

EX LIBRIS

Volume 18 ~ Issue 3 ~ Summer 2020

Notices:

Sign up for our Summer Reading Challenge beginning June 15 at <https://dexter.beanstack.org>

Please check our web site at www.dexter.lib.mi.us for continually updated information regarding Library services and virtual programs.



Don't have a Library card? Apply online at: <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/contact/request-a-library-card/>

The Library's drop boxes are open and returns are being accepted. Materials continue to be quarantined upon return and fines will be waived.

Friends of the Library Book Sales will be canceled until further notice.

The Library will not be accepting donations of books and other materials during this time.

The Road to Reopening

This spring has been a challenge like no other. Individually and collectively, the COVID-19 virus and the shut down of our economy has presented everyone with a generational event like none we have ever seen. The Governor's Executive Order 2020-110, issued on June 1, eased restrictions on public gatherings throughout the State and allowed public libraries to reopen.

This was an unexpected turn of events. Through the Governor's MI Safe Start Plan—https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer_MI_SAFE_START_PLAN_689875_7.pdf - the State was divided into eight regions, which were to see relaxation of stay home orders at different times, based on evolving public health data. On a weekly basis, restrictions changed and grew more complex. Based on Washtenaw County's grouping with Wayne County and Detroit and the exclusion of public library opening during the Memorial Day weekend series of relaxation orders, it was expected guidance for public libraries would lag. The Governor did call for an advisory workgroup, to provide input on processes necessary to safely reopen public libraries. Unfortunately, this step was bypassed on June 1.

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This summer, the Dexter District Library's Summer Reading will look much different. We want to make it easier for everyone to participate in a way that helps maintain the safety and health of our community. This year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Imagine Your Story," will kick off on June 15 and continue through August 15.

"Imagine Your Story" will be our first ever, online-only Summer Reading Challenge in the history of the Library. We want to ensure everyone can safely engage with the Library as the community recovers from the public health emergency. The program is for adults, teens and children of all ages. Registration is easy

and will begin on June 15 on our website, using the new Beanstack platform at: <https://dexter.beanstack.org/>

Everyone can earn reading badges, activity badges, and be entered in our final prize drawing by completing the program by August 15. There will be special virtual events and fun learning activities to try at home, as well as access to all of our virtual resources. Continue to visit our facebook page, Twitter feed and website for more information as we finish planning this new, fun event.



Summer Children's Activities and Events

Join us on **Friday, June 26 at 11:00 am** for **Matt Sandbank's Shadow Factory**. Shadow Puppeteer Matt Sandbank from Austin, Texas takes you to wild, whimsical worlds with his shadow puppets. Adults, teens and kids of all ages will be surprised and delighted by his witty storytelling and amazing imagery. *This performance will be presented via Zoom and registration is required through the Library website. Registration is open.*



Dumpster Doug's Ecology Show will be presented on **Friday, July 3 at 11:00 am**. Get ready to laugh with comedian and science wizard Doug Scheer as he teaches about the earth, pollution, and what you can do to help save the environment through zany outrageousness, crazy, make-believe "homework assignments", and tons of audience participation. *Presented on our facebook page, no registration is required.*

Joel's WonderReader Comedy Magic Show will be offered on **Friday, July 10 at 11:00 am**. Join us on facebook for Mad Hatter Joel Tacey's performance, featuring dazzling magic, goofy stunts and lots of fun and laughter. *Presented on our facebook page, no registration is required.*



Acting Up Theater Presents: Imagine You're King on Thursday, July 16 at 11:00 am. Welcome to Samelot where the King has decided that he wants to take some time off to concentrate on his YouTube channel. But there still needs to be someone to take over the Kingdom so the King sets up a way to

find a brave knight who is worthy of such an honor. *This funny, virtual play is for all ages and will be presented on Zoom, look for the code one week prior to the show.*

"Imagine Your Story" - A Virtual Magic of Reading Show starring Baffling Bill will be presented on **Friday, July 24 at 11:00 am**. Celebrate summer reading with this incredible show starring Baffling Bill and Company, filmed live from his Illusionarium theater. Witness astounding feats of magic including the enchanted doll house illusion, floating lady, Gus the Bunny, and more. Don't miss this one time family event that encourages summer reading for everyone. *Presented on our facebook page, no registration is required.*



Children's Programs



Old favorites and new offerings return this summer. Please check our website for start dates, times and any registration requirements and platform access. Due to stay home orders, program startup will be dependent on staff being allowed to return to the building.

Super Stories Book Club for Grades K - 2



Shorter meetings once a week during the summer.

Miss Krista will read a longer picture book related to the Summer Reading Theme: *Imagine Your Story* and then we will do an activity related to the book.

All Star Readers Book Club Grades 3 - 4

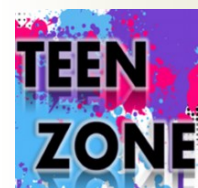
All Star Readers Book Club will meet twice this summer to discuss books virtually. We'll play an icebreaker game, discuss the book, and do an activity related to the book we discuss. **July Book:** *Dragons and Marshmallows* by Asia Citro. Available as an ebook from Hoopla. **August Book:** *The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Creature from the Pines* by Adam Gidwitz. Books will be available to pick up at the library after you register.

(Programs continued on page 3)



Enjoy these collections of librarian-tested websites for kids of all ages. If you're home and looking for things to do to keep busy, these pages provide a vast variety of resources,

activities, live-cameras and adventures. New websites will be added weekly so keep coming back, there is something fun, educational and entertaining for everyone. Links to these pages can be found on our website front page and under the "Services" drop down menu.





Throughout the summer, the Library will be adding new activities, programs and events to our calendar. Please check our website frequently for new information.

Our events calendar can be found at <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/events/> or by clicking on the calendar from our home page. A number of our locally produced events

will rely on relaxation of State level stay home orders as well as having the ability to provide a level of direct, in-person service to distribute materials. Additionally, Library staff will need to be able to return to work, enter the building and access technology and tools necessary to present programs. Please check events carefully. A number of our online presentations will require reservations. Some presenters are requiring this in order to manage their telecommunications loads via online platforms.

The Friends of the Dexter District Library are facing unique challenges in this time of pandemic.



The volunteers have many dedicated members who fall into high-risk categories and would be particularly prone to adverse responses to COVID-19 exposure. The Friends Board members determined to suspend monthly Book Sales through August. The Friends Board will continue to monitor public health guidelines regarding gatherings and assess the potential for resuming sales.

Because the Friends will not be holding Book Sales, **the Library will suspend accepting donation of books and other items through Summer 2020.** Without the outflow of items through Book Sales, neither the Friends of the Library nor the Library have the ability to store donations received daily. We continue to explore alternatives for storage. We hope to resume accepting book donations as soon as possible. Please continue to check our website for notices.

(Programs continued from page 2)



Virtual Story Time will be offered on **Tuesdays at 10:30 via facebook Live.** Visit the Library

from your living room! Miss Krista will be singing familiar songs, telling stories, and demonstrating fun action rhymes every week on Tuesday at 10:30 am. Start date is to be determined. No registration is necessary. **Preschool Fun** for ages 5 and younger. Each week, a new video will be posted to our facebook page, showing a fun activity to try with your children. We'll use materials you already have at home. Activities will include things like doing an experiment to see what floats and what sinks, rescuing toys from blocks of ice, and making your own playdough.

Kitchen Science for children in grades K - 5. Join us for science fun using items you already have in your kitchen. Bi-weekly we will post a video to our facebook page. We'll be making lava lamps out of pop bottles and volcanoes out of lemons.

Children in grades K - 5 can **Get Creative** every other week when we'll post a video of something new you can make. One week we'll make wands using sticks and another week we'll create our own board games.

The Orphan Train Era will be offered on **Monday, June 22 at 7:00 pm.** Join research historians and television producers, Al and David Eicher, for this live, virtual program.



Adult Programs

Extensive research of the New York Children's Aid Society and the Orphan Train Heritage Society's archives revealed that 12,500 children were placed in Michigan from 1854-1927. This presentation will answer why was there an orphan train in America and why so many children were abandoned by their parents? Learn the conditions children endured through steamship travel, the adventures of an Irish boy, New York City in the 1860's, the Irish ward and Little Italy. *This presentation will be aired via Zoom and registration is required through the Library website.*

Monday, July 20, 7:00 pm finds **Tips for Taking Better Photos** offered. Do you have a camera gathering dust? Or are you frustrated that your phone pictures don't turn out like you expected? Local portrait photographer Betsy Finn of Betsy's Photography will share some easy tips to help you take better photos. *This presentation will be aired via Zoom and registration is required through the Library website.*

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Hours: (Currently Suspended)
Mon-Fri: 9 AM—9 PM
Sat: 9 AM—5 PM
Sun: 1 PM—5 PM

Visit us on the
Web

www.dexter.lib.mi.us

Vision:

***Dexter District Library:
A community path to
imagination, creativity, and
learning.***

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As we move forward, the Library faces a number of challenges. Unlike standard retail, our model relies on borrowing and return of materials as well as people gathering in groups. Both facets present challenges in the era of COVID-19.

The first step to Library reopening will be restoration of our curbside delivery of materials owned by the Dexter District Library. At the outset of the pandemic, this proved to be a welcome alternative when direct access to the building was prohibited and will provide a greater level of safety for everyone as we get used to what the “new normal” will be.

Direct public access to the building will be restored as public health conditions improve.

As part of the MI Safe Start Plan, the Library has developed a detailed process to meet opening requirements from the State and, to the best extent possible, ensure the safety of the staff and our community members. The Library’s pandemic response plan is available on the Library’s website at <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/about/library-policies/>

Because of the uncertainty through the spring, the Library shifted to a wide variety of virtual programming as outlined in this newsletter. We will keep this approach and these events in place for the duration of the summer. While

restrictions on gatherings have been loosened, current restrictions do not allow the Library to immediately resume an open door policy. The Library has historically seen between 300 to 600 daily visitors, many more per day in the summer and several of our standard summer events would attract over 1,200 people at a time.

Unfortunately the State’s rapid and significant deviation from evolving public health guidelines did not allow us to revamp a program that has already been altered to cope with the pandemic.

The Library will need time to train staff in the wide variety of new safety, cleaning and customer service procedures, which the State has mandated as conditions for reopening.

As restrictions continue to be relaxed, the Library will look at reopening the building for public use. Incremental opening may include time limits for public browsing and areas such as meeting spaces may see delayed return to use. We will continue to quarantine returned materials and waive all fines.

Our primary goal is to keep everyone safe and restore services in a manner that will best help us avoid another complete shutdown. We thank all our community members for your support and understanding and look forward to our continued progress to full service.