

**Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** REGISTER  
Thursday, January 4 • 7-8 p.m.

The fastest team of four people to complete the 500-piece puzzle (or get the closest to completion) will win a prize. Other participants may be added to your team as space allows.

**Adult Craft & Company:  
Craft Closet Cleanout®**

Tuesday, January 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
OR Thursday, January 11 • 7-8 p.m.

It's a new year and that means we are cleaning out our crafting closet to make room for new supplies for 2024's monthly crafts. Analiese will be on hand to help spark ideas.

**Scam and Fraud Protection** REGISTER  
Wednesday, January 10 • 7-8 pm

This presentation will cover different scams criminals frequently use to prey on individuals. Kristy Desimone will outline the common factors that are present within these scams and provide you with ways to report them as a consumer.

**How to Remain Kind in an Unkind  
World Presented by Jude Vereyken**

Saturday, January 13 • 3 p.m.

Learn tips and tools to help you keep your calm and express yourself effectively even when the world around you is anything but kind and calm from Jude Vereyken, LMSW, CAADC, ACSW, owner of JD's Midlife Tools for Living Practices, LLC.

**Santa's Tech Team** REGISTER

Tuesday, January 23 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

If Santa dropped off new technology underneath your tree and you need a little extra help learning how to use it, sign up with RDL's tech team. We can help with phones, tablets, eReaders, laptops, etc.

**Preventing Falls with Armor Physical  
Therapy**

Thursday, January 25, 2 p.m.

Balance, strength, and posture are important in relation to risk for falls. Stacie Rayman, PT and Nathan Nespodzany, PT will help you gain knowledge of how our bodies move and react to posture and falls.

**Adult Craft & Company:  
Valentine's Sock Gnomes**

REGISTER

Tuesday, February 13 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

OR Thursday, February 15 • 7-8 p.m.

This Valentine's day season create "a love like gnome other." This simple sock craft will add a touch of cuteness to any home.

**Murder Mystery Jigsaw Puzzle**

Saturday, February 24 • 2-4 p.m.

REGISTER

Read the story, assemble the puzzle and solve the murder at your own pace. Puzzles like *C is for Chocolate*, *Foul Play* & *Cabernet*, and more will be available!

**White Man at the Back of the Bus**

Thursday, February 29, 7-8 p.m.

Stories of awakening and apology for "what people of my skin color did to people of your skin color." Presented by local author Robert Weir, a frequent contributor to Encore magazine.

**Adult Craft & Company:**

REGISTER

**Easter Egg Bath Bombs**

Tuesday, March 12 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

OR Thursday, March 14 • 7-8 p.m.

Repurpose plastic Easter eggs to make a mold for fun, festive bath bombs.

**Ukrainian Pysanky Eggs**

REGISTER

Saturday, March 16 • 12-3 p.m.

Create Ukrainian Easter eggs and learn about the meaning and history of this traditional method.

**Companion Planting Vegetables by  
Tammy Visipi-March: Chula Vista  
Garden Club**

Thursday, March 21 • 6-9 p.m.

Advanced Master Gardener, Tammy Visipi-March, will explain how adopting the companion planting method will help you produce higher crop yield, use less space, water, and fertilizer.

**Eclipse Presentation**

Saturday, March 23 • 2-3 p.m.

Kalamazoo Astronomical Society President

Richard Bell will give a preview of the total eclipse of the sun happening on April 8th 2024, explain why solar eclipses occur, show how to view them safely.

**Liquidation Pallets as a Side  
Hustle with Mitch Kogelschatz of  
GRPLiquidations**

REGISTER

Wednesday, March 27 • 7 p.m.

Learn liquidation basics and how Mitch

**Ongoing Programs**

**Sew What? Stitching Group**

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sew--whatever your stitch, you're welcome to come and work on your project with other crafters. Please bring your own project.

**NovelTEA Book Club**

Tuesdays 1/16, 2/20, 3/19 • 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a pot of tea and homemade scones that match the book being discussed each month. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

BOOK GROUP PICKS

January: *Once Upon a River* by  
Bonnie Jo Campbell  
February: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi  
March: *One Second After* by William F.  
Forstchen

(Multiple copies of the books are available)

**With a Twist Book Club**

Thursdays • 1/18, 2/22, 3/21 • 7-8 p.m.

This book group pairs the Book of the Month with an adult beverage recipe picked specifically to match. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

Casual Euchre Monday • 1/8, 2/5, 3/4 •  
1-3 p.m. OR 6-8 p.m.

Bring a partner or come solo to meet other local people interested in euchre for a self-guided night of cards. We're going to start by casually playing four person (two team) "Turn Up" Euchre. We'll be playing "Stick the Dealer" and "Go Alone option."

**Card Sharks**

Tuesday • 1/31, 2/28, 3/26 • 1-3 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of playing cards. Each month we will instruct you on how to play a new game, but if you already know it or would like to play something else, feel free!

Kogelschatz and his wife Jess's business grew from their garage to having retail space and a 25,000 square-foot facility.

**Canva Basics** REGISTER

Thursday, March 28 • 7-8 p.m.

Learn how to create customized, professional marketing resources using the free Canva website. This class is intended for beginners.

Ransom District Library  
**NEWS**

**Adult Winter Reading BINGO**

January 5 through March 1

Use these snowy months to read through your choice of squares until you get a BINGO. After completing a BINGO you will receive a Ransom District Library Blizzard BINGO Travel mug! Want to read more? Complete the entire board and you will be entered into a drawing for the GRAND PRIZE Basket.

**BlueBack Hops on the Art**

Friday, March 8 • 5 to 7 p.m.

BlueBack will play an eclectic mix of Blues, Country, Roots Rock and original songs to entertain patrons of the Plainwell Art Hop.

**Escape Room: Ghost in the Graveyard** REGISTER

Friday, February 16th, 19th • Times by registration

Your dare to go into The Ransom Cemetery at night has gone terribly wrong and you have been accidentally locked in with the tombs and ghouls. Use the clues and puzzles to figure out the password before The Caretaker finds you.



**Community Garden 2024!**

We are excited to host a NEW community garden this spring and are looking for gardeners to "adopt a plot" by helping to maintain their plot and keep it free of weeds. Gardeners can choose a full plot (8'x 2 1/2') or a shared area of the raised garden beds. If interested, please fill out the form found at the library or on our website, or simply scan the above QR code.

Director's Note

We're gearing up for an exciting winter quarter full of community events at the Library! From a winter reading contest (Blizzard Book Bingo!) for adults to Dr. Seuss night for small children, we'll enjoy being together in a great variety of ways. Community card games, craft programs, guitar lessons, concerts, extra programs for kids during winter break, jigsaw puzzle tournaments, and more—there is a lot to do, see, and hear this winter at Ransom District Library. In particular, on February 18th be sure not to miss our "Parti-Gras," a New-Orleans-themed community party to drive away the winter gloom and celebrate each other. See you at the Library!

— Joe

**Winter 2024**

**RDL Winter Concert Series**

Sundays @ 2 p.m.

**Great Lakes Brass - "Parti-Gras"**  
Sunday, February 18 • 2 p.m.



Our Concert Series Kickoff and community winter party will feature the joyous, New Orleans Second-Line vibes of Great Lakes Brass and Cajun-themed refreshments from Plainwell's own River Road Catering. Come cast off the winter blues, and Let the Good Times Roll, New Orleans-style!

**The Birdseed Salesmen**  
Sunday, February 25 • 2 p.m.

Hot gypsy jazz.

**Kait Rose and the Thorns**  
Sunday, March 3 • 2 p.m.

Americana songwriter, rock and folk.

**Uneven Ground**  
Sunday, March 10 • 2 p.m.

Traditional Celtic and Irish music.

**Beginning Guitar Workshop** REGISTER  
Mondays, Jan. 15 - Mar. 18 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Join Director Joe Gross for a wide-ranging introduction to guitar playing technique. We will explore and open doors to various guitar "beginnings," from basic music reading and single-note playing, to chord building, rhythm, and improvisation. The guitar workshops at the Library are intended for anyone ages ten and up, from true beginners to intermediate players.

Let's Play Guitar!



# It's going to be a WARM WINTER at RDL!



## Text and Learn Kindergarten (TALK)

TALK is a service we offer to help prepare your little one for success in school. You will receive 1-2 texts per week containing activity suggestions and library events. To get started, text TALK to 75547.

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

RDL still offers this program! Reading 1000 books to your child before they start school is profoundly helpful to their readiness to learn to read. You can read the same books more than once, too! Just sign up at the library and pick up a checklist. When you have read 100 books, bring it back for a small prize. After 1000 books, we will give your child a book and a book bag!

## Weekly Activities

### Teen Tuesdays: After School Fun Tuesdays 3-4 p.m.

No Teen Tuesdays Jan. 2, Mar. 5 or Apr. 2  
Teens can hang out together, play games and snack. Drinks and snacks are provided.

### Story Time Wednesdays

10:30-11:30 a.m., No Story Time Mar. 6  
Youngsters can listen to great tales, sing songs, dance with shakers and complete a themed craft in this fun-filled hour.

### After School Special

Wednesdays 4:00-4:45 p.m., No After School Special Jan. 3, Mar. 6 or Apr. 3  
Elementary school-age kids can join Ms. Erin after school for fun of a different kind each week (please note that in January, Art will be on January 10th and the others will follow accordingly):

1st Wednesday of the month: art

2nd Wednesday: games

3rd Wednesday: science

4th Wednesday: Build-o-Rama (Legos)

### Preschool Thursdays

Thursdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

1st Thursday of the month: Music with Ms. Leanne

2nd Thursday: Preschool Art

3rd Thursday: Learn and Grow Play Group with Kelli Stuijbergen, Plainwell Family Coach

4th Thursday: Block Party

**Bonus Thursday:** Preschool Maker Space  
February has five Thursdays this year, so it's a great day to leap into making things! On the 5th Thursday, February 29th, children can come in and create whatever their heart desires with the raw materials provided. Simple tools will be available for their experimentation as well.

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### Preschool Zip and Zoom

Mondays • January 22, February 26 and March 25 • 10:30-11:30 am

Meet in the Hill Room so your child can burn off some energy while they work on developing their gross motor skills with balls, scooters, soft climbing equipment and more.

### NEW! Curious Kids **REGISTER**

Fridays • January 19, February 23 and March 15 • 1:30-2:30 a.m.

Does your child love stories? Do they love discovery science? This fun Friday program offers both! It will start with a read-aloud of a story that introduces a scientific concept, then kids will get to do some experimenting themselves. Home educators are encouraged to register their children!

## Special Events

### Collaborative Game Round Robin **REGISTER**

Wednesday, January 3 • 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Grades K-up

Meet new friends and try games that allow players to work together to achieve a common goal. We will have 4-6 different cooperative games and you can make the rounds and play each one. Drinks + snacks provided.

### Video game tournament: Mario Kart 8 Deluxe (Nintendo Switch) Thursday, January 4

2-4 p.m., Grades 3-up **REGISTER**

See how you stack up with other players in this tournament where elimination is "sudden death" and the tracks are random. There will be a trophy for first place and prizes for the top 3 finishers. Drinks and snacks provided.

### Light Saber Battle **REGISTER**

Thursday, January 5 • 1-3 p.m.

Grades 4-up

Two teams will attempt to capture the others' glowing beach ball and bring it back to home territory. "Light sabers," drinks and snacks will be provided.

### Introducing the Violin **REGISTER**

Monday, January 15 • 1-2 p.m.

Ages 4-8

Your child can explore this amazing instrument in an introduction to the Suzuki method. Ms. Leanne will help students create their own "Frankenfiddle" out of a cardboard box and use it to play games that demonstrate the proper way to handle and play a violin. She will play both a violin and a viola at the end of the class.

Parent participation is strongly encouraged!

### Snowman Hunt

February 16 - 19 • Outdoors, anytime

Can you find all ten of the snowmen lurking around the library? Each wears a scarf of a different color. Bring the completed checklist into the Library for a packet of hot cocoa. Checklists are available in the Library and on the Library website.

### Escape Room: Ghost in the Graveyard **REGISTER**

February 16 - 19 • times by registration

Your dare to go into The Ransom Cemetery at night has gone terribly wrong and you have been accidentally locked in with the tombs and ghouls. The Gatekeeper won't let you out without the password. Use the clues and puzzles to figure out the password before The Caretaker finds you. For groups of 2-6 players; all ages welcome.

## Spring Break Fun

### SAVE THE DATE!

Registration for these events begins March 1st

### Protect Your Peeps Nerf Challenge

Saturday, March 30 • 6-8 p.m. **REGISTER**

Your team has a flock of Marshmallow Peeps to protect—can you keep them safe while also hunting down your opponent's flock? You can bring your Nerf blasters from home, but the library has plenty to share. (We share darts, too!)

### April Fool's Day Magic Show Starring Alan Kazam

Monday, April 1 • 1-2 p.m.

Join us on the best day of the year for a magic show—April Fools Day! Lawton magician Alan Kazam will present a show full of cool magic tricks and age-appropriate humor to delight his audience.

### Nailed It! Cupcake Decorating Contest

Tuesday, April 2 • 2-4 p.m., Grades 4-up **REGISTER**

Can you decorate a cupcake that measures up to the professionals? Brandy Williams, owner of The Sugar Palace, will present you with a beautifully decorated cupcake. You will then have a shot at duplicating her design. (Supplies will be provided for you.) You can eat the cupcake when the contest is over.

## RDL'S ANNUAL DR. SEUSS NIGHT

Tuesday, March 5 • 7-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Ransom Library. Another year has passed and it is once again time for Dr. Seuss Night! Join us for games, crafts, and other Seussian silliness, topped off with a treat. As Dr. Seuss himself wrote, "You'll have fun. You will indeed! (98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed!)"

