Featuring programs for January, February, and March 2020
Fun with Elmo Story Time
Kick off the library’s winter story times with Elmo from Sesame Street. Families will enjoy stories, crafts, and photo opportunities with everyone’s favorite furry red monster. The costume character story time is targeted for families with children from birth to 5 years.
Monday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m., Willard Meeting Room
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m., Willard Meeting Room
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 11 a.m., Helen Warner Branch

Little Explorers Story Time
Encourage your children to find joy in books by participating in Little Explorers story times. These programs focus on building family literacy and language skills. Participants will engage in stories, songs, and crafts. The program is designed for preschool aged children, but all ages are welcome. The Wednesday program will be a repeat of the Tuesday program.
Tuesdays, Jan. 14, 21, and 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25, 11 a.m.
Willard Meeting Room
Wednesdays, Jan. 15, 22, and 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26, 11 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Early Childhood Connections Learning Through Play Playgroup
This parent and child interactive playgroup led by Early Childhood Connections focuses on developmentally appropriate school readiness activities for children from birth to 5 years. Activities include sensory play, open-ended art, and activities to encourage early literacy skills. Children have a chance to learn how to play and interact with other children while becoming comfortable with Willard Library.
Thursdays, Jan. 9 through March 26, 6-7 p.m.
Willard Meeting Room

Playdate @ Willard Library
This program is an opportunity to encourage curiosity and build self-confidence in children through play while making new friends. Different centers, toys, and sensory areas will be available for families with children ages birth to 5 years.
Mondays, Jan. 13 and 27 and Feb. 3, 10, and 24, 6:30 p.m., Willard Meeting Room

Potty Training Party with Elmo
Celebrate potty training at a party with Elmo from Sesame Street. Preschoolers will enjoy songs, activities, and learn that potty training can be fun. In addition, the big red furry costume character will pose for photos with children. Adults will learn about potty training related books and resources that Willard Library offers. Children 1-5 years are the target group, but all ages are welcome.
Saturday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m., Willard Meeting Room

Wee Ones Winter Play
Take a break from the winter blahs and bring your little one in for a morning of fun. Free play is important for the development of social, cognitive, and leadership skills. Enjoy seeing your child interact with others. Wee Ones is geared for little ones from birth to 5 years of age.
Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30, 11 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Story Time with Leila Arboretum
These science-driven story times will provide preschoolers the opportunity to do hands-on projects and develop scientific vocabulary while building family literacy and language skills. Participants will hear stories and learn from one of Leila Arboretum’s experts. The Wednesday program will be a repeat of the Tuesday program.
Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 11 a.m.
Willard Meeting Room
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 1, 11 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Babytime
Early exposure to talking, singing, playing, reading, and writing are the building blocks of literacy. Children from birth through their second year are invited to enjoy finger-plays, nursery rhymes, rhythmic activities, books, and free play with their caregivers.
Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; and March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 11 a.m.
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Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 11 a.m.
Willard Meeting Room
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 1, 11 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch
---School Age---

**Family Game Days**
Families are invited to enjoy board games, video games, and build with Legos. Participants are welcome to bring snacks. Popcorn, coffee, and hot cocoa will be available.

*Sat, Jan. 25 and March 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*
**Willard Meeting Room**

**Take Your Child to the Library Day**
Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day by doing just that. Taking children to the library is an exciting time that helps a child’s love for reading grow. Children 5 years old or in kindergarten are eligible to receive a library card. If you already have a library card, ask a librarian to help you find something special to read. Book-related crafts are planned.

*Sat, Feb. 1, 2-4 p.m.*
**Willard Children’s Room**

**Saturday, Feb. 1, 2-4 p.m.**
**Helen Warner Branch**

**World Read Aloud Day**
Drop in at either library to grab a good book and read aloud to your child to celebrate World Read Aloud Day. Since 2010 on this day, people around the globe have paused to celebrate the joy of reading aloud and advocate for literacy as a fundamental human right that belongs to everyone. While you’re at the library, sign up for the 21 Day Read Aloud Challenge, Feb. 5-25.

*Wed, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*
**Willard Children’s Room**

*Wed, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.*
**Helen Warner Branch**

**Hair Love Part Two: Crown: An Ode to a Fresh Cut**
The popular Hair Love Story Time returns. This time, in addition to celebrating young women’s hair that is more textured, the program will spotlight young men’s textured hair by reading the award-winning story, *Crown: An Ode to a Fresh Cut*. Plans call for a licensed barber and cosmetologist to be at the program to answer questions. Participants will receive hair care items.

*Sat, Feb. 15, 11 a.m.*
**Willard Meeting Room**

**21 Day Challenge**

**21 Day Read Aloud Challenge**
Visit either library to sign up for the 21 Day Read Aloud Challenge. Reading aloud to your child for 15 minutes every day for 21 days builds the read aloud habit. Interact with other families accepting the 21 Day Read Aloud Challenge by sharing photos on Willard’s Facebook page using the hashtag #Willard21DayReadAloud.

*Feb. 5-25*
**Willard Children’s Room and the Helen Warner Branch**

**Go Wild About Reading:**
**Kick off March is Reading Month**
Go wild at the library to kick off March is Reading Month. Celebrate at a party featuring some reading favorites including wild things, hungry caterpillars, and taco-craving dragons. Children are invited to dress like their favorite book character or wild animal. Crafts, photos, and other fun activities will make you as wild about reading as we are. This program is geared for preschool and elementary age children and their families.

*Mon, March 2, 6 p.m.*
**Helen Warner Branch**

**Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul**
Children will hear an inspiring story from the *Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul* series and discuss the story. Crafts, character-building activities, food, and giveaways will be available. This program is targeted for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, but all ages are welcome.

*Wed, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.*
**Willard Meeting Room**

**Young & Gifted: A Tribute to Black Heroes Past and Present**
Participants will learn about the achievements of African Americans in society. Past and present heroes in sports, inventions, and entertainment will be highlighted. Activity stations will correspond with each focus area. This program is geared for children in kindergarten through fifth grade and their families.

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*Mon, March 2, 6 p.m.*
**Helen Warner Branch**
Let’s Go On a Hike
If the winter blues get you down, let’s prepare for warmer weather by going on a pretend nature hike. Grab your boots, jacket, and your compass, and let’s explore nature in the library. The story time will begin with a reading of the book, *Hiking Day* by Anne Rockwell. Children will learn about the items needed for a hike. Then, children will visit stations to create items needed for a great hike. Once children have completed the stations, they are ready to go on their scavenger “hikes” in the Children’s Room. The program is geared for those in kindergarten through fourth grade, but all ages are welcome.

**Saturday, March 7, 1 p.m.**
Willard Meeting Room

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**Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day**
Children love books and costumes, so we’re combining these two and inviting them to dress up as their favorite book characters to visit the library. The program also will feature a scavenger hunt and crafts. Children in fifth grade and younger will receive a book.

**Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Willard Library Children’s Room

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**PAWS to Read to Sasha**
Stop by to meet Sasha, the Gentle Black Lab. Grab your favorite books, or even a new one, and spend some time reading to Sasha. She is a certified PAWS assistance dog who enjoys lounging and listening to stories. Reading to a dog helps children gain confidence in reading aloud.

**Please check willardlibrary.org for dates.**

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**Take Your Dreams Off the Shelf**
The Take Your Dreams Off the Shelf afterschool programming continues this winter for students in fifth through 12th grades. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, students will explore cooking, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), entrepreneurship, artistic expression, and health while connecting with community members and organizations.

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays,**
Jan. 7 through April 1, 3-4:30 p.m.
Willard Lower Level

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**Anime and Manga Meet-up**
Join other anime and manga fans on the second Thursday of each month for Anime and Manga Club. Hang out and talk all things anime and manga. Each month, participants in fifth through 12th grades will try new things, play games, and watch an episode of anime.

**Thursdays, Jan. 9, Feb. 13,**
**and March 12, 5:30-7 p.m.**
Willard Lower Level

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**Love Your Library Day**
Celebrate March as National Reading Month at the library by sharing your love for books and libraries with your children. The celebration will feature crafts, family games, and a scavenger hunt. Children in fifth grade and younger are the target age group, but all ages are welcome.

**Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Willard Children’s Room

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**Tween Nights**
Students ages 9-14 are invited to monthly Tween Nights. Each month, students will work on a fun project, learn new skills, and meet friends.

**Third Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.**
Jan. 16: Polymer clay crafts,
Willard Lower Level
Feb. 20: Vinyl crafts,
Willard Lower Level
March 19: DIY marbled paper crafts,
Helen Warner Branch

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Willard Children’s Room

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**Mystery Night Lock-in**
Do you have what it takes to help solve a crime? At the Mystery Night Lock-in put your acting and thinking skills to the test while hanging out with friends. Snacks will be provided. The program is for students in fifth through 12th grades.

**Friday, Jan. 31, 6:30-9 p.m.**
Helen Warner Branch

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Helen Warner Branch
ADULT PROGRAMS

A Good Yarn: Knit and Crochet Club
Anyone interested in fiber crafts is invited to attend the weekly knitting and crochet clubs. While working on their current projects, participants will share tips, patterns and get to know others in our community with this shared interest.

Wednesdays, Jan. 8 through May 27
10 a.m. • Willard Lower Level
6:30 p.m. • Helen Warner Branch

Brown Bag Book Club
Spend your lunch hour with the Willard Library Book Club discussing this month’s book and sharing other interesting titles. The monthly selections may be fiction or nonfiction. Guests are welcome to bring their lunches.

Thursdays, noon, Willard Lower Level
Feb. 6: Moloka’i
by Alan Brennert
March 5: A Dog Called Hope by Jason Morgan. This is the 2020 Battle Creek Reads selection.

African American Celebration
With Tylonn J. Sawyer
Detroit artist Tylonn J. Sawyer will discuss identity, culture, politics, and race as it is expressed in his artwork and on social media. His drawings and paintings have been featured in exhibits nationally and abroad. Dinner will be provided. A limited number of tickets will be available from Willard Library and the Helen Warner Branch.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m.
Maranatha Original Church of God
Family Life Center
400 Waubascon Road

Noon Films
Learn more about an interesting and entertaining topic while watching a film each week. Most of the films are documentaries and many of them were created by PBS. Light refreshments will be served.

THURSDAYS AT WILLARD LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Paper Lanterns, Jan. 9
Ghosts of Stonehenge, Jan. 16
Beasts of Burden, Jan. 23
The President’s Photographer: 50 Years Inside the Oval Office, Jan. 30
The Serengeti Rules, Feb. 6
Charley Pride: I’m Just Me, Feb. 13

FRIDAYS AT HELEN WARNER BRANCH

Nature: Dogs in the Land of Lions, Feb. 21
K2: Siren of the Himalayas, Feb. 28
The New Royals, March 6
The Woman in the Iron Coffin, March 13
Octopus: Making Contact, March 20
Amazing Grace, March 27

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Go to hoopladigital.com to get started or download the app on your smart device today.
My Little Michigan Kitchen with Mandy McGovern

Kitchen Joy blogger Mandy McGovern will speak about her cookbook, My Little Michigan Kitchen, which is a love letter to family meals and life in Michigan. “Homemade is better than store-bought,” is the Grand Rapids mom’s philosophy. The cookbook features tried-and-true recipes for Michigan classics including “Secret Ingredient” Tart Cherry Pie, UP North Pasties, Detroit Coney Dogs, Mackinac Island Fudge, Detroit Deep-Dish Pizza, Smoked Whitefish Chowder, and Hot Fudge Cream Puffs. After her talk, she will take questions from the audience and sign copies of her books. In addition, Mandy will prepare some of her recipes for tasting (while they last).

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.
Miller Stone Building,
77 Capital Ave. NE

Tai Chi and Yoga videos, ebooks, and music available on hoopla

Tai Chi
Many studies have shown tai chi is one of the most effective approaches for preventing falls as well as reducing arthritis pain. Certified tai chi instructor Julie Kaminski, of Senior Health Partners, will guide participants through a six-week course designed to improve balance, confidence, and muscular strength.

Thursdays, Jan. 9 through Feb. 13, 2-3 p.m.
Miller Stone Building,
77 Capital Ave. NE

Yoga for Healthy Aging
This class is designed for people who wish to maintain or regain the physical, mental, and emotional attributes necessary for an independent, active, and healthy life. The eight-week class will include practice in mind centering, breathing, physical poses, and deep relaxation. Instructor Julie Jackson, of Yama Yoga, will adapt the practice to individual needs.

Wednesdays, Jan. 22 through March 11, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Miller Stone Building,
77 Capital Ave. NE
Bring and Bling
Learn about personalizing an item with the library’s equipment. Participants need to bring in the item to be personalized. Please register at willardlibrary.org
Mondays, 6 p.m., Willard Lower Level
Jan. 13: Fund Jar. Decorate a jar with vinyl to inspire saving to reach a goal
Jan. 27: Socks. Use heat transfer vinyl to add a message to the bottom of a pair of socks
Feb. 3: Apron. Bring in your family and create matching aprons
Feb. 10: Glass Etching. Personalize glass or a mirror with glass etching cream

Intro to Brush Lettering
Learn the basics of brush lettering from calligrapher and artist Julie Kechele. Brush lettering is a fun, contemporary style of writing that can be done with a pointed brush or marker and used for greeting cards, scrapbooks, signs, and other crafts. For each letter, pressure is applied on the downward strokes and lightened for the upward strokes. A member of the Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild, Kechele has taught calligraphy for several years. All materials will be provided. Please register at willardlibrary.org
Monday, March 16, 6 p.m.
Willard Lower Level

Craft Stash Swap
If your craft stash is overflowing or you’d like to try a new hobby, clean out your closets and swap your supplies at the Craft Stash Swap. Participants should bring unwanted craft items and supplies to trade for other crafters’ items. Materials should be good, clean, and usable.
Monday, March 23, 6-8:30 p.m.
Willard Meeting Room
Announcing Battle Creek Reads 2020

A Dog Called Hope
by Jason Morgan

This book tells a heartwarming story of a military veteran, a faithful dog, and a new chance at life.

A member of an Air Force Special Forces Unit, Jason Morgan was seriously injured in the South American jungle in Ecuador. Months later, he regained consciousness and told he will never walk again.

Jason endures multiple surgeries, chronic pain, and several setbacks. When he’s at a very low point, Napal, a black Labrador from Canine Companions for Independence, enters his life. Jason writes how Napal changed his life forever and helped him resume his life as a father of three sons and an athlete.

In the book, you’ll also meet Jim Siegfried, who uses a wheelchair to get around, and puts his heart and soul into training CCI dogs such as Napal. CCI is a nonprofit that provides service and assistance dogs to U.S. military veterans and the disabled.

The book has been called humorous, moving, and uplifting.

Pick up a copy of the book now and hear Jason talk about his journey on Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Harper Creek High School, 12677 Beadle Lake Road.
We create a community of readers and a world of possibilities.

Willard Library programs are free and open to the public.