Imagination in full bloom

March · April · May 2024 Events
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Babies and Toddlers
Birth through second year

Babytime at the Branch
Sing songs, listen to stories, and play with friends. Each session provides an opportunity for our youngest guests to sing, read, talk, and play, all of which help develop early literacy skills.
Mondays, 10 a.m.
March 4, 11, 18, and 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
May 6, 13, and 20
Helen Warner Branch

Babytime
Early exposure to talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing are the building blocks of literacy. Children from birth through their second year are invited to hear stories, enjoy finger-plays, nursery rhymes, rhythmic activities, and play with their caregivers.
Thursdays, 10 a.m.
March 7, 14, 21, and 28
April 4, 11, 18, and 25
May 2, 9, 16, and 23
Downtown Programming Room

Little Explorers Storytime
Read stories, sing, songs, and do a fun craft or activity each week.

Interstellar Storytime
Explore the wonders of our galaxy in anticipation of the upcoming solar eclipse in April.
Tuesday, March 5, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, March 6, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Birthday Party Storytime
It’s a party and you’re invited! Join us for a very special storytime and celebrate Miss Julia’s birthday! We’ll read fun birthday stories, count all of those candles, play games, sing the birthday song, and decorate cupcakes.
Tuesday, March 12, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday March 13, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Count ‘em Up Storytime
Get ready to celebrate the arrival of spring! Join us for a fun-filled storytime where we’ll practice counting, learn about baby chicks and how to care for them, and read a story called “Five Fuzzy Chicks.”
Tuesday, March 19, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, March 20, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

It’s a Zoo in Here!
The peacocks are calling, the gibbons are swinging, and all of the silly geese are ready for a zoo-riffic storytime! We’ll read zoo stories, sing songs, and have lots of fun zoo activities. We hope all of this excitement doesn’t cause a giraffic jam.
Tuesday, April 2, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Music Makers Storytime
Let’s make noise and have some fun! Join us for a lively storytime where little ones will learn about various musical instruments, play with them, create an instrument of their own, and follow along with an interactive story.
Tuesday, April 9, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Spring Into Storytime
Spring into storytime and discover all of the magic of this wonderfully, rainy season.
Tuesday, April 16, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, April 17, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Sensory Playdate
Read a story and explore hands-on activities designed to encourage development of small motor skills.
Tuesday, April 23, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesday, April 24, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Back to Nature Series with Leila Arboretum
May is finally here, and many of us are ready to go outside and enjoy the great outdoors. Join Katy Avery from Leila Arboretum for a four part “Back to Nature” series. Katy will lead us through some amazing hands-on science activities that will inspire the nature lover in all of us.
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
April 30
May 7, 14, and 21
Downtown Programming Room
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
May 1, 8, 15, and 22
Helen Warner Branch
Brick Masters
Do you have what it takes to be the next Brick Master? Show off your building skills and create amazing things together. Participate in our monthly building challenge, or let your imagination run wild and create your own masterpiece. This STEAM program is a great opportunity to develop creativity, problem solving skills, and critical thinking abilities. Supplies will be provided (please do not bring bricks from home) and the builds will be displayed in the children's room.
Monday, March 1, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar

These Shoes are Made for Walking
Walk, run, or tap dance into the library for a night all about shoes! Our friends from Kingman Collections will be joining us to teach why shoes look so different across the world. You’ll put your knowledge to use as we see who can design and build the best shoe.
Monday, March 4, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar

Cookies and Canvas
Join us for a family art night and let your imagination bloom. Listen to the story of a family who finds joy in creating an extraordinary imaginary garden when they can no longer plant a real one. Then, instructor Rachel Miller will guide children step-by-step through the process of creating their own unique floral scene. Registration is required. Please only register children attending the program; parents and caregivers will provide support.
Monday, March 18, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar

Food for Thought
Join Jill from the YMCA for stories about nutrition and fun, engaging food activities while supplies last.
Monday, April 15, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar

Ecosystem in a Jar
What is an ecosystem? How do they work? Can they be tiny? Join us for a fun-filled family STEAM night to find the answers to these questions and more. Come prepared to get a little dirty and make your very own self-sustaining ecosystem in a jar!
Monday, April 29, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar
Spring Break Programs

Spring Break Interactive Movie Experience
Come watch a movie with us! This is not your sit-down-and-be-quiet movie experience. You are encouraged to get up and move around during the show. We’ll provide a script of prompts and a bag of surprises to make the movie interactive and even more fun!
Friday, March 29, 1-3 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

Meet Your Favorite Character Party
Would you like to meet some of your favorite book characters? Head to Willard Library and meet friends from some of your favorite books to kick off March is Reading Month. Read some of the library’s favorite read aloud books, play literacy-themed games, and create a fun craft. There will be book giveaways and an opportunity to take photos with the characters.
Friday, March 1, 10 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room

March is Reading Month
The library is the place to be on Saturdays during the month of March! After you check out books and materials from our amazing collection, make a book-themed craft with friends and family each week while supplies last.
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
March 2: DIY bookmarks
March 9: Make a lanyard holder for your library card
March 16: Decorate a library bag
March 23: Create a calming kit for your reading time
Downtown Children’s Room and Helen Warner Branch

Literacy Workshops with SLD Read
In honor of March is Reading Month, the library is collaborating with SLD Read to provide parents with skills to enhance their child’s literacy development. Both workshops are appropriate for those supporting children 8 or younger. Activities will be available for children whose parents or caregivers would like to attend the workshops.

Engage Their Brains: Multi-Sensory
An extensive overview of various multi-sensory activities to support early literacy.
Tuesday, March 12, 6-7:30 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

Engage Their Brains: Phonological Awareness
Intro to pre-reading skills, including rhyming and sound and letter relationships.
Tuesday, March 19, 6-7:30 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

The Floor is Lava
Can you escape the room and avoid touching the burning lava before the volcano erupts and covers everything? Join us this spring break for an exciting adventure in problem solving as you use only the items in the room to escape before it’s too late. Lava-themed books, activities, and crafts will be available while you wait for your turn in the volcanic field.
Tuesday, March 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

Sensory Playdate: Lava
We are erupting with excitement for this lava-themed sensory playdate. Discover fun facts about lava, enjoy lava-themed sensory experiences, and attempt the simple hot lava obstacle course.
Wednesday, March 27, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

Wimee Creates with Vehicles and Colors
Meet the creators of the hit PBS show Wimee’s Words! This highly engaging and interactive program is filled with songs, a read-aloud book, and collaborative visual storytelling. This program is best enjoyed by children ages 3-8.
Saturday, March 30, 11 a.m.
Downtown Programming Room

SLD Read

March is Reading Month

Wimee Creates with Vehicles and Colors
Your Go To Music Site
Create your own playlists, stream songs and albums, and download songs to keep all with your Willard Library card!

Teen Time
Come to the library and enjoy a cool space just for teens. Hang out with friends, play video games, and connect with leaders in the community.
Weekdays while school is in session, 2:30-5 p.m.
Downtown Lower Level
Lower Level will be closed during Spring Break, March 25-29, and follows the Battle Creek Public Schools calendar.

Delta GEMS
The Delta GEM Youth Initiative is designed for young women ages 14-18 in grades 9-12 who are interested in developing leadership skills. Mentors will provide guidance and support for girls actively pursuing college or career options, or those who need encouragement in their pursuit of higher learning.
Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
March 21, April 18, and May 16
Downtown Lower Level

Genealogy Cafe
Drop in weekly for family research help as well as tips and tricks for finding resources, organizing your research, and digitizing family documents.
Mondays, 2-5 p.m.
March 4, 11, 18, and 25
Helen Warner Branch

Teen Time
Come to the library and enjoy a cool space just for teens. Hang out with friends, play video games, and connect with leaders in the community.
Weekdays while school is in session, 2:30-5 p.m.
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Helen Warner Branch

Appy Hour
Drop in and learn how to install and use the library’s digital services, Libby, Hoopla, and Freegal. Our digital services librarian will show you how to comfortably use the apps and digital content.
Mondays, 5-8 p.m.
March 4, 11, 18, and 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
May 6, 13, 20, and 27
Helen Warner Branch

Genealogy Meet-Ups
Share family trees, resources, photographs, family history projects, and more. Meet other genealogy enthusiasts and get ideas and inspiration.
Monday, March 11, 2 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch
Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.
Meet at Oak Hill Cemetery (weather permitting)
Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.
Downtown Creative Space

Teens and Tweens
Fifth through 12th grades

Art Wednesdays
Unleash your creativity and enjoy your weekly art projects with Katherine from Art Brain.
Wednesdays while school is in session, 3 p.m.
Downtown Lower Level

Let’s Talk About It @ Willard Library
Each month, our social services librarian invites a local organization to discuss the resources they offer and services they provide.
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
March 7, April 4, and May 2
**Video premiere

Yoga for Healthy Aging with Julie Jackson
Certified yoga instructor Julie Jackson will guide us through a gentle practice. Mats, blankets, and blocks are available.
Thursdays, 10 a.m.
March 7, 14, 21, and 28
April 4, 11, 18, and 25
Downtown Lower Level

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Helen Warner Branch
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Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch
Things Worth Remembering

Archives make it possible to interrogate our past, understand our present, and imagine our future. Each month, Willard Library will share some of the gems that can be found in the city’s vast historical archives, shedding light on the people and events that made Battle Creek the best known city of its size in America.

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
March 26, April 30, and May 28
Downtown Information Desk

Women’s History Month: Author Susie Finkbeiner talks “The All-American”

Author Susie Finkbeiner will discuss her research for her newest release, (and 2024 Notable Michigan Author title) “The All-American,” as well as All American Girls Professional Baseball Leagues teams, particularly the Battle Creek Belles.

Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

Edward Lee, author of the 2024 Battle Creek Reads selection, “Buttermilk Graffiti,” will discuss his reflections on togetherness, heritage, and culture through cuisine.

Edward Lee is the author of “Smoke & Pickles” and upcoming “Bourbon Land”; chef and owner of 610 Magnolia, MilkWood, and Whiskey Dry in Louisville, Kentucky; and culinary director of Succotash in National Harbor, Maryland, and Penn Quarter, Washington, DC. He appears frequently in print and on television, including earning an Emmy nomination for his role in the Emmy Award–winning series The Mind of a Chef. Most recently, he wrote and hosted the feature documentary, Fermented. He lives in Louisville and Washington, DC, and you can find him on Instagram and Twitter @chefedwardlee.

Doors will open at 6 p.m.
Books will be available for purchase, and the author will be signing books after the event.

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.
Kool Family Community Center,
200 W. Michigan Ave.
Eclipse Watch Party
Join us at the Helen Warner Branch’s outdoor amphitheater for an eclipse watch party. Eclipse glasses will be available, one per person present while supplies last. Families are welcome!
Monday, April 8, 2-4 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch,
Dean O. Barnum Amphitheater

Music Book Bingo
BINGO with a twist! Match the songs played by professional musician Jeremy Allison to the song titles on your bingo card to win, and take home a special prize.
Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.
Downtown Lower Level

Armchair Detectives: True Crime Club
Love true crime or a good psychological thriller book? Join our Armchair Detectives True Crime Club!
Our club will dive into unsolved cases, showcase the library’s true crime materials, discuss modern investigation methods, and have a monthly reading recommendation for true crime and thriller lovers. This group will talk about real events, as well as fiction. However, we will not discuss current or ongoing local investigations out of respect for those involved.
Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.
Downtown Lower Level

Ioanne TenBrink Creative Space Open Lab
The creative space will be open for self service use or beginner orientations.
Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m.
March 5, 12, and 19
April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
May 7, 14, 21, and 28
Helen Warner Branch,
Ioanne TenBrink Creative Space

A Good Yarn
Join the weekly knitting and crochet club.
Sundays, 1 p.m.
March 3, 10, 17, and 24
April 7, 14, 21, and 28
Helen Warner Branch

Creative Space Open Lab
The creative space will be open for self service use and beginner orientations.
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m.
March 6, 13, 14, 20, and 21
April 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25
May 1, 2, 8, 15, 22, and 29
Downtown Creative Space

Saturday Sewing
Drop in all afternoon to work on a small sewing project.
Saturdays, 2-4:30 p.m.
April 20: Toiletry travel kit
May 18: Cord keeper
Downtown Creative Space

Stream T.V.
shows, movies and more from home using
Craftsy available on hoopla
Spring Splendor Craft Series

**Mixed Media Spring Canvas**
Paint a 9x12 canvas and embellish with vinyl, book pages, and more.
Friday, March 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch, Joanne TenBrink Creative Space

**Earth Day Flower Pot**
Paint a decorative flower pot, and receive a seed packet to plant.
Monday, April 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch, Joanne TenBrink Creative Space

**Spring Hair Clips**
Decorate and attach a laser engraved piece to design your own hair clips.
Friday, May 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch, Joanne TenBrink Creative Space

Blooming Book Art
Learn how to repurpose a discarded or damaged book into a spring book vase! Participants will learn how to fold book pages into the shape of a vase and decorate with paper flowers.
Saturday, May 11, 1-4 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch, Joanne TenBrink Creative Space
Register at tinyurl.com/WillardCalendar

Virtual Author Series

**Christopher Paolini**
Thursday, March 14, 4 p.m.

**Madeline Miller**
Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.

To access go to:
- willardlibrary.org
- Under the Borrowing tab click Go Live!

Virtual Author Series

or visit www.libraryc.org/willardlibrary

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Helen Warner Branch, Joanne TenBrink Creative Space
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Holiday Schedule
Willard Library and the Helen Warner Branch will be closed:
- Easter: Sunday, March 31
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 27
- Closed on Sundays starting in May

Program Notes
- *Live streaming on Willard's Facebook page, YouTube, and WillardLibrary.org
- **Video premiere on Willard’s Facebook page and YouTube channel

Willard Library
7 W. Van Buren St.
Battle Creek, MI 49017
269-968-8166

Monday - Thursday  9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday              9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday            9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday (Sept. - April)  1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Helen Warner Branch
36 Minges Creek Place
Battle Creek, MI 49015
269-968-8166, ext. 600

Monday - Thursday  9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday              9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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