

Ransom District Library NEWS

Registration will open for all events on
Monday, December 29 at 10 a.m.

Adult Craft & Company: REGISTER

Craft Closet Cleanout

Thursday, January 8 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, January 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

It's a new year and that means the library is cleaning out our crafting closet to make room for new supplies for 2026's monthly crafts. Bring your creativity to piece together your own creation. Analiese will be on hand to help spark ideas and provide examples. All supplies are included.

Getting to Know Your Cricut Cutter Mini-series presentation REGISTER

by Caitlin Bunker • 4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6: Getting started – Setup, Design Space Basics, Materials Overview
Tuesday, January 13: Vinyl Projects – Stickers, Labels, and Decals
Tuesday, January 20: Iron-On & Beyond – Shirt Transfers & Layered Designs

The Mysterious Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly presented by Chula Vista Garden Club

Thursday, January 15 • 6-7 p.m.

Fewer than 20 populations of Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly still exist on this planet, and most of them are found in southwest Michigan. Nate Fuller, Exec. Director from the Sarett Nature Center, will present a photographic introduction to Mitchell's Satyrs and their unusual history.

Michigan Storm Chasers

Wednesday, January 21 • 7-8 p.m.

Join the Michigan Storm Chasers, for an informative look at Michigan's ever-changing weather. From lake-effect snow to sudden spring storms, hear true stories of live storm chasing! Whether you're a weather enthusiast or just curious about the next big storm, this event is sure to entertain and educate.

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament REGISTER

Thursday, February 5 • 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 a space allows.

Understanding AI: Navigating the Digital Age

Wednesday, February 11 • 7-8 p.m.

Curious about AI? Join us for an easy-to-understand session where we'll explore how AI works, how to spot AI-generated content, and the benefits and risks it brings to daily life. Learn practical tips to stay informed and safe while engaging with this rapidly growing technology.

Adult Craft & Company: REGISTER

Loom Woven Heart

Thursday, February 12 • 7-8 p.m.

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

Learn the art of loom weaving using a cardboard heart template. This creative technique will make a great Valentine's themed coaster. All supplies included.

Raised Beds and Other Small Spaces presented by Chula Vista Garden Club

Thursday, February 19 • 6-7 p.m.

Gardening in a limited area does not necessarily reduce productivity. Mandy Dixon, master Gardener and member of the Lawrence Garden Club will present suggestions for effective small-space gardening.

Lucky Book Month

Sunday, March 1 – Tuesday, March 31

It could be your lucky day when you take home books from the library. This month find a book with a hidden lucky ticket tucked inside and you will get a prize when you check out at the circulation desk.

Staying Safe: Recognizing & Preventing Scams REGISTER

Thursday, March 12, 2-3 p.m.

Join us for a helpful, easy-to-understand session on how to spot and avoid common scams. We'll cover phone, email, online, and financial scams—plus new AI-driven tricks—and share simple tips to stay safe and protect your personal information.

Adult Craft & Company: Canvas Painting Velaris Mountain

Thursday, March 12 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, March 13 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Artist, Michelle DeMorrow will guide you to paint the landscape of Velaris Mountain, inspired by the A Court of Thorn and Roses fantasy book series. Whether or not you are a fan of the books, this guided painting tutorial is perfect for beginners. All supplies included.

American Mahjong: Learn the Basics

Thursday, March 19 • 6-7 p.m.

Get an understanding of the rules, strategies and history of American Mahjong in this exciting introduction to the captivating game. Instructors from Mahj in the Mitten will walk you through the basics, share fascinating insights into its origins, and provide you with opportunities to learn more.

Ongoing Programs

Tabletop Roleplaying Adventure for Adults REGISTER

Sundays, 1/4, 2/1, 3/1 • 1-4 p.m.

Looking to try tabletop roleplaying games for the first time—or reconnect with the hobby in a fun, welcoming way? Join us at the Ransom Library for a monthly drop-in adventure series using a fast, flexible, and highly narrative roleplaying system created by a local designer. No experience necessary. All materials provided. Just bring your imagination.

Dungeons & Dragons 5e for Adults REGISTER

Sundays, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15 • 1-4 p.m.

Set sail for adventure! Join our thriving adult Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition community for a monthly game. Whether you're brand-new to D&D or a seasoned veteran, all are welcome at the table.

Puzzle Exchange Week

Monday, January 26 - Sunday, February 1

In honor of National Puzzle Day (January 29), we will host a week long puzzle exchange. Bring a puzzle to the library and swap it for one that's new to you. This will be located at the cafe in front of the circulation desk.

Weekly Card Sharks

Tuesdays • 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!

Sew What? Stitching Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

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

Weekly Euchre Club

Fridays • 1-3 p.m.

Come to the library every week to play Euchre. Bring a partner or come alone for a self-guided game.

NovelTEA Book Club

Tuesdays 1/20, 2/24, 3/24 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

Book Club Picks:

January: *Big Summer*
by Jennifer Weiner
February: *Harlem Rhapsody*
by Victoria Christopher Murray
March: *Lady Tans Circle of Women*
by Lisa See

With a Twist Book Club

Thursdays • 1/22, 2/26, 3/26 • 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.

Super Bowl Escape Room REGISTER

Friday, February 6 – Monday, February 9 • Call for time slot.

Midwinter Break Escape Room for groups up to 6 players starting

Friday, Feb. 6 through Monday, Feb. 9 by appointment only.

This year's escape room is a salute to the Super Bowl.

Tackle pesky puzzles as you determine which teams will survive the playoffs to head to the championship.

Only one team can reach the top – can you figure out which it is in time?



ADULT READING CHALLENGE: BOOK BLIZZARD BINGO

Monday, January 5 – Saturday, February 28

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 winter hat! Want to read more? Complete the entire board and you will be entered into a drawing for the GRAND PRIZE.

Director's Note

We're excited for the new year at the Library, new programs (and old favorites!), new materials, and this year the rollout of our new logo. Designed by our own Michelle DeMorrow, the logo features the façade of our amazing building, which itself was designed by Tower Pinkster and lead architect Tony Reiner. It reminds us of how proud we are to serve our community in that beautiful space, and how thankful for the community support that makes it possible.

Outside, the temperatures are dropping, but it's cozy in the Reading Room! Come visit us and get started on the Winter Reading Program or just relax and watch river flow.

See you at the library,

Joe



RDL Winter Concert Series

Sundays from 2 - 3 p.m. – always free!

"Parti-Gras" w/Great Lakes Brass Band: Feb. 15
Great Lakes Brass Band will lead the fun at our annual Parti-gras. Complimentary New Orleans-style refreshments will be provided by River Road Foods. Sponsored in full by the Friends of Ransom District Library.

Cabildo: Feb. 22

Cabildo is a West Michigan based Alternative Latin Rock collective that delivers a unique blend of rock, folk, cumbia, punk, ska, and Latin-American based music. The "Rock en Español" movement of the 1990's inspires many of their selections and original music.

Edna Riley: March 1

With intricate guitar-playing, vocal prowess, and a cross-cultural sensibility, Irish singer-songwriter and storyteller, Enda Reilly brings the essence of Ireland to American audiences.

Rachael Davis: March 8

Multi-instrumentalist Rachael Davis is as renown for her expressive--and explosive--voice as she is for uniting the often disparate worlds of folk, blues, country, and pop. Originally from Michigan, Rachael now calls Nashville, TN, home.

Keith Hall Brazilian Jazz Trio: March 15

Keith Hall is an internationally acclaimed drummer and educator living in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He has established himself as a passionate educator and joyful performer. He currently tours the globe playing concerts, festivals and appearing on numerous television and radio shows.

Guitar Club

Mondays • 4-4:45 p.m. • Starting January 12
Hill Room

Join Director Joe Gross for our annual Beginning Guitar Workshop! Intended for ages 9 and up, participants will learn basic note reading and guitar technique. As always, intermediate players are welcome, and more advanced material will be offered during the workshop, depending on interest and ability. Bring your guitar, or let us know if you need help finding one. If possible, try to arrive a little early for help with tuning. Please register for this program.

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

Weekly & Monthly Programs

PRESCHOOL

Story Time Wednesdays

10:30–11:30 a.m. (Hill Room)

January 7 - March 25

Youngsters can listen to great tales, sing songs, dance with shakers, and complete a themed craft in this fun-filled hour.

NOTE: No Story Time on Jan. 28 or March 4.

Preschool Thursdays

Every Thursday, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Room Dates: Jan. 8 - Mar. 26

Preschoolers can enjoy a different type of fun each week.

All meet in Hill Room

1/8, 2/5 & 3/5: **Preschool Yoga:** Join Sarah Plucinski of Yoga Adventures for Kids as she leads you and your child through a kid-friendly yoga practice. You can bring your own mat, but Sarah has plenty to share.

1/15, 2/19, 3/19: **Learn and Grow Play Group** with Kelli Stuijbergen (Plainwell Family Coach) Kids can try age-appropriate learning activities, and parents can connect with each other. It's fun for everyone!

1/22: **Snowy Sensory Art:** Children will use their 5 senses to experience art with a wintry theme. Snow and ice will come indoors to add to the fun!

2/12, 3/12: **Preschool Zip and Zoom “Gym”**

Time: Children can burn off some energy in this open gym-style play session.

2/26: **Preschool Dance Party:** Peel bananas, do the Tooty Ta, try a freeze dance and more as Ms. Erin leads the group through a fun-filled set of songs. Your child won't want to sit still!

3/26: **Parachute Playtime** (NOTE: kids under age 4 cannot usually hold the chute by themselves; parent help will be needed so younger children can participate effectively.)

Note: *No Activity on 1/29

TEENS

Manga Night **REGISTER**

Wednesdays: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, and Mar. 11 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture join Youth Assistant

Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks. Different activities each month.

Dungeons and Dragons **REGISTER**

Saturdays: Jan. 10, Feb. 14 and Mar. 14 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Youth Assistant Dimitri will bring his Notebook of Doom to this monthly series of campaigns. Feel free to bring your own character sheet (Dimitri has pre-made characters to share if you are coming for the first time.)

Table Top Role Playing Games (TTRPGs)

These are games where a roll of the dice and your imagination are all that is needed to have a great time! People who are in middle school through college age are invited to register. Registration is limited to 6 players per session.

Hot Battle Wizards **REGISTER**

Saturday, January 17 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Be part of an organization that roves the land solving magical disasters and fighting injustice. You have zero authority to do this and cops hate you, but hey – at least you're cute. Everything needed for play will be provided.

Goose Union **REGISTER**

Saturday, February 21 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

The geese of Celery Flats have unionized with one common goal in mind: drive the humans out! Work together with your fellow geese to honk, flap, and terrorize in a display of bird-centric collective action. Everything needed for play will be provided. Everything needed for play will be provided.

Danger Patrol **REGISTER**

Saturday, March 21 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Is danger afoot? Have no fear; the Danger Patrol is here! Fight a series of threatening, otherworldly monsters and foes to keep your town safe in a battle royale of epic proportions. Everything needed for play will be provided.

After School Programs

ELEMENTARY

After School Special

Wednesdays 4:00–4:45 p.m. • Hill Room

Elementary school-age kids can enjoy a different type of fun each week (art, games, science and Legos). An after-school snack is provided.

NOTE: No after School Special on Jan. 28, Mar. 4 or Apr. 8.

TEENS

Teen Tuesdays

Tuesdays 3:30–4:30 p.m. • History Room

Come after school for games, crafts, laughter and snacks! Drinks and munchies are provided.

NOTE: No Teen Tuesday on Mar. 3 or Apr. 7

Magic: The Gathering

(for middle/high school players)

Fridays 3:30–4:30 p.m. • History Room

Bring your own deck and join a group of enthusiasts to kick off your weekend. Snacks and drinks provided.

Special Events

YOUNGSTERS

Snowman Hunt

February 5th - 9th • Outdoors/anytime

Ten snowmen are hiding on the library grounds. Grab a checklist in the building, or print one from the Library's website (www.ransomlibrary.org) and track them all down! This activity will be available throughout Midwinter Break for your family to enjoy at your convenience. Don't forget to bring flashlights if you decide to hunt in the dark!

Sled Dog Demonstration

Saturday, February 7 • 10–11 a.m.

This is an outdoor event

Meet the Crystal Blue sled dog team, and watch the mushers as they demonstrate how the dogs do their jobs. You can also try on the harnesses and take a spin around the parking lot pretending you're a sled dog or a musher! Part of the parking lot will be blocked off for this event.

Valentine Craft

Monday, February 9 • 10:30 a.m.–noon

Take some time during Midwinter Break to create a Valentine craft for someone you love! This is a drop-in program.

Dr. Seuss Night

Tuesday, March 3 • 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Seussian fun is afoot again this year! The Star Machine will be back, as well as a scavenger hunt, the Fish Walk, Bingo and more.

Wind Racers

Friday, March 6 • 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Use our Lego bricks to make a vehicle that can travel on wind power.

Spring Break Events

Nerf Night Friday **REGISTER**

For kids/teens in grades 4 - up

Friday, April 3 • 6–8 p.m.

Run around after hours and make some noise as we play games like Capture the Flag, Protect the President, and World War 26. Nerf blasters and darts are available. Please label any of your own equipment. Plan to use the Library's darts because we cannot guarantee the return of your own. Pizza and sodas will be provided.

Pokemon Party **REGISTER**

Monday, April 6 • 10:30 a.m.–noon

Make some Pokemon gear, play games, and trade cards as you meet up with other trainers for a day of fun! Please do not bring your whole deck—bring only the cards you wish to trade.

Gotta Dip: A “cooking” class for teens **REGISTER**

Tuesday, April 7 • 3:30–4:30 p.m.

No cooking experience? No problem! Learn to make both dips and wraps for snacking. Recipes include two viral TikTok recipes: Boat Dip and Booty Dip.

Unicorn Slime **REGISTER**

Thursday, April 9 • 10:30–11:30 p.m.

Celebrate National Unicorn Day by mixing up a batch of unicorn slime! All supplies provided—expect to get messy.

TEENS

Super Bowl Escape Room **REGISTER**

Friday, February 6 through Monday, February 9 • Call for time slot

Midwinter Break Escape Room for groups up to 6 players starting Friday, Feb. 6 through Monday, Feb. 9 by appointment only. This year's escape room is a salute to the Super Bowl. Tackle pesky puzzles as you determine which teams will survive the playoffs to head to the championship. Only one team can reach the top – can you figure out which it is in time?

Axis & Allies Board Game Marathon **REGISTER**

Mar. 27 6 - 8 p.m. AND Sat. Mar 28 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NOTE THAT THIS IS A TWO DAY PROGRAM!

Experienced players will find this game to be most enjoyable. Axis & Allies is a complex board game. Fans frequently play for entire weekends or more! This will be a marathon for the library, but in reality the game will be relatively short. Players need to commit to both Friday night and Saturday morning in order to register.

