Welcome to the Muskegon Area District Library first district wide newsletter edition. In our eleventh year as a District Library, we are proud to serve the community with tremendous life-long learning opportunities all year long.

During the past year, we have seen exciting new programs and services offered for our patrons and friends. Through our 10 community branches, we help transform our communities by providing many options for continuous learning. And by providing these opportunities through knowledge and information and access for everyone, we all benefit. In this newsletter you will read about the many programs planned for your learning and enjoyment. I hope you will take advantage of them and visit us at any one of our neighborhood gathering places — your local branch Library.

Some of the significant highlights this past year included new services and programs for children:

- Last June, "Gordon" from Sesame Street came to town and was a big hit with kids. Hundreds of people, families and children attended the lively programs held at the Dalton, Muskegon Heights, Muskegon Township, Norton Shores, and North Muskegon branches, as well as at Barnes & Noble. Fans joined Gordon singing "Sing, Sing a Song," dancing and later had their pictures taken with him and received autographs.

- Early Childhood Literacy AWE stations — The Early Literacy Station, designed specifically for our youngest learners, ages 2–8, with over 4,000 learning activities, were added. The fun, interactive and engaging content spans all seven curricular areas: math, science and nature, social studies and geography, reading, art and music, writing and computer skills, and reference. We added these stations at the Dalton, Muskegon Heights, North Muskegon and Ravenna branches. The Norton Shores branch has two stations as well.

- Early literacy is a high priority in Muskegon County and impacts the future growth of our community. In 2015, nearly 8,000 parents and children participated in our many Storytime programs. We engage with our youngest learners, through our Baby Time Program for children zero to 18 months, our Tiny Tots Program for children zero to 36 months, our Toddler Program for two- to three-year-olds, and our Preschool Program for three- to five-year-olds. Through music, rhythm, rhymes, books, crafts, movement, and pre-reading games, we increase children’s exposure to books and early literacy activities.

FAMILY CONCERT WITH JIM GILL

Saturday, July 30 at 11:00 am
Muskegon Township Branch

Join us for the first ever MADL-wide end of Summer Reading Celebration for all ages — centrally located at the Muskegon Township Branch.

Jim Gill, award-winning musician and author, offers more than a show to watch. Each concert is an opportunity for family play! Get ready to sing, clap, dance and sneeze along. Gill’s distinctive music play creates the spirit of a family room in the concert hall and is an invitation to children, parents and grandparents to sing and play together! Check out Jim Gill’s CDs at any MADL Branch.

As always, this event is free and open to the public.

MILLAGE ELECTION – TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, Muskegon County residents will vote on an operating millage renewal and increase. The proposed 1,249 millage proposal will renew the current 0.749 mills with an additional 0.5 mills and provide funding for a period of 10 years through 2026. The existing millage provides funding through December 31, 2016. The Muskegon Area District Library will cease to operate without a millage renewal.

WHAT WILL THE MILLAGE FUND?

The Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) property tax millage provides 83% of the operating funds for extensive services offered at 10 community branches. Services include on-line and in-branch materials, programs, technology and staff. A millage renewal will provide:

- Early Literacy Outreach — MADL provides educational and reading programs for the community’s youngest learners through extensive summer reading and storyline programs. Plans are being made to add more computers and create new learning spaces for children.

For more information: www.madl.org/millage
Summer Reading Club
Kick-off Carnival
Friday, June 10
12:00 – 2:00 pm
North Muskegon Branch
Start off the summer with a BANG! Join us at the North Muskegon Branch to celebrate the beginning of our Summer Reading Club for ALL AGES. There will be a bounce house, treasure train, tattoos, carnival games, a photo booth and PRIZES. This is a community event with local churches and businesses participating. Some snacks and drinks will be provided while supplies last.

Summer Reading Kick-off
Monday, June 13
10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Join us as we celebrate Summer Reading. Sign up for Summer Reading anytime starting today. Bring a t-shirt to decorate. This year’s theme for Summer Reading is On Your Mark, Get Set, READ.

Paint a Plaque for Father’s Day
Tuesday, June 14
10:30 – 11:30 am
North Muskegon Branch
Surprise your dad with a personalized plaque that you design for Father’s Day. Surprise your dad with a personalized plaque that you design for Father’s Day.

Summer Reading Orientation
Thursday, June 16
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Kids ages 7 – 12 will learn about the Summer Reading Program and prepare their own personal fitness/good eating goal sheets. No registration needed.

Joel Tacey’s Page Racer Comedy Show
Monday, June 20
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
SPRINT, RUN and LEAP into books with Jumpin’ Joel as he brings eight amazing books to life. Hilarious comedy, dazzling magic, wacky stunts, and lots of audience participation make this program a blast.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Jump Rope
Thursday, June 23
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
See a jump rope team in action and learn how jumping rope can be good exercise. Kids ages 7 – 12 in attendance will get their own jump ropes while supplies last. Call the Library to register.

Wiggle and Shout Dance Party
Monday, June 27
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
Think dance parties are boring? Think again. Parents and kids are welcome to join in the fun as we wiggle, stretch, bounce, and dance. Ages 3 and up.

Make a Fairy Garden
Tuesday, June 28
10:30 am
North Muskegon Branch
Make a miniature fairy garden perfect for your room. Prepare to get your hands dirty. All supplies will be provided. Call the Library to register.

Urban Gardening
Thursday, June 30
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Learn how to set up an urban garden or flower pot garden. Make a sun visor to shade your eyes while you’re gardening. Call the Library to register.

Frisbee Toss
Thursday, July 7
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Decorate your own frisbee and use it in the Frisbee Toss Competition. The top three winners will receive ribbons. Call the Library to register.

Movie Time
Friday, July 8
1:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Watch a great kids’ movie. Popcorn will be provided. Call the Library to register.

Kids Yoga with Muskegon Yoga
Monday, July 11
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
Kids can bring a yoga mat or beach towel and learn some great exercise moves. Parents are welcome to try as well. Registration required – space is limited.

Yoga for Kids
Tuesday, July 12
11:00 am
North Muskegon Branch
Traditional yoga poses are brought to life to help kids cultivate a deeper understanding of their environment and themselves while developing strength, flexibility, coordination and balance — in both body and mind. Please bring a towel or yoga mat. For kids 8 – 12 years old. Call the Library to register.

Rubber Ducky Relay Race
Thursday, July 14
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Let’s see whose rubber ducky is the fastest in the Rubber Ducky Relay Race. After the race, you can make a craft. Call the Library to register.

Kids Karate and Self Defense
Saturday, July 16
11:00 am
North Muskegon Branch
Kids 6 – 10 join us to learn effective street proofing and life skills in a fun environment. Emphasis is placed on respect and self-discipline while learning basic self-defense.

The Fresh Food Fairy, Hether Frayer
Monday, July 18
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
The Fresh Food Fairy is here to share information on making healthy eating fun! We will be trying some bicycle-blender smoothies as part of this program. Registration required – space is limited.

Let’s Line Dance
Thursday, July 21
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Did you know line dancing is great exercise? Join the dance party and learn more dance moves. Call the Library to register.

Karate Demonstration and Mini-Lesson
Monday, July 25
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
Trisha and her students from MzMeogi’s Karate will demonstrate their skill at karate and share a few pointers.

End of Summer Reading Party
Thursday, July 28
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Muskegon Heights Branch
Wrap up your summer reading with reward certificates, trophies, and treats. Call the Library to register.

Monday Movie Mania
Mondays, June 6 – August 29
3:30 pm
Ravenna Branch
Spend your Monday afternoons kicking back at the Library with a great kids friendly movie.

STORYTIMES

Baby Time
First & Third Saturdays
June 4 – August 20
10:00 am
Norton Shores Branch
Aimed exclusively for infants ages 0 to 18 months and their caregivers. Baby Time is a great chance to introduce babies to music, rhythm and rhyme – all important pre-lingual and pre-literacy skills. No registration required.

Pajama Night Storytime
Mondays, June 20 – July 25
6:30 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Miss Gillian will share books, music, crafts and fun with families. No registration required.

THE STRIPED CIRCUS
An amazing display of circus entertainment. See circus acts featuring physical fun, object manipulation and ground acrobatics. (No circus animals, just circus people.)

Monday, June 13
10:30 am Dalton Branch
1:00 pm Holton Branch
3:00 pm Montague Branch
Tuesday, June 14
10:30 am Norton Heights Branch
3:00 pm Muskegon Heights Branch

Wednesday, June 15
10:30 am Muskegon Township Branch
1:00 pm Fruitport Branch
(Special location, 4548 Airline Road)
3:00 pm Norton Shores Branch

Thursday, June 16
10:30 am North Muskegon Branch
1:00 pm Egelston Branch
BINGO
Play BINGO for a chance to win a great prize.
Monday, July 18
10:30 am Dalton Branch
1:00 pm Holton Branch
3:00 pm Montague Branch
Tuesday, July 19
10:30 am Ravenna Branch
1:00 pm Muskegon Heights Branch
Wednesday, July 20
10:30 am Muskegon Township Branch
1:00 pm Fruitport Branch
(Special location, 4548 Airline Road)
3:00 pm Norton Shores Branch
Thursday, July 21
10:30 am North Muskegon Branch
1:00 pm Egelston Branch

BIRDS OF PREY
The Outdoor Discovery Center of Holland will bring live Michigan birds of prey to the Library.
Monday, July 25
10:30 am Dalton Branch
1:00 pm Holton Branch
3:00 pm Montague Branch
Tuesday, July 26
10:30 am Ravenna Branch
1:00 pm Muskegon Heights Branch
Wednesday, July 27
10:30 am Muskegon Township Branch
1:00 pm Fruitport Branch
(Special location, 4548 Airline Road)
3:00 pm Norton Shores Branch
Thursday, July 28
10:30 am North Muskegon Branch
1:00 pm Egelston Branch

FAMILY CONCERT WITH JIM GILL
Join us for the first ever MADL-wide end of Summer Reading Celebration for all ages—centrally located at the Muskegon Township Branch.

What is the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped?
How do you keep reading when you can't see the print or have difficulty holding printed materials? Do you know someone who can no longer read print? Don't let failing eyesight ruin reading enjoyment. Or perhaps you know someone who has difficulty holding printed materials because of a physical disability. The braille and talking book program gives you the independence to enjoy the gift of reading again.

What is the Braille and Talking Book Program?
The braille and talking book program is a free Library service administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress. NLS works with a network of regional and sub-regional libraries to provide this service to eligible individuals who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a visual or physical disability. Braille and talking books are circulated to eligible readers by postage-free mail. Talking books are also available on-line through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.

MADL serves as a sub-regional Advisory Outreach Center for this postage-free mail service. Many popular titles are available in braille and/or audio formats. Books are selected for the NLS collection on a basis of their appeal across a wide range of interests. Best sellers, biographies and other nonfiction, fiction (mysteries, westerns, romance, inspirational) are in great demand. The collection also includes books in Spanish.

Books for all ages are available in audio and braille formats sent through the mail and for download. The audio books are played using an NLS-issued portable digital player loaned to the registered borrower. Eligible borrowers enroll for the service by completing an application which has been signed by their healthcare professional.

For more information or to request an application, please call 231-737-6310. Information including tutorials, links to state and federal websites and an application are also on our website, www.madl.org. As an Advisory Outreach Center we serve Muskegon and Ottawa Counties and also assist folks from other counties.
Cut it Out

Monday, June 27
2:00 pm
North Muskegon Branch
Bring a plain, solid colored tee and make a cool cut-out design you can wear over another tee or tank top. Instructions and supplies (except the shirts) will be provided. Call the Library to register.

Teen Book Club

Friday, July 1
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Pax by Sara Pennypacker — When war turns his family upside down and he has to move, Peter is forced to give up his pet fox Pax. Neither can stand being apart from the other, so Peter strikes out alone to find Pax.

Wilderness Safety

Friday, July 8
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
What could go wrong on a hike? If you’re not prepared, a lot! We will cover wilderness safety basics and test your skills with a game.

Cupcake Wars

Monday, July 11
2:00 pm
North Muskegon Branch
Do you think you have what it takes to be the cupcake champ? Bring your inspiration; we’ll provide the cupcakes and some interesting items for decoration. Best decorator wins a gift card. Call the Library to register.

Off the Cuff LEDs

Friday, June 17
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Start off the summer and the National Week of Making right with light-up cuffs. Sewing skills are a plus, but not required.

Create a Sharpie Mug

Monday, June 13
2:00 pm
North Muskegon Branch
Funky, artsy, funny — make your mug any way you’d like. Lots of ideas, materials and instructions will be provided. Call the Library to register.

Teen Book Club: Manga Mash

Saturday, June 18
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Bring your favorite manga or graphic novel and tell us about it. Enjoy the books and Japanese snacks.

Iron Chef: Trail Mix Edition

Friday, July 22
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
Taking a hike this summer? Need a snack to keep your energy going? Mix and munch your own customized trail mixes. Peanut-free program, but teens with allergies should be aware we will be mixing trail mix components together.

Teen Book Club

Saturday, July 23
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney - Amira’s village in Sudan has been attacked by militants and what’s left of her family travels to a refugee camp. The chance to study gives Amira hope.

Kendama Club

Tuesday, July 26
3:00 pm
Fruitport Branch
What is a Kendama? It’s a Japanese skill toy (think of it as advanced ball in a cup). Learn tricks from a Kendama pro from MacKite in Grand Haven. If you have a Kendama, bring it. If you don’t have one, don’t worry, we will have some available to use. Teens will be entered in a drawing to win a Kendama. Call the Library to register.

Afternoon Movie

Friday, July 29
2:00 pm
Fruitport Branch
Join us for a laid back movie afternoon. We will have a vote on which movie to watch when teens arrive. Popcorn provided.

Teen Volunteer Party

Monday, August 8
2:00 pm
North Muskegon Branch
We want to thank all of the teens for volunteering at the North Muskegon Branch Library this summer by having a special party just for you. Make sure to register for this fun event.

Teen Book Club

Saturday, August 20
2:00 pm
Norton Shores Branch
The 5th Wave by Robert Yancy – Ohio teen Cassie struggles to reunite with her family in the midst of an alien invasion causing massive destruction.

NEW Teen Bookclub Chew & Chat for Middle Schoolers

North Muskegon Branch
Join us to discuss some great books and enjoy a yummy snack. Copies of the book will be available for check out at the circulation desk at the Library.

Teen Book Club

Monday, June 20, 2:00 pm
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Monday, August 15, 2:00 pm
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

MAKE IT @ MADL: DUCT TAPE GYM/BEACH BAGS

Come to the Library to make a Duct Tape Bag to use to carry your gear to the gym or to the beach. Please register at your Library.

Tuesday, July 5
1:00 pm Muskegon Township Branch
3:00 pm Muskegon Heights Branch

Wednesday, July 6
1:00 pm Big Rapids Branch
3:00 pm Ravenna Branch

Wednesday, July 13
1:30 pm Holton Branch
1:00 pm Dalton Branch
3:30 pm Muskegon Heights Branch

Thursday, July 14
3:00 pm Fruitport Branch
(Special location, 4146 Airline Road)

Friday, July 15
2:00 pm Norton Shores Branch

Monday, July 25
200 pm North Muskegon Branch
Thursday, July 28.

A record sheet. Prizes will be awarded a pedometer (while supplies last) and a free concert featuring Muskegon’s own country-western favorite, Silverado. Weather permitting, the music will be outside at the Library, providing plenty of space to dance to your favorites in the summer breeze. No registration required.

Responding to Your Elected Officials Tuesday, July 26 6:15 pm

Norton Shores Branch Your elected official has responded to your question. Now what? This follow-up session with staff from the Middle Class Empowerment Zone organization will cover the next steps to take in getting back to your elected official. Call the Library to register.

Brown Bag Reading August 1–31 Norton Shores Branch All ages

Fight the end of summer reading program blues with Brown Bag Reading! You don’t know what the book looks like, you don’t know the title and you don’t know the author. The Library dares you to check it out! It might not end up being the book for you or it could be your favorite book of the summer. You could also win a surprise just for taking a chance!

Canine Good Citizen Testing Tuesday, August 2 1:00–4:00 pm

Norton Shores Branch Have you ever wondered how trained your dog really is? We are offering the Canine Good Citizen Testing for your dog. Please call Paula Smith at 616-430-0297 to register for a 30-minute time slot.

The MAD(L) Crafters Recycle Your Denim Bring a pair or two of your old jeans and make your choice of two practical projects with help from crafter extraordinaire Jamie Jewell. Call the Library to register.

Wednesday, August 3 6:00 pm

Norton Shores Branch Make a letter composed and ready to send at the end. Call the Library to register.

Wednesday, July 13 6:30 pm

Norton Shores Branch Are you a veteran? Learn how planning for your final wishes can shield your family from unnecessary emotional and financial stress. Contact your elected official for a follow-up session with staff from the Middle Class Empowerment Zone. No registration required.

Norton Shores Branch

Wednesday, July 13 7:00 pm

Get Read for Vegas This Fall! Wednesday, August 10 7:00 pm

Norton Shores Branch

Before your next visit to Vegas, pick up tips and tricks for making your trip the best ever from Lou Gifford, author of Las Vegas – Your Way. The Downtown Edition! Vegas veteran Gifford provides insider information on the entertainment options Las Vegas offers, including dining, attractions, hotels and casinos. Copies will be available for purchase and book signing will follow the presentation. No registration required.

Third Books in Bloom Flower Show: Poetry, Prose & Posies Sponsored by the Muskegon County Garden Club

Wednesday, August 24 3:30 – 7:00 pm

and

Thursday, August 25 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Norton Shores Branch

The Tuesday Yoga Class will host the Muskegon County Garden Club’s annual Standard Flower Show. Enjoy spectacular displays of flowers, fruits and vegetables and compare your favorites to the judges’ prize-winning choices.

SUMMER BOOK TALKS

Montague Branch Library June 29, 6:30 pm

Burb Vander Molen, author of Discovering Michigan County by County

“Norton Shores has a Unique Story” Special kick-off event at the White Lake Community Library, 3900 White Lake Drive Co-sponsored by Friends of the Muskegon Branch Library and Friends of White Lake Community Library

July 6, 10:00 am

Don Yates, author The Medical History of Muskegon County

July 13, 10:00 am

Marshia Reed, Beyond Steinbeck: Literature from the Great Depression

July 20, 10:00 am

Barbara Bell, author and owner of Cherry Point Market

Cloud Cottage: a novel

July 27, 10:00 am


August 3, 7:00 pm

A Special Evening Book Talk

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A Special Evening Book Talk
Focus on Ravenna Branch Library

Libraries across the country are—transforming. Everywhere you see libraries making capital investments to meet the changes needed in the twenty-first century. These changes include the rapid evolution in technology, more community gathering spaces, study areas and media centers.

This places demands on old buildings that need more flexible space or even additional space to provide essential services. No branch better exemplifies that change at MADL than the Ravenna Branch. In 2012 a young girl went to Storytime and after it was finished she saw her grandfather. She told him she loved Storytime but it was “too crowded.” The grandfather was Greg Russell, a township trustee. Russell attended Storytime the next week with his granddaughter.

What he saw shocked him. The kids were crowded into a small space in the Library and many kids were sitting on each other’s laps. Immediately Russell left the building and went into the parking lot next to the Library and paced off the square footage to increase the size of the building. He then called a contractor friend in town and asked what it would cost to enclose the space. Thus began the process of doubling the size of the Library.

Working together, Ravenna Township and Muskegon Area District Library officials came up with a plan and the community got excited and rallied to support it with donations. As momentum built and the project moved forward, there was some unexpected “serendipity” that helped the project’s success. MADL suggested that the Township contact Baker College in Muskegon to see if their Interior Design Department could have students design the interior space. Baker College jumped on the opportunity and their students designed a modern layout for the branch. Then someone discovered that a local bookstore was closing and they had furnishings for sale. All of the interior matching furniture in the branch came from that sale, including the circulation desk.

The branch now holds an expanded children’s space for all size gatherings. It has a room with a fireplace for community gatherings or meetings, which includes a projector and screen for movies or presentations. It has more space for public computers and offers Wi-Fi. Local contractors did all of the work. According to Ravenna Township Treasurer Sonja Patterson, “We stayed on budget, in the black.”

Unfortunately Mr. Russell passed away before the project was completed, but his family was at the ribbon-cutting to honor him. A memorial plaque in his honor hangs on the wall at the Ravenna branch. Russell attended Storytime the next week with his granddaughter. Immediately Russell left the library. The next week he attended Storytime with his granddaughter. She told him she loved Storytime but it was “too crowded.” The grandfather was Greg Russell, a township trustee. Russell attended Storytime the next week with his granddaughter.

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LOVE YOUR LIBRARY!

Did you know that over 420,000 people visit the Muskegon Area District Library each year? Share the love for libraries and pick up your LOVE MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY window decal today!