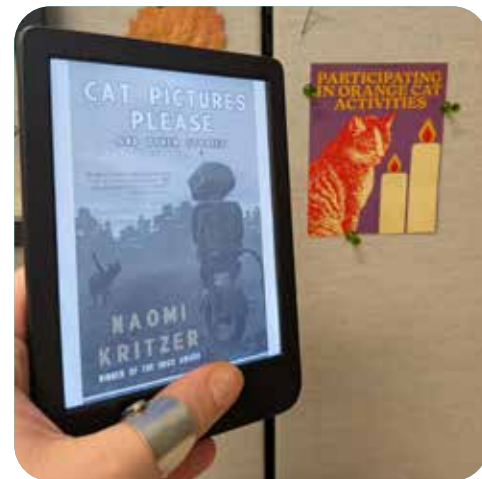


Glitz, Glam, and a Damn Good Time: How Mamie Fish, Queen of the Gilded Age, Partied Her Way to Power

by Jennifer Wright

Love glitz? Love glam? Ever wondered how a strategically aggressive dinner party could completely alter your social standing? Same! *Glitz, Glam and a Damn Good Time* had me laughing out loud and accidentally learning things at the same time, which is honestly not an experience I often associate with nonfiction. The book dives headfirst into the outrageous parties, old-money feuds, jaw-dropping mansions and larger-than-life personalities that shaped elite society in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It blends history, gossip and cultural commentary so well it feels less like reading nonfiction and more like sitting next to the funniest person at a dinner party who knows ALL the best stories!

Kelsey | Service Center



Cat Pictures Please

by Naomi Kritzer

A charming collection of sci-fi and fantasy short stories by Hugo-winning author Naomi Kritzer. Her stories are often so prescient to current social issues, while also being some of the coziest and warmest reads I've ever flipped through. *Available on Hoopla.*

Gwennan | Service Center



Kill the Beast

by Serra Swift

A Beauty and the Beast retelling – except Beauty is a vengeful monster hunter. This well-paced novel balances action with the warmth of found family, weaving a story about how friendship can break generations of cyclical violence. Set against a richly atmospheric Victorian backdrop, it delivers heart, danger and healing in equal measure.

Aude | Walker Branch

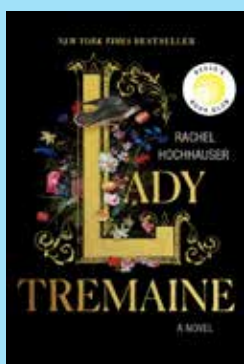


The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

When the author, Elisabeth Tova Bailey, becomes suddenly ill and is bed-bound for months, a friend brings in a snail on a potted plant so she has something to look at. As her interest in the snail grows, she learns more about these little creatures that live all around us. This book is beautifully written, meditative and filled with lots of fun facts about snails. If you enjoy Robin Wall Kimmerer's writing style, I think this would be a great fit for you!

Shelby | Caledonia Twp. Branch



Lady Tremaine

by Rachel Hochhauser

Lady Tremaine is an entertaining feminist take on Cinderella, told from the point of view of the "evil" stepmother. Always bothered by the fact that Cinderella just fell in love and was swept away by a handsome prince she'd known all of a few hours? Here's your book. Cozy in for the weekend.

Shannon | Substitute Assistant Branch Librarian

Seasonally Scary Picks Across Multiple Media

Julita | Service Center



Resident Evil: Requiem

published by CAPCOM U.S.A.

Whether *Resident Evil: Requiem* is the first or the ninth installment in the franchise that you've played, it delivers an exciting horror experience that will keep you on the edge of your seat. From the Rhodes Hill Chronic Care Center back to Raccoon City, utilize stealth and resource management to ward off horrifying monsters as Grace and engage in epic battles against zombie hordes as Leon. Available for Xbox Series X, PS5 and Nintendo Switch 2.



Under the Shadow

Written and directed by Babak Anvari

In Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, young Dorsa learns about the legend of the djinn from a boy in her apartment building. After her building is struck by a missile, Dorsa begins to see a strange presence in the house, and her mother, Shideh, suffers from nightmares. In an already oppressive environment with war raging around them, Shideh must confront her fears and the spirit she fears will possess Dorsa to keep them both safe.



Jawbone

by Mónica Ojeda, translated by Sarah Booker

Told through the perspectives of two students at the Delta Bilingual Academy in Ecuador and their literature teacher, *Jawbone* delves into the twisted minds of three individuals who exist seemingly at odds with each other while jointly grappling with the one thing that ties them all together: girlhood. Creepy, disturbing and unforgettable, *Jawbone* examines the relationships between women and girls and explores the feminine experience through references to creepypastas and cosmic horror.



Written by Ann M. Martin, *The Baby-Sitters Club* follows Kristy, Claudia, Mary Anne, Stacey and their friends as they build a thriving babysitting business while navigating school, family, friendships and plenty of funny mishaps.

THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB

SECRET WEAPON

By **Kelsey** and **Eva Little**

Eva | Current babysitter and *Baby-Sitters Club* fan. Strong believer that KDL makes babysitting low-key effortless.

Kelsey | Former *Baby-Sitters Club* superfan. Current mom, library enthusiast and nostalgic believer that the BSC would have been all over KDL's Booster Packs.

Kelsey: Millennial mom here! I devoured the *Baby-Sitters Club* books growing up. My inner Kristy loved the idea of running a business with friends, color-coded schedules and (most importantly!) having my own phone line in my room. Years later, I was delighted to discover the series was alive and well and now in graphic novel form. My daughter Eva needed no convincing to pick them up and quickly became a fan too.

Eva: Any member of the Baby-Sitters Club knows preparation is everything. When I first began babysitting, I used to assemble little bags of toys, books and activities before each babysitting job. But repeat families quickly become repeat customers, and even the best toys can't keep the hype forever.

Now, before heading out for a babysitting job, I make one quick stop: the library! KDL has curated everything a babysitter needs to keep kids learning, occupied and always excited – Preschool Booster Packs!

For over two hours they played non-stop, transforming their robots into letters and having imaginary battles with each other.



Kelsey: While we can't confirm it, we suspect Kristy Thomas herself may have consulted with KDL's Collection Department, because these Booster Packs are exactly the sort of thing the Baby-Sitters Club would approve of.

Eva: I'll never forget the first time we thought of checking out a Booster Pack for babysitting. When I got ready to watch my neighbor's 2- and 5-year-old boys, we grabbed the Preschool Booster Pack: Letters. The minute the boys saw the Alpha-bots, I couldn't believe how quickly they dove in. For over two hours they played non-stop, transforming their robots into letters and having imaginary battles with each other. I knew the pack was a win when I had to convince them to take a break for pizza. After dinner, they went right back to playing, and we enjoyed the other games in the pack, along with a few of the books included before bed. The variety was amazing.

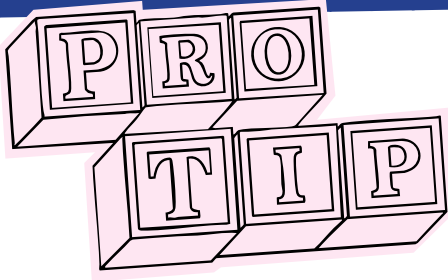
Since then, I always check out a Booster Pack before a babysitting job. Having something new to bring always keeps whoever I'm watching entertained without a lot of planning and preparation for me.



Kelsey: Some things have changed since the days of Kristy, Claudia, Dawn and Stacey. The landlines are gone and the Baby-Sitters Club meetings probably happen over text these days. But some things haven't changed at all. Great babysitters still show up prepared. Playing with something new still works like magic. Curiosity and discovery still have plenty of kid appeal, and KDL Booster Packs are proof that a well-prepared babysitter never goes out of style.



BABYSITTING



Want to make babysitting prep feel effortless?

Eva's favorite hack is placing one or two Booster Packs on hold and pausing the hold. When a babysitting job pops up, she simply resumes the hold and picks one up a few days later!

Babysitting older kids? Booster Packs are not just for preschoolers! KDL has themed packs all the way up to third grade, and GO! Packs bring the fun with hands-on activities and games like Snap Circuits, wooden train sets, Throw Throw Burrito and Sneaky, Snacky Squirrel. Basically, you'll never have to show up empty-handed for a babysitting job again.

Come on in and check a Booster Pack out for yourself!



kdl.org/booster-packs

New to *The Baby-Sitters Club* or ready for a trip down memory lane? For nearly 40 years, *The Baby-Sitters Club* has introduced readers to friendship, entrepreneurship and unforgettable adventures. KDL has everything you need to discover (or rediscover) the series that inspired generations of readers.

kdl.org/search/babysitters-club



Fall Fun!

Celebrate the season with fall fun at the library! From festive activities to seasonal programs, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Gather your family and friends, discover all the autumn excitement and make the library part of your fall traditions!



Autumn Leaves Felted Bookmarks*

Create a leaf-shaped bookmark using wool fiber and wet felting techniques. Basic felt making techniques will be used to create the bookmarks, and you can further embellish your bookmark with added beading or stitching. *For adults.*

Pg. 41



Creative Calm: Kinusaiga Fabric Art for Adults*

Slow down and enjoy a mindful crafting experience with Kinusaiga, a Japanese fabric art technique that combines precision and creativity. Using fabric pieces pressed into a foam base, participants will design a decorative artwork to take home. No sewing experience is required, making this an accessible and rewarding program for adults interested in art, crafting or stress-relieving creative activities. *For adults.*

Pg. 42



Woven Mug Rug*

Ever wanted to try weaving but didn't know where to start? Join us for a fast-paced, hands-on weaving session! In this beginner workshop, you'll learn the art of weaving on a notched loom. Using wool yarn, we'll create a rustic mug rug – the perfect cozy landing spot for your favorite pumpkin spice latte or morning tea. *For adults.*

Pg. 47

For all of our programs, turn to page 26, scan this code or go to kdl.org/events.



*For the programs on this page, space is limited, so registration is required and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts. To register or for more information, please visit kdl.org/events.



Fall Craft Party

Crunchy leaves, orange pumpkins and plenty of squirrels – celebrate the season with all sorts of amazing fall-themed crafts. *For families with children.*

Pg. 29



A Celtic Halloween with Selkie

Enjoy seasonal songs and instrumentals with themes of fairies, ghosts and madness from Selkie, one of Michigan's favorite Celtic bands. *For all ages.*

Pg. 28



Great Lakes Ghosts

Enjoy a narrated concert from Lee Murdock featuring songs of supernatural legends and spooky tales of ghost ships, haunted lighthouses and unexplained phenomenon. *For adults.*

Pg. 44



Mythical Monsters of Michigan

Everyone has heard a tale about ghosts, monsters or strange and unexplainable events. Come and get acquainted with some of Michigan's mythical monsters, unique to our state and possibly very close to home. Robin Nott will spin tales and sing songs to delight the audience; everyone loves to get the shivers, no matter how old you are! *For adults.*

Pg. 45

Eerie Excitement at the Library

Games, crafts and activities... creeping into the library near you! Enjoy not-so-scary fun for all ages. *For families with children.*

Pg. 29



Not-So-Scary Storytime

Bring the whole family to enjoy some not-too-scary stories. Costumes welcome! *For young children.*

Pg. 31



Escape the **Chill** @KDL

As the leaves turn colors and the wind becomes more biting, we often hibernate inside, away from the cold. But there's still plenty of fun to be had, especially at the KDL branches. While the library is a great place to get reading materials and even video games, many of our branches offer amenities to help pass those darkening fall days.



By **Jenny Furner** | Collection Services Assistant

Marvel at underwater life with aquariums at the East Grand Rapids, Plainfield Twp. and Cascade Twp. Branches.

Play board games at the Caledonia Twp. and Plainfield Twp. Branches.

Pass the time putting together a puzzle at the Caledonia Twp., Kentwood (Richard L. Root) and Plainfield Twp. Branches (and then take one home with you).

Get some supplies for your next masterpiece at the Cascade Twp., Kentwood and Nelson Twp. Branches' craft supply exchanges.



Keep the kids entertained with the Lego® and art rooms at the East Grand Rapids Branch or look for treasures in Comstock Park Branch's I-SPY Terrarium.

Search for hidden items or pictures, as many branches offer a scavenger hunt.



Bring a dollar for coffee or hot chocolate and cozy up next to a fireplace, found in many of our branches.

Take a moment to appreciate the beautiful views through the windows at the Kentwood (Richard L. Root), East Grand Rapids and Englehardt (Lowell) Branches.



Don't forget about the many programs happening at all the branches throughout the week. To see what's happening at the branch nearest you, visit kdl.org/events or flip to page 26.

There's so much to discover this fall at KDL.

STUMP

the Librarian



Have you ever wondered where seagulls live, what noise seahorses make or whether Bigfoot is real? Join Jill and Liz every other Wednesday to learn new and exciting information about our world and get a book recommendation. Visit kdl.org/stump to enjoy the podcast and to submit a question. You can also enjoy the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

Submit a question online or in a branch.



Your hosts



kdl.org/stump

Important Topics @Your Library

News apps, social media, newspapers, television – information flies at us almost too fast for us to keep up. Join KDL and local experts to better understand important topics, going beyond the headlines and digging deep into the information shaping our world. *For adults.*

Film Screening:

Did You Guys Eat? ¿Ya comieron?



In appreciation of the farmworkers and farmers who grow and harvest the food we enjoy, the Kent County Food Policy Council and Kent District Library are pleased to co-host a film screening of *Did You Guys Eat? ¿Ya comieron?* The documentary shares the vital stories of farm workers and migrant laborers in Michigan, highlighting the dedicated network of supporters who stand behind them. This film is not just about farming – it's about the people, their stories and the invisible systems that bring every meal to our tables.

Thu., Nov. 5, 5:00 PM, Cascade Twp. Branch



Watch the trailer on YouTube.



Next Nexus Series

Latina Founders PANEL



Gricelda Mata
Lindo Mexico



Nancy Quero
Guelaguetza
Designs



Valentina Valdes-Alonso
Sol Design

Gain strategies, perspectives on leadership and branding tips during an inspiring afternoon of leadership, entrepreneurship and community. Three Latina business founders will individually share their journeys of building and growing their businesses and then expand on their experiences in an interactive panel discussion followed by a live Q&A. *Presentations in English. Q&A in English and Spanish. Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events.*

Obtenga estrategias, perspectivas sobre liderazgo y consejos de marca durante una tarde inspirador de liderazgo, emprendimiento y comunidad. Tres fundadoras del negocios latinas compartirán individualmente sus viajes de construcción y crecimiento sus negocios y luego expandirán sus experiencias en un panel interactivo, seguida de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas en directo. Presentarios en inglés. **Sesión de preguntas y respuestas en inglés y español.** El cupo es limitado, por lo que es necesario inscribirse en kdl.org/events.

Thu., Sept. 17, 1:00 - 4:30 PM, Wyoming Branch

From New Americans to Neighbors

West Michigan has long taken pride in being a welcoming place for immigrants and new Americans. What does immigration in that welcoming West Michigan look like today? Join the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan for our annual community speaker series in partnership with Kent District Library

for a discussion designed to foster learning and dialogue around immigration and refugee experiences and to help us educate our community on the importance and value of immigration in the larger world, as well as in West Michigan.

New Neighbors, Shared Stories: An Evening with Beth Nguyen

Celebrate stories of immigration and belonging with the author of *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, a memoir set in Grand Rapids. Bich Minh (Beth) Nguyen will share her experience growing up as a Vietnamese refugee in West Michigan and invite us to reflect on identity, family and finding home.

Thu., Oct. 8, 6:30 PM



Welcoming Together: Local Organizations, Global Impact

Global stories don't stay far away – they become part of life right here in West Michigan. Members of the Office of Global Michigan, the Refugee Education Center and local leaders will share their own immigration journeys that led them to West Michigan. Learn how global challenges translate into local action and how communities come together to create a culture of welcome.

Join us for a reception beginning at 5:30 PM where we will have booths and tables with local area organizations sharing information on how they are supporting our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Thu., Oct. 22, 6:30 PM

From Global Displacement to Local Welcome: Making Sense of Migration Today

What does global migration have to do with our community? Drawing on decades of experience responding to humanitarian crises around the world, Jeremy Konyndyk, President of Refugees International, will explore how global forces such as conflict and climate change shape migration and how those realities connect to communities like ours.

Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM



World Affairs Council
OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
4950 Breton Rd. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508



How the Write Michigan Contest Jumpstarted My Writing Career

By Andy Rogers

Every writer struggles with self-confidence. As an editor, I've worked with authors who have multiple books traditionally published, yet even they secretly wonder, "Am I a 'real' writer?"

At what point are you a "real" writer anyway? When you get published? When someone pays you? What if you never get published or paid, but still love to write? Are you a writer then?

I was wrestling with these questions in 2013. I'd been writing since 2008, chipping away at short stories and articles, but my writing career was like a car that won't start: going nowhere and kind of embarrassing.

An unfortunate truth about writing is that in order to be published, you often have to show that you've been published. Writers need writing credits. One way to break this chicken-and-egg paradox is to enter writing contests. In a contest, you're not competing with thousands of other writers for an editor's attention. You submit your best writing and let the work speak for itself. And even if you don't win, making the short list is a great writing credit.



A.L. (Andy) Rogers is a ghostwriter, editor and author. As a ghostwriter, Andy has written true-crime, memoir, self-help and business books. As an editor, Andy has acquired books by professional athletes, Hollywood actors and thought leaders in nearly every major nonfiction category. Learn more about his work at andyrogersbooks.com.

I heard about Write Michigan during one of my weekly visits to my local library branch (Grandville) and was immediately interested. The contest offered several things that are perfect for a writer building their career, as I was:

A smaller pool of competitors. Stories still have to stand on their own merits, but entrants have better odds than, say, submitting to *The Paris Review*.

A low cost. Some contests cost four times as much as Write Michigan, largely, I assume, to pay for expensive publications. However, KDL works with a local, print-on-demand publisher to keep costs low and the writers' investments in the community. I love that.

Quality feedback. Writers rarely get feedback from the editors who reject their work. This is one of the most demoralizing aspects of trying to build a list of credits. You get a form letter if you're lucky. But if you're chosen for the final round of voting, you will receive notes from the judges.

In 2013, I submitted a sci-fi short story called "Archived" and won the Reader's Choice Award. It wasn't the ultimate prize, but that didn't matter. To say I was thrilled with the outcome is like describing the sun as "kinda warm" – a massive understatement. I couldn't believe it!

Today, I write and edit books for a living. I often tell people the Write Michigan contest came along at just the right time. Not only did it provide a printed publication – a real book I could show off and give away – but it was one of the first times I received professional feedback. The experience also boosted my confidence profoundly. I started submitting more articles and stories for publication. While not every submission was accepted (the writer's life is filled with rejections), my win in that contest was the jumpstart I needed. And I'm still rolling.

Write Michigan Days of Learning

Every writer has a story to tell – and there’s always more to learn. Join fellow writers for a Write Michigan Day of Learning, where expert-led sessions will help you strengthen your craft, grow your audience and confidently navigate today’s publishing landscape.

Telling Your Story

Saturday, Sept. 12
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM
Plainfield Township Branch

Building your online presence is scary. Most of us are familiar with social media, but having a website? Crafting a newsletter? Starting a blog? There are too many options, and it can be overwhelming. Writer Lisa Rabey will introduce you to the world of websites, newsletters and blogs in easy-to-understand terms and relatable examples.



Lisa Rabey

Using AI to Improve Your Creative Writing Skills

Saturday, Sept. 12
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
Plainfield Township Branch

Learn how to use AI to improve your creative writing skills. Instead of using AI to write FOR you, use AI ethically and as a tool for growth in your creative writing journey, whether you’re an author of fiction or creative nonfiction.



Josh Mosey

Saturday, Oct. 3
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
East Grand Rapids Branch

Circulate! Getting Your Books into Bookstores and Libraries

Saturday, Oct. 3
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM
East Grand Rapids Branch

Get the tools and knowledge you need to get your books on library shelves, give author readings or present talks. Learn from librarian and writer Lisa Rabey how to create relationships with bookstores and libraries and further your writing career.



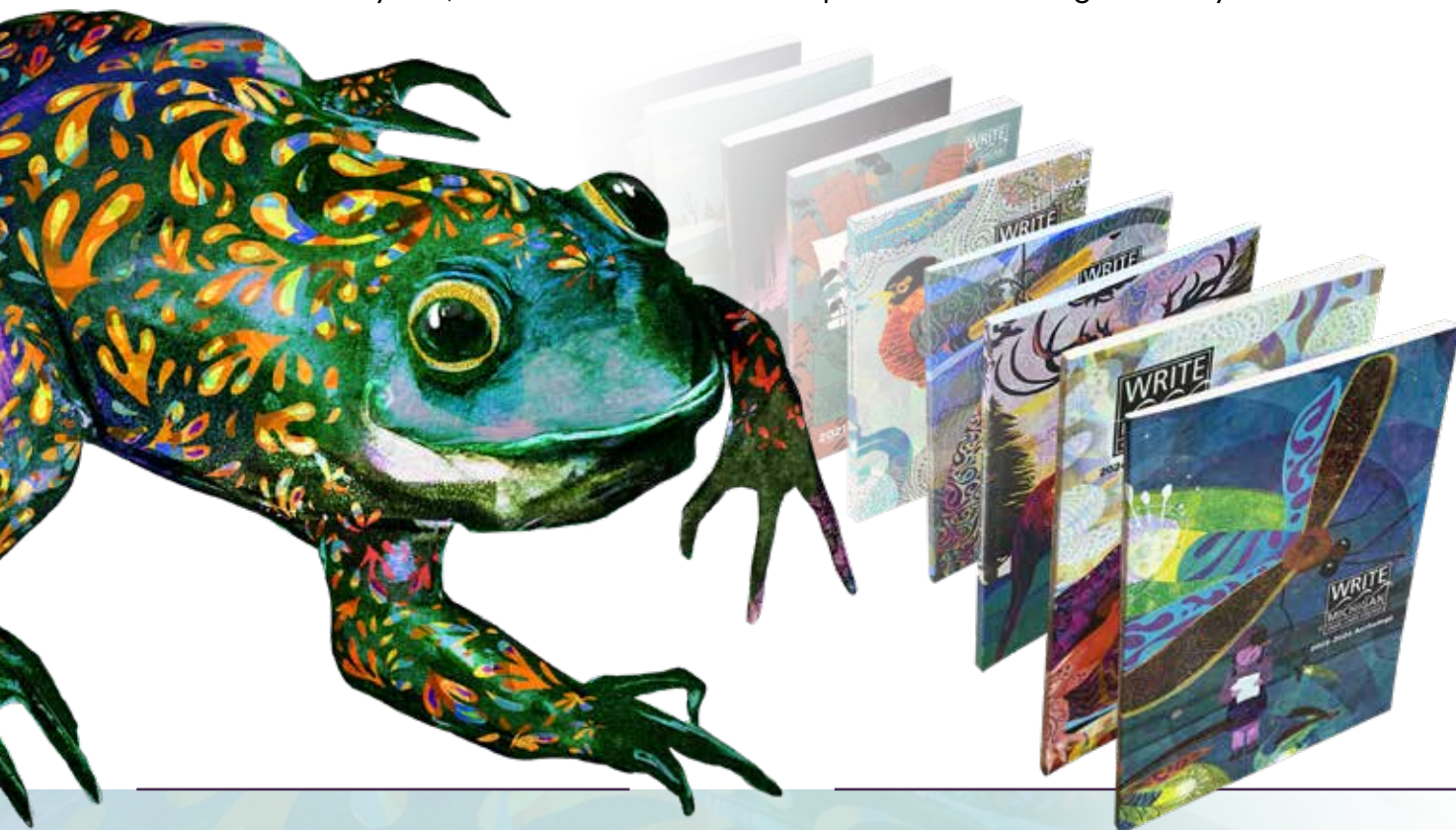
Lisa Rabey





What's Your Story?

For 15 years, Write Michigan has celebrated the stories that connect, surprise and remind us that every voice matters. If you've ever felt that spark of imagination, this is your invitation to write it down. You don't have to be a writer to tell a great story. Take a chance, submit your short story of 3,000 words or fewer and be part of Write Michigan's 15th year.

**Categories:**

Youth, Teen, Adult

Deadline:

Nov. 15

Prizes in each category:

One Judges' Choice Winner (\$500)

One Readers' Choice Winner (\$250)

Three Judges' Choice Finalists (\$250 ea.)

\$10 entry fee for adults.*

Free for children and teens.

*Scholarships available at writemichigan.org/scholarship.

15 YEARS MORE PRIZES THAN EVER

Visit

WriteMichigan.org

for details!

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

TEEN
GRAPHIC NOVEL
WRITE MICHIGAN CONTEST

**AUTHOR
PANEL &
AWARDS**

Celebrate the published teen authors from the 2026 Write Michigan Teen Graphic Novel Contest for a day of conversation celebrating graphic novels, storytelling and the creative process. The event will feature a panel discussion with contest judges Danica Davidson (*Minecraft: The Outsider*), Meggie Ramm (*Batcat*) and Corinne Roberts (*Out and About*). This event is open to the public.

Please note that photos and videos will be taken at this event. By attending, you agree to potentially being photographed or filmed.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Cascade Twp. Branch



Danica Davidson



Meggie Ramm
Photo ©Heather Nash



Corinne Roberts



2025 Teen Graphic Novel Author Panel

Stampworthy Is Back!



By **Josh Mosey** | Digital Marketing Strategist



Beginning October 1, we invite you to go old-school with us and get your card stamped. Every library visit where you check out at least five items earns you a stamp on a Stampworthy card. Get five stamps and you can turn that card into an entry to win a monthly prize from one of our amazing prize partners.

Why does Stampworthy focus on the physical items you check out?

1

By checking out physical books, you are actually saving the library money. Physical resources are often less expensive for the library to offer on a per checkout basis.



2

Wait times might be shorter for physical materials than digital ones. For many people, putting new and popular items on hold through Libby is second nature, but with our Express physical copies, the book you are waiting for might be on the shelf at your nearest KDL branch.

3

Studies show that people often remember and understand what they read a little better when they read a physical book instead of on a screen. Turning pages and seeing where information is in the book makes it easier for our brains to remember it.



We can't wait to stamp your card!



Earn as many entries as you can until the end of December.

THE ANNUAL READING ADVENTURE

LEGENDARY Readers

Read, write or visit
the library on any

100 DAYS
September – June

for a chance to win a

\$100 Gift Card
to SCHULER BOOKS

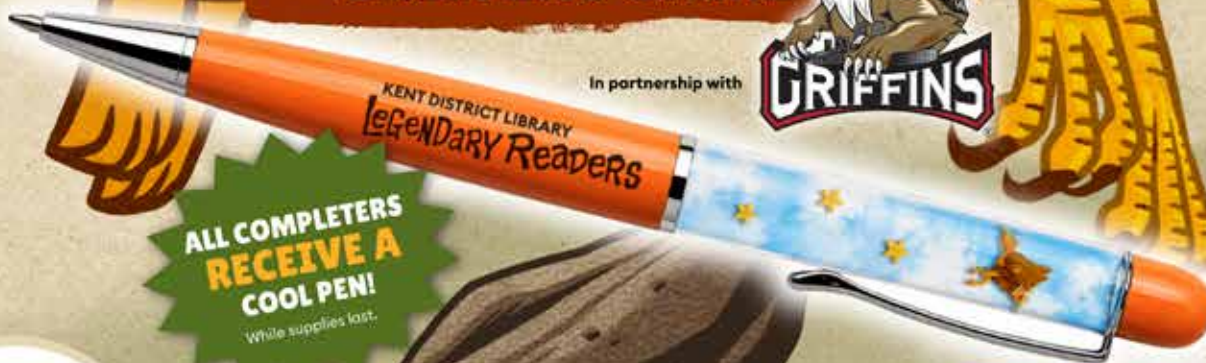
or a

VIP Family Package
to a **GRIFFINS GAME**

In partnership with



**ALL COMPLETERS
RECEIVE A
COOL PEN!**
While supplies last.



For more information:

kdl.org/legendaryreaders

**FOR KIDS IN
GRADES K-5**

VIBES

WHERE LOCAL MUSIC LIVES



By **Josh Garvelink** | Assistant Branch Librarian

KDL Vibes is a music streaming platform dedicated to showcasing musicians from our own community. Browsing the catalog is like taking a tour through West Michigan's music scene – many of the artists are performing nearby, playing local venues, creating new work and sharing it with audiences just down the road.

Discovering local music quickly reveals something bigger than individual artists. The artist is connected to the venue hosting concerts, the sound engineer running the show, the photographer taking promotional photos, the designer creating album artwork and even the local print shop making T-shirts and posters. The library plays a role too by giving local artists another place to be discovered. Together they form an entire ecosystem that gives our community a sound and a means of expression.

One of my favorite artists in the KDL Vibes catalog is the band Phabies. I spoke with Laura Hobson of Phabies about the role artists play in a community and what it means to be part of West Michigan's creative ecosystem.

If a community is like an ecosystem, what role in that ecosystem does the artist play?

An artist is like an oak tree. Oak trees support the biodiversity of life and are a keystone plant in Michigan. They are their own ecosystem. Think of how much insect life it takes to sustain a population of birds. You don't have birds if you don't have insects. You don't have insects if you don't have oak trees. Not only are oak trees beautiful, but they also provide the springboard of life for other beautiful things to flourish. The same is

A chat with
Laura Hobson of



true in our human ecosystem. Artists are hosts to entire ecosystems. Think of your favorite author, musician or a beloved painting known worldwide. Think about what we would miss if artists suddenly disappeared overnight. How quiet, homogeneous and boring life would be!

Entire ecosystems are built around touring musicians, and entire professions are dedicated to art history and museum curation. Oaks take a long time to grow; nothing with them happens overnight, but this also makes them strong and able to weather storms. Oaks support one another through their vast and deep root systems, just like people. We're stronger together. It seems as though artists are always weathering the storms. Oaks create beautiful things, but their purpose isn't to be beautiful; their purpose is to sustain life. Artists aren't meant to be reduced to a pretty picture on a wall; they're meant to convey and support the human condition in all its various forms.

What are some ways you personally like to support your local art community?

I love to go to local shows! I have so many musician, writer and artist friends whose work deserves attention. Books & Mortar holds book readings and signings by local authors. The Pyramid Scheme is a great independent venue to hear local and internationally touring musicians. Wealthy Theater hosts “Open Projector Night” where people can submit their shorts or music videos and the viewers can watch a curated selection of local cinematography. Being supportive doesn’t necessarily mean spending money. Your presence at artists’ live events is what matters. Show up to their gallery openings or poetry readings. Check their books out from the library. Tell other people about an artist friend that you know.

What do you find to be the result of getting involved in that community?

Along the way, genuine connections have led to collaboration. Meeting people outside of your bubble of awareness is expansive in all ways. None of us knows everything, but everyone knows a little bit about something. Speaking strictly from a songwriting viewpoint, I find my “magpie” brain is stimulated by hearing stories of the people around me. The subconscious brain picks up on a lot of tasty bits that circulate and pop up when you need them later. You can learn from anyone, but the most important thing is to actually have the experience and not live life on a phone. If I’m stuck in a song and can’t figure out the next lyrical riddle, I almost always solve it by being out in public purely existing. I think it all ties back into that ecosystem question – we’re all connected, and each of us plays a necessary part in finding the answers.



vibes.kdl.org

KDL VIBES



What is KDL Vibes?

KDL Vibes is the library’s local music streaming collection, connecting listeners with West Michigan artists while supporting and celebrating our local music community.

How do I submit?

Submit one representative song at vibes.kdl.org/submit during the submission period: **September 1 - October 12.**

How are artists selected?

A jury made up of local musicians, music community members and library staff reviews submissions and selects approximately 30 artists each year.

What do selected artists receive?

Selected musicians sign a non-exclusive licensing agreement and receive a \$250 honorarium for sharing their music through Vibes.

Have more questions?

Visit vibes.kdl.org/FAQ.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!



KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY
Literacy Champion

Kim Blovits

**West Michigan
Asian American
Association**

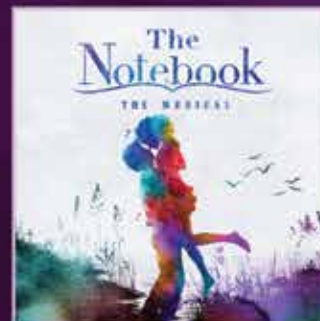
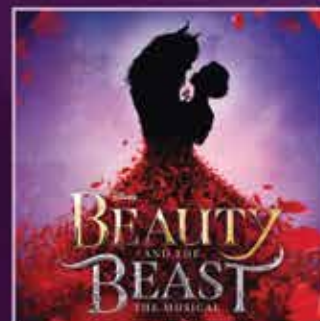
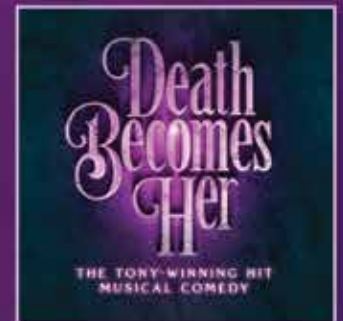
The Literacy Champion Award celebrates individuals and organizations that go the extra step to promote literacy in our community.

If you would like to nominate an organization or individual for the 2027 Literacy Champion Award, please visit kdl.org/literacychampion.

ADVERTISEMENT

FIFTH THIRD
BROADWAY
GRAND RAPIDS SERIES

**2026-2027
SEASON**



DeVos Performance Hall
BroadwayGrandRapids.com | 616-235-6285



Welcome to KDL



Mercedes Applegate
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch

Nancy Bell
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch
Book Recommendation:
The Mary Russell series by Laurie R. King

Madeline Brookman
Assistant Branch Librarian
Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch



Braylon Butler
Assistant Branch Librarian
East Grand Rapids Branch

Melissa English
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
Kristin Lavransdatter by Sigrid Undset



Sydney Golding
Assistant Branch Librarian
Cascade Twp. Branch
Book Recommendation:
The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Kaitlin Hammis
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch



Sarah Hortig
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



Rory Kehr
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult

Callum Krueger
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch

Chelsea Kuklewski
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
To Live by Yu Hua

Kara Meade
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
House Rules by Jodi Picoult

Anne Moore
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch
Book Recommendation:
Oil and Marble by Stephanie Storey

Ellia Quist
Assistant Branch Librarian
Walker Branch

Kendall Reister
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)

Emilie Roepcke
Assistant Branch Librarian
Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford)
Book Recommendation:
Carrie Soto Is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Ash Torres Hendricks
Assistant Branch Librarian
Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Mackenzie Westrick
Assistant Branch Librarian
Wyoming Branch



FALL PROGRAM GUIDE

September/October/November

ALL AGES

A Celtic Halloween with Selkie	28
Family Craft Time	28
Food Access with North Kent Connect's <i>Fresh Connect</i> ..	28
KDL Gaming Game On Tabletop for All Ages!	28
Movie Zone	28
Rock the Uke	28
Teen Graphic Novel Contest Author Panel and Awards ..	28

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Around the World	28
County Fair Fun	28
Eerie Excitement at the Library	29
Fall Craft Party	29
Generations in the Making: Bricks at the Library	29
Mama Bear & Baby Cubs Support Group	29
Operation: Top Secret	29
Things That Go	29



kdl.org/events/family

TEENS (AGES 11-17)

Escape the Library	34
Reeds Lake Rogues	34
Teen Advisory Board	34
Teen Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament	34
Teen Zone	34
Teen Zone D&D	34
Teen Zone Grandmacore Crafts	35
Teen Zone Let the Games Begin	35
Teen Zone Put a Pin in It!	35
Teen Zone Retro Wii Play	35
Teen Zone Sketch & Shrink	35
Teen Zone Switch It Up!	35
Teen Zone Totally 90s DIY	35
Teen Zone UNO	35



kdl.org/events/youth



kdl.org/events/teens

YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES 0-5)

Storytimes	30
Dance with Me!	30
Harvest of Stories	30
Loose Parts Play	30
Mellow Movers	30
Not-So-Scary Storytime	31

SCHOOL-AGE (AGES 5-10)

Art Attack!	31
Chess Anyone?	31
Craft & Create for Kids	31
Homeschool Hangout	31
KDL Lab Experience	32
KDL Lab Experience: Brain Gains	32
KDL Lab Experience: Cubelets, Robots in Disguise	32
KDL Lab Experience: Inventing America	32
KDL Lab Experience: LittleBits	32
KDL Lab Experience: Magnetic Mayhem	32
KDL Lab Experience: Ozobots	32
KDL Lab Experience: Roll With It	32
KDL Lab Experience: STEAM and Stems	32
KDL Lab Experience: Trial of the Tales	33
KDL Lab Experience: Whirlygigs, Gadgets & Gizmos	33
Kids Zone	33
Mini Brick Derby	33
Pocket Monster Club	33
Stump the Librarian Podcast	33



Used Book Sales

There will be bargains galore at the Friends of the Library's used book sales this season.

Visit kdl.org/booksales for dates and times.

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER)

Author Talks, Online	36
Book Discussions, In Person	37

More Adult Programs

3D Hobby Printing.....	41
An Evening with Michael Finkel.....	41
Autumn Leaves Felted Bookmarks.....	41
Awesome Adults	41
Basics of American Mah Jong	41
Bingo Hour	41
Blood Drives	42
Classic Movies of the Silver Screen	42
Cork Coasters	42
Craft & Create	42
Creative Calm: Kinusaiga Fabric Art for Adults	42
Disability History and the Disability Rights Movement....	42
Early Childhood Essentials The First Years Matter: Stress and Early Development.....	43
Early Childhood Essentials The Purpose of Play	43
Film Screening: <i>Did You Guys Eat? ¿Ya comieron?</i>	43
From New Americans to Neighbors World Affairs Council of Western Michigan Series.....	43
New Neighbors, Shared Stories: An Evening with Beth Nguyen	
From Global Displacement to Local Welcome: Making Sense of Migration Today	
Welcoming Together: Local Organizations, Global Impact	
Getting the Vote: Michigan Women and the Path to Suffrage	44
Great Lakes Ghosts.....	44
Home Buyer 101	44
Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament	44
KDL Gaming Game On Tabletop For Adults!	44
Language Exchange / Intercambio	44
Latina Founders Panel Next Nexus Series	44
Lead-Free Living	45
Mariachi Music with Gabriel Estrada.....	45
My Life in the FBI	45
Mythical Monsters of Michigan.....	45
Nibwaakaawin: Anishinaabe Stories and Teachings.....	45
Open Craft Lab	45

Paint & Pop	45
ProtectMICHild: Internet Safety Tools for Parents and Youth	46
Ramonograph: East Grand Rapids, Ramona Park and Reeds Lake in the Movies	46
Soiree in the Stacks.....	46
Starting a Food Business: What to Know	46
Stone Bead Bracelets.....	46
The Health of Reeds Lake	46
The Hidden Life of Trees: Nature's Unsolved Mysteries ...	46
The Truth about Earthworms	46
Trivia Night @ KDL.....	47
True Crime Analysis	47
Woven Mug Rug.....	47
Write Michigan Day of Learning	47
Circulate! Getting Your Books into Bookstores and Libraries	
Telling Your Story	
Using AI to Improve Your Creative Writing Skills	



kdl.org/events/adults

ALL AGES

A Celtic Halloween with Selkie

Enjoy seasonal songs and instrumentals with themes of fairies, ghosts and madness from Selkie, one of Michigan's favorite Celtic bands.

Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 29, 6:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Family Craft Time

Bring the whole family for arts and crafts for all ages.

Sat., Sept. 19, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Food Access with North Kent Connect's Fresh Connect

The *Fresh Connect* food truck brings free fresh and shelf-stable food, along with support services, directly to neighborhoods across northern Kent County. In partnership with KDL, it serves communities in Nelson, Spencer, and Tyrone Townships, meeting people where they are with dignity, warmth and care. Created with families, seniors and rural residents in mind, *Fresh Connect* offers more than convenient access to food. It opens the door to connection, linking individuals to mentoring, housing support, and helpful resources. *Fresh Connect* welcomes every neighbor, whether this is your first visit or one of many.

Tue., Sept. 8, 11:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Tue., Sept. 15, 12:00 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Wed., Sept. 23, 11:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 6, 11:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 11:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 12:00 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 3, 12:00 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Wed., Nov. 4, 11:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 10, 11:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch

KDL Gaming | Game On Tabletop for All Ages!

Fun games for all. Try a variety of traditional table-top games or bring your own! *Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins.*

Thu., Oct. 1, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Movie Zone

Enjoy a movie at the library! All you need to do is show up and we'll have a family movie ready to roll. We will be showing "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie." Closed captioning provided.

Fri., Sept. 25, 2:00 PM – Grandville Branch

Rock the Uke

Play ukulele at the library! Beginners and newcomers welcome. Learn with ukulele enthusiasts followed by a group strum along.

Limited ukuleles available; first come, first served.

Thu., Sept. 10, 5:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Thu., Oct. 8, 5:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 5:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch

Teen Graphic Novel Contest | Author Panel and Awards

Celebrate the published teen authors from the 2026 Write Michigan Teen Graphic Novel Contest for a day of conversation celebrating graphic novels, storytelling and the creative process. The event will feature a panel discussion with contest judges Danica Davidson (*Minecraft: The Outsider*), Meggie Ramm (*Batcat*) and Corinne Roberts (*Out and About*). This event is open to the public. *Please note that photos and videos will be taken at this event. By attending, you agree to potentially being photographed or filmed.*

Sat., Nov. 21, 2:00 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Around the World

Travel the globe without leaving the library! Explore cultures, crafts and activities from countries around the world in this fun, family-friendly event.

Mon., Nov. 23, 5:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

County Fair Fun

Summer may be over, but the fun of county fairs is just beginning. We'll have ring tosses, quilting crafts and fun surprises.

Wed., Sept. 9, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Fri., Sept. 18, 10:00 AM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Mon., Sept. 21, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Fri., Sept. 25, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Fri., Sept. 25, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch
Fri., Sept. 25, 2:00 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Tue., Sept. 29, 3:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 17, 10:30 AM – Wyoming Branch
Sat., Nov. 7, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch
Sat., Nov. 14, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 10:00 AM – Byron Twp. Branch
Mon., Nov. 23, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Eerie Excitement at the Library

Games, crafts and activities... creeping into the library near you! Enjoy not-so-scary fun for all ages.

Sat., Oct. 24, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Thu., Oct. 29, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Fall Craft Party

Crunchy leaves, orange pumpkins and plenty of squirrels – celebrate the season with all sorts of amazing fall-themed crafts.

Thu., Sept. 3, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 14, 4:00 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 19, 10:30 AM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Sept. 22, 10:00 AM – Byron Twp. Branch
Fri., Oct. 2, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch
Sat., Oct. 3, 11:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 10, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Fri., Oct. 16, 10:00 AM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Sat., Oct. 17, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 10:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 3:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Wed., Nov. 25, 10:00 AM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Wed., Nov. 25, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch



Generations in the Making: Bricks at the Library

KDL invites parents, grandparents and children to team up and build with bricks in a fun, collaborative environment. Our program encourages families to build with purpose and create something amazing together!

Wed., Sept. 16, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 26, 1:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Oct. 5, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 21, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 1:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Sat., Nov. 21, 1:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch



Mama Bear & Baby Cubs Support Group

All moms and children welcome! Join this maternal support group for play time, bonding with other mothers, and free coffee and tea.

Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Wed., Sept. 16, 6:30 PM
Wed., Oct. 14, 6:30 PM
Wed., Nov. 11, 6:30 PM

Wyoming Branch

Thu., Sept. 3, 10:30 AM
Thu., Sept. 10, 10:30 AM
Thu., Sept. 17, 10:30 AM
Thu., Sept. 24, 10:30 AM
Thu., Oct. 1, 10:30 AM
Thu., Oct. 8, 10:30 AM
Thu., Oct. 15, 10:30 AM
Thu., Oct. 22, 10:30 AM
Thu., Oct. 29, 10:30 AM
Thu., Nov. 5, 10:30 AM
Thu., Nov. 12, 10:30 AM
Thu., Nov. 19, 10:30 AM

Plainfield Twp. Branch

Tue., Sept. 8, 11:00 AM
Tue., Sept. 15, 11:00 AM
Tue., Sept. 22, 11:00 AM
Tue., Sept. 29, 11:00 AM
Tue., Oct. 6, 11:00 AM
Tue., Oct. 13, 11:00 AM
Tue., Oct. 20, 11:00 AM
Tue., Oct. 27, 11:00 AM
Tue., Nov. 10, 11:00 AM
Tue., Nov. 17, 11:00 AM

Operation: Top Secret

Enter stealth mode at the library and learn how to make cool spy tools and go undercover through crafts, games and activities.

Fri., Oct. 9, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Things That Go

Do you love big trucks, fast cars and amazing rocket ships? Join us for crafts and activities celebrating all your favorite vehicles!

Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch
Mon., Sept. 14, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 19, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Wed., Sept. 23, 4:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Wed., Sept. 30, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Oct. 5, 4:00 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Mon., Oct. 5, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 10:00 AM – Byron Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 21, 10:00 AM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Fri., Nov. 6, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 10:30 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Fri., Nov. 20, 10:00 AM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Wed., Nov. 25, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Sat., Nov. 28, 11:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch

Storytimes

Most storytimes begin the week of Sept. 8 and end the week of Nov. 16. For the most up-to-date information on storytimes – including cancellations due to branch closures – please visit kdl.org/storytime.



	MON 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 1:00 6:30					TUES 10:00 10:30 1:00 6:30				WED 10:00 10:30 11:00 1:00 6:30				THURS 9:30 10:00 11:00 6:30				FRI 10:00 10:30	
ALPINE TWP.						○													
ALTO		★												★					○
AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY (ADA)		★			●		★			★									
BYRON TWP.		●						▲		★		★							★
CALEDONIA TWP.		★								★									★
CASCADE TWP.		○				●				★				★					★
COMSTOCK PARK		★								■									★
EAST GRAND RAPIDS	●		●							★		★				★	★		
ENGLEHARDT (LOWELL)								△						★					★
GAINES TWP.		★					★							★					
GRANDVILLE					★		★	●		○		○		★					
GRATTAN TWP. EXPRESS LIBRARY							★												
KELLOGGSVILLE																			
KENTWOOD (RICHARD L. ROOT)					★		★	●		★				★					★
KRAUSE BRANCH TEMPORARY LOCATION*		●		○			★			★		★							
NELSON TWP.							★												○
PLAINFIELD TWP.		★					★			★		●	★	★					
SPENCER TWP.										★									
TYRONE TWP.												★							
WALKER TEMPORARY LOCATION	Due to moving back into the library, there will be no storytimes at Walker this fall. Join us again for winter storytimes!																		
WYOMING					★		★			●									★

● Babytime ★ Storytime ▲ Yoga Storytime ■ Bilingual Storytime / Hora de Cuentos Bilingües ★ Toddler Time ○ Rhyme Time △ Preschool Storytime

*Krause Memorial Branch (Rockford) has temporarily moved to the Rockford Community Cabin.

Programs listed on this chart will take place at the Parkside Early Childhood Center, 156 Lewis St., Rockford, MI 49341.

Dance with Me!

Even the littlest of kids can dance! Learn to dance together while babywearing in this beginner program for caregivers. Toddlers and older siblings are welcome to dance along.

Mon., Sept. 28, 10:00 AM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Harvest of Stories

Join us for a special storytime celebrating autumn reads and early literacy crafts and activities featuring all that we love about the fall season.

Mon., Sept. 14, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch

Wed., Sept. 23, 11:00 AM – Tyrone Twp. Branch

Tue., Sept. 29, 10:30 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch

Fri., Oct. 2, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Fri., Oct. 2, 10:00 AM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Fri., Oct. 9, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

Wed., Oct. 14, 10:00 AM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

Fri., Oct. 16, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch

Wed., Oct. 21, 10:00 AM – Spencer Twp. Branch

Tue., Oct. 27, 10:30 AM – Wyoming Branch

Wed., Oct. 28, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Thu., Nov. 5, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Fri., Nov. 20, 10:00 AM – Byron Twp. Branch

Tue., Nov. 24, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Wed., Nov. 25, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Loose Parts Play

Give your young child's imagination room to grow through open-ended play with a variety of manipulative materials.

Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Fri., Sept. 18, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch

Tue., Oct. 6, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Sat., Oct. 10, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Tue., Nov. 3, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Sat., Nov. 7, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Mon., Nov. 23, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch

Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Fri., Nov. 27, 10:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Fri., Nov. 27, 10:00 AM – Alto Branch

Mellow Movers

Enjoy stories, music and rhymes while building early literacy and social skills in a nurturing, low-stimulation environment. Designed for children ages 0-5 of all abilities with their caregivers. *Attendance is intentionally limited, and registration at kdl.org/events is required.*

Fri., Sept. 11, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch

Tue., Sept. 29, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Fri., Oct. 9, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch

Tue., Oct. 27, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Fri., Nov. 13, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch

Tue., Nov. 24, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

The program events listed in this document are subject to change and were current at the time of printing. Please confirm details at kdl.org/events.

My Time Storytime

Enjoy stories, music and rhymes in an environment where kids can be themselves no matter their ability. Designed for children ages 0-5 with their caregivers, but all ages are welcome.

Sat., Sept. 5, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 3, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 31, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Nature Adventures

Embark on a captivating journey through the wonders of nature while enjoying stories, songs and activities.

Tue., Sept. 8, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Sept. 15, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Sept. 22, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Sept. 29, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 6, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 10, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

SCHOOL-AGE (AGES 5 - 10)

Art Attack!

Exercise your creativity! Create a variety of art projects to take home with you.

Thu., Sept. 10, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 24, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 1, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 22, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 29, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 19, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Chess Anyone?

Drop-in and play chess at the library! All skill levels welcome. An adult is usually on hand to help with your game or match you with a worthy opponent.

Mon., Sept. 14, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Sept. 28, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Oct. 12, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Oct. 26, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Nov. 9, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Nov. 23, 4:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Craft & Create for Kids

Create together! Features a new craft each time for you to make and take home.

Wed., Sept. 23, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Sept. 23, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Wed., Oct. 21, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Nov. 18, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Wed., Nov. 25, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch



Not-So-Scary Storytime

Bring the whole family to enjoy some not-too-scary stories. Costumes welcome!

Mon., Oct. 26, 10:00 AM – Comstock Park Branch
Mon., Oct. 26, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Mon., Oct. 26, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 11:00 AM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 6:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 29, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 29, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 10:00 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 10:00 AM – Comstock Park Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 10:00 AM – Grandville Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 10:00 AM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 31, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

HOMESCHOOL hangout

Welcome to our hangout, where homeschoolers can connect with other kids and learn through engaging activities including STEAM, writing, crafts and games. The theme changes regularly, so there are always new opportunities to learn and explore together!

Caledonia Twp. Branch

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM

Sept. 8 Oct. 13
Sept. 15 Oct. 20
Sept. 22 Nov. 10
Oct. 6 Nov. 17

Cascade Twp. Branch

Mondays, 1:00 PM

Sept. 14 Oct. 12 Nov. 2
Sept. 21 Oct. 19 Nov. 9
Sept. 28 Oct. 26 Nov. 16
Oct. 5

Nelson Twp. Branch

Mondays, 10:00 AM

Sept. 14
Oct. 12
Nov. 9

Spencer Twp. Branch

Mondays, 10:00 AM

Sept. 21
Oct. 19
Nov. 16

Tyrone Twp. Branch

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM

Sept. 8 Oct. 20
Sept. 15 Oct. 27
Sept. 22 Nov. 3
Sept. 29 Nov. 10
Oct. 6 Nov. 17
Oct. 13



KDL LAB EXPERIENCE

KDL Lab Experience

Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEAM concepts.

Mon., Oct. 5, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Mon., Oct. 5, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Mon., Oct. 19, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Mon., Oct. 26, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Fri., Oct. 30, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
 Mon., Nov. 2, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 5, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Fri., Nov. 6, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
 Mon., Nov. 16, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Thu., Nov. 19, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Brain Gains

Put your brain to the test and see if you can solve a plethora of different logic puzzles. If you really want to put your brain and engineering skills to the test, you can create a Rube Goldberg Machine to ring the bell.

Mon., Oct. 12, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 22, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Mon., Nov. 9, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 19, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Cubelets, Robots in Disguise

Stack and build with pre-programmed robots in a variety of unique ways to create countless robot constructions. Make your robot move, groove and light up. Every design is a new robot.

Mon., Sept. 14, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
 Fri., Sept. 18, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
 Mon., Sept. 21, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Thu., Sept. 24, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Wed., Sept. 30, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 22, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Wed., Nov. 4, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Mon., Nov. 16, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Inventing America

Celebrate 250 years of American inventions and ingenuity through hands-on STEAM fun at the library.

Thu., Sept. 3, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Wed., Oct. 7, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch

KDL Lab Experience: LittleBits

Snap, code and create! Using LittleBits electronic building blocks, kids will design inventions that buzz, light up and move. It's hands-on STEM fun that sparks creativity and curiosity.

Thu., Oct. 8, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Thu., Oct. 15, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Magnetic Mayhem

With a variety of magnetic building pieces, you will be sure to find something that attracts you. Explore magnetism with a variety of magnetic building pieces. There are engineering challenges for everyone.

Wed., Sept. 2, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch
 Thu., Sept. 10, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Sept. 17, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Mon., Sept. 28, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
 Tue., Oct. 6, 4:00 PM – Alto Branch
 Mon., Oct. 12, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Fri., Oct. 16, 1:00 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
 Mon., Nov. 2, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Mon., Nov. 9, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
 Fri., Nov. 20, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

KDL Lab Experience: Ozobots

Meet the tiny robots with big personalities! Kids will draw, code and create as they guide Ozobots through colorful mazes and challenges. It's a hands-on intro to robotics and coding – no screens required.

Mon., Sept. 28, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 8, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Oct. 29, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Mon., Nov. 9, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Roll With It

Get your marbles rolling with a variety of activities. Challenge your ramp skills with classic marble sets or branch out with KEVA planks.

Fri., Sept. 4, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
 Mon., Sept. 14, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 1, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Wed., Oct. 14, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Mon., Nov. 2, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Wed., Nov. 25, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch

KDL Lab Experience: STEAM and Stems

Go on a hands-on adventure to uncover the secret life of plants. Young botanists will investigate how things grow from the roots up. Come dig into science!

Wed., Sept. 9, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Mon., Sept. 21, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Mon., Oct. 12, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 5, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Nov. 12, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch

KDL Lab Experience: Trial of the Tales

Explore classic tales in a whole new way! Take a journey through hands-on STEAM activities to trial, test and tinker ideas from beloved storybook adventures.

Thu., Oct. 1, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 8, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Mon., Oct. 19, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Fri., Oct. 23, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

KDL Lab Experience: Whirlygigs, Gadgets & Gizmos

Spin it, build it, make it move! Join us for a build-and-tinker STEAM adventure where kids invent, experiment and create amazing contraptions that whirl, twist and spin.

Tue., Sept. 1, 4:00 PM – Alto Branch
 Thu., Sept. 10, 1:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
 Thu., Sept. 24, 4:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Fri., Oct. 9, 3:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
 Wed., Nov. 4, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch
 Sat., Nov. 21, 10:00 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch



Mini Brick Derby

Build your dream race car out of LEGO® bricks and see if it has what it takes to win! *Sponsored by the Friends of the East Grand Rapids Library.*

Mon., Nov. 30, 3:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch



Pocket Monster Club

Bring your Pokémon® cards to trade or battle with friends. A few decks will be provided for players to learn how to play.

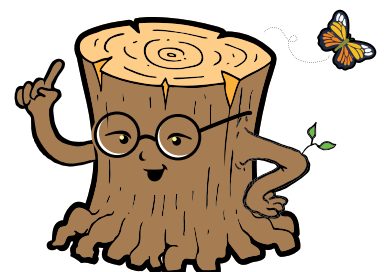
Thu., Sept. 10, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Wed., Sept. 16, 4:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Thu., Sept. 24, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Wed., Oct. 7, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 8, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 22, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Wed., Nov. 4, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 5, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 19, 5:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Stump the Librarian Podcast

Join our librarians as they put their research skills to the test to answer your inquisitive questions and see if it's possible to stump a librarian! You can submit a question via kdl.org/stump. They would love to hear what questions are on your mind. New episodes drop every other Wednesday, and you can subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

Wednesdays, 3:00 PM

Sept. 9 Oct. 21
 Sept. 23 Nov. 4
 Oct. 7 Nov. 18



KIDS ZONE

It's a special time for fun, interactive programs just for school kids! Join our KDL Kids Zone programs for crafts, storytime, games and other activities.

Cascade Twp. Branch

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM

Sept. 9 Oct. 14
 Sept. 23 Nov. 11

Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Mondays, 4:30 PM

Sept. 14 Oct. 12 Nov. 9
 Sept. 21 Oct. 19 Nov. 16
 Sept. 28 Oct. 26 Nov. 23
 Oct. 5 Nov. 2 Nov. 30

Grandville Branch

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM

Sept. 30
 Oct. 7
 Oct. 28



TEENS (AGES 11 – 17)

Escape the Library

Bring a group to the library – or form a group at the library – and work together to solve a series of puzzles to escape the room before time runs out.

Space is limited. Registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Sat., Oct. 24, 11:00 AM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 12:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 2:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 3:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Sat., Oct. 24, 4:00 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 12:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 1:15 PM – Wyoming Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 2:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Fri., Oct. 30, 3:45 PM – Wyoming Branch

Reeds Lake Rogues

Learn to play Dungeons & Dragons with us! Character sheets will be provided. If possible please bring a notebook and pencil. *Sponsored by the Friends of the East Grand Rapids Library.*

Wed., Sept. 2, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Sept. 16, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Oct. 7, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Oct. 21, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Nov. 4, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Wed., Nov. 18, 3:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Teen Advisory Board

Students ages 11-17 are invited to connect with other civic-minded teens to help our librarians make our public library even better! This program can count as volunteer hours for things like the National Honor Society.

Wed., Sept. 9, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
Wed., Nov. 4, 3:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch

Teen Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

Compete in teams of four people (teams can be formed either before or at the event) to solve identical jigsaw puzzles in the least amount of time. The speed event will begin 30 minutes after the beginning of the program. Refreshments will be provided, and you can bring puzzles with all pieces included to swap with other puzzle enthusiasts.

Thu., Oct. 8, 3:30 PM – Wyoming Branch

TEEN ZONE

Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more.

Caledonia Twp. Branch

Fri., Oct. 9, 3:30 PM

East Grand Rapids Branch

Thursdays, 3:00 PM

Sept. 3	Oct. 1	Oct. 29
Sept. 10	Oct. 8	Nov. 5
Sept. 17	Oct. 22	Nov. 12

Kelloggsville Branch

Tuesdays, 4:00 PM

Sept. 8	Oct. 6	Nov. 3
Sept. 15	Oct. 13	Nov. 10
Sept. 22	Oct. 20	
Sept. 29	Oct. 27	

Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Fri., Oct. 9, 4:00 PM

Tyrone Twp. Branch

Tuesdays–Fridays, 3:00 PM
Sept. 1–Nov. 24

No Teen Zone on select dates; see kdl.org/events for the complete schedule.

Wyoming Branch

Wednesdays, 3:00 PM

Sept. 2	Nov. 4
Sept. 16	Nov. 18
Oct. 7	

Teen Zones last 1 - 2 hours. For specific durations and the most current schedule — including any additions to this schedule or unexpected cancellations — visit kdl.org/teenzones.



Teen Zone | D&D

Join a group of adventurers on a Dungeons and Dragons quest! New and experienced players are welcome.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Sat., Sept. 19, 9:30 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 24, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 8, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Fri., Oct. 9, 4:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Sat., Oct. 17, 9:30 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 22, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Sat., Nov. 14, 9:30 AM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 19, 6:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

Teen Zone | Grandmacore Crafts

Slow down and relax with crochet and cozy crafts! Create soft, cute and handmade projects for beginners and experts alike.

Fri., Sept. 4, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Wed., Sept. 9, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Fri., Sept. 11, 3:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Thu., Sept. 17, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 15, 3:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Mon., Oct. 19, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 22, 3:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Wed., Nov. 18, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch



Teen Zone | Let the Games Begin

From quick card battles to intense board game marathons, this program has everything you need for a legendary library hangout.

Thu., Sept. 24, 3:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Wed., Oct. 21, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Nov. 12, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

Teen Zone | Put a Pin in It!

Get creative and express yourself one pin at a time. Drop in to design your own pins using our button maker. Choose from templates, draw, collage or cut out something cool and turn it into wearable art.

Thu., Sept. 10, 3:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Wed., Sept. 23, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Tue., Oct. 6, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch
 Mon., Nov. 16, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Teen Zone | Retro Wii Play

Race, dance, bowl and battle your way through classic Nintendo® Wii™ games with friends!

Mon., Sept. 21, 3:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 1, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
 Wed., Oct. 14, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Wed., Oct. 28, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
 Fri., Nov. 6, 3:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Teen Zone | Sketch & Shrink

Draw it. Shrink it. Wear it. Repeat. Turn your drawings or tracings into one-of-a-kind keychains, magnets, jewelry and more!

Tue., Sept. 1, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch
 Thu., Sept. 24, 3:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
 Wed., Oct. 28, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Nov. 12, 3:30 PM – Grandville Branch

Teen Zone | Switch It Up!

Ready for the ultimate gaming hangout? We've got controllers for eight players, a huge selection of your favorite games, plus a projector to blow it up large. Team up or face off – it's time to Switch it up!

Wed., Sept. 30, 4:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Teen Zone | Totally 90s DIY

Get crafty with a throwback twist! Make vintage-inspired 90s creations like friendship bracelets, slap bracelets and beaded keychains while vibing to retro tunes.

Thu., Oct. 8, 3:30 PM – Grandville Branch
 Thu., Oct. 29, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 19, 3:00 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch



Teen Zone | UNO

Twelve (TWELVE?!) different varieties of Uno – Attack, Dare, Avengers, Mario, UNO-corn and more! Hate plain Uno? Try a different flavor! Played 10,000 hands of UNO and are ready to play 10,000 more? This is YOUR program.

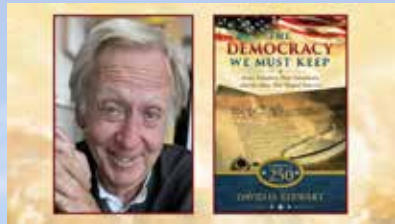
Wed., Sept. 30, 3:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Thu., Oct. 15, 4:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
 Mon., Nov. 2, 2:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Tue., Nov. 17, 4:00 PM – Kelloggsville Branch

Author Talks, Online

All online author talks are one hour and are for adults, unless noted otherwise, and new author talks are being added regularly. Check the latest schedule, register and explore the archives at kdl.org/authortalks.



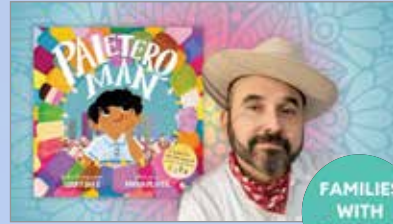
The Democracy We Must Keep: Why the Ideas that Built America Still Matter with David O. Stewart



Award-Winning Historian and Bestselling Author of *Impeached* and *The Summer of 1787*

Tues., Sept. 1
2:00 PM

Paletero Man: un viaje por el barrio, la música y el arte con Lucky Diaz



Artista ganador del premio GRAMMY y aclamado autor de libros infantiles

Thurs., Sept. 27
8:00 PM

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Writing the Nightmare: A Ship Called Sickness and One Unforgettable Space Crew with Daniel Kraus



2026 Pulitzer Prize Winner and New York Times Bestselling Author of *Whalefall* and *Angel Down*

Tues., Sept. 8
7:00 PM

Courage, Choice, and What Comes Next with Dystopian Icon Veronica Roth



#1 New York Times and International Bestselling Author

Thurs., Oct. 1
7:00 PM

The Art of Fighting: Building Better, Stronger Relationships with Priya Parker



Bestselling Author, Master Facilitator, and Acclaimed Strategic Advisor

Tues., Sept. 15
4:00 PM

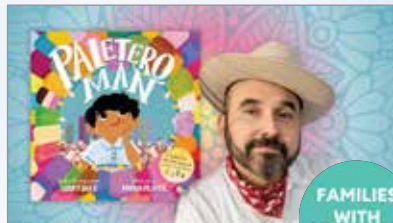
Art in Flight: Reinventing Postmodernism with Smithsonian Curator Carolyn Russo



A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration

Thurs., Oct. 8
2:00 PM

Where the Paletero Man Goes: A Journey of Neighborhood, Music, and Art with Lucky Diaz



GRAMMY Award-Winning Artist and Celebrated Children's Author

Thurs., Sept. 27
7:00 PM

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The Power of Limits: How Constraints Drive Genius with David Epstein



Bestselling Author, Science Writer, and Human Performance Expert

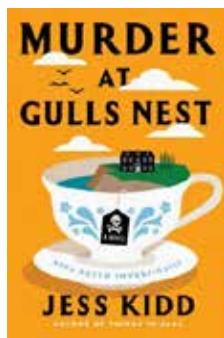
Thurs., Oct. 13
2:00 PM

Book Discussions, In Person

Alpine Twp. Branch

Alpine Ave. Book Discussion

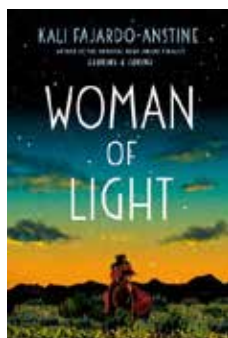
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 2,
Murder at Gulls Nest
by Jess Kidd



Oct. 7,
The All-American
by Susie Finkbeiner

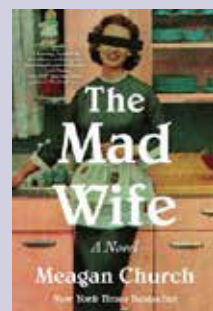


Nov. 4,
Woman of Light
by Kali Fajardo-Anstine

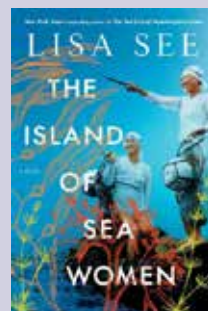
Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

Ada Z Book Club

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM



Sept. 30,
The Mad Wife
by Meagan Church



Oct. 28,
The Island of Sea Women
by Lisa See

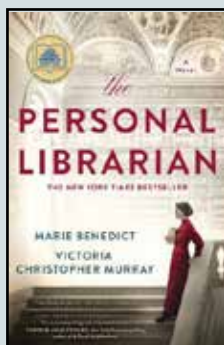


Nov. 18,
The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau
by Kristin Harmel

Alto Branch

All Aboard! Book Club

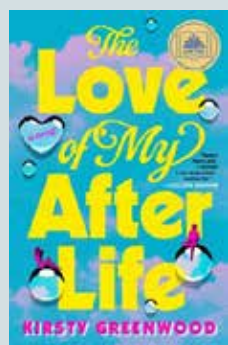
Thursdays at 1:30 PM



Sept. 17,
The Personal Librarian
by Marie Benedict



Oct. 15,
I Cheerfully Refuse
by Leif Enger



Nov. 19,
The Love of My Afterlife
by Kirsty Greenwood

Byron Twp. Branch

Byron Twp. Book Discussion

Mondays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 28,
Shark Heart
by Emily Habeck



Oct. 26,
Bluebird, Bluebird
by Attica Locke



Nov. 23,
The Art Thief
by Michael Finkel

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER)

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER) CONTINUED

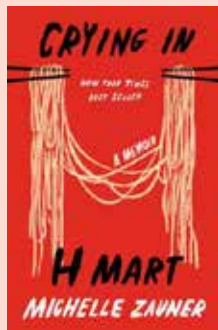
Caledonia Twp. Branch

Novel Characters Book Club

Wednesdays at 1:00 PM



Sept. 2,
A Marriage at Sea
by Sophie Elmhirst



Oct. 7,
Crying in H Mart
by Michelle Zauner



Nov. 4,
Project Hail Mary
by Andy Weir

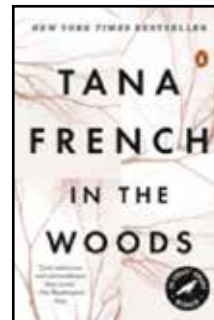
Comstock Park Branch

Lit Wits Book Discussion

Thursdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 24,
Yellowface
by R. F. Kuang



Oct. 29,
In the Woods
by Tana French

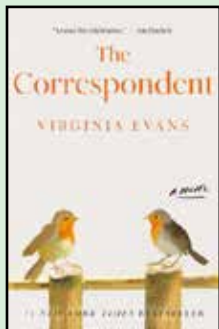


Nov. 19,
They Called Us Enemy
by George Takei

Cascade Twp. Branch

Friends of the Cascade Twp. Library Book Club

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM



Sept. 23,
The Correspondent
by Virginia Evans



Oct. 21,
Bog Queen
by Anna North

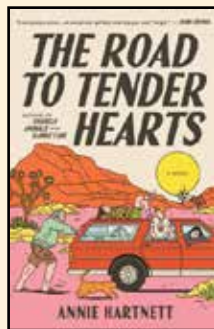


Nov. 18,
The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore

East Grand Rapids Branch

Lakeside Lit Book Club

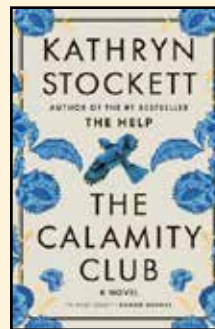
Mondays at 1:00 PM



Sept. 14,
The Road to Tender Hearts
by Annie Hartnett



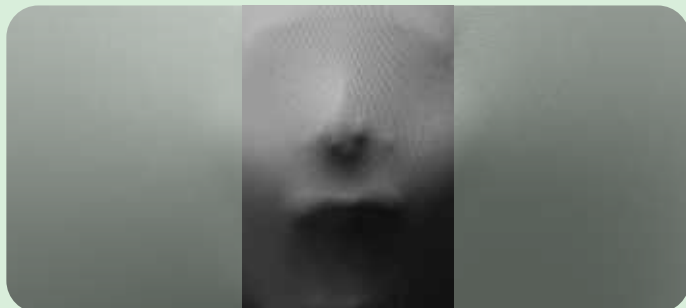
Oct. 12,
A Guardian and a Thief
by Megha Majumdar



Nov. 9,
The Calamity Club
by Kathryn Stockett

Horror Heads Book Club

Thursday at 6:30 PM



Oct. 29
Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss the horror books and media you've been enjoying.

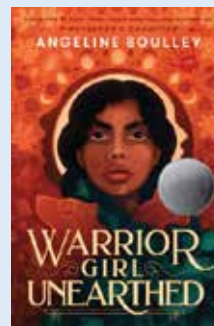
Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Night Owls Book Club

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 2,
Margo's Got Money Troubles
by Rufi Thorpe



Oct. 7,
Warrior Girl Unearthed
by Angeline Boulley



Nov. 4,
The Vermilion Sea
by Megan Chance

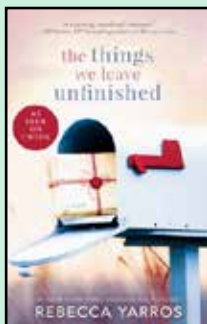
Gaines Twp. Branch

Common Reader Book Discussion

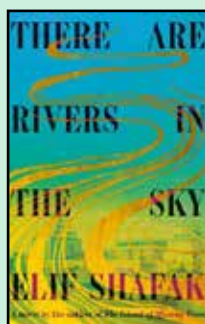
Tuesdays at 1:00 PM



Sept. 15,
The Page Turner
by Viola Shipman



Oct. 20,
The Things We Leave Unfinished
by Rebecca Yarros

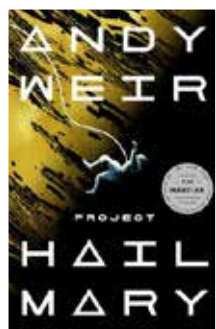


Nov. 17,
There Are Rivers in the Sky
by Elif Shafak

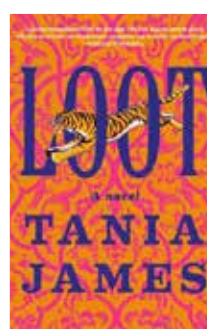
Grandville Branch

Maple St. Book Discussion

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 16,
Project Hail Mary
by Andy Weir



Oct. 14,
Loot
by Tania James



Nov. 4,
Atmosphere
by Taylor Jenkins Reid

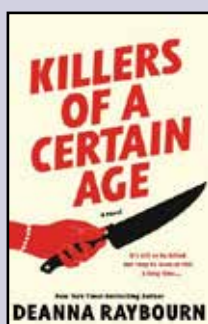
Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Cozy Readers Book Club

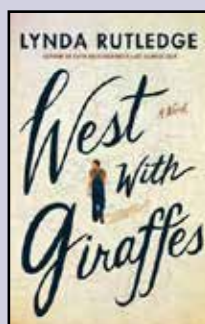
Mondays at 10:00 AM



Sept. 14,
Wild Dark Shore
by Charlotte McConaghay



Oct. 12,
Killers of a Certain Age
by Deanna Raybourn

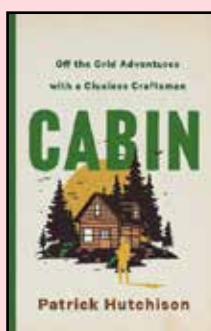


Nov. 9,
West with Giraffes
by Lynda Rutledge

Krause Branch Temporary Location

Krause Afternoon Book Club*

Fridays at 1:30 PM



Sept. 18,
Cabin
by Patrick Hutchison



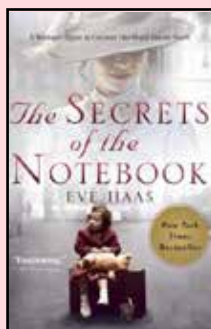
Oct. 16,
Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley



Nov. 20,
Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop
by Po-rum Hwang

Krause Evening Book Club*

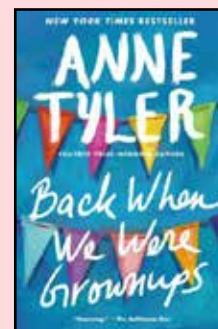
Mondays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 21,
The Secrets of the Notebook
by Eve Haas



Oct. 19,
The Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison



Nov. 16,
Back When We Were Grownups
by Anne Tyler

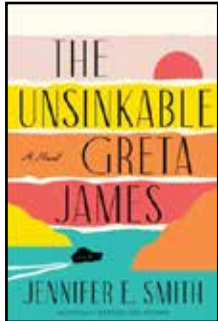
*These events will take place at City of Rockford - City Hall in the Chamber Room, 7 South Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341.

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER) CONTINUED

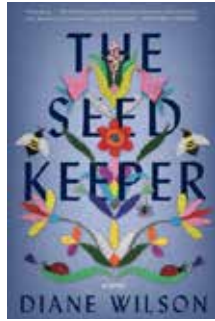
Nelson Twp. Branch

Nelson Twp. Book Club

Tuesdays at 1:30 PM



Sept. 15,
*The Unsinkable
Greta James*
by Jennifer E. Smith



Oct. 20,
The Seed Keeper
by Diane Wilson



Nov. 17,
The Exiles
by Christina
Baker Kline

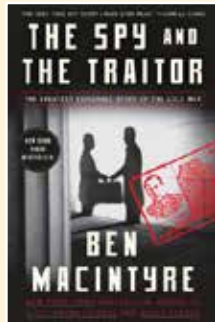
Plainfield Twp. Branch

Plainfield Branch Book Discussion

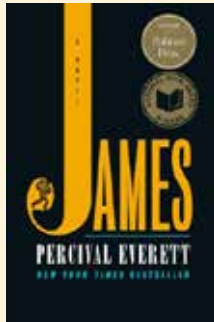
Thursdays at 1:00 PM



Sept. 10,
Homestead
by Melinda
Moustakis



Oct. 8,
*The Spy and
the Traitor*
by Ben Macintyre

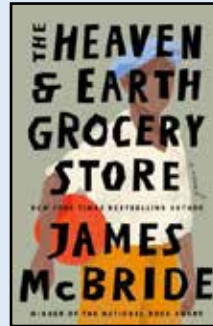


Nov. 12,
James
by Percival Everett

Walker Temporary Library*

Walker Book Discussion

Thursdays at 11:00 AM



Sept. 10,
*The Heaven &
Earth Grocery Store*
by James McBride



Oct. 8,
*The God of the
Woods*
by Liz Moore



Nov. 12,
The Art Thief
by Michael Finkel

*These events will be held at Panera Bread at Standale Crossings, 4400 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Walker, MI 49534.

Wyoming Branch

The Slow Readers Bimonthly Book Club

Tuesdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 8,
*The Ten Thousand
Doors of January*
by Alix E. Harrow



Nov. 10,
Whalefall
by Daniel Kraus

Rainbow Reads Book Club

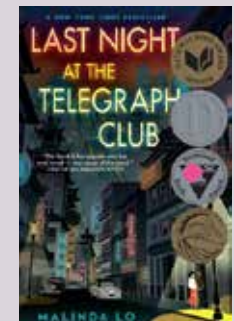
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Sept. 23,
Atmosphere
by Taylor Jenkins
Reid



Oct. 28,
Legends & Lattes
by Travis Baldree



Nov. 25,
*Last Night at the
Telegraph Club*
by Malinda Lo

3D Hobby Printing

Discover the exciting world of 3D printing with live demos, hands-on 3D pen activities and fun conversations. Local enthusiasts will share how the technology works, explore creative possibilities and show how 3D printing can be used in everyday life.

Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

An Evening with Michael Finkel

Michael Finkel will speak about his work, including *The Art Thief*. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cascade Township Library. Registration required at kdl.org/events.

Thu., Oct. 8, 6:00 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch



Autumn Leaves Felted Bookmarks

Create a leaf-shaped bookmark using wool fiber and wet felting techniques. Basic felt making techniques will be used to create the bookmarks, and you can further embellish your bookmark with added beading or stitching.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 24, 6:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Tue., Sept. 29, 6:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 1, 6:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 8, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 21, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Mon., Nov. 9, 6:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
Wed., Nov. 18, 6:30 PM – Grandville Branch

Awesome Adults

A time for fun activities with friends. This program is designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their care partners.

Wed., Sept. 9, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 14, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 1:00 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Fri., Sept. 18, 1:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Tue., Sept. 22, 10:30 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 28, 1:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Mon., Oct. 12, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 10:30 AM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 14, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 1:00 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Fri., Oct. 16, 1:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Mon., Oct. 26, 1:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Mon., Nov. 9, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Wed., Nov. 11, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 19, 1:00 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Fri., Nov. 20, 1:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Mon., Nov. 30, 1:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch

Basics of American Mah Jong

Discover the captive world of American Mah Jong, a game of strategy, skill and luck! This introductory session is designed for absolute beginners who want to learn the fundamentals of this popular social game. Learn the unique tiles, the annual scorecard and the basic flow of play to get started on your Mah Jong journey. Presented by Constanza Sokorai from Mahj Club Collective.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Tue., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 21, 6:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

Bingo Hour

Make new friends while playing exciting rounds of Bingo.

Tue., Sept. 8, 1:00 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Tue., Sept. 8, 2:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Sept. 15, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Tue., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Wed., Sept. 23, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 28, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 1:00 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Tue., Oct. 13, 2:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Mon., Oct. 26, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 1:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 10, 1:00 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)
Tue., Nov. 10, 2:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Mon., Nov. 23, 10:00 AM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Wed., Nov. 25, 10:00 AM – Gaines Twp. Branch

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER) CONTINUED

Blood Drives

Donate blood and save lives. Versiti Blood Center of Michigan will be at Kent District Library; appointments are preferred but not required. You can view dates and locations and schedule your appointment at [versiti.org/KDL](https://www.versiti.org/KDL).



versiti™



Craft & Create

Create together! Features a new craft each time for you to make and take home.

Wed., Sept. 2, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Thu., Sept. 10, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Sept. 17, 6:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch
Mon., Oct. 5, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 7, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Thu., Oct. 8, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 15, 6:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
Wed., Nov. 4, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Wed., Nov. 11, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Wed., Nov. 18, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 19, 6:00 PM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch

Creative Calm: Kinusaiga Fabric Art for Adults

Slow down and enjoy a mindful crafting experience with Kinusaiga, a Japanese fabric art technique that combines precision and creativity. Using fabric pieces pressed into a foam base, participants will design a decorative artwork to take home. No sewing experience is required, making this an accessible and rewarding program for adults interested in art, crafting or stress-relieving creative activities.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Tue., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch
Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Thu., Oct. 1, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Oct. 6, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 6:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Disability History and the Disability Rights Movement

Explore the powerful history, landmark moments and trailblazing leaders who shaped the modern disability rights movement. Receive foundational understanding of this movement and see how past advocacy connects to today's work toward equity and access.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:30 PM – Krause Branch Temporary Location
This event will be held at City of Rockford - City Hall in the Chamber Room, 7 South Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341
Wed., Sept. 16, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch

Classic Movies of the Silver Screen

Join other classic movie lovers to watch films from the golden age of the silver screen. *Refreshments provided. Closed captioning provided.*

Fri., Sept. 18, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Fri., Oct. 16, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch
Fri., Nov. 13, 1:30 PM – Grandville Branch

Cork Coasters

Paint a set of four cork coasters to hold all your favorite seasonal beverages.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Wed., Sept. 16, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Mon., Sept. 21, 1:00 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Thu., Oct. 1, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
Tue., Oct. 6, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch
Wed., Nov. 11, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch
Mon., Nov. 16, 6:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch

Early Childhood Essentials | The First Years Matter: Stress and Early Development

Stress and trauma can have a large impact on young children and their development. Examine how caregivers play a pivotal role in reducing both the direct and indirect effects of stress on the children and families they serve. Learn how supportive, responsive relationships can foster resilience and create nurturing environments that promote healthy development.

Thu., Sept. 3, 6:30 PM – Online Event

Wed., Sept. 9, 6:30 PM – Online Event

Wed., Sept. 30, 6:30 PM – Online Event

Early Childhood Essentials | The Purpose of Play

Play is a child's work! Discover why play-based education for young children is so critical to their social, emotional, language, cognitive and physical development. Discuss why children today are not having play-based experiences at home; examine the value of outdoor, sensory and pretend play experiences; and learn about the skills that are learned through play and strategies to support play experiences for young children.

Wed., Sept. 16, 5:30 PM – Online Event

Thu., Sept. 24, 6:30 PM – Online Event



Pre-register online at kdl.org/events to receive professional development credit. Those not seeking credit may attend without registering.

Film Screening: *Did You Guys Eat? ¿Ya comieron?*

In appreciation of the farmworkers and farmers who grow and harvest the food we enjoy, the Kent County Food Policy Council and Kent District Library are pleased to co-host a film screening of *Did You Guys Eat? ¿Ya comieron?* The documentary shares the vital stories of farm workers and migrant laborers in Michigan, highlighting the dedicated network of supporters who stand behind them. This film is not just about farming – it's about the people, their stories and the invisible systems that bring every meal to our tables.

Thu., Nov. 5, 5:00 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

World Affairs Council

From New Americans to Neighbors

West Michigan has long taken pride in being a welcoming place for immigrants and new Americans. What does immigration in that welcoming West Michigan look like today? Join the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan for their annual community speaker series for a discussion designed to foster learning and dialogue around immigration and refugee experiences and to help us educate our community on the importance and value of immigration in the larger world as well as in West Michigan.

New Neighbors, Shared Stories: An Evening with Beth Nguyen

Celebrate stories of immigration and belonging with the author of *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, a memoir set in Grand Rapids. Bich Minh (Beth) Nguyen will share her experience growing up as a Vietnamese refugee in West Michigan and invite us to reflect on identity, family and finding home.

Thu., Oct. 8, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

From Global Displacement to Local Welcome: Making Sense of Migration Today

What does global migration have to do with our community? Drawing on decades of experience responding to humanitarian crises around the world, Jeremy Konyndyk, President of Refugees International, will explore how global forces such as conflict and climate change shape migration and how those realities connect to communities like ours.

Thu., Oct. 15, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Welcoming Together: Local Organizations, Global Impact

Global stories don't stay far away – they become part of life right here in West Michigan. Members of the Office of Global Michigan, the Refugee Education Center and local leaders will share their own immigration journeys that led them to West Michigan. Learn how global challenges translate into local action and how communities come together to create a culture of welcome.

Program begins at 6:30 PM. Join us for a reception beginning at 5:30 PM, in which we will have booths and tables with local area organizations sharing information on how they are supporting our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Thu., Oct. 22, 5:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch



World Affairs Council
OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER) CONTINUED

Getting the Vote: Michigan Women and the Path to Suffrage

West Michigan women were deeply engaged in the national campaign for women's suffrage, working for decades to strike out the language in the United States and Michigan constitutions which denied women the right to vote. Learn about the suffrage campaign in Michigan and the remarkable women who persisted until they won the right to have their voices heard at the polls.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch
Wed., Oct. 28, 6:30 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

Great Lakes Ghosts

Enjoy a narrated concert from Lee Murdock featuring songs of supernatural legends and spooky tales of ghost ships, haunted lighthouses and unexplained phenomenon.

Thu., Sept. 3, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Wed., Sept. 30, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch
Tue., Oct. 20, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Home Buyer 101

Learn the steps to become a confident homeowner in this financial literacy program designed to empower participants with the education, tools and confidence to make homeownership an achievable goal.

Tue., Sept. 29, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

Compete against teams of four people (teams can be formed either before or at the event) to solve identical jigsaw puzzles in the least amount of time. The speed event will begin 30 minutes after the beginning of the program. Refreshments will be provided, and you can bring puzzles with all pieces included to swap with other puzzle enthusiasts. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Plainfield Twp. Library.*

Sat., Sept. 19, 1:00 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

KDL Gaming | Game On Tabletop For Adults!

Try a variety of traditional table-top games or bring your own! *Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins.*

Tue., Sept. 1, 6:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Oct. 6, 6:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Nov. 10, 6:00 PM – Comstock Park Branch

Language Exchange / Intercambio

Practice your Spanish or English with librarian-facilitated conversations.

Practicar su español o inglés con conversación facilitado por un bibliotecario.

Tue., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch

Next Nexus Series

Latina Founders Panel

Gain strategies, perspectives on leadership and branding tips during an inspiring afternoon of leadership, entrepreneurship and community. Three Latina business founders – Gricelda Mata of Lindo Mexico, Nancy Quero of Guelaguetza Designs and Valentina Valdes of Sol Design – will individually share their journeys of building and growing their businesses and then expand on their experiences in an interactive panel followed by a live Q&A. *Presentations in English. Q&A in English and Spanish.*



Gricelda Mata
Lindo Mexico



Nancy Quero
Guelaguetza
Designs



Valentina Valdes
Sol Design

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Obtenga estrategias, perspectivas sobre liderazgo y consejos de marca durante una tarde inspirador de liderazgo, emprendimiento y comunidad. Tres fundadoras del negocios latinas – Gricelda Mata de Lindo Mexico, Nancy Quero de Guelaguetza Designs y Valentina Valdes de Sol Design – compartirán individualmente sus viajes de construcción y crecimiento sus negocios y luego expandirán sus experiencias en un panel interactivo, seguida de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas en directo. *Presentarios en inglés. Sesión de preguntas y respuestas en inglés y español.*

Las plazas son limitadas, por lo que la inscripción es obligatoria en kdl.org/events y abre dos semanas antes del evento. Las puertas abren quince minutos antes del programa; haz el check-in con el personal de la biblioteca para reclamar tu plaza al llegar. Los asientos no reclamados se entregarán a los asistentes sin cita cinco minutos antes de que comience el programa.

Thu., Sept. 17, 1:00 PM – Wyoming Branch

Lead-Free Living

If you have vintage dishes or cookware in your home, there's a chance those dishes might have lead in them. Learn more about the types of dishes likely to contain lead from an expert with the Kent County Health Department. Bring in an item to be tested with their x-ray fluorescence scanner to ensure safe serving in your home. *Brought to you by the Kent County Health Department.*

Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch

Mariachi Music with Gabriel Estrada

Enjoy an evening of Mariachi music with local singer Gabriel Estrada.

Tue., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – Krause Branch Temporary Location

This event will be held at City of Rockford - City Hall in the Chamber Room, 7 South Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341

Thu., Oct. 22, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Tue., Nov. 10, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

My Life in the FBI

Learn about the process of becoming an FBI Agent, the academy experience, expectations and requirements of the job, work and life balance, and case work from Tiffany Eagles, a former special agent with the FBI for more than twenty years.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch

Thu., Sept. 17, 6:30 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Wed., Oct. 21, 6:30 PM – Grandville Branch

Mon., Nov. 9, 6:30 PM – Alpine Twp. Branch

Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

Wed., Nov. 18, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch

Mon., Nov. 23, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Mythical Monsters of Michigan

Everyone has heard a tale about ghosts, monsters or strange and unexplainable events. Come and get acquainted with some of Michigan's mythical monsters, unique to our state and possibly very close to home. Robin Nott will spin tales and sing songs to delight the audience; everyone loves to get the shivers, no matter how old you are!

Tue., Oct. 6, 6:30 PM – Krause Branch Temporary Location

This event will be held at City of Rockford - City Hall in the Chamber Room, 7 South Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341.

Mon., Oct. 19, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Wed., Nov. 18, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch



Nibwaakaawin: Anishinaabe Stories and Teachings

Learn about the history and culture of West Michigan's indigenous population from Katrina Furman, Anishinaabe Curator at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, as the Anishinaabek exhibit at the museum reopens after exciting changes.

Tue., Oct. 20, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch

Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Grandville Branch

Open Craft Lab

Stop in and try something new or bring in your own project! New projects will be introduced monthly. All previous projects will be available while supplies last.

Thu., Sept. 3, 6:00 PM – Byron Twp. Branch

Wed., Sept. 16, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Thu., Sept. 24, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Mon., Oct. 19, 6:00 PM – Byron Twp. Branch

Wed., Oct. 21, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Thu., Oct. 22, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Mon., Nov. 2, 6:00 PM – Byron Twp. Branch

Wed., Nov. 18, 6:00 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Thu., Nov. 19, 6:00 PM – Gaines Twp. Branch

Paint & Pop

An instructional beginner paint program for adults. Get your creativity flowing!

Thu., Sept. 3, 6:00 PM – Wyoming Branch

Tue., Sept. 8, 6:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch

Thu., Nov. 5, 6:00 PM – Wyoming Branch

ADULTS (AGES 18 AND OLDER) CONTINUED

ProtectMChild: Internet Safety Tools for Parents and Youth

Learn about resources available to parents to block ads, establish parental controls and create a safer online experience for children as they explore and engage with social media. Join Alisha Meneely, Director of Government Relations and Outreach for the Michigan Child Protection Registry, to ensure you are ready to help your children safely engage with the online world.

Thu., Oct. 1, 6:30 PM – Krause Branch Temporary Location
This event will be held at City of Rockford - City Hall in the Chamber Room, 7 South Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341
 Wed., Oct. 7, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch

Ramonograph: East Grand Rapids, Ramona Park and Reeds Lake in the Movies

Travel back in time with the curator of the East Grand Rapids History Room as we view fun films of forgotten days. *This Sustainable Neighbors series is presented in partnership with E-GRen and sponsored by the Friends of the EGR Library.*

Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Soiree in the Stacks

Dance the night away amongst the stories of the stacks or the twinkling gardens. Enjoy bookish delights, crafts and a local author fair meet-and-greet.

Fri., Oct. 23, 7:00 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Starting a Food Business: What to Know

Looking to start a food business but not sure where to start? The Kent County Health Department can help you figure out the best path for you. Every business is different, and licensing is not one-size-fits-all. From obtaining a temporary license to test the waters to operating under the Cottage Food Law to licensing a full-service brick-and-mortar establishment or food truck, this presentation will provide an overview of options with ample time for a Q&A.

Tue., Sept. 8, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
 Tue., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
 Thu., Oct. 8, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch



Stone Bead Bracelets

Create a one-of-a-kind stone bead bracelet.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
 Tue., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM – Wyoming Branch
 Mon., Oct. 12, 6:30 PM – Byron Twp. Branch
 Wed., Oct. 21, 6:30 PM – Nelson Twp. Branch
 Tue., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM – Caledonia Twp. Branch
 Thu., Nov. 5, 6:30 PM – Comstock Park Branch
 Wed., Nov. 18, 6:30 PM – Englehardt (Lowell) Branch

The Health of Reeds Lake

Reeds Lake is a pivotal part of the East Grand Rapids community. Learn about the lake's overall health and what we can do as neighbors to support the ecosystem contained within it. *This Sustainable Neighbors series is presented in partnership with E-GRen and sponsored by the Friends of the EGR Library.*

Tue., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

The Hidden Life of Trees: Nature's Unsolved Mysteries

Trees are silent witnesses to centuries of change, yet many of their most familiar behaviors remain mysteries. Explore some of the most surprising unanswered questions about trees, from the reasons behind autumn's vibrant colors to why some trees just won't drop their leaves, revealing ongoing wonder in the life of trees. *This Sustainable Neighbors series is presented in partnership with E-GRen and sponsored by the Friends of the EGR Library.*

Tue., Oct. 20, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch

The Truth about Earthworms

Earthworms are more than garden helpers – they shape soil, ecosystems and even forests in surprising ways. This talk uncovers their biology, origins, benefits, invasive counterparts and their hidden impacts.

Wed., Oct. 21, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch



Trivia Night @ KDL

Enjoy themed rounds of trivia and brain games created by Matt of Here's Your Host! Each show features questions covering general knowledge and pop culture topics with fun audio and visual clues. The game will be played in teams (up to four members) so come with friends or join a team on the spot.

Thu., Nov. 12, 6:30 PM – Amy Van Andel Library (Ada)

True Crime Analysis

Dig beneath the headlines and join us to discuss a historic true crime case from around the world. We'll examine unanswered questions, challenge assumptions and explore the impact of these cases.

Thu., Sept. 17, 6:30 PM – Cascade Twp. Branch

Woven Mug Rug

Ever wanted to try weaving but didn't know where to start? Join us for a fast-paced, hands-on weaving session! In this beginner workshop, you'll learn the art of weaving on a notched loom. Using wool yarn, we'll create a rustic mug rug – the perfect cozy landing spot for your favorite pumpkin spice latte or morning tea.

Space is limited, so registration is required at kdl.org/events and opens two weeks before the event. Doors open 15 minutes before the program; check in with library staff to claim your spot upon arrival. Unclaimed seats will be given to walk-ins five minutes before the program starts.

Mon., Sept. 14, 6:30 PM – East Grand Rapids Branch
Tue., Sept. 29, 6:30 PM – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
Tue., Oct. 13, 6:30 PM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 5, 6:30 PM – Tyrone Twp. Branch
Thu., Nov. 12, 6:30 PM – Spencer Twp. Branch
Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 PM – Alto Branch



Days of Learning

Write Michigan Days of Learning offers sessions for professional learning and networking to further develop your writing skills and industry knowledge from industry experts.

Write Michigan Day of Learning | Circulate! Getting Your Books into Bookstores and Libraries

Get the tools and knowledge you need to get your books on library shelves, give author readings or present talks. Learn from librarian and writer Lisa Rabey how to create relationships with bookstores and libraries and further your writing career.

Sat., Oct. 3, 10:00 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Write Michigan Day of Learning | Telling Your Story

Building your online presence is scary. Most of us are familiar with social media, but having a website? Crafting a newsletter? Starting a blog? There are too many options, and it can be overwhelming. Writer Lisa Rabey will introduce you to the world of websites, newsletters and blogs in easy-to-understand terms and relatable examples.

Sat., Sept. 12, 10:00 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch

Write Michigan Day of Learning | Using AI to Improve Your Creative Writing Skills

Learn how to use AI to improve your creative writing skills. Instead of using AI to write FOR you, use AI ethically and as a tool for growth in your creative writing journey, whether you're an author of fiction or creative nonfiction.

Sat., Sept. 12, 11:30 AM – Plainfield Twp. Branch
Sat., Oct. 3, 11:30 AM – East Grand Rapids Branch

Submit your Write Michigan story at writemichigan.org. Entries are accepted through Nov. 15.





Check out pg. 18

What's
Your
Story?

