"September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide join together to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning."

Our patrons may be THE most important aspect of our libraries. September is a great time of year to “round up” some new library card holders (or perhaps re-engage those who haven’t visited in a while). This year, Toy Story 4 characters are here to help save the day with Library Card Sign-up Month. Resources available [here](#).

"They’ll be reminding the public that signing up for a library card opens a world of infinite possibilities: libraries offer resources and services that help people pursue their passions and give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond."
On Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 1:41 p.m. Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed the Narcan bill package into law, with immediate effect. These bills will provide liability protection for libraries when providing the life-saving opioid antidote naloxone, common brand name Narcan, to an overdosing patron. This is a huge victory for our libraries and librarians.

In case you missed it, click here to view the Library of Michigan webinar. There is a slide with some resource links that you may find helpful.
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY?

Flat River Community Library: Our board voted unanimously on May 8 to eliminate overdue fines for all patrons, stressing the importance of providing access to library service for all, as well as eliminating the stigma and shame that often surround overdue fines. Our board and staff believe strongly that the social, financial, and educational value of this program largely outweighs the potential revenue to be gained through overdue fines. We have waived all existing overdue fines for our patrons as well. Thanks to the hard work of Flat River and Lakeland staff, we were able to launch the fines-free initiative on July 15 and have had a very positive response from the Greenville community.

Gary Byker Memorial Library: You may see the library out and about this summer with our new blue and green book bikes! With help from an anonymous donor, and the City’s Department of Public Works, the library brought our bikes to a different neighborhood park every Wednesday in July for a story time and book browsing. We hope to also attend other city gatherings and events from so we may reach out to the community not only with books, but also to bring fun activities and information about the changing ways our library can serve our citizens.

Ionia Community Library: [Edited from the ICL newsletter] The library is grateful for young leaders like Addy Rice. Miss Rice, one of the library’s 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Champions, held a lemonade fundraiser recently. She donated all of the stand’s proceeds to the library, a stunning $90.89!

We appreciate adults who fulfill their part of the social contract by supporting the library. But when a child willingly offers her time and money to do something that some adult’s won’t — well, it is astonishing and deserving of special notice. Miss Rice is a true Library Champion!

(Continued on page 4)
**Member Highlights**

(Continued from page 3)

**Herrick District Library:** We are launching a set of teen Kindles, since our adult Kindles have been so successful. Each Paperwhite is pre-loaded with over 30 series and 150+ titles. Now teens can binge-read their favorite authors like JK Rowling, Rick Riordan, Cassandra Clare, Victoria Aveyard, Marissa Meyer, Christopher Paolini, Veronica Roth, Leigh Bardugo and many more. Teen Kindles will go out for 3 weeks with local holds available.

**White Lake Community Library:** We recently received a Revisiting the Founding Era grant. This grant gave us (and 99 other libraries around the country) the opportunity to spark local conversations about the Founding Era’s enduring ideas and themes, as well as how they continue to influence our lives today. Some highlights of our efforts were a talk delivered by “Alexander Hamilton” (aka Terry Lynch) and a play by a Michigan author about John and Abigail Adams that was based on their personal correspondence. Book tastings and panel discussions rounded out our offerings, and we distributed many copies of a reader containing primary source documents and scholarly essays. The grant was part of a three-year initiative by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, in partnership with ALA and the National Constitution Center, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Lakeland Likes**

**By Lakeland Staff**

I am reading *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, a very riveting book about the burning of the main branch of the Los Angeles Public Library back in the 80s. Having just visited relatives in Los Angeles, it held even more interest for me, and a neighbor who is normally not a big reader or library patron, found this to be exceptional. I believe it will “convert” anyone to the importance of libraries everywhere and will help in their awareness of how extensive this institution really is. – Jean Zabielski, Cataloging Specialist

I am reading *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin because of its focus on former Presidents and the historical events that occurred during their lives and their presidencies (Lincoln, the two Roosevelts and Johnson) and the very different but effective ways they dealt with national crises at the time. – Sheryl VanderWagen, ILS Manager

**Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.**

–R. David Lankes
OTHER EVENTS

AUGUST 7
LM RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

AUGUST 16
LM QUALITY SERVICES AUDIT CHECKLIST (QSAC) WEBINAR

AUGUST 26
LM PROGRAMS AND GRANT TIPS WEBINAR

AUGUST 27
WEBJUNCTION: LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY PLANNING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

AUGUST 31
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

SEPTEMBER 4-7
ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 12
LM NEW DIRECTOR WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 13
LM ADVANCED DIRECTOR WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 22-28
BANNED BOOKS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25
LM ANNUAL REPORT REFRESHER WEBINAR

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

STYLE IN THE STACKS - CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS - MLA 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BY SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Use your creativity to make library inspired fashion that you’ll model at the MLA Annual Conference in October. Proceeds from the event will go to the MLA Scholarship Fund. Let’s see what our members can come up with, then share your pics with us in a future newsletter. More details about the event and how to sign up are available [here](#).

19TH ANNUAL LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL
AUGUST 31, 2019 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

"The 19th annual Library of Congress National Book Festival will be held Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The event is free and open to the public... more than a hundred best-selling authors, novelists, historians, poets and children's writers will be on hand."

ALA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM
BY AUGUST 30, 2019

Are you looking to broaden your network and enhance your skills? The deadline for submission is August 30, 2019. "The American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders (EL) program is a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations."
STATE LIBRARIAN’S EXCELLENCE AWARD
BY AUGUST 16, 2019

"The Library of Michigan Foundation’s State Librarian’s Excellence Award will be awarded to a library (any type), including branch libraries, that exemplifies excellence in customer service. One (1) library in the state of Michigan will receive this prestigious award each year... The deadline for nominations is August 16, 2019."

DIGITALLEARN.ORG
BASIC COMPUTING SKILLS

This is a nice resource for simple videos that may help you or your patrons improve computer and technology skills. "If you are new to computers, haven’t used them for a while, are a little unsure and uncomfortable, or just need a bit of a refresher, we have the tools to help you tackle technology at your own pace and gain the confidence you need to succeed."

DIGITALLEAD
IS YOUR LIBRARY ELIGIBLE?

"PLA’s program, DigitalLead: Rural Libraries Creating New Possibilities, will accept applications from public libraries in select rural counties to help them to establish mobile hotspot lending programs and to initiate or expand digital skills training programs and patron access to computers... At least 50 libraries will be approved to receive new computers and other hardware, training, and more. Libraries nationwide will benefit from the training and tools created and collected by the project and released for use by PLA members and others."

Applications are being accepted now through late summer. More...

MICHIGAN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS
CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

You may already know about the Michigan Authors and Illustrators database provided by the Library of Michigan, but did you know how to help a local author apply? Check out the Criteria for Inclusion to learn more.

"A work must meet at least one of these criteria in order to be added to the Michigan Authors and Illustrators Database:
The author or illustrator was born, currently lives in, or writes or illustrates books where Michigan has import, and the work:
• has been reviewed in a professional journal.
• has received an award from an accredited organization.
• was published by a commercial publisher: a house that publishes the works of many individuals. (Note: Vanity and/or self-publishing is not sufficient to be included.)
• was published by an academic press, an historical society, or an educational or cultural institution.
• At least one of the author’s books must be found in multiple Michigan libraries.
• Failing to meet these criteria, a work may be accepted on the basis of the author’s body of work if the previous works meet any of these criteria."

ALSC TOUGH TOPICS BOOKLIST 2019
INCLUDING INFO FOR ADULTS

Are you always on the lookout for booklists? Here is a resource broken down by age ranges that may be helpful to you. “The books on these lists are to help inspire conversations with children going through challenging situations like the death of a loved one, an unexpected move, natural disasters and more.”