

EX LIBRIS

Volume 24 ~ Issue 2 ~ Spring 2026

Reminders

Story Times
Resume
March 30

Library Hop
April 1 to 30

Dexter Schools Art
Walk

April 18 through
May 18

Scan the code
below for many
more events at the
Library



**The Library will be
CLOSED**

**Sunday
April 5**

**Sunday and Monday
May 24 and 25**

First Grade Reader Roundup

This March marked 25 years of the Library's First Grade Reader Roundup program. Except for a break during the pandemic, the Library has invited all first grade students in the Dexter Community Schools to come to the Library, receive their very own Library cards and borrow an item on their own. During visits, children listen to a story, have a tour of the Library, learn about care and handling of Library materials and how to find help locating items in the collection or getting answers to

questions. The Dexter Community School system has been a great partner with the Library in making this event happen each year. Teachers send students home with Library card application forms and get those returned to the Library. The school also provides bus transportation for all the first grade classes.

Over the years, this program has reached over 6,000 Dexter School

students and helped them understand a primary, community resource to help expand their education.



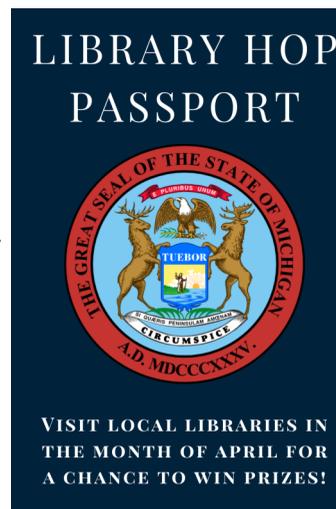
Library Hop

April 6 through 12 is National Library Week, but we are inviting patrons to explore local libraries all month long. Stop in and explore new-to-you libraries (or old favorites) with Library Hop. See what different libraries have to offer, register for programs, make a day trip out of it with suggested local stops or use your library card to check out books or other items - just ask how.

Visit any of the 21 libraries on the Library Hop passport and get stamps April 1 through

April 30. Bring the passport back to the Dexter District Library with two or more stamps and receive a small prize.

Nearby libraries participating in the program include Brighton, Chelsea, Hamburg, Howell, Northfield Township and Pinckney. Ask our staff for details on stamps and prizes. All participants will be entered to win a Grand Prize, with swag from all participating libraries when you pick up your passport.



Youth and Family Fun



The Library's popular Story Times will resume this spring. **Drop-In Story Times** will begin on **March 30** with **mixed-age programs Monday and Thursday mornings at 11 am**, a **Toddler program on Tuesday mornings at 10 am** and a **Preschool aged program on Tuesday mornings at 11 am**. Stories will be geared to the different age groups. Mixed-ages Story Time is geared for children

ages 5 and younger. Toddler Story Time is targeted to children 18 months to three years of age and Preschool Story Time is for children three to five years old. These programs will run through May 7 and take place in the Lower Level Meeting Room. No registration is required.

Small Group Story Times return starting **April 1**. The Library will offer **Toddler Small Group Story Time on Wednesday mornings at 10 am** and **Preschool Small Group Story Time on Wednesday mornings at 11 am** and run through May 6. Registration is required for these programs. Parents or caregivers of children may register on our website through our calendar of events or by calling 734-426-4477. Registration is currently open. Children may only be registered for one 6-week session.



The A2 Magic Show comes to the Library on **Saturday, March 28 at 11 am**. Children of all ages are invited to drop in and enjoy a high energy, funny family show that mixes comedy, magic, funny situations, and a whole lot of audience participation. Magician Jeff Wawrzasek is ranked among the top three magicians nationwide and has delighted over 17,500 audiences at children's, family and corporate events. Registration is not required.

Registration is not required.

Join us at the Library for an **InvestiGators Party on Wednesday, April 1 from 2 to 3 pm**.

Children of all ages are welcome to drop in and celebrate all things InvestiGators! We will have crafts, games, and activities inspired by your favorite alligator private investigators, Mango and Brash. Registration is not required.



Drop-in Bugs & Butterfly Crafts

comes to the Library on **Friday, April 3 from 11 am to 12 pm**.

Children are invited to drop in and make a variety of bug and butterfly crafts to decorate your home for spring during this hour-long program. Registration is not required.

A Ballet Story Time and Preview Performance comes to the Library on **Friday, April 17 at 10 am**.

Join us for a special ballet themed Story Time and then watch Chelsea Ballet share a preview of their spring ballet, *Alice in Wonderland*, in costume. Registration is not required.



Drop-in Spring Crafts comes to the Library on **Saturday, April 18 from 11 am to 12 pm**. Children of all ages are invited to stop by the Library and celebrate

spring by making a variety of seasonal crafts. All ages are welcome and registration is not required. Bring your imagination.

Join us for **Preschool Makerspace** on **Monday, May 11 at 11 am**. Make, try, create and play at the Library.

Young children will explore a variety of stations with open-ended creative activities designed to encourage early learning. Children need an active adult partner to help them. This hour-long program is geared for ages 5 and under and registration is not required.



The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will offer a Drop-In Instrument Petting Zoo

on **Saturday, May 16 from 10 to 11:30 am**. Hands-on fun with instruments! Children can get up close and personal with instruments provided by A2SO. Bow a violin, pluck a cello, buzz a trumpet, and play other instruments seen and heard in the orchestra. Registration is not required.

Music & Movement with Dancer's Edge comes to the Library on **Friday, May 22 at 10 am**. Children ages 2 to 5, along with their caregivers, can participate in this dance class with Jennifer Smith of Dancer's Edge. Music, playful interaction and movement will get kids ready to wiggle, jump and move to music. Registration is not required.

Kids and teens: if you enjoy playing chess, join us. Compete in tournament-style play or a casual game and improve your skills. All kids and teens with at least a basic knowledge of chess gameplay are welcome to attend. Chess sets will be provided by the Library to use during Chess Club.

Chess Club meets on **Wednesdays, April 8, May 6 and June 3 at 6:30 pm** for an hour of tournament-style play. Registration is required.



Recurring Favorites

Our **Lego Club** is designed for a wide age range, inviting students in grades K-8 to drop in and build with Legos provided by the Library. Lego Club will meet on **Mondays, April 6, May 4 and June 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm** each day.



The **Super Stories Book Club for Young Fives and Kindergarteners** continues this spring. This 45-minute program is for kids transitioning out of story time and into book clubs. Adults should attend this program with their children. Each month, Miss Ruth will read books related to a theme and then the kids will do a theme related craft or activity. The group will meet on **Tuesdays, April 14 at 4:30 pm** (Theme: *Spring*), **May 12 at 4:30 pm** (Theme: *Robots*), and **June 30 at 2 pm** (Theme: *Dinosaurs*.) Registration is required and is open for the April meeting.

The **Club Create Book Club** is an independent book club for first and second graders. Each month, Ms. Krista will read longer picture books centered on a theme and the group will participate in activities and crafts related to the theme. Club Create meets **Thursdays, April 9** (Theme: *Reptiles and Amphibians*), **May 7** (Theme: *Trickster Tales*) and **June 4** (Theme: *Dinosaurs*) at **4:30 pm each day**. Registration is required and is open for the April meeting.



The next step up for reading groups is our **All Star Readers Book Club**, an independent reading book club for third and fourth graders. Each month, we will play an ice-breaker game, have a book discussion, and do an activity related to the book we discuss. This hour-long program will be held on **Thursdays, April 16 at 4:30 pm** (Book: *Bob* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead), **May 14 at 4:30 pm** (Book: *Choose your own graphic novel*) and **June 25 at 2 pm** (Book: *Odder* by Katherine Applegate). Registration is required and opens on the day of the preceding meeting. Free copies of books will be available to pick up at the Library after you register.

Makerspace allows kids in grades K through 8 to drop in for an hour and have time to make, build, craft and explore. Makerspace meets **Thursdays, April 23 and May 21 at 4:30 pm** and **Tuesday, June 23 at 2 pm**.



Spring Programs for Tweens and Teens



The Library's **Teen Advisory Group (TAG)** continues on **Saturdays, April 11 and May 9 at 1 pm** each day. Teens in grades 7 through 12 meet to enjoy a pizza lunch then work on projects to make the Library a better place.

TAG members also get to give input on Library events for teens and tweens. Make your voice heard! Registration is required.

The **Tween Book Club** for students in grades 5 and 6 continues this spring. Read the month's book and then join us for icebreakers, snack, discussion, and a related activity. Join us on **Tuesday, April 14 at 4:30 pm** to discuss "Restart" by Gordon Korman. On **Tuesday, May 12 at 4:30 pm**, the book will be "The First State of Being" by Erin Entrada Kelly. Get a copy of the books at the Youth Reference Desk after you register. Registration is currently open for the April meeting.



For older students, join us for **Teen Books and Bites**. Teens in grades 7 through 9 are invited to Books and Bites book club. Join us each month to eat snacks and talk about books with other teens. On **Wednesday, April 22 at 4:30 pm**, we'll discuss "Dead Flip" by Sara Farizan. Get a copy at the Youth Reference Desk after you register. Registration is currently open. On **Wednesday, May 20 at 4:30 pm**, we'll discuss the theme Realistic Fiction and Romance. Bring in a title you choose. Registration begins April 22.

Magic: The Gathering continues this spring with meetings on **Fridays, April 17 and May 15, both at 6 pm**. Everyone in grades 5 through 12 with knowledge of game play and rules is invited to attend. Please bring a Commander deck to each session. Co-sponsored with 5 Healthy Towns and SRSly Dexter. Registration is required.



The Library's **Chess Club** continues this spring. Kids and teens, if you enjoy playing chess, join us! Compete in tournament-style play or a casual game. All kids and teens with at least a basic knowledge of chess gameplay are welcome to attend. Chess sets will be provided by the Library. The Club meets **Wednesdays, April 8, May 6 and June 3 all at 6:30 pm**. Registration is required.

The Library will offer **Teen/Tween Crochet Crafternoons on Saturdays, April 25 and June 6 at 1:30 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 can join us for a chance to learn crochet or practice. Beginners and more advanced teen and tween crocheters are welcome. Learn a new project or bring in what you've been working on. Registration is required.

The Library will offer **Teen/Tween Crochet Crafternoons on Saturdays, April 25 and June 6 at 1:30 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 can join us for a chance to learn crochet or practice. Beginners and more advanced teen and tween crocheters are welcome. Learn a new project or bring in what you've been working on. Registration is required.

Join us for some great, individual programs for teens and tweens this spring.



On **Saturday, March 28 at 2:30 pm**, we will be offering **Teen/Tween Suncatcher Painting** for students in grades 5-12. Celebrate sunny days and paint your own suncatcher. Hang it in

your window to share light, color, and your creativity with the world. Registration is required and currently open.

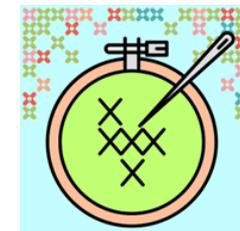
Sundaes and Games comes to the Library on **Tuesday, March 31 at 2 pm**. Make a sundae with a variety of toppings, then play games with friends.

We'll have ping pong, foosball, and a variety of board and card games available to play. All students in grades 5 - 12 are welcome. Registration is required and currently open.



Registration is required and currently open.

A **Teen/Tween Intro to Cross Stitch** will be offered on **Thursday, April 2 at 2 pm**. Learn the basics of cross stitching, pick up a new skill and go home with a small embroidered piece. All supplies will be provided. All students in grades 5 - 12 are welcome. Registration is required and currently open.

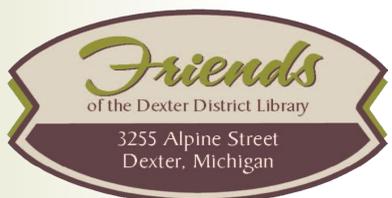


Registration is required and currently open.

Join us for a **DIY Mini Bookshelf Craft on Saturday, May 16 at 2 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 can use art supplies and decorations to make a pint-sized collection of favorite books that fits in a small tin. Registration is required and opens on April 16.

Registration is required and opens on April 16.





Eight Friends of the Dexter Library volunteers transformed an empty space in the basement of the Dexter District Library on the afternoon of Friday, March 6, preparing it for the used book sale scheduled for that Saturday morning from 9 am to 3 pm.

Mobile shelves filled with books were carefully placed along one side of the main room, while boxes of books were arranged on several folding tables on the other side. Friends volunteers worked quickly and efficiently to sort and organize the books for easy browsing.

In the second room, space was cleared, cleaned and organized in anticipation of eager book buyers arriving on Saturday. A large table was also set up with seating for several Friends volunteers who will handle the check out process during the sale on Saturday.

The entire transformation took just 45 minutes. Once everything was in place, the volunteers gathered for a group photo, leaving the Dexter District Library's basement ready for business.



The volunteers involved in the set up include: Lisa & Lou Scarpelli, Kathy Sultana, Drew Williams, Eiko Fischer, Valarie Alford, Joanne Navarre and Kevin Vrsek.

Technology Classes



This spring, the Library continues its technology offerings to help you get the most out of your devices. **Registration is required for all technology classes.** Sign up at <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/events>, call 734-426-4477 or stop by the Adult Reference Desk to register.

Our **Start Digitizing** workshop will be offered on **Tuesday, April 7 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, April 9 at 6 pm**. Get hands-on practice using the Library's equipment to digitize various media formats, including VHS tapes, slides, negatives, print photos, audio cassettes and 8mm/Super8 film. Learn how to preserve your memories from deterioration and convert them into digital formats.

Join us for an introduction to **Canva.com - Design Free Cards, Posters, and More** on **Tuesday, April 14 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, April 16 at 6 pm**. Are you looking for a fun and easy way to create dazzling cards, invitations, or flyers? Do you wish your social media posts looked snappier? Come to this class to learn about Canva.com, a free online design studio.

Microsoft Excel Part 1 will be offered on **Tuesday, May 5 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm**. Learn how to create workbook files using Microsoft Excel and how to organize data more efficiently using spreadsheets. Discover how to setup a workbook to meet your informational needs. Practice different ways to duplicate, move, and edit data.

Microsoft Excel Part 2 will be offered on **Tuesday, May 12 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, May 14 at 6 pm**. Building off the skills learned in Part 1, this class will cover tools such as mail merge, pivot tables, conditional formatting and filtering. You will also learn how to use macros to automate repetitive tasks. Attendees are highly encouraged to have taken Part 1 before taking Part 2.

One-on-One Technology Help will be offered on **Thursdays, April 30 and May 28** with individualized, half-hour sessions open between **9 and 11 am** and **1 to 3 pm** each day. Examples of potential topics include: computer basics, tablets, smart phones, eBooks and eAudiobooks, Microsoft Office, photo editing, and social media. Bring your own device for practice. While we are eager to help you learn technology, please note that we cannot repair your device, remove spyware and viruses or perform installations and upgrades.

Events for Adults This Spring



Gentle Restorative Yoga continues this spring, beginning **Thursday, April 2 at 9:30 am**. Relax and restore with this gentle, stress relieving yoga practice. Create harmony and balance of body and mind through physical postures, breathing techniques and an extended guided relaxation at the end of class. Meetings are suitable for most fitness and experience levels and modifications are offered. Please bring your own yoga mat. Presented by Andrea Astley Dinsdale, a RYT Certified Yoga Instructor who has been practicing yoga for over 20 years. Additional spring Yoga class dates will be on each Thursday morning at 9:30 am through the end of June.

Cooking with Mary Spencer returns this spring. On **Wednesday, April 15 at 6 pm**, join us online on Zoom for **Greek Meals**. Greek cooking is based on traditional ingredients such as seasonal vegetables, meats, fish, olive oil and grains. This virtual cooking demonstration will see Mary making Greek Meatballs & Potatoes in Lemon Sauce and Tzatziki chickpea salad. There will be plenty of time to ask Mary questions about Greek cooking. Recipes will be emailed to those attending the program. Registration is required.



Join us at the Library on **Wednesday, May 13 at 6 pm** when Mary presents **Summer Salads**. Get ready for summer picnics and backyard barbecues by joining Mary for this in-person cooking demonstration. Mary will make Panzanella Salad and Caribbean Cobb Salad with Salmon. Recipes will be available to those attending the program. Registration is required.

Mary Spencer has been a culinary instructor for over 20 years and is the owner of Taste: A Cook's Place, LLC, a Northville, Michigan cooking school and cook's resource center. Her website is: www.tastecooksplace.net.



Movies at the Library



On **Friday, April 10 at 6 pm**, join us for **Audrey's Children**, the untold true story of Dr. Audrey Evans, who joins an elite children's hospital in 1969. Determined to overhaul ineffective therapies, she pioneers life-saving treatments, co-founds the first Ronald McDonald House Charities, and impacts millions. Starring Natalie Dormer, rated PG, 1 hour 50 minutes.

Rental Family will be screened on **Friday, April 17 at 1 pm**. Starring Brendan Fraser as a man who struggles to find purpose and lands an unusual gig with a Japanese agency to play stand-in roles for strangers. Rated PG-13, 1 hour 50 minutes.

On **Friday, May 8 at 6 pm**, join us for **Soul on Fire**, starring Joel Courtney and John Corbett. "Soul on Fire" is a biographical drama about John O'Leary, a St. Louis native who suffered near-fatal burns, yet overcame his injuries to become an inspiration to all who have suffered. Rated PG, 1 hour 12 minutes.

Hamnet will be screened on **Friday, May 15 at 1 pm**. Starring Jesse Buckley and Emily Watson. William Shakespeare and his wife celebrate the birth of his son, Hamnet. When tragedy strikes and Hamnet dies at a young age, Shakespeare is inspired to write his timeless masterpiece "Hamlet." Rated PG-13, 2 hour 5 minutes.

Mark your calendars for our **Summer Card Making Workshops**. The Library offers two sessions on **Tuesday, June 2 at 6 pm** and again on **Wednesday, June 3 at 10 am**. Participants will make three cards with all supplies provided. **Registration opens on May 4 at 9 am** and these classes fill up fast.



Join us for events celebrating the United States' semiquincentennial – our country's 250th birthday. This special series, "**We the People**," invites you to explore the vibrant, complex

tapestry of our nation's past, understand the pivotal moments that shaped us, and envision the boundless possibilities for our shared future. Our display of the "Founding Documents" will be concluding at the end of March, but if you missed it, check back in June and July when it is reinstalled.

The American Revolution and the Fate of the World will be offered on **Tuesday, March 31 at 7 pm** via Zoom. Join us online

for this sweeping story examining the global actors and dimensions of the American Revolution. Historian and author Richard Bell explores the impacts of the American Revolution, an event that redrew maps and toppled hierarchies across six continents as viewed through the stories of the diverse people affected by the war. Bell offers a bold new framework for understanding the Revolution as a complex, international struggle.



An Evening of Pre-War Blues Music

comes to the Library on **Wednesday, April 22 at 7 pm**. This is a musical and historical survey of the blues from the turn of the 20th Century until

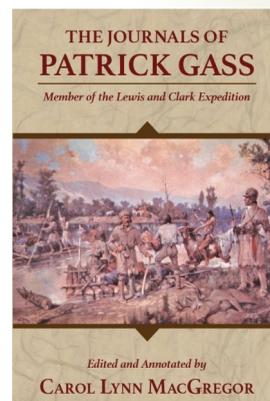


World War II. It covers the heavy hitters of acoustic blues music from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters and more. This presentation touches on the longstanding tradition of the disenfranchisement of people of African descent, how that mistreatment created the blues, and the indelible mark left on American music and art. Nick Veine, a singer-songwriter and composer born and raised in Manistee will present. Veine grew up playing rock and blues before he started singing and pivoting to acoustic music. He will incorporate live performance with his discussion.

On **Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm** join us for the **Lewis and Clark Expedition**. Historian Randy Baker will portray Sergeant Patrick Gass of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, a carpenter on the journey and the first to publish his journal after the expedition. Gass lived to be 98 years old and developed a better perspective on how the Lewis and Clark Expedition changed the course of American history.

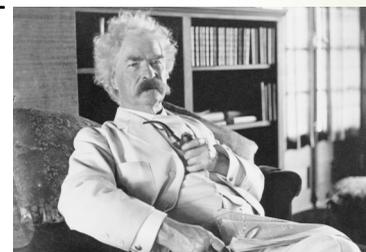
Through historical reenactment, learn why the expedition was undertaken, what they saw, who they met, and what they did on this extraordinary adventure into the American West. A wide variety of artifacts utilized throughout the program will help bring history to life.

Randy Baker has over 25 years of experience teaching natural history and history to people of all ages. As a highly trained naturalist and former teacher, Baker can hold the attention of audiences ranging from preschool children to post-graduates.



Mark Twain's American West comes to the Library on **Tuesday, June 9 at 7 pm**.

Mark Twain's early days were formative to his development as American literature's most iconic character. Join John Daly as he brings Twain to life with amusing tales of the Mississippi River, Virginia City's silver boom, San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands, drawn from Twain's books "Life on the Mississippi," "Huckleberry Finn" and "Roughing It." Mr. Daly is a speaker, educator and actor who has averaged over 100 educational presentations a year for the last 25 years. He is also the author of a business book, "Pricing for Profitability" published by John Wiley and Sons, the novel "Tool and Die" and eight plays produced at The Players in Detroit.



Dexter District Library
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Dexter, MI 48130

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pmccann@dexter.lib.mi.us

Open Hours:
Mon-Fri: 9 AM - 9 PM
Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM
Sun: 1 PM - 5 PM



Vision:

*A pathway of discovery -
empowering minds and
connecting community*

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Director's Corner by Paul McCann



The Library wrapped up its 2026 Neighbors Read program with a visit from author Jeffrey Holden on February 21. We saw a great turnout for this author event with over 150 readers attending in person.



The Library estimates nearly 800 residents participated in the program. If you missed reading the book, the Library still has copies available to check out. The interview with the author can be viewed at https://youtu.be/dzkhQ_NQ7zw through the end of April. The Neighbors Read program was made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Dexter District Library.

The Library will host a display from the Huron Valley AIA (American Institute of Architects) on our second floor between April 6 and May 10. This display highlights the juried awards for new construction, renovations and additions to buildings in the greater Washtenaw area over the past year. Stop in and see the types and styles of new building and renovations that have been happening around our area.

If you missed it this winter, the display of 'America's Founding Documents' will return in June and July, just in time for the bulk of the semiquincentennial celebrations. This display introduces viewers to the seminal documents which formed the political philosophy underpinning American democracy.

