IN THIS ISSUE

Read-to-Me Dogs, p. 2
Coming Soon @ PLDL, p. 5
Our New Seed Library, p. 6
Reader Recommendations, p. 8
In March, the library kicked-off an early literacy program that pairs children with a non-judgmental, patient and loving partner—a therapy dog! Every Wednesday between 4:00pm and 5:00pm, young children can stop by to read to one of three trained and registered therapy dogs. For children who need extra help developing reading skills, sitting down with a pet partner can be the calming and comfortable environment they need to learn and grow.

According to a 2010 study completed by the University of California Davis, children who read to dogs improved their own reading skills in comparison to children who did not read to dogs. The same study revealed that children who read to dogs also reported a greater enjoyment of reading than those who did not read to dogs.

All Read-to-Me Dogs at our library are registered with Therapy Dogs International and Superiorland Pet Partners. Harley is a white Golden Retriever who has been a therapy dog for more than seven years visiting the elderly in nursing homes. Ruby is a Leonberger who has been a library reading dog for three years, and a therapy dog at Michigan Tech to help reduce student stress during finals week. Last but no least, Hope is another Leonberger whose therapy work also includes hospice centers and meeting with Michigan Tech students during finals week.
Please call the library at 482-4570 for additional event information, or visit the library’s event calendar at www.pldl.org

**Baby and Me Storytime**
*Every Monday, 10:15 am*
Join us for our first baby storytime. For ages 0-18 months and a loving adult. Songs, stories, fingerplays and socializing. Older siblings are welcome.

**Storytime for Preschoolers**
*Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10:15 am*
Storytime for 2-5 year olds. Older and younger siblings may also attend. Join us for stories, crafts and a really good time.

**Read-to-Me Dogs**
*Every Wednesday, 4:00 pm*
Three gentle dogs will be available for children to read out loud. Bring your child’s favorite book or grab one from our shelves when it’s their turn to read!

**Adult Book Group**
*Wednesday, May 9th, 5:30 pm*
This month, join the adult book group on Wednesday, May 9th to discuss *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. New members are always welcome.

**AmeriCorps Book Club for Kids**
*Saturday, May 5th 1:00 pm*
Children of all ages are invited to drop in for stories, crafts and games hosted by Superior AmeriCorps.

**Manitou Island Light Station Project**
*Monday, May 7th, 6:00 pm*
This presentation will be given by representatives of the Keweenaw Land Trust.

**Keweenaw Garden Club**
*Monday, May 21st, 6:30 pm*
Amanda Binoniemi, a local MSU Advanced Master Gardener, will provide a history of lilacs from the Old World to the New, followed by tips for selecting and planting lilacs.

**Young Adult Book Group**
*2nd & 4th Monday of Every Month, 6:30 pm*
This book group is for teens who love to read. Stop by any regular meeting to join the group.

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SPRING READS
Find these books and more in the library’s online catalog at www.pldl.org
As part of a new partnership between the library and area businesses, library card holders will get extra benefits around the library district, just by flashing their library card.

As a library user, your library card is the key to opportunity, free information and resources at PLDL. In addition, the Show us Your Smart Card program turns your library card into a discount card at a growing number of area businesses. These businesses are valued partners of the Portage Lake District Library.

In coordination with Bridgefest 2018, our Show us Your Smart Card program will kick off on Thursday, June 14th. Beginning on that day, library cardholders will be able to flash your “Smart Card” at participating businesses and receive a discount on goods and services, with a limit of one discount, per person, per visit, per library card. Keep an eye out for our list of growing participating businesses, to be published on our website in the near future.

This summer, your library card will double as a discount card at participating area businesses.

This summer marks another exciting, new resource for our library—a Book Bike. The library’s book bike carries a cargo box that unfolds to display about 100 books. The bike will be used to promote reading at events and festivals in the library district.

The Book Bike will also be outfitted with a mobile hotspot, allowing staff to sign-up new patrons for library cards on the spot. Thanks to mini-grants from the Michigan Center for the Book and the Friends of the Portage Lake District Library, the Book Bike will be stocked with books for give-away, all of which are themed towards specific events we attend. You might find the book bike at our Farmer’s Market, with free books on cooking and agriculture, or on display at Kestner Park on a warm Saturday afternoon, with free beach reads! Keep an eye out for our book bike riding librarians this summer.
Our library has long prided itself on making materials and resources available to all our district residents. In an effort to encourage users to grow their own flowers and produce, we are thrilled to announce the addition of a seed exchange to our collection. Library staff have been working to convert a 1920s era card catalog into a small, start-up seed library at PLDL. Community members will have the opportunity to take home seeds to grow their own flowers and food.

Packets of flowers and vegetable seeds will be sorted throughout the drawers of our repurposed card catalog. Participants are welcome to check out packets, plant the seeds, and then return new seeds once their own plants sprout. The service will be available to all visitors, not just those with a library card. Users are asked to use a sign-in sheet to detail what seeds they have “checked out”.

Keep an eye on our online event calendar to learn about programs and workshops that tie into our seed library exchange. For more information, please call the library at 906-482-4570 or send an email to info@pldl.org.
Your generosity helps us provide programs and services to develop readers, enrich our community and support lifelong learning for thousands of children and adults each year. Here are a few examples:

**Preparing Kids for School**
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Baby and Me Storytime
- Pre-school Storytime
- Summer Reading Program

**Engaging All Ages**
- Children’s Book Group
- Teen Book Group
- Adult Book Group

You can help support all this and more by making a gift at pdl.org/donate
These three seemingly different books are all must reads when it comes to understanding America’s problems in the 21st century. All the titles cover issues of poverty, race, gender and homelessness. The authors have lived in cars and trailer parks to study and interview the people they write about.

-Anna Leppanen, Circulation Services

**Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis**
by J. D. Vance

Vance’s memoir details his life growing up as what he describes as a “hillbilly” and the related culture, poverty, and drug addiction in his family. Vance’s story is an amazing journey from the Appalachian to Yale University.

**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**
by Matthew Desmond

This book tells us about the housing crisis in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The renters deal with many difficult issues, but once you learn about the landlords, you’ll be shocked by who the “bad guys” really are. This book details eviction laws, how evictions happen and how they affect the most vulnerable among us.

**Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century**
by Jessica Bruder

In *Nomadland*, Jessica Bruder tells the story of Americans who cannot afford their own home, and often live on the road. They travel from one underpaid seasonal job to the next, and the book explores the fact that a growing number of Americans are forced to live this way.
Have you tried the library’s newest digital resource, NoveList? The tool is a reader recommendation database that pairs readers with their next favorite read. Users can search for books by browsing authors or titles they’ve enjoyed, or browsing collections that share subject terms with books they’ve read in the past.

NoveList also curates recommended reading lists based on age, genre, and what the database calls “appeal terms”. Using appeal terms, readers can enter certain appeals about characters, storylines, or writing styles they like to see a list of similar books. Our library has even added click-through links to the NoveList records in the library’s catalog. This means if you find a title you enjoyed in our catalog, the NoveList link will bring up related titles.

In addition to recommending titles, NoveList can also be used to access free book discussion guides, which are great for use in a classroom or a book group. Visit our website at www.pldl.org to try out NoveList, or stop in and ask a librarian for help.
As part of our new 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative, we are introducing new storytime events at the library. Throughout the months of April and May, the library will be hosting baby storytime events every Monday at 10:15am. These events are geared towards ages 0—18 months and a loving adult. There will be songs, stories, fingerplays, and socializing! As always, older siblings are also welcome to attend.

*Cover Photo of Swedetown Creek taken by Keith Meyers.*