

**Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
January 13, 2026 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. Moment of Silence in Memory of Alma Hughes-Grubbs
3. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Jackson-Smith, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
4. Selection of 2026 Board Officers
5. Approve Agenda
6. Approve December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
7. Public Comments
8. Committee Reports
 - A. Building-Cichewicz
 - B. Bylaws-Priest
 - C. Finance-Stoudemire
 - a. 2024-25 Audit
 - D. Outreach-Jackson-Smith
 - E. Personnel-Priest
 - a. Director's Evaluation
 - b. Salary Range Recommendations
 - F. Policy-Fleming
 - G. Art
9. Approve Accounts Payable
10. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
11. Trustee Comments
12. Chair Comments
13. 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: February 10, 2026, at 7:30 PM

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Maria Jackson-Smith.
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral
Excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Tanya Stoudemire
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Fleming, to approve the December 9, 2025, agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve November 18, 2025, Minutes:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve the November 18, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** No Comments.
6. **Approval of 2026 Regular Board Meeting Dates:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve the 2026 regular board meeting dates as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
7. **Approval of 2026 Library Closure Dates:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Fleming, to approve the 2026 library closure dates as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
8. **Health Insurance:** Due to unresolved negotiations between UnitedHealthcare (UHC) and Corewell Health to extend their contract beyond December 31, Suchy requested quotes for other health insurance providers. The library's insurance agent provided quotes from Blue Cross and Health Alliance Plan. The deadline to switch health insurance is December 15th, but if Corewell Health and UHC reach a settlement in time, the library can remain with UHC. Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to move the library's health insurance to Health Alliance Plan, if the negotiations between UHC and Corewell are not successful. The motion carried unanimously.
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** No Report.
 - B. **Bylaws:** The committee will meet in January to review the bylaws. Suchy will obtain a library board bylaws template from library attorney Anne Seuryneck for comparison purposes.
 - C. **Finance:** The first quarter budgetary comparison schedule was presented by Suchy.
 - D. **Outreach:** No Report.

E. Personnel: Priest handed out the director's evaluation, and asked that they be returned by January 5th.

F. Policy: No Report.

G. Art: No Report.

10. Approve Accounts Payable: Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Director's Report: See attached. Kone Elevator Company will complete the CAT5 elevator test on Thursday, December 11th. The library's annual audit is nearing completion and will be presented at the January board meeting. Winter Fest was a success with around 200 people visiting Santa and about 300 participating in the hot cocoa and cookies before the parade.

12. Trustee Comments:

Jackson-Smith: Taking care of sick kids and finishing the semester. Looking forward to the new year.

Priest: Had a meeting at the library with one of her groups and afterwards played Mahjong with the library's Mahjong kits.

Cichewicz: Wanted to highlight the flyer from the board packet that has information about Libby. You can have the app on your phone or computer and it gives you access to hundreds of audiobooks, eBooks, and magazines. The consortiums that participate in Libby gives you access and ability to utilize their collections as well.

Fleming: Has been coming to library quite a bit lately the past month and loves looking at the art. He has really enjoyed the "take and make" adult crafts. He wished everyone a happy holiday and a happy new year.

13. Chair Comments: Was here for Winter Fest. The hot cocoa and cookies were such a welcoming environment. She was here for staff closing the library and preparing for Santa's visit. The fireworks were great, and the back staff stairs was a perfect place to view them. The museum's Holiday Festival of Trees opening party was wonderful.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Fleming, seconded by Priest. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Belleville Area District Library - Salary Recommendations 2026

Director				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$80,997	\$100,093	\$80,600	\$104,580 **
2025	\$84,395	\$109,624		
			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
**Approved at 1-14-2025 Board Meeting				

Asst. Director				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$62,480	\$83,830	\$65,000	\$83,000
2025	\$73,375	\$91,812		
			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$73,000	\$91,000		

Dept. Head				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$55,424	\$74,084	\$55,500	\$74,000
2025	\$62,253	\$80,803		
			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$62,000	\$81,000		

Circulation Supervisor				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$48,734	\$66,314	\$48,000	\$66,000
2025	\$49,347	\$68,639		
			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$49,000	\$69,000		

Administrative Assistant				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$41,538	\$53,581	\$39,520	\$52,000
2025	\$45,306	\$59,584		
			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$45,000	\$59,500		

*Taken from the Detroit Suburban Librarians Roundtable 2025 Statistics Compilation Reports

Librarian				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$46,373	\$59,373	\$46,800	\$63,336 **
2025	\$52,488	\$66,884		
**Approved at 1-14-2025 board meeting			BADL Proposed	
			Minimum	Maximum
			\$53,000	\$67,000

Part Time/Substitute Librarian				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
Part Time Librarian			Minimum	Maximum
	Minimum	Maximum		
2022	\$22.16/hr	\$28.25/hr	\$20/hr	\$28.00/hr
2025	\$24.20/hr	\$31.74/hr		
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Proposed	
Part Time Librarian			Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$19.44/hr	\$22.82/hr	\$22/hr	\$32.00/hr
2025	\$21.47/hr	\$25.76/hr		

Librarian Intern				
Class V & VI DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
			Minimum	Maximum
2025	\$18.12/hr	\$20.66/hr	\$17/hr	\$18/hr **
**Approved at 1-14-2025 board meeting			BADL Proposed	
			Minimum	Maximum
			\$18/hr	\$20/hr

Library Assistant				
Class IV & V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$15.24/hr	\$19.84/hr	\$17/hr	\$21/hr
2025	\$17.86/hr	\$22.96/hr		
			BADL Proposed	
			Minimum	Maximum
			\$18/hr	\$23/hr

*Taken from the Detroit Suburban Librarians Roundtable 2025 Statistics Compilation Reports

Desk Clerk					
		Class V DSLRT Average*		BADL Current	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022		\$13.52/hr	\$17.54/hr	\$15.00/hr	\$18/hr
2025		\$15.42/hr	\$19.66/hr		
				BADL Proposed	
		Minimum	Maximum	\$16/hr	\$20/hr

Shelving Page					
		Class V DSLRT Average*		BADL Current	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
				Minimum	\$1.00 higher than
				Wage	min. wage
				BADL Proposed	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	\$1.00 higher than
				Wage	minimum wage

Facilities/Security Assistant					
		Class V DSLRT Average*		BADL Current	
		Custodian		Minimum	Maximum
		Minimum	Maximum	\$31,200	\$40,560
2022		\$30,913	\$40,543		
2025		\$37,257	\$47,075		
				BADL Proposed	
		Minimum	Maximum	\$37,000	\$47,000

Facilities Clerk					
		BADL Current			
		Minimum	Maximum		
		\$13.03/hr	\$16.00/hr		
				BADL Proposed	
		Minimum	Maximum	\$14/hr	\$17/hr

*Taken from the Detroit Suburban Librarians Roundtable 2025 Statistics Compilation Reports

Technology Manager				
Class V DSLRT Average*			BADL Current	
System Administrator			Minimum	Maximum
	Minimum	Maximum		
2022	\$57,903	\$80,498	\$51,000	\$68,000
2025	\$61,505	\$85,347		
 Class V DSLRT Average*				
Computer Tech			BADL Proposed	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
2022	\$43,691	\$59,961	\$55,000	\$75,000
2025	\$50,702	\$66,124		

*Taken from the Detroit Suburban Librarians Roundtable 2025 Statistics Compilation Reports

01/08/2026

CHECK DISBURSEMENT REPORT FOR BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK DATE 12/02/2025 - 01/07/2026

Check Date	Payee	Description	Account	Amount
Fund: 101 Gene				
12/09/2025	ABOS	MEMBERSHIP RENEW - J. RICHARDSON	808.000	49.00
12/09/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS AND MATERIALS	981.000	81.50
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES/CRAFTS	950.002	34.18
		OFFICE/PROG SUPPLIES	950.002	46.35
		OFFICE/PROG SUPPLIES	730.000	8.54
		PROG SUPP WINTERFEST	950.002	29.90
		HARD/SOFTWARE/COMP MAINT	820.000	22.39
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	91.29
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	14.77
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	138.54
		PROG SUPPLIES	950.002	97.40
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	6.74
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	45.39
				616.99
12/09/2025	ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN & RENTROP	LEGAL FEES	801.001	413.00
12/09/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	PRINTER SERV	809.001	642.78
12/09/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	PRNT, PROG SUP, BOOK/MATL, SOFTWR, -0801	901.000	57.50
		PRNT, PROG SUP, BOOK/MATL, SOFTWR, -0801	950.002	497.89
		PRNT, PROG SUP, BOOK/MATL, SOFTWR, -0801	981.000	42.40
		PRNT, PROG SUP, BOOK/MATL, SOFTWR, -0801	982.000	899.00
				1,496.79
12/09/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	NOV PARKING LOT/SIDEWALK SALT	809.007	690.00
12/09/2025	DEMCO	OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	77.38
		4TH ST ELECTRIC	922.000	2,854.12
				2,854.12
12/09/2025	ENVISIONWARE, INC	COMP HARD/SOFTWARE MAINT	820.000	6,236.01
12/09/2025	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	BLDG REP & MAINT	931.000	1,402.05
12/09/2025	PIONEER LANDSCAPING AND LAWN	GARDEN BED MAINTENANCE	809.007	350.00
12/09/2025	T-MOBILE	HOTSPOT 2026 SERVICE PERIOD	982.000	7,232.40
12/09/2025	TECH LOGIC	AMHS SERVICE THRU 1/31/27	983.001	7,959.06
12/09/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	ACQUISITION SERVICES, BELL20	809.002	1,547.56
		ANNUAL DELIVERY CHARGE, BELL20	809.005	3,495.00
		SHARED AUTOMATION SERVICE, BELL20	809.003	10,584.20
				15,626.76
12/09/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	NOV PLACEMENTS	809.001	109.35
12/09/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	DECEMBER DUMPSTER	809.001	486.94
12/09/2025	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT	LIABILITY INS, POLICY	810.000	4,799.25
		LIABILITY INSURANCE, POLICY	810.000	1,125.00
				5,924.25
12/09/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PROGRAM SUPPLIES/CRAFTS	950.002	55.98
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	112.02
		PROG SUPP-CREDIT VS 1DNJ-K396-J1YJ	950.002	(24.99)
		BOOKS VS 1FXM-T6YM-96RV	981.000	(102.55)
				40.46
12/16/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	86.13

		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	54.88
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	42.25
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	20.38
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	982.000	59.84
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	9.89
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	5.99
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	64.92
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	338.50
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	98.01
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	16.99
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	156.13
				953.91
12/16/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	78.20
12/16/2025	DTE ENERGY	SUMPTER GAS & ELECTRIC	921.000	111.49
		SUMPTER GAS & ELECTRIC	922.000	105.32
				216.81
12/16/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	NOVEMBER 2025 PAYOUT	252.001	1,563.30
		NOVEMBER 2025 PAYOUT	252.002	646.25
		NOVEMBER 2025 PAYOUT	252.003	88.00
		NOVEMBER 2025 PAYOUT	252.004	297.43
				2,594.98
12/16/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	25.77
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	110.30
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	89.84
		OFFICE & BLDG SUPPLIES	730.000	152.23
		OFFICE & BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	40.28
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	134.44
				552.86
12/16/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	DECEMBER 2025 ACCOUNTING SERVICES	805.000	1,125.00
12/16/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	FLOOR MATS NOV	931.000	180.93
12/16/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	19.98
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	220.80
		CREDIT VS 1RWG-43CN-HMKD	730.000	(220.80)
				19.98
12/22/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	DECEMBER CLEANING/MAINT	931.000	3,565.00
12/22/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	TELEPHONES	851.000	444.46
12/22/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	71.59
		OFFICE & BLDG SUPPLIES	730.000	61.81
		OFFICE & BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	123.85
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	53.76
				311.01
12/22/2025	PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPA	EMPLOYEE LIFE INSURANCE JAN 2026	716.000	601.56
12/22/2025	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	WINTER NEWSLET. POSTAGE TO PERMIT #103	727.002	2,000.00
12/22/2025	VIGILANTE SECURITY	SUMPTER SECURITY SYSTEM	809.001	1,032.52
12/22/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	DENTAL	716.000	821.28
01/06/2026	ALLIANCE HEALTH AND LIFE	JAN HEALTH INS.	716.000	18,740.28
01/06/2026	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	508.39
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	137.76
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	37.75
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	23.49
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	152.50
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	85.41

		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	56.78
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	268.64
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	102.22
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	22.78
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	224.12
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	33.98
				1,653.82
01/06/2026	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	164.30
		BOOKS & MATLS	981.000	397.83
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	89.99
		PROGRAM SUPPLIES	950.002	33.78
		PROGRAM & BLDG SUPPLIES	950.002	204.27
		PROGRAM & BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	56.64
				946.81
01/06/2026	APPLIED INNOVATION	PRINTER SERVICES	809.001	893.66
01/06/2026	BS & A SOFTWARE	COMP HARD/SOFTWARE/MAINT, BELL. LIBRARY	820.000	6,445.00
01/06/2026	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	POSTAGE STAMPS, PROG SUPPLIES	730.000	0.00
		POSTAGE STAMPS, PROG SUPPLIES	727.003	127.55
		POSTAGE STAMPS, PROG SUPPLIES	950.002	111.90
				239.45
01/06/2026	CITY OF BELLEVILLE	WATER BILL	923.000	711.59
01/06/2026	DC LAWN & SNOW	SNOW REMOVAL/SALT	809.007	3,700.00
01/06/2026	DEMCO	OFFICE SUPPLIES	730.000	74.43
01/06/2026	DTE ENERGY	4TH STREET GAS	921.000	1,054.40
01/06/2026	DTE ENERGY	4TH STREET ELECTRIC	922.000	2,653.16
01/06/2026	GARDEN FANTASY GREENHOUSES	OUTDOOR DECORATED POTS/CHRISTMAS	775.000	250.00
01/06/2026	JOHNSTON ENTERPRISES, LLC	WINTER NEWSLETTERS	901.002	3,722.00
01/06/2026	MICHELE MONTOUR	WINTER NEWSLETTER DESIGN	806.000	425.00
01/06/2026	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	MEMBERSHIP DUES, J RICHARDSON	808.000	85.00
01/06/2026	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	OFFICE/BLDG SUPPLIES	730.000	191.49
		OFFICE/BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	174.48
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	113.46
		BLDG SUPPLIES	775.000	159.69
				639.12
01/06/2026	PFM FINANCIAL ADVISORS LLC	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	806.000	1,000.00
01/06/2026	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	ANN SERV/LICENSE RENEW 10/1/25-9/30/26	820.000	3,927.90
		BOOKS & MATLS, BELL20	981.000	13,112.67
		BOOKS & MATLS, BELL20	981.000	20,346.17
		EQUIP & BULK, BELL20	982.000	8,200.60
		RING CENTRAL NOV25, BELL20	851.000	509.71
		RING CENTRAL OCT25, BELL20	851.000	509.69
				46,606.74
01/06/2026	UNIFIRST CORP	FLOOR MATS	931.000	196.50
01/06/2026	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	JAN DUMPSTER	809.001	531.16
Total For Fund:				157,273.96
Report Total:				157,273.96

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2026

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

December: Adults: 18 Youth: 11

	2025/26	2024/25	% change
LIBRARY VISITS			
December	9,664	13,277	-27.21%
Fiscal Year	69,754	78,717	-11.39%
TOTAL CIRC			
December	17,435	19,197	-9.18%
Fiscal Year	119,307	125,757	-5.13%
ADULT PROGRAMMING			
December	159	140	13.57%
Fiscal Year	1,443	1,033	39.69%
YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING			
December	656	711	-7.74%
Fiscal Year	3,206	2,682	19.54%
REF. QUESTIONS			
December	1,378	1,441	-4.37%
Fiscal Year	9,141	9,714	-5.90%
INTERNET USE			
December	835	820	1.83%
Fiscal Year	6,284	5,834	7.71%
YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET			
December	250	226	10.62%
Fiscal Year	1,915	1,589	20.52%

LIBRARY BOARD: It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that Library Board Trustee/Secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs passed away on January 7. I will forever treasure her for her warmth, kindness, and advocacy for the library.

BUILDING: Elevator testing has been completed. I signed a proposal from O'Neal Construction to install new flagpole lights.

FINANCE: The library received its 2024-25 audit, and the auditors gave the library an unmodified opinion (i.e. a clean audit).

STAFF: The health insurance was changed from United HealthCare to Health Alliance Plan effective January 1. (As of this writing, UHC and Corewell still have not settled).

Incoming staff: Library assistant Chesney Blevins.

PROGRAMMING: After a brief hiatus for the holidays, all of our storytimes are beginning again this week. The Teen Craft Club resumes on Tuesday, January 27 at 4 pm with *Bingo Cards and Vision Boards*. Teens will make college vision boards and bucket list bingo cards. It may be snowy and cloudy and gray, but surely spring will arrive soon. Gardeners and aspiring gardeners can get a jump on the season by attending our *Gardening Roundtable* on Saturday, January 17 at 11 am.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Please join the Friends of the Library at their Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 31 at 11 am. This is a great opportunity to celebrate all that they do for the library.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN: On January 3, Librarian of Michigan Randy Riley passed away suddenly. He was a very devoted advocate for libraries and supported all of our efforts statewide. Mr. Riley attended our library's open house/grand opening as well as our visit last year by ALA President Cindy Hohl.

OTHER: I have attached my summary of 2025 as well as my goals for 2026 to this report.

Library Resources/Library Use:

The Library of Things collection now encompasses over 130 items including a wheelbarrow, SAD lamp, projector, etc. The library has established an outreach collection of books that are rotated through the assisted living and senior housing communities in our service area.

The monthly Memory Café continues to be greatly successful. Our outreach librarian and staff presented a workshop on how to set up a memory café at the Michigan Library Association Fall Conference to a standing-room only audience. She has also secured a \$10,000 grant for our Memory Café. Community demographics for our area (and all of Michigan) show an aging population, highlighting the importance of this program. Another mentally stimulating library program, the Friday afternoon Mahjong Meet-Up also attracts an older audience.

The library's adult literacy and ESL volunteer tutors are working with their students. The library has begun a weekly ESL conversation practice hour as well.

The Summer Reading Program was revamped this year to include repeat performances at different days/times to give families more options and to make the program experience more pleasurable than when the room is overly filled. The library's second Comic Fest took place in August, and plans are underway to hold Comic Fest every other year.

Game Day Game Day continued this year on the Friday afternoons when there were home football games at the high school. On the whole, behavior issues were significantly lower this past year. This has allowed us to spend more time engaging in teen afterschool craft programs, as well as passive programming, such as magnetic poetry in the teen room. The library has begun to provide some healthy afternoon snacks in the teen room, funded by the Friends of the Library.

Staff:

2025 has been a year of major transition as we said good-bye to three valued and long-time staff members. As a result, we have done a lot of training and reorganizing this year. We have a new full-time librarian who has joined the adult services department. We also have new tech services/book processing clerks. The most major changes were seen as we replaced Carol Johnson, who wore many hats including administrative assistant duties, accounts payable, staffing the circulation desk, etc. Her duties were divided up between two staff members who were promoted and have spent the past year acclimating to their new roles. The circulation department also had to make adjustments to accommodate the changes.

The library's short and long-term disability insurance provider was changed due to multiple errors and difficulties encountered with the previous insurance provider. The library is also navigating a potential change to a new health insurance provider should negotiations break down between UHC and Corewell Health which negatively impacts half of the staff who are on the insurance plan.

Building:

Two improvements were made to enhance accessibility to the building. Black stair tread edges were installed on the circular stairs to enhance the visibility of the stairs, and the public restroom exteriors doors were equipped with handicapped accessible automated door openers. Vape detectors were also installed in the public restrooms. A solution was identified to address the malfunctioning flagpole lights. The library identified an alternative elevator vendor who is completing the CAT5 testing that our regular vendor was unable to schedule.

The library's landscape architect was called upon to come up with an alternative to the boxwoods that died in the parking lot border. The dead boxwoods were replaced last fall with chokeberry bushes. I am also working with the landscape architect on a request for proposal for more robust annual landscaping services now that our trees, bushes, and garden areas have matured. The RFP will be issued in early 2026.

Community:

We continue our partnerships with many community organizations, including, but not limited to the Friends of the Library, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild, Van Buren Township, the Belleville Area Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Business Community. Many community groups hold meetings in our library where the public is welcome including the Belleville Garden Club, the Belleville Rotary Club, and the Belleville Kiwanis Club.

We are excited to be part of all of the "Fests", and have staffed a table at Lake Fest, conducted many activities and crafts at Harvest Fest, and had cookies and hot cocoa during Winterfest, culminating in a visit from Santa.

We have engaged with Sumpter Township to make use of their outdoor pavilion behind the Media Center to do library programming, and we held a very successful open house and Birds of Prey program there last September. We were also a presence at their Trunk or Treat event.

We were pleased to welcome Cindy Hohl, the president of the American Library Association, to the library last spring. Librarians from all over southeast Michigan (and a few from Ohio) came to our library to hear her speak.

The library partnered with the Belleville Rotary Club to hold a food drive during the month of November. The non-perishable foods that were collected were donated to the local Methodist Church Food Closet. The library has also posted a list of organizations who can help those who are experiencing food insecurity.

Policies, Planning, and Penal Fines:

An update to some of the library's policies and strategic planning remain on my list of goals. I have been examining all of the library's financial policies to see what needs to be changed or added to, and I distributed a first draft of the library's accounting policy to the finance committee. This continues to be a work in progress. As discussed at the last board meeting, the board bylaws need some updates as

well, and I have contacted the library's attorney to obtain her bylaws template to give to the bylaws committee.

Hilary, Nikki, and I met earlier in the year with Maria, chair of the outreach committee, regarding library planning. She has reviewed our mission and values statements and the demographic information compiled in our strategic research document from 2013, and has found it to still be on target.

The penal fines issue with Wayne County took up some time and energy, but I am satisfied with the settlement agreement that we entered into with the County.

Library Software:

We successfully implemented the new accounting software program from BS&A. This involved a lot of preparation work to ensure a smooth transition, data conversion, and one week of training. (The old legacy system was ready to be put to rest). Our website administrator has been working all year to clean up the library's existing website and ensure that it is ADA accessible. We also purchased a new template design for the library's website and look forward to rolling it out by spring 2026.

Conclusion:

None of the above could have happened without collaboration and input from the community, the hard work and creativity of our library staff, and the dedication and thoughtfulness of the library board. I am grateful to all of you.

2026 Goals

Building:

Issue a Landscaping Request for Proposal.

Work with cleaners on value added services.

Re-assess space and seating on 2nd floor.

Update the flagpole lighting.

Repair staff furniture electrical outlets.

Work on a library how-to manual:

Flesh out the library building maintenance calendar

Develop an administrative calendar

Obtain quotes and implement a new elevator service contract.

Staff:

Continue to adjust staff workflows including making some adjustments to departments and job duties.

Policies:

Financial and bylaws.

Strategic Planning:

Update the library's demographic data.

Evaluate our current mission and values statements to see if they need to be updated.

Describe how our services are fulfilling the values statements.

Technology:

Evaluate and purchase new self-check and print release kiosks (existing kiosks will no longer be supported beginning September 2026).

Update website design and continue to implement ADA required enhancements.

Outreach:

Continue to develop programming at the branch.

Implementation of LibConnect to create targeted emails, online newsletters, and information to our library patrons. (The LibConnect software works with our library's automation system and with our online events calendar).

Enhancement of the library's social media presence.

Continue to work with our community partners, including but not limited to: The Friends of the Library, the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, the Central Business Community, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, the Belleville Rotary Club, the Belleville Kiwanis Club, the Belleville Area Museum, Van Buren Schools, etc.



MDE Library of Michigan

State Librarian Randy Riley Remembered as Champion for Public Libraries

State Librarian Randy Riley Remembered as Champion for Public Libraries

Date: January 6, 2026

Media Contact

[Bob Wheaton](#), Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, 517-241-4395

[Ken Coleman](#), Department Spokesperson, 517-241-4395

LANSING – State Librarian Randy Riley is being remembered by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for his many contributions during a career dedicated to making reading more accessible to the public.

Riley died suddenly on Saturday night at age 63.

Riley, of East Lansing, had been state librarian since 2014 and was a Library of Michigan staff member since 1989.

“I am greatly saddened by the death of Randy Riley,” said State Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko. “Randy was well-known and respected around the state and country for his advocacy for libraries, books and reading. He was a champion of making information available to everyone. He will be truly missed. My thoughts are with his family.”

A memorial service will be held Friday, Jan. 9, at 11 a.m. in the Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, with a small reception following. Randy Riley Memorial Fund contributions may be made to the [Library of Michigan Foundation by visiting its website](#).

Before being named state librarian, Riley was a key member of the team responsible for oversight of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) and promoting its resources to school and public libraries and government agencies statewide. He helped coordinate outreach to educators, state employees, and librarians to ensure that they have easy access to

information. Under his leadership the Library of Michigan redesigned the MeL website and installed discovery search capabilities for MeL.

He oversaw statewide database contracts and vendor relations and coordinated the Michigan Notable Books program.

Riley previously worked as a reference librarian, Michigan Selector, Michigan and Genealogy Special Collections coordinator, and as Special Collections supervisor at the Library of Michigan. He was an influential leader in statewide and national library organizations, including Chief Officers of State Library Agencies.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University with a dual major in history and political science and a master's degree of Information and Library Studies in the Archives and Records Management Program at the University of Michigan.

Riley is survived by his wife, Lori, a son, Sam, a daughter, Madeline, and his dog, Louie.

#

The Library of Michigan is an agency within the Michigan Department of Education and is dedicated to providing the people of this state and their government one perpetual institution to collect, preserve and provide access to the story of the state, and to support libraries in their role as essential community anchors. To learn more, visit www.Michigan.gov/LibraryofMichigan.



State Librarian Randy Riley Remembered as Champion for Public Libraries

Copyright State of Michigan

Michigan's Trial Court Funding Recommendations Threaten Vital Support Earmarked for Libraries - News | Michigan Library Association

Keeley Briggs

Dillon Geshel, Interim Executive Director

In 2017, the Michigan Legislature created the [Trial Court Funding Commission](#), which spent several years developing recommendations to help stabilize the court's funding system. In 2023, the Michigan Judicial Council formed the [Alternative Funding for Trial Courts Workgroup](#) (AFTCW) to review those recommendations and develop a plan for implementation. Why is this of interest to libraries? A familiar funding source for libraries, penal and civil fines, is at risk of capture under the workgroup's recommendations. The workgroup's [final concept paper](#) proposes that all revenue from penal fines and civil infractions is redirected to trial courts, which would have a disastrous impact on Michigan's public libraries.



Why Penal and Civil Fines Matter to Michigan Libraries

Since 1835, the people of the State of Michigan constitutionally mandated that penal fines be allocated to libraries. Article VIII, section 9 of the Michigan

Constitution states:

All fines assessed and collected in the several counties, townships and cities for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of such public libraries, and county law libraries as provided by law.

Further, MCL 600.8831 provides that non-criminal-code fines – levied for violations of certain state laws – are designated as civil infractions that also go to public libraries. These include most traffic fines. Penal and civil fines provide nearly as much support for public libraries as the Michigan legislature does annually.

What Libraries Stand to Lose

At the Michigan Library Association, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact that the implementation recommendations would have on public libraries. The Library of Michigan reported that total penal fines distributed to libraries in 2024 amounted to approximately \$16.8 million. In many libraries – particularly smaller and rural systems – penal fines make up a higher share of operating budgets. Changes to the flow of penal fines and civil-infraction revenues would disproportionately affect these small, rural, and underfunded libraries.

MLA Responds

Over the summer, MLA and the Library of Michigan formally responded to the recommendations in separate letters to the workgroup. MLA requested that the workgroup seek other funding options that do not include capturing penal and civil fines already earmarked for libraries. While we sympathize with the need to address challenges with trial court funding, we shared with the workgroup that siphoning those revenues away from libraries creates yet another funding crisis.

Last month, Michigan's House and Senate Judiciary Committees held a joint hearing to learn more about the recommendations in a presentation from the AFTC Workgroup Chair. MLA submitted a card of opposition at the hearing, indicating our disagreement with the workgroup's recommendations. Several other organizations submitted letters expressing similar concerns, including the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, among others. In a follow-up communication to all House and Senate Judiciary members, MLA expressed deep concern for a model that captures penal and civil fines without a plan for replacement funding that keeps libraries whole.

Connecting with your Legislators on the Issue

Behind the scenes, MLA is monitoring the proposals and engaging with legislators and stakeholders to protect this vital library funding from capture. In conversations with your local representatives and senators, it's important to share information with them about the recommendations and the constitutional and statutory protections that ensure these dollars support meaningful work in public libraries. Considering this funding threat, legislators and stakeholders need to know that libraries are essential to Michigan residents and communities. Remind them that your libraries provide access to early-literacy programs, digital resources, broadband and technology, workforce and small-business assistance, after-school learning, and trusted support in navigating government and health information. For many residents, public libraries are the only place they can freely access those services. Redirecting these funds without a plan for stable replacement revenue would severely undermine the ability of public libraries to deliver these critical services and would harm the individuals and communities who rely on them most. As this issue develops, MLA will continue to share information and guidance on next steps. If you have questions about trial court funding reform and how the current proposals would impact libraries, please don't hesitate to reach out.

[Next >](#)

Last Call for Mass Market Paperbacks

by Jim Milliot, with Sophia Stewart |

The decision made this winter by ReaderLink to stop distributing mass market paperback books at the end of 2025 was the latest blow to a format that has seen its popularity decline for years. According to Circana BookScan, mass market unit sales plunged from 131 million in 2004 to 21 million in 2024, a drop of about 84%, and sales this year through October were about 15 million units. But for many years, the mass market paperback was “the most popular reading format,” notes Stuart Applebaum, former Penguin Random House EVP of corporate communications. Applebaum was also once a publicist at Bantam Books, one of the publishers credited with turning mass market paperbacks into what he calls “a well-respected format.”

When the heyday of mass market paperbacks was has been debated by industry veterans, but it is generally acknowledged to have run from the late 1960s into the mid-'90s. According to Book Industry Study Group's *Book Industry Trends 1980*, mass market paperback sales jumped from \$656.5 million in 1975 to nearly \$811 million in 1979, easily outselling hardcovers, which had sales of \$676.5 million, and the new, upcoming format, trade paperback, which had sales of about \$227 million. And with its much lower price points, mass market paperback unit sales easily dwarfed those of the other two formats, at 387 million in 1979, compared to 82 million for hardcover and about 59 million for trade paperback. Applebaum says mass market drew millions of new readers who were not interested in paying hardcover prices for books.

Esther Margolis, another former Bantam executive who later started Newmarket Press, cites three factors that led to the growth of mass market paperbacks. One was the adoption of production practices and manufacturing techniques used by magazine and newspaper publishers to print the standard 4.25" × 6.87" paperbacks in huge quantities quickly and cheaply. The second factor was distribution, with publishers employing a network of more than 600 independent distributor (ID) wholesalers to deliver inventory to the same 100,000 outlets where magazines and newspapers were being sold. These nonbookstore outlets included newsstands, variety stores, gas stations, supermarkets, and shopping malls. School book fairs, book clubs, and bookmobiles later emerged to bring paperbacks to elementary and high school teachers and students, Margolis says. In later years, mass merchandise outlets such as Walmart became important for the format.

The final piece of the mass market paperback puzzle was the creation of a reprint licensing agreement that granted mass market paperback publishers the rights to books released by hardcover publishers for a term that ranged from two to seven years, Margolis says.

Both Applebaum and Margolis can rattle off the huge number of copies mass market paperbacks sold compared to hardcover in decades past. Jacqueline Susann's megahit *Valley of the Dolls* sold 300,000 hardcovers in 1966, while the Bantam paperback sold four million in its first week on sale in 1967, and more than eight million in its first year, Margolis notes. One of the biggest mass market bestsellers of all time was the 1975 tie-in edition to the movie *Jaws*. According to Applebaum, the edition, whose cover art closely resembled the movie poster, sold 11 million copies in its first six months.

While hardcover reprints were a staple for mass market paperback publishers, some also released mass market originals. One author who thrived using that strategy was the western writer Louis L'Amour. Applebaum, who served as L'Amour's publicist, says that Bantam has more than 150 million copies of his books in mass market print, and all but four of his more than 130 titles were paperback originals.

Mass market paperback was also the format of choice for publishing instant books. Bantam published its first instant book in 1964 when it released *The Report of the Warren Commission* in the format.

While many of the mass market publishers ended up as parts of the Big Five, Kensington Publishing remained the country's largest independent publisher of the format until it began pivoting away from mass market paperbacks about five years ago. But CEO Steve Zacharius makes no bones about the fact the format played a key role in Kensington's success. Fern Michaels is Kensington's all-time top-selling author, and the bulk of the 42 million copies her books sold were in mass market paperback.

A 1988 article in *PW* pointed to the vibrancy of the format at that time. The year before, 112 mass market titles sold more than one million copies, led by Danielle Steel, whose *Family Album*, *Wanderlust*, and *Secrets* combined to sell almost 12 million copies. Trailing Steel on the *PW* mass market list for that year was Sidney Sheldon, with *Windmill of the Gods* and *If Tomorrow Comes* combining to sell 8.6 million copies. Other authors whose mass market paperbacks racked up more than one million copies in 1987 included such well-known writers as Stephen King and Judith Krantz.

Though mass market paperback sales were over \$1 billion in 1996, there were warning signs that interest in the format was cooling. According to BISG, mass market sales fell 3.3% in 1996 compared to the previous year, to \$1.35 billion, and unit sales dropped 6.2%. Interviews by *PW* with industry players at the time put the blame for the decline primarily on the rapid drop in the number of ID wholesalers that, as Margolis notes, were key to making mass market paperbacks widely accessible. The ID market continued to consolidate under Levy Home Entertainment, and in 2011 Levy was bought by a former executive, Dennis Abboud, who renamed the company ReaderLink.

The consolidation of the wholesaler market coincided with the rapid increase of e-book sales. According to the 2012 StatShot report (produced that year by AAP and BISG), mass market paperback sales were running neck and neck with e-book sales in 2011 at about \$1.1 billion, but the two formats were on markedly different trajectories: from the prior year, mass market paperback sales tumbled by about \$500 million and e-book sale soared by roughly \$1 billion.

“

I believe that mass market paperbacks democratized America. Books and reading became popular in a way never before seen.

”

Despite the dramatic decline, the format still had some legs. *PW* reported in 2011 that six mass market titles sold more than one million copies each, but that was down from 10 years earlier, when eight mass market paperbacks sold more than two million copies each and another 39 sold more than one million. As that trend accelerated, the format became impossible to sustain, with rising production costs and a reluctance among publishers to raise prices above \$9.99.

“It seems the consumer has spoken,” Zacharius says. “Year after year, unit sales have steadily declined. It’s puzzling in some ways: with all the concerns around affordability, you might expect readers to gravitate toward a lower-cost option. But that hasn’t been the case with books, at least not in print.”

Those who were deeply involved with the boom years of mass market paperbacks consider that period an important one for publishing and reading. “I believe that mass market paperbacks democratized America,” Margolis says. “Books and reading became popular in a way never before seen. I think how lucky I was to be part of its explosive growth.”

A version of this article appeared in the 12/15/2025 issue of *Publishers Weekly* under the headline: An Ode to the Mass Market Paperback

What's Happening at the BADL?

January

English Conversation
Practice for ESL Learners
Tuesdays @ 1:00 PM

Adult Beginner's
Art Workshops
January 7th @ 11:00 AM

Mahjong Meetup
Fridays @ 11:00 AM

Garden Round Table -
January 17th @ 11:00 AM

Google Basics
January 20th @ 1:00 PM

Small Business Savvy
January 14th @ 6:30 PM
January 21st @ 6:30 PM

Book Groups

Quiet Reading
January 5th @ 7:00 PM

The Witching Hour
January 8th @ 6:30 PM

The Evening Book Group
January 8th @ 6:00 PM

Other Book Group
January 15th @ 6:00 PM

African American Literature
January 29th @ 7:00 PM

Memory Cafe
January 21st @ 11:00 AM

Gardening Made
Super Simple
January 24th @ 11:00 AM

History of Michigan TOLD
in Shipwrecks
January 26th @ 6:30 PM

Write Stuff Writers' Group
January 31st @ 1:00 PM



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**Fridays
11am -
1pm**

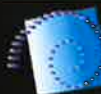
Mahjong Meetup



Join us for a lively Mahjong session, the classic game of strategy and skill. Open to both experienced players and newcomers, our weekly meetups provide a friendly space to connect with fellow game enthusiasts.



MAIN LIBRARY
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(734) 699-3291



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SUMPTER MEDIA CENTER
23465 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 699-3291

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:

Monday, February 2 @ 3:00 PM

Basics II: Windows:

Monday, February 16 @ 3:00 PM

Basics III: The Internet :

Monday, March 2 @ 3:00 PM

Basics IV: Email :

Monday, March 16 @ 3:00 PM

Basics V: Online Safety

Monday, March 30 @ 3:00 PM

Microsoft Excel (Intermediate)

Microsoft Excel - Part 1:

Thursday, April 16 @ 10:0 AM

Microsoft Excel - Part 2:

Thursday, April 30 @ 10:0 AM

Microsoft Word (Beginner/Intermediate)

Microsoft Word - Part 1:

Saturday, May 16 @ 3:15 PM

Microsoft Word - Part 2:

Saturday, May 30 @ 3:15 PM

Tech Tutoring - One-On-One

At the Main Library,
167 Fourth Street

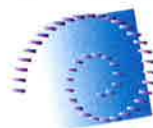
Struggling with technology like smartphones, email, or laptops? Need help setting up your eBook account? The Belleville Area District Library offers free 45-minute one-on-one lessons with a librarian.

Please note that these sessions are for learning, not for repairs or troubleshooting.



To Register:
Call 734-699-3291, or
Scan the code to view the
schedule & register

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

Specialty Computer Classes

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

Using Canva for Graphic Design Workshop (Intermediate)



Scan the code to view the
schedule & register

Monday, March 23 @ 6:30 PM

Monday, April 27 @ 6:30 PM

Join our hands-on workshop and learn to use the
FREE online graphic design website Canva.

Google Basics (Intermediate)

Tuesday, January 20 @ 1:00 PM
Tuesday, February 24 @ 1:00 PM
Tuesday, March 24 @ 1:00 PM



Google Photos + Drive (Intermediate)

Tuesday, April 21 @ 1:00 PM

Scan the code to view the
schedule & register

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BELLEVILLE AREA
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LET'S GET GARDENING AT THE BADL!

GARDEN ROUNDTABLE (SATURDAYS @ 11:00 AM)

- PLANNING YOUR GARDEN: - JANUARY 17
- PLANTING YOUR GARDEN - APRIL 4
- HARVESTING AND PRESERVING - SEPTEMBER 19
- INDOOR GARDENING - NOVEMBER 21

GARDENING MADE SUPER SIMPLE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
@ 11:00 AM



Check Out Our Seed Library!

Self-serve seed library:
No library card needed.
Borrow up to ten seed packets
per household.
Registration recommended.



GAME ON AT YOUR LIBRARY!

JAN 24 2-5pm



Socialize and strategize!

Learn a new board game from our collection!

**MOST GAMES
AGES 8+**

Please register.

Refreshments provided.

Games available for check out.

167 4th St.,

Belleville, MI 48111



**BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY**



History *of Michigan*

TOLD in Shipwrecks

Presented by Andrew Kercher, Historian

Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

On January 26, 1837, Michigan became a state in the United States of America. On this day, we welcome back historian Andrew Kercher, who will discuss the history of Michigan through the lens of shipwrecks.



**Please Register
for a Reminder Text**



teen craft club:

VISION BOARDS

and

BINGO CARDS

Cut and paste your way into the New Year
by designing your own bingo card.

Set your intentions for 2026 with a unique
vision board made of collaged materials.

TUES, JAN 27

4 PM - 5 PM

STORY TIME ROOM

AGES 12-18



register here



BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

QRBC

quiet reading book club

Join us for an evening of quiet reading alongside fellow readers & chat about what you read--or don't. It's all up to you. Introverts welcome.

1st & 3rd
Mondays
at 7 p.m.

BYOB:

Bring
Your
Own
Book!





Own or looking to
start a business?

Join us for our **VIRTUAL**

**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY:
Trust but Verify: Using AI in Your Marketing**

**Wednesday
January 14
6:30–8 pm**



REGISTER NOW!

bit.ly/badlsbs



**BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY**

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



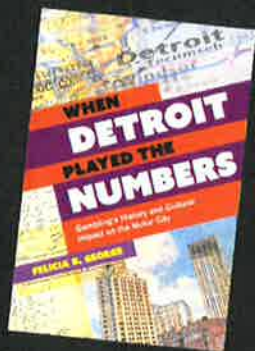
HALL OF FAME DNA: THE LEGACY OF NORMAN 'TURKEY' STEARNES
BY VANESSA IVY ROSE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 6:30 PM

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION WITH VANESSA IVY ROSE ABOUT HER BOOK, *HALL OF FAME DNA: THE LEGACY OF NORMAN "TURKEY" STEARNES*. THIS NARRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF HER HALL OF FAME GRANDFATHER, BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.



TELLING YOUR STORIES, FINDING YOUR ROOTS
BY OMER JEAN WINBORN & CHERYL GARNET
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ 2:00 PM

OMER JEAN WINBORN AND CHERYL GARNETT SHARE THEIR FAMILY HISTORY JOURNEYS AND PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR STUDYING AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY.

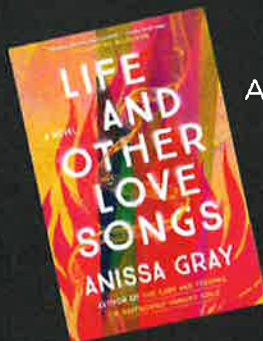


WHEN DETROIT PLAYED THE NUMBERS
BY DR. FELICIA GEORGE, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 7:00 PM

DR. FELICIA GEORGE NOTES THAT ILLEGAL NUMBER LOTTERIES IN DETROIT'S BLACK BOTTOM AND PARADISE VALLEY, WHILE EXPLOITATIVE, PROVIDED SOME BLACK RESIDENTS WITH A WAY TO ESCAPE POVERTY AND OFFERED IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE BOOK GROUP
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 7:00 PM

AALBG MEETS ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ALL IS WELCOME! COME AND ENJOY GOOD CONVERSATIONS, GOOD SNACKS, AND OF COURSE, GOOD BOOKS!



Register For a Reminder
Email/Text



*Let's discover and
learn together!*



LITTLE SCIENTISTS

**Explore
Caves**



**Welcome young scientific
explorers as we learn about
caves, and what you might find
inside.**

Please Register!

**Saturday
February 7,
11am
Ages 2-6**



Register in person, online, or by calling
belleville.lib.mi.us ~ 734-699-3291



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DISTRICT LIBRARY**



BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

STORYTIMES

January 12 - February 19

March 9 - April 16

Family Storytime (all ages):

Mondays, 6:30 pm

Toddler Time (2-4): Tuesdays, 11 am

Baby Storytime (birth -2):

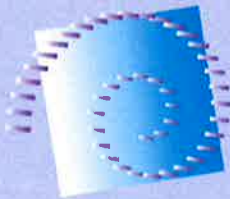
Thursdays, 10 & 11 am

Saturday Storytime (all ages):
Last Saturday of the month, 11 am

Register for storytimes online at

<https://belleville.libcal.com>

or call 734-699-3291



**167 Fourth St,
Belleville, MI 48111**