

EX LIBRIS

Volume 24 ~ Issue 3 ~ Summer 2026

Reminders

Summer Reading Kicks Off June 15

Scan the code below for many more events at the Library



The Library will be CLOSED

Saturday July 4

Sunday and Monday September 6 and 7

Summer Reading 2026

Staff at the Library are getting ready for our busiest time of the



year: Summer Reading Program season. The Library will again offer Summer Reading challenges for everyone, from toddlers to senior citizens. We kick off the Program on **Monday, June 15** and it will run through **Friday, July 31**.

This year's theme is "Unearth a Story" and we have a wide variety of dinosaur, historical and archeological themed activities and programs

scheduled. Be sure to check out all the different events happening at the Library, listed in this newsletter and by scanning the QR code to the left.

If you haven't participated before, stop in to the Library and sign up this summer. Summer Reading started as a way to keep children reading while school is not in session, but it has expanded to include a wide variety of events and activities for everyone and anyone who completes their reading goals will be entered into the final prize drawing in August.

Summer Parking

This summer will be busy and bring some exciting improvements to Dexter. Downtown Dexter is undergoing significant upgrades, including construction on Island Lake Rd., a new roundabout at Dexter Chelsea Rd., and repaving of Main St. Traffic detours are currently in place, with more updates coming as the season progresses.

The Library will be open throughout all construction activity. Parking near the Library will be limited at times, so we encourage visitors to arrive a little early during summer events to secure a spot. Good options include the Farmers Market parking area and on-street

parking on Broad Street. The City will also maintain pedestrian access across Main St. at several points, making it easy to reach parking on Jeffords St. and in the City lot behind the Monument Park building. For the latest construction updates, please visit the Washtenaw County Road Commission at <https://www.wcroads.org/weekly-road-work-schedule/> and the City's road projects page at https://www.dextermi.gov/government/road_projects.php.



Looking ahead, Alpine St. is scheduled for resurfacing this fall. We'll share updates on how this may affect Library access as we learn more.

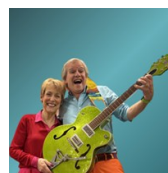
Summer Fun for Children



The Library will host **Drop-In Summer Story Times** for toddlers and preschoolers over the course of the summer. Beginning **June 22** and running through **July 30**, our Story Times will be held at **11 am** each **Monday and Thursday**. Each week will feature a specific theme and the Monday presentation will be repeated on Thursday. Books and activities are geared for both toddlers and preschoolers and each program lasts approximately 30 minutes.

Story Times include picture, pop-up and interactive books, flannel-board stories, songs, puppets, finger plays and other activities that encourage a love of reading. We will be meeting in the Lower Level Meeting Room and registration is not required.

Join us for **Rock Painting** on **Wednesday, June 17 from 10 am to 12 pm**. This drop-in event is for children of all ages. Stop by the Library and choose a rock to paint. Registration is not required.



The **Imagine That! Musical Story Theatre Show** comes to the Library on **Saturday, June 20 at 11 am**. What do an enchanted goose, a pernickety baby bunny, and four rather naughty sheep have in common? They're all part of this engaging and interactive musical-story-theatre show for ages 5 and younger and their families. Registration is not required.



Our summer events kick off with a visit from the **Baffling Bill Magic Show** on **Monday, June 15 at 11 am**. Prepare to be amazed by Baffling Bill the Magician and his sidekick, Gus the Bunny. This 40-minute show encourages summer reading through magic, audience participation and laughter. Refreshments will be served at the Farmers Market following the

show. Children of all ages are welcome to attend and registration is not required. This program is made possible through generous sponsorship from Wolverine Glass in Dexter.

Science Heroes: Digging It! Interactive S.T.E.M. Show comes to the Library on **Friday, June 26 at 11 am**. Unearth your love for science in this fun and interactive



S.T.E.M. show for the whole family. With help from audience volunteers, we'll conduct a variety of exciting science experiments. If you didn't already love science, you'll really 'dig it' after seeing Science Heroes in action! Registration is not required.

The Library will host a **Drop-in Dinosaur Necklace Craft** on **Tuesday, June 16 at 11 am**. Celebrate our Summer Reading Program theme by creating your own necklace using a small toy dinosaur figure and lots of beads. No registration is required and children of all ages can drop in anytime during this hour-long program.



The Library's annual **Ice Cream Social for Dexter Library Card Holders and Drop-In Crafts** returns on **Wednesday, July 1 from 11 am to 1 pm**. Show your Dexter District Library card and receive **FREE** ice cream in front of the Library. During our Ice Cream Social, there will be a variety of drop-in crafts in the Lower Level Meeting Room. Registration is not required and all ages are welcome. This program is generously sponsored by the Dexter Creamery.



Mark your calendar for **Big Truck and Emergency Vehicle Day** on **Friday, July 10 from 10 am to 12 pm**. Each year we host a large variety of trucks and emergency vehicles for children and adults to experience up close. The parking lot will be closed during this event to allow freedom to browse, tour and talk to the owners and operators. Bring your camera – there will be plenty of photo opportunities.

Join us for **Dino Academy: A Dinosaur Discovery Puppet Show with Bright Star Touring Theatre** on **Friday, July 17 at 11 am**. Step into the prehistoric world with Dr. Sarah Tops and her life-like dinosaur puppets as she uncovers fascinating dino facts, blending science, storytelling and imagination in the style of TV nature programs.



A **Live Reptile Program with The Reptarium** will be visiting the Library on **Friday, July 24 at 11 am**. The Reptarium will bring a variety of snakes, turtles, lizards, and more. Learn fun facts about each of the animals that are presented and ask all your reptile questions. Children of all ages are welcome and registration is not required.

Join us for a **Cotton Candy Science Show** on **Friday, July 31 at 11 am**. Help us wrap up the Summer Reading Program with the sweetest science show

around and discover the delicious science of cotton candy. Learn how it's made, who invented it, see some fun experiments done with this wonderful, sugary treat, and have an opportunity to try some at the end of the show. Children of all ages will enjoy this fascinating program. Registration is not 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, July 6 and August 3 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm**.



The **Super Stories Book Club for Young Fives and Kindergarteners** continues this summer. 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, June 30** (Theme: *Dinosaurs*) and **July 28** (Theme: *Oceans*), with **both meetings at 2 pm**. Registration is required and is currently open for the June 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 will meet **Thursday, July 9** (Theme: *Summer*). Registration is required opens on June 4.



The next step up for reading groups is our **All Star Readers Book Club**; an independent book club for third and fourth graders. Each month, we will play an icebreaker game, have a book discussion, and do an activity related to the book we discuss. This hour-long program will be held on **Thursdays, June 25** (Book: *Odder* by Katherine Applegate) and **July 23** (Book: *Pablo and Splash* by Sheena Dempsy), with **both sessions at 2 pm**. 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-8 to drop in for an hour and have time to make, build, craft and explore. Makerspace meets **Tuesdays, June 23 and August 4 at 2 pm**.



Summer Programs for Tweens and Teens

OpenSpot Theatre will lead students in grades 5-12 through a **Theatre Workshop on Monday, June 22 at 2 pm**. Let's go on with the show with this introduction to theatre. In one hour, learn the basics of singing, dancing, acting, and script writing. At the end of our time together we will put on a mini-play that the students will write and perform. Registration is required and opens on Monday, June 1. This program is sponsored by Chelsea State Bank.



Join us for a **Shadow Puppetry Workshop on Monday, June 29 at 2:30 pm**. Teens and tweens in grades 5-12 can learn the art of designing, crafting, and performing their own shadow puppets with instruction from Alex Thomas and Friends. Registration is required and opens Friday, June 5.

The Library will host a **DIY Giant Beaded Gecko Craft event on Monday, July 13**. Create a super-sized version of a pony bead gecko. Use rope and pool noodles to make this '90s-inspired craft to use in the pool or just for fun.



There will be two, one-hour sessions, one at **1:30 pm** and the other at **3:30 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 may sign up for one session and registration is required. Registration opens on June 12.



Join us for an **Introduction to Parkour on Monday, July 20 at 2 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 can learn how to jump, roll, balance, vault, and other parkour skills during this fun, action-filled workshop taught by pros from Phoenix Freerunning Academy. Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, June 23.

The Library will offer a **Teen/Tween Reptile Program on Friday, July 24 at 1 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 will meet a variety of reptiles from the Reptarium in an educational setting. Registration is required and opens on June 24.



Teen & Tween Tie-Dye with SRSly Dexter comes to the Library on **Monday, July 27 at 1 pm**. Students in grades 5-12 can make a tie-dye creation. Create a colorful T-shirt, bandana, or pair of socks. All supplies will be provided. This event is co-sponsored with 5 Healthy Towns and SRSly Dexter. Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, June 30.



Be sure to check the Library's web site at dexter.lib.mi.us/events/ for additional programs. So much going on this summer, we couldn't fit it all in one newsletter!

Students can participate anywhere with these virtual programs:

The **Teen & Tween Summer Photo Contest** will run from **Wednesday, June 17 through Friday, July 31**. Students in



grades 5-12 can submit an original photo for a chance to win a gift card. Be sure to get creative and have fun. Submit up to one photo in each of three different categories: *Animals*, *Summer*, and *America the Beautiful*. Deadline for all entries is Friday, July 31. More details can be found on the Library's web site at dexter.lib.mi.us/events/tween-teen-summer-photo-contest/

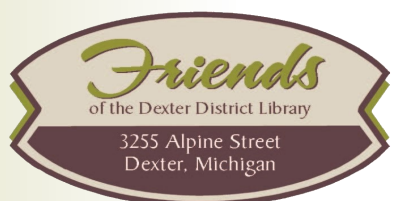
The **MiLibraryQuest** activity runs from **Wednesday, July 1 through Friday, July 31**. In a world where dinosaurs and humans are enemies, a mysterious force will try to bring them together. Dexter teens and tweens can virtually participate for a chance to win a gift card. Complete this activity virtually at any time on your own. Visit www.mi.gov/MiLibraryQuest to learn more.



Don't forget about our recurring summer programs for tweens and teens:

TAG: Teen Advisory Group for students in grades 7-12 continues on **Thursday, June 18 at 1 pm** and **Saturday, July 11 at 1 pm**. Teens will enjoy a pizza lunch then work on projects to make the Library a better place.

The **Tween Book Club** for students in grades 5-6 will read this month's book or theme and then join us for icebreakers, a snack, discussion, and a related activity. The group will meet on **Tuesday, June 30** (Book: *All the Ways to Go* by Jessie Janowitz) and **Tuesday, July 21** (Book: *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes), with **both sessions at 1:30 pm**. Get a copy at the Youth Reference Desk after you register. Registration is open for the June meeting.



Friends of Dexter District Library Volunteers Honored at Appreciation Event

Volunteers and Board members of the Friends of the Dexter District Library gathered on April 28 at the Library to celebrate a year of service and recognize the contributions of the organization's dedicated volunteers.

Fifteen volunteers attended the appreciation event, which included cake, refreshments and time to reflect on the group's accomplishments. The Friends organization supports the Library through a variety of efforts, including ten yearly used book sales, blood drives, support at Library programs and other community events.



As part of the festivities, three gift certificates from local Dexter businesses were awarded in a drawing. Winners included Ben True, Suzie Minock and Carolyn Krone. Volunteers present at the event were James Hutton, Suzie Minock, Michael and Marilyn Raatz, Linda Fitzgerald, Ben True, Dave and Patrice Luther, Dale Klassen, Kerry O'Hara, Rhianon Barber, Carolyn Krone, Dikki Ciechanski and Kim Prey.

Organizers described the evening as a fun and meaningful way to thank volunteers for their time and commitment noting that their efforts play a vital role in supporting Library programs and services for the Dexter community.

Technology Classes

Join us for more technology classes at the Library this summer. This summer's slate offers two new classes. **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.

Securely Delete Old Devices will be offered on **Tuesday, June 30 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, July 2 at 6 pm**.

This class will walk you through secure deletion methods for removing personal data from a variety of common household electronics, including iPhones/iPads, Android phones/tablets, and Windows/Mac computers. Various techniques will be discussed to help ensure your devices are safe for resale, donation, or recycling.

Explore **ChatGPT and AI** on **Tuesday, July 14 at 9 am, Thursday, July 16 at 6 pm, Tuesday, August 4 at 9 am or Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm**. In this class, we will discuss ChatGPT and other free AI tools, their strengths and limitations and real-world examples of how to use them. Because of the restrictions on free accounts, students are strongly encouraged to visit ChatGPT.com before the class and create an account by linking a Google or Apple account or by using their phone number if they have neither.

One-on-One Technology Help returns to the Library on **Thursdays, June 18, July 30 and August 27**. Each day will feature individualized, half-hour sessions between **9 and 11 am** and also between **1 and 3 pm**. Examples of potential topics include: computer basics, tablets, smart phones, eBooks and eAudiobooks, Microsoft Office, photo editing, and social media. Please be sure to bring your own device to the appointment so that you can practice on it. While we are eager to help you learn technology, please note that we are not able to repair your device, remove spyware/viruses, or perform installations and upgrades.



Summer Events for Adults

UNEARTH A STORY™

Join the Dexter District Library's Adult Summer Reading Program as we **Unearth a Story**. Beginning **June 15**, explore the worlds of paleontology, archeology, genealogy, and more. Complete activities to earn up to 20 stickers for your paleoenvironment landscape log. Each sticker earned will get you an entry into a drawing for a summer reading themed book.

There will also be a weekly hands-on activity at the Library. This activity can be added to the "bonus" sticker of your choice. Want to add some vegetation to your landscape? You can earn a plant sticker for every 2 book recommendation cards turned in. Earn 4 dinosaur stickers and 3 "bonus" stickers to complete the program and be entered into the final prize drawing,

Our first program of the summer will be on **Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm** when we present **Unearth a Story**. Heroines, strange creatures, underground dwellers and other captivating tales will be told by story tellers Barbara Schutzgruber, Jeff Doyle, Beverly Black, Rich Swanson, Jennifer Otto and Steve Daut. Jane Fink will emcee this program in the Library's Lower Level Meeting Room. Registration is appreciated. Register on the Library's events calendar or call 734-426-4477. Families are welcome.

Last Witness: Sole Survivors comes to the Library on **Wednesday, June 17 at 6 pm**. Hear tales of lone survivors of shipwrecks on the Great Lakes.

This program is presented by Ric Mixer, who was commended for 20 years of maritime preservation by the Association of Great Lakes Maritime History. He has produced over 30 shows on local history for PBS and the Outdoor Channel and has appeared on the History and Discovery Channel as a shipwreck expert.



Movies at the Library



On **Friday, June 12 at 6 pm**, we'll be screening **Sarah's Oil**, starring Zachary Levi, Naya Desir-Johnson and Kenric Green. An African-American girl born in 1900's Oklahoma Indian Territory believes there is oil beneath the barren land she's allotted. Rated PG, 1 hour, 43 min.

Song Sung Blue will be shown on **Friday, June 19 at 1 pm**. Starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson, two down-on-their-luck musicians form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band. Rated PG-13, 2 hours 12 min.

Friday, July 10 at 6 pm finds **Percy vs Goliath**, starring Christopher Walken and Zach Braff being shown. A small-town farmer takes on one of the largest agricultural corporations over seed patents. Rated PG-13, 1 hour, 39 min.

On **Friday, July 17 at 1 pm** join us for **The Lost City of Z**, starring Charlie Hunnam and Tom Holland. At the dawn of the 20th century, British explorer Percy Fawcett journeys into the Amazon. Rated PG-13, 2 hours, 21 min.

The documentary **Cave of Forgotten Dreams** will be shown on **Wednesday, July 29 at 7 pm**. In 2010, renowned filmmaker, Werner Herzog was given permission to enter France's Chauvet Cave to film some of the oldest surviving paintings in the world. Rated G, 90 min.

The D & C Lake Lines and the Fabulous Luxury Liners of the Great Lakes comes to the Library on **Tuesday, June 23 at 6 pm**. Step aboard and take a look at the fascinating world of steam travel in the first half of the twentieth century, when majestic luxury liners were a regular sight on the Great Lakes with historian Bruce Allen Kopytek.

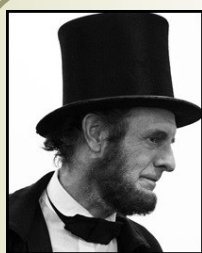


Join us for events celebrating the United States' sesquicentennial – our country's 250th birthday. This special series, **"We the People,"** invites you to explore the vibrant, complex tapestry

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" returns in June and July, just in time for the Independence Day celebrations.

Join us on **Sunday, July 12 at 2 pm** for **Ireland Rocks: The Geology of Ireland.**

Irish singer-songwriter and geologist Enda Reilly presents a lively journey through 1.5 billion years of Ireland's geological story, from the Giant's Causeway to the Burren and beyond. Reilly is a Dublin-born singer-songwriter now based in Plymouth, Michigan, whose work bridges Ireland and America through story-rich songs and timeless ballads. He also studied geology at University College Dublin.



Lincoln as Story-Teller comes to the Library on **Tuesday, July 21 at 7 pm.** Mr. Lincoln shares some of his favorite stories and jokes, and explains why he used these so often. You'll still get a good dose of both the nation's history and Mr. Lincoln's personal story.

Lincoln is portrayed by Kevin Wood, a professional Lincoln presenter who bears a remarkable resemblance to "the Great Emancipator" and who is extremely knowledgeable about his life and times. Mr. Wood has been portraying Lincoln since 2000, and on a professional basis since 2015. He has made over 2,400 appearances in 34 states plus Washington DC and two foreign countries: Canada and Spain. This program will be in the Library's Lower Level Meeting Room. This program will be of interest to adults and children over 12. Registration is appreciated. Register on the Library's events calendar or call 734-426-4477.



On **Monday, July 27 at 7 pm,** join us for **Unearthing the King Arthur Legend.**

Was there a real King Arthur? The legends of King Arthur are among the

most famous and influential in western literature and call to mind knights in armor, highborn ladies, wizards, courtly manners and, of course, the Round Table. This presentation will discuss the early appearances of Arthur in ancient sources and address the history of his times.

Presented by Erik Hildinger, the author of several books both of fiction and history, who has studied the King Arthur tales and the history behind them.

On **Tuesday, August 18 at 7 pm,** visit us for **Budapest: a Danube Celebration.** With three national holidays and vibrant Christmas, Easter, and spring markets, it's safe to say that the tourist season never ends in Budapest. Join Mariya Fogarasi as she highlights the architecture, food, historic Danube bridges, and more in a presentation giving an overview of Budapest, the capital of Hungary.



Join us online for a virtual presentation **Quakers and the Birth of the American Anti-Slavery Movement** on **Monday, August 24 at 7 pm.**

The Quakers, formally known as the Religious Society of Friends, were the first group of white Christians to confront slaveholding as a religious problem that demanded social action. This lecture focuses on the 1688 Germantown Protest as well the later crusades of three 18th-century Quaker men: Benjamin Lay, John Woolman, and Anthony Benezet and will be presented by Richard Bell, a Professor of History at the University of Maryland.

This is a virtual (Zoom) event. To register, visit our events calendar or call the Library at 734-426-4477. A Zoom link will be emailed the day before the event to those who have registered.



Dexter District Library
3255 Alpine Street
Dexter, MI 48130

Phone: 734-426-4477
Fax: 734-426-1217
E-Mail:
pmccann@dexter.lib.mi.us

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



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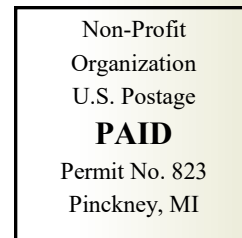
*A pathway of discovery -
empowering minds and
connecting community*

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Director's Corner by Paul McCann



Each year, as school winds down and we prepare for the Summer Reading Program, I have to marvel at how this season has grown over the years.

The Library has been presenting summer activities for over 30 years. During the first year, in 1995, we saw less than 50 children sign up and we did not have an adult program. In recent years, we have routinely seen over 1,100 area children register for the program as well as 200 adults.



When the Library was on Fourth Street, there was little room inside for large events. The Library would rent a tent from the Dexter Area Firefighter's Association. This was a preventative measure to provide shade or shelter from storms, but there was always the chance of having to cancel a program. The Alpine Street Library's Lower Lev-

el Meeting Room holds more people than we ever greeted in those days and we are thankful for the extra, indoor space which allows us to accommodate many more people.

Please note, the Library will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day. However, that doesn't mean nothing is happening. Since the holiday falls on a Saturday this year, the City will be hosting a series of food trucks in the Library parking lot as an addition to the Saturday Farmers Market.

Approximately half the Library's parking lot will be cordoned off for food truck parking. The City expects to welcome the food trucks Glazed and Confused (mini donuts), Chelsea Lanes Let's Go Bowling (burgers), Heaven on a Roll (cheesesteak, BBQ and salads) and Leroy's Snow Hut (New Orleans snow cones, hot dogs and tacos.)

Traffic to the drop boxes to return Library materials will be maintained and, with the Library closed, the remaining parking will be available. Please watch out for pedestrians.