

## Rotary Arts Minute for 8/18/2025 Information provided by the

### FREE EVENTS



#### [Free Thursdays at the KIA](#)

Thursday, February 6 – December 18, 2025 at 11:00 am

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Enjoy free general admission and extended hours until 8pm on Thursdays, thanks to generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program and the Efroymson Family Fund.



#### [Makers Meetup - Kalamazoo](#)

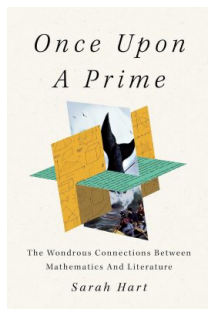
Mar 24, 2025 - Aug 24, 2025 at 03:00 pm

Presented by [Serendipity Spot, LLC](#) and [Kzoo Makers](#) at [Kzoo Makers](#), 1102 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

The Makers Meetup – Kalamazoo will be held twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays from 3:00-4:30 pm. You will have a chance to introduce yourself

and a maker-related topic, then mingle and participate in a group activity. Bring a project if you have one you'd like to share. You are invited to come down and see who is in your network. Connect on

Discord <https://discord.gg/mT86YZXm33> Looking forward to seeing you there! P.S. If you would like to join remotely, please connect to the Kzoo Makers voice chat on Discord.



#### [Book Discussion: Once Upon a Prime: The Wondrous Connections between Mathematics and Literature](#)

Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dr. Sarah Hart argues that literature and mathematics complement each other in illustrating humanity's journey. Books like *Moby Dick*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Jurassic Park* feature mathematical ideas that deepen their meaning. Through humor and insight, this exploration reveals how recognizing math in literature can enrich our appreciation of both. The discussion will also tie

these themes to the stunning visual experience of *Leo Villareal: Interstellar*, connecting narrative, numbers, and art in compelling ways. Please note that this event will not be livestreamed or posted on YouTube.

All [book discussions](#) are free, open to the public, and take place in-person at the Meader Fine Arts Library. Participants do not need to have read the book, but it will help facilitate the overall discussion. Preregistration is encouraged.



#### [Lunchtime Live - Shelagh Brown Band](#)

Friday, Aug 22, 2025 at 11:30 am

Presented by [City of Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation](#) at [Bronson Park](#), 200 S Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

This summer event series will kick off for the 2025 season on Friday, June 13 and continue through Friday, August 29. Food and retail will be available for purchase. Food trucks will be lined up along Bronson Park on South Street and other vendors will be set up throughout the park. Each week will feature a different local musical artist. This is a free event, and all community members are welcome.

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### MUSIC



#### [Gilmore Car Museum Wednesday Night Cruise-In](#)

Wednesday, July 2 - October 15, 2025 at 5:00 pm

Presented by [Gilmore Car Museum](#), 6865 Hickory Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Due to popular demand, this year we have added the opportunity to explore our air-conditioned main exhibit **Without Limits: Racing Through America**, for \$5 per guest. This includes the added bonus of access to additional restrooms inside the museum. Simply stop by the gift shop or Pedal Car Cafe to purchase your wristband. Members, with a membership card, receive access to the exhibit at no additional charge. It is **FREE** to bring your show car on the grounds during Cruise-In and the event is open to the public. On good weather nights, the fun **starts at 5 pm and runs until 8 pm**, with both George & Sally's authentic 1941 Blue Moon Diner and The Grill serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and creamy old-fashioned custard throughout the evening. With live music providing the soundtrack, these are evenings you and your family won't forget! So, plan to bring your ride, snap a photo in front of the 1930s Shell station, cruise our amazing grounds, and enjoy an evening of great wheels and memories.

August 20 – Jimmy and the Mortals – 60's rock



#### [Beats on Bates](#)

Wednesday, June 4 - September 24, 2025 at 05:30 pm

Free Admission Presented by [Downtown Economic Growth Authority](#) and [Guess Who's Dancing Fitness/The Xperience Event Venue](#) at [Bates Alley](#), Bates Alley, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**Beats on Bates** is Downtown Kalamazoo's signature free summer music series, held every Wednesday evening from June through September in the vibrant, mural-lined Bates Alley. Presented by the Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) and curated by event producer Kim Guess, the series brings together local favorites and regional touring acts

across genres—creating an accessible, high-energy celebration of community, culture, and live music in the heart of the city. Since its inception, Beats on Bates has become a cornerstone of Kalamazoo's cultural scene and economic vitality, regularly drawing hundreds of attendees and boosting adjacent business sales by up to 25% on event nights. With its welcoming atmosphere, diverse talent lineup, and strong community partnerships, the series offers more than just music—it's a weekly gathering that connects people, supports small businesses, and enlivens the downtown experience for all.

8/20 Work In Progress (RnB & Funk) w/ DJ Playhouse

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### [Music at the Dark Sky Park](#)

Friday, Aug 22, 2025 at 8:30 pm

Presented by [Connecting Chords Music Festival](#) at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park, 15122 Monkey Run Street, Vandalia, MI 49095

Come for the music, stay for the stars! The Connecting Chords Music Festival will bring live music to the [Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park](#) before an evening of stargazing on **Friday, August 22**. Performing will be [Aurora & Antheia](#), a trio that fosters the beauty of melodic and rhythmic sound, texture, and in-the-moment improvisations. All three members of the ensemble – [Cori Somers](#), [Laurie Jarski](#) and [Carolyn Koebel](#) – have also spent decades studying many different styles of music, drawing from musical genres

such as folk, jazz, classical, rock, eastern European, Asian, Indian, African and many more. **Park admission is \$5/car (please bring cash)**. Donations to the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music will be accepted. Located in Vandalia, MI (about 50 minutes south of Kalamazoo), Lawless Park is one of only three sites in Michigan to be officially designated an International Dark Sky Park. The music program will start at 8:30 PM, and the park will remain open until 2:00 AM for stargazing!



### [Music at Mahan - Lighting Matches](#)

Saturday, Aug 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Presented by [K'zoo Folklife Organization/Allegan Chapter](#) at [Mahan Park](#), 101 Brady Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Music at Mahan Park, in the heart of downtown Allegan nestled on the bank of the Kalamazoo River. Join us in welcoming Lighting Matches to Allegan.

Emerging from the vibrant Grant Rapids, Lighting matches is an alternative-rock ensemble that seamlessly merges a plethora of musical backgrounds. While they honor their deep-rooted origins, they're unafraid to ignite new paths, challenging and transcending traditional genre boundaries. Lighting Matches is celebrated for their introspective narratives and tight harmonies which offer listeners a poignant and memorable musical experience. The dynamic pairing of Matt Plessner and Rachael White provide a soulful front for the band, delivering performances that captivate and

resonate. Their complementing tones and styles are underlined by the impeccable musicianship of Mark Jilbert and Scott Garrison, who for the band's robust backbone.

Nominated for Artist of the Year, Best Rock-Pop Album at WYCE Jammie Awards in 2022-2023.

Bring a chair, a blanket, picnic if you like. Some terraced seats available, picnic tables, and wheelchair friendly. Local Pubs, ice cream shop across the street. The park is in a social district. Advisable to bring a sweater or light jacket this time of the season. Rain location is at 200 Cutler Street, Allegan, MI.

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### Kitten and the Tonics- Oshtemo Music in the Park

Sunday, Aug 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Presented by [Oshtemo Friends of the Parks](#) at [Flesher Field](#), 3664 South 9th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Join us at the Flesher Field Gazebo the fourth Sundays of June, July, and August for live music! August 24 our musical guest is Kitten and The Tonics. They mix up a retro cocktail of rock 'n' roll with a splash of surf rock. Blending reverb saturated guitar and energetic rockabilly vocals, all driven forward by a swingin' upright bass. You also have a chance to

WIN PRIZES! Each concert will have a raffle for gift cards to local Oshtemo restaurants. Funds raised will support Oshtemo Parks. Bring a chair or blanket for lawn seating. Picnics welcome! ALCOHOL PROHIBITED.

Concerts will be rescheduled in the event of rain. For more details, visit <http://www.oshtemo.org/events>



### Concerts in the Park: THE ANDREW FISHER QUARTET STEVIE WONDER TRIBUTE

Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Presented by [Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#) at [Bronson Park](#), 200 S Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025**

**4:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Bronson Park**

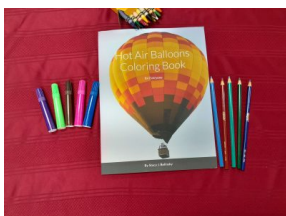
Step into a world of soul, funk, and jazz as the Andrew Fisher Quartet proudly presents "Wonder in the Park," an extraordinary tribute to the legendary Stevie Wonder. First brought to life in 2016, this tribute celebrates the artistry of Stevie Wonder with an expanded ensemble of nine additional musicians, recreating the

vibrant and soulful sound that made him an icon. Audiences will be treated to beloved hits like "Superstition," "Sir Duke," "I Wish," and many more. Dedicated to the memory of Christopher Keech, a cherished friend and saxophone virtuoso, this performance is both a heartfelt homage and a celebration of the timeless music that unites us all. Don't miss the chance to experience this unforgettable afternoon of musical magic in the park!

Concerts in the Park is a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, with support from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the City of Kalamazoo. It is one of Kalamazoo's long-standing traditions, typically offered on Sunday afternoons in June, July, and August in Bronson Park, delivering a unique offering, unlike any other. Each concert is free and is friendly for the entire family. Bring chairs or blankets for your comfort!

There is not a rain site for Concerts in the Park. If inclement weather is expected, the concert may be canceled by 2 pm on that same day.

## ONLINE/STREAMING



### Virtual - Coloring Party for Stress Relief

May 19, 2025 - Aug 18, 2025 at 07:00 pm

Presented by [Serendipity Spot, LLC](#) at [Online/Virtual Space](#)

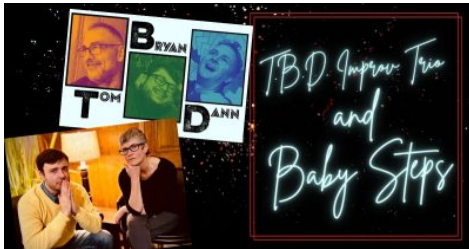
**Welcome to our Coloring Party for Stress Relief!** Join us on Zoom for a fun and relaxing event. Unleash your creativity and unwind with some coloring therapy. Whether you're a coloring pro or just starting out, everyone is welcome! Bring your favorite coloring utensils, meet new



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friends, and enjoy a chill evening of coloring. Let your stress melt away as you focus on filling in beautiful designs. Don't miss out on this opportunity to relax, BREATHE, and recharge. Join the Serendipity Spot "Coloring Party" tier at [https://www.patreon.com/c/serendipity\\_spot](https://www.patreon.com/c/serendipity_spot) and get in for free each month plus receive a bonus coloring page. See you there!

## THEATRE



### [TBD Improv Trio & Baby Steps Improv Comedy](#)

Friday, Aug 22, 2025 at 07:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre](#) at [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tara Sytsma and Bannon Backhus are Baby Steps. With our hand-shucked approach to comedy, there are a lot of ways we can make you laugh—for example, unintentionally—and if you really like character and story, you'll really like this duo. Now, baby steps to the theatre...

Veteran improvisors Tom Blandford, Bryan Day, & Dann Sytsma invite the audience to go forward alongside them, with everyone's imaginations boldly intertwined as they dive, karate, dance, scream, love, weep and laugh their way into the characters and situations of this unscripted show. Aside from that, everything else is simply TBD.

Show Date: Aug 22

Show Time: 07:30 PM-09:30 PM

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Intended for mature audiences.



### [What Sharp Teeth & Daddy's Boys Improv Comedy](#)

Saturday, Aug 23, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre](#) at [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

What Sharp Teeth, an all-women/femme team, will sink their teeth into your funny bone with their unique blend of realistic and absurd comedy. Get ready for a night of laughter that's both bubbly and biting!

Bryce and Pete, the inseparable duo, share not just a stage but a lifetime of laughter. United by blood, these brothers bring a unique flavor to the world of improv, drawing from the shared experiences of growing up together. Born from the same daddy, their bond is the secret ingredient that makes their performances a heartwarming and sidesplitting experience.

Show Date: Aug 23

Show Time: 07:30 PM-09:30 PM

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Intended for mature audiences.

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### VISUAL ARTS



#### [Leo Villareal: Interstellar](#)

Through September 21, 2025

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

*Leo Villareal: Interstellar* invites viewers into the immersive digital worlds of Leo Villareal, where code, celestial bodies, and humanity converge into a fusion of art and technology. This exhibition showcases a collection of works by Villareal from the last five years, underlining his pioneering role in the realm of digital art in the 21st century. By creating atmospheric artworks and environments where space and light collide, Villareal instills a sense of awe and wonder, offering intimate moments for both personal and collective reflection. The artist's use of light and code serves as both media and symbols that

represent knowledge, discovery, and the spark of consciousness within the intricate web of the cosmos. The works on view will encourage viewers to consider the paradoxes of the universe—the vastness and intricacies of the cosmos against the fleeting nature of our existence. The exhibition will inspire visitors to imagine the possibilities that new technologies provide for humanity's advancement and perhaps even its preservation. Leo Villareal's works convey the tension that exists between these congruent and at times opposing forces, while asking viewers to reflect on their place within the grand, enigmatic expanse of the universe. Ultimately, *Leo Villareal: Interstellar* builds a shared journey through the known and the unknown.

#### [2025 West Michigan Area Show](#)

Through September 14, 2025

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007



The work of West Michigan's talented artistic community is on view during the annual West Michigan Area Show. Opening Saturday, June 14, this crowd-pleasing annual juried exhibition was carefully curated from more than 300 submitted entries, ranging from paintings, prints, and photos to mosaics, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, and mixed-media works.

The 2025 juror is Detroit artist and teacher Hubert Massey. Hubert Massey is an award-winning Kresge Fine Arts Fellow. His distinctive fresco murals grace the halls of such visible Michigan destinations as the Flint Institute of the Arts, Detroit Athletic Club, and his alma mater, Grand Valley State University. He studied at the University of London's Slade Institute of Fine Arts and later learned the centuries-old fresco technique from former assistants of legendary artist Diego Rivera.