Paint Your Rocks Off
Thursday, Oct. 10 • 7 p.m.
Local students have painted rocks at school as part of the Kindness Project with inspirational quotes and left them around town. Now we are offering adults the opportunity to decorate stones to place in their garden or leave in a special place. Rocks and art supplies along with refreshments will be supplied. Registration is required.

Pound Rock Out with Zelda
Saturday, Oct. 12 • 10:30 a.m. for adults & 11:30 a.m. for children (ages 6+)
POUND is the world’s first cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energizing and sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums. Led by Calico Rabbit’s owner and fitness instructor Zelda Schippers Peters, these free classes are an excellent way to get pumped up for our Rocktober concert as well as a fun way to try a new exercise!

Preserving our Graveyard Rocks
Presented by Gary Swain
Thursday, Oct. 17 • 7 p.m.
Gary Swain is well known as an officer in Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a Michigan fraternal organization. He was regimental commander of the Kalamazoo regional camp and now serves as the Graves and Memorial registration officer for a group that covers Kalamazoo, VanBuren, Allegan and Kent counties. The group’s efforts are dedicated to putting markers on Civil War veterans’ graves. They take charge of cleaning the graves and keeping track of the 9,200 grave sites in the four-county area.

Poetry Reading: Dennis Hinrichsen, Kimberly Ann Priest & Andrew Collar
Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.
Dennis Hinrichsen’s most recent work is [q / leaf], a chapbook from Green Linden Press, and Skin Music, winner of the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Prize from Southern Indiana Review Press. Kimberly Ann Priest is the author of White Goat Black Sheep (FLP) and her poetry has appeared in several literary journals. She is an MFA graduate of New England College, an Assistant Professor at MSU, a reviewer for NewPages, and an editor for the Nimrod International Journal. Andrew Collord is a PhD student and creative writing instructor at Western Michigan University. His poems can be found in Poughugahres, Crazyhorse, and Mid-American Review, among other journals.

Genealogy Lock-In
Friday, Nov. 15 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.
The library will be open after hours with the sole purpose of working on genealogy. Computers will be turned on, the Genealogy room and archives unlocked, and there will be some light refreshments to fuel your research. A staff member will be on hand to help you with any brick walls you might encounter. Registration required.

Create a Santa Claus Ornament
Thursday, Dec. 12 • 7 p.m.
Make and take an adorable Santa Claus ornament with local crafter Barb Stewart. This is the perfect way to get in the holiday spirit. Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts and a crafting guru, Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts and a crafting guru, Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts and a crafting guru, Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts and a crafting guru, Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts and a crafting guru.

Real ID Law
On Oct. 1, 2020, the federally mandated REAL ID law goes into effect, and if you travel by air this law will impact you. REAL ID is the post-9/11 federal requirement that sets higher security standards for identification. Once in effect, a REAL ID will be required to board any U.S. flight or to enter some federal facilities. A REAL ID can be a U.S. Passport or an Enhanced Driver’s License – or you can turn your standard driver’s license into a REAL ID at the Secretary of State’s office. Learn more about the law and what documents you need to bring to get a REAL ID at Michigan.gov/REALID.

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://rdtech.setmore.com/.

Life Care Healthy Aging Series
Sponsored by Life Care of Plainwell, these free classes take place the third Wednesday of each month at Ransom Library.

Home Safety for Older Adults
Presented by LCP Therapy Department
Wednesday, Oct. 16 • 2 p.m.

Healthy Living for your Brain & Body
Presented by the Alzheimer’s Association
Wednesday, Nov. 20 • 2 p.m.

Coping with Grief
Presented by Heartland Hospice
Wednesday, Dec. 18 • 2 p.m.

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Ransom Rocktober Halloween Costume Contest
Who says Halloween is just for kids? Adult and teens (13 & up) are invited to sign up for our Halloween costume contest prior to the Trixy Tang show. Participants may enter one of three categories: best 80’s costume (think hairband!), best book character and best overall costume (be creative!). Winners will walk away with a $50 gift card generously donated by Meijer in Plainwell. Runners up will receive gift cards donated by Sweetwater Donut Mill, 4 Roses Café and Otsego Barber Shop. Members of the band Trixy Tang and staff will judge the contest.

Trixy Tang: Rocktober Concert
Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m.
Trixy Tang will bring back the music of the 80’s during this year’s Rocktober concert on October 24 at 7 p.m. But the fun doesn’t stop there: Ransom Library will hold a special adult and teen Halloween contest the night of the show to set the mood! Trixy Tang not only performs the party-favorites from the heyday but also performs their own original music with a large influence from the 80’s. Their new full length self-titled album was released in April. Playing nearly 52 weeks out of the year, Trixy Tang has performed all over the state of Michigan in front of thousands of people in major festivals and venues sharing the stage with: Jackyl, Great White, LA Guns, Skid Row, Faster Pussycat, Stryper, Bang Tango, Kip Winger, Dokken, Warrant, etc. They were voted #1 Best Original Band in West Michigan by the 2019 Revue Magazine Reader’s Poll as well as taking the slot for #3 Best Cover Band in West Michigan. According to Klay Fennema lead singer of the band, the library is “literally the last place I’d ever imagine playing a gig when I got my start! Libraries have always seemed like a place that would be anti-rock ‘n roll, and for a library to endorse this type of event is not only incredible, it’s memorable!” Fueled by rock ‘n roll, fun costumes and candy this free family concert is sure to be a memorable event for everyone involved!
**PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Preschool Programs take place Monday through Thursday, always at 10:30 a.m. Fall session runs September 9-December 19.

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

**Story Time: Thursdays**

(no Story Time Explore on Oct. 24 or Nov. 28)

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

**OLDER KIDS/TEENS WEEKLY PROGRAMS**

The fall session runs from September 9-December 19. Guitar Club will begin in January this year; contact the library in late fall for more information.

**Word Nerds: Wednesdays at 3 p.m.**

Do you like to write? Do you like to read? Do you like to play word games? Do you enjoy snacking? We’ll do all of these and more in this fun after school program featuring our mutual love of language. Bring a friend!

**Gamschooling: Thursdays 1-3 p.m.**

(No Gamschooling on October 24 or November 28.)

Gamschooling is a way for homeschooled kids to learn through board games and to meet other kids. Feel free to bring your own game; you can also play the library’s selections. Players between the ages of 7-16 will enjoy this.

**Gamer Café: Thursdays at 3 p.m.**

(No Café on October 24 or November 28.)

For kids in grades 6-12. Meet in the Burchfield Room for snacks and competition. Board games, video games (on the Wii or Nintendo Switch) and role-playing games are all possibilities.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Halloween Costumes Available!** Gently used costumes are available for you to select for your child from October 7-October 28, while supplies last. There is no charge, but monetary donations for the costumes are greatly appreciated. This great idea was conceived by the Friends of Ransom Library, who use the proceeds to help the library fund special events like the Rocktober Concert.

**Zombie Barbie Makeover**

Friday, October 11 - 1-4 p.m.

Drop in on this half day of school and create your own undead doll! Makeup, rags, bandages and other “decorations” will be available. Bring your own victim if you have one; library dolls will be available while supplies last. Barbie donations are also welcome.

**Older Teen Nerf Night: Zombie War Extravaganza**

Friday, October 11 - 6-9 p.m.

For teens in grades 8-12. Registration is required, call (269) 685-8024. Snacks and drinks provided. Dress up as a zombie and play a modified version of Zombies Versus Humans, Infection, and other games. Bring your own (labeled!) blasters, or use the library’s arsenal. We will provide the darts. Only the strong will survive...

**Pound Rock Out with Zelda**

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**The Rocktober concert is for teens, too!**

**The library will be rockin’ to the tunes of Traxy Yang on Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m. Don’t miss it!**

**Preschool Halloween Parade**

Thursday, October 31 • 10:30 a.m.

Our littlest friends don’t always last through Halloween night, so trick or treat at the library instead! Atmospheric music will play as we parade through the library, followed by stories, a craft and some treats. This program will take the place of regular Thursday Story Time.

**HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**Children’s Christmas Festival**

Saturday, December 14 - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come downtown for winter festivities! There will be a candy cane hunt, the library will be running a craft table, and local businesses will be open for other holiday fun. Don’t miss it!

**Video Game Tournament**

Friday, December 27 - 2-4 p.m.

This will be a Mario Kart tournament on the Wii--race it old school! Snacks and drinks will be provided (and prizes, too.)

**Lego Contest**

Monday, December 30 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

The new library is under construction; this is your chance to imagine what it will look like. Build your best version of a new library; three lucky winners will be on hand to talk about inexpensive ways to put together your own gaming computer.

**Build Your Own Gaming Computer**

Saturday, November 9 - 2 p.m.

Local computer whiz Kris Hayes will be on hand to talk about inexpensive ways to put together your own gaming computer.