

CHECK IT OUT!

Presented by the Friends of the Lake Odessa Community Library

AUTUMN 2025



SUMMER BUSYNESS AT THE LIBRARY!

Library staff and volunteers collaborated with Feeding West Michigan's lunch program, Gather 2 Grow, to distribute a total of **2,190** lunches! Lunches were served daily from June through August, thanks to generous private donations from the West Michigan community.

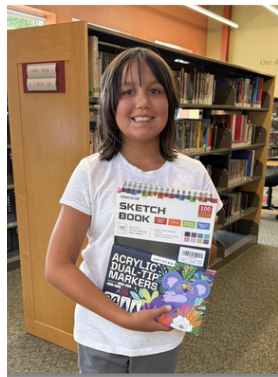
The 2025 Summer Library Program, Color Our World, concluded its activities for preschoolers through teens, with **249** registrations! Out of these, **198** participants engaged in weekly programs, reading challenges, and various activities, leading to a remarkable total of **885** children attending **18** programs.

In July, **57** individuals registered for sewing classes, resulting in the completion of **165** projects across **21** classes. The sewing classes were fully sponsored by local grants from the PFCU Foundation, Retired Teachers of Ionia County, and The Friends of the Lake Odessa Library.

Every Friday in July, Mr. Mike hosted summer STEM activities at the beach, where **33** kids discovered the joys of STEM in a fun, outdoor setting under sunny skies.

During June, July, and August:

- **6,285** items were checked out.
- **6,068** items were checked in.
- Public computers were utilized **523** times, totaling **11,030** minutes of usage.
- **2,052** digital items were downloaded.
- Public wifi was used **4,263** times.
- **104** new patron accounts were created!



Library Events

Contact the Library to register 616.374.4591

September

16th STEM with Mr Mike for ages 11-16 @ 3:30PM

18th Home-Based Education Art-Palooza for all students @ 1:00PM

25th Inspired Readers Book Discussion @ 2:00PM

30th Emergency Preparations Programs with Ionia County Health Department for ages 13+ @ 6:00PM-7:00PM

October

1st Creative Crafternoons for ages 13+ @ 2:00PM-3:30PM

8th Creative Crafternoons for ages 13+ @ 2:00PM-3:30PM

9th Library Lab for Kindergarten-5th Grade @ 3:45PM-4:45PM

14th Open Book Discussion @ 5:30PM

15th Creative Crafternoons for ages 13+ @ 2:00PM-3:30PM

16th Home-Based Education Art-Palooza for all students @ 1:00PM

21st STEM with Mr Mike for ages 11-16 @ 3:30PM

22nd Creative Crafternoons for ages 13+ @ 2:00PM-3:30PM

23rd Inspired Book Club @ 2:00PM

28th Advanced Care Planning with Corewell Health @ 10:00AM-1:00PM

28th Spooooooky Evening Story Time for preschoolers @ 6:00PM-6:45PM

29th Creative Crafternoons for ages 13+ @ 2:00PM-3:30PM

30th Library Lab for Kindergarten-5th Grade @ 3:45PM-4:45PM

November

11th Open Book Discussion @ 5:30PM

18th STEM with Mr Mike for ages 11-16 @ 3:30PM

20th Home-Based Education Art-Palooza for all students @ 1:00PM

20th Inspired Book Club @ 2:00PM

25th Multi-Generational Book Discussion for all ages @ Noon

December

4th Library Lab for Kindergarten-5th Grade @ 2:45PM-4:45PM

9th Open Book Discussion @ 5:30PM

12th Santa at the Library after the Parade

16th STEM with Mr Mike for ages 11-16 @ 3:30PM

16th Christmas Evening Story Time for preschoolers @ 6:00PM-6:45PM

18th Home-Based Education Art-Palooza for all students @ 1:00PM

18th Inspired Book Club @ 2:00PM

30th Multi-Generational Book Discussion for all ages @ Noon



YOGA

WITH LINDA KIMMEL



Story Time

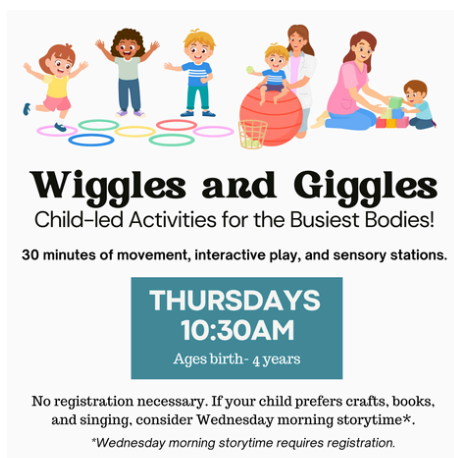
at the Lake Odessa Community Library!



A-Z What will I be?

Perfect for ages 2-5
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
Starting September 3rd

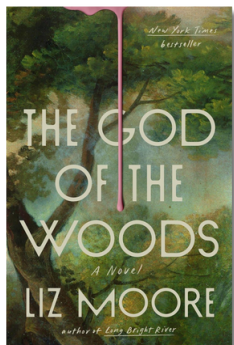
A one-time registration is appreciated!



Check the library's webpage and Facebook events for all the programs and news.

Recent Reads

Thoughtfully submitted by Anne-Marie Flannery.
Contact the library to join a book club 616.374.4591

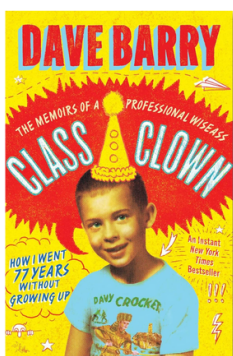


The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

It's August 1975 and a female summer camper has gone missing from her bunk. Her disappearance mirrors that of her older brother who went missing from their nearby home years earlier. This story intertwines various narratives including camp counselors and local townspeople; the children's wealthy parents and the police investigating both disappearances. These opposing viewpoints provide not only conflicting information about the missing children, but also reveal deep divisions in the community. A surprise ending brings the book to an unexpected conclusion.

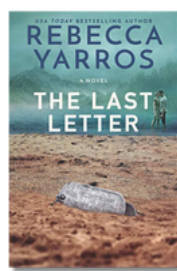
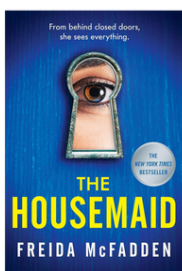
The Mother Next Door by Andrea Dunlop and Mike Weber

"Munchhausen by proxy" is a little-known mental illness wherein caregivers (overwhelmingly mothers) cause sickness or disability in their children to garner attention and sympathy from others. (The news story of Gypsy Rose Blanchard is an example of this diagnosis.) This book recounts three separate cases that occurred in Texas in the mid- to late 2000s. Author Weber was an investigator for the District Attorney office charged with gathering evidence against each of the mothers. Author Dunlop (whose own sister was accused of Munchhausen's) narrates Weber's fight to bring the women to justice and save their children. The accused mothers come from varying ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds with little in common other than the attempts to harm their children for emotional and psychological gain.



Class Clown: The Memoirs of a Professional Wiseass- How I went 77 Years Without Growing Up by Dave Barry

Best known as a humor columnist for the Miami Herald newspaper, Barry turns a comedic eye to his childhood and younger years. From his exploits as a boy in small Armonk, New York, to writing jokes for Steve Martin at the Academy Awards, Barry recounts how humor has been the mainstay of his life. Even through difficult periods (his father was a late life alcoholic and his mother committed suicide) Barry shares the lighthearted aspects of his numerous ups and downs, always maintaining that life is better when laughing.



The four most popular books circulating at the Lake Odessa Community Library this summer were ***The Housemaid*** by Freida McFadden, ***The Boyfriend*** by Freida McFadden, ***Promises Promises*** by Buck Turner, and ***The Last Letter*** by Rebecca Yarros!

Friends of the Library

UPDATES

LAKEWOOD ALUMNA ILLUSTRATES CHILDREN'S BOOK

Amy Nagi, 2006 Lakewood Graduate and artist, recently illustrated the book, ***Fox Went Searching***, story by Doug Bedwell. This book was published in August 2025 by Space Bear Press and is available for purchase from their website. Follow the beautiful pictures of the wily fox as he roams through the night searching for his daytime resting place. What makes this book extra special is the appendix that explains, "Getting from the idea to the story to the illustrations to the final book." Budding authors and artists can benefit from this detailed section at the end of the book. A copy of ***Fox Went Searching*** is now available at the Library for checkout. Amy's art is also displayed in the Thornapple Essentials Concession area at the Gerald R Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids. This piece of art depicts a variety of plants from West Michigan through all seasons. So, the next time you are at the airport, check it out!



FRIENDS REPLACE SENSORY TABLE

The table, which was initially acquired in 2019 through a LSTA grant from the Library of Michigan, has become a beloved educational resource that many children (and adults) enjoy exploring. It has hosted rice, water beads, magnetic tiles, sorting blocks, corn, and a variety of fun, educational sensory items. Recently, the table developed cracks, rendering it unusable and quite messy. Recognizing the popularity of this station at the Library, the Friends generously decided to purchase a new one!

CHRISTMAS 'ROUND THE TOWN MAPS

For 33 years, Christmas 'Round the Town has been a fun shopping journey in the Lake Odessa Community. This year, kick off your adventure at the Library, the exclusive location for **printed maps**, where you can also enjoy complimentary apple cider and donuts, courtesy of the Friends. Take a moment to explore what the Library has to offer!

Christmas 'Round the Town starts Friday, November 28th, from 9 AM to 5 PM. It continues Saturday, November 29th. Most Christmas 'Round the Town stops will remain open until 2 PM on Saturday, while the Library will close at noon.

SANTA AT THE LIBRARY

Come hang out with us at the Library on December 12th, right after the Christmas in the Village Parade! It's your chance to meet Santa! We've got fun activities, popcorn, and a movie lined up to keep the kids busy while they wait for their turn with the big guy. Plus, the Friends of the Library crew will be on hand as Santa's special helpers, handing out tasty cookies to the grown-ups and books to the kids.



Library Hours

Tuesday 9:00AM-7:00PM
Wednesday 9:00AM-5:00PM
Thursday 9:00AM-7:00PM
Friday 9:00AM-5:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM-Noon
Closed Sunday & Monday

The library will be closed
Thanksgiving, November 27

Friends of the Library

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Myra Kauffman	Treasurer
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Shirley VanDorpe	Director

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Library Director: Jennifer Salgat

Library Staff: Deb Morrison, Julie Stahl, Mike Forton,
Kecia Dillon, and Anthony Brandt

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Become a Friend Today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Please Check One:

____ Good Friend
(Donation)

____ Lifetime Friend
(\$150 Onetime Fee)

The Friends of the Lake Odessa
Community Library group is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization.