



Comstock Township Library

Where community meets the world.

eNewsletter Volume 12 | Spring 2024

It's a Spring Fling!

Do you smell that? Is it fresh air? Could it be that spring is around the corner? March will hopefully bring us joy in the form of green grass, budding flowers, and blue sky. We know we are over all the gray and yuck of winter. Bring on the sunshine!

Not only are we busy here at the Comstock Township Library with our new slew of programs and fun for the next few months, but we are also busy prepping everything for this year's Summer Reading Program. We are also working hard to debut our new Events Calendar online. We hope it brings our patrons ease of access and the ability to browse and register for programs with little to no trouble.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at info@comstocklibrary.org or give us a call at (269) 345-0136. Happy spring everyone!

From the Director



In November, the Comstock Township Library Board approved the library's first strategic purpose and goals plan. The input for the plan came out of a

robust data-collection process that included a community survey, library staff and board surveys, interviews with community stakeholders, and library staff and board retreat sessions. We want to ensure the library is valued as an essential community resource, and this strategic plan will serve as a roadmap to achieve this vision.

At the heart of the new plan lies the library's commitment to serving the community by providing opportunities for learning, growth, and exploration. We seek to achieve this by focusing on a few strategic goals:

1. Robust and relevant services.
2. Welcoming and accessible spaces.
3. A cohesive internal organization.

A copy of the complete plan is available on the [library's website](#).

If you'd like to see what the library was up to last year, our [2023 Annual Report](#) is also available. We were so pleased to see increases in checkouts, program participation, and library visits!

We are proud of what the library has accomplished so far, and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we move forward together. Libraries are more than just buildings. They are dynamic community hubs where ideas begin, connections are formed, and dreams can be realized. Thank you for being with us on this journey as we learn, grow, and explore together.

On a different note, we are looking for a dedicated volunteer to help us care for the library's garden beds to ensure they look their best and continue to flourish. Responsibilities will include weeding, light pruning, and general upkeep of the beds through the spring, summer, and fall. Some knowledge of gardening techniques would be helpful, but is not required. If you are interested in becoming the library's volunteer gardener or would like more information about the role, please contact me at emilyk@comstocklibrary.org or call (269)345-0136.

Happy March!

-Emily Kubash, Comstock Township Library Director

CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY



The Comstock Township Library will be closed on Saturday, May 25th and Monday, May 27th in observance of the Memorial Day weekend. Have a safe and fun holiday everyone!

Coming Soon!

A New Online Event Calendar

Our online calendar is going obsolete, and the Comstock Township Library is currently working to implement our new, updated Calendar of Events. Our hope is that it will provide ease of access for our patrons when viewing and registering for programs at the library. Be sure to keep an eye out for its launch on our website.

Get Ready Because SRP is Coming!



The countdown is on for our 2024 Summer Reading Program! This year's theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library. We are gearing up for all the fun, experiences, and general craziness that SRP brings. Be sure to watch our website and social media for up to date information on everything. It all kicks off in June, so mark your calendars and stay tuned!



Our spectacular Buck-A-Bag Book Sale returns this spring. Come fill a bag of books for the best deal in town, just \$1.00! You can bring your own bag or use one of ours. Oversized bags (such as blue Ikea bags) cost \$5. This sale includes Adult, Teen, and Kids' books, as well as audiobooks. DVDs, CDs, and video games will be their regular price of \$1.00 each. We hope to see you there!

The Solar Eclipse With Richard Bell

March 27th at 6:00pm

Join us on Wednesday, March 27th as we welcome Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Mr. Bell will be presenting on the solar eclipse set to occur on April 8, 2024, what we can expect to view from Kalamazoo, and other fun bits of astronomy! Attendees will receive a pair of solar eclipse viewing glasses (strictly one (1) pair per person) and are available on a first come, first served basis. Once free supplies are exhausted, Mr. Bell will have solar eclipse glasses available for purchase for \$3.00 a pair. All purchases will benefit the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. We hope you will join us for this fascinating all ages event!

Family Game Night

Wednesdays at 4:30pm

New this spring to the Comstock Township Library is Family Game Night! Each Wednesday evening, families of all ages are invited to come in and play board games in the library. Bring your own games or make use of some of the library's own. All are welcome, so be sure to bring your friends!

ADULT PROGRAMMING

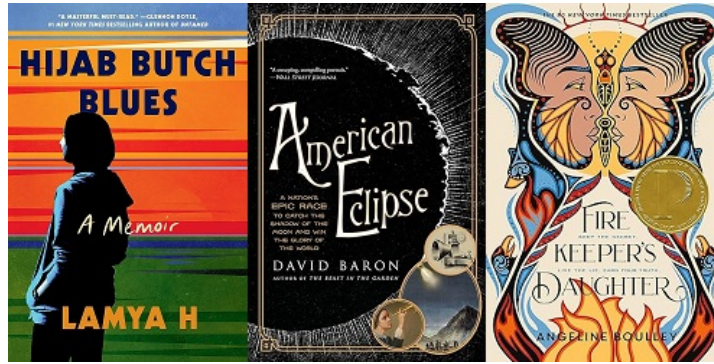
Adult Take-Home Crafts

- Morse Code Earrings: March 18th - March 23rd
- Solar Eclipse Viewer: April 1st - April 6th
- Origami Moon & Stars: April 29th - May 4th
- Wood Transfer Bookmarks: May 20th - May 25th



Adult Book Club

March 28th at 5:30pm: *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamya H.
April 30th at 5:30pm: *American Eclipse* by David Baron
May 30th at 6:00pm: *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley



Have a bit of writing in your soul, but you need the encouragement to get it out? Join the CTL Writers! Twice a month we get together to read over another member's work, then share a writing sprint to get the words out on the paper. Bring your laptop, notebook, whatever you need to get your words out. Our first sessions will be held March 5th and 19th from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.



The History of Henna

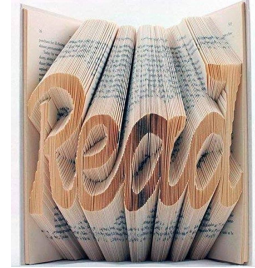


On Thursday, April 18th at 5:00pm, the Comstock Township Library welcomes Allison Loraine of Sunshine Henna Body Art. Allison will give a 30-minute presentation on the history and culture of henna, then do henna art on the hands of participants. Registration begins April 4th and space is limited!

Book Folding

Despite the look of it, the art of book folding is actually pretty simple when you break it down. Join Adrienne as she gives you a starter book and shows you the simple steps to fold book pages into a

lovely, simple design. Light refreshments will be served. Registration begins May 1st.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Family Storytime



Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30am! Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children, ages infant to five. Build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every session is followed by a sensory toy playtime.

Drop In Playroom

Every Thursday our children's play area will be open for free play for kiddos from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Be sure to stop in!



Read stories with Chloe the Therapy Dog! Does your child need to practice their reading? Chloe loves hearing stories and is a patient listener. Each child will have an individual session with Chloe. This program is first come, first served, so please check in at the Youth Desk to guarantee a session. Be sure to check our online Calendar of Events via our website to see Chloe's next sessions.

Pajama Storytime

Time to get the little ones ready for bed! Join Miss Sue on Thursday, April

11th at 6:00pm for Pajama Storytime. She will have a couple stories to help settle down children as they cuddle up in their pjs. Registration is required at begins March 24th.

Kids Crafts

Join us as we once again lead our elementary age children in fun crafting projects! Each Kids Craft has two sessions, one at 11:00am and one at 1:00pm. So be sure to register for the time slot that works best for you. Please register each child individually. Here are the crafts for the next few sessions:



March 16th: Make Your Own Wild Thing
April 27th: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
May 11th: Clay Models



On Wednesday, March 27th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Miss Faith will have the Legos out to fulfill all of your building wishes! Come join us as we hold a session of Lego Club. This program is open to families of all ages and no registration is necessary.

Pizza & Pages



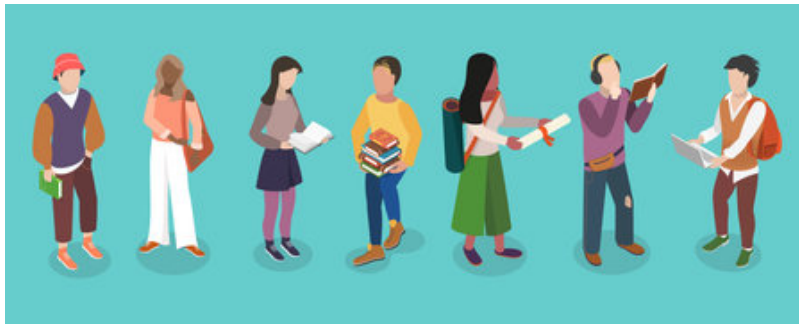
Join our theme-based book Club! Participants in 3rd through 6th grade will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. Themes change every month. Registration is required each month, and each child must register individually. As always, audiobooks, graphic novels, and juvenile fiction are all acceptable reads for this program. The next sessions of Pizza & Pages are March 7th at 6:00pm, April 4th at 6:00pm, and May 2nd at 6:00pm. Visit our online Calendar of Events

or give us a call in the Youth Department to hear about each month's theme.

Tween Crafts

Each month, Miss Chanda gathers the Tweens for a session of fun, snacks, and crafting. For those in the 4th through 7th grade, Tween Crafts are a great time to hang with friends while letting your creativity shine. Registration is required for each child individually. Here's what's planned for the next sessions:

- Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00pm: Bracelets
 - Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00pm: Collages
-



Tween Hangout

It's time to take a load off gang! Come join us at the Comstock Township Library with your mates and relax. We'll discuss ideas for future tween programs, enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and other fun activities. Our next sessions are March 13th at 6:00pm, April 10th at 6:00pm, and May 15th at 6:00pm.

T.A.G. (Teen Advisory Board)

T.A.G. meets once a month to brainstorm ideas for teen programs, suggest young adult books, graphic novels, and manga. It's a great way to earn volunteer hours. T.A.G. also helps develop marketable leadership skills, and gain experience you can use on your job, scholarship, and college applications. Bonus: T.A.G. participants get to attend special after-hours teen only events. Sound interesting? Are you a teen in grades 8th through 12th? Then join us at our next meetings!

- Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00pm
 - Wednesday, March 13th at 2:00pm
 - Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00pm
 - Wednesday, April 17th at 2:00pm
 - Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00pm
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For questions about program registration, our new website, or anything else in this newsletter, please stop by the library, give us a call at (269) 345-0136, or visit our website by selecting the link below. Be sure to also keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for the most up-to-date information.

Comstock Township Library Website



Comstock Township Library | 6130 King Hwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

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