

UNEARTH A STORY™

2026 SUMMER
BROCHURE



ART BY TOM BONSON, ©CSLP



Grand Ledge Area District Library

131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge, MI | 517-627-7014 | gladl.org

ONGOING

Picnic Playdate

Tuesdays | 11am | Open to Children of All Ages

Follow the little red wagon to the Trinity Episcopal Church playground for a family storytime filled with stories, activities, and a snack! Rain location: 1931 Room.

Wacousta Picnic Playdate Family StoryTime

Thursdays 6/18 – 8/13 | 11am – 12pm | Open to Children of All Ages | Wac. Branch

Meet at our NEW Wacousta branch to enjoy fun and stories at an outdoor family storytime filled with different themed activities. For families with children of all ages. Families may bring chairs, a picnic lunch too. Will relocate inside if there's poor weather.

Minecraft Mania

Tuesday June 9, July 14, August 11 | 6pm - 8pm

Come out and join us for an evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our Minecraft server set up and the laptops ready to go. No experience needed!

Adult Bingo

Wednesday June 10, July 8, August 12 | 2:30pm - 4pm

Join us for a fun and engaging afternoon of Bingo complete with light refreshments and prizes for the lucky winners! No registration required, just show up ready to have fun!

Code Club!

Wednesdays | 6pm - 7pm | Kids 3rd Grade+

Get ready to create, play, and explore coding at Code Club, where kids of all experience levels learn fun, kid-chosen tech skills each week using easy, colorful block-based programming! Find out more at gladl.org/project/learncoding

Crafts To-Go | Fridays June 5, 19; July 10, 24; August 7, 21

Make fun crafts or flex your science muscles with our kits!

Baby Stories & Play

Saturday June 20, July 18, August 15 | 10:30am - 11:30am | Ages 0 - 2

We'll read a story, sing and rhyme together, and have fun while learning and playing. We'll end with time for caregivers to socialize and babies to play.

Capital Area Humane Society Shelter Supplies Drive | June 1 – June 30

Drop off donations at GLADL for delivery to CAHS. Thank you for helping!

Downtown Dino Quest | June 15 – July 18

Join the library and our downtown businesses for a roaring good scavenger hunt. Visit the participating businesses, find the dinosaurs, collect a card-collect them all and return to the library for a dinorific prize and a chance to win our grand prize.

Grand Ledge Community Food & Personal Supplies Drive | July 1 – July 31

Bring all donations to GLADL for delivery to the GL SDA Food Bank. Thanks for helping!

Messy Play Fun Days

Fridays July 10 - August 21 | 11am – 1pm

Messy outdoor summer fun! Kids can play with chalk, bubbles, goop, squirt bottles, big trucks, mud, and more. Great for manipulative play and sensory engagement.

JUNE

Unearth a Story — Illustrated History of the Soo Locks

Wednesday June 3 | 6pm - 8pm

Deep dive into the history of the Soo Locks with Chief Park Ranger Michelle Briggs. Historic photos, dating to the 1860s, review the construction of the eight locks built on the St. Mary's River and put them into the context of world & US events.

Unearth a Story - Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party!

Monday June 8 | 11am - 1pm

Explore dinosaurs, fossils, rocks, worms and more from under the earth! Meet local chalk artist Ryan Holmes, creating Dinosaur Sidewalk Art for kids to color! Stop in to pick up an SRP starter kit with your reading log and surprises inside*, make a Dinosaur craft*, decorate a dinosaur scale, and enjoy a tasty treat too! *While supplies last.

Explore Dinosaurs with Paleo Joe*

Monday June 8 | 12pm – 1pm

Have a Dino Adventure with a real paleontologist! Paleo Joe takes you on a trip back in time to learn about the victims and perpetrators, life and death of the prehistoric.



Rock Painting

Thursday June 11 | 6pm – 7pm

Paint a fun design, favorite character, or create a kindness rock with an uplifting saying or design to hide around town for someone to find and brighten their day.

Red Cross Babysitting Workshop [Reg. Req.]

Saturday June 13 | 10am – 3pm | Teens 12+

Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques, diapering, age-appropriate activities, rescue breathing, the Heimlich maneuver, and basic first aid skills needed while babysitting. Upon workshop completion, students receive an American Red Cross babysitting course certificate.

Yankee Doodle Day Decorate a Bike Parade

Saturday June 13 | 10am – 11am | Families with Kids

We'll supply the flags, garland, crepe paper and more to "Yankee-Doodle" up your bike, then ride with us in the parade!

Yankee Doodle Days-Gone-By

Saturday June 13 | 12pm – 2pm

YDD has been part of Grand Ledge since 1982. So many years and so many memories, let's share them! Come to the GLADL Digi-Lab to digitize your photos, videos, and audio recordings from past YDD and donate a copy to our community archive.

Frog Walk

Saturday June 13 | 7:30pm – 9pm | Fox Park

Hop along with us for a Frog Walk! We'll start by learning about different local frog species and the unique calls they make. Then we'll take a guided nature hike to listen for frogs in their natural habitat and try to identify who's calling. A fun, educational experience for nature lovers of all ages—bring your curiosity and your listening ears!

**This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.*

JUNE

Air Dry Clay Diffusers

Monday June 15 | 2:30pm – 3:30pm | Teens

Just like archaeologists uncover objects that tell stories about the past, you'll design a clay piece that reflects your own style and story. Once dry, add a few drops of your favorite essential oil and enjoy the scent.

Switch Games: Super Smash Bros

Tuesday June 16 | 2pm – 4pm

We'll play Super Smash Bros this afternoon! Feel free to bring your Switch to play between your turns on the library's Switch on the big screen. All skill levels welcome!

Create Worm Motels [Reg. Req.]

Wednesday June 17 | 11am – 12pm | Ages 4 - 12 | Wacousta Branch

Who says worms can't relax in a cozy motel? Get up close and explore a worm's world by building a temporary worm habitat and learning about the needs of all living things.

Unearth a Story: Dinosaur Tales [Reg. Req.]

Wednesday June 17 | 2pm – 3pm | Ages 5 - 12

Kids will have a great time learning more about dinosaurs, the science of Paleontology, and trying their hand at a dinosaur dig! Finders-keepers!

Diggin' for Dinos! Storytelling and Fossilized Fun!

Thursday June 18 | 11am – 12pm | Wacousta Branch

Penny Avery and Patty Rockafellow bring a whirlwind of stories, tunes, and hands-on crafts, they're ready to take your kids on a dino-mite adventure through time! Kids will create their own plaster dinosaur & a dazzling suncatcher to take home!



Create Your Own "Jurassic" World: (Toy) Dinosaur Photo Workshop [Reg. Req.]

Thursday June 18 | 6pm – 7:30pm | Ages 4+ with Adult

Children (adults too!) love to use toys, models, and figures to create imaginary scenes. Award-winning video producer Kevin Epling hosts this fun experience in small scale photography. Kids and adults can bring their toys and models (3"-7" size works best!), and Kevin will have "sets" in place for them to work with as they take photos!

Science Heroes: Digging It!

Monday June 22 | 2pm – 3pm | Willow Ridge Elm.

Unearth your curiosity as we dig into the incredible science that's all around us! Watch as they harness the power of pressure and energy with their Toilet Tornado, help them experiment with physical vs. chemical changes with their Disappearing Polymer, and more! Tons of audience interaction and opportunities for your children to volunteer.

Nerf Battle Returns! [Reg. Req.]

Monday June 22 | 6pm – 7pm | Ages 6+ | Wacousta Branch*

Run, dodge, dive & try to out-wit the competition during NERF Mobile Games! From 'Capture the Flag' to 'Eliminator' to 'Zombies Vs. Humans,' players will put their physical and mental skills to the test, indoors or out. All equipment supplied. *Visit our GLADL Facebook for any weather changes or updates.



JUNE

Dinosaur Stained Glass Art for Teens

Tuesday June 23 | 3pm – 4pm | Teens

Use a photo frame, paint, and glue to create a dinosaur themed faux stained glass art.

Intro to Fly Fishing

Wednesday June 24 | 6pm – 8pm | Ages 12+ | Gloria Miller Park (Wacousta Rd.)

Learn equipment: fly rods, reels, lines, leaders, flies, and hands on fly casting instruction. Club provided fly rods, courtesy of Red Cedar Fly Fishers. Weather perm.

Meet Michigan Turtles

Thursday June 25 | 2pm – 3pm

Happy Snapper Rescue organizer and educator Sarah Matuszak will bring LIVE turtles for us to see, enjoy, and learn about!



Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime

Thursday June 25 | 6pm – 7pm

Celebrate author/illustrator Eric Carle on his birthday and join us for a storytime featuring the Very Hungry Caterpillar and other beloved Carle book characters!

Let's "Unearth A Story": The Amazing Geology of the Ledges

Friday June 26 | 6pm – 8pm | Lincoln Brick Park

Learn the amazing geology of Grand Ledge with the Michigan Geological Survey: John Augustine Lodise (MGS geologist) and Dr. Peter Voice (Professor of Geology at WMU).

Escape Room - Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge [Reg. Req.]

Friday June 26 – Monday June 29 | Time slots during library hours

Can you uncover the secrets of Grand Ledge's past? Dig through clues, puzzles, and hidden artifacts to reveal pieces of the town's history before time is up.

Dinosaur Cousins? See Alligators & Friends Live!*

Monday June 29 | 2pm – 3pm | Willow Ridge Elm.

Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary will offer an educational, up-close experience for all ages, featuring rescued reptiles and alligators during this live animal program!



Junior Geologist**

Tue. June 30 | 2pm – 4pm

Ages 6 - 12 w/ Caregivers

Dig in a clay slab for REAL fossils, minerals, and maybe even animal bones using excavation hand tools. ID and keep what you find!

My First Geology Dig**

Tue. June 30 | 2pm – 4pm

Ages 3 - 5 w/ Caregivers

Younger kids will be able to enjoy digging in soft sand for plastic dinosaur skeletons, sparkly rocks, and more. Each digger will get keep 2 or 3 of their favorite items.

Be a Rockhound: Dig for Crystals and Bones**

Tue. June 30 | 6pm – 8pm

Teens & Adults

Dig in a clay slab for REAL crystals and animal bones/skulls using excavation hand tools. ID and keep what you find!

**This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.*

***Please wear clothing that can get wet/dirty for this event!*

JUNE

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | 2 Picnic Storytime 11am | 3 Code Club! 6pm History of the Soo Locks 6pm | 4 Crafting for a Cause 4pm | 5 Craft To-Go | 6 Wacousta Block Party 3pm |
| 8 SRP Kick-Off Party! 11am Paleo Joe 12pm | 9 Picnic Storytime 11am Minecraft Mania 6pm | 10 Adult Bingo 2:30pm Code Club! 6pm | 11 Rock Painting 6pm | 12 | 13 RC Babysitting Wrks.[Reg. Req.] 10am YDD Bike Parade 10am Days-Gone-By 12pm Frog Walk 7:30pm |
| 15 Air Dry Clay Diffusers 2:30pm | 16 Picnic Storytime 11am Switch Games: SSB 2pm | 17 Create Worm Motels [Reg. Req.] 11am Dinosaur Tales [Reg. Req.] 2pm Code Club! 6pm | 18 Wac. Storytime 11am Diggin' / Dinos! 11am Crafting / Cause 4pm Dino Toy Photo Wrkshop [Reg. Req.] 6pm | 19 Craft to-Go | 20 Baby Stories & Play 10:30am |
| 22 Science Heroes: Digging It! 2pm Nerf Battle Returns! [Reg. Req.] 6pm | 23 Picnic Storytime 11am Dinosaur Stained Glass Art for Teens 3pm | 24 Code Club! 6pm Intro to Fly Fishing 6pm | 25 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am Meet MI Turtles 2pm Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime 6pm | 26 Escape Room - Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge [Reg. Req.] The Amazing Geology of the Ledges 6pm | 27 Escape Room - Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge [Reg. Req.] |
| 29 Escape Room - Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge [Reg. Req.] See Alligators & Friends Live 2pm | 30 Picnic Storytime 11am Junior Geologist & First Geology Dig 2pm Dig for Crystals & Bones 6pm | | | | |

JULY

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 Dinosaur Painting 2pm Code Club! 6pm | 2 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am Crafting for a Cause 4pm | 3 CLOSED | 4 CLOSED |
| 6 T-Rex Counted Cross Stitch 6pm | 7 Picnic Storytime 11am Dino-rama Dioramas 3pm | 8 Adult Bingo 2:30pm Code Club! 6pm | 9 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am Secrets of the Salamanders 6pm | 10 Craft To-Go Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 11 Fall/Winter Sports Equipment Swap 10am |
| 13 S'more Stories Storytime 6pm | 14 Picnic Storytime 11am Cooking with Ming [Reg. Req.] 2pm Minecraft Mania 6pm | 15 Speed Lego Building Competition [Reg. Req.] 2pm Code Club! 6pm | 16 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am Alex Thomas & Friends Puppets 1pm Crafting for a Cause 4pm | 17 Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 18 Baby Stories 10:30am |
| 20 Raptors & Velociraptors 1pm | 21 Picnic Storytime 11am | 22 Switch Gaming: Player's Choice 2pm Code Club! 6pm | 23 RC Babysitting Wrks. [Reg. Req.] 10am RC Adult CPR w/AED Training [Reg. Req.] 3:15pm Historical Visit to GL Brick Co. 6pm | 24 Craft To-Go Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 25 Tummy Time Art 10:30am |
| 27 Switch Gaming for Teens 6pm | 28 Picnic Storytime 11am | 29 Code Club! 6pm | 30 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am | 31 Messy Play Fun Day 11am | |

AUGUST

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 |
| 3 | 4 Picnic Storytime 11am | 5 SRP Dino-Finale Carnival 5pm | 6 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am Crafting for a Cause 4pm | 7 Craft to-Go Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 8 |
| 10 Dinosaur Perler Beads 6pm | 11 Picnic Storytime 11am Minecraft Mania 6pm | 12 Adult Bingo 2:30pm Code Club! 6pm Yoga Storytime 6pm | 13 Wac. Picnic Storytime 11am | 14 Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 15 Baby Stories 10:30am |
| 17 Fairy Gardens 6pm | 18 Picnic Storytime 11am | 19 Switch Gaming: Mario Kart 2pm Rewind: Memories of Wacousta School 4pm Code Club! 6pm | 20 Crafting for a Cause 4pm | 21 Craft to-Go Messy Play Fun Day 11am | 22 |
| 24 | 25 Picnic Storytime 11am | 26 Code Club! 6pm | 27 | 28 | 29 |

JULY

Dinosaur Painting

Wednesday July 1 | 2pm – 3pm

Use colorful paints to turn a plain wooden dinosaur shape into a magnificent creation. Wearing clothes that can get messy is recommended.

T-Rex Counted Cross Stitch

Monday July 6 | 6pm – 7pm | Teens

Calling all dino-lovers and crafty creators! Join us for this beginner friendly counted cross stitch program where you will learn the basics and begin a T-Rex project.

Dino-rama Dioramas

Tuesday July 7 | 3pm – 4pm

Use plastic dinosaurs, rocks, paint, and other materials to create a dino scene in a box.



Secrets of the Salamanders

Thursday July 9 | 6pm – 7pm

Alexa Warwick, Ph.D. will introduce us to the fascinating world of salamander research, explaining how scientists study these secretive amphibians and what they reveal about the environment. Perfect for nature lovers, students, and anyone curious about the hidden wildlife around us.

Fall/Winter Sports Equipment Swap

Saturday July 11 | 10am – 4pm

Ready for a new sports season to begin? Join us for our Fall/Winter Sports Equipment Swap! This community event is the perfect way to pass along gently used gear and pick up something new for your family. No equipment to swap? You're still invited to stop by and see what's available and take anything you can use.

S'more Stories Storytime

Monday July 13 | 6pm – 7pm

We'll read stories about dinosaurs, sing songs, and, of course, make s'mores. Come join us outside at the library for s'more summertime fun!

Experience "Chinese Restaurant" Cooking with Chef Ming [Reg. Req.]

Tuesday July 14 | 2pm – 3pm

Chinese Chef Ming will bring all the equipment and supplies to the library, share the culture and traditions of Chinese cooking, and teach participant to prepare, cook -- and enjoy-- their own delicious egg rolls. Celebrate the Great Michigan Read "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant" by MI Author Curtis Chin.



Speed Lego Building Competition [Reg. Req.]

Wednesday July 15 | 2pm – 3pm | Ages 7 - 10

Grab some friends and test your skill as a team to speed build a Lego set! All teams will build the same provided set in a timed competition. The first team to finish will win a small prize. See our calendar listing for full details, rules, and registration.

JULY

Dino-Fun with Alex Thomas & Friends Puppets*

Thursday July 16 | 1pm – 2pm | Wacousta Branch

Through fun storytelling, audience participation, and plenty of dino-mite moments, kids experience different dinosaurs, ancient ecosystems, and the world of paleontology!



Raptors & Velociraptors-- Are Birds Dinosaur Descendants?*

Monday July 20 | 1pm – 2pm | Willow Ridge Elm.

Join Howell Nature Center for a family-friendly presentation during this live animal encounter. Birds of prey that may include hawks or owls are shown and discussed to educate attendees on their unique characteristics, habitats, and diets.

Switch Gaming: Player's Choice

Wednesday July 22 | 2pm – 4pm

We'll decide on which game to play from a few library-provided choices. Feel free to bring your Switch to play between your turns on the library's Switch on the big screen.

Red Cross Babysitting Workshop [Registration Req.]

Thursday July 23 | 10am – 3pm | Teens 12+

Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques, diapering, age-appropriate activities, rescue breathing, the Heimlich maneuver, and basic first aid skills needed while babysitting. Upon workshop completion, students receive an American Red Cross babysitting course certificate. Registration required, class size limited.

Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR w/AED Training [Registration Req.]

Thursday July 23 | 3:15pm – 5:30pm | Teens & Adults

Learn adult & pediatric CPR, AED, rescue breathing, the Heimlich maneuver, and first aid. Upon workshop completion, students receive a course completion card in Adult & Pediatric CPR, AED and first aid.

Hittin' the Bricks: A Historical Visit to Grand Ledge Face Brick Co.

Thursday July 23 | 6pm – 8pm | Lincoln Brick Park

Learn some history of clay products production in GL, the companies involved, & take a hike to the ruins of the former GL Face Brick Company-- now Lincoln Brick Park!



Tummy Time Art

Saturday July 25 | 10:30am – 11:30am | Ages 0 - 2

Babies can be artists too! Bring your little one and make some mess-free art. Babies will paint by doing what babies do - tummy time!

Switch Gaming for Teens

Monday July 27 | 6pm – 8pm | Teens

Teens, join us for a night of fun and friendly Switch gaming! We'll decide on which game to play from a few library-provided choices. Feel free to bring your Switch to play between your turns on the library's Switch on the big screen. All skill levels welcome!

**This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.*

AUGUST

SRP Dino-Finale Carnival

Wednesday August 5 | 5pm – 6:30pm

Fitzgerald Park

Enjoy a fun night of Dinosaur and foam fun, carnival games, prizes, treats and hot dogs! Each reading log you complete earns you more carnival tickets to spend! Many non-ticketed activities for all to play too like Eaton County Parks Game trailer. Everyone welcome, dress to get messy!



Dinosaur Perler Beads

Monday August 10 | 6pm – 7pm

Join us for a crafting program to explore and create with colorful Perler Beads! We'll have some dinosaur peg boards and templates available or choose from many other shapes. Use string or magnets to turn your creations into decorations.

Yoga Storytime

Wednesday August 12 | 6pm – 7pm | Ages 3 - 6

Join us for a movement storytime featuring yoga style poses and breathing exercises! We'll read a story, try out traditional and nontraditional yoga poses, breathe deep, and groove to a song. Feel free to bring your own yoga mat or beach towel to sit on. We'll be outdoors, if weather permits. After the storytime, we'll have time for free play with outdoor toys.

Fairy Gardens

Monday August 17 | 6pm – 7pm

Let your creativity grow! Make your very own fairy garden using tiny plants, natural materials, and whimsical decorations.



Switch Gaming: Mario Kart

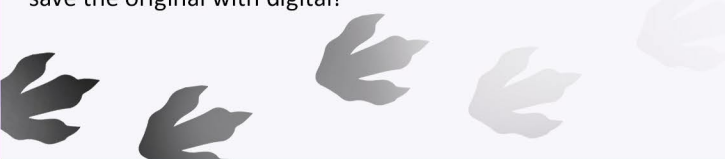
Wednesday August 19 | 2pm – 4pm

Join us for an afternoon of fun and friendly Switch gaming! We'll play Mario Kart today! Who's the best driver around? Feel free to bring your Switch to play between your turns on the library's Switch on the big screen. All skill levels welcome!

Rewind: Memories of Wacousta School

Wednesday August 19 | 4pm – 6:30pm | Wacousta Branch

With a GLADL branch opening at the Old Wacousta School, we want the community to know more about its past. Wacousta Alumni, bring your old photos, videos, or audio recordings of your school days to digitize and donate a copy to our community archive! Even record an oral history of your favorite story! Let's share our memories; building the first Dream Depot, kindergarten circus performances, the fun run, the school carnival, or maybe that old copy of your Sarah Endres Writing Competition entry. Whatever Wacousta means to you, share it. Help build our community's archive, and save the original with digital!



What is a “Summer Reading Program”?

Reading in the summer improves academic & reading skills, and prevents learning loss. Our “Unearth a Story” Summer Reading program has fun, enriching activities and rewards to encourage people of **all ages** to keep reading all summer long!

How Do I Start?

Starting June 1, pick up a **Kickoff Starter Kit** at the library and start reading! Or click **Summer Reading** on gladl.org for instant access to printable & digital logs, event calendar listings, and more fun. Reading logs are by age/grade level: 0 - K, 1st - 6th, 7th - 12th, and Adult.

Submit completed logs by July 31 for **Instant Win prizes**-- toys & coupons for yummy treats like ice cream, tacos and more! Each reading log you complete also earns you carnival tickets to spend at our **Finale Carnival on August 5** AND an entry for one of our **Grand Prize drawings!**

Many thanks to the following local businesses for their SRP donations!

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