

**Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
September 9, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

The Belleville Area District Library Board will meet in person in the library's 2nd floor Conference Room.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, Jackson-Smith, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve July 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Approve Resolutions Authorizing Millages to the December 2025 Tax Bill
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Building-Cichewicz
 - B. Bylaws-Priest
 - C. Finance-Stoudemire
 - D. Outreach-Jackson-Smith
 - E. Personnel-Priest
 - F. Policy-Fleming
 - G. Art
8. Approve Accounts Payable
9. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
10. Trustee Comments
11. Chair Comments
12. Adjournment

Any citizen wishing to provide input or ask questions about any agenda item may speak during the meeting's Public Comments section or forward comments to the Library Director in advance by leaving a message at 734-699-3291 or via the Contact Information found at www.belleville.lib.mi.us. Any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the library at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, using the above contact information.

Next Regular BADL Board Meeting: October 14, 2025, at 7:30 PM

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
Date: July 8, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board member were present: Joy Cichewicz, Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire.
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
Excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Dan Fleming.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the July 8, 2025, agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve the June 10, 2025, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Rosemary Otzman commented that Sumpter stated at their last meeting that the library inquired about using the pavilion behind the Sumpter Branch for programing. Rosemary stated that they sounded very positive and excited.
6. **Release and Settlement Agreement – BADL and Wayne County:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the release and settlement agreement between Belleville Area District Library and Wayne County. The motion carried unanimously.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** No Report
 - B. **Bylaws:** No Report
 - C. **Finance:** No Report
 - D. **Outreach:** No Report
 - E. **Personnel:** No Report
 - F. **Policy:** No Report
 - G. **Art:** Liz Dobbs is the featured artist of the library's current exhibit on the 1st floor.
8. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Director's Report:** The library is working with Sumpter to hold more programming at the Sumpter Branch. Priest asked if there were any new developments regarding changing the direction of the sign outside. Suchy plans to discuss this with the new township manager.

Suchy is consulting with the architect/landscape architect about the boxwood trees that are dying on Church Steet.

10. Trustee Comments:

Priest: Brought grandson into the library a few times. He loved the scavenger hunt. Announced that she will be unavailable for the August meeting.

Cichewicz: Hoping that the board can cancel the August meeting. There was general agreement by the board to cancel. Peters stated that the board will meet again in September.

Stoudemire: Sorry to have missed Lake Fest but noted that she is happy that it did well and is growing.

Jackson-Smith: Just got back into town and is trying to get back into the groove.

11. Chair Comments: Peters stated that she is happy to serve on this library board.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Cichewicz, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

August: Adults: 13 Youth: 2

LIBRARY VISITS	2025/26	2024/25	% change
August	11,385	11,702	-2.71%
Fiscal Year	24,131	23,697	1.83%

TOTAL CIRC	2025/26	2024/25	% change
August	20,897	22,613	-7.59%
Fiscal Year	43,404	45,273	-4.13%

ADULT PROGRAMMING	2025/26	2024/25	% change
August	180	183	-1.64%
Fiscal Year	371	282	31.56%

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
August	192	33	481.82%
Fiscal Year	1,372	809	69.59%

REF. QUESTIONS	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
August	1,711	1,750	-2.23%
Fiscal Year	3,467	3,560	-2.61%

INTERNET USE	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
August	1,048	1,112	-5.76%
Fiscal Year	1,982	2,200	-9.91%

YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	2025/26	2024/25	% change
August	186	299	-37.79%
Fiscal Year	299	579	-48.36%

BUILDING: Dan Whisler steered me toward our building project's landscape architect, Brian Barrick, for assistance with replacing the dead boxwoods by the parking lot. The soil test to determine whether or not road salt contributed to the problem proved to be inconclusive, but the proposed replacement bushes (black chokeberry) have a higher tolerance for salty environments. Brian solicited bids from 4 companies and received two replies which are currently being evaluated (both are under \$10,000).

Additionally, I am working with Brian on a request for proposal to issue to landscaping companies for annual services. The proposal includes a more robust list of services and schedule for pruning, cleanup, weeding, tree trimming, etc. than what we have been accomplishing to date.

The vape detectors were installed and are functional. They emit an audible alarm when they are tripped, and all admin staff are informed via email and/or through the app.

There is an oak tree in the library's parking lot near the alley that will need to be removed due to its proximity to the DTE power lines.

STAFF: Outgoing: Library Assistant Trinity Campbell. Incoming: Circulation Clerk Tatiana Lebron.

Hilary Savage will be the Chair-Elect of the Library Network Shared Automation System User's Group (SASUG) beginning in October (she will be Chair for the 2026-27 year). SASUG is instrumental in maintaining the cooperation, policies, and procedures necessary to have our shared system run smoothly for its 50 member libraries. In addition to currently serving as secretary of SASUG, Hilary has also ably served on SASUG's Executive Committee.

INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (SHARED LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM): The library directors of the shared system will meet toward the end of this month to decide whether or not to renew the current contract with TLC CARL or to issue a formal request for proposal to vendors. The Library Network issued a request for quotations in the spring in order to provide more information to the libraries to guide our decision. There are very few ILS providers who can accommodate a consortium of our size and complexity.

PROGRAMMING: Before we completely turn the page on summer, a huge thank you to everyone on the library staff who helped with the Comic Fest on August 2, especially Karen, Nakenya, Kam, and Nikki who planned and ran the event. Many budding young comic book and graphic novel artists from our community were in attendance, and they are very enthusiastic about their craft. Also, thank you to Gwen who ran the library's first ever chess tournament on July 19 which was attended by about 20 players and watched by their families.

Join us at the Sumpter Media Center Open House on Saturday, September 13 from 11 am - 2 pm. Activities, crafts, snacks, and tours of the branch will be featured, as well as a Michigan Birds of Prey program at 1 pm outside of the branch. Classic Movie Night resumes on September 11 with the Marx Brothers hit, *Duck Soup*. We look forward to a visit from the DIA on Saturday, September 27 to learn about selected works of art in their world class collection.

2025 Tax Rate Request (This form must be completed and submitted on or before September 30, 2025)

MILLAGE REQUEST REPORT TO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This form is issued under authority of MCL Sections 211.24e, 211.34 and 211.34d. Filing is mandatory. Penalty applies.

Carefully read the instructions on page 2.

County(ies) Where the Local Government Unit Levies Taxes Wayne County	2025 Taxable Value of ALL Properties in the Unit as of 05-27-2025 \$2,128,747,292	
Local Government Unit Requesting Millage Levy Belleville Area District Library		For LOCAL School Districts: 2025 Taxable Value excluding Principal Residence, Qualified Agricultural, Qualified Forest, Industrial Personal and Commercial Personal Properties.

This form must be completed for each unit of government for which a property tax is levied. Penalty for non-filing is provided under MCL Sec 211.119. The following tax rates have been authorized for levy on the 2025 tax roll.

[illegible]

Prepared by Mary Jo Suchy	Telephone Number (734) 699-3291	Title of Preparer Director	Date 09/09/2025
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CERTIFICATION: As the representatives for the local government unit named above, we certify that these requested tax levy rates have been reduced, if necessary to comply with the state constitution (Article 9, Section 31), and that the requested levy rates have also been reduced, if necessary, to comply with MCL Sections 211.24e, 211.34 and, for LOCAL school districts which levy a Supplemental (Hold Harmless) Millage, 380.1211(3).

<input type="checkbox"/>	Clerk	Signature	Print Name	Date	Rates to be Levied (HH/Supp and NH Oper ONLY)	Rate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary		Alma Hughes-Grubbs	09/09/2025			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chairperson	Signature	Print Name	Date	For Principal Residence, Qualified Ag., Qualified Forest and Industrial Personal		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President		Sharon Peters	09/09/2025			
<i>* Under Truth in Taxation, MCL Section 211.24e, the governing body may decide to levy a rate which will not exceed the maximum authorized rate allowed in column 9. The requirements of MCL 211.24e must be met prior to levying an operating levy which is larger than the base tax rate but not larger than the rate in column 9.</i>							
For all Other							

* Under Truth in Taxation, MCL Section 211.24e, the governing body may decide to levy a rate which will not exceed the maximum authorized rate allowed in column 9. The requirements of MCL 211.24e must be met prior to levying an operating levy which is larger than the base tax rate but not larger than the rate in column 9.

***** IMPORTANT:** See instructions on page 2 regarding where to find the millage rate used in column (5).

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY LEVY #1
RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 01

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT LIBRARY TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, by agreement effective March 1, 2010, the Belleville Area District Library was established in accordance with the District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.171 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District Library Establishment Act, a proposed millage in the amount of 6.864/10 per thousand of taxable value, was placed upon the Ballot for consideration by registered voters of the District on August 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the District approved a 6.864/10 operating millage for the District Library by a vote on August 2, 2022, certified by the Wayne County Clerk's Office on August 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to provide for the financial operations of the Library, the District Library Board has determined that a levy of 6.864/10 of a mill shall be placed on the tax bills beginning December 1, 2022 and shall continue to appear on said tax bills thereafter until January 1, 2037.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Belleville Area District Library hereby resolves that there be levied on the taxable property within the Library District for the year 2025 included on the tax bill for December 1, 2025 for operational purposes a tax of 6.864/10 of a mill, reduced by MCL 211.34d (Headlee) to 6.850/10 of a mill, on the 2025 taxable value as thereof (real and personal property) said value being \$131,132,026.00 in taxable value for the City of Belleville, \$470,095,279.00 in taxable value in the Township of Sumpter and \$1,527,519,987.00 in taxable value in the Township of Van Buren, for a total

taxable value on all properties of \$2,128,747,292.00 and the total tax in the amount of \$1,458,192.00.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Belleville Area District Library hereby directs that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Belleville Area District Library Board execute all necessary documents and file copies with the County of Wayne and each municipality comprising the District.

MOTION:

SECOND:

YEAS:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

Belleville Area District Library
Chairperson

Agenda Date: September 9, 2025

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Belleville Area District Library, at its regular meeting held on September 9, 2025.

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY WINTER TAX LEVY #2
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 02

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT LIBRARY TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, by agreement effective March 1, 2010, the Belleville Area District Library was established in accordance with the District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.171 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District Library Establishment Act, a proposed millage in the amount of 7.5/10 per thousand of taxable value, was placed upon the Ballot for consideration by registered voters of the District on November 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the District approved a 7.5/10 operating millage for the District Library by vote on November 8, 2016, certified by the Wayne County Clerk's Office on November 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, to provide for the financial operations of the Library, the District Library Board has determined that a levy of 7.5/10 of a mill shall be placed on the tax bills beginning December 1, 2017 and shall continue to appear on said tax bills thereafter until January 1, 2037.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Belleville Area District Library hereby resolves that there be levied on the taxable property within the Library District for the year 2025 included on the tax bill for December 1, 2025 for operational purposes a tax of 7.5/10 of a mill, reduced by MCL 211.34d (Headlee) to 7.304/10 of a mill, on the 2025 taxable value as thereof (real and personal property) said value being \$131,132,026.00 in taxable

value for the City of Belleville, \$470,095,279.00 in taxable value in the Township of Sumpter and \$1,527,519,987.00 in taxable value in the Township of Van Buren, for a total taxable value on all properties of \$2,128,747,292.00 and the total tax in the amount of \$1,554,837.00.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Belleville Area District Library hereby directs that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Belleville Area District Library Board execute all necessary documents and file copies with the County of Wayne and each municipality comprising the District.

MOTION:

SECOND:

YEAS:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

Belleville Area District Library
Chairperson

Agenda Date: September 9, 2025

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Belleville Area District Library, at its regular meeting held on September 9, 2025.

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY WINTER TAX LEVY #3
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 03

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT LIBRARY TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, by agreement effective March 1, 2010, the Belleville Area District Library was established in accordance with the District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.171 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District Library Financing Act, 1988 PA 265, MCL 397.281 et seq., a bonding proposition to borrow the sum of not to exceed Fourteen Million Dollars (\$14,000,000) for the purpose of constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new building for library purposes; constructing renovations to an existing building for library purposes; and acquiring, developing and approving sites for library buildings, was placed upon the Ballot for consideration by registered voters of the District on November 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the District approved a millage to be levied for the payment of 20 year general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the District Library by vote on November 8, 2016, certified by the Wayne County Clerk's Office on November 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, to make its bond payments for 2025, the District Library Board has determined that a levy of 4.6/10 of a mill shall be placed on the December 1, 2025 tax bill.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Belleville Area District Library hereby resolves that there be levied on the taxable property within the Library District for the year 2025 included on the tax bill for December 1, 2025 for bond

repayment purposes a tax of 4.6/10 of a mill on the 2025 taxable value as thereof (real and personal property) said value being \$131,132,026.00 taxable value for the City of Belleville, \$470,095,279.00 in taxable value in the Township of Sumpter and \$1,527,519,987.00 in taxable value in the Township of Van Buren, for a total taxable value on all properties of \$2,128,747,292.00 and the total tax in the amount of \$979,224.00.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Belleville Area District Library hereby directs that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Belleville Area District Library Board execute all necessary documents and file copies with the County of Wayne and each municipality comprising the District.

MOTION:

SECOND:

YEAS:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

Belleville Area District Library
Chairperson

Agenda Date: September 9, 2025

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Belleville Area District Library, at its regular meeting held on September 9, 2025.

Belleville Area District Library
Secretary

Belleville Area District Library

Date: 09/03/2025

Time: 7:18 PM

Page: 1

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Name	Check Description	Amount
07/08/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	bldg clean/maint May 2025	3,565.00
07/08/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE & BUILDING SUPPLIES; BOOKS	327.07
07/08/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	April Printer Service (reissued)	1,894.50
07/08/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	books & mats, prog supplies	411.29
07/08/2025	CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY	lost book	30.00
07/08/2025	DANA DAVIDSON	lib program/writing wrkshp #2	250.00
07/08/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	193.46
07/08/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th Street Electric	4,277.47
07/08/2025	JOHNSTON ENTERPRISES, LLC	BUSINESS CARDS	57.80
07/08/2025	JRS ENTERPRISES, INC.	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	359.35
07/08/2025	MAJORIE GATSON	library program/Intro Crystals	400.00
07/08/2025	MANGO LANGUAGES	books & mats/subscription	3,528.00
07/08/2025	MERMAID MOLLY ENTERTAINMENT LL	Bluey Party final payment	175.00
07/08/2025	MICHELE MONTOUR	BUSINESS CARD PROOF	50.00
07/08/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	AMY GRESHAW MEMBERSHIP DUES	85.00
07/08/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office & building supplies	502.99
07/08/2025	RJ SPANGLER	library program jazz night	100.00
07/08/2025	TALESHA WRIGHT	WRITERS WORKSHOP PROGRAM	250.00
07/08/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	Maint. Mats	165.29
07/08/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	JUNE PLACEMENTS	48.60
07/08/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	JULY DUMPSTER SERVICE	484.39
07/08/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials	3,591.66
07/08/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	program supplies; books	243.31
07/08/2025	ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN & RENTROP	legal services	2,305.50
07/22/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	July 2025 bldg maintenance	3,565.00
07/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Program Supplies	358.00
07/22/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	Dental	977.13
07/22/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	Telephone/fax	328.28
07/22/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	June lawn service	232.00
07/22/2025	DTE ENERGY	Gas & Electric - Sumpter Branch	219.67
07/22/2025	DTE ENERGY	Gas/Commercial Heat	232.43
07/22/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	June 2025 payout	578.40
07/22/2025	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Sumpter Branch Alarm/Monitor	62.36
07/22/2025	GARDEN FANTASY GREENHOUSES	bldg supplies/flower pots	320.00
07/22/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office supplies	166.28
07/22/2025	PIONEER LANDSCAPING AND LAWN	outdoor service contractor	350.00
07/22/2025	PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPA	short and long term disability insurance	601.56
07/22/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	Accounting- July 2025	1,275.00
07/22/2025	SUMPTER TOWNSHIP	Sumpter Twp Water & Sewer Bill	111.45
07/22/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	Maintenance/Mats	165.29
07/22/2025	UNITED HEALTHCARE	employee health insurance	18,269.93
07/22/2025	WILLIAM KONKOLESKY	MUFON Program	200.00
07/22/2025	WYANDOTTE ALARM COMPANY	Comm. Fire Radio Monitoring	462.00
07/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Books & Materials; prog suppl	531.97
07/22/2025	GORDON RUSS	SRP: Comedy Magic Show Program	350.00
07/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Chess Program Supplies	334.08
08/05/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials; supplies	1,755.59
08/05/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	July Printer Service	744.67
08/05/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	printing, book, program supply	833.16
08/05/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th St. Electric	4,873.49
08/05/2025	KJ ART LLC	Spooky Cotton Candy Science	212.50
08/05/2025	LONG PLUMBING CO.	BLDG REPAIRS & MAINT	500.00
08/05/2025	MERMAID MOLLY ENTERTAINMENT LL	ComicFest Program	450.00

08/05/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership Dues - H. Savage	85.00
08/05/2025	NAKENYA LEWIS YARBROUGH	ALA Annual Conference 2025	2,240.65
08/05/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office & building supplies	588.18
08/05/2025	OVERDRIVE, INC	books and materials	3,000.00
08/05/2025	SECURITY PEST CONTROL	pest control/bldg maintenance	395.00
08/05/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Aug. Dumpster Service	485.62
08/05/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	116.01
08/05/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PROGRAM SUPPLIES; BOOKS	699.54
08/19/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	August cleaning, bldg/maint	3,565.00
08/19/2025	ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN & RENTROP	legal services	29.50
08/19/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Program/Office Supplies; books	117.70
08/19/2025	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership Dues - J. Green-Ric	125.00
08/19/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	Dental	977.13
08/19/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	telephone/fax	328.66
08/19/2025	DAWN HACH	Mahjong 101 Program	300.00
08/19/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	JULY LAWN SERVICE	232.00
08/19/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	183.71
08/19/2025	DTE ENERGY	Sumpter Gas & Electric	203.33
08/19/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	July Friends Payout	666.73
08/19/2025	LIBERTY MUTUAL	WORKERS COMP INS	90.00
08/19/2025	LIBRARY COMPUTER TUTOR	Library Computer Tutor Program	215.00
08/19/2025	LONG PLUMBING CO.	bldg repair & maint	2,250.00
08/19/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office & bldg supplies	620.81
08/19/2025	PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPA	short and long term disability insurance	601.56
08/19/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	Aug Acct Services	1,125.00
08/19/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	books and materials	50,871.81
08/19/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	Maint/mats	180.93
08/19/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	July Placements	109.35
08/19/2025	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	Fall Newsletter postage	2,000.00
09/02/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials; supplies	754.65
09/02/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	Aug Printer Service	1,109.36
09/02/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	Mem. dues, postage, prog suppl	449.46
09/02/2025	CITY OF BELLEVILLE	167 4th Street water bill	2,977.50
09/02/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	227.05
09/02/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th Street gas	278.37
09/02/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th Street Electric Bill	4,318.05
09/02/2025	MAGDALENA NAWROCKA-WEEKES	Seed Saving Program	175.00
09/02/2025	MI MUNICIPAL RISK MGT AUTH	liability insurance - MMRMA	5,924.25
09/02/2025	MIDWEST TAPE	books & materials	2,799.95
09/02/2025	MPLC	books & materials	323.85
09/02/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	building supplies	86.72
09/02/2025	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	bldg repairs & maint	1,402.05
09/02/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	Ring Central Telephones	508.60
09/02/2025	UNITED HEALTHCARE	employee health insurance	18,269.93
09/02/2025	ZOOBEAN, INC.	Beanstack Plus software	1,546.65

98	Checks Total:	175,910.58
98	Bank Total:	175,910.58
98	Grand Total:	175,910.58

08-05-2025 | WORK LIFE

Why you should make the library a model for your business

Business leaders should strive to build environments where people feel inspired, curious, and connected. The public library can show you how.

SHARE 



[Photos: [Pickawood/Unsplash](#); [Emil Widlund/Unsplash](#)]

BY [CRAIG SHAPIRO](#)

LISTEN TO THIS ARTICLE



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0:00 / 6:30

Walk into a library and you'll feel it right away. It's quiet but alive. People are reading, learning, applying for jobs, finding shelter, escaping for a moment into a story. No one's selling anything. Yet the value being created is enormous.

In 2022 (the most recent year for which we have [data](#)), there were 671 million visits to public libraries in the United States—that's more than the attendance at all [MLB](#), [NFL](#), and [NBA](#) games, plus [National Park](#) and

theme park visits combined. Despite changes in media habits, younger generations use libraries more than any other cohort (54% of Gen Zers and millennials in the U.S. reported visiting a physical library in the past year). And that's not counting the millions more who use the myriad digital services public libraries offer.

Libraries are not businesses. But they offer a model that many companies would do well to study.

We're living in a time of rapid change. Trust in institutions is slipping, and funding is at risk (many U.S. libraries, for example, rely on federal support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is being dismantled). AI is transforming the nature of work. Economic pressure is rising for employees, founders, and leaders alike. Against that backdrop, it's tempting to think only in terms of efficiency, cost-cutting, and optimization.



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But there's a deeper opportunity. What if long-term success is more about building environments where people feel inspired, curious, and connected?

That's what libraries do. And that's what the best organizations of any kind are learning to do, too.

LET PEOPLE DREAM

Libraries don't ask you to justify your interests. You can check out a book on astrophysics or attend a poetry reading. No one's measuring

your productivity. The door is open, and the invitation is simple: Explore.

Great companies operate with a similar principle. They give people space to think. To chase ideas that might not have an immediate return. Not because it's soft or unfocused, but because it leads to better breakthroughs.

On the way to becoming a company worth more than \$2 trillion, Google famously gave employees "20% time," encouraging them to pursue passion projects without immediate commercial goals. This freedom led directly to innovations like Gmail, Google Maps, and AdSense—products that started as dreams and became essential tools for billions.

Give people the freedom to wander, and they just might find the next big thing.

FOCUS ON MORE THAN TRANSACTIONS

A library is not about monetization. Yet its value shows up everywhere: literacy rates, employment readiness, civic health. The best organizations understand this. They offer more than a product. They offer meaning, trust, and alignment with people's values.

Patagonia demonstrates this principle powerfully through its environmental activism, which goes far beyond selling outdoor gear. The company's bold stances—from suing the government over environmental policies to donating profits to climate causes—might seem risky from a traditional business perspective. Yet Patagonia's sales have quadrupled in the past decade to more than \$1 billion annually. Patagonia's commitment to meaning over pure profit resonates deeply with its community, strengthening brand loyalty and trust.

In uncertain times, that's what people hold on to.

SUPPORT THE WHOLE PERSON

Libraries recognize that people are more than readers or borrowers. They offer after-school programs for children, job training for adults, and social services for those in need. They understand visitors have complex lives, and that growth rarely follows a single, predictable path.

The best organizations understand this, too. Work is not just work. It's identity. It's purpose. It's how people spend the majority of their waking hours. When leaders recognize that and respond with flexibility, empathy, and real support, the results speak for themselves. People stay longer. They perform better. They build things they're proud of.

In 2012, Adobe replaced cumbersome and bureaucratic annual performance reviews with "check-ins"—open, ongoing, two-way conversations about performance and career growth. This change acknowledged employees as individuals with diverse needs and ambitions, not just as resources to be optimized.

ADVERTISEMENT

The results: Adobe reduced voluntary attrition by more than 30% while saving 80,000 manpower hours previously spent on reviews. By treating employees as whole people with evolving aspirations rather than quarterly performers, Adobe created a system that serves both human

development and business outcomes.

Healthy people build healthy organizations.

BE A PLATFORM, NOT JUST A POINT SOLUTION

The modern library is more than books. It hosts résumé workshops. Offers tax help. Provides warmth in the winter. It meets people where they are.

That's a powerful concept for any organization. Consider Airbnb. What began as a way to find short-term lodging is steadily evolving into something broader: a platform for travel, connection, and cultural exchange. Now the company is expanding from where you stay to how you explore, offering everything from pasta-making in Rome to wildlife walks in Nairobi. It's a bold attempt to transform a transactional service into a layered, participatory ecosystem that reflects the ways travelers want to feel at home in the world.

What if you stopped thinking of your offering as a single product or service? What if you thought of it as a foundation people could build from?

Libraries remind us that value isn't always immediate or measurable in quarterly reports. But it's real. The impact accumulates over time, quietly compounding.

The same can be true for any organization willing to think more expansively.

Invest in culture. Make room for imagination. Support your people. Serve your community. Not because it looks good, but because it works.

Long live the library. And long live the companies that learn from its

example.

*The early-rate deadline for Fast Company's **Most Innovative Companies Awards** is Friday, September 5, at 11:59 p.m. PT. **Apply today.***

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Shapiro is the founder of [Collaborative Fund](#). [More](#)

EXPLORE TOPICS

LEADERSHIP

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CULTURE

Boston Public Library aims to increase access to a vast historic archive using AI

AUGUST 11, 2025 · 5:00 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



Chloe Veltman

[3-Minute Listen](#)[PLAYLIST](#)[TRANSCRIPT](#)

The stacks at Boston Public Library, one of the oldest and largest public library systems in the country.

Aram Boghosian for Boston Public Library

Boston Public Library, one of the oldest and largest public library systems in the country, is launching a project this summer with OpenAI and Harvard Law School to make its trove of historically significant government documents more accessible to the public.

The documents date back to the early 1800s and include oral histories, congressional reports and surveys of different industries and communities.

"It really is an incredible repository of primary source materials covering the whole history of the United States as it has been expressed through government publications," said Jessica Chapel, the Boston Public Library's chief of digital and online services.

Sponsor Message

Currently, members of the public who want to access these documents must show up in person. The project will enhance the metadata of each document and will enable users to search and cross-reference entire texts from anywhere in the world.

Chapel said Boston Public Library plans to digitize 5,000 documents by the end of the year, and if all goes well, grow the project from there.

Making a bargain with AI

Because of this historic collection's massive size and fragility, getting to this goal is a daunting process. Every item has to be run through a scanner by hand. It takes about an hour to do 300-400 pages.



A book undergoing the digitization process in a scanner at Boston Public Library.

Boston Public Library

Harvard University said it could help. Researchers at the Harvard Law School Library's Institutional Data Initiative are working with libraries, museums and archives on a number of fronts, including training new AI models to help libraries enhance the searchability of their collections.

AI companies help fund these efforts, and in return get to train their large language models on high-quality materials that are out of copyright and therefore less likely to lead to lawsuits. (Microsoft and OpenAI are among the many AI players targeted by recent copyright infringement lawsuits, in which plaintiffs such as authors claim the companies stole their works without permission.)

Sponsor Message

"Having information institutions like libraries involved in building a sustainable data ecosystem for AI is critical, because it not just improves the amount of data we have available, it improves the quality of the data and our understanding of what's in it," said Burton Davis, vice president of Microsoft's intellectual property group.

Access for all

Greg Leppert, the Harvard Law School Library's Institutional Data Initiative's executive director, said it is not the goal of the initiative to grant AI companies privileged access to the rich troves of out-of-copyright information held at libraries and archives. Anyone can have access to the data after it's been digitized.

"It's a two-way street, where we are improving data in a way that will help AI, but those improvements work their way back into the library," said Leppert. "So it improves the patron experience as well."



HISTORY

I Saved Every Letter You Wrote Me: The Library of Congress Digitizes Hamilton

OpenAI is helping Boston Public Library cover such costs as scanning and project management. The tech company does not have exclusive rights to the digitized data.

"We benefit, like others, from their efforts to digitize the public domain, expanding the high-quality data and public knowledge that AI systems, including ours, can build on," the company said in a statement to NPR.

Challenges of public-private partnerships

Library professionals say working with AI companies will provide broader access to information.

"I think this is a really worthwhile partnership out of which we are going to get more accessible collections," Boston Public Library's Chapel said.

And, because librarians are involved in curating and categorizing that information, the integrity of the materials used by AI companies can be more easily protected.



ALL TECH CONSIDERED

Combining The Nation's Digitized Libraries, All In One Place

"Having trained professionals with deep subject knowledge is crucial in this moment as we start to develop what the future will bring," said American Library Association President Sam Helmick.

But library experts also expressed caution about these partnerships because of the cultural differences between public institutions and corporations.

"The kind of 'move fast and break things' ethos of Silicon Valley is counter to the values of librarianship, which are about access and transparency," said Michael Hanegan, co-author of the new book *Generative AI and Libraries*.

Sponsor Message

A purple rectangular advertisement for Xfinity. The word "xfinity" is in the top left in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the text "One internet price." is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Underneath that, "5 years. Guaranteed." is written in a slightly smaller, bold, white sans-serif font. At the bottom left, in a very small white font, it says "Restrictions apply. Select plans only."

"This is all moving so fast: The technology is moving fast. The companies are moving fast," Chapel said. "And libraries work on a very different timescale. So there's a little bit of a culture clash."

Jennifer Vanasco edited this story for broadcast and digital.

libraries harvard openai artificial intelligence

Our commitment to you will never waver.

President Trump has signed the bill that eliminates \$1.1B of federal funding for public media.

This devastating decision means fewer reporters on the ground, fewer voices that dare to ask difficult questions, and fewer stories that reflect the depth and diversity of our country.

But here's what will never change: NPR's commitment to you and our mission to create a more informed public.

If you believe that everyone deserves access to trustworthy, inspirational journalism and programming—now is the time to act.

Commit to a recurring monthly gift today to help ensure that this American resource continues to be a reliable companion and civic cornerstone.

♥ **DONATE NOW**

MLA News | Michigan Library Association

CALL TO ACTION



Call Your Legislators and Urge Them to Support Library Funding in the Michigan FY2026 Budget!

Last week, the Michigan House of Representatives approved an omnibus budget bill, [HB 4706](#), for fiscal year 2026. Now with less than a month before a signed state budget is due, the budget process is entering its final, most critical phase: reconciling major differences in Michigan's budget across Chambers and the Governor's office.

In June, the House's spending plan for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), which includes funding for the Library of Michigan, [House Bill 4576](#), passed without a line item for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA funds are federal monies provided annually to the Library of Michigan by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

If the final version of the state budget does not include an LSTA line item, the Library of Michigan cannot spend federal funds already awarded and earmarked for critical statewide programs like the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) and the Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat).

Despite MLA's advocacy to House Appropriation Chairs over the summer urging them to include the LSTA line item, the MDE budget has been stalled in negotiations as part of the broader state budget impasse.

Michigan's legislature returned to work today and will spend the next several weeks in intense negotiations. Now is the time to contact your Senators and Representatives and urge them to add the LSTA line item back into the MDE budget!

Call Your Legislators

As a constituent, your voice matters most to your locally elected officials. We encourage you to make a personal call to both your Representative's and Senator's offices TODAY.

- Urge them to voice support for the LSTA line item in a final state budget.
- Encourage them to talk to appropriations leadership about the importance of this funding.
- Highlight that this \$5.6 million of federal money supports widely used programs like MeL and

MeLCat, which provide a \$26.96 return on investment for every \$1 spent.

- Remind them of the widespread support across Michigan: 78% of respondents in a recent statewide poll said that IMLS funding from the federal government should remain as part of the federal budget, and Michigan can only access those funds if the LSTA line item is included in the state budget.

Without the ability to spend allocated IMLS dollars, vital statewide programs like MeL and MeLCat are at serious risk. In 2024, MeLCat loaned over 1 million items between nearly 400 participating libraries in every corner of the state. Also in 2024, MeL – which includes 75+ databases that provide homework help, workforce skills, training, eBooks, and more – saw 19.2 million articles accessed by Michiganders. These programs provide a hard return on investment of \$26.96 for every \$1 spent.

A statewide poll commissioned by MLA in June 2025 gives us a clear picture of public support for continued IMLS funding: 78% of respondents said that IMLS funding from the federal government should remain as part of the federal budget. While the Library of Michigan received notice of full federal funding through the state fiscal year 2026, Michigan's legislature must first approve a budget allocating those dollars to the appropriate state department.

Find your Michigan State legislators' phone numbers by entering your address below. You can use the script below on your call, or when leaving a voicemail, or use the prompts to create your own script.

We have a very short window to act. Please share this message with your colleagues, trustees, and other library advocates. Your voice is essential in communicating the importance of including the LSTA line-item in the MDE budget! Legislators pay attention to voters in their district. We encourage you to make a personal call to both your Representative's and Senator's offices TODAY.

Thank you for taking action to support Michigan's libraries. Your outreach to Representatives and Senators is critical to influencing the budget process—your emails and phone calls can make a difference.



Classic Movies Series



**Thursday,
September 11 @
6:30 pm at the
Belleville Area
District Library**

Duck Soup (1933)

**Director: Leo McCarey
Starring Groucho,
Chico, Harpo, & Zeppo**

**Brought to you by the
Friends of the Belleville
Area District Library and
the Belleville Area Council
for the Arts**



Computer Classes at the Belleville Area District Library

Sumpter Media Center
23465 Sumpter Rd.
Call 734-699-3291 to register



Computer Basics Class Series (Beginner)

Basics I: Intro to Computers:

Thursday, August 14 @ 10:00 am

Basics II: Windows:

Thursday, August 28 @ 10:00 am

Basics III: The Internet :

Thursday, September 11 @ 10:00 am

Basics IV: Email :

Thursday, September 25 @ 10:00 am

Basics I: Intro to Computers:

Saturday, November 1 @ 3:30 pm

Basics II: Windows:

Saturday, November 15 @ 3:30 pm

Basics III: The Internet:

Saturday, November 29 @ 3:30 pm

Basics IV: Email:

Saturday, December 13 @ 3:30 pm

Microsoft Excel (Intermediate)

Microsoft Excel - Part 1:

Thursday, October 9 @ 2:30 pm

Microsoft Excel - Part 2:

Thursday, October 23 @ 2:30 pm



Scan the code to view the
schedule & register

MAIN LIBRARY
167 4th St.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291



BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

SUMPTER MEDIA CENTER
23465 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291

TAKE FLIGHT

Sumpter Media Center

Open House

September 13th

11 am - 2 pm



Join the Belleville Area District Library for a fun filled day at the Sumpter Media Center. Enjoy snacks, activities, crafts, tours of the Media Center, library card sign-up, and a 1pm visit from the Michigan Avian Experience.

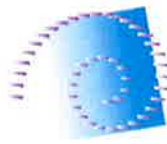
MICHIGAN BIRDS OF PREY



Presentation
1 pm - 2 pm

Learn about the remarkable survival adaptations of Michigan raptors. Staff from the Michigan Avian Experience provide an up-close experience with live, native birds.





BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

COMPUTER SCAMS,

and What Not to Click On!



**Monday, September 15, 2025
@ 6:30 PM**

Don't let your computer control you!
Find out what you should and should NOT
click on. The instructor will discuss
scams, including frustrating and
suspicious pop-ups, advertisements, a
malfunctioning computer, email ads, and
links.

**Register For a
Reminder Text!**



734-699-3291





**Belleville Area District Library
Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue**

FALL KITTEN CAFÉ



Saturday , September 20

1 – 4 pm

in the Storytime room

There will be no onsite adoptions, but you can schedule an appointment with FMAR for a later date.



Call: 734-699-3291

Visit: belleville.libcal.com

or Scan to REGISTER for your 15-minute time slot for you to meet and socialize with current residents of the FMAR!

Minors must be accompanied by an adult

P.A.C.E SENIOR HOME CARE OPTIONS



Presented by

Huron Valley PACE®

**Monday
September 22nd
6:30 pm**

Attendees will learn about the PACE model and how services can help keep seniors living safely at home.

P.A.C.E, or Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is a unique health plan and care provider, committed to keeping aging adults with challenging healthcare conditions in their home.

To qualify for PACE, a person must be age 55 or over, live in a PACE service area, and be certified by the state to need a nursing home level care.



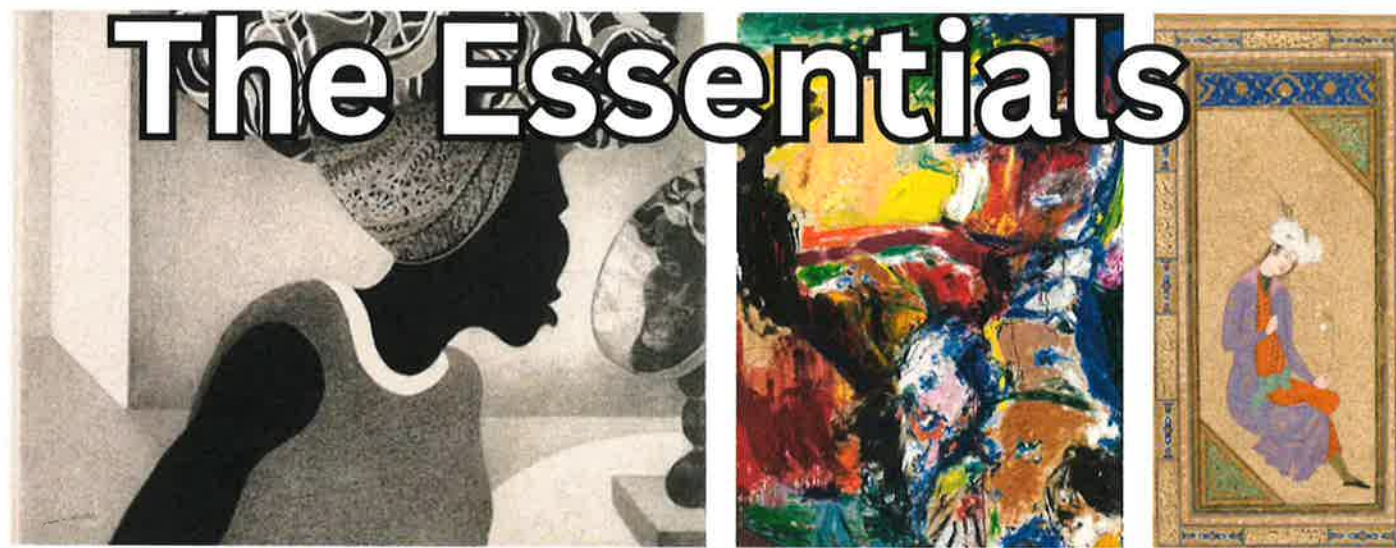
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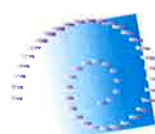


Explore select artworks of the Detroit Institute of Arts to gain an appreciation for the diversity, quality, and world-class status of the museum's collection.

Sat, Sep 27, 2pm



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Classic

JON MILAN *and*
GAIL OFFEN

Michigan Food and Drinks

Did you know?

Register to receive
a text reminder!



Ritz crackers were invented in Jackson

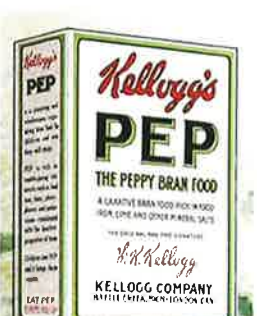
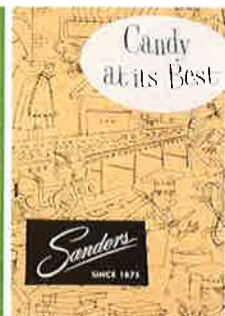
Germack was the first US importer of pistachios

Better Made uses Michigan potatoes

Frozen garlic bread was invented in Grand Rapids

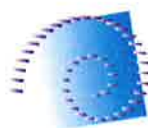
Michigan is the pickle-growing capital of the US

Sep 25, 6:30 pm



Attendance at Library events constitutes consent to be photographed for use in print and/or electronic publicity for the Belleville Area District Library

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