Library Reveals Early Literacy Family Play Area

Loutit District Library recognized a need in the community for a free, fun, accessible, and educational space for young children and their families. Made possible by a generous grant from the Youth Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, the Early Literacy Family Play Area fulfills this need by providing a resource with convenient hours for working parents, an indoor option during unfavorable weather, and another way for the library to serve as a community destination for families to gather, play, and learn together. The space includes a dramatic play area, a construction center and light table, a writing station, theater area, puzzles, and much more!

The first five years of a child's life are the most crucial for brain development and play is how young children learn best. LDL hopes this space will provide young children many opportunities to read, write, talk, sing, and play while they develop the skills they need to enter school ready to read and learn.

This project would not have been possible without the assistance of staff reorganizing and moving over 6,000 picture books, MacKite for its partnership and toy expertise, the parents and children who told us what they wanted to see in their library, and most of all, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and the Youth Advisory Council.

Author Wade Rouse Visits Grand Haven in April

Join author Wade Rouse, AKA Viola Shipman, for drinks and appetizers at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum on Tuesday, April 28 from 7pm to 9pm to celebrate the release of his new novel, The Heirloom Garden, which is set in Grand Haven. Stop by to hear the author read passages from his book and have a chance to ask questions! The Bookman will be in attendance with copies of the book for purchase.

Wade Rouse is the internationally bestselling author of ten books who chose his grandmother’s name, Viola Shipman, as a pen name to honor the woman whose heirlooms and family stories inspire his fiction. This event is in partnership with the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Spring Lake District Library, Loutit District Library, and The Bookman.

LDL Hosts Major Art Exhibition in May

Join us on Wednesday, May 13 in the upper level lobby for a presentation by Jason Shaiman, the curator of “Telling A People’s Story: African-American Children’s Books,” which will be on display from Monday, May 11 through Friday, July 24. This traveling exhibition from the Miami (Ohio) University Art Museum is the first major museum exhibition devoted to the art found within the pages of African-American children’s picture books. Shaiman, joined by Frank Morrison, one of the illustrators featured in the exhibit.

The exhibit features 33 artists highlighting African-American identity and history and raises awareness of the role the authors and illustrators have played in the growth of children’s literature. Many of these works, including Morrison’s have received honors from major literary organizations, including the Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, and the Coretta Scott King Award.

Frank Morrison strives to capture people as they are, translating emotions to artwork and leaving a memoir of life and times today. His work shows African-American livelihood in a way that is familiar and comforting to those who feel history has been forgotten and culture usurped.

This exhibit and Frank Morrison’s appearance at the library would not be possible without the generous support of Grand Haven residents Julia Wentz and Chris Simoni, and the Grand Haven Area Public Schools.
Contact Us

John Martin, Director
616-850-6912
jmartin@loutitlibrary.org

Kerry Fitzgerald, Assistant Director
616-850-6933
kfitzgerald@loutitlibrary.org

Michelle Moore, Adult Services
616-850-6920
mmoore@loutitlibrary.org

Allison Boyer, Youth Services
616-850-6919
aboyer@loutitlibrary.org

Sara Derdowski, Business Manager
616-850-6931
sderdowski@loutitlibrary.org

Larry Halverson, Community Relations
616-850-6922
lhalverson@loutitlibrary.org

Adult Information Desk
616-850-6914

Youth Information Desk
616-850-6916

Local History and Genealogy
616-850-6925

Borrow the Internet from LDL

Working with the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department, libraries in Ottawa County joined together and received a grant from the Library of Michigan to provide mobile hotspot devices in all areas of the county.

Mobile hotspots are small, portable devices that provide wireless Internet access for any device that can connect to a wireless signal such as a laptop, smartphone, tablet, gaming device, or smart TV.

Present a valid library card at the Adult Information Desk and get free connectivity for a week! Call 616-850-6914 for more information.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a grant administered by the Library of Michigan.

In September 2019, Loutit District Library eliminated late fees on most overdue items. Making LDL items fine-free removes the barrier late fees present for those with limited income, disabilities, and transportation issues. LDL’s goal is to provide equitable access to library materials for all residents.

The library will continue to charge for overdue hotspots, Book Club in A Bag, and materials that are checked out and never returned due to being damaged or lost. Donation jars are located on the Checkout Desk for anyone who would like to continue paying late fees that will be considered a donation to the library!

Local History and Genealogy

GenChat
Thursdays March 19, April 16, and May 21
from 7pm to 8:30pm
Local History Room
Talk genealogy in the Local History and Genealogy Room. This monthly group, led by Jeanette Weiden, meets every third Thursday. Everyone, from the beginner to the advanced, is welcome!

Coffee & Genealogy
Mondays March 23, April 20, and May 18
from 2pm to 3:30pm
Aldea Coffee, 17 South 2nd St.
Join LDL’s Jeanette Weiden for a cup of coffee and a casual conversation about genealogy at Aldea Coffee in the Armory.

Genealogy Workshop
Saturday, May 9 from 9am to 2pm
Program Room A
Learn about records of birth, marriage, divorce, and death from Kris Rzepczynski of the Michigan State Archives. Kris will also present about available U.S. passenger lists and indexes and share strategies for finding arrival records for immigrant ancestors.

After a break, Jeanette Weiden will share tips on using some of the most popular genealogical websites.

Registration is required.

Historic Grand Haven Stroller Tour
Wednesday, May 20 at 9:30am
Take a stroll through the history with your little one! Learn about the history of Grand Haven’s downtown and waterfront with plenty of opportunities for little ones to look, interact, and play.

Strollers or baby carriers only. Please.

Registration is required.
All programs are held in the Youth Program Room unless stated.
For more information, please visit the interactive calendar at loutilibrary.org.

**Family Storytime**
For children 5 years and under with an adult.
- Wednesdays at 10am
  - March 4, 18, and 25
  - April 1, 8, and 22
- Thursdays at 10am
  - March 5, 19, and 26
  - April 2, 9, and 23

**Music Flows**
Mondays through April 20 at 10:30am
No program on March 23
Stories, games, songs, and activities designed to offer children ages 3-5 an understanding of basic musical terms and concepts, with a dash of wiggle and giggle. Presented by Shannon Donley.
Registration is required.

**Toddler Storytime**
Fridays at 9:30am
March 6 through April 24
An active storytime for children under 3 and their caregivers.

**Baby Storytime**
Fridays at 11am from March 6 through April 24
A lap-sit storytime especially for babies and their caregivers.

**Play 'n' Learn**
Tuesdays March 10, April 14, and May 12 at 9:30am, 10:45am, and 6pm
A literacy playgroup for children ages 5 and under with an adult. Sponsored by the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District.

**Saturday Storytime at 10:30am**
March 7, Green All Over
April 4, Out of the Egg

**Make Your Own Sensory Bottle Workshop**
Thursday, March 12 at 10am
Ages 0-5 and their grownups.

**Spring Playdough Party**
Thursday, April 16 at 10am
Ages 0-5 and their grownups.

**Historic Grand Haven Stroller Tour**
Wednesday, May 20 at 9:30am
See page two for more information.
Registration is required.

**LEGO Maniacs**
Saturday, March 14 at 2pm
Build a LEGO masterpiece with family and friends!

**Reading with Breslyn**
Saturdays March 21, April 18, and May 23 at 11am
Practice your reading with a big and friendly dog!

**Stop Motion LEGO Maniacs**
Saturday, April 11 at 2pm
Build a LEGO masterpiece with family and friends and create your own stop-motion video! LEGOs provided.

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten 5th Annual Celebration**
Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30pm
Program Room A
Stories! Pizza! Special certificates for 2019-20 finishers! Registration is required.

**Teen Programs**

**Teen Stop Motion Workshop Series**
Thursdays, March 12, 19, and 26 at 3:30pm
Using LEGO, create your story, build, and film a stop motion video over a series of one-hour sessions.
Registration is required.

**Teen Advisory Board Meetings at 3:30pm**
Tuesday, March 17; Wednesday, April 15; Thursday, May 14

**Spring Break Programs**

**Benjamin**
Wednesday, April 8 at 2pm
Move, play, and sing along to Benjamin’s fun music!

**Family Peep Diorama Build**
Thursday, April 9 at 6:30pm
Come and build your family’s diorama entry into the library’s Peep Diorama Contest. Supplies will be provided, but if there is something special you would like to use, bring it along!

**Challenge of the Month Club**
For grades 4 through 6

**Paper Stop Motion**
March 16 at 4pm
Using only paper, learn the art of moviemaking for movies like Coraline and Fantastic Mr. Fox!

**Earth Day Hero Challenge**
April 20 at 4pm
Can you stop an oil spill from contaminating water? Work in teams to save the Earth!

**Nailed It!**
Tuesday, April 7 at 2pm
Try your hand at cake pop design and see if you nail it or if you fail it!
Registration is required.
Even if you don’t play, come and listen! Bring your Irish musical instrument and participate in LDL’s merry band of Irish session players. Music will be provided. Saturday March 21, April 18, and May 16 from 1pm to 3pm

Traditional Irish Music Session
Saturdays March 21, April 18, and May 16 from 1pm to 3pm
Bring your Irish musical instrument and participate in LDL’s merry band of Irish session players. Music will be provided. Even if you don’t play, come and listen!

Coffee and Coloring
Tuesdays, March 3, April 7 and May 5 from 10am to 12pm
Program Room B
Join local artist and colorist Kerry FitzGerald for tips and inspiration during this free, relaxing, drop-in session. Learn how to see, break down, and create realistic color with advanced shading techniques using colored pencils provided, or bring your own.

LDL Book Club
Thursdays March 26, April 23, and May 28 from 7pm to 8:30pm
Program Room B
Pick up a copy of the featured book at the Adult Information Desk and join us for a fun and lively discussion!

Registration Information
Please note that some programs require registration and fill up fast. Registration begins one month prior to program date. To register, visit loutitlibrary.org/calendar or call 616-850-6914 for assistance.

Climate Change Documentary Film Series
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
March 4, 11, 25 and April 1
View a documentary film series covering topics such as Cowspiracy, Gasland, Ice on Fire, and more with Ohio State University Professor Walter Davis.

Bubul, Buddhas, and Blues: Birding in Thailand
Tuesday, March 17 at 7pm
Take a bird-watching adventure to Thailand with interesting stops at fascinating markets and Buddhists Temples.

League of Women Voters presents Census 2020
Thursday, March 12 at 6:30pm
Join the regional US Census Bureau staff and the local chapter of the League of Women Voters to learn about the process for conducting the 2020 census this spring.

League of Women Voters presents Independent Redistricting Commission Proposal 2
Thursday, March 19 at 6:30pm
The local League of Women Voters will share information and answer your questions.

Henna Class
Thursday, March 26 at 6:30pm
A $30 materials fee is due at the time of registration.

French Country Silk Flower Arrangement
Thursday, April 9 at 6:30pm
Join local artist/craftsman Ron Taylor and enjoy the hands-on experience of creating your own one-of-a-kind French country arrangement. A $20 materials fee is due at the time of registration.

Earth Day Celebration
Thursday, April 16 at 7pm

Adventures in Nature
Tuesday, April 21 at 7pm
Learn from photographer Ed Post as he reflects on nature in all of its forms and relates one photographer’s experience capturing compelling natural images in the field.

Exploring Wisconsin’s Door County
Thursday, April 23 at 6:30pm
Discover the beautiful Lake Michigan coastlines and bays guarded by several light houses as presenter Tom Buettner reveals the history and amenities this region has to offer.

An Evening with Wade Rouse
Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm
Tri-Cities Historical Museum
See page one for more information.

Michigan’s Immigrants Author Martha Bloomfield
Thursday, April 30 at 6:30pm
Listen as author Martha Bloomfield shares stories of marginalized people - immigrants, migrants, and homeless - in an effort to dissipate prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination while fostering dialogue, civic engagement, social responsibility, and justice.

Pet Vaccine Clinic
Saturday, May 2 from 2pm to 4pm
Join Harbor Humane Society for a low-cost vaccine clinic for those who may not be able to pay for preventative vet care at this time. Participants are asked to provide proof of need if necessary. For more information, email executive@harborhumane.org

The Transition from GH Golf Club to American Dunes
Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm
Learn about the journey of GH Golf Club transitioning into American Dunes at general manager Doug Bell’s seminar.

Spring Arrangement or Spring Wreath
Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm
Create a beautiful wreath or spring/summer arrangement for your home. A $15 materials fee is due at the time of registration.

Honey Bee Amazed at the Amazing Life of the Honey Bee
Thursday, May 21 at 6:30pm
Taste honey from local hives and craft a hand-rolled beeswax candle after Don Snoeyink presents an entertaining and educational seminar on honey bees.

Travel Light Author Laura Holmes
Thursday, May 28 at 6:30pm
Listen as author Laura Homes presents her new book that will make you think about trading routine for a new experience.

kanopy movie club
Thursdays March 5, April 2, and May 7 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Join us on the first Thursday of each month for a fun, thoughtful, or dramatic movie screening with some discussion afterward.

Kanopy is an award-winning video streaming service offered by LDL that has over 30,000 independent and documentary films. Grab your library card and go to loutitlibrary.kanopy.com

To register, visit loutitlibrary.org/calendar or call 616-850-6914 for assistance.
Sunday Afternoon Concert Series
All concerts are held in the Upper-Level Lobby at 2pm.

GOTAK
March 8
Grand Haven High School fiddle group, GOTAK, performs popular Irish/Celtic fiddle music. GOTAK is an after school alternative string ensemble founded in 2005 by current GOTAK director and Grand Haven High School Orchestra director Melissa Meyers.

Paul Vondiziano
April 19
Internationally renowned musician Paul Vondiziano presents a selection of stylistically diverse pieces for classical guitar.

Marimba Music by Paul Demick
May 17
While playing beautiful music from the greatest classical composers, Paul Demick shares his musical journey as well as interesting facts about the composers and their compositions. Paul will also educate listeners on his wonderful instrument, the marimba.

This concert series is generously funded by Carol Alexander and Kevin Carbary

Peep Diorama Contest
Make a diorama based on your favorite book using Peeps! Categories include Youth, Family, and Adult.

Entries are due Saturday, April 11 at 4pm.

Vote for Peeples’s Choice award from Monday, April 13 through Sunday, April 19.

For more information and contest rules, call the Youth Desk at 616-850-6916.

One-on-One TECH HELP
Bring your technology questions and devices (if applicable) to a free one-hour session with the Information staff. Call 616-850-6914 or visit the Adult Information Desk to register.

Sessions are available weekly.

Mondays and Fridays at 1pm and 2pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5pm and 6pm
Open Hours

Monday - Thursday ........................................... 9am - 9pm
Friday ................................................................. 9am - 6pm
Saturday .............................................................. 9am - 5pm
Sunday ................................................................... 1am - 5pm

Closed Sundays starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Check the interactive calendar on our website for the latest updates and special closings.

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Friday and Saturday .................. 10am - 4pm
Sunday ................................................. 1pm - 4:30pm

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