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Petoskey District Library to Host "A Carnival of Characters" Summer Reading Kickoff on June 6

Get ready for a summer of literary adventure! The Petoskey District Library (PDL) is thrilled to announce its annual Summer Reading program, kicking off with the highly anticipated "A Carnival of Characters" event on Friday, June 6, from 6-8 pm. This free, family-friendly event promises an evening of fantastical fun and imagination, held in the labyrinth area outside the library and on Waukazoo Avenue.

"A Carnival of Characters" invites book lovers of all ages to celebrate the beloved adventures and characters found in books, movies, and television. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to meet and greet with an array of costumed characters, including:

- Members of the Star Wars 501st Legion, bringing the galaxy far, far away to Petoskey.
- The iconic Ghostbusters and their Ectomobile, ready to tackle any lingering literary spirits.
- A classic DeLorean, whisking visitors back to the future, à la "Back to the Future."
- Phantom the Mermaid, sharing enchanting tales from under the sea.
- "Thunder the Timberwolf" from North Central Michigan College, howling with excitement.

Costumes are highly encouraged for all attendees, offering a chance to showcase their favorite characters from sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, or any genre in between. The kickoff

event will also feature family-friendly games and activities, including a "Wicked" Scavenger Hunt through the labyrinth, challenging participants to solve a riddle by following hidden clues. Additionally, yard games from the Library's popular Library of Things will be available for everyone to enjoy.

This year marks an exciting evolution for the Summer Reading program itself. "Our librarians have switched things up for 2025," says Stacy Cox, PDL marketing manager. "Instead of different bingo boards for various age groups, we're introducing a single Summer Reading Passport for all ages."

The new all-ages passport aims to unify the summer reading experience for the entire family. Participants will earn mini prizes after completing six activities listed in their passport. Dedicated readers who complete 12 activities will receive even more exciting rewards:

- Children (ages 0-12) will get to choose a new book to add to their home library.
- Teens will earn a new book and a vote for a community prize.
- Adults will receive a coupon for a free pretzel at Petoskey Pretzel Co. for their mini prize, and for completing 12 activities, their name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to McLean & Eakin Booksellers.

Summer Reading Passports will be distributed at the "A Carnival of Characters" kickoff event on June 6, and will be available at any desk within the library throughout the summer, which runs until August 8.

For more information about this and other Library events, please call 231-758-3100 or visit us online at petoskeylibrary.org. The library's hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

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