



# A COMMUNITY OF READERS

## unearth a story™ this summer

Do you have what it takes to complete the library's Summer Reading Program?

This year, dig a little deeper and discover your love for reading with dinosaur-themed incentives and events. The fun begins at the Main Library's **Summer Reading Kickoff** on Saturday, June 6 from 10 AM-1 PM. Keep tracking your time spent reading and completing activities through Friday, August 7.



Sign up for a free tote bag.



Rewards for completing the program vary by age.

### Read at Every Age

You are never too young or too old to participate in the Summer Reading Program and reap its rewards. Reading is a low-cost pastime with significant cognitive benefits across all ages.

#### Infants - PreK

For the littlest participants, studies show that regular read-aloud time with a caregiver dramatically improves language development, among other skills. The "Read to Me" Summer Reading Challenge is designed with the 0-4-year-old crowd in mind.

#### Grades K-12

Among older children and teens, reading together with a caregiver can foster literacy skills and provide an opportunity for screen-free bonding. Parents can also encourage positive habits by modeling reading and scheduling dedicated quiet reading time.

"The Summer Reading Program is very important to us," wrote one 2025 participant. "It helps motivate our 8-year-old son to read."

All residents and public school students in West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, and Orchard Lake are able to enroll in Summer Reading. Encourage your child or teen to sign up with their friends.

#### Ages 18+

The Summer Reading Program is designed to encourage adults to read more, too—regardless of whether you have kids at home. If you'd like to improve your reading habits, why not give the Summer Reading Program a try?

As one 2025 Summer Reading participant put it, "Apparently I'm an adult who needs an external motivator to read!"

### All Reading Counts

Your librarians agree; all reading "counts" as time spent reading.

**Ebooks on the beach?** Time spent reading.

**Magazines by the pool?** Time spent reading.

**Audiobooks on a road trip?** Time spent reading.

Whether you're reading from the NYT 100 Best Books list or a BookTok list—board books or hardcovers—even the back of the cereal box—it all counts as time spent reading.

Your library is here to help you remove barriers and excuses that prevent you from reading as much as you'd like. Even if you lack the time or the motivation, enroll in the program this summer. You might surprise yourself!

### Read for Rewards

Enroll on the Beanstack app, online at [westbloomlib.beanstack.org](http://westbloomlib.beanstack.org), or in person by talking with library staff. Everyone who enrolls earns a tote bag to hold their summer reads.

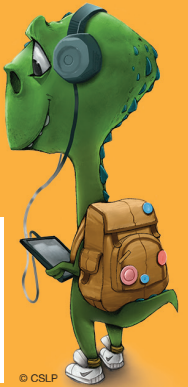


Turn the page to see more rewards. →

# SUMMER Reading PROGRAM

Earn incentives for time spent reading!  
**Saturday, June 6 - Friday, August 7**

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](http://westbloomlib.beanstack.org). *Pre-registration begins Tuesday, May 26.*



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## Read FOR REWARDS

Track your time spent reading and completing challenges to earn rewards, including digital tickets for themed basket drawings!

### Tote Bag

All participants who sign up for the program earn a new bag to hold their library books.



### Free Books

Participants under age 18 can earn up to **5 books to keep** by meeting reading milestones! The library's book fair is open from Monday, June 15 - Friday, September 11.



### Treasure Chest

When you reach half your reading goal, visit either branch to choose a reward from the treasure chest.



### Reading Achievement Awards

Complete your final reading goal to earn an extra reward!

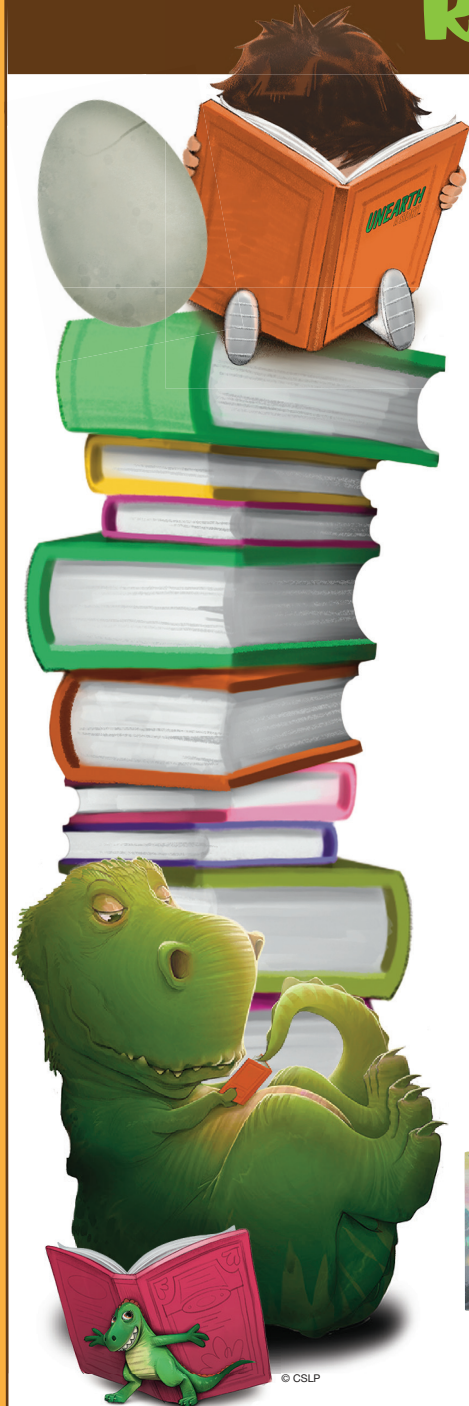
- Read to Me** (under 5 years): 10 Hrs. Read = Plushie
- Youth** (Grades K-5): 50 Hrs. Read = Plushie or Dino Grabber/Bubble
- YA** (Grades 6-12): 50 Hrs. Read = Medal
- Adult** (Ages 18+): 50 Hrs. Read = Medal



Past Teen Art Basket

### Themed Baskets

Throughout the summer, you'll earn digital tickets for meeting reading milestones. Looking for more to do this summer? Claim additional tickets by completing up to 20 activities on Beanstack! Tickets can be entered in a digital drawing for themed baskets FULL of rewards. Basket contents vary by age group and interest.



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# Summer Reading Events



## Summer Reading Kickoff

**Saturday, June 6 from 10 AM-1 PM**  
Main Library Grounds

We're kicking off Summer Reading with a celebration of Jurassic proportions! Join us for a dino dig, dinosaur explorer crafts, and even meet friendly giant dinosaurs! Plus, enjoy bounce houses, a trackless train, a sensory station, crafts, sweet treats, and more! *For all ages. Socks are required for entry in the bounce houses.*

**Note:** All activities end promptly at 1 PM and lines will be cut off at 12:30 PM. This event may be canceled or modified if there is inclement weather. Check the library's website for updates.



## Young Adult Summer Reading Kickoff

**Friday, June 12 from 6:30-8:30 PM**  
Main Library Grounds

Celebrate the start of summer with a dinosaur-themed kickoff just for young adults. Play games, make crafts, enjoy snacks, meet WBMS robots, and get wild at our Ice Age Foam Party at the end of the night. *For grades 6-12.*

**Note:** Please bring appropriate clothing and towels if participating in the foam party.



## Summer Reading Send Off

**Thursday, July 23 from 5-7 PM**  
Keith Sports Park, 2750 Keith Rd,  
West Bloomfield Township, MI 48324

Meet at the park for an evening of classic summer fun, including a rock climbing tower, lawn games, bounce houses, ice cream, and more! *For all ages. Climbing tower provided by the Oakland County Parks RAPP grant.*

**Note:** All activities end promptly at 7 PM and lines will be cut off at 6:30 PM. This event may be canceled or modified if there is inclement weather. Check the library's website for updates.

# Main Library News

## Youth Room Updates

In 2025, library staff requested donor support to purchase three new playscapes for the Main Library: a sailboat, a replacement car, and a food truck.

Thanks to the community's generosity, the Friends of the Library raised \$22,305 in a Giving Tuesday campaign for the playscapes—more than \$7,000 over their goal!

Unfortunately, by the time funds became available, the food truck playscape was no longer in stock. As careful stewards of donor contributions, library staff sought to redirect those funds to youth furniture of equal or greater interest to the community's children.

The Friends' exceptional generosity on Giving Tuesday, combined with a gift from the West Bloomfield Youth Assistance, made an exciting upgrade possible: a giant lightwall.

The new sailboat playscape and replacement car playscape will delight children inside the Youth Services area, while the giant lightwall will match the colorful light tiles welcoming families in through the Youth Portal. Visit the Main Library this summer to see these updates and more.



## Main Library

**CLOSURE**

**Saturday, August 15 –  
Sunday, August 23**

The Main Library will close mid-August to replace the carpet in the Youth Services area and surrounds. The current carpeting in this area is 18 years old and well-trodden. A weeklong closure is necessary to move books, shelving, desks, and equipment. The Drive-Up Window and Westacres Branch will remain open.

During the closure, materials in the Youth Services stacks may not be as readily available. Stock up before these titles are safely stored during the carpeting project.

# Library News

## Library Selected for Read Japan Project

The West Bloomfield Township Public Library is honored to be selected as a recipient of the Tokyo Foundation's Read Japan Project. This program aims to promote understanding of Japan by donating Japan-related books in English to institutions and libraries. The West Bloomfield Library was nominated for the project by the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit.

Librarians selected 27 titles spanning a wide variety of genres to enrich the library's collection and strengthen the library's relationship with Japan and the local Japanese community. Through works such as *The Japanese: A History in Twenty Lives* by Christopher Harding, the acclaimed manga series *Akira* by Katsuhiro Otomo, and modern literature including *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata, the West Bloomfield community will be able to explore Japan's culture and literature in greater depth.



Celebrate the new books' arrival from Japan in a **Book Donation Reception** in the Main Library Meeting Room on Saturday, June 27 at 10 AM. The reception will begin with a book donation ceremony, followed by light refreshments and Japanese crafts with the Japan Society of Detroit Women's Club. *Light refreshments generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## 24/7 Holds Pickup

A new 24/7 hold pickup location is now available outside the Westacres Branch. Designed as a premium service, these lockers are exclusively for residents of West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, and Sylvan Lake. Here's how it works:

- 1. When you place a hold,** select "Westacres Lockers" as your pickup location when prompted. Note: Select materials may not be available for locker pickup.
- 2. When your holds become available,** bring your library card to the Westacres Branch to pick up your materials within 7 days.
- 3. When you arrive,** use the screen at the lockers to log into your account. Follow the prompts to open the locker that contains your held materials.



The new lockers are located to the right of the Westacres Branch entry.

## Many Chapters, One Community: Westacres 90 • 60 • 25



### Save the Date!

**Anniversary Celebration on Friday, September 18**

Celebrate 90 years of the Westacres community, 60 years of our dedicated Westacres Library building, and 25 years since its most ambitious expansion—plus the decades of community-centered library service in between. *For all ages.*



## Meet Fran the Library Van

**Full Name:** Fueling Reading Across Neighborhoods (but you can call me FRAN)

**About Me:** I'm a well-read vehicle with a heart full of stories and a cargo full of library materials. I don't bite, but I might honk.

**Favorite Genre:** Cozy mysteries

**Likes:** Traveling, collecting library cards, breakdancing (aka "braking")

**Dislikes:** Car washes, damaged library books, potholes

**Fun Fact:** My tattoos were designed by the artist Nicole Ray

**Learn more about Fran, including a list of upcoming events she'll attend, at [wblib.org/van](http://wblib.org/van).**

*The van was funded by a generous bequest from Ruth and Stanley Elbling and supported by an additional donation from Gary Davis in memory of Sally Davis.*

## Prevent Summer Learning Loss

The library helps kids retain and even grow their skills over summer break through programs that make learning fun.



### Speech Skills

Speech-language pathologists offer strategies, parent coaching, and carryover activities.

*For children requiring supplemental speech and language services.*

#### Summer Speech Worms: Articulation (ages 5-10)

Select Tuesdays at 2 PM  
June 23 • July 7, 14, 21, 28 • August 4

**Registration is required.**

#### Summer Speech Worms: P.L.A.Y. (ages 3-5)

Select Tuesdays at 3 PM  
June 23 • July 7, 14, 21, 28 • August 4

**Registration is required.**



### Reading Skills

Strengthen reading skills through library programs designed to help elementary students read with greater confidence and comprehension.

#### Rockin' Readers (grades K-5)

Select Wednesdays at 10 AM  
June 24 • July 8, 15, 22, 29 • August 5

**Registration is required.**

#### Read to a Dog (grades K-5)

Select Wednesdays at 6 PM  
June 24 • July 15 • August 12



### STEAM Skills

Improve Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math skills at these library programs.

#### Brick Buddies: The LEGO Crew (grades K-5)

Select Thursdays from 4:30-6 PM  
June 25 • July 16 • August 27

#### Tween Coding Club (ages 9-14)

Select Tuesdays at 6:30 PM  
June 2 • July 7 • August 4

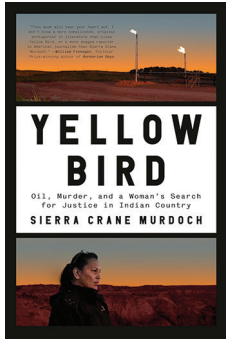
**Registration is required.**

# Library Events

## NEW! True Crime Book Club

Main Library Conference Room

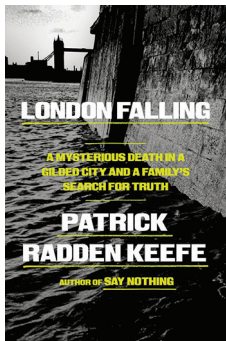
Are you a fan of Dateline or Forensic Files? Join us in reading and discussing some of the best in true crime.



### *Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian County*

by Sierra Crane Murdoch

Monday, June 15 at 6:30 PM



### *London Falling: A Mysterious Death in a Gilded City and a Family's Search for Truth*

by Patrick Radden Keefe

Monday, July 20 at 6:30 PM

## A Juneteenth Celebration with Ms. Audrey: A World of Music & Stories

Friday, June 19 at 10:30 AM

Main Library Meeting Room

Explore music from around the world with Ms. Audrey Allison, a storyteller, percussionist, and musician with more than 35 years of experience presenting educational and cultural concerts across the country. *For all ages.*



## Recognizing 250 Years of US History

### *Stars, Stripes, and Smiles Crafts*

Wednesday, July 1 at 2:30 PM

Main Library Youth Activity Center

For ages 4-10. **Registration is required.**

### *Stars and Stripes Diamond Art*

Tuesday, June 30 at 2:30 PM

Westacres Activity Center

For grades 3-8. **Registration is required.**

### *"Happy 250th Birthday, USA" Crafts*

Tuesday, June 23 from 2:30-4 PM

Red, white, & blue tumbler

Tuesday, July 21 from 2:30-4 PM

USA-themed t-shirt

Main Library Community Commons

For grades 6-12. **Registration is required.**

### *The D&C Lake Lines and the Fabulous Luxury Liners of the Great Lakes*

Thursday, June 4 at 6 PM

Main Library Meeting Room

Step aboard and look at the fascinating world of steam travel on the Great Lakes across the early 1900s.

### *Freedom Confirmed: President Abraham Lincoln's Courage to Create Change*

Tuesday, June 16 at 6 PM

Main Library Meeting Room

This program will inspire and educate attendees about Abraham Lincoln's Civil War presidency and the history of American freedom and justice in the pivotal year of 1865. Additionally, this lecture will discuss the creation and implications of the 13th amendment.

### More Free Events

Keep entertained and connected with your community with more events for all ages, including a series designed for ages 55+. Learn more in the library's Summer Event Brochure.

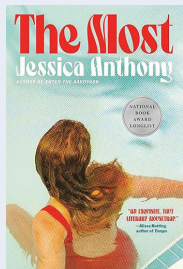


# From Your Friends

## Friends BOOKTalks

Main Library Community Commons

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



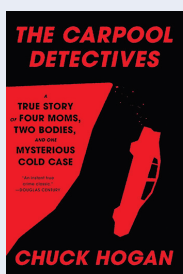
### **The Most**

by Jessica Anthony

**Thursday, June 11 at 7 PM**

**Friday, June 12 at 10 AM**

Facilitator: Ann Finn



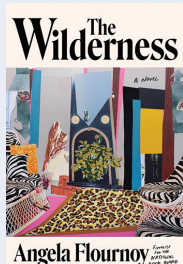
### **The Carpool Detectives**

by Chuck Hogan

**Thursday, July 9 at 7 PM**

**Friday, July 10 at 10 AM**

Facilitator: Cathy Russ



### **The Wilderness**

by Angela Flournoy

**Thursday, August 13 at 7 PM**

**Friday, August 14 at 10 AM**

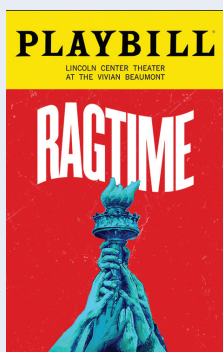
Facilitator: Jaema Berman

## 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.*



### **Ragtime**

**Sunday, June 21 at 2 PM**

### **Special: Stage Reading**

**Sunday, August 30 at 2 PM**

A new musical, *Half Sour*, will be presented as a staged reading, performed by local actors, with a talk-back immediately following.

## Music @ Main

Main Library Meeting Room

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



### **Chris Vallillo**

**Sunday, June 14 at 2 PM**

Chris Vallillo is a masterful performer renowned for his ability to seamlessly blend original songs with traditional music.

### **Judith Banker**

**Sunday, July 19 at 2 PM**

Judith Banker is known for her soulful vocals and heartfelt songwriting, weaving emotional stories into her melodies.



### **Janet Christensen**

**Sunday, August 9 at 2 PM**

Known for her expressive voice and engaging stage presence, Christensen will present a program centered on summer love songs.



## What's Cooking?

### **Tea Party**

**Wednesday, June 17 at 6 PM**

Main Library Meeting Room

What's Cooking? features local chefs and other food and beverage experts as they give demonstrations with generous samples. Visit the library's website for more details. *Generously organized and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## SCHULER BOOKS Fundraiser

Stock up on summer reads at Schuler Books! Mention the Friends (or code WBLIBRARY) from June 14-20, and 20% of eligible purchases will go to support the Friends.



The nation's highest honor for libraries.

4600 Walnut Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

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### New Youth Furniture Purchased by Donors

Learn more on Page 3



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The West Bloomfield Library is consistently evolving to maintain excellent services for you and your neighbors. In this issue, you'll read about a wide range of new projects.

The library's van, affectionately named Fran (Fueling Reading Across Neighborhoods), will be at community events all summer, bringing materials, crafts, and FUN wherever she goes. HONK if you love Fran!

You can also now pick up holds at your convenience at the Westacres Branch. New 24/7 holds pickup lockers ensure you can walk, bike, or drive over to grab your holds, even if the library is closed. This enhancement was funded by the millage approved by voters in November 2024.

Another important capital project to bring to your attention is Phase 2 of the library's recarpeting. The Main Library will close Saturday, August 15 - Sunday, August 23 so the Youth Services area and surrounds can be recarpeted. The existing carpeting is 18 years old and showing its age.

Why does the library need to be closed while this work is going on? We have to move shelving, desks, and equipment, and the disruption (not to mention the strong smell of glue!) will make the environment unsafe and unsuitable for regular library operations. The Drive-Up Window and the Westacres Branch will be open to serve you. We can't wait for you to see the new refreshed space, just in time for school!

Though your library is evolving this summer, it's also taking a giant step back in time beginning June 6. Our biggest Summer Reading Program yet, Unearth a Story™, invites readers of all ages to dig into reading with dino-themed incentives and events.

I hope you'll join us in unearthing a summer of stories. We can't wait to see you!

*Cathy Russ*

Executive Library Director

### MAIN LIBRARY

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

### WESTACRES BRANCH

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

### The library will be closed:

Saturday, May 23  
Sunday, May 24  
Monday, May 25  
Friday, July 3  
Saturday, July 4  
Sunday, July 5

### Main Library Only Closed

Saturday, August 15 - Sunday, August 23

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

### Board of Trustees

Carol A. Kravetz, President  
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## From the Director's Shelf

