

Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417

(616)850-6900

www.loutitlibrary.org

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Join the Loutit District Library for ***Understanding AI***, a series of free programming designed to educate the public on the ever-changing world of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Throughout these programs, you can expect to learn about how Generative AI works, the uses of AI Chatbots, personal privacy concerns, and how AI is affecting different industries in both positive and negative ways. We encourage you to ask questions, learn, and discuss with others to foster conversations about the future.

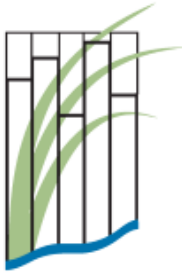
Featured Programs:

[Artists in the Age of AI](#)

April 13, 2026, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Since DALL·E 2's 2022 release, artists have debated its impact on the art world. Some view it as a tool like photography, while others worry about AI appropriating their work. As AI has improved, some artists have adapted to showcase their authenticity, while others are embracing its accessibility. This program, presented by Barbara Williams, will explore the ongoing debate about AI in art and its effects on artists' work.

Barbara Williams holds a BFA in Art and Design from Grand Valley State University and an MLIS from the University of Washington. Barb works both as a freelance artist and uses her skills to visualize data in her current professional career.



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Generative AI & Chatbots

April 20, 2026, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

This learning session, led by David Tebo, introduces participants to the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence, with a focused look at generative AI and chatbots. Participants will explore how these tools work, what they are capable of today, and where they are likely headed next. Through practical examples grounded in educational contexts, the session will unpack common misconceptions, highlight both opportunities and limitations, and address ethical and responsible use considerations.

David is the passionate Director of Innovation Services for the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) in West Michigan. He spent 15 years as a district superintendent relentlessly seeking ways to meet the needs of EACH student so they can THRIVE. David has been an elementary teacher, building principal, and the President of MASA, and currently sits on the boards of Lakeshore Advantage, Good SAM, and the United Way of Ottawa and Allegan Counties.

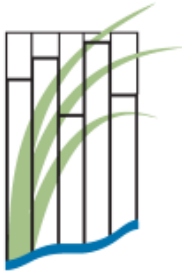
Are You Smarter than a Chatbot?

April 22, 2026, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Artificial Intelligence is suddenly everywhere—on your phone, in your inbox, and even in the tools you use every day. But what is AI, really? And how can you tell what to trust, what to be cautious about, and what can genuinely make your life easier? Join us for a fun, accessible, myth-busting session that will help you understand today's AI tools, without needing any technical experience.

We'll explore:

- What AI (like ChatGPT and other chatbots) actually does
- How people are using AI in everyday life--from cooking to job hunting to staying safe online
- How to spot misinformation and avoid common pitfalls
- Real examples of AI being helpful... and not so helpful
- Tips for using AI confidently, creatively, and responsibly



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We'll also do a few interactive challenges to see how you compare to a chatbot—prepare to be surprised! Whether you're AI-curious, AI-skeptical, or just want to keep up with the fast-changing world around you, this program will leave you informed, empowered, and ready to navigate the future with confidence.

This program is presented by Morgan Hanks (she/her), the User Experience Manager at the Kent District Library, and Jaci Cooper (she/her), the Director of Projects & Planning at the Kent District Library.

Interaction with the Economy (Impact on Businesses & Jobs)

April 27, 2026, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Dr. Paul Isely will walk participants through how Artificial Intelligence is influencing the economy in Ottawa County, highlighting its impact on key local industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and small businesses. We will review the jobs affected, the magnitude of the expected impact, and how AI is reshaping job responsibilities through automation, data systems, and digital tools in the years ahead.

Dr. Paul Isely is currently Associate Dean and Professor of Economics for the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University. He joined the GVSU faculty in 1995 after earning his Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University. He also holds an M.S. in Economics from Purdue University and a dual B.S. in Physics and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison