



GetSetUp

Missing our computer classes?

Check out these free classes! The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund have partnered with GetSetUp to offer free classes to seniors.

<https://www.getsetup.io/partner/michigan>
Some examples of what learners can select are: *Learn How to Use Zoom to Connect With Others*, *Take Fitness Classes to Stay Healthy*, *Join a Social Hour to Talk About Your Interests*, *Getting to Know Your Device*, and *Stay Independent By Learning About Apps*



Seed Library

Planting season is almost here! Don't forget: Ransom Library has a seed library. A seed library is a self-perpetuating collection of heirloom seeds. Our seeds are non-hybrid and non-Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) vegetable seeds. Seeds are available for free. Donations of saved or purchased non-GMO seeds are always needed to support our library. Seeds will be accepted if they are properly dried and identified.



Digital Resources

Ransom District Library offers many different digital resources that you can access right from the comfort of your home! All you need is your library card. Borrowed items are automatically returned at the end of your loan period.

Overdrive/Libby

www.smdl.overdrive.com

eBooks, audiobooks, music, and more are all available through Overdrive. Visit the website or download the OverDrive app or Libby app on your smart device. Overdrive is compatible with Android devices, Apple devices, and Kindles. You can borrow up to 7 different titles at one time. Titles at Overdrive may have wait lists at times.

Hoopla

www.hoopladigital.com

Hoopla offers eBooks, audiobooks, music, movies, TV shows, and comics with no wait list. Browse titles at the above website on your computer or download the Hoopla app on your smart device. Hoopla is supported on Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, FireOS, and Roku. Borrows are limited to 10 titles per month. When signing up, Hoopla will ask for your PIN, which is just your library card number.

Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition has been available remotely through our catalog for a few months now. If you log into our catalog (username and password are both your library card number), you can find a link in the upper left-hand corner. Start or continue working on your family tree while remote access is available!

NOTE:

RBDigital

www.ransommi.rbdigital.com

Formerly its own application, RBDigital, your resource for eNewspapers and magazines, is now available through the Libby app. The RBDigital app will no longer be used starting on March 31, 2021.

Rocket Languages

Visit the resources page on our website for a link to Rocket Languages. You can learn a new language at your own pace and on your own terms!

Featured MEL Databases

www.mel.org

Click on "eResources", click on "Browse All eResources" to find a list of all databases.

Computer Skills Center

The Computer Skills Center from LearningExpress Library offers 90+ courses on topics such as computer basics, Internet basics, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, and Microsoft Office tools like Word, Outlook, Access, Excel, PowerPoint, and SharePoint. Create a free account to access these tools.

Ransom District Library NEWS

Spring 2021

Gangsters Up North

REGISTER

Zoom Presentation with Author Robert Knapp

Monday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

Gangsters play an important role and colorful role in Michigan history. But what were they doing in Michigan's vacationland? *Gangsters Up North* provides the fascinating account of truth and myth. Al Capone, the Purple Gang, Fred "Killer" Burke and many other hoodlums found their way up north in fact and fiction. The whole colorful story is told for the first time in Robert Knapp's book.

Larry Martin: In Their Words

REGISTER

Thursday, May 27 at 6 p.m.

World War II historian and history fanatic Larry Martin, of Jackson, will be presenting "WWII In Their Own Words." This is a series of presentations in which Martin shares the stories of veterans from the second World War through a series of live and recorded interviews he has conducted with them or with individuals who knew the veterans. Martin's project is intended to educate future generations, as well as foster appreciation for the challenges endured by veterans. Martin will be sharing his interview with Fred Bahlau, a paratrooper who was in the 101st Airborne. Fred jumped into Normandy on D-Day, June 6th, 1944, and was completely surrounded at Bastogne earning two Silver Stars. Space is limited and registration is required. A Facebook live feed will be available for patrons who wish to watch from home. The event will be moved to a Zoom presentation in the event Covid restrictions limit social gatherings on this date.

Take a Trip with Dances of India

REGISTER

Thursday, June 24 at 6 p.m. • On the outdoor patio

Take a trip to India at Ransom District Library with Susan Iervolina's students as they perform vibrant, Bollywood-style dances in beautiful traditional costumes. Afterwards, you will get a chance to try a dance yourself! Learn about the history and culture of a faraway place without leaving Plainwell.

Director's Note

An early wave of spring-like weather has provided our area a sense of renewal, a very welcome feeling this year, indeed. At Ransom District Library, we've been moving steadily toward this season and the opportunities it will provide to finish our building project and celebrate it with you. That means pouring the parking lot asphalt, finishing the grounds around the building, and fleshing out several final projects inside. We look forward to an official grand-opening this summer, two years after turning over the first dirt!

In the meantime, we hope you will explore and utilize our fantastic new community facility. From beautiful, riverside seating to an equipped media lab, from an emerging and dynamic children's room to contemporary meeting spaces of various sizes, there is something at the new Ransom District Library for everyone in our district.

Come check it out!

Yours in service,
Joe Gross

Event Registration

REGISTER

To register for an upcoming event, class or workshop, look for this banner, and call, email, or message us!

(269) 685-8024

patronservices@ransomdistrictlibrary.org

rdlyouthservices@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/ransomlibrary



Adult Craft Grab Bags

Ransom Library will continue with adult grab-and-go craft bags through spring. Each month we will provide a bag of materials and written instructions to make a craft. Crafts will be geared toward beginners, but adaptable enough for the more experienced crafter to make them shine. **In the works:** pop-up crafts on Thursday evenings on our new outdoor patio. These activities will take place if the weather permits; stay tuned on Facebook for more information and dates.

RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY

180 S. Sherwood Avenue • Plainwell, MI 49080
phone 269.685.8024 | fax 269.685.2266

www.ransomlibrary.org

Mon-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri & Sat 10am-5pm • Sunday 1pm-5pm

Closing temporarily: Mon-Thu at 7pm



Message from the Media Lab

We've been busy in the Media Lab helping people preserve memories by digitizing their old home movies, whether they're on Super 8 movie film or on the many video formats we've seen change through the years. While the transfer of VHS, Video 8 and other domestic video types is pretty straightforward, Super 8 movie film is a little more complicated but well worth the effort. We initially ran a Super 8 reel of Lake Michigan purchased from an estate sale to test the encoding process. You can see the results for yourself on the Ransom District Library YouTube channel.

Conversion of a typical film reel takes ten times longer than its duration. The machine digitizes each individual frame – 18 in a second – and then advances the film for the next frame. A four-minute reel (100 feet in actual length) takes around 40 minutes to digitize, not including occasional film breakage. Once it's done, however, the results are just fantastic! We've seen Disneyland in the 1960's, road trips across the USA, birthday parties, graduations, fishing trips and weddings.

Do you have any home movies or audio cassettes you'd like to see and hear again to preserve for posterity?

Drop our Media Lab team a line at dsmith@ransomlibrary.org to find out more and book a time to start on your project.

Self-Checkout

Our new self-checkout systems are up and running! If you're feeling adventurous the next time you come in, scan or enter your card number at the new self-checkout kiosks located at the front desk and by the media lab. You can check out all materials yourself. However, please note the lock cases on DVDs will still need to be removed at the desk.



Reader's Advisory

While nothing beats coming in and browsing the new book shelf, you can always count on the staff of RDL to help you find whatever it is you need.



(269) 685-8024



patronservices@ransomdistrictlibrary.org



Message us on Facebook!

For those who prefer to do their own research, some of RDL Staff's favorite online reader advisory sites:

www.bookriot.com

The largest independent editorial book site in North America, and home to a host of media, from podcasts to newsletters to original content, all designed around diverse readers and across all genres.



www.literature-map.com

If you type in an author, it gives you a map of similar authors. The closer the names are to each other, the closer their writing styles.

www.goodreads.com/award

Award winning books.



Work continues on the construction of the **JBS Children's Discovery Library**. Changes are coming soon! The first item available for children to play and experiment with is a hand-cranked conveyor belt. Children experience cause and effect, learn to operate the belt forward and backward, and begin to understand the use of simple machines. If your child has not tried it yet, please bring them in to give it a go!

Story Time REGISTER

Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m. starting Wednesday, April 14

Story Time is back in person again in the Hill Performance Room. State health mandates require that attendance be limited to a total of 24 people. Sessions will last approximately 30 minutes and will not include a craft. Masks must be worn at all times.

Zoom Story Time: If you are not yet comfortable with in-person activities, Ms. Erin reads every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. Email rdlyouthservices@gmail.com for the link.

Teens

Your room gets closer to completion every day! The manga shelves have been installed and books have been moved in – no more struggling to locate them on the bottom shelf of the Tween section. There are "Ransom Notes" just for you: these are notebooks shared by the community that are awaiting your contribution. Right now there is a manga sketchbook, six word stories, and "The Weirdest Thing That Ever Happened to Me" for you to choose from.

The Switch is hooked up and ready for play. Ask at the front desk for the controllers and a menu of available games. An X Box is coming soon!

We also have a Wii and Atari that can be hooked up for old school fun.

SPRING BREAK & SUMMER SNEAK PEAK

Spring Break

All outdoor spring break activities will be weather-dependent. Temperature/wind chill below 45 degrees and rain/snow will result in cancellation. If you are unsure about conditions, call the library or check for an update on Facebook.

Outdoor Easter Egg Art • Friday, April 2 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Create beautiful Easter egg art and leave the mess! We will be working with flat paper eggs, not real ones. *Weather permitting.*

Kalamazoo Book Arts Center: Build Your Village Tuesday, April 6 at 11 a.m. on Zoom

REGISTER Best for kids in grade 2-up. Your home is just one of many places that makes a neighborhood. Join the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center to create a fun and colorful accordion book that celebrates your community with a page by page look at your home, your friends' homes, school, church, stores and more. Using paper, scissors, glue, and markers you can recreate your world in a book that will be cool to show your friends and family and display in your home. Register by March 30. A materials packet will need to be picked up in advance.

Build-o-Rama on the Patio • Tuesday, April 6 at 3 p.m.

Use our bricks to make amazing designs. Finished creations will be displayed in the Children's Room—and the shelves are higher now, so little hands won't pull them apart!

Special Spring Story Time on the Deck Wednesday, April 7 at 10:30 a.m.

We are so excited to be back with you in your library that we are going to attempt a story time on the new deck! Ms. Erin cannot wait to see you! *Weather permitting.*

Scattergories for Teens Thursday, April 8 at 2 p.m.

REGISTER Scattergories is a fun game where players think of items starting with a designated letter in 10-12 different categories. Points are scored for each unique answer.

Fun To Go

We are preparing a bunch of take away fun for you this spring break. You can choose Legos, Art, or Science Kits. There will be a limit of one take away kit per child, and will be offered while supplies last.

Summer Sneak Peak

Tails and Tales: Summer Reading Goes Online — Again!

Last year was our first foray into tracking summer reading online. This year we have a new site that is easier to utilize. It is called READsquared, and you will be able to find it at rdlreads.readsquared.com. Registration will open on Monday, June 7. Look for more details in the annual summer reading newsletter, which will be available at the library and to download in late April. Here are some June highlights:

Scoop the Balloonatic Makes Animals Friday, June 11 from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Watch this amazing balloon artist sculpt an animal of your choice! Plan to be in line outdoors.

Tails and Tales with Mad Science of Detroit Tuesday, June 15 at 1 p.m.

An outdoor presentation is planned. Adjustments will be made for inclement weather. Animals have been the inspiration for stories, myths, and legends since the dawn of time. Learn about animals' amazing features by exploring how they move, see and evade predators. Discover how animals use electricity, toxic venom and gooey slime to defend themselves. This will be a fun-filled event about animal friends—and foes!

Birds of Fire (DNR) • Monday, June 21 at 1 p.m. on Zoom

Did you know that there is a Michigan bird who can only live where there has been a forest fire? DNR conservation specialist Craig Kasmer will meet us on Zoom for a presentation about the Kirtland Warbler and its very specialized habitat.

A Taste of India for Teens • Monday, June 28 at 2 p.m.

Explore the world from your hometown this summer. Susan Iervolina will join us to share her best Bollywood dance moves, and teach you some too! Afterward, try some Indian cuisine and mehndi – decorate your hands with henna, a plant-based dye.

We still have to have social distancing, but four of the teen computers can now be used at once.

Library programs especially for you will begin again this summer. There are dry erase decals next to the door in the Teen Lounge; watch there for information about upcoming activities. Our summer reading program will be back, and you will be able to track your progress on your phones. The summer newsletter will be available in late April.