



Progressions

WINTER 2026

Belleville Area District Library
167 Fourth Street
734-699-3291
www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Library Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 am-9 pm
Fri. & Sat. 9:30 am-6 pm
Sun. 1 pm-5 pm



Sumpter Media Center
23465 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Sat. 10 am-3 pm
Tue. & Thurs. 3 pm-8 pm

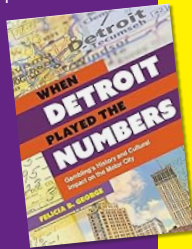
Library Board

Joy Cichewicz
Dan Fleming
Alma Hughes-Grubbs
Sharon C. Peters
Linda Priest
Maria Jackson-Smith
Tanya Stoudemire

The library board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

The library will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day
Monday, Jan. 19 – MLK, Jr. Day
Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday



Something for Everyone!

Gardening Made Super Simple Saturday, January 24, 11 am

Local gardener, Hannah, will talk about how she stopped weeding her garden in June, didn't tend it regularly, and still kept harvesting!

The History of Michigan TOLD in Shipwrecks Monday, January 26, 6:30 pm

Historian Andrew Kercher will discuss Michigan's history through its shipwrecks, revealing stories of courage, cowardice, and greed during the evolution of shipping on the Great Lakes.

Hall of Fame DNA: The Legacy of Norman 'Turkey' Stearnes Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 pm

Author Ivy Rose talks about her grandfather Norman 'Turkey' Stearns, a Baseball Hall of Famer, legendary Negro League hitter, and two-time member of the Detroit Stars baseball team.

When Detroit Played the Numbers Wednesday, February 25, 7 pm

Wayne State University's Dr. Felicia George will talk about her Michigan Notable Book *When Detroit Played the Numbers: Gambling's History and Cultural Impact on the Motor City*.

Observing the Night Sky Thursday, February 26, 7 pm, [Sumpter Media Center](#)

Members of the Warren Astronomical Society will present information about space and provide a telescope for an educational viewing experience at this evening of stargazing.

Mackinac Straits History: Behind the Scenes Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 pm

Historian Andrew Kercher will share his experiences living, working, and learning on Mackinaw Island, one of Michigan's most cherished spots.

Sincerely Yours, Local History Through Letters Wednesday, March 11, 6 pm

Enjoy an evening of love, heartache, and mystery with letters from the Belleville Area Museum as BADL's own Nikki Pickeral reads and shares information on archived letters from the Belleville area.

Legend of the Nain Rouge Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 pm

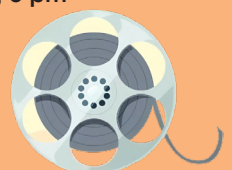
Paranormal researcher John E.L. Tenney shares beliefs about Detroit's infamous Red Dwarf, and the myths and folklore surrounding Nain Rouge and Michigan's pukwudgies, fairies, and gnomes.

Jazz Night with Trio Escobar Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm

From the vibrant pulse of Cuban rhythms to the soulful sway of Brazilian melodies, enjoy an evening of Latin grooves with Trio Escobar.

Classic Movie Nights Thursdays, February 12, March 12, April 9, 6 pm

Watch and discuss classic films in this series presented by former *Detroit Free Press* film critic John Monaghan! Brought to you by the Friends of the BADL and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.



For all of our programming and to register for events, visit <https://bit.ly/BADLevents> or scan



Storytimes

January 12 – February 19

March 9 – April 16

All children are invited to join us for in-person songs and stories with our children's librarians. Scan, or visit <https://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/storytimes/> to register.

Family Storytime (all ages) Mondays, 6:30 pm

Tuesday Toddler Time (ages 2-4) Tuesdays, 11 am

Baby Storytime (ages birth-2) Thursdays, 10 am & 11 am

Saturday Storytime (all ages)

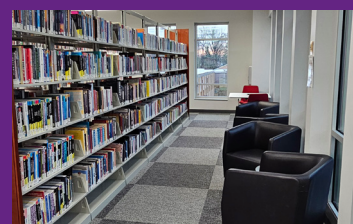
Last Saturday of the month, 11 am

January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25



The Coziest Places in the Library this Winter!

- Our magazine area has a cozy fireplace for those chillier days. Relaxing in our comfy chairs next to a warm fire – what could be better!?
- The teen loft is colorful and fun! With booths for collaborating on projects, egg-shaped chairs for hanging out, and separate computers, teens can comfortably settle in.
- The terrace may be closed, but soak in some sunshine through the big windows surrounding it! Curl up in our comfy chairs and enjoy the ambiance without the cold!



Kids, Tweens, Teens & One for Adults Too!

Little Scientists Explore Caves (ages 2-6)

Saturday, February 7, 11 am

Young scientific explorers, learn about caves and what you might find inside. *Registration required.*

Stuffy Sleepover & Pajama Storytime (ages 4 and up)

Tuesday, March 3, 6 pm (*Pajamas wearing is encouraged!*)

Stuffies like sleepovers too! Check in your stuffed animal at 6 pm. Then join us for Pajama Storytime and a craft with your stuffy at 6:30. The next day, pick up your stuffy after 5 pm, and see what kind of fun they had. *Registration required.*

Comic Book Club (grades 4-6)

Tuesdays - January 20, February 17, March 17, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

We will read and discuss a variety of comics and make our own. A free copy of each book will be available for participants! *Registration required.*

Teen Zine Workshop (ages 11-16)

Monday, January 26, 6:30 – 8 pm

What's a Zine?! A noncommercial, often homemade publication devoted to specialized, often unconventional subject matter. Drop by and create your own personal zine. *Registration required.*

Teen/Tween Comic Book Club (grades 7-12)

Mondays - February 16, March 16, April 20, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Love to draw, read, or talk about comics? Join our Teen/Tween Comic Book Club! Kam, our local comic book artist, will help you put your story and ideas together. *Registration required.*

Teen Craft Club (ages 13-18)

January 27, February 24, March 26, & April 28, 4 pm

Bring friends, enjoy a snack, and create a unique piece of art to take home. We will be sewing, painting, jewelry-making, collaging, sculpting, and more!

Youth Mini Art Show (ages 6-18)

Attend the **Mini Art Workshop on Saturday, March 14, 2 – 4 pm**, or pick up a kit at the Youth Desk beginning March 14 (while supplies last). Return your finished canvas by March 30 to be included in our Mini Art Show in April.

Book Bedazzle (ages 6 through adult)

Wednesday, April 22, 6 – 8 pm

Let's bling up some books! Bring your own book or choose one from our limited selection to bedazzle using rhinestones and diamond art techniques. *Registration required.*



Spring Break Fun!

Build It! Monday, March 30, 10 am – 12 pm

Drop in and build with a variety of materials, including Lego bricks, blocks, and Strawbees.

Craft-A-Palooza Wednesday, April 1, 10 am – 12 pm

Drop in for fun crafting projects!

Kid Movie Matinee Thursday, April 2, 2 pm

Movie, popcorn, lots of fun! Movie TBA.

K-Pop Demon Hunters Party (ages 6-18)

Saturday, April 4, 3 – 5 pm

An afternoon of fun at our K-Pop Demon Hunters inspired party. Sing along to music from the movie, and enjoy themed crafts and activities. It will be golden! Costumes welcome.



Monthly Memory Café

Third Wednesday of the month, 11 am

Crafts, conversation, snacks, and fun! Our themed monthly gathering for those with memory issues and their caregivers and loved ones is not to be missed!

Weekly English Conversation Practice for ESL Learners

Every Tuesday, 1 pm

Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Literacy Council volunteers. The conversation group meets every Tuesday that the library is open.

Small Business Savvy Programs

Registration is required to join these virtual classes on Zoom.

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm Virtual

January 14 – Trust but Verify: Using AI in Your Marketing

January 21 – Canva 101: Leveraging Canva for your Small Business

February 4 – EOS: Entrepreneurial Operating System

February 18 – The Funding Landscape

National Library Week April 19-25

Stop by our table in the lobby during National Library Week or attend a workshop to learn how to get the most out of our digital resources: databases, audiobooks, ebooks, streaming, and the catalog.

Stream with Kanopy

Monday, April 20, 6:30 pm

Kanopy is free to use with your library card! Jenn will help you learn to stream feature films, documentaries, TV shows, kids programming, and more using the app.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 pm

Ancestry Library is free to use inside the library! Join our local historian Nikki and learn how to start your genealogy research with this valuable resource.

Libby Power Users Workshop

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 pm

Want more holds, more borrows, and more titles from our most popular eBook resource? Librarian Amy will demonstrate what you need to know to get the MOST out of Libby!

Book & Writing Groups

New members encouraged! Books available at the library. Visit belleville.lib.mi.us/book-groups or scan QR code for titles, dates, and additional information.



Quiet Reading Book Club

First and Third Mondays, 7 pm

The Evening Book Group

First Thursday of the month at 7 pm

The Witching Hour Book Group

Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm

The Other Book Group

Third Thursday of the month, 6 pm, at local restaurants

African American Literature Book Club

Last Thursday of the month, 7 pm

“Cook the Book” Book Club

Registration is required.

Monday, February 23, 6 pm

New Year's Resolution

Monday, April 27, 6 pm – Slow Cooker Meals

The Write Stuff Writers' Group

Meets the last Saturday of every month from 1-2 pm.

Computers and Devices *Registration Required*

Classes are held at the Sumpter Media Center, 23465 Sumpter Road. Call the library or visit our online calendar to register.

Computer Basics Class Series (Beginners) Mondays, 3 pm

February 2 – Computer Basics I: Intro to Computers

February 16 – Computer Basics II: Windows

March 2 – Computer Basics III: The Internet

March 16 – Computer Basics IV: Email

March 30 – Computer Basics V: Online Safety

Microsoft Excel Introduction Series (Intermediate) Thursdays, 10 am

April 16 – Microsoft Excel: Part 1

April 30 – Microsoft Excel: Part 2

Google Basics (Beginners)

Tuesday, February 24, 1 pm OR Tuesday, March 24, 1 pm (This is the same class.)

Learn the basics of Google Suite, including how to use Google Search, Google Maps, Google Translate, and Google Meet.

Google Photos + Drive Class Tuesday, April 21, 1 pm

Learn to navigate the basics of Google Photos and Google Drive, including organizing and sharing photos, as well as sharing documents with others.

Using Canva for Graphic Design Mondays, 6:30 pm

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

March 23 – Level 1

April 27 – Level 2

Tech Tutoring

Tech Tutoring is held at the main library.

Are you struggling to learn a piece of technology? Make a FREE appointment with a librarian for a 45-minute private lesson. Call the library or go to our events calendar to sign up!



Chat from the Chair

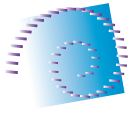
Here's to 2026! After a beautiful warm fall in our area, we zipped through the holidays. Now we're into a brisk new year! When the weather gets cold, it's even more enticing to gather with the community in the warm and stimulating environment at the Belleville Area District Library. As usual, this newsletter is full of information about all the programs and activities that are coming up. Like me, you may want to take the advice of my library board colleague, Dan Fleming: Grab your calendar right now and note programs of interest that you see here, so you won't miss them.



There's one event that happens each year that I suggest you add to your calendar right now! **The Friends of the Belleville District Library Annual Meeting** takes place in 2026 on **Saturday, January 31 st at 11 am**. I am often asked by community members about how to best support the breadth of offerings of our library. By far and away, the answer to that question is to consider joining the Friends. Come check our valued partner out!

Years ago, when this new library was still a dream, I remember writing in this column about the idea of the library as a community hub. In many ways, our current library has brought that idea to fruition. During several months of the year, the Car Show and Farmers' Market brings the community to our front door on a weekly basis, not to mention the many other festivals and celebrations enjoyed in and around our building. We enjoy our partnerships with the municipalities of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter and welcome our new neighbors when Belleville City Hall moves in next door in early 2026.

Sharon Claytor Peters, Chair,
Belleville Area District Library Board



BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

SERVING BELLEVILLE, SUMPTER AND VAN BUREN

167 Fourth St. | Belleville, MI 48111

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Belleville, MI
Permit No. 103



It's ALL FUN and Games

Mahjong Meetup Fridays, 11 am – 1 pm

All skill levels welcome at our weekly gathering to play this timeless game of strategy and skill.



Game On at Your Library!

(All ages. Most games ages 8+)

Saturday, January 24, 2 – 5 pm

Socialize and strategize! Learn a new board game from our collection: 5 Minute Dungeon, Harmonies, Catch the Moon, and many more! Refreshments provided.

Registration preferred.

Garden Round Table Series Saturdays, January 17 & April 4, 11 am

Local gardeners and the gardening curious – join our gardening roundtable, where staff and patrons can share gardening experiences and expertise to help each other improve or establish gardens.

Four Seasonal Sessions:

- Planning Your Garden (January 17)
- Planting (April 4)
- Harvesting and Preserving (September TBD)
- Indoor Gardening (October/November TBD)

Adult Beginner's Art Workshop First Wednesday of the month, 11 am

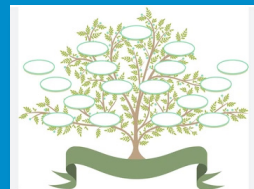
In these sessions local artist Kathryn Wood will assist, guide and encourage you in developing your own style by helping you understand fundamentals of art. Bring your own supplies and a project you are working on, and learn while creating your own masterpiece! Whether it be acrylics, with watercolors or pastels (sorry, no oils) we discuss and practice building better images.

Winter Genealogy Series

Telling Your Stories, Finding Your Roots Saturday, February 21, 2 pm
Omer Jean Winborn and Cheryl Garnett share their family history journeys, provide guidance, and introduce resources to advance the study of African American genealogy.

Genealogy - If It's Free, It's for Me Saturday, March 21, 2 pm
Megan Heyl of Hunting Down History shares resources for your genealogical research that won't break the bank.

Genealogy Road Trip Tips Saturday, April 25, 2 pm
Venturing beyond the Library to find information about your family's history? Don't miss Megan Heyl's tried and true tips about what you must take with you.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING!

Saturday, January 31, 11 am

All are welcome!