

Ransom District Library NEWS

NOTICE:

Freshening Up with Stephanie Foley

Wednesday, April 1 • 7-8 p.m.
Give your home a fresh start by building simple, sustainable routines! Decluttering Coach Stephanie Foley will offer practical advice on how to clear the clutter, keep what matters, and organize your home without feeling overwhelmed.

Ukrainian Pysanky Eggs REGISTER

Thursday, April 2 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Create Ukrainian Easter eggs and learn about the meaning and history of this traditional method from local artist, Loraine Fedorchak-Kraker. All supplies included.

Adult Craft & Company: Easter Egg Bird Feeder REGISTER

Thursday, April 9 • 7-8 p.m.
OR Friday, April 10 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Make a birdseed ornament to hang outside and welcome in spring. All supplies included.

Tips and Tricks for Walking Your Dog (People only program, please keep your dogs at home) REGISTER

Wednesday, April 22 • 7-8 p.m.
Learn the basics of taking your pup on a leash from professional dog trainer Evan Shoemaker at Positive Pathways Dog Training. He will go over key concepts like what to watch out for with leash walking, improving dog responses, and building a stronger connection. A Q&A will be available after the presentation to give you a chance to ask more about these skills. This is a people only program. No dogs allowed to attend.

Lifelong Learner's Senior Fiesta Luncheon

Tuesday, May 5 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Senior Citizens are invited to enjoy free lunch, BINGO, prizes, and community updates with the Plainwell & Otsego Community Lifelong Learners.

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament REGISTER

Thursday, May 7 • 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: Mason Jar Lid Sun Catcher REGISTER

Thursday, May 14 • 7-8 p.m.
OR Friday, May 15 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Create beautiful, custom sun catchers with coloring pages and Mason jar lids in this easy craft. All supplies included.

Ballroom Dance Lessons with Keelyn

Wednesday, May 6 • 7-8 p.m.
Learn ballroom dancing with Keelyn VanderWeide, who has been active in the performing arts for most of her life. She will teach three dances she knows you can pull out at weddings and other events where you can tear up a dance floor, the Rumba, Salsa, and Cha Cha.



COLOR RUN/
WALK
JUNE 6TH!

Adult Craft & Company: Cards using Clingfilm Technique REGISTER

Thursday, June 11 • 7-8 p.m.
OR Friday, June 12 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Use cling film to create a unique effect and texture with powdered pigment and water.

The Italian Hall Disaster of Christmas Eve – 1913

(Rescheduled) Wednesday, June 3, 7-8 p.m.
On Christmas Eve 1913, 73 people died (mostly children) in a stampede following a false cry of "Fire!" at the Italian Hall in Calumet in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The tragedy occurred during a miner's strike in the "Copper Country."

Blood Drive with Virsiti Blood Center of Michigan REGISTER

Thursday, June 18 • 2:30-7 p.m.
Want to make a difference in somebody's life? Donate blood at Ransom District Library through Virsiti Blood Center of Michigan.



Ongoing Programs

Dungeons & Dragons 5e for Adults REGISTER

Sundays, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17, 6/7, 6/21 1-4 p.m.
Are you ready for adventure? Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or completely new to the world of tabletop role-playing games, this is your chance to join an epic tale! Your library card is your "ticket" to either start at 2nd level or gain a free point of inspiration at each session.

Weekly Card Sharks REGISTER

Tuesdays • 1-3 p.m. • Please note: there will be no Card Sharks on May 5.
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 4/21, 5/19, 6/23 • 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:

- April: *Natures Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy
lead by a Special Guest from the Allegan Conservation District
- May: *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden
- June: Choose Your Own Book to Discuss!

With a Twist Book Club

Thursdays • 4/23, 5/21, 6/25 • 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.

Registration begins for all events on March 30th

COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATIONS

April 1 - May 3

The library will be accepting community garden applications for the 2025 garden season through May 3. You can find the application, important dates, and requirements at the library or on our website.

COLOR RUN/WALK: Jurassic Jaunt REGISTER

Saturday, June 6 • 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate building a healthy community this summer with a blast of color at the library's FREE dinosaur-themed color run through Plainwell as a way to kick off our Summer Reading Program, *Unearth a Story*. The events will consist of a timed 5k, a 1 Mile, and a 250 Yard Mini (ages 3-8). Register by May 3rd to guarantee an official Jurassic Jaunt Race T-Shirt included in your free swag bag. Costumes encouraged! Partnered with the city of Plainwell.

ADULT SUMMER READING: Unearth a Story

Thursday, June 4 - Friday, August 7

Start your summer adventure with a library reading challenge. Pick up a journal from the circulation desk to track your progress and start reading! Every book you read (or listen to) will earn you a stamp in your journal. After five books you will receive a Ransom Library Tote Bag! Every additional book you read will earn you an entry into the Grand Prize drawing.

Director's Note

We've come through a cold, snowy winter, and we're excited at the Library for the growing season in our community garden (and everywhere!), colorful chalk on the patio, and of course the Summer Reading Programs for kids and adults. This year's Summer Reading theme, "Unearth a Story," will inform many archeological and dinosaur-themed programs, including the Library's free Color Run, back this year as the Jurassic Jaunt. We hope to see some dinos jogging through our local neighborhoods, and maybe some in the yards along the course!

And of course, there is so much to unearth inside the Library, too.

See you at Ransom,

Joe

Please note that, due to the RDL Color Run on Saturday, June 6, the following roads will be closed or partially closed for the duration of the run:

E. Bridge St. (partially), S. Sherwood Ave (partially), Hick's St., Park St. (partially), W. Bridge St. (partially), Union St., Gilkey St., 102nd (partially), Jersey St. (partially), and W. Hill St.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Access to S. Main Street outside of the route area will be available to use through Colfax St. If you need to get out to E. Bridge Street, access will be available through S. Woodham St.

Plainwell Art Hop

Friday, April 17 • 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Library is a proud sponsor of this year's Plainwell Art Hop along with Plainwell Arts Council, the Friends of the Library, and the City of Plainwell. Featuring a new, later date in April, we're thrilled at Ransom to host student art from all grades of the Plainwell Community Schools alongside musical guest, Gemin Moon.

Arbor Day Celebration

Honoring Mary File

Friday, April 24 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the Hill Performance Room for Plainwell's annual celebration of Arbor Day and this year's honoree, Mary File. Mayor Brad Keeler will give the proclamation after a presentation from Chula Vista Garden Club. Seedlings will be given out to attendees!

Beginning Guitar Workshop

Mondays • 4:00 p.m. through May 18

Having begun in January, the Beginning Guitar workshop will continue introducing players to basic musical concepts and guitar technique. Drop ins welcome. Intended for ages nine and up. Wish you had started in January? The Beginning Workshop will





Weekly & Monthly Programs

PRESCHOOL

Story Time Wednesdays

10:30–11:30 a.m. (Hill Room)
April 1 - May 20

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

Preschool Thursdays

Every Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Room Dates: April 2 - May 21

Preschoolers can enjoy a different type of fun each week. All meet in Hill Room

April 2 & May 7: Yoga Adventures

There will be no Yoga Session in June

April 16 & May 21: Learn and Grow Play Group

Group

April 23: Zip and Zoom

April 30: Dance Party

TEENS

Manga Night REGISTER

Wednesdays: April 8, May 13 and June 10 • 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Burchfield Room

Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture can join Youth Assistant Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks. Different activities each month.

Dungeons and Dragons REGISTER

Saturdays: May 9 and June 13 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the History Room

Youth Assistant Dimitri will bring his Notebook of Doom to this monthly series of campaigns. Players can feel free to bring their own character sheet (Dimitri has pre-made characters to share if you are coming for the first time.)
NOTE: NO SESSION IN APRIL.

Table Top Role Playing Games (TTRPGs)

Play 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. Meet in the History Room.

Death is the Only Road Out REGISTER

Saturday, April 18 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

This city is rotten to the core. (This city doesn't exist.) You can't remember the last time it wasn't raining. (You are asleep.) Trying to escape a capital of crooks, you've got one last job—one man who stands between you and freedom. Kill him. (Kill him.)

The Witch is Dead REGISTER

Saturday, May 16 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Once upon a time, there was a kind and beautiful witch who lived with her familiars in the forest...until a witch-hunter came and MURDERED HER. Now you and the rest of your little fuzzy friends are full of anger and out for revenge!

Fossil Hunting for Frontier Scum

Saturday, June 20 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. REGISTER

Between bandits, rival collectors, and Native Americans, being a fossil collector out on the frontier isn't easy. But you've got a shovel, a brush, and a six-shot revolver that says you'll do whatever it takes to get your hands on those bones!

After School Programs

ELEMENTARY

After School Special

Wednesdays, April 15 - May 20 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Hill Room • No After School Special May 13

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

TEENS

Teen Tuesdays

Tuesdays, April 14 - May 19 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.
History Room

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

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.

Summer Reading is Back!

“Unearth a Story” Begins June 4th

There is another great summer in store for Plainwell area children of all ages!

The reading program sets an attainable goal for everyone: read 5 books to earn a prize. After that goal is met, keep reading to earn more prizes!

The last day for prizes is August 14.

Additionally, there are lots of things to do at the Library this summer.

Read on to see what fun is

afoot – you will “dig it!”



Dino-MITE Summer Reading Kickoff with the Michigan Geological Survey

Monday, June 8th • 10:30-noon

Sign up for summer reading and you will also be treated to a variety of special activities that explore paleontology and geology. Our friends from the Michigan Geological Survey will bring some amazing fossils and show you why it's so cool to dig things up!

Science Heroes

Tuesday, June 9 • 2-3 p.m. • Hill Room

Unearth your curiosity as the Heroes dig into the incredible science that's all around us! This year's presentation features the Toilet Tornado™ and the Hydro-Cannon™. If you didn't already love science, you will after experiencing the Science Heroes!

Big Kid Story Time

Thursday, June 11 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hill Room

Story Time alumni—take note! As kids get older and become capable of reading to themselves, we often forget how much fun it can be to approach reading

Spring into Summer With Us!



The youth summer flyer with all event information will be available April 20.

Especially for Teens

Faux Amber Insect Pendants REGISTER

Monday, June 15 • 4-5 p.m. • Hill Room

Learn to work with resin as you create your own version of a petrified insect.

Clay Diffuser Discs REGISTER

Thursday, June 18 • 4-5:30 p.m. • Burchfield Room

Cut and stamp a piece of air dry clay, then infuse it with essential oil to create a “scent-sational” diffuser for your bedroom. You can choose from different ropes and beads to make a decorative hanger that can be added when the diffuser is dry.

Dinosaur Silhouette Art REGISTER

Monday, June 22 • 4-5:30 p.m. • Hill Room

Paint a volcano or sunset landscape as a background, then cut out the silhouette of your favorite dinosaur and add it to the scene (dinosaur is optional.)



Dinosaur Garden REGISTER

Tuesday, June 23 • 4-5 p.m. • Hill Room

Create a small garden with live plants and dinosaur decorations. We will be discussing plant care, and participants will receive plant care cards at the end of the program—feel free to bring your own pot or planter if you would like to!

Cup Stacking with Jim Merrills

Thursday, June 25 • 3-4 p.m. • Hill Room

A hands-on program that is fast and exciting. Teens will be stacking colors in a series of easy-to-build formations; there's more excitement when the participants combine their cups and work together to build larger structures that they can be proud of.

Video Game Fossils REGISTER

Monday, June 29 • 2-4 p.m. • Hill Room

Youth Assistants Devin and Dimitri will hunt in the dusty corners of the Library and find the old gaming systems lying around. You can try your hand at an ancient Atari system, an early Playstation and more!

WEEKLY SUMMER PROGRAMS

DIY Dinosaur T-shirts with the Design Lab REGISTER

Wednesdays, June 17 - July 22 • 3-4:30 a.m. • Hill Room

Please register children/teens only. Parents do not need to register themselves. Please bring your own t-shirt. Limit 12 participants per session. Make a unique design, print it onto transfer paper, then use the t-shirt press to apply it. Ms. Erin will help with the design process, and the Design Lab will help create the transfers. (You do not have to make a dinosaur t-shirt.) All ages are welcome, but young children will have to be closely supervised around the hot presses.

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, June 10 - Aug. 19 • 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room

Dinosaurs will make an appearance in each summer Story Time. Get ready for some prehistoric fun!

