



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

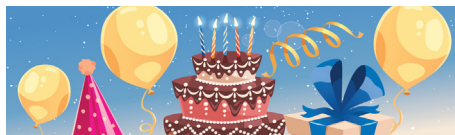
Explore the wonders of our galaxy in anticipation of the upcoming solar eclipse in April.

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 allllll 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 giraffe 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

Family Programs

Kindergarten and up



Bilingual Storytime with Señora Sonia and Miss Tynisha

Each storytime will include a fun story, opportunities to sing, dance, and create an amazing craft. Whether you are a native Spanish speaker or would like to learn some new Spanish words, this storytime has something for everyone.

Wednesday, March 6, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3, 6 p.m.

Downtown Programming Room



Hop into Storytime with the Easter Bunny

Spring is here, and so is the Easter Bunny! Join us for a story, crafts and activities, and a chance to take photos with the Easter Bunny.

Monday, March 25, 6 p.m.

Downtown Programming Room



Shadow Science

With all of the excitement surrounding the total solar eclipse, let's explore some of the science behind light and shadows. We will read about how shadows are created and test some fun shadow games, crafts, and experiments.

Monday, April 8, 6 p.m.

Downtown Programming Room

Meet the Author: Jack Cheng

In collaboration with Lakeview School District, meet author Jack Cheng. Cheng's book, "The Many Masks of Andy Zhou" was named NYPL's Best Book of the Year in 2023, Hear more about Cheng's Chinese-American upbringing, and his path to becoming an author. Copies of the book will be available at the event while supplies last. **This program is geared towards children 8 and up.**

Monday, April 22, 6 p.m.

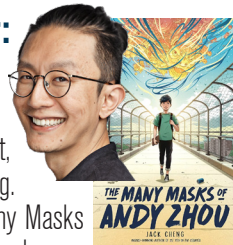
Downtown Programming Room

Books with Boone

Come read to Boone, Willard's four-legged friend, and his handler, Kim Haire. Boone is a certified therapy dog through Therapy Dog International that enjoys listening to a great story.

Monday, April 29, 5-6 p.m.

Downtown Children's Room



School Age

Second through fifth grade



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



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 11, 6 p.m.

Monday, April 1, 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



March is Reading Month



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

SLD IN READ

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.

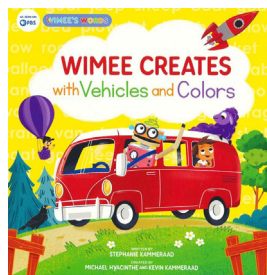
Tuesday, March 12, 6-7:30 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room



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



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

Spring Break Programs



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



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

TEENS AND TWEENS

Fifth through 12th grades



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



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

Your Go To Music Site

Create your own playlists,
stream songs and albums,
and download songs to keep all
with your Willard Library card!

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**



freegalmusic+

**Download
the app now!**



ADULT PROGRAMS



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**



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**

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



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**

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - noon

**March 5, 12, 19, and 26
April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
May 7, 14, 21, and 28
Downtown Creative Space**



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.

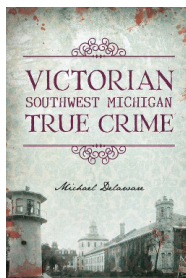
**Meet at Oak Hill Cemetery
(weather permitting)**

**Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch**



Victorian Southwest Michigan True Crime

Murder and mystery haunt the shadowy corners of the Victorian era in Southwest Michigan. Join Battle Creek author Michael Delaware on an adventure into the darkness of forgotten true crime stories. Mr. Delaware will have copies of his book available to purchase, and will do a book signing after the event.



Thursday, March 14, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

Saturday, March 23, 10 a.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



CareWell Services: Navigating Life with a Loved One with Dementia

Dementia is a challenging condition that impacts the whole family. Join Linda from CareWell services each month to learn more.

Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
Downtown Lower Level

March 27: The stigma of dementia

April 24: Activities for those with dementia

May 22: Navigating challenging behaviors and identifying triggers

Call CareWell Services at 269-966-2450 to register.

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



Author Talk with Edward Lee

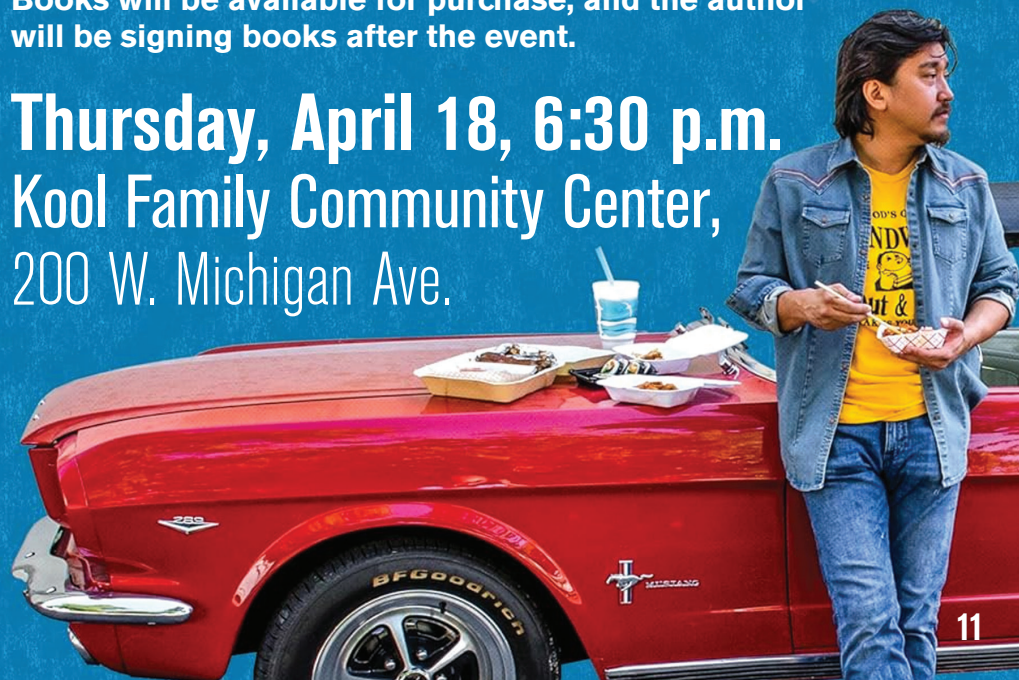
Edward Lee, author of the 2024 Battle Creek Reads selection, "Buttermilk Graffiti," will discuss his reflections on togetherness, heritage, and culture through cuisine.

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.





Under the Radar Michigan Returns!

We welcome UTR hosts Tom Daldin and Jim Edelman back to the Creek for an evening of laughs and inspiration at Kellogg Auditorium. The longtime friends and authors, who recorded an episode here last summer, will share the story of how the Michigan travel program started and why they are still at it.

Thursday, April 4, 6-8 p.m.
W.K. Kellogg Auditorium
 50 W. Van Buren St.

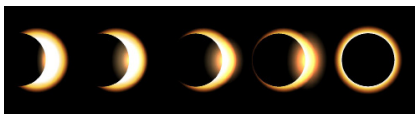
Noon Films at the Helen Warner Branch

Join us each week at noon as we showcase thought-provoking and captivating films carefully selected to broaden horizons and spark meaningful conversations.

Fridays, Noon
April 5, 12, 19, and 26
Helen Warner Branch



Stream T.V. shows, movies and more from home using
hoopla



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

Creative Services

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



Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
March 6, 13, 20, and 27
April 3, 10, 17, and 24
May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
Downtown Pierce Room

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, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21
April 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25
May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30
Downtown Creative Space



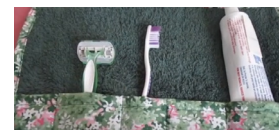
Maker Mondays

Mondays, 4-7 p.m.
March 4, 11, and 18:
 Sublimation Garden Flags
April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29:
 Sublimation Air Freshener
May 6, 13, and 20:
 Sublimation Cosmetic Bag
Downtown Creative Space

Joanne 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,
Joanne TenBrink 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

Craftsy
available on
hoopla





Spring Splendor Craft Series

Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.

March 7: Tiny Art Show Kickoff

March 21: Diamond Dots Bookmarks

April 4: DIY Garden Fairy Wand

April 18: Stained Glass Suncatcher

May 2: Bee Felting Kit

May 16: Spring Adult Coloring Night

May 30: Button Canvas

Helen Warner Branch,
Joanne TenBrink Creative Space



Craftopia



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 attached 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

Virtual Author Series

To access go to:

- willardlibrary.org
 - Under the **Borrowing** tab click **Go Live!**
- Virtual Author Series**

Each month, enjoy a range of talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders. All from your computer or mobile device!



Christopher Paolini

Thursday, March 14, 4 p.m.



Madeline Miller

Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Borrowing

Online Library Card Registration

Library Downloads

Suggest a Title

Book Club in a Bag

Battle Creek Reads

Virtual Author Series

Favorite Authors Club

Books by Mail

Personalized Reading Suggestions

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



or visit www.libraryc.org/willardlibrary

Sign up for our newsletter

Get updates on
Library news, new
books, and more
when you scan
the QR code.



*All you need to sign
up is your email address*

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.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday (Sept. - April)	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.



willardlibrary.org • 269-968-8166