SHelf LIfe  BEYOND THE STACKS

News from Tecumseh District Library

Spring is on the way and we’re planning lots of good things at Tecumseh District Library.

Seed Library This Spring we will open our new Seed Library with free seed varieties for patrons to take and try. Patrons are encouraged to grow the plants, and then dry and return some of the seeds for others to enjoy next year.

Local Gardens to Visit We are fortunate to have two wonderful university sponsored gardens in our area. Hidden Lake Gardens, https://www.canr.msu.edu/hiddenlakegardens/ owned by Michigan State University, is just a few miles away and part of the MI Activity Pass Program http://www.plymouthrockets.com/michiganactivitypass/ Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor is another amazing garden owned by the University of Michigan. https://mbgna.umich.edu/

1000 Books before Kindergarten We’ve started a new program to strengthen childhood literacy which is simple and fun. Books are read to the child, even multiple times, and those books are listed on a tracking sheet. Each time 100 books have been read the tracking sheet is returned to the library for a colorful BRAG TAG! Once the goal of 1000 has been reached the child gets to choose a book from our collection that will then receive a bookplate honoring their achievement.

New Programming for Teens Besides Grab & Go Craft Bags our Teens have been treated to some fun activities like Board Game Gatherings, Valentine Making, Trivia and lots more. Check out the TDL Teen Facebook page to keep up with their events.

Beautiful gardens and landscaping around the library The library landscaping gets more beautiful each year under the care of gardener, Patty Murdock. Stop by and enjoy the beautiful Memorial Garden and the miniature daffodils as the weather begins to warm up.

Farmers Market We participate in the Tecumseh Farmers Market once a month with a pop-up library and a cart of free books. It’s fun to talk with community members in a different setting and we always find something delicious to try at the Market.

Our Vision Statement:

The Tecumseh District Library strives to be a premier facility offering a welcoming, accessible community resource where all people can learn, explore, interact, create, and enjoy.
Farmers markets are fun places to shop for food during the warmer months. The Tecumseh Farmers Market is a great place to visit on Saturdays! [http://www.downtowntecumseh.com/outdoor-recreation/tecumseh-farmers-market-at-the-market-on-evans](http://www.downtowntecumseh.com/outdoor-recreation/tecumseh-farmers-market-at-the-market-on-evans)

Other sources of local food include CSAs or Community Supported Agriculture programs. Customers sign up to purchase boxes of farm fresh food and support the growers that way.

In our area we have a variety of choices, some of which are listed below:

- **Kapnick Orchards** has a fruit CSA  
  https://kapnickorchards.com/csa-fruit
- **Prochaska Farms** has a Co-operative Sharing Program  
  http://prochaskafarms.com/
- **Goetz Greenhouse and Family Farms** in Riga offers a CSA  
  https://www.sites.google.com/site/goetzgreenhouse/
- **Needle-Lane Farms** offers a CSA  
  https://www.needlelanefarms.com/
- **Wojcik Farms** offers a CSA  
  http://www.wojcikfarms.com/about-csa.html#/

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**KITCHEN GARDENING**

Recommended titles to take you from seed to table.

- *The Seed Garden: the Art and Practice of Seed Saving*, by Micaela Colley
- *Regrow Your Veggies: Growing Vegetables From Roots, Cuttings and Scraps*, by Melissa Raupach
- *From Seed to Plant*, by Gail Gibbons
- *The Kitchen Garden*, by Alan Buckingham
- *The First Mess Cookbook: Vibrant Plant-Based Recipes to Eat Well Through the Seasons*, by Laura Wright
**SPRING TEEN EVENTS**

As we trade cold winter days for the renewal of spring stop by the library to see what events we have blooming! Hang out with friends, get help with homework, or chat with Teen Librarian, Pierce, in the teen area after school from 3:00-4:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Monthly “Grab & Go” craft projects are available in the teen area while supplies last. March’s kit will feature Shrinky Dink keychains.

Upcoming events include a March Madness Bracket Challenge. Pick up and fill out a bracket in the teen area from March 14th-16th for your chance to win an Amazon gift card!

Then on March 23rd test your building skills with the Marshmallow Tower Challenge. Compete to build the tallest tower using only spaghetti, marshmallows, and tape. A prize will be awarded for the tallest tower!

The All-County Bookmark Contest will take place March 1st-31st. Stop in to pick up an entry form or print one off here (https://lenawee.lib.mi.us). This year’s theme is “Oceans of Possibilities”. The contest is open to all K-12 students in Lenawee County. Winners will receive a certificate of achievement and copies of their book mark. The “Best of Lenawee” winners will receive a $100 Visa gift card.

Stay tuned for more fun upcoming events - we hope to see you soon!

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**TDL SEED LIBRARY**

We’re starting a seed library at TDL this spring, with lots of varieties for patrons to try. The seeds are free, so make your choices and try them out! We hope that once the plants are grown some of the seeds will be dried and returned to the library for others to plant next year. We received many generous donations from seed companies and we purchased some seeds also, to get the project started. Stop in and decide what might be fun to grow this summer.

For more information on seed libraries check out Michigan Seed Library https://miseedlibrary.org/

Fun fact: Michigan has close to 100 seed libraries!

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**MICHIGAN ACTIVITY PASS**

The Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) program offers public library card holders across the state the chance to check out and access world-class outdoor recreational spaces and attractions for a free or discounted admission. There are over 450 participating locations, including:

- All 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Historic sites
- Museums and cultural attractions
- State parks
- Campgrounds

Patrons can check out a pass to visit their preferred locations much like they would check out a book from their local library.

To learn more about the Michigan Activity Pass program, including a complete list of supported venues and participating libraries, visit michiganactivitypass.info

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Fun fact: Michigan has close to 100 seed libraries!
I am thrilled to invite families to join a new free program at TDL: “1000 Books Before Kindergarten”! This nationwide program encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills.

Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood. It prepares children to enter kindergarten with pre-reading skills such as understanding the sounds letters make and developing a bigger vocabulary. Most importantly, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading!

**WHO CAN JOIN?** Any child ages birth to five can participate with their parents or caregivers.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Check online at www.tecumsehlibrary.org via the Children’s Page for all the fun details and to register your child.

**BOOK GOALS:** Collect Brag Tags along your way to the 1000 Book Goal. When you reach your goal come celebrate at the library, collect your last Brag Tag and receive your certificate. As a lasting honor a library book from our collection will be dedicated to your child highlighting their achievement!

Visit TDL often to find great books to share with your child. I’m always happy to assist you in finding wonderful books as are all my library colleagues!

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**RECENT TDL DONORS**

We feel so fortunate to have the support of our community and we thank the following donors who have contributed to TDL in the last six months.

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