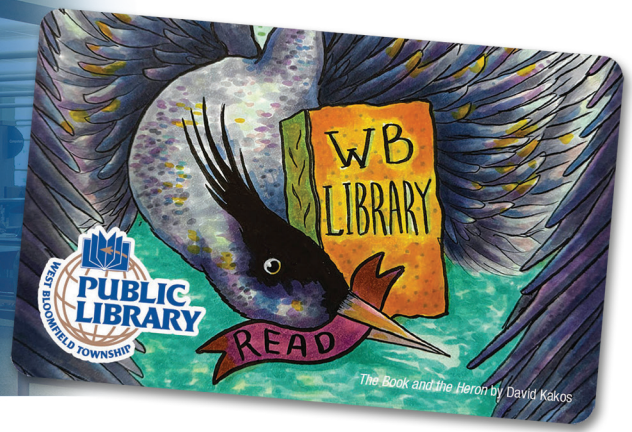


# A COMMUNITY OF READERS



## Novel Spaces

### Library Renovations Meet Modern Community Needs

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the West Bloomfield Library has unveiled a series of renovations designed to meet modern needs and interests.

“Libraries have fought to maintain their relevance in the Information Age, and we’re not just winning that battle—we’re emerging stronger than before,” said Library Director Cathy Russ.

“West Bloomfield’s library has long been recognized for excellence in services, and these refreshes to underutilized spaces ensure that the library remains cutting-edge,” she added.

Renovations include a high-tech Community Commons, an enchanting Storybook Trail, and a tranquil Reflection Room.

“Beyond their home and workplace, residents want another place to gather,” said Russ. “For many in West Bloomfield, that place is their library. These renovations broaden the library’s appeal and relevancy to wider audiences.”

**Residents are invited to get re-acquainted with the Main Library at an Open House on Saturday, September 21 from 12-4 PM, with special events planned in each new space.**

#### Community Commons

The former computer lab has been transformed into the Community Commons, a multi-purpose meeting room with high-tech equipment and flexible seating.

The new space is being used for technology classes, craft workshops, and mid-size meetings, including book clubs. A technology wall boasts new maker equipment, including a laser cutter, 3D printers, Cricut, coding equipment, and more. Tweens, teens, and adults are building STEAM skills through programs that incorporate the new tools.

The Community Commons renovations were made possible through the generosity of a bequest from the Ruth S. Elbling Trust, as well as donations from the Maximovich family and friends made in memory of Dr. Alex Maximovich, a regular at the library.

“It was very important for Alex to be connected to his library,” Jane Maximovich said of her husband. “His love of learning new technology, books and videos of all subject matter led me to realize that the Community Commons would be the best place for donations in his memory.”



*Community Commons*

The room will be open to the public when not in use for programs, though equipment will be locked away for visitors’ safety. The space includes a large whiteboard, two TV screens, an acoustic wall, and a mural created by artists from the Friendship Circle’s Soul Studio.

“This partnership is so important for the studio,” said Caitlin Cartwright, Soul Studio’s community projects coordinator. “Having art in public spaces is such a booster to our artists.”

*continued on page 2*

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continued from page 1

There are many upcoming events scheduled for the space, including teen and adult crafts, a romance book club, an adult coding club, and technology workshops on Ancestry (a family history database), ChatGPT (an AI tool), and Canva (a graphic design website).

"I think the new space is going to be very helpful for all ages," Jane Maximovich said, "and I look forward to participating and benefiting from some of the classes that will be offered."

**Kick off the Library Open House on Saturday, September 21 with a dedication of the Community Commons at 12:30 PM. Then, try demos of the new maker equipment in the Community Commons from 1-3 PM. Register for upcoming programs to learn more about the equipment.**

## Storybook Trail

Developed in partnership with West Bloomfield Parks, the permanent Storybook Trail features a series of story panels that guide you through a children's picture book as you walk.

"Any new way to entice people to get outside and enjoy the benefits of our green spaces is great," said WB Park Naturalist Supervisor Lauren Azoury. "It can be very rewarding to explore a new trail with your family, but bringing young ones on a trail can also come with challenges. Having a story to read to young explorers along the trail will keep them motivated to walk the whole loop and create positive memories of their outdoor experience."

The trail begins just off the Main Library's East side, adjacent to the Youth Terrace. It ends at the top of the sledding hill.

The first book featured on the new trail is *The Dinosaur in the Garden* by Deb Pilutti. To celebrate the launch of the trail, the author will attend a ribbon cutting ceremony during the Open House event.



Storybook Trail

**Attend the ribbon cutting at the Library Open House on Saturday, September 21, beginning at 2 PM in the Youth Activity Center, to be among the first to walk the new trail. Enjoy a special reading and book signing from featured author Deb Pilutti and activities from WB Parks naturalists.**

## Reflection Room

With finishing touches completed earlier this year, the Reflection Room is a space for quiet reflection through meditation, prayer, yoga, reading, or other individual contemplation.

Formerly a quiet study room, the Reflection Room is now an inclusive and relaxing area to take a study break or calm down from overstimulation. It features comfortable floor seating, yoga mats, and rocking chairs with a view of the woods.

This renovation was funded by a generous bequest from the Ruth S. Elbling Trust. Elbling was a library board member during the Main Library's move to its current location in the early 1980s.



Reflection Room

**Don't miss special mindfulness sessions in the Reflection Room during the Library Open House on Saturday, September 21, at 12:30 and 1:30 PM.**

## What's Next

More updates are expected to be completed this fall. A gallery wall installation is in progress in the Main Library between the fireplace and new Reflection Room. Staff hope to feature local artwork on the wall in the new year.

The Youth Terrace will also be updated with new family-oriented furniture thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of James H. Neubacher.

Additional technology and infrastructure updates are expected in the coming years to ensure the West Bloomfield Library stays ahead of the curve, as both branches near 25 years old.

**Learn more about the library's November 2024 Millage Proposal with an informational session during the Library Open House on Saturday, September 21 at 1 PM in the Meeting Room.**



# West Bloomfield Township Public Library Millage Proposal

## Continuing Excellence: Ensuring Library Services for the Next Decade

A millage representing nearly half of the library's revenue is set to end in 2026. The Library Board of Trustees is proposing a repeal and replacement of that millage in November 2024 in anticipation of its expiration.

### Why Now?

If library administrators waited until 2025, the library would incur special election costs of approximately \$100,000, per the Township Clerk's Office. Library administrators would rather put those taxpayer dollars towards providing you with great services, programs, and collections, which is why the proposal is on the November 2024 ballot.

### The Proposal

The Main Library and Westacres Branch are both nearing 25 years old and will require significant infrastructure replacements over the next 10 years. Though operating expenses are stable, capital needs are driving increased expenses in 10-year financial projections.

The previous library millage was authorized **at a rate of 0.6586 in 2010**. The new proposal would replace this millage **at a rate of 0.70 beginning in 2024 through 2033**. *The new rate will cost approximately \$8.92 more per \$100,000 of your home's taxable value in the first year.*

## What to Expect...

### If a Majority Votes "Yes"

- Replacement of aging building components
- Updates to technology infrastructure, including 24/7 holds pickup lockers
- Improvements to programming areas, including the Community Meeting Room and outdoor spaces
- Expanded digital collections (eBooks, eAudiobooks, etc.)
- No need to run a special election, saving \$100,000
- Continuation of excellence in services, programs, and collections

### If a Majority Votes "No"

- Cuts to programs, collections, and services, including digital collections, as publishers continue to increase costs
- Possible reduction of hours of operation to offset the cost of necessary infrastructure replacements
- The library would incur the cost of a special election in 2025

## West Bloomfield Loves Its Library

Library use last year outpaced national and state averages.



**22**  
Circulations  
per Capita

West Bloomfield Library circulates 4X as many materials as the average American library.



**207**  
Visitors  
per Hour  
Open

West Bloomfield Library sees 3X as many visits as Michigan libraries of a similar size.

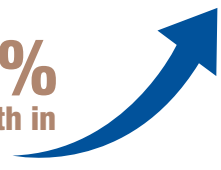


**1 in 2**  
Households  
Regularly Use  
their Library Card

West Bloomfield Library has 2X as many active households as comparable libraries.

**71%**  
Growth in  
Event  
Offerings

West Bloomfield Library added 71% more events last year to meet higher demand, exceeding pre-pandemic numbers.

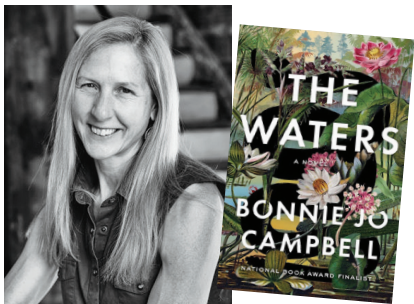


**VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024** Learn more at [wplib.org/millage](http://wplib.org/millage).

# All About Books

## Book Club Reception with Bonnie Jo Campbell

Wednesday, October 9 at 7 PM  
Main Library Meeting Room



Author Bonnie Jo Campbell

October is National Book Group Month! Join Michigan author Bonnie Jo Campbell in a celebration of books and book groups with members of the library's registered book clubs and the general public. **Registration is required.**

## Lunch with Authors

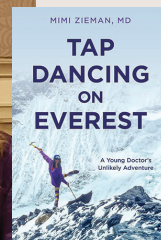
Thursday, November 14 at 12 PM

The J (6600 W. Maple Road)

Share a meal with authors Mimi Ziemann and Rachel Beanland during the Detroit Jewish Book Fair. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, call (248) 609-3303 or visit [jccdet.org/bookfair](http://jccdet.org/bookfair). Co-sponsored by the West Bloomfield Library.



Author Mimi Ziemann

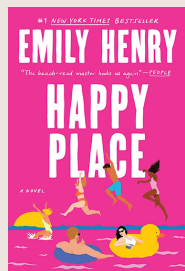


Author Rachel Beanland

## Judge a Book by its Lover: A Romance Book Club

Main Library Community Commons

Are you a lover of love stories? Join our new romance book club, Judge a Book by its Lover! Each month, we will dive into a new romance novel, exploring everything from popular bestsellers to hidden gems. Share your passion for romantic tales, engage in lively discussions, and discover new favorites with fellow romance enthusiasts.



### Happy Place

by Emily Henry

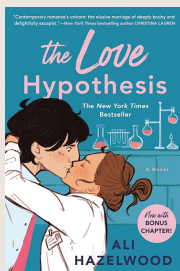
Tuesday, September 10  
at 6:30 PM



### Thank You for Listening

by Julia Whelan

Tuesday, October 8  
at 6:30 PM



### The Love Hypothesis

by Ali Hazelwood

Tuesday, November 12  
at 6:30 PM



### The Matzah Ball

by Jean Meltzer

Tuesday, December 17  
at 6:30 PM

## NEW: Adult Graphic Novels

As graphic novels continue to grow in popularity, a new Adult Graphic Novel section has been established. The Youth and Teen collections already have standalone graphic novel sections, and now the Adult collection will follow suit. Library staff expect this move to improve the ease of access and discoverability of graphic novels. Explore the collection for yourself at the end of the Adult Nonfiction shelves.

## More Library Book Groups

- **Books on the Trail:** Take advantage of the many trails in West Bloomfield while discussing books with other community members during warmer months. **Registration is required.**
- **Life Readers at WB Parks Connect:** Connect in a new way during this afternoon book club at the Connect Senior Center. **Registration is required.**
- **Art in Literature:** Deepen your understanding of art and art history through presentations based on art history books.
- **BOOKTalk:** Join the Friends of the Library each month for an exciting discussion on popular books. This discussion group has been running for 40 years!



**Don't miss out!**

Visit [calameo.com/wbplib](http://calameo.com/wbplib) or scan the QR code to see our Fall Event Brochure with more upcoming events for all ages.



# HUMAN LIBRARY®

**Saturday, October 5 from 12-4 PM**  
Main Library Meeting Room

Drop in during this event to borrow a person instead of a book! Have a conversation with a Human Book about their life experiences. This event is hosted in cooperation with the Human Library Organization, which aims to challenge stigmas and stereotypes to create more inclusive communities. *Generously funded by the Friends of the Library.*

*\*If you are interested in volunteering as a Book for the Human Library, please fill out an application at [wbllib.org/human-library](http://wbllib.org/human-library). Applications are open through Sunday, September 8.*

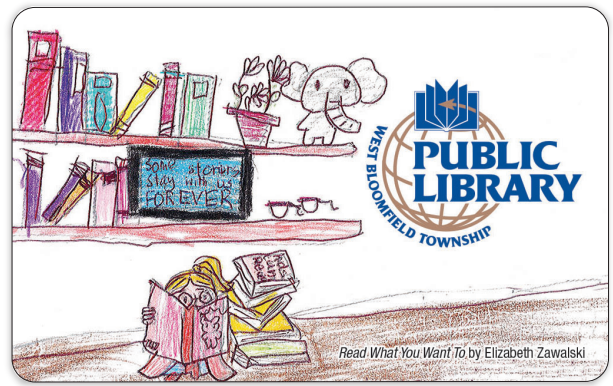


## September is Library Card Signup Month

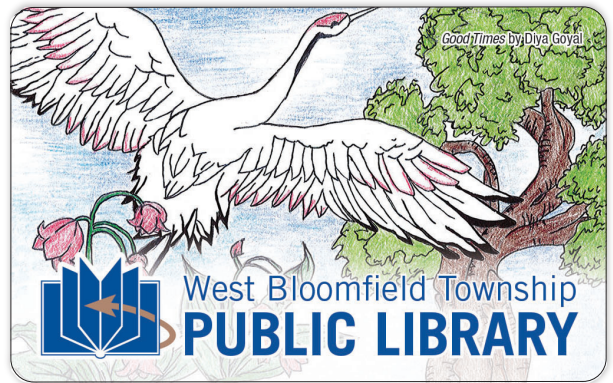
### Celebrate with 3 new library card designs!

Over the summer, kids, teens, and adults submitted new designs for consideration for West Bloomfield's next library card. Library staff have selected three designs to print as our new cards! Congratulations to the winners. These limited edition cards will be available beginning later in September while supplies last.

If you haven't yet, sign up for a new library card in person or online at [wbllib.org](http://wbllib.org). If you already have a library card but would like a new design, talk with the front desk at either branch.



**Youth:** *Read What You Want To* by Elizabeth Zawalski



**Teen:** *Good Times* by Diya Goyal



**Adult:** *The Book and the Heron* by David Kakos



## Staff Spotlight

**Sarah Campbell**  
Computer Assistant

*Sarah with her son, Jacob, enjoying the Youth Activity Center on her break.*

**Responsibilities:** Assist patrons with technology during one-on-one sessions

**Favorite Books:** *The Giver* and the Harry Potter series

**Fun Fact:** I can recite the alphabet backwards

*"I have always loved reading and libraries. Growing up, I knew if I ended up not loving teaching (my current career), I would be a librarian. Life just worked out that I get to work with two of my passions at once!"*

# Family News & Events

## Citizen Science Kits

The library is launching four new kits to help patrons explore the world around them and conduct scientific research of their own. Kits contain instructions and tools for themed research projects. This is a great activity for families to try together or for older science enthusiasts to complete on their own. **Citizen Science Kits are located in the Experience Kits section of the adult collection.** *Generously funded by the Friends of the Library.*

- **Exploring Pollinators** (Main Library & Westacres Branch)
- **Mapping Mosquito Habitats** (Main Library & Westacres Branch)
- **Exploring Biodiversity** (Main Library & Westacres Branch)
- **Measuring Light in the Night** (Main Library only)

## Winter Reading Kickoff

*Celebrate with everyone's favorite Blue Heeler!*

**Saturday, December 7 from 10 AM-1 PM**

Main Library Youth Department

Get ready to kick off our annual winter reading party with some dog-gone good fun! We are celebrating reading and everyone's favorite Blue Heeler with characters, crafts, and more. While you are celebrating, sign up for Winter Reading and claim your sign-up reward! *For all ages.*



**After the Kickoff event, enroll in Winter Reading using the Beanstack app or talk with library staff for assistance.**

## Homeschool Hangouts

**Tuesdays, September 10, October 15, November 19, December 10 from 1-2 PM**

Main Library Youth Activity Center

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for a hangout with other Homeschool Families. Each month will feature a new topic where your child can engage and create with other children in the area. Adults are required to stay and engage with their children. *For grades K-5.*



## Adventures in Art

**Saturdays, September 14, October 26, November 16, December 14 from 10:30 AM-12 PM**

Main Library Youth Activity Center

A monthly elementary school art class where creativity knows no bounds! In this vibrant space, young artists embark on an exciting journey through the world of drawing, painting, and early color theory. Guided by art instructor Heather Earnley, every lesson is a celebration of creativity and self-expression. *For grades 3-5.*

## 25th Anniversary of Sister Library Relationship

This year marks the West Bloomfield Library's 25-year anniversary of partnering with their Sister Library in Awaji City, Japan. To celebrate, a delegation of teens from Japan visited Metro Detroit on Monday, July 25. Library staff led the delegation on visits to Comerica Park, the Japanese Consulate, the Renaissance Center, the RiverWalk, and, of course, the West Bloomfield Library! *Generously funded by the Friends of the Library.*

On Saturday, August 10, the West Bloomfield community celebrated the relationship by learning more about Japanese culture during the Matsuri (Festival) Day. Families spent the afternoon at the Main Library enjoying traditional Japanese dances, snacks, crafts, a tea ceremony, a calligraphy workshop, and more.

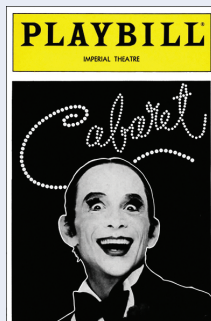


# From Your Friends

## Talkin' Broadway

Main Library Meeting Room

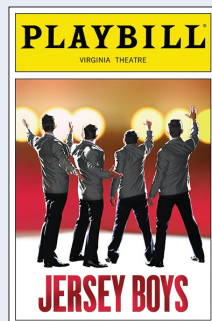
Enjoy an excerpt of a popular play or musical performed by local actors and singers, as well as a discussion with visiting Broadway veterans. Prepare for the evening by reading the script or viewing the movie--or just come to listen! *Generously organized and sponsored by the Friends of the Library and Michigan Stage.*



**Cabaret**  
Sunday,  
September 22  
at 2 PM



**Wicked**  
Sunday,  
October 20  
at 2 PM



**Jersey Boys**  
Sunday,  
November 17  
at 2 PM

## M@M MUSIC AT MAIN

A SUNDAY MUSIC SERIES SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Main Library Meeting Room

**Sunday, September 29 at 2 PM** – Matt Watroba  
**Sunday, October 13 at 2 PM** – Mustard's Retreat  
**Sunday, November 10 at 2 PM** – Jim Bizer  
**Sunday, December 29 at 2 PM** – Kitty Donohoe

## FRIENDS FUNDRAISERS

Keep an eye out on [wblib.org/about/support-the-friends](http://wblib.org/about/support-the-friends) for three opportunities to support the Friends of the Library this season:

### Shop Small Saturday:

Shop local on Saturday, November 30 with local artisans. Vendor applications due by October 7.

### Schuler Books:

Mention the Friends (or code WBLIBRARY) from October 13-19, and 20% of eligible purchases will go to support the Friends.

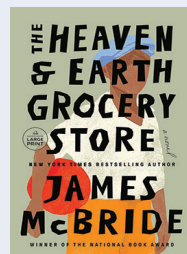
### Giving Tuesday:

Support the addition of new virtual reality headsets for the library's programs and collections. Donate for Giving Tuesday (December 3).

## BOOK Talk

Main Library Community Commons

*Generously organized and funded by the Friends of the Library.*



### **The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store**

by James McBride  
Facilitator: Diane Henderson

**Thursday, September 12 at 7 PM**  
**Friday, September 13 at 10 AM**



### **The Demon of Unrest**

by Erik Larson  
Facilitator: Cathy Russ

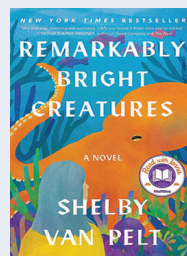
**Thursday, October 10 at 7 PM**  
**Friday, October 11 at 10 AM**



### **The Paris Daughter**

by Kristin Harmel  
Facilitator: Ann Finn

**Thursday, November 14 at 7 PM**  
**Friday, November 15 at 10 AM**



### **Remarkably Bright Creatures**

by Shelby Van Pelt  
Facilitator: Diane Henderson

**Thursday, December 12 at 7 PM**  
**Friday, December 13 at 10 AM**

## Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

**Friday, November 22 from 7-9 PM**  
*Friends Member Preview Sale*

**Saturday, November 23 from 9 AM-5 PM**  
**Sunday, November 24 from 12 PM-3 PM**  
*\$5 Bag Day Sale*



The nation's highest honor for libraries.

4600 Walnut Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

NON PROFIT Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Dearborn MI  
Permit 11



## Library Millage Proposal

A millage representing nearly half the library's revenue expires soon. *Learn more on page 3.*



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The West Bloomfield community has always been incredibly supportive of its library, which we appreciate beyond words. To ensure we can continue to bring you excellence in services, collections, and spaces for the next decade, the library will have a "Repeal and Replace" millage on the ballot in November.

The library has two millages: one in perpetuity and another that expires August 2026, each contributing nearly half of the library's total funding. Initially, we planned to ask for a replacement of the expiring millage in 2025. However, I recently learned that all of the elections in 2025 until August 2026 would be special elections; the cost of a special election is approximately \$100,000. The library board and administration would rather devote that money to services, collections, and programs, so we are proposing the millage on the November ballot. If approved, this millage would replace the expiring millage and be in effect until November 2033.

We are asking for a small increase of \$8.92 per \$100,000 of the taxable value of your home. For a home worth \$400,000 (taxable value \$200,000),

this increase will cost just under \$18/year.

While the library's operating costs are stable and we strive to keep expenses low, both the Main Library and Westacres Branch are 24 years old and will need significant updates over the next decade. This includes replacing original building components, improving spaces, and updating technology infrastructure.

Please learn more about the millage on Page 3 and at [wblib.org/millage](http://wblib.org/millage). We are offering several public information sessions, and you are welcome to contact me directly at [director@wblib.org](mailto:director@wblib.org) with questions. I am also happy to attend any community meetings to provide further information. We appreciate your ongoing support of the West Bloomfield Library, which allows us to provide innovative, forward-thinking, and responsive service.

Thank you,

*Cathy Russ*

Library Director

### MAIN LIBRARY

4600 Walnut Lake Road  
(248) 682-2120  
TDD: (248) 232-2292  
Email: [wbréf@wblib.org](mailto:wbréf@wblib.org)  
Text: (248) 648-3368

### WESTACRES BRANCH

7321 Commerce Road  
(248) 363-4022  
Email: [wacréf@wblib.org](mailto:wacréf@wblib.org)

### HOURS OF SERVICE

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 9 PM  
Friday & Saturday: 9 AM – 6 PM  
Sunday (Main): Noon – 6 PM  
Sunday (Westacres): Noon – 5 PM

[wblib.org](http://wblib.org)    

### The library will be closed:

Tuesday, November 5 (Main Library Only)  
Monday, November 11  
Wednesday, November 27 (closes early at 7 PM)  
Thursday, November 28  
Tuesday, December 24  
Wednesday, December 25  
Tuesday, December 31  
Wednesday, January 1

Cathy Russ, Library Director  
Jeff Crocker, Assistant Library Director

### Board of Trustees

Carol A. Kravetz, President  
Michael Dorfman, Vice President  
Rhonda Orr, Treasurer  
Raman Singh, Secretary  
Kari Eickemeyer, Deputy Secretary/Treasurer  
Ken Macon, Trustee



From the Director's Shelf

