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*October is Michigan Library Appreciation Month 2021*

**Michigan Library Appreciation Month Focuses on Keeping Communities Connected**

*Patrons are encouraged to share what they connect to on social media*

**FERNDALE, MI (September 30, 2021--)** October is Michigan Library Appreciation Month and the Ferndale Library is helping to highlight the valuable ways in which libraries and library staff across the state have been keeping communities connected to resources and content that informs, entertains, and enlightens. Throughout October, Ferndale Library patrons are encouraged to share what they enjoy connecting with the help of a library card, whether that's literature, film, science, adventure, or something else entirely. The goal of this month's observance is to draw attention to how the services of the staff at Ferndale, and libraries across the state, helped patrons retain a crucial sense of connection, throughout a challenging year of social distancing.

"Staying connected to the library meant so much to me during quarantine," said Helena Powers, a Ferndale Library patron. "I felt as though the staff at the library not only wanted to make sure I had books to read but that I was really being taken care of...And when you're an avid reader, you're able to go into another time, another place, another world and meet other people through books; that's incredibly important. So, to be able to use the curbside pickup to receive new books meant everything to me"

While Ferndale Library's physical spaces weren't accessible in 2020 due to COVID-19, patrons were still able to connect and explore a variety of digital content, from ebooks, audiobooks, movies, games, and more--including virtual storytimes and events hosted via Zoom--all from home. With the library open and back to regular service hours, October would be an ideal month for all community members to start discovering (or rediscovering) the wide array of services and resources available to cardholders. Don't have a library card? It's easy to sign up. Ferndale residents can sign up at the circulation desk, or online: [www.fadl.org](http://www.fadl.org).

"The (Ferndale Library) staff provided excellent services throughout the pandemic," said Gregg Thacker, another Ferndale resident/library patron. "We can only imagine how much work it was behind the scenes to keep things running and develop new ways of working safely."

Throughout October, Ferndale Library invites patrons to share their experiences of how their library kept them connected during quarantine. Patrons can start following their library on social media and share a post with a note of appreciation, tagging their library and using the hashtag #MILibraryMonth and #LoveMILibraries.

"The children's section of the library is our toddlers 'third place', and is her favorite place to go," said Laura Mikulski, Ferndale resident, and City Council member. "All the staff have been incredibly kind, and have been welcome faces during a formative time for our child. The Youth Librarians have been so willing to guide us, interact, and provide that human element and familiarity that I think we forget is a huge part of what we crave."

In times of crisis, libraries and library staff can play a critical role in continuing to support their communities. All throughout the pandemic, libraries of all types continued making a difference in people's lives by providing access to digital resources and virtual programs, which was something their communities needed more than ever at that time.

Now that our doors are open again, our shelves can be browsed in person, reading recommendations and reference answers can be provided face-to-face, public computers are available, and cardholders can continue accessing online resources, 24/7. Whether a user remains online or ventures back inside the library, all of these services are free! The connections can continue to happen, at home, on the go, or now, finally, in person!

Michigan Library Appreciation month is a statewide observance sponsored by the Michigan Library Association (MLA) and libraries of all types across the state each October.

For more information, visit the library's website [www.fadl.org](http://www.fadl.org)

