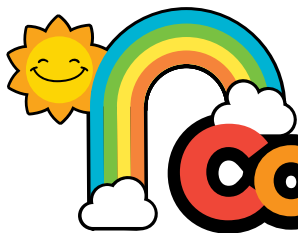




A COMMUNITY OF READERS



Library Collaborations COLOR OUR WORLD™



This summer, the library is bringing the joy of reading to parks, schools, and neighborhoods throughout the community. The library will spread its "Color Our World" themed Summer Reading Program through partnerships with West Bloomfield Parks, Keego Harbor Parks, and local schools.

Families can join the library for **Storytimes at Fran Leaf Park**, hosted in collaboration with Keego Harbor Parks each month.

In West Bloomfield, three sessions of **Library Live at Drake Sports Park** will bring magic and music to families with kids of all ages. At Keith Sports Park, a new **Summer Reading Soiree** on Thursday, July 17 from 4-7 PM aims to keep families excited about reading with a Jim Gill concert, big blue blocks, and more festivities.

The library will also have a presence at many favorite summer gatherings, including the

Keego Block Party and **Summer on the Bank**. As a member of the West Bloomfield Diversity Task Force, the library is involved in organizing **Juneteenth Jamboree**. The library is also a proud event partner with West Bloomfield Parks for the **Kids Komotion** concert series.

Inside local schools, learning continues with a creative twist. The library is partnering with the West Bloomfield School District to bring a lineup of engaging performers to Doherty Elementary School for **Shows at the School**.

Education professionals are also coming to the library this summer for **Rockin' Readers**—a series led by local educators to help K-5 students build reading skills—and **Summer Speech Worms**—a series for ages 3-10 facilitated by speech-language pathologists and funded by the Friends of the Library. Both series are designed to keep young minds sharp while having fun during summer break.

Mature minds will also enjoy a dose of Summer Reading magic, with Community Engagement Librarian Emily Tobin bringing programs directly to local senior residences.

Wherever the community gathers this summer, the library is there—sharing stories, sparking imagination, and celebrating learning in every form. See a full list of upcoming library events on the calendar at wblib.org.

Learn more about Summer Reading on page 5.



Westacres Librarian Ms. Mary led storytimes at Fran Leaf Park for the first time last summer. "I am thankful for the library's partnership and helping us activate our parks," said Kirsten Sonnevill-Douglass, Keego Harbor Parks & Recreation Chairperson. "I had the idea of storytime in the park and they helped make it happen. Fran Leaf Park is the perfect setting for the event, with the water fountains and the big willow tree for our friends to sit under."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Library Awards Page 2 | Save on Subscriptions Page 3 | Main Library Anniversary Page 4 | Summer Reading Page 5



Former Library Director Wins National Award

Clara Bohrer has been awarded the 2025 Joseph W. Lippincott Award through the American Library Association for distinguished service in the profession of librarianship. Bohrer served the West Bloomfield Library for 30 years in addition to her national library leadership and contributions.

Library and Affiliates Earn Accolades at Michigan Week



On Friday, May 9, leaders in service across the community gathered for the 53rd Annual Michigan Week celebration.

This year, West Bloomfield Township Public Library was honored with the Environmental Stewardship Award. The award recognizes exceptional education outreach or initiatives that protect and preserve the environment. Initiatives cited in the library's nomination for the award include the seed library, Citizen Science Kits, extensive programming, and Storybook Trail (a partnership with WB Parks).

The Friends of the West Bloomfield Library was recognized with the Community Achievement Award, which honors community-based organizations for an endeavor that works to improve the quality of life for all. The Friends' fundraising activities, their organization of cultural programs, and their commitments to early childhood literacy and lifelong learning were cited in nomination materials.

Additionally, Ken Macon was awarded the Lifetime Leadership Award in recognition of long-term leadership to the library and community at large. Macon served on the library board for 16 years before retiring in November 2024.

For years of dedicated volunteerism to the library, Clementine Goodman was recognized with the Michigan Treasures Honor Roll Award.

Juneteenth Jamboree

Thursday, June 19 from 10 AM - 2 PM

Civic Center Campus

Celebrate Juneteenth with entertainment and food while supplies last! While you're here, drop by the Main Library Meeting Room at 11 AM for the hands-on show, "A World of Music and Stories" with Ms. Audrey Allison, who is a storyteller, percussionist, and musician. *Organized by the West Bloomfield Diversity Task Force.*



Ikebana: The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement

Wednesday, June 18 at 6 PM

Main Library Meeting Room

Ikebana is the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging. In this presentation, learn about the history and tools of ikebana, as well as a demonstration from Leslie Rosinski, president of Ikebana International Detroit Chapter 85. *Generously funded by the Japanese Business Society of Detroit Foundation.*



Community Arts & Crafts Supply Swap

Saturday, July 19 from 12 - 2 PM

Main Library Community Commons

Do you have unused or unwanted craft or art supplies taking up space in your place? We can help! Items must be fit for reuse (new, gently used, not expired). Bring your donations to the Main Library from July 1 – 18. Then, join us on Saturday, July 19 to participate in the swap!



Skip the Subscriptions—Use Your eLibrary

Whether you're heading out of town or looking to curb your spending, you can still stream movies, read books, listen to music, and more—all without pressure to pay for a single subscription. With your West Bloomfield Library card, you get free access to premium digital services. **No late fees, no monthly charges—just 24/7 access to entertainment and education wherever summer takes you. Even when we're closed, you're covered.**

Netflix



Kanopy, Hoopla

Audible / Kindle



CloudLibrary
Libby
Hoopla

Spotify



Hoopla

Magazines



Libby

Newspapers



NYT - All Access
Wall Street Journal
PressReader

Duolingo



Mango Languages

LinkedIn Learning



Udemy

Discover more—from craft classes to genealogy research and beyond
at wblib.org/eLibrary.

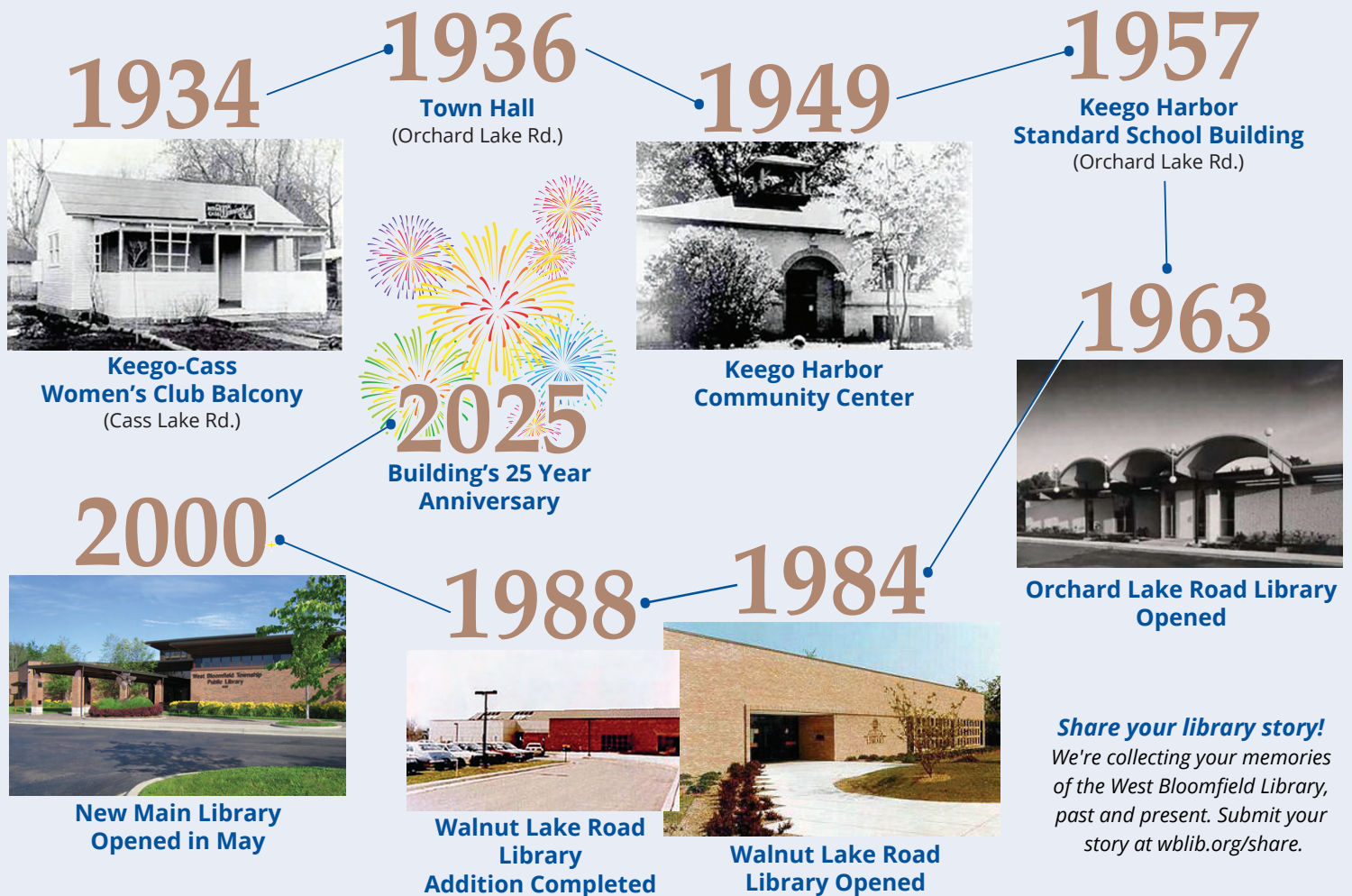
No School? No Problem!

Build skills this summer with the library's online learning resources:



Main Library *Celebrates* Building's 25th Anniversary

The West Bloomfield Township Public Library occupied multiple buildings before the Main Library settled into its current location.



Share your library story!
We're collecting your memories of the West Bloomfield Library, past and present. Submit your story at wblib.org/share.

Main Library Closure

Saturday, August 16 – Sunday, August 24

The Main Library will close mid-August to replace the carpet in the Adult Services area and surrounds. The current carpeting in this area is 17 years old and well-trodden. A weeklong closure is necessary to move books, shelving, study carrels, desks, and equipment. The Drive-Up Window and Westacres Branch will remain open.

During the closure, materials in the Main Adult and Young Adult stacks may not be readily available. Stock up before these titles are safely stored during the carpeting project.

Computer Updates Are Coming

Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 10 on October 14, 2025. To keep public computers secure and up-to-date, the library will upgrade all computers to Windows 11 before the deadline.

Staff understand that change can be challenging, especially when you're used to navigating the current system. To make this transition easier, look out for classes and one-on-one tech help in the coming months. Visit wblib.org/technology for updated information.



SUMMER READING

June 7 to August 8



Students and residents of all ages in West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, and Orchard Lake can sign up and track progress on the Beanstack app or at westbloomlib.beanstack.org.

Read for Rewards

Enroll in the Summer Reading Program and track your time spent reading to earn rewards! Your whole family is invited to participate. Use the Beanstack app to track reading and claim your rewards, including digital tickets that can be put towards drawings for themed baskets designed for each age range! **Pre-registration begins May 24, 2025.**

Sponsored by the Friends of the West Bloomfield Library.

Read to Me (Under 5)

Registration – Tote Bag

- 1 Hour – Book & 5 Tickets
- 3 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets
- 5 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets & Lily Pad Springs Pass
- 7 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets
- 10 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets & Water Bottle

Youth & YA (Grades K-12)

Registration – Tote Bag

- 10 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets
- 20 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets
- 30 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets & Lily Pad Springs Pass
- 40 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets
- 50 Hours – Book & 5 Tickets & Water Bottle

Adult (Ages 18+)

Registration – Tote Bag

- 10 Hours – 5 Tickets
- 20 Hours – 5 Tickets
- 30 Hours – 5 Tickets & Library Sticker
- 40 Hours – 5 Tickets
- 50 Hours – 5 Tickets & Friendship Gift Certificate

Important: Update Your Child's Grade Level

Each year, **Beanstack prompts you to update your child's age** in the app, but **their grade must be updated manually** to enroll in the correct challenge. Need help? Ask library staff!

How to Update

(Only editable on the website, not the app.)

- 1) Log in at westbloomlib.beanstack.org
- 2) Click your **profile** (top right) and select your child.
- 3) Click **"Basic Information,"** update their **Grade Level**, then click **"Save."**

Complete Activities

Want to increase your odds? Earn additional tickets to put toward drawings for themed baskets designed for each age range! Complete an activity to earn a ticket. There are over 20 activities to fill your summer with on Beanstack, including:

Library Scavenger Hunt

Discover new spaces around and outside your library! Visit the Youth Services Desk at either branch to pick up a scavenger hunt.

Community Art Project

Pick up a paper from either branch to create your own book spine! Bring your creation back to the library to see your work displayed at the end of the summer.



The Book Fairs for kids and young adults at both branches will open on Monday, June 16. Pick up rewards by Friday, August 22.

Summer Reading Events

Outdoor events may be canceled or modified if there is inclement weather. Check the library's website or call the library for updates.

Summer Reading is open to West Bloomfield and contract community residents and students. All activities end promptly; lines will be cut off a half hour before the event ends.

Summer Reading Kickoff

Saturday, June 7 from 10 AM – 1 PM

Main Library Grounds

Join us for a day of fun including bounce houses, a trackless train, a sensory station, crafts, sweet treats, and more! Plus, register for Summer Reading to claim your registration reward. Socks required for entry in the bounce houses. *Drop by the Friends table during the event to learn how you can get 5 used children's books to keep. For all ages.*



Young Adult Summer Reading Kickoff

Friday, June 13 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Main Library Grounds

Play VR and video games, make crafts, have a snack, and see if you and your friends have what it takes to escape from two different escape rooms. Plus, register for Summer Reading to claim your registration reward. *For grades 6-12.*



Summer Reading Soiree

Thursday, July 17 from 4 – 7 PM

Keith Sports Park, 2750 Keith Rd.

The library loves summer, and what better way to celebrate than with a party!? Grab your friends and join us at Keith Sports Park for an early evening of music with Jim Gill, building with Big Blue blocks, and other fun activities. Jim Gill's concert begins at 5 PM. *For all ages.*



Library Live at Drake Park

Drake Sports Park, 6801 Drake Rd.

Bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on if needed. Please do not bring your pets. For all ages.

The Music Lady

Friday, June 27 at 10:30 AM

Caribbean Colors Steel Drum Concert

Friday, July 11 at 10:30 AM

Joel's Picasso Magic Show

Friday, July 25 at 10:30 AM

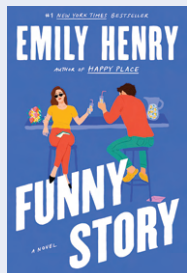


From Your Friends

Friends BOOKTalks

Main Library Community Commons

Generously organized and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Funny Story

by Emily Henry

Thursday, June 12 at 7 PM

Friday, June 13 at 10 AM

Facilitator: Ann Finn



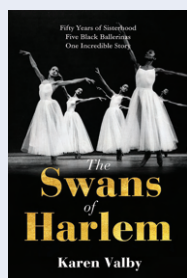
The Briar Club

by Kate Quinn

Thursday, July 10 at 7 PM

Friday, July 11 at 10 AM

Facilitator: Diane Henderson



The Swans of Harlem

by Karen Valby

Thursday, August 14 at 7 PM

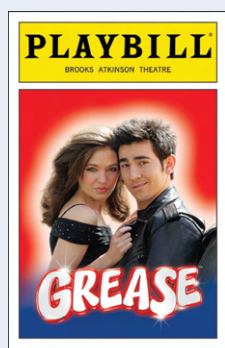
Friday, August 15 at 10 AM

Facilitator: Ann Finn

Talkin' Broadway

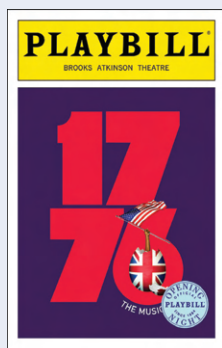
Main Library Meeting Room

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.*



Grease

Sunday, June 15 at 2 PM



1776

Sunday, July 6 at 2 PM

Music @ Main

Main Library Meeting Room

Generously organized and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Gemini

Sunday, June 22 at 2 PM

Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, celebrated for their heartwarming performances, bring their signature style to the stage. Their unique harmonies and mastery of various instruments enchant and entertain children and adults alike.



Ali McManus

Sunday, July 13 at 2 PM

Renowned singer, songwriter and inspirational speaker, Ali dazzles audiences with her incredible talent. Her powerful voice and uplifting message promise an unforgettable event.

Coffee House Performance

Sunday, August 10 at 2 PM

Get ready for an evening of music and community as the Coffee House welcomes three incredible acts, each bringing their unique sound and story to the stage. From heartfelt folk tunes to harmonious duets, there's something for everyone to enjoy.





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Main Library to Close for Carpeting Project

Learn more on Page 4



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

This summer might find you spending time with family in one of West Bloomfield's beautiful parks, soaking up the sun in Keego Harbor, or vacationing on distant shores. Wherever you go, we hope to bring the library to you.

Library staff will be popping up all over town this summer to provide you with activities, resources, and—most of all—FUN, to help you make this one of your best summers ever. Read more about our partnerships and how we're taking this summer on the road on the front page of this newsletter.

If your summer takes you out of town, skip the subscriptions and use your eLibrary to stream movies, audiobooks, music, and more—see details inside.

I hope to bring you an update every season about projects that the millage renewal is funding. This summer, the Main Library will be closed Saturday, August 16 – Saturday, August 24 so that the Adult Services area and surrounds can be recarpeted. The existing carpeting is 17 years old and showing its age,

so it's time to refresh this active and used space.

Why does the library need to be closed while this work is going on? Think of all that has to be moved when you recarpet your home and apply that same rationale to the library.

We have to move miles of shelving, study carrels, desks, and equipment repeatedly during that time, and the disruption (not to mention the strong smell of glue!) will make the environment unsafe and not suitable for regular library operations. The Drive-Up Window and the Westacres Branch will be open to serve you.

Behind the scenes, the library's IT staff are also working to upgrade public computers, keeping everything secure and up-to-date.

We will bring you updates as they happen, so please stay tuned. Have the best summer ever!

Cathy Russ

Executive Library Director

MAIN LIBRARY

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

WESTACRES BRANCH

7321 Commerce Road
(248) 363-4022
Email: wacref@wblib.org

HOURS OF SERVICE

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

wblib.org    

The library will be closed:

Friday, July 4
Saturday, August 16 - Main Library Only
through
Sunday, August 24 - Main Library Only
Saturday, August 30
Sunday, August 31
Monday, September 1

Cathy Russ, Executive Library Director
Jeff Crocker, Associate Library Director

Board of Trustees

Carol A. Kravetz, President
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Rhonda Orr, Treasurer
Raman Singh, Secretary
Kari Eickemeyer, Deputy Secretary/Treasurer
Jennifer Taylor Boykins, Trustee



From the Director's Shelf

