

Ransom District Library NEWS

Royal Government Gone! Now What?

Thursday, July 9 • 7-8 p.m.

As a historian with an itch, Virginia Paganelli Caruso set out to find out what state governments looked like after Independence. Join her as she traces how historical documents and events spoke to her, revealing the evolution from royal governments to early State Constitutions and how much modern life in Michigan—240 to 250 years later—reflects those foundational documents.

Michigan Rocks with David Haas of the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society

Wednesday, July 15 • 7-8 p.m.

Have you noticed the real rocks in our circulation desk countertop? They are Michigan rocks donated by the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society. Find out about Michigan rocks and the best places to find them.

Adult Craft & Company: REGISTER DIY Dinosaur Planter

Thursday, July 23 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, July 24 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Add a touch of whimsy to your space with a dinosaur planter you paint yourself as a part of our Summer Reading theme, Unearth a Story. Baby spider-plants or faux flowers and moss will be available for you to choose from. All supplies included.

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament REGISTER

Thursday, August 6 • 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. Please let staff know how many are in your group when you register.

Adult Craft & Company: REGISTER Seashell Candles

Thursday, August 13 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, August 14 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Bring a bit of the beach to your home with ocean-inspired candles. All Supplies Included.

Basic Leather Carving Keychain or Coaster REGISTER

Thursday, August 27 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Learn how to use basic leather tools to transfer an image to leather and then use a swivel knife to cut the lines to make the image pop. If you can trace and write with a pencil you can do this craft! You will have the option to pick a pattern or do your own line drawing creation.

Adult Craft & Company: REGISTER

Mesh Sunflower Wreath

Thursday, September 3 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, September 4 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Create a welcoming decorative sunflower made from wrapping yellow mesh material. All supplies included.

Forest Bathing

Thursday, September 10 • 7-8 p.m.

Forest bathing, (based on the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku) is the mindful, sensory immersion in nature to improve mental and physical wellness. Jodi Heaney, certified forest bathing guide, will teach about the origins of Forest Bathing, the science-backed mental and physical health benefits, and simple, mindful exercises.

Orchid Selection & Care with Chula Vista

Thursday, September 17 • 6-7 p.m.

Would you like to grow an exotic plant with a beautiful flower in your home? You may be surprised about the possibilities in the wonderful world of orchids. Charles McGown, President of Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society will discuss the selection, sources and care of showy orchids.

Driving Through the Jim Crow Era and the Green Book: a presentation with accompanying music

Friday, September 25 • 11 a.m.

The Gilmore Car Museum Education Team will present the story of the civil rights movement in America and discuss the impact of "The Greenbook." The famous "GREENBOOK," written by Victor Green to help Negro Travelers navigate the Jim Crow Era as well as provide information on housing, food, fuel and generally places where travelers would be welcome. Robin Nott will be on hand to play and sing music of the era to accompany the presentation.



Ongoing Programs

Adult Summer Reading Adventure

Ends Friday, August 7

Start your summer adventure with a library reading challenge. Pick up a punch card from the circulation desk and start reading! Every book you read (or listen to) will earn you a punch on your card. 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.

Weekly Card Sharks • Tuesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of playing cards each week. The last meeting of the month, Bailee 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.

Dungeons & Dragons 5e for Adults REGISTER

Sundays • 7/5, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, 9/6, 9/20 • 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.

NovelTEA Book Club

Tuesdays • 7/28, 8/18, 9/22 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a pot of tea and homemade scones 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:

July: *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curis Chin who partnered with the Great Michigan Read
August: *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir
September: *Astral Library* by Kate Quinn

With a Twist Book Club

Thursdays • 7/30, 8/20, 9/24 • 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.

Interested in playing Mahjong?

The library now has American Mahjong Sets available for checkout! Rent a space at the library or take the set home for up to 3 weeks. Includes tiles, 4 rack/pushers, 3 dice, 1 bettor, 100 money chips, 1 manual, 2 spare jokers and 4 blank spares.

Registration for all Adult events and Youth September

events will open on Monday, June 29 at 10 a.m.

Youth Summer Events (July and August) opened on June 1 at 10 a.m.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence/ Semi-Quincentennial Celebration

Wednesday, July 8 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us in commemoration of our nation's Semi-Quincentennial, America's 250th birthday! The Declaration of Independence was first read publicly in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, and the Library—and others across America—will mark that reading's 250th anniversary with our own public reading of the Declaration on July 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The occasion will include the dedication of a new riverside viewing area in honor of the Semi-Quincentennial.



Director's Note

It's a jungle both inside and outside the Library as we've launched the "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading Programs into hot June weather! There is no better theme for libraries than discovery, digging in to the world around us, finding our place amid its wonders and challenges. Ransom's summer schedule is packed with dinosaur and earth-science-based activities. And since we're always planning for the next great adventures, this newsletter includes sneak peaks at our programming for the fall.

See you at the Library,

Joe



Summer Celebration!

Friday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m.

music starts at 6:00 p.m.

Each year we celebrate the summer with an outdoor party at the Library. This year we're thrilled to host the MexiCuba band, a favorite from last year's concert series. As always, there will be fun for all ages with food trucks, a bounce house, foam cannon, ice cream treats, and more. So bring your good times, and your laughter, too: we're gonna celebrate your party with you!

Playing Music with My Friends

Mondays • 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Begins September 21

Join us this fall for the "song playing" version of our guitar workshop. We will enjoy the better part of an hour each Monday playing approachable songs together, an opportunity to put into practice what we've learned during the year(s).

Halloween Costumes Wanted

Gently used costumes are wanted by the Friends of Ransom Library for their annual October costume sale. Bring clean costumes to the front desk, please.



Weekly Programs for Youngsters

Story Time Wednesdays

10:30-11:15 a.m. • Hill Room

June 10 - August 19

Preschoolers and homeschoolers are welcome to come hear stories, sing songs, and make a craft. It is fun community time for parents and children alike!

DIY Dinosaur T-shirts with the Design Lab

REGISTER

Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 p.m. • July 1 - 22

IBurchfield Room/Design Lab

All ages are welcome to register, but young children will have to be closely supervised by their adult near the hot presses.

Bring your own white (or light-colored) t-shirt. Make draw your own 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 with the transfers. (You do not have to make a dinosaur design.)

Yoga Adventures for Kids

Thursdays, July 2, August 6 and September 3
10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room

Sarah Plucinski will bring her age-appropriate, fun yoga to the library again this summer. Mats will be provided.



Repeating Programs for Youngsters

Big Kid Story Time

Thursday, July 9 and August 13

10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room

Ms. Erin leads a Story Time with books curated for a school-age audience, with great pictures, more sophisticated humor, and more complex plots. In a nod to preschool Story Time, kids will be offered a craft that is age-appropriate at the end.

Mesozoic Mondays

Monday, July 20 and August 3

10:30 a.m.-noon • Hill Room

Explore dinosaur-related science concepts in this fun program. Plan to get messy!

Soccer Bots in the Hill Room

7/16 and 7/20 at 4:00 p.m.

8/5 and 8/11 at 6:30 p.m.

Play soccer with remote-controlled robots created in the Design Lab! Four people can play at once, and Youth Assistants Devin and Dimitri will make sure that everyone gets a turn.

Dinosaur Art in the Hill Room

Tuesday, July 7 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Decorate dinosaur parts in a collage style, then assemble to make a three-dimensional creature!

Thursday, July 16 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Use oil pastels and crayon resist techniques for your “cretaceous creation.”

Tuesday, July 21 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Make a plant eater (or a meat eater) out of pasta!

Repeating Programs for Teens

Manga Night

REGISTER

Wednesdays: July 8, August 12, and September 9 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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: July 11 and August 8

2:00-4:00 p.m. • 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.)

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.

ClueDON'T

REGISTER

Saturday, July 25 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

History Room

Your eccentric millionaire relative has been MURDERED—and only his killer will get the inheritance! But a confession is so boring...This is a game of secrets and intrigue, where winning means getting convicted of a crime you didn't commit!

Dept. of Jurassic Vehicles

REGISTER

Saturday, August 22 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

History Room

In an alternate world, dinosaurs—not humans—have evolved to have higher intelligence. With smarts come cities, with cities come cars, and with cars comes the Dino DMV! Be both customer and agent in this hilarious twist on bureaucracy.

Russian Bear Fighter

REGISTER

Saturday, September 19 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

History Room

Become a Russian Agent combatting the terrible bear menace taking over modern-day Moscow's Mafia Bear Kingpins. They cannot win against your fists!

Special Events

YOUNGSTERS

Stir Stick Flag Craft

Thursday, July 2 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Use a handful of paint stir sticks to create your own American flag—just in time for Independence Day!

Dinosaur Egg Hunt

Monday, July 6 • 10:30-11 a.m. • on the patio

Who says you can only have an egg hunt at Easter? These hidden eggs will all have dinosaurs inside.

Water War

Thursday, July 23 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.

RAIN DATE: July 24 • 2:00 pm.

Not recommended for preschoolers—play may be rough.

Bring your own super soakers and have a blast! The library will provide lots and lots of water balloons, and maybe even a balloon catapult! Bring a towel and a change of clothes if you wish to use library services afterward.

Microscopic Magic

Monday, July 27 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Burchfield Room

Look through our microscope into a fresh batch of pond water and discover creatures that are smaller than the naked eye can see!

Clay Creations with Cathy Green

REGISTER

Thursday, July 30 • 1:00-2:00 p.m. • Hill Room

Local ceramicist Cathy Green will lead a class in creating art out of a slab of clay. Space is limited, so registration is required.

Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary

Thursday, August 6 • 2:00-3:00 p.m. • Hill Room

Summer would not be complete without catching a glimpse of these creatures who have been living on our planet since the time of the dinosaurs! Get ready to be wowed by the critters—will you be brave enough to TOUCH them?

Lunch with the Author

REGISTER

Wednesday, August 12 • 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Hill Room

Elementary and middle school students can meet Theresa Borst, local author of *I Love You Like a Donut*. She will talk about the process of writing a book and getting it published. The Library will provide pizza and drinks.

TEENS

Fossil Tees

REGISTER

Tuesday, July 7 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. • Hill Room

Use stamping techniques to make a mesozoic masterpiece. Bring your own shirt, please.

What a Relief!

REGISTER

Monday, July 13 • 11:00 a.m.-noon • Hill Room

Use flowers, shells, and recycled materials to make relief impressions in plaster.



Bright Star Theatre presents **dino academy** Friday, July 17 at 6 p.m.

Join us—and host Dr. Sara Tops—for an evening puppet show that blends science, storytelling and imagination in the style of your favorite nature programs. Get ready for life-like, colorful dinosaur puppets that stomp, roar and charm their way into every heart!

Children's Room Adventure Day

Thursday, September 10 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Children's Room

Ms. Erin will get out some of the special equipment hidden in the storage room, including the flight lab and conveyor belt! Kids can explore the children's room in a different way.

Library Play Group

Thursday, September 17 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hill Room

This play group will feature learning activities similar to those provided by our beloved Ms. Kelli. Children can learn new skills, interact with other children and have fun. Parents can connect with other parents.

ELEMENTARY

After School Special

Wednesdays starting September 9

4-4:45 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.

TEENS

Teen Tuesdays

Starting September 8 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Hill Room

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

Nerf Night for grades 4 - up

REGISTER

Friday, September 25 • 6 - 8 p.m. • Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

Older kids and teens can come after hours for indoor Nerf fun. Participants choose the games; examples include Infection and Protect the President. The Library provides blasters and darts. Participants who bring their own blasters should put their name on them with permanent marker so they can be sure to get their own back at the end of the night. Pizza and pop provided.

Water War

Thursday, July 23 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.

RAIN DATE: July 24 • 2:00 pm.

This activity includes teens, but children in elementary school will also be involved. Bring your own super soakers and have a blast! The library will provide lots and lots of water balloons, and maybe even a balloon catapult! Bring a towel and a change of clothes if you wish to use library services afterward.

Edible Rocks

REGISTER

Tuesday, July 28 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. • Hill Room

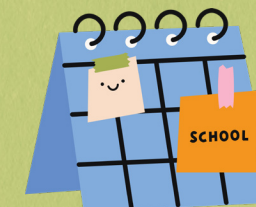
Make treats that fool the eye, but taste delicious! No cooking or baking skills required.

Minute to Win It

REGISTER

Tuesday, August 4 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. • Hill Room

Race to score points while attempting ridiculous and fun feats! There will be at least one dinosaur-themed game.



Back to School/September

YOUNGSTERS

Yoga Adventures for Kids

Thursday, September 3rd • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hill Room

Preschoolers and homeschoolers can come for a child-centered yoga practice with the marvelous Ms. Sarah Plucinski. Mats will be provided, but you can also bring your own.

Fall Story Time

Wednesdays starting Sept. 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hill Room

Story Time begins again with fun new stories, songs and crafts. Children and adults alike have an opportunity to socialize and have fun!