

Adult Programs

Healthy Aging Series

Sponsored by Life Care Center in Plainwell

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. for a unique topic paired with doughnuts and coffee sponsored by Life Care Center of Plainwell.

Long Term Planning: Getting Things in Order with Attorney Robert Longstreet of Longstreet Elder Law

Wednesday, January 16 at 2 p.m.

You can never know for sure if you will need long-term care. Maybe you will never need it. But an unexpected accident, illness, or injury can change your needs, sometimes suddenly. The best time to think about long-term care is before you need it. Planning for the possibility of long-term care gives you time to learn about services in your community and what they cost. It also allows you to make important decisions while you are still able.

Staying Safe in the Winter: Fall Prevention with Lindsey Brand, Life Care Center of Plainwell

Wednesday, February 20 at 2 p.m.

Winter is a perfect time to slow down and take stock of your home and your safety. Cold weather, while usually forcing us to remain cozy indoors, can also bring many fall risks for older Americans. According to the National Institute of Health, 6 out of every 10 falls happen in or around the home. Making small changes, both to your home and your lifestyle, can prevent many of these falls.

Advance Care Planning with Hillary Kerr from Bronson Hospital

Wednesday, March 20 at 2 p.m.

It may be tough to think about, but there may be a time when you cannot make healthcare decisions for yourself. No matter what your age, planning ahead for your future is important. Advance care planning offers one-on-one support to help you determine your wishes, complete an advance directive and have the conversation with family and friends.

Edward Jones Financial Series

Presented by Ginger Titus

Simplify Your Spending & Saving Strategies

Thursday, January 10 at 7 p.m.

If the holidays left your budget in the negative this workshop is for you. Participants will learn how to sharpen their spending and saving strategies along with the basics of budgeting and the importance of managing credit and debt. Registration required.

Ready or Not? Preparing for the Unexpected?

Thursday, February 7 at 7 p.m.

Life is full of surprises, some better than others. A job loss, extended disability or untimely loss of a family member can profoundly impact your family's financial situation. We'll outline a proactive strategy to help protect your family's financial resources. Registration required.

Five Money Questions for Women

Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

Women face unique financial circumstances. A strong financial plan is vital. During this presentation, five critical money questions for women will be covered. Registration required.

Free Tax Assistance

Wednesday, February 6 & March 6 · 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand to help patrons file their own taxes using MyFreeTaxes.com. My Free Taxes is a free, safe and easy way for anyone earning \$64,000 or less to file state and federal taxes. For the past nine years, United Way has partnered with H&R Block to offer assistance and encouragement in filling your own taxes through their "My Free Taxes" program. Since that time, the partnership has helped more than 750,000 taxpayers claim every deduction and credit they deserve.

Valentine's Earrings with Barb Stewart

Thursday, February 7 at 7 p.m.

Make a unique pair of earrings for yourself or a loved one with local artist Barb Stewart. Barb loves to create beautiful art to wear for everyday and special occasions. She finds great joy in the process of making wire woven jewelry. She has yet to make two pieces that are exactly alike. Registration required and space is limited.

Mask Making Party

Wednesday, February 13 at 7 p.m.

Adults: be prepared for attending either or both the Midnight at the Masquerade mystery on February 21 or our Mardi Gras party with the band Creole du Nord on March 3 at 2 p.m. We will be unleashing our adult coloring supplies along with plenty of feathers and gems to customize your very own mask. Yes, snacks will be provided to fuel extra creativity.

Midnight at the Masquerade

Presented by the Murder Mystery Company

Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.

The rustle of silks and feathers under muted conversation was probably the last thing heard by the tragically and unexpectedly deceased at the Billionaires' Club Annual Masquerade Ball. With a mystery under each feathery façade, unmasking the killer may be quite a challenge. It's up to you to determine which partygoer is guilty, bring this crime to justice, and save the party! Attend the Billionaires' Club Annual Masquerade Ball and help get this soiree back on track by trading clues with your guests, gathering information, and solving the crime before the masked menace gets away! Evening wear, ball gowns, Venetian masks, suits, and tuxes are what to wear to this high class night of masks and murder. Get ready for a glamorous evening of mystery, and intrigue.

Wild Women of Michigan with Author Norma Lewis

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Countless Michiganian women performed extraordinary acts that challenged and improved the world. Author and historian Norma Lewis commemorates and celebrates these women who boldly left their marks during Women's History Month. Norma Lewis loves local history and is a member of the Grand Rapids Historical Society, the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven. Wild Women of Michigan is her thirteenth book.

Ongoing Programs

Local History Help Offered on Wednesday Mornings

This is a great opportunity to learn about Plainwell history from our experts!

Book a Geek

Book a private tutor for your basic technology or genealogy questions! Need a little help with your laptop, figuring out Excel or downloading digital books? Call the library at 269 685-8024 to set up a 30 minute session or schedule an appointment online at <https://rdltech.setmore.com/>.

Ransom Library Seed Exchange

A seed library is a self-perpetuating collection of heirloom seeds. Donations of saved seeds are needed to support our library. Seeds will be accepted if they are properly dried and identified. Tell us a little about the plants from which the seeds came, the stories are helpful for future planters and support community connections. If donating commercial seeds, please be sure that the seeds are non-hybrid and non-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds.

WINTER 2019

Winter Adult Reading Contest

January 24 – March 20, 2019

Everyone is a winner at Ransom Library with our adult reading contest running from January 24 through March 20, 2019. Ransom District Library will be encouraging adults to keep reading and participating in programs this winter by offering an incentive much like our summer children's reading program. It's simple: For every 3 books read or one program attended, come in and get a scratch off ticket. Win something! Prizes will include books, nifty adult trinkets and of course candy. Unlike the lotto everyone is a winner who reads at Ransom District Library this winter!

WINTER CONCERT SERIES

Join us this winter for our free Sunday afternoon concert series kicking off on Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m. with Fauxgrass.

Fauxgrass

February 10 at 2 p.m.

The Fauxgrass approach to music, original and traditional, has quickly landed them a place in the progressive bluegrass community since their 2011 inception. With a fresh, playful, and heart-felt approach to structure Fauxgrass performances flow between genres with unique instrumental communication.

KSO Burdick-Thorne String Quartet

February 17 at 2 p.m.

In celebration of Plainwell's sesquicentennial, southwest Michigan's premier string quartet will play selections produced within a few years of the founding of the City of Plainwell.

Rachel Davis

February 24 at 2 p.m.

Rachael Davis has been singing on-stage since she was two years old. Her influences range from the jazz stylings of Ella Fitzgerald to the soulful pop vocals of Patty Griffin -- with many more in between. She is a contemporary songwriter but is equally at home singing anything from traditional ballads to Cole Porter to Joe Henry.

Creole du Nord "Mardi Gras Party"

March 3 at 2 p.m.

Creole du Nord's sound can be traced to southwest Louisiana's traditional music. On fiddles, accordion, guitar, bass, pedal steel, and drums, they mix things up - keeping uneasy company with slicker stuff of today's music. When you hear Creole du Nord you move to the groove, dance and have fun. And if you're wondering "Where do they get their passion?" It seems that Creole, Cajun & Zydeco music from Louisiana music bring a real element of passion to this band. It's become of mission of band leader Mark Palms to find Cajun & Zydeco tunes, waltzes, and old time fiddle tunes that lift the spirit and inspire his talented band mates.

An Dro

March 10 at 2 p.m.

An Dro is an ensemble of eclectic instrumentalists who speak from the heart with uncommon synergy. Their music is a blend of traditional and original melodies from across the globe, reaching back to the past, with an eye to the present and the future.

RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

Friends of RDL News

Thanks to all who continue to donate books and DVDs to the library for our book sales. We use the funds from our sales to purchase new books and sponsor programs for the library.

Our next book sale dates are Saturday, January 19 and Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We can always use volunteers and new members. If you have an hour or two that you could volunteer or would like to join us, please give Char a call at 269-685-6646.

- Jan Ragainis, President
Friends of Ransom Library

Ransom Book Discussion 3rd Monday of the Month @ 7 p.m.



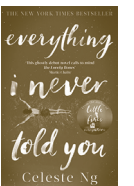
Monday, January 21

The Middle Place by Kelly Corrigan

Monday, February 18

Everything I Never Told You

by Celeste Ng



Monday, March 18

Dark Matter by Blake Crouch

Join us each month for what is sure to be a lively and entertaining book discussion lead by the remarkable patron reader Jamie Hill, who is a mother (she has time to read - so no excuses) and local educator. She enjoys many genres, especially memoirs, and her three favorite books of all time are *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *The Devil in the White City*.

RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY

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

www.ransomlibrary.org

Hours: M-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri & Sat 10am-5pm • Sunday 1pm-5pm



A WINTER WONDERLAND OF FUN @ RANSOM



PRESCHOOL

Preschool Programs take place Monday through Thursday, always at 10:30 a.m. This session runs January 2 through March 28.

★ Story Time: Mondays

Children from ages 3 to 6 (with a favorite adult) build their early literacy skills and have fun with exciting books, catchy songs and engaging rhymes and activities. (Crafts are available on Thursdays only.)

Baby Story Time: Tuesdays

Babies from birth to age 3 (with a favorite adult) enjoy songs, bouncing, rhymes, and listening to two stories in each lively session.

☁ Preschoolers Explore: Wednesdays

This playgroup-style program emphasizes sensory experiences, discovery science and language development. Children should wear play clothes.

Story Time: Thursdays

A repeat of Monday's program with the addition of a craft.

Parachute Playtime - Select Fridays:

January 4, February 1, & March 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Children can lie underneath the chute, bounce a pile of balls and even launch a stuffed animal up to the ceiling! Safest for children ages 3-8; children younger than 3 struggle to hold the chute when older children are playing.

🎵 Baby Grands: A Gilmore Family Concert at RDL

Saturday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 0-6 are invited to this special piano playtime featuring The Gilmore Keyboard Festival's "Rising Star" Nikita Mndoyants. Kids are encouraged to dance, explore, and move freely around the space. Parents, family, and friends can relax and enjoy an unconventional piano recital, without compromising the music. Healthy snacks and drinks will be provided (coffee will also be available for adults). Supported by the Friends of Ransom District Library.



More LaunchPads available! We have purchased eight new LaunchPads, which are now available to check out. The new titles are: You Auto Know, My Animal Instincts, Little Picasso, Color Buddies, Alien Take Over, 1,2, Trees, Prehistoric Playground and School of Fish. Ask for them at the circulation desk.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENS



Build-o-Rama: Mondays at 4 p.m.

Open to all ages. Make amazing inventions using our Lego bricks. Creations are on display for a week following each session.

Guitar Club: Mondays at 4 p.m.

The Guitar Club continues this winter, and the New Year represents a good time to join the group. Current participants are encouraged after the holidays to help newcomers with initial instruction, which helps everyone to better understand their instrument and music itself!



Discovery Hour: Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

Kids (grades K-3) learn about scientific concepts by creating interesting experiments. Get messy and have fun!

Teen Multimedia Hangout: Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

Middle and high schoolers: hang with your friends and make new ones as we share the memes and videos that we love. We will feed you!

Closed Door Science Club: Thursdays at 4 p.m.

For kids in grades 4-7. Mess around with stuff your mom won't let you do at home! Explosions, goo and learning are possible side effects.



Video Game Free Play: Fridays at 3 p.m.

For kids in grades 4-up. Blow off some steam playing video games on Friday afternoon with your friends! The Switch or the Wii will be available each week; the group can select what is played. No free play on February 22.



ESPECIALLY FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Is your family interested in "gameschooling," or learning through games? The library would like to offer a gameschool program on Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. Ironing out some details as a group will be essential for a smoothly functioning activity. If you are interested, please join us for a brief initial meeting on Thursday, January 10 at 1 p.m. in the library's Burchfield Room. If you cannot come to the meeting, please call Erin Marsh at (269) 685-8024 for information.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Escape Room: One of Our Librarians is Missing!

Thursday, February 21 (starting at 3:15 p.m.) through

Saturday, February 23 (Plainwell Schools Midwinter Break)

Yikes! A local librarian has been "kidnapped!" Can you and your friends follow the clues and come to the rescue? Our 2019 escape room will be set up for 3 days. Clues will be age appropriate for kids in grades 4 and up. Sign up for a time to solve the mystery. Groups may be as large as six people. (If you sign your kids up for the 21st, you can enjoy the adult murder mystery program while they are in the escape room!) Registration will be by phone or in person only, starting on Monday, February 4. Call (269) 685-8024 to sign up.



Dr. Seuss Night

Tuesday, March 5, 7-8 p.m.

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it is June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?" -Dr. Seuss

That's right—another year has passed and it is once again time for Dr. Seuss Night. Join us for stories, games and other Seussian silliness, topped off with a treat! Sponsored by the Friends of Ransom Library.

Nerf Night: Younger (grades 4-7)

Friday, March 29

Due to the popularity of this event, we will run 2 sessions: one from 5:00-7:00, and one from 7:30-9:30.

Registration is now mandatory, and we will limit participation to 40 players per session. Players may register for one session only. In addition, players who show up at the last minute and are not registered will NOT be allowed in. THESE CHANGES ARE FOR THE PLAYERS' SAFETY. Please mark your equipment with your name in permanent marker or with some other identifier so you can track it down at the end of the night. The typical blue and orange darts and 150 blaster balls will be provided by the library; you are encouraged to leave your ammo at home. However, if your blaster uses a different kind of ammo, you will need to bring your own. Also, beverages will be provided, but NOT pizza or snacks, so please eat dinner first. Registration begins Monday, March 11.

TEENS

Adulting 101 Learn some basic skills that will help you when you're out on your own, from somebody who isn't your parent!

Monday, January 7, 7 p.m.: Balancing the Budget

Learn how to manage your money so you can pay your bills and still have some discretionary income. A discussion of credit cards and the importance of credit scores will be included.

Monday, February 18, 7 p.m.: Why invest?

It seems crazy to think about retirement before you even get out of high school, but people who start investing early have a surprising amount saved by the time they are ready to quit work. Find out about different kinds of investments that you can start on while you are young.

Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.: First-Time Income Tax Filing

Fill out your first 1040 form with a trained accountant standing by to answer your questions! Bring your W2 form and bank interest statements so you have all the information you need to complete your form.

FREE FAFSA HELP

Monday, February 4 at 6 p.m.

Are you going to college soon? Plainwell High School's Beth Brandon will be here to help college bound students and their parents to get started with the FAFSA financial aid form. Use a reserved library computer, or bring your own device to hook up to wifi (tablets/laptops will be better than phones). Attendees will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Target gift card.



SPRING BREAK SNEAK PEEK

Save the dates for these fun Spring Break activities:

Nerf Night for Grades 4-7 • Friday, March 29

Registration required (see description above).

Princess Storytime with Pretty Princess HQ

Wednesday, April 3 @ 11 a.m.

Video Game Lock-in

Friday, April 5 @ 6 p.m.