

**Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
October14, 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 September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Committee Reports
 - A. Building-Cichewicz
 - B. Bylaws-Priest
 - C. Finance-Stoudemire
 - D. Outreach-Jackson-Smith
 - E. Personnel-Priest
 - F. Policy-Fleming
 - G. Art
7. Approve Accounts Payable
8. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
9. Trustee Comments
10. Chair Comments
11. 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: November 18, 2025, at 7:30 PM (Note: Change in date due to Veterans Day).

Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
Date: September 9, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, and Linda Priest.
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
Excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Dan Fleming, and Tanya Stoudemire.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve the September 9, 2025, agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve July 8, 2025, Minutes:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve the July 8, 2025, regular meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Hannah Rodriguez, board member from Guiding Harbor, spoke to the Library Board about Guiding Harbor's fundraiser event on November 8, 2025, at the Diamondback Music Hall.
6. **Approve Resolutions Authorizing Millages to the Dec. 2025 Tax Bill:**
Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve Resolution No. 2025-01, Winter Tax Levy #1. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Jackson-Smith, Peters, and Priest. Nays: None. Absent: Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, and Stoudemire.

Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve Resolution No. 2025-02, Winter Tax Levy #2. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Jackson-Smith, Peters, and Priest. Nays: None. Absent: Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, and Stoudemire.

Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve Resolution No. 2025-03, Winter Tax Levy #3. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Jackson-Smith, Peters, and Priest. Nays: None. Absent: Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, and Stoudemire.
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:** No Report

8. Approve Accounts Payable: Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Director's Report: See attached.

10. Trustee Comments:

Priest: Vernors has a Boston Cooler drink; it is good and tastes just like it. Went up to Romeo for peaches.

Jackson-Smith: Attended some of the library's summer programs with her son's summer camp. The kids had a great time.

Cichewicz: Her grandchildren are hooked on audiobooks from the library. Asked if there are any football game programs. Learned that the library's first *Gameday Gameday* program was coming up on Friday.

11. Chair Comments: Everything is running well, the meeting was a good one, and we got our business done.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Priest, seconded by Jackson-Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Belleville Area District Library

Date: 09/03/2025

Time: 7:58 PM

Page: 1

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Name	Check Description	Amount
09/16/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	Sept. cleaning, bldg maint	3,565.00
09/16/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials; prog & bldg suppl	239.97
09/16/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials	27.94
09/16/2025	BECKETT & RAEDER	landscape consulting	853.87
09/16/2025	BELLEVILLE AREA INDEPENDENT	newspaper adverts	550.00
09/16/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	october health insurance	977.13
09/16/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	telephones	328.66
09/16/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	August lawn service	290.00
09/16/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	113.11
09/16/2025	DTE ENERGY	Sumpter Branch electric & gas	188.29
09/16/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	Friends Payout - August 2025	550.80
09/16/2025	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	books & materials	240.46
09/16/2025	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	books & materials	36.71
09/16/2025	JOHNSTON ENTERPRISES, LLC	Fall 2025 Newsletter	3,722.00
09/16/2025	KAMRON REYNOLDS	books and materials	29.07
09/16/2025	LONG MECHANICAL SERVICE	bldg repairs & maint	1,917.50
09/16/2025	MEC, INC	HVAC controls-maintenance agreement	3,475.00
09/16/2025	MICHELE MONTOUR	Winter Newsletter 2026	500.00
09/16/2025	MICHIGAN AVIAN EXPERIENCE	MI Birds of Prey Program	350.00
09/16/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	R. Davies 2025 MLA Conf., Mem.	1,405.00
09/16/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	program, office & bldg supplies	438.83
09/16/2025	PIONEER LANDSCAPING AND LAWN	landscaping/weeding	210.00
09/16/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	Sept 2025 accounting services	1,125.00
09/16/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	books & materials; telephone	25,163.69
09/16/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	mat service/bldg repair/maint	180.93
09/16/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	August 2025 placements	97.20
09/16/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Sept Dumpster Service	483.32
09/30/2025	ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN & RENTROP	legal/penal fine settlmnt agre	88.50
09/30/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	program supplies; comp. hardware	234.74
09/30/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	164.10
09/30/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	program supplies	267.43
09/30/2025	BECKETT & RAEDER	landscape consulting	1,190.00
09/30/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	software, program supplies	1,195.11
09/30/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	205.01
09/30/2025	DTE ENERGY	4TH STREET GAS	504.68
09/30/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th street electric	3,891.86
09/30/2025	JON MILAN	Classic MI Food and Drink prog	200.00
09/30/2025	KJ ART LLC	Spooky Cotton Candy Science pr	212.50
09/30/2025	LINDSAY MERBAUM	Vampires at Sea mocktails prog	200.00
09/30/2025	LONG PLUMBING CO.	bldg repairs/maintenance	910.00
09/30/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	bldg & prog suppl; comp. hardware	1,112.84
09/30/2025	PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPA	short and long term disability insurance	601.56
09/30/2025	STATE OF MICHIGAN	elevator inspect./sn# 9962482	293.55
09/30/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	Aug. direct ship. books/matls	8,411.80
09/30/2025	THOMAS CARR	Dark Side of the Mitten prog	300.00
09/30/2025	UNITED HEALTHCARE	OCT. EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS	18,269.93

46	Checks Total:	85,313.09
----	---------------	-----------

46	Bank Total:	85,313.09
----	-------------	-----------

46	Grand Total:	85,313.09
----	--------------	-----------

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

September: Adults: 16 Youth: 20

LIBRARY VISITS	2025/26	2024/25	% change
September	12,231	12,348	-0.95%
Fiscal Year	36,362	36,045	0.88%

TOTAL CIRC	2025/26	2024/25	% change
September	19,765	20,982	-5.80%
Fiscal Year	63,169	66,255	-4.66%

ADULT PROGRAMMING	2025/26	2024/25	% change
September	374	209	78.95%
Fiscal Year	745	491	51.73%

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
September	396	425	-6.82%
Fiscal Year	1,768	1234	43.27%

REF. QUESTIONS	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
September	1,657	1,584	4.61%
Fiscal Year	5,124	5,144	-0.39%

INTERNET USE	2025/2026	2024/25	% change
September	1,151	972	18.42%
Fiscal Year	3,133	3,172	-1.23%

YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	2025/26	2024/25	% change
September	306	219	39.73%
Fiscal Year	605	798	-24.19%

BUILDING: Randy Brown Landscape will replace the library's boxwoods near the parking lot.

I am running into roadblocks in getting Otis Elevator to schedule an elevator test required by the state. Matt Ratzow from O'Neal Construction is assisting me in finding alternative elevator vendors. Additionally, in speaking to Matt and to another elevator vendor, I also discovered that our elevator most likely does not need the door lock monitoring system for which Otis sent us a quote. The elevator was installed in 2019, and the state code that mandates the system went into effect in 2016.

STAFF: Incoming: Circulation Clerk Heidi Leads.

Jennifer Richardson is presenting a workshop on how to start a memory café at the Michigan Library Association Fall Conference at the end of October. This program has been greatly successful at our library. The Friends of the Library help to fund it, and Kathryn Wood assists with a communal art piece that the group works on during each café.

INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (SHARED LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM): The library directors of the shared system unanimously agreed to forgo a request for proposal for library automation system vendors. The Library Network will pursue a new multi-year contract with the existing vendor, TLC CARL.

PROGRAMMING: We saw over 40 attendees at the Michigan Birds of Prey program that wrapped up our open house at the Sumpter Media Center. The outdoor pavilion behind the media center was a fantastic setting for this program, and I look forward to being able to host more programs like it.

As a result of our successful program on learning how to play Mahjong, the library is now holding a Mahjong Meetup on Fridays at 11 am. We are also adding an informal English Conversation group beginning on October 21 at 1 pm. This is intended for those who are learning English and will also be attended by some of our literacy volunteers. Jazz Night at the Library features the Dawn Giblin Quartet on Wednesday, October 29 at 7 pm

As of this writing, we are gearing up for Harvest Fest! I anticipate a fun filled day for all.

COLLECTION: Long-time book vendor Baker & Taylor is shutting down operations. They have served as a very important vendor for the library, and I am sorry to see them go. We continue to use Brodart and Ingram. Additionally, Amazon is making a bid for library services, including providing processing and brief catalog records.



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Michigan Libraries Secure Stable Funding in Michigan FY26 Budget

After months of uncertainty and statutory deadlines that came and went, Michigan's FY26 budget moved through the Senate and House overnight. The budget now awaits the Governor's signature as the final step in the process.

Considering the challenges leading up to this week, the outcome for libraries in the state budget is encouraging. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) line item remains fully funded in the budget, ensuring the Library of Michigan can spend federal dollars as allocated on statewide programs like the Michigan eLibrary and catalog, MeL and MeLCat. While we continue to advocate for an increase in State Aid to Libraries, that line item remains flat for FY26. During an appropriation process that resulted in budget reductions for many state departments and agencies, the static funding for State Aid at \$16,567,700 signals a stable outcome and presents a clear directive for our future advocacy work.

The budget includes a one-time \$900,000 increase in state funding for the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), reflecting library advocates' persistent efforts to highlight the importance of MeL and the critical role of LSTA funds in supporting it. The Library of Michigan also retained funding for all positions, ensuring its team can continue delivering essential statewide programs and services to Michigan libraries.

These outcomes are the direct result of your tireless efforts to educate elected leaders about the importance of state and federal funding for libraries. Thanks to you—MLA members and library advocates—Michigan libraries secured stability in the state budget for FY26. Our advocacy work continues, and your voices will remain essential as we push for increased support in the years ahead. Thank you for standing with Michigan libraries!

View the [House Fiscal Agency Conference Reports for the General Omnibus Budget \(pdf\)](#).

Baker & Taylor to Cease Operations | American Libraries Magazine

Greg Landgraf



Despite measures to continue operations and preserve pending contracts with libraries, the book distributor Baker & Taylor (B&T), a longtime fixture in the library technology industry, will shutter.

B&T is in the process of closing following [financial difficulties experienced over the last two years](#), according to *Publishers Weekly*; [Shaw Local](#), a media group in northern Illinois; and a handful of individuals who reported being laid off on [Reddit](#) and other social media. While B&T has not yet issued a public statement and did not immediately respond to an interview request, it has reportedly begun to close parts of the business, including its distribution center in Momence, Illinois, and some of its operations at its Charlotte, North Carolina, headquarters. Employees were told that the company plans to wind down all its business activities by the end of 2025, per *Publishers Weekly*.

The closure follows a failed acquisition by publisher and distributor [ReaderLink Distribution Services](#), which had signed a letter of intent September 6 to acquire B&T's assets and continue its operations. The purchase, scheduled to close on September 26, [fell apart that day](#).

According to *Publishers Weekly*, B&T CEO and owner Aman Kochar told employees in a meeting on Monday that without a buyer and with ongoing pressure from its primary creditor, B&T was forced to wind down its business and begin layoffs.

B&T, founded in 1828, was considered one of the largest distributors of print and audiovisual materials for libraries, serving more than [4,000 institutional customers and employing more than 900 people](#). In addition to its role as a distributor of materials, the company offered Customized Library Services for shelf-ready materials, the BTCat cataloging utility, and a variety of other products and services for libraries and publishers. After changing hands a handful of times since 1970, B&T had been owned since 2021 by an [investment group led by Kochar](#).

The company's recent challenges included a [major cyberattack](#) in 2022 that interrupted B&T's services, as well as downturns in library orders because of the pandemic. Earlier this year, the company's main creditor, CIT Northbridge Credit LLC, [declared the loans that supported the company's operations in default](#). When the sale to ReaderLink was announced last month, [the deal included only B&T's assets](#), not its outstanding debts. *Publishers Weekly* spoke to several publishers and suppliers who said they had unsettled invoices with B&T, and were [not sure how those debts might be repaid](#).

This business closure represents an extraordinarily disruptive event for public libraries, which will have lost one of their major channels for acquiring materials. Many publishers will also have to scramble to establish arrangements with other distributors and risk losses of inventory held in B&T warehouses.

Though the sale of the company to ReaderLink was not successful, individual business divisions and other assets within B&T could be sold to other buyers as the company liquidates.

B&T's troubles illustrate the fragility of the library book industry. The profit margins on sales tend to be small, while costs for distribution centers and business infrastructure tend to be high. Demand for ebooks from providers like OverDrive continues to increase and take up larger

portions of library collection budgets, in turn causing a decrease in print-materials spending. B&T's Boundless ebooks service, launched in 2023, had not gained a substantial market share.

The slate of suppliers of library materials has narrowed, with Ingram Library Services and Brodart Library Services remaining as major players. Follett Content recently expanded its focus beyond pre-K–12 schools to also [market children's and young adult materials](#) to public libraries. Over the next year, we can expect more activity to fill the void left by the departure of B&T.

Financial distress

Details surrounding the aborted sale and financial difficulties of Baker & Taylor were revealed in court filings in the [lawsuit OCLC initiated against B&T and Bridgeall Libraries](#) in March involving the BTCat cataloging service. In the lawsuit, OCLC alleged misuse of WorldCat records by BTCat and violations of OCLC contracts and policies. This lawsuit remains pending.

B&T experienced a deterioration of its cash liquidity throughout 2025, with many libraries noting disruptions in the processing of orders. According to statements recounted in court documents, a planned sale was driven by the foreclosure of its leading credit holder.

The financial position of B&T reached a critical point in mid-2025 when CIT deemed the loans that supported the company's operations in default.

Recent divestment of collectionHQ

In June, [B&T sold collectionHQ to Valsoft Corporation](#), which operates software companies across several vertical markets. Edelweiss and collectionHQ form Valsoft's book industry software vertical. Valsoft follows a buy-and-hold strategy where it makes long-term commitments to its acquisitions.

Bridgeall Libraries, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, developed collectionHQ, and was [acquired by B&T in December 2011](#). The service provides analytics tools for collection development and inventory management. Since the divestment transpired prior to the closure of B&T, Bridgeall Libraries and its collectionHQ service are not directly impacted, though it loses its main distribution and support channel in North America. Bridgeall Libraries and its collectionHQ service were also named as codefendants in the OCLC lawsuit.

B&T and ReaderLink history

B&T had persisted through a long business history of acquisitions, divestments, and changes in ownership, including W. R. Grace (1970–1992), Carlyle Group (1992–2003), [Willis Stein & Partners](#) (2003–2006), [Castle Harlan Partners](#) (2006–2016), [Follett Corporation](#) (2016–2021), and finally, an [investment group led by CEO Amandeep Kochar](#) (2021–present).

ReaderLink can trace its roots to the Chas. Levy Company, founded in 1883. Over the course of its 127-year business history, the company operated divisions to distribute newspapers, magazines, books, videos, and computer software. The Levy Home Entertainment division established in 1962 distributed books to large-scale retail outlets. That company was acquired by Dennis Abboud in 2011 and transitioned its branding to ReaderLink. The company is headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, with Abboud serving as chief executive officer.

ReaderLink had [previously acquired parts of B&T](#) in 2015. These assets included B&T Publishing Group and B&T Marketing Services, and a distribution center in Indianapolis.

Reading Rainbow Is Back, With Mychal the Librarian Hosting!

Vanessa Armstrong

Reading Rainbow is the touchstone for many people's childhoods, a beloved show hosted by LeVar Burton that imbued its young audience a love of reading and telling stories. The PBS show has sadly been off the air since 2009, when it ended its twenty-six-year run.

We haven't had much *Reading Rainbow* love since, though there was a recent documentary about it. Today, however, we found out the amazing news that the show is coming back! With social media treasure, and *Ms. Rachel* special guest, Mychal the Librarian hosting!

The trailer was released on the official *Reading Rainbow* YouTube channel as well as the channel of its distributor, Kidzuko, Sony Pictures Television's YouTube content hub. It shows Mychal hanging out with kids as well as famous people, some of whom read cool stories! Craft-making will also be part of the series, with kiddos creating things like sidewalk libraries. Some of the celebrities highlighted in the trailer include John Legend, Chrissy Teigen, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Gabrielle Union, and Adam DeVine.

Everything about this makes me happy! Mychal is the perfect person to take over hosting the show. He's a positive force on social media, a rare thing these days, and talks about how great it is to be a library kid (and a library grown-up). His motto, for example, is, "Having fun isn't hard, when you have a library card!" Give him a follow if you aren't following him already. You're welcome.

It's not clear yet when new episodes will be available or if they will be available outside of YouTube (the description just says the show will be "available on digital").

While we wait for more wonderful *Reading Rainbow*-ness, check out the trailer for the new iteration of the show below. 

Practice your **ENGLISH**

TUTOR LED
English
Conversation Group

**STARTS
OCTOBER 21ST**

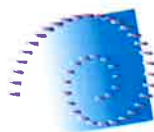
In the Library
Conference Room

Tuesdays

1 PM TO 2 PM

Free

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



**BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY**

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

For more information contact
Jennifer Richardson
734-699-3291
jrichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us



MEMORY CAFE



Wednesdays at @ 11 AM:

SEPTEMBER 17

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 19

DECEMBER 17



Join us at this relaxed, informal social event for those with memory difficulties and their caregivers

EXPECT

- Good snacks
- Fun Crafts
- Great conversation

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

Do you

- own a business?
- run a club or organization?
- want to up your social media game?



**BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY**



**Join our
HANDS-ON Workshop**

Using Canva for Graphic Design

And learn to access and use thousands of templates for making:

- flyers
- signs
- logos
- brochures
- documents
- infographics
- videos
- Facebook posts
- Instagram Stories
- business cards
- t-shirts
- the list goes on...



**Monday
October 20
6:30 pm**

OR

**Friday
November 7
3 pm**



**At the
Sumpter
Media Center
23645 Sumpter Rd**

Registration Required .

Call **734-699-3291**

Visit bit.ly/BADLCanva

OR



Scan me

Note:

**Please only register for one.
They are the same class**

167 Fourth Street, Belleville MI

BOOVILLE

AT THE LIBRARY!



MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 6:30 PM:

"VAMPIRE AT SEA" MOCKTAILS WITH LINDSAY MERBAUM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 6:30 PM:

"DARK SIDE OF THE MITTEN" WITH TOM CARR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 6:30 PM:

"CRYPTIDS DECRYPTED" WITH ANDREW KERCHER

REGISTER FOR A REMINDER TEXT



JAZZ NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, October 29 @ 7 pm



*The
Dawn Giblin
Quartet*

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

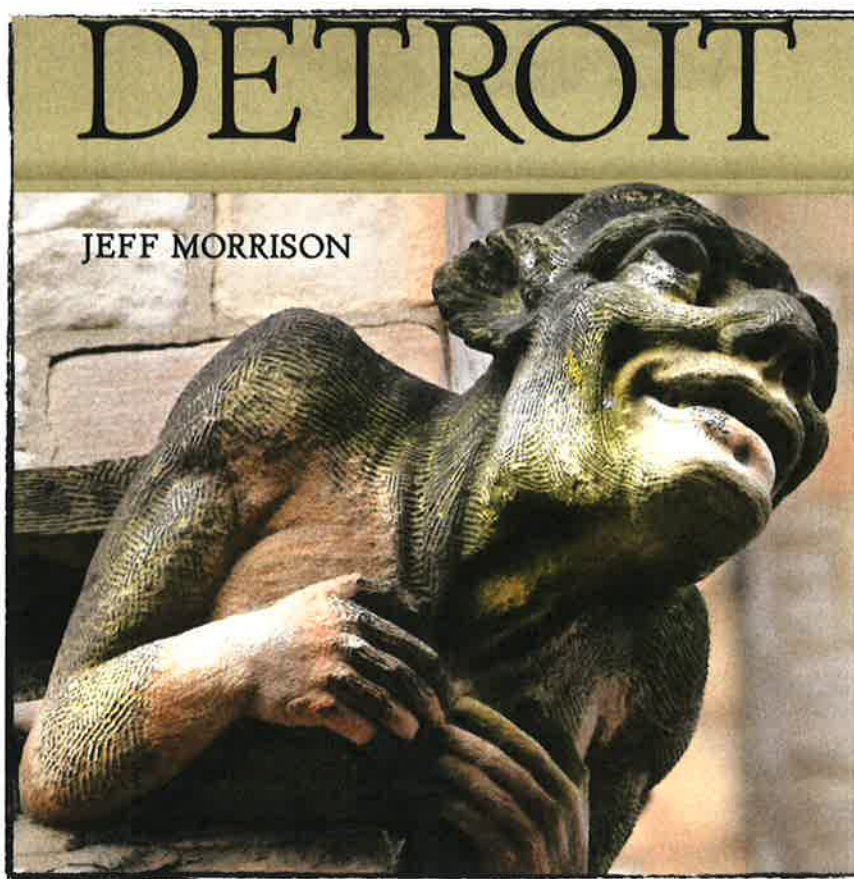


BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

NATIVE AMERICAN INFLUENCES ON MICHIGAN ARCHITECTURAL SCULPTURE

BY JEFF MORRISON



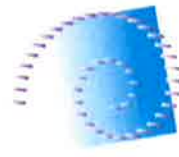
Historian and photographer Jeff Morrison, author of **Guardians of Detroit** and **Guardians of Michigan**, will present a 60-minute program featuring over 85 images of architectural sculptures influenced by Native American forms in Michigan. Attendees will learn about the symbolism of these sculptures and hear stories of the artists and architects behind them.

NOVEMBER 6 | 6:30 PM

 **BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY**



Register for a reminder text:



BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Mahjong Meetup

Fridays 11 am – 1 pm
Sept 19 to Dec 19



Join us for a lively and engaging session of Mahjong, the timeless game of strategy and skill. Whether you're a seasoned player or just beginning, these weekly gatherings offer a welcoming space to connect with fellow community members.

