



OTSEGO DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

401 Dix Street • Otsego, MI 49078 • P (269) 694-9690 • F (269) 694-9129 • otsegoLibrary.org

INNOVATE • INTERACT • INSPIRE

FALL 2026

LIBRARY MILLAGE
INFORMATION INSIDE
The library will be on the
August 4, 2026 ballot.



LYRICS ON THE LAWN

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

THURSDAYS IN AUGUST AT 7 PM

Visit the library Thursday evenings in August for an outdoor concert on the lawn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and your family and friends to enjoy some great FREE entertainment. Popcorn will be provided by the Friends of the Library and bottled water will be available for \$1.



DONNY ROD

*Rod Stewart
Impersonator*

August 6

Donny Rod delivers an electrifying tribute to Rod Stewart with signature vocals, style, and stage presence.

This performance will keep you singing from beginning to end.



HARK UP

*Community Band
and Ensemble*

August 13

Hark Up is a West Michigan music group performing a variety of music for all types of events.

Their horns and harmonies are their trademark.



THE LUKE LENHART BAND

Acoustic Bluegrass

August 20

The Luke Lenhart Band performs beloved Beatles classics along with standout solo hits from the Fab Four.

Their nostalgic performances keep audiences singing along.



FOX ROGERS PROJECT

Country & Classics

August 27

Fox Rodgers brings a versatile live show with favorites from multiple genres to the stage.

You don't want to miss this performance.



Molina Healthare Grant

The Otsego District Library is grateful to receive a \$10,000 Molina Healthcare grant to support expanded services for local seniors.

Funding from the grant will help provide senior-focused programs, such as Coffee and Conversations, creating opportunities for social connection, learning, and community engagement.

The grant will also assist in launching a new homebound delivery service beginning in late summer/early fall, helping deliver library materials and resources directly to patron doorsteps – specifically targeting homebound senior patrons. The library thanks Molina Healthcare for sponsoring these grants for Michigan libraries and for investing in programs that strengthen community connection and access to services for older adults. Stay tuned for an announcement of this service beginning!

ADULT PROGRAMS

Creative Café - Wreath Workshop

Laurel Day with Do Something Co.

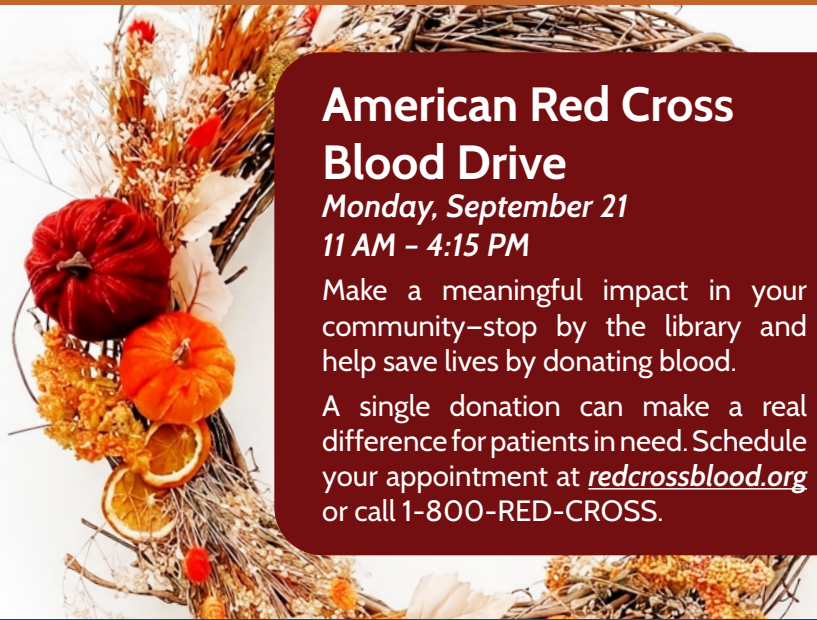
Friday, September 11 from 1 PM - 2:30 PM

Saturday, September 12 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM

Create a beautiful fall wreath in this fun, hands-on workshop! Using a 12-inch frame, you'll design a custom faux foliage wreath, finished at approximately 14-16 inches—perfect for adding a seasonal touch to your home.

All supplies are included, with a variety of foliage to choose from, and an experienced instructor will be there to guide you along the way.

Class size is limited to 30 participants (ADULTS ONLY). \$45 (non-refundable) registration required.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, September 21

11 AM - 4:15 PM

Make a meaningful impact in your community—stop by the library and help save lives by donating blood.

A single donation can make a real difference for patients in need. Schedule your appointment at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Preparing for Retirement Series

Presented by Ginger Titus, CFP® Financial Advisor - Edward Jones

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Medicare and Social Security Explained

Guest Speaker Miranda Pearson, Program Supervisor - Area Agency on Aging 3A

Thursday, September 17 @ 6:30 PM

Maximize your retirement income and protect your future. This session reveals how to strategically claim Social Security benefits for you and your spouse, and guides you through Medicare, supplemental coverage choices, and long-term care insurance so you can make informed, confident decisions.

Understanding and Creating Your Estate Plan

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Robinson, Attorney - Hettinger & Robinson PLC

Thursday, October 15 @ 6:30 PM

Everyone has an estate—everything you own, from your home and finances to personal belongings. What happens to your estate when you pass, at any age, can either be guided by your own decisions or determined by state laws and others on your behalf. Join us to explore your options and gain the knowledge you need to create a thoughtful, personalized estate plan.

Women of the Watch, Keepers of the Light

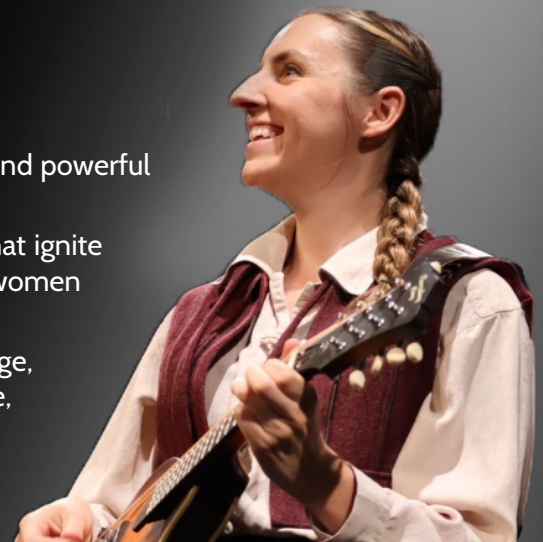
Presented by Kamryn Marck

Thursday, October 22 @ 6:30 PM

Step into a captivating 45-minute experience that blends music, humor, and powerful storytelling into one unforgettable performance.

Join Kamryn as she revisits cherished family lighthouse trips—memories that ignite a journey into the inspiring and often overlooked lives of Great Lakes women lighthouse keepers.

Through dynamic voice and expressive movement, she transforms the stage, bringing four extraordinary women to life and illuminating their courage, resilience, and unbreakable spirit. Stay after for a Q&A to complete this engaging one-hour program.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Mahjong Mondays

2nd and 4th Mondays from 1 - 3PM

September 28th - January 25

(No Meetup December 21)

Join us twice a month for a friendly American Mahjong meetup open to all skill levels. Enjoy relaxed games, meet fellow enthusiasts, and build your skills in a welcoming, social atmosphere. New players are always welcome!

Plant Propagation & Cutting Exchange

Thursday, October 1 @ 6 PM

Love plants? Join us for a relaxed hands-on introduction to plant propagation. Bring a plant from home to share and make cuttings if you'd like -- no pressure if you don't.

We'll swap tips, learn together, and enjoy some plant talk along the way. Everyone will leave with new knowledge and cutting to grow at home.



Book Clubs

Newcomers are always welcome!

2nd Monday Book Club

2nd Monday @ 2 PM

July 13 *Iron Lake*
William Kent Krueger

August 10 *Back of Beyond*
C.J. Box

September 14 *James*
Percival Everett

October 12 *The Little Liar*
Mitch Album

November 9 *These Silent Woods*
Kimi Cunningham Grant

December 14 *Holiday Book of Choice!*
Author

January 11 *The Berry Pickers*
Amanda Peters

Non-Fiction Book Club

Meets the following Wednesdays @ 5 PM

July 1 *The Gales of November*
John U. Bacon

August 12 *The Crisis of Islam (Book 1)*
What Went Wrong? (Book 2)
Bernard Lewis

September 9 *Master Slave Husband Wife*
Ilyon Woo

October 7 *Democracy in America*
Harvey C. Mansfield & Delba Winthrop

November 4 *I Will*
Sheron Wyant-Leonard

December 2 *History Matters*
David McCullough

January 13 *Get the Picture*
Bianca Bosker



Capturing Our Natural World

Learning and Growing as a Photographer

Thursday, November 12 @ 6 PM

If you're fascinated by birds, wildlife, plants, and trees, nature photography offers endless opportunities to capture the beauty of the outdoors—whether in a local park or on a far-off adventure.

In this engaging presentation, nature photographer Corey Seeman shares his growth as a photographer and offers practical tips for improving your nature photography. Learn about great photography locations, the habits of birds and wildlife, planning trips throughout the seasons, and basic camera settings for capturing nature.

Attendees will leave inspired with new ideas for exploring and photographing the natural world.

Coffee and Conversations

3rd Friday @ 10 AM

August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20

Join your community friends for some coffee, tea, and yummy treats while having lively discussions.

Get Crafty

Make and Take Crafts for Adults

3rd Friday @ 1 PM

August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20

Create a fun craft for free! Learn new crafting techniques in a low-pressure environment – no skill required. Bring your friends or connect with new friends while creating a fun decoration that you can proudly take home to display.

Note: These are ADULT ONLY events.



Tiny Michigan Art Gallery

Get all of the details on the Teen/Tween Programs Page!



TEEN/TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Scene

1st Thursday @ 4 PM
September 3, October 1,
and November 5

Hang out with us!

Play games, watch movies,
and eat snacks.

Featuring Nintendo Switch
consoles and some fun
new tabletop games.

Creative Writing Club

2nd Thursday @ 4 PM
September 10, October 8,
and November 12

Do you LOVE to write?
Join us as we write together
and share short stories,
personal writing pieces, and
ideas. All writing styles are
welcome.

Art Hub

3rd Thursday @ 4 PM
September 17, October 15,
and November 19

Create beautiful pieces of art
that are more advanced and
hand picked just for teens/
tweens.

You will be drawing, painting,
crafting, and so much more!

Sweet & Salty Book Club

4th Thursday @ 4 PM
September 24
and October 22

Discuss what you are
reading over snacks.
Choose any book you are
reading to share with the
group. Ask a staff member
about book suggestions!

Shake, Rattle, and Haunt After-Hours Halloween Party

Friday, October 23 from 6 - 8 PM

Grab your coolest cats and join us for a rockin' good time! We're talkin' hot slices of pizza, sweet treats that hit the spot, killer games, and far-out prizes that'll have you grinnin' all night long.

Strut your stuff in our costume contest and show off your spookiest, silliest, or most outta-sight look, then see if you've got the nerve for a round of hide and seek in the dark... if you dare.

Stick around, meet some new friends, and keep the party going with music, laughs, and plenty of Halloween fun. It's gonna be a real scream—so don't be a square, come shake, rattle, and haunt with us!



VolunTEENS

Middle School – High School

Earn service credit hours for school or building a resume for future job searches. Stop by during library hours for a training orientation and to begin volunteering. Once you've had your orientation, you can volunteer any time the library is open.

Tiny Michigan Art Gallery

Pick up a tiny canvas when you sign up to create a Michigan masterpiece. Bring it to life using any medium – paint, mixed media, clay, and more. Capture Michigan's charm through water, bridges, sunsets, farms, animals, or whatever inspires you.

Tiny Canvas Pickup	<i>Between September - October</i>
Canvas Drop-Off	<i>October 1 - 31</i>
Art Display & Voting	<i>November 1 - 30</i>
Pickup Artwork	<i>First Week of December</i>

There are six age groups (*Preschool, Kindergarten–2nd Grade, 3rd–5th Grade, Middle School, High School, and Adult*) and two prize categories (*Best in Show* and *Most Creative*). Patrons vote in November, and winners are selected for each group and category. Artwork should be picked up the first week of December; unclaimed pieces will be discarded after January 1, 2027.



Stocking Surprise!

Monday, December 21 –
Wednesday, December 23
(During Open Library Hours)

Pop in during the week of Christmas
(before we close for the holiday) and
snag a festive surprise!

A little treat will be
waiting for teens
and tweens as our
way of spreading
a little seasonal
cheer. One gift
per person, while
supplies last!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Tiny Tots

Tuesdays @ 10 AM
September 8 - November 17
Ages 0 - 24 months

Sing, read, and play with other library tiny tots!

Music & Movement

Wednesdays @ 10 AM
September 9 - November 18
Ages 0 - 5

Move and grove with exciting songs, stories, interactive play, and sensory activities.

Storytime

Thursdays @ 10 AM
September 10 - November 19
Ages 0 - 5

Stories, songs, and crafts focusing on a new theme each week.

Oct. 29 - Wear your spookiest attire or costume!

Dec. 3 - Santa Storytime - Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas!

Construct & Create

Tuesdays @ 4 PM
September 8 - November 17
Preschool - 5th Grade

Join your friends after school to build with different materials and create beautiful art projects.

Get ready to use your imagination and get your creativity flowing!

Tiny Michigan Art Gallery

Details are on the Teen/Tween Programs Page!



Fancy Nancy Tea Party

Saturday, October 3 from 10 AM - Noon
Preschool - 5th Grade

Join us at the library for a fabulously fancy celebration inspired by Fancy Nancy! Young princes and princesses are invited to step into a world of sparkle, imagination, and creativity. Enjoy making your very own dazzling DIY crowns, sipping on delightful “tea,” and sampling sweet treats fit for royalty. There will be plenty of fun, laughter, and fancy surprises along the way!

Guests are encouraged to dress in their most glamorous royal attire—tiaras, bow ties, gowns, and capes! This event is open to children of all ages through 5th grade, and everyone is welcome - boys and girls alike.

Come ready to be fancy, fabulous, and full of fun!



Scavenger Hunt Month

All December Long

Where is Dewey the Elf hiding?

Our library elf, Dewey, is hiding in a new spot every few days in the children's section—and getting into mischief!

Can you find him? But don't touch! He'll lose his magic and won't be able to fly back to the North Pole for Christmas. Tell the front desk where you found him and what he was doing to earn a special prize.



Elf For A Day

Saturday, December 12 from 10 AM - Noon

Step into the magic of the North Pole at our Elf Training Day!

Children are invited to become elves for the day and take part in a fun, hands-on training experience. Young participants will rotate through interactive stations like the Build-a-Toy Workshop, gift wrapping practice, reindeer games, and North Pole kitchen creations as they learn what it takes to help Santa prepare for the big day.



Kid Librarian

Ages 7-12

Starting in September, two lucky kids each month will be chosen to be our “Kid Librarians!” They'll get to share their favorite books and create their very own display in the children's section.

Want a turn? Stop by the circulation desk to fill out an application – winners will be emailed with all the details!



LIBRARY MILLAGE INFORMATION

AUGUST 4, 2026 BALLOT PROPOSAL

1996 - 2026
30 YEARS

Since Last Operating Millage Ask.
Operating on 1 Mill voted in 1996.
(now at 0.9502 due to headlee rollback)

In 1996, min wage was \$3.35/hr -
7000 ft² facility.

In 2027, min wage will be \$15/hr -
now 18,400 ft² facility.

DEBT MILLAGE COMPLETE IN MAY 2027 - LAST LEVY

- The library's construction bonds will be paid off in May 2027, and the levy for approximately 0.5 mill will be dropped from tax roll.

REFINANCED BONDS TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

- In 2016, the library refinanced its building's debt bonds, SAVING TAXPAYERS OVER 1.5 MILLION 2016 - 2026.

RISING EXPENSES ARE OUTPACING OPERATING INCOME

- In particular, rising costs for building & equipment maintenance, along with increased staffing expenses due to increasing minimum wage rates, are outpacing income.

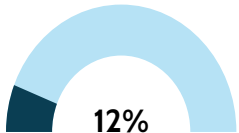
FUND BALANCE DEPLETION

- The library has had to rely heavily on its fund balance to cover both upgrades and routine maintenance as well as regular operating costs.

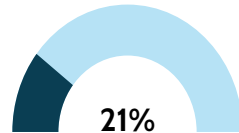


INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: OUR FACILITY IS 17 YEARS OLD

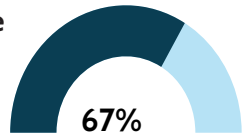
The library has over \$500,000 in known infrastructure repair & essential maintenance needs, including HVAC, crumbling exterior masonry, lighting, parking lot maintenance, and accessibility improvements.



Since 2010, Operating Millage Income has increased **12%**. Overall Income (including millage and all other sources) have increased **21%**.



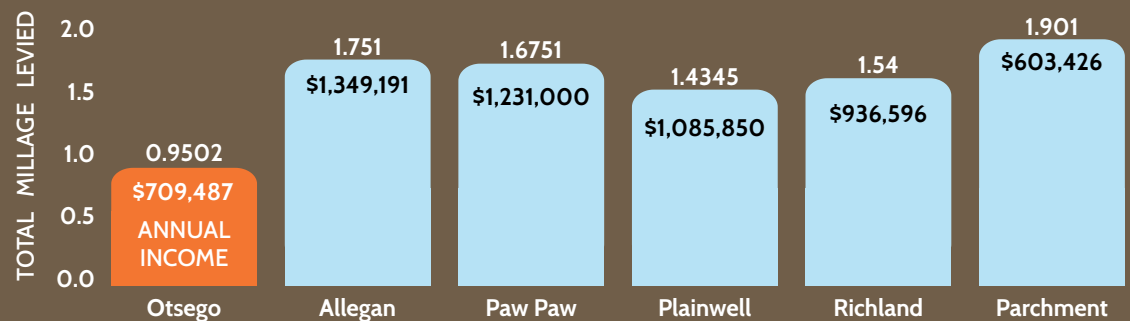
Meanwhile, since 2010, Overall Expenses, have increased **67%**.



400% INCREASE IN BUILDING & GROUNDS COSTS SINCE 2005 DUE TO AGING FACILITY (17 YEARS OLD) AND EQUIPMENT

COMPARABLE LIBRARIES

Compared to other local libraries, millage funding for the Otsego District Public Library lags behind. Millage income is the primary source of library funding.



Community Forums: Otsego District Public Library

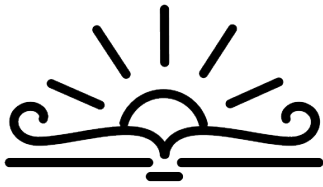
Wednesday, July 22

10 AM - 11:30 AM and 5:30 PM - 7 PM

Join us for coffee at an upcoming Community Forum at the library, where Library Director Andrea and Assistant Director Leesa will be available for an open Q & A session.

This is a great opportunity to learn updates and facts about the current state of the library, ask questions, share feedback, and connect with others in the community. Whether you're curious about programs, resources, or future plans, we'd love to hear from you. All are welcome!





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Residential Customer

Holiday Hours

The library will be CLOSED for the following holidays:

Labor Day - - - - - Saturday, September 5 - Monday, September 7
Thanksgiving - - - - - Thursday, November 26 - Saturday, November 28
Christmas - - - - - Thursday, December 24 - Saturday, December 26
New Years - - - - - Thursday, December 31 - Saturday, January 2

Library Hours

Monday • Wednesday • Friday - 9 AM - 6 PM
Tuesday • Thursday - - - - - 9 AM - 7 PM
Saturday - - - - - 9 AM - 3 PM
Check our website & social media for updates.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library have made a strong impact this year thanks to community support and dedicated volunteers. The Spring Book Sale raised \$1,218, with volunteers handling setup, sales, and cleanup. The Friends' donated \$4,000 for Read & Dine: Adult Winter Reading Club, new tables, library grounds updates, and historic map restoration. An additional \$4,000 gift to the Friends from the Evergreen Foundation will fund children's books for the Summer Reading Program, Easy Reader books, and Large Print titles.

Community donations continue to enrich both the Friends Book Store and the library collection, including a recent large paperback donation currently being processed, with nearly 800 books added to the library collection this year - with more to come!

Volunteer opportunities remain available throughout the year, including Summer Reading, Lyrics on the Lawn, and Book Store shifts. New volunteers are always welcome.

FRIENDS' MEETINGS

Monday, August 17 @ 1 PM

Monday, November 16 @ 1 PM

FALL BOOK SALE - 2 DAYS!

Friday, October 9 - - - - - 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, October 10 - - - - - 9 AM - 1 PM (\$3/Bag Day)



Little Seeds, Big Stories: Watch Me Grow! Summer Reading Program Update

Our community is in full bloom this summer! Hundreds of children and teens—from birth through age 18 have registered for the library's Summer Reading Program, and it has been wonderful to see curiosity take root through storytime, special events, and reading activities that encourage lifelong reading habits. This program would not flourish without the generous support of our sponsors, and sincere thanks go to:

- The Friends of the Otsego Library
(Prize Books and Kick-Off Event Sponsor)
- Dunkin' Donuts
(Kick-Off Event Sponsor)
- John Ball Zoo
(Family Membership Donation)
- Meijer
(Grand Prize Gift Cards, Prizes/Supplies)
- Otsego Businesses & Organizations
(Scavenger Hunt Participants)
- Arbys, Culvers, Dairy Freeze,
and Pizza Hut
Finisher Prize - Free Food/Treat
- Chula Vista Garden Club
(Kick-Off & Library Event Sponsor)
- Home Depot
(Seed Packet Donations)

Thanks to their support and the enthusiasm of participants, this summer continues to grow with discovery, learning, and plenty of great stories still to come.

