I recently made the trek up to Mackinac Island where I spent a couple of much needed days unplugged from technology and from the stress of my day to day work as your Library Director. Perhaps it seems impossible to imagine, and while working at the Library is a very fulfilling job—overseeing a busy library does carry with it a lot of responsibility and when you add to that all of the boards and committee work that goes with it, it can be very time consuming too. That being said, I have been very fortunate to do what I love as part of my day-to-day work.

Leaving the demands of the real world parked in my vehicle at the dock in Mackinaw City, my luggage and I made the roughly 16 minute ferry ride across the Straits of Mackinac to the sound of clickety clack, clickety clack, of horses hooves on the small island streets. What made this trip more enjoyable is that it was a rather quiet weekend for the Island, the weather was cool, but dry, and I made prior arrangements to meet with my Uncle who had called the Island home for many years before he married and eventually settled in St. Ignace. Knowing my appreciation for history, architecture, and old churches and cathedrals, he gave me a personalized tour of the historical churches and small chapels nestled around the Island. While doing so I happened upon some fellow Oxford residents who made the trek and were enjoying the Island too. What a small world (or Island, I should say).

I’ve been to Mackinac Island a number of times over the years either for work or for pleasure, but this trip was more enjoyable and relaxing.

After my Uncle caught the ferry back to St. Ignace, with no agenda or itinerary to follow I was welcomed to the historical Hotel Iroquois where I changed into my walking shoes and in the spirit of Robert Frost—I took the road less traveled by. Making my way up to the West and East Bluffs I meandered by the Grand Hotel and admired the beautiful gardens and horse stables that adorning the historical homes and cottages that overlook the Mackinac Bridge, Colonial Fort Michilimackinac, and Round Island Lighthouse. I made a point of taking in the natural beauty that times before I had simply overlooked. So you might be wondering why I am even sharing this short anecdotal story with you. In my career as a public servant I have met many interesting people. Some of whom, like myself tend to keep very busy and find themselves working too much. What is important to remember is to take the time out of your busy schedule to spend it with family and friends, especially with the Holiday season fast approaching us. Unwind and relax a little. Not only will your family thank you for it—so will you.

Because I took the time to slow down and take in my surroundings rather than being somewhat oblivious to them, I was able to snap the cover photo for this issue of the library newsletter—something I enjoy doing, but rarely make the time to do. The house pictured is one of the historical old homes and gardens nestled up next to the Grand Hotel.

Perhaps the best and most important advice I can offer you, and the Library staff agrees—when you do get away and then decide to return to work, don’t forget to bring back the fudge!
Commemorative donations are a meaningful way of remembering deceased friends and relatives or honoring people on special occasions. Donations are used to purchase books and other materials or deposited in the Library Endowment Fund for future use. Checks should be made payable to the Oxford Public Library and will be accepted by the Director.

- Donald & Nancy Pais
  In Memory of William Beltz
- Bryan Cloutier
  In Memory of William Beltz

### Facts & Figures

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### Something for Everyone

**A Celebration of Abundance! Michigan Farming Special Exhibit
January 10 – February 21, 2020**

We are pleased to share exhibits showcasing the rich local agricultural resources and historical whatnots of Michigan farm life, including a special exhibit from the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. During that time there will be much fun! Music, crafts, scavenger hunts, reading programs, and even a square dance! Be sure to read all about the details in this newsletter.

**Family Movies**

- Sunday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.
  Toy Story 4
- Sunday, January 12, 2:00 p.m.
  Charlotte’s Web
- Sunday, February 2, 2:00 p.m.
  Chicken Run

**You are Invited to a Special Celebration
Friday, January 10, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

You are cordially invited to the grand opening of our Celebration of Abundance! Michigan Farming Exhibit, Friday, January 10, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Stroll through the various displays at the Library while enjoying finger foods from Victoria’s and music performed by Debonair. We hope you can join us for this special occasion.

Please R.S.V.P. for this event. All ages are welcome.

**Gardenside Music**

- Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
  **Marimba with Paul Demeck**
  Enjoy a selection of holiday tunes
- Sunday, January 19, 2:00 p.m.
  **Golden Griffon Stringtet**
  Square dance in the Rotary Room
- Sunday, February 16, 2:00 p.m.
  **The Dug Outs**
  Music of World War I
Upcoming Adult Programs

All programs are held in the Rotary Room unless otherwise noted. Register online, in person at the adult reference desk, or by calling (248) 628-3034 ext. 222.

Holiday Crafting
Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
You will learn some simple, creative, paper pop-up techniques and take home a few of your own creations in this crafting class with the Library’s own Jennifer.

Local Food Sources
Monday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.
The best things are grown in our own backyard! Seasonal fare and locally-grown produce feature heavily in everything produced at the HomeGrown Brewing Company. Join Chef DeMonaco as he talks about local food sources you may not know about. There will be food for tasting so please R.S.V.P. for this event!

Michigan Barn Preservation Network
Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.
A speaker from the Michigan Barn Preservation Network will be at the Library to discuss the special exhibit at the Library, highlighting the preservation and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads, and rural communities.

Golden Griffon Stringtet
Sunday, January 19, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Kick up your heels and get ready to dance at this genuine Square Dance! Ages 8 and up can participate but there will be plenty of space for younger children to sit, listen to the music, and watch the dancers. There will also be a photo booth set up for fun picture taking for all ages!

Michigan Mammals
Wednesday, January 22, 7:15 p.m.
Howell Nature Center will be here for a talk on Michigan mammals. And yes, there will be live animals! Youngsters can attend earlier sessions. This session is open to ages 12 and up.

Michigan Barn Preservation Network Exhibit January 10 – February 21
Special celebration after hours on January 10th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. See page 3 for details.

Vote for your Favorite!
December – Vote for your favorite thing to do when the weather turns cold!
January – Vote for your favorite New Year’s resolution or share one of your own.
February – It’s National Snack Food Month! Vote for your favorite snack.

Adult Winter Reading Program
January 10 – February 21
A Celebration of Abundance
Read a book or listen to audiobooks to win prizes!
Read from one of our bibs or write a book review to receive even more chances to win!
Grand Prize is a $50.00 gift card to Meijer.
Upcoming Adult Programs continued...

**It's a Paint Party at the Library**
Saturday, January 25, 11:00 a.m.
Picasso's Grapevine is back to help us paint this beautiful owl on a small canvas. Registration begins January 2 and will be limited to Oxford residents. Call or stop by to register.

**The Land of the Three Fires**
Thursday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.
Michigan's forests provided everything the Ottawa, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi tribes - the People of the Three Fires - needed for survival. Join Seven Ponds Nature Center's naturalist to learn more about these tribes and how their ancestors moved from hunters and gatherers to farmers.

**Quilling Class with Jennifer**
Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.
Make an adorable loving-lamb quilled card while you learn this fun craft technique. Class size will be limited so sign up early!

**Cast Iron Skillet Cooking Class**
Saturday, February 8, 1:00 p.m.
Mary Spencer of Taste, A Cook's Place will be demonstrating her skills with a skillet! There will be a tasting of her creations so be sure to register so there is enough for everyone!

**Bees & Beekeeping**
Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.
Join Mark Spencer, owner of Spencer's Apiaries, to learn about bees and the important role they play in food production. Learn how to get started in beekeeping, and about some of the amazing products that can be made from the honey and beeswax bees produce.

**Community Garden and Seed Program**
Monday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.
We are exploring farming and food in all its complexities! Come listen to a talk by a director of a local community garden, learn about our seed program, and watch a movie about food and its relationship to farming and gardening.

**Eastern Market**
Thursday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.
Dan Carmody, president of Eastern Market Partnership, will talk about the history of Eastern Market and its importance to Detroit and Southeastern Michigan.

**Oakland County Bicentennial**
Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.
Jim Craft from the Oakland County Historical Commission will be at the Library to present a talk about Oakland County in the 1870s based on the newly re-published 1877 History of Oakland County.

**Fireside Chat**
Fridays at 2:00 p.m.

- January 17 - Anneke Bullock
  Transformation of a Barn: Making a Home

- January 24 - Clinton River Watershed Council
  Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels

- January 31 - Kelly Wilson of Local Food Guide Magazine
  Michigan Year-round Locally Grown Foods

- February 7 - Nate Perkins of Upland Hills Farm
  Agri-tourism and Local Farm Life

- February 14 - Joe Mayday, Master of the Hunt
  90+ Years of Sport and Tradition at the Metamora Hunt Club
Special Collections and Random Stuff

**Adult Department Random Stuff Collection Continues to Grow!**
The Adult Random Stuff Collection includes Cake Pans, Jigsaw Puzzles, Games, and Adult Activity Kits all of which check out. We’re adding kits for crocheting, cake decorating, outdoor games, grandparenting and more. We even have a kit to help you survive the Zombie Apocalypse!!

Don’t forget we have musical instruments too (think ukulele). Now we will have a portable roll up electronic drum set too! What’s next?

We’d love to hear your suggestions for items you’d like to see added to this random collection of stuff.

**Literacy & Special Needs Collection**
Oxford Public Library offers over 100 games, toys and Story Boxes to promote literacy and important skills including: auditory, fine motor, gross motor, language, social skills, tactile, thinking & visual.

These items are available to check out for 3 weeks at a time and are conveniently contained in plastic totes and nylon bags. Literacy and Special Needs items are a valuable resource for parents, caregivers, teachers and therapists to enhance and add variety to the materials they already make use of. Ask any Youth Services staff member for a tour of the collection or for more information.*The Literacy & Special Needs Collection was made possible by an anonymous donation*

**Braille Collection**
Come explore the Braille book collection that we recently added to our Literacy and Special Needs Collection! A grant provided by the Village Club Foundation made this collection possible. We have board and picture books shelved at the end of the Literacy and Special Needs Collection and chapter books located in the Adult Department near the Random Stuff Collection (we did not have room on the Youth shelves for them). If you have any questions about the collection, feel free to ask!

**Play ‘n’ Learn Zone**
“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning, but for children, play is serious learning.”
– Fred Rogers

Our Play ‘n’ Learn Zone is made up of carefully selected toys to encourage the development of many important life skills. When children play, they explore, make connections, build confidence, express emotions, learn social skills, think creatively and problem-solve.

**Teen Book Club Collection**
The Teen Department is happy to announce the addition of a book club collection. If you want to read a book with your friends and family, this is the place to look. The collection covers an array of genres. The only thing better than a good book is someone to discuss it with!

**Teen Department Activities**
Bring your friends and spend some time in the Teen Department! Every month there is a themed activity to do. We keep a coloring table stocked with pictures, markers, crayons, and coloring pencils. We also have a collection of games that can be played in the library. It’s a great place to hang out with your friends after school!
Teen Winter 2020
All programs are for teens in 6th-12th grade

Mid-Winter Harvest Festival @ OPL Teen
It may be bleak and frigid outside, but inside the library it’s Harvest Festival Time! Join us for some festival fun! No registration necessary. Just drop in!

Festival Fun: Wool Crafts
Tuesdays January 14, 21, and 28
6:00-7:00 p.m.
January 14: Felted Soap- Felted soap is easy and fun! Join us to learn how to make your own exfoliating and cool looking bar of soap!
January 21: PomPom Bookmarks- This bookmark won’t bend and tear!
January 28: Drop Spinners- Make a drop spinner to spin your wool roving into yarn!

Festival Fun: Caramel Apple-Making
Monday February 3
4:00-8:00 p.m. (while supplies last)
We’ll be putting a sweet spin on the Ultimate Michigan Harvest Fruit: The Apple! Please Note: One apple per person.

Festival Fun: Perler Beads
Wednesday February 26
4:30-6:00 p.m.
We’ll be bringing back this old favorite for one afternoon ONLY! Stop by and make a fantastic creation!

Registration Programs:

Treasure Books with Ms. Jennifer!
Wednesday, January 15
5:00-6:00 p.m.
We love her cakes but that’s not all she makes! Join Ms. Jennifer for this cool project that uses scraps to make awesome Treasure Books!

Get Hooked on Crochet
Tuesdays, January 11, 18, & 25
6:00-7:00 p.m.
This is a three session program designed to give you an introduction to crochet. It’s best if you attend all sessions!

Session 1 – Learning the basics of crochet
In the first session we will be learning the basics of crochet. How to hold a hook. How to hold the yarn. How to start a chain. How to chain. How to build on a chain.

Session 2 – Advanced moves / picking a project
In the second session we will learn how to perform more complex stitches. How to make a foundation ring. How to increase and decrease. How to change color. We will also pick out a project for each teen to work towards.

Session 3 – Working toward a finished product
In this third session we will take what we have learned and begin working on our final projects.

Dungeons & Dragons Club
Thursdays
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Club has limited space. See Ms. Rachael for information.
Teen Winter 2020 continued...

Other Drop-In Fun:

Hot Cocoa Jar (Craft)
Monday December 16
4:00-8:00 p.m. (while supplies last)
Need a last minute stocking stuffer? Join us for a Special Boredom Buster Monday and make a Hot Cocoa Jar to give away (or enjoy yourself).

Super Saturday Movies
First Saturdays: December 7, January 4, February 1
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Escape the winter blues with classic movies on the big screen. Snacks served.
December 7: A Christmas Story
January 4: The Sandlot
February 1: The Goonies

Make a Valentine
February 10 - 14
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Drop in anytime this week and make a valentine. We’ll have all sorts of art supplies set out, so you can get creative. Remember: Valentines don’t have to be romantic. They can be as simple as a friendly “You’re Awesome!” message for a friend or family member.

Boredom Buster Mondays
First Mondays
4:00-8:00 p.m.
Bored? Don’t be! Stop by the Teen Department and have some fun!
December 2: LEGOsbuild something!
January 6: Friendship Bracelets—Make one for your Bestie (or for yourself)
See our Festival Fun write-up for a Very Special February Craft

So… You Could Win Prizes!
You must be in grades 6th-12th to be eligible to win teen program prizes.

Winter Reading
January—All Month Long
Read books, write (short) reviews, and win epic prizes. The more you read, the better your chances of winning. Really, it’s that easy! Winner will be randomly chosen the first week of February.

Cool to be Kind
February—All Month Long
February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day, but we thought it would be awesome to extend this concept throughout the entire month. Stop by the Teen Department and pick up a Random Acts of Kindness Checklist. Turn in your completed list February 24-28 and be entered to win a Special Prize as a thank you (from us) for being extra excellent to others this month. Winner will be randomly chosen the first week of March.

Voting Box
Every Month—All Month Long
Who would win in the Ultimate Wizarding Duel: Gandalf or Dumbledore? Who is more likely to survive the Zombie Apocalypse: Katniss Everdeen or Triss Prior? It’s your chance to voice your opinions! Look for our Ballot Box and cast your vote. Question changes monthly and a new winner will be drawn randomly each month.

Volunteer
Need hours for NHS, Scouting, or other service group? Look no further than OPL! We’re seeking responsible teen volunteers to help around the library. You MUST be in 6th-12th grade to volunteer. Stop by the Teen Desk for details.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our programs are created with teens in mind and are for teens grades 6th-12th ONLY. We ask that parents and younger siblings make alternate plans. Due to limited space and resources, some programs may require registration.
Winter Youth Programs
Youth Department - All programs are FREE!

Weekly Programs, registration required
November and December programs are ongoing. Call to inquire about openings. Register in person, online at www.MiOPL.org or by phone at (248) 628-3034 x216. Registration for the Winter Session begins Monday, December 16.

Bitty Bops
(babies under age 2, with an adult lap)
Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
January 6 through February 10
Babies like stories and music too! This program includes songs, nursery rhymes, fingerplays and short stories with your baby. We want this to be a special time for you and your baby, so please make other arrangements for siblings.

Toddler Time (ages 24 months – 35 months, with an adult lap)
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.
January 7 through February 11
Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and activities with your toddler. We want to make this a special time for you and your toddler so please make other arrangements for siblings.

Preschool Storytime (ages 3 – 5 years)
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
January 9 through February 13
Listen to stories, sing songs, learn fingerplays & rhymes. Children should be able to listen independently for this class. This is a great introduction for children to being in a group and following directions.

After-School Adventures
(grades K-2)
Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.
January 8 through February 12
Listen to stories and be creative with arts and crafts and other activities.

Lego® Club (grades 3-5)
Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.
January 9 through February 13
Build amazing creations every week! Each week you will have a different task to build something fun.

Drop-in Programs, no registration needed

Wee Wednesdays, all ages
(Adult lap for children under 3)
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
January 8 through February 12
Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and more in this storytime for all ages.

Teddy Tales, all ages
(Adult lap for children under 3)
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
January 9 through February 13
Wear your PJs if you like and listen to stories, songs, rhymes and more!

For Parents

Parent Connection
Second Tuesdays of the month from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
Upcoming dates:
Tuesday, December 10
Tuesday, January 14
Tuesday, February 11
Registration is encouraged so we know how much food to order. Take a night off from cooking once a month and meet up with other parents to discuss a variety of parenting topics. A free family meal is served and free babysitting is provided (for children ages 12 months – 12 years).

Preschool Fair
Wednesday, February 19, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Drop-in/Open house program, no registration needed
Is your child reaching preschool age? Are you looking for a preschool that will be the best fit for your child? Preschools from Oxford and the surrounding communities will be here to provide information to prospective parents about their preschools so you can find that perfect fit.
Special Programs
(Registration required when noted)

Gingerbread Houses (All ages with an adult helper)
Saturday, December 14
Session 1: 10:30 a.m.
Session 2: 12:00 Noon
Session 3: 1:30 p.m.
Registration is required and begins November 18.
Get into the holiday spirit and bring a grown-up to help you build a gingerbread house with graham crackers, frosting and candies!

S.T.E.A.M. Crafternoons (All ages)
Saturday, December 7 – Shapes
Saturday, January 11 – Wheels/Gears
Saturday, February 8 – Shadows
Stop in anytime during the day for our S.T.E.A.M. Crafternoons and create an art project that ties in with the S.T.E.A.M. Station activity of that month.

Holiday Break Crafts (All ages)
December 21-23, 26-30 2019 & January 2-5, 2020
Drop-in program, no registration needed
Drop in anytime while on break and enjoy a variety of holiday and winter crafts to make and take home.

Enhanced Storytime (Ages 0-5, with a caregiver)
Saturday, January 11 & February 8, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Registration is required. Register for each date separately
These monthly storytimes will include stations to explore and develop fine motor, sensory, problem solving, gross motor and social emotional skills. Each family will receive one copy of the featured story to keep.
(Made possible by a grant from the Great Start Collaborative)

Michigan Mammals (All Ages)
(Oxford Friends’ sponsored event)
Wednesday, January 22, 6:00 p.m.
Registration is required and begins December 16
Learn about the adaptations of mammals found right here in the Great Lake State using interactive examples and by meeting live, native mammals up-close and personal!

Farm Fun (Ages 5 and Up)
Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.
Registration is required and begins December 16
Make butter, create art with milk, plant a seed and more in this fun hands-on farm-themed event.

Family Book Bingo (Ages 5 and up)
Saturday, February 15, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Registration is required and begins December 16.
Come to the library, play Bingo, and win books as prizes. Bring the family and have a great time!

Jr. Tech Explorers (Ages 5-7)
*Registration begins December 16.
Register for each date separately.

Coding Games
Monday, January 20 & February 24, 6:30 p.m.
Explore coding through some fun coding games.

Snap Circuits
Monday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.
Explore electricity and circuits using these fun kits.

Offbits DIY Robots
Monday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.
Explore coding using hands-on materials.

Tech Explorers (Ages 8-12)
*Registration begins December 16.
Register for each date separately.

Ozobots - Intro
Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.
Explore the basics of coding with this mini robot and different colored markers!

OSMO Coding Jam - Intro
Wednesday, January 15 & February 12
Explore the basics of coding with this fun music program.

Ozobots – Level 1
Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.
Explore the next step in coding these little robots. For kids who have attended the intro class or have these robots at home!

Snap Circuits – Level 1
Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.
Explore electricity and circuits using these fun kits. For kids who have attended the intro class or have these at home.
From the Friends...
The Friends of OPL raise funds to help support library programs, activities and special projects. Thanks to community support, our annual fall book sale was a huge success. Between membership dues and book sales, we raised over $2,350. The number of books donated to the Friends for this sale was amazing.

Our second annual Craft and Vendor Fair was wonderfully successful. Our next big fund raiser is our basket silent auction coming in February. We really appreciate our local businesses who donate to this fun event.

The history of the Oxford Public Library will be presented by Judy Doublestein, the former Director of the Library and Bryan Cloutier, the present Director of the Library on Monday, February 10th at our annual meeting. A short meeting with elections to follow. Refreshments will be served.

Annual Meeting February 10, 2020