

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2024

Karen Rock
PRESIDENT

Danielle Ruple
VICE PRESIDENT

Melissa Mark
SECRETARY

Wendy Friedman

Frank Pisano

Jennifer Wheeler

Rebekah Craft
LIBRARY
DIRECTOR



LEARN. CONNECT. DISCOVER.

MISSION

The Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, Michigan enriches lives by providing opportunities and resources for everyone to learn, connect, and discover.

VISION

The Baldwin Public Library will be an essential part of the community and the first choice for access to cultural, recreational, and learning opportunities.

CORE VALUES

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Intellectual Freedom
- Equitable and Inclusive Access
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Innovation
- Welcoming Environment
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Commitment to Excellence

ADOPTED APRIL 2022

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rock, Karen
PRESIDENT

465 Pilgrim Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009 Home:
(248) 540-9203
e-mail: kgrock13@gmail.com

Term expires 2027

Personnel Committee,
Policy Committee

Rumple, Danielle
VICE PRESIDENT

843 Tottenham Rd.
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Cell: (734) 693-3861
e-mail: danielle.rumple@gmail.com

Term expires 2025

Finance Committee

Mark, Melissa
SECRETARY

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Term expires 2025

Building Committee,
Outreach Committee

Friedman, Wendy

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Birmingham, MI 48009
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Term expires 2027

Outreach Committee

Pisano, Frank

612 Davis Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009
Home: (248) 646-0463
Cell: (248) 835-6058
e-mail: frank.pisano@baldwinlib.org

Term expires 2025

Finance Committee,
Building Committee

Wheeler, Jennifer

1665 Holland St.
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cell: (248) 808-4495
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Term expires 2027

Personnel Committee,
Policy Committee

Walter, Kate
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

e-mail: katewalter350@gmail.com

Term expires February 2025



LEARN. CONNECT. DISCOVER.

AGENDA

Baldwin Public Library Board Meeting

Monday, August 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Rotary/Donor Rooms

Agenda

The full Board packet is available online at www.baldwinlib.org on the Friday preceding the meeting.

This is an open meeting. All members of the public are invited to attend.

Call to order, pledge of allegiance, reading of the Library's mission statement, and establishment of a quorum.

I. General Public Comment Period

The Library Board values public meetings and welcomes your comments on Library issues, but will not debate items not on the agenda. The Board respectfully asks that comments be made as concisely as possible, when a motion has been made, or in the general public comment portion of the meeting. The maximum time for individual speakers should not exceed three minutes.

II. Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a roll call vote. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Board member or a citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered as the last item under new business.

- A. Approval of July 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes p. 7
- B. Approval of July 2024 vendor payments in the amount of \$210,837.65, including payments in excess of \$75,000. p. 10
- C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$396,476.23 p. 15

III. Board Reports and Special Announcements

- A. President's report
- B. Board comments
- C. Staff anniversaries (Danielle Rumble) p. 30
- D. Upcoming events of interest (Jaclyn Miller) p. 56

IV. Board Committee Reports	
A. Finance – Danielle Rumble	p. 14
The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Monday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m.	
B. Building – Frank Pisano	p. 18
The next Building Committee will take place on Wednesday, September 4 at 4:00 p.m.	
C. Outreach – Melissa Mark	p. 20
The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place on Tuesday, September 24 at 11:00 a.m.	
V. Library Report – Rebekah Craft and Jaclyn Miller	p. 21
VI. Liaisons	
A. Report from Friends of the Baldwin Public Library (Ryndee Carney)	p. 45
B. Beverly Hills (Andrew Drummond, Beverly Hills Village Council)	
C. Bloomfield Hills (Susan McCarthy, Bloomfield Hills City Commission)	
D. Bingham Farms (Kathy Mechigian, Bingham Farms Village Council)	
VII. New & Miscellaneous Business	
A. 2025 Calendar	p. 48
Suggested motion: Motion to approve the 2025 Library calendar as found on page 49 of the August 2024 Board Packet.	
B. Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy	p. 51
Suggested motion: Motion to adopt the changes to the Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy on pages 52-53.	
VIII. Unfinished Business	
IX. Items removed from the Consent Agenda	
X. Information Only	
A. Upcoming events of interest	p. 56
B. Fall 2024 Learn.Connect.Discover Library Newsletter	p. 58
C. Bird Strike Deterrent information sheet	p. 66
D. <i>Birmingham Bloomfield Eagle</i> article “Library opens new expansion and addition”	p. 67

- E. *Downtown Publications* article "Baldwin Library reopens with new entrance" p. 68
 - F. *Birmingham Bloomfield Eagle* article "Birmingham Stars in New UK TV Show" p. 70
 - G. *Book Riot* article "The Quite Censorship of Pride 2024" p. 71
 - H. *Bridge Michigan* article "Alpena County moves to fire library officials over sexually-themed youth books" p. 82
 - I. *Choice* article "Ready for It: Ensuring Web Content Accessibility in Libraries" p. 88
 - J. *Publishers Weekly* article "W.S. Copyright Office Releases Part One of AI Report, Calls for New Legislation" p. 91
 - K. *Scientific American* article "How Does the World's Largest Library Decide What Becomes History" p. 93
 - L. *The Conversation* article "Verifying facts in the age of AI – Librarians Offer 5 Strategies" p. 98
 - M. *The New York Times* article "More States Are Passing Book Banning Rules. Here's What They Say" p. 101
- XII. Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Library Board will take place on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion: *To adjourn the August 19, 2024 Board Meeting.*

Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the Library at the number (248) 647-1700 or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la biblioteca en el número (248) 647-1700 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
REGULAR MEETING
July 15, 2024**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Rock at 7:32 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and, via Zoom, Student Representative Kate Walter.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director; Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney, President

Contract community representatives present: Andrew Drummond, Beverly Hills Village Council.

Members of the public present: Three.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

Mark read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: A staff member expressed their disappointment in the Pride flag/pin decision made at the last meeting, and hopes this discussion can be reopened in relation to the library's value of inclusivity.

2. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

A. Approval of June 24, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of June 2024 vendor payments in the amount of \$173,129.56, including payments in excess of \$75,000.

C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$422,811.74

1st Rumble

2nd Mark

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

President's report: Rock thanked everyone involved in the renovation reopening on July 9, especially Craft and Miller.

Board comments: Pisano echoed Rock's comments, and acknowledged staff's hard work and dedication to Phase 3.

Staff Anniversaries: Rumble recognized the following staff anniversaries: Rebekah Craft (9 years of service).

Upcoming events of interest: Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 86-87 of the July Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Rumple reported that the Finance Committee met on July 8. Present were Pisano, Rumple, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 16 of the July Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Building Committee:

Pisano reported that the Building Committee met last on July 8. Present were Mark, Pisano, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting may be found on page 19 of the July Board packet. The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Outreach Committee:

The Outreach Committee will meet next on August 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

5. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 21-31 of the July Board packet. Miller provided the quarterly Statistics Dashboard report for 2023-2024 fiscal year-to-year comparisons. While targets were set based on construction impact, metrics generally have surpassed or met targets compared to the previous fiscal year.

6. Liaisons

Friends: Ryndee noted the FOL fiscal year ends on August 31. Revenue is ahead of last year in memberships and gifts, however, book and media sales are down by approximately \$7,000. The lobby sale space is consistently bringing in around or above \$1,000 a month. Spring and Fall sales have not performed as strongly as in the past, and the FOL Board will review different ideas for regular sales. The next 4th Saturday Sale will be on July 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with all items priced at \$1.

Beverly Hills: Andrew Drummond commented that the Phase 3 renovation space looks great.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. Phase 3: Renovation Update:

Craft provided a Phase 3 renovation update, complete details of which can be found on pages 33-48 of the July Board packet. The space is now open to the public.

Several punch list items remain, as noted on pages 53 and 63 of the July Board packet. The Martin St. temporary ramp will remain in place for a few weeks more. The renovated Merrill entrance will close for one to two days while epoxy fill is applied to all grout lines in the café and vestibule. The temporary Martin St. entrance ramp will be taken down after this task is completed. Some patrons have indicated disappointment the new space is not a staffed café. The sound level from the space is high due to the hard surfaces, and the architects and staff will

explore options to dampen the noise. The Popko mural does not have an exact date for installation, but is in progress. Staff are adjusting to the new space and innovating solutions for how to best utilize it.

8. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Library of Michigan Trustee Training:

Clare Membiela is offering to Michigan libraries a refresher presentation Trustee training. This would be via Zoom or in person. The Board can put this training on the agenda during a regular meeting, or a separate special meeting can be held and publicly noticed. If via Zoom, the Board would still be required to meet in person, and Membiela would appear virtually. Craft would coordinate dates between the Board and Membiela.

Motion to have Clare Membiela do a [Trustee training] presentation in person on a date [the Board of Trustees] can all agree on, [which] would be publicly noticed.

1st Rock
2nd Friedman

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business: None.

10. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

11. Information Only: See pages 85-114 of the July Board packet.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Rumble
2nd Wheeler

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.

Melissa Mark, Secretary

Date

Register of Claims
Baldwin Public Library
300 W. Merrill Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

Check Number	Vendor #	Vendor	Amount
	000843	BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	1,532.24
	MISC	BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY	20.99
	005717	BSB COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	131.25
	000902	CENGAGE LEARNING INC	494.15
	000605	CINTAS CORPORATION	253.28
	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	16,076.46
	008827	KANOPY, INC	397.80
	005550	LEE & ASSOCIATES CO., INC.	6,095.66
	003527	LOWER HURON SUPPLY CO INC	1,133.71
	007927	MICHELLE HOLLO	350.00
	002013	MIDWEST TAPE	10,138.01
	000673	NEW YORK TIMES, THE	4,446.00
	009478	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	417.51
	006785	OVERDRIVE, INC.	21,555.21
	009612	PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	920.10
	MISC	SENTRY AIR SYSTEMS INC	385.51
	009840	THOMAS S. KLISE COMPANY, INC	872.15
	007408	T-MOBILE	561.82
	000158	VERIZON WIRELESS	103.38
11122	009840	THOMAS S. KLISE COMPANY, INC	43.64
11168	000517	BEIER HOWLETT P.C.	198.00
11180	009024	D.M. BURR GROUP	4,819.00
11196	005550	LEE & ASSOCIATES CO., INC.	3,292.26
11197	003527	LOWER HURON SUPPLY CO INC	623.49
11206	005861	UNIQUE MGMT SERVICE, INC	10.30
11242	003527	LOWER HURON SUPPLY CO INC	257.10
11244	002013	MIDWEST TAPE	73.51
11245	008336	NBS COMMERCIAL INTERIORS	792.00
11261	004692	TRANSPARENT WINDOW CLEANING	2,000.00
298831	009202	AQUARIUM DESIGN INC	240.00
298899	000639	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSN	2,088.00
298901	006349	MIDWEST COLLABORATIVE	125.00
298904	000673	NEW YORK TIMES, THE	2,366.00
299072	MISC	NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP AREA LIBRARY	21.99
299095	007408	T-MOBILE	632.38
299097	007115	TERMINIX PROCESSING CENTER	1,011.00
299136	004493	ELITE IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC	935.46
299149	004904	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	3,237.00
299150	004904	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	2,346.45
299155	000797	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	13,012.22
299177	MISC	SARA ROTTENSTEIN	7.99
299193	009026	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FIN SERV	57.52
299199	006638	ACTION MAT & TOWEL RENTAL, INC	40.00
299211	008355	BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS	115.00
299216	003904	CAPITAL ONE BANK	18,440.32
299224	000575	DEMCO, INC	144.18
299226	000179	DTE ENERGY	10,618.18
299227	008164	GARY EISELE	64.32
299231	000585	FARMINGTON COMM. LIBRARY	5,515.55
299234	006666	GRID 4 COMMUNICATIONS INC.	228.78

Register of Claims

Baldwin Public Library

300 W. Merrill Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

Check Number	Vendor #	Vendor	Amount
299239	009037	INNOVATIVE INTERFACES INC	63,010.31
299256	000678	OCLC, INC.	4,081.56
299258	006785	OVERDRIVE, INC.	2,750.00
299265	MISC	SARAH JANE-FOX FORD	16.48
299266	MISC	SENTRY AIR SYSTEMS INC	1,026.48
299286	009026	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FIN SERV	710.95
Total:			210,837.65

I hereby certify that each of the above invoices are true and correct.

_____, 20____

Executive Library Director

Allowance of Vouchers

The Library Board of Directors of the Baldwin Public Library has examined the claims listed on the foregoing Register of claims and except for claims not allowed as shown on the Register such claims are hereby approved and dated in accordance with MCL 397.210a and the Birmingham City Charter.

Secretary of the Baldwin Public Library Board

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Building Committee

Outreach Committee

August 2024 Finance Committee Report

The Baldwin Public Library Board's Finance Committee met on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room. Present were Frank Pisano, Danielle Rumple, and Rebekah Craft. Jim Cummins and Connor Brannagan of Raymond James.

- Public comment: None
- Jim Cummins and Connor Brannagan of Raymond James gave a status update on the Library's Trust funds. The Trust funds are performing well and Cummins believes the Trust is set up close to a model portfolio with a balanced mix of tech, healthcare, and financial services funds.
- Craft signed the Raymond James paperwork to convert the Trust accounts into advice-based Ambassador account, which caps fees at 0.5%, will save the Trust a few thousand dollar a year, and provides more flexibility.
- Craft reported on the FY 2023-24 budget report after twelve months. All budget line items are currently in line with the amended budget. We received a \$52,000 Penal Fines payment at the end of July. We also received an additional \$62,000 in Investment Income due to the recent sale of bonds.
- Craft discussed the financials and rationale behind hiring a full-time staff member in the Idea Lab to expand the open hours of the Lab and to better safeguard Lab knowledge in the case of future employee turnover or extended absence. The committee was in agreement with Craft's recommendation.
- Craft reported on July Friends of the Library expenditures.
- Pisano did not attend any City meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

FINANCIAL REPORT: July 2024

This report references the Revenue and Expense Report 2024-25, found on the following page. At 8.3% of the way through fiscal year 2024-2025, the Library has spent 8.0% of its budget and received .1% of its revenue. By this point of the year, the Library was budgeted to have spent 8.3% of its budget and to have received 8.3% of its revenue.

Two pay periods were recorded in the month.

Vendor payments in excess of \$75,000:

	\$	-
Total vendor payments in excess of \$75,000	\$	-
Balance of vendor payments less than \$75,000	\$	210,837.65
Total vendor payments	\$	210,837.65

City of Birmingham allocations:

Payroll Period Ending 07/06/24, adj for FY end	\$	62,077.60
Payroll Period Ending 07/20/24	\$	106,186.34
Fixed Past Retirement Health Care Cost (acct 711.0004)	\$	1,979.17
Retirement Cost (acct 711.0010)	\$	8,040.17
Total Payroll	\$	178,283.28

BS&A Software Charge (acct 811.0000)	\$	351.67
Administrative Services (acct. 813.0000)	\$	8,740.83
MML Insurance Premium (acct. 960.0400)	\$	535.00
Total City of Birmingham allocations	\$	187,910.78

Reconciling adjustments:

Refunds (Fines, Bags, Room Rentals, Magazines etc.)	\$	(1,907.91)
City Adjustments to Prior Fiscal Year	\$	(5,177.28)
Credit Card Fees	\$	158.99
Water Bill		
City of Birmingham Parking	\$	4,654.00
Total Recon Adjustments	\$	(2,272.20)

Total expenses for the month	\$	396,476.23
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BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024-25
July 2024

	2024-2025 Budget	Current Month Budget July 2024	Current Month Actual July 2024	Variance For Month	Y-T-D Budget 2024-2025	Y-T-D Actual 2024-2025	Variance For Y-T-D	% Received/ Spent	Prior year Y-T-D 2023-2024	1st Month of the year 8.33%
REVENUES										
TAXES	\$4,497,490	\$374,791	\$0	(\$374,791)	\$374,791	\$0	(\$374,791)	0.0%	\$4,174,572	100.0%
PROVISION FOR TAX LOSS	(\$15,000)	(\$1,250)	\$0	\$1,250	(\$1,250)	\$0	\$1,250	0.0%	(\$145)	7.3%
COUNTY AND STATE REVENUE	\$95,000	\$7,917	\$0	(\$7,917)	\$7,917	\$0	(\$7,917)	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
GRANTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
COMMUNITY CONTRACTS	\$1,084,860	\$90,405	\$0	(\$90,405)	\$90,405	\$0	(\$90,405)	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
PATRON USE REVENUE	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$2,972	\$264	\$2,708	\$2,972	\$264	9.1%	\$1,828	5.1%
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$5,000	\$417	\$0	(\$417)	\$417	\$0	(\$417)	0.0%	\$6,197	7.7%
OTHER REVENUE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,699,850	\$474,988	\$2,972	(\$472,016)	\$474,988	\$ 2,971.90	(\$472,016)	0.1%	\$4,182,452.30	73.4%
EXPENSES										
PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$3,164,800	\$263,733	\$178,283	(\$85,450)	\$263,733	\$178,283	(\$85,450)	5.6%	\$165,256	5.6%
SUPPLIES	\$164,000	\$13,667	\$19,117	\$5,450	\$13,667	\$19,117	\$5,450	11.7%	\$9,880	6.6%
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$346,760	\$28,897	\$93,345	\$64,449	\$28,897	\$93,345.21	\$64,449	26.9%	\$19,509	6.2%
TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE	\$158,000	\$13,167	\$5,411	(\$7,756)	\$13,167	\$5,411	(\$7,756)	3.4%	\$93,940	53.9%
UTILITIES	\$134,980	\$11,248	\$10,618	(\$630)	\$11,248	\$10,618	(\$630)	7.9%	\$10,125	8.6%
OTHER CHARGES	\$110,100	\$9,175	\$7,624	(\$1,551)	\$9,175	\$7,624	(\$1,551)	6.9%	\$13,341	11.5%
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS & FURNISHING	\$179,000	\$14,917	\$15,206	\$289	\$14,917	\$15,206	\$289	8.5%	\$0	0.0%
COLLECTIONS	\$727,000	\$60,583	\$66,871	\$6,288	\$60,583	\$66,871	\$6,288	9.2%	\$41,459	6.3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,984,640	\$415,387	\$396,476.23	(\$18,910)	\$415,387	\$396,476.23	(\$18,910)	8.0%	\$ 353,508.88	7.8%
VARIANCE	\$715,210	\$59,601	(\$393,504)	(\$453,105)	\$59,601	(\$393,504)	(\$453,105)			
FUND BALANCE-BEGINNING OF YEAR						\$682,658.89				
FUND BALANCE-CURRENT						\$289,154.56				

The fund balance should be not less than 25% of annual operating expenditures and not more than 35% of annual expenditures, except when the Library is building a fund balance in support of specific non-recurring projects.

Adjustments to June 30, 2024 Financials
Since July Board Presentation
08/15/24

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>08/15/24</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Prior YTD</u>	<u>New YTD</u>	
Property Taxes	\$ 4,174,572.00	\$ 4,178,377.05	\$ 3,805.05
Provision for Tax Loss	\$ (2,271.87)	\$ (6,092.69)	\$ (3,820.82)
County and State Revenue	\$ 31,103.31	\$ 83,275.38	\$ 52,172.07
Grants	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 4,800.00
Community Contracts	\$ 1,055,753.11	\$ 1,055,753.11	\$ -
Patron Use Revenue	\$ 38,896.33	\$ 38,883.33	\$ (13.00)
Investment Income (net of fees)	\$ 91,346.71	\$ 142,595.86	\$ 51,249.15
Other Revenue	\$ 230,065.90	\$ 230,076.91	\$ 11.01
Total Revenue	\$ 5,630,665.49	\$ 5,738,868.95	\$ 108,203.46
Salaries and Direct Wages	\$ 2,176,862.55	\$ 2,227,218.50	\$ (50,355.95)
FICA	\$ 162,706.38	\$ 166,483.05	\$ (3,776.67)
Hospitalization	\$ 212,621.81	\$ 224,638.30	\$ (12,016.49)
Life Insurance	\$ 7,065.98	\$ 7,228.46	\$ (162.48)
Retiree Contributory Health	\$ 38,014.23	\$ 38,103.91	\$ (89.68)
Dental/Optical	\$ 16,381.06	\$ 17,048.94	\$ (667.88)
LT/ST Disability	\$ 12,098.68	\$ 12,382.38	\$ (283.70)
Workers Comp	\$ 7,877.65	\$ 8,059.59	\$ (181.94)
Retirement-DefBen Contrib Employer	\$ 108,384.00	\$ 108,384.00	\$ -
HRA Benefit	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Retirement-Def Contrib Employer	\$ 101,111.62	\$ 103,444.06	\$ (2,332.44)
Ret Health Savings Contrib Employer	\$ 26,049.87	\$ 26,648.48	\$ (598.61)
Supplies	\$ 132,710.45	\$ 134,419.02	\$ (1,708.57)
Contracted Services	\$ 308,344.11	\$ 315,486.37	\$ (7,142.26)
Tech and Maintenance	\$ 166,802.08	\$ 106,215.08	\$ 60,587.00
Utilities	\$ 113,970.63	\$ 113,970.63	\$ -
Other Charges	\$ 99,847.64	\$ 160,434.64	\$ (60,587.00)
Building Improvements/Furnishings	\$ 3,123,181.48	\$ 3,123,181.48	\$ -
Collections	\$ 655,288.91	\$ 659,449.30	\$ (4,160.39)
Total Expense	\$ 7,470,319.13	\$ 7,553,796.19	\$ (83,477.06)
Fund Balance	\$ 658,789.60	<u>\$ 683,516.00</u>	
		\$ (683,516.00)	

August 2024 Building Committee Report

The Baldwin Public Library Board's Building Committee met on Monday, August 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present were Frank Pisano, Melissa Mark, and Rebekah Craft.

- No members of the public were present for Public Comment
- Phase 3 update
 - PCI Dailey working on final punch list items
 - Epoxy will be installed and front entrance and atrium will be closed 8/22-23
 - Concrete sidewalk repairs were completed on August 8
 - The elevator is intermittently working. A4 Access has us low on their priority list because we have alternate means of access to main level.
 - September 15 Open House planning is underway and invitations were mailed 8/9
 - Wendy Popko is running behind on the mural but has finished one panel and plans to install the full piece on September 8.
- Staff Lounge
 - Chairs for the staff lounge will arrive in early September.
 - Craft and Miller will solicit quotes to carpet the staff lounge using attic stock.
- Gardens
 - DPS will repair the damaged boxwood hedge on Martin street the week of August 19
- Teen Scene Update – Adult Services staff are weeding the non-fiction collection and Access Services staff are shifting items to make a larger designated spot for Teen items. Elisabeth and Haylie have begun compiling a furniture wish list.
- Craft will be getting quotes for a mini split unit for the Idea Lab, to balance the heat generated by the Lab equipment. She will coordinate the project with the City's Building Department. The project is in the budget for 2024-25.
- We are awaiting installation of a new roof membrane over youth room and loading dock reconstruction after Phase 3 is complete. These are both city managed projects.
 - Jaclyn continues to squeegee the roof after significant rain events and clear out the roof drains to allow for movement.
 - We are monitoring about 10 different leaks into the drywall above the Youth Room and Access Services office
- Water seepage issue in maintenance closet – Jaclyn has been diligently collecting water from 4 leaking pipes. When City Maintenance Director John Galik returns from vacation next week, he will address the issue with Kropf mechanical
- Craft will order 20 wheeling and foldable tables for Rotary Donor Room (similar to the

Jeanne Lloyd Room tables). The current tables are heavy, hard to move, and starting to fail. Total cost for the tables is \$10,020 and we would use Trust building funds for this purchase.



- Pisano and Mark would like to have the window film installer return to the library to add additional bird deterrent film to the glass so that we can see a larger swatch of the product before making a final decision on whether or not to coat all the windows of the atrium and youth room with the product.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

August 2024 Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room at the Baldwin Public Library. Present were Wendy Friedman, Missy Mark, Rebekah Craft, and Jaclyn Miller.

- Public Comment - none
- Old Business
 - Print On Demand Web Store Item review
 - the committee liked the variety of items selected. We will add white options, ask about varying the colors shown on the preview page, change the ball cap selection, and add a beanie hat for cold weather.
 - When the store goes live, we will post a link at the Information Desk, and allow people to suggest other items they would like to see with the library logo featured.
 - Review trifold draft – committee members will share feedback with Miller by August 13.
 - NEXT Unique Vehicles events – the book bike will be present on August 13
- New Business
 - Finalize plan for September 15 Open House
 - Invitations will go out next week
 - Craft and Miller will order the refreshments 7-10 days ahead of time
 - Determine delivery schedule for All Seasons facility in Fall
 - August 21 - WF
 - September 25 - MM
 - October 23 - WF
- Items not on the agenda
 - Story Point (formerly The Sheridan) has a new activities contact coming soon
 - The committee is gathering the names of organizations to notify of the upcoming non-profit fair
- The next meeting will be held on September 24 at 11:00 am. in the Delos Board Room.

LIBRARY REPORT

Statistical Dashboard

Programs & Services

Facility

Diversity & Equity

Community Outreach & Partnerships

Personnel & Organization

Financial

Expenditures from FOBPL Donations

Statistical Dashboard

July 2024

	Current Month	This month last year	Current FYTD	Previous FYTD	FY 24-25 Q1 Target
Financials					
Revenues	\$ 2,972	\$ 1,852	\$ 2,792	\$ 1,852	
Expenses	\$ 396,476	\$ 466,276	\$ 396,476	\$ 466,276	
Circulation					
Circ (Charges & Renewals)	55,247	57,754	55,247	57,754	117,500
Self-Check Usage	25.3%	20.3%	25.3%	20.3%	
% of Circ by Residents*	91.0%	92.0%	91.0%	92.0%	92.0%
% of Circ by Non-Residents	9.0%	8.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Interlibrary Loans					
Items borrowed	798	654	798	654	
Items loaned	804	792	804	792	
Technology Usage					
Database Sessions	5,465	10,042	5,465	10,042	8,750
Downloadable Content	15,434	18,618	15,434	18,618	37,500
Public Computer Usage	690	586	690	586	
Wireless Sessions	2,202	6,158	2,202	6,158	13,500
Program Attendance					
Program Attendance for Adults	237	204	237	204	
# of Programs for Adults	13	10	13	10	
Program Attendance for Teens	103	117	103	117	
# of Programs for Teens	6	5	6	5	
Program Attendance for Youth	3,167	2,629	3,167	2,629	
# of Programs for Youth	65	46	65	46	
Computer Classes Attendance	82	44	82	44	
# of Computer Programs	7	5	7	5	
Online Video Views	31	-	31	-	
Idea Lab Visits	267	96	267	96	
Total Program Attendance	3,887	3,090	3,887	3,090	6,500
Total # of Programs	91	66	91	66	250
Outreach Attendance	514	358	514	358	
# of Outreach Programs	2	2	2	2	
Visitors	22,831	16,180	22,831	16,180	40,000
Volunteer Hours	111	151	111	151	300
Social Media					
Website Hits/Pageviews	33,596	20,293	33,596	20,293	16,250
e-Newsletter Subscribers	-26	-16	10,750	11016	11000
Facebook Page Followers	20	14	3,517	3316	4200
TikTok Followers^	4	43	1,027	708	
Instagram Followers	16	19	2,407	2204	3000

*Residents include people who live, work, or own property in our service area of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and the City of Bloomfield Hills

^As of December 2022

Visitors incl. Terrace Door as of 4/2023

~WIFI stats have changed with new equipment installation

Key Metrics & Strategic Plan Status Report

Action item updates and comparisons of actual statistics to projections are made on a quarterly basis—in the months of October, January, April, and July.

Strategic Plan Action Items – 2024 Q2: A full update is provided after this library report.

Programs & Services

Strategic goal: Adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the changing population

Parenting Collection – New Additions

Susan Dion and Syntha Green have been adding picture books on special care subjects to the Parenting Section in the Youth Department. The topics we have ready to go are:

- Adoption
- Aging
- Death
- Families
- Illness
- Moving
- Pet Death

Additional topics and books will be added to the collection as it develops.



Summer Reading Recap

We will provide a full report on Summer Reading 2024 in the September packet. But at this time, we can share that we were very pleased to award prizes to:

- Arts & Crafts Basket: Owen W.
- Squishes Basket: Isla R.
- Stellar Science Basket: Ethan F.
- Busy Hands Basket: Connor H.
- Cuddle Bug Basket: Suri D.
- Treerunner Adventure Park Gift Card: Vanessa A.
- Reptarium Gift Card: Corri C.

- Books-A-Million Gift Card: Rachel D.
- Birmingham Bucks: Amanda D.
- Birmingham Bucks: Michael D.
- Birmingham Bucks: Kimberly A.

Facility

Strategic goal: Create a welcoming, safe, and accessible building that meets the needs of our staff and users.

Phase 3 Project

Invitations for the Phase 3 open house were mailed on August 9. The event is open to the public and will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., with remarks at 1:30 p.m.

The front entrance will be closed on August 23 and the atrium tables will be unavailable on August 24 while we have the floor joint lines filled with epoxy.

Wendy Popko's new mural for the atrium is in progress and will be installed on September 8.



Anti-Bird Strike Glass

We have placed an informational flyer, which can be seen in the Information Only section of this packet, in the garden box below each window and at the Information Desk. The flyer links to a webpage with a survey people can take to share feedback on the product. Find the survey at www.baldwinlib.org/birds.

Period Products in Restrooms

In April 2023, following a meeting of library staff members, the BPL Outreach Committee discussed placing menstruation products in the restrooms at the Library. We priced out the products versus contracting with a service provider and concluded we could just offer the products ourselves in baskets in the restrooms. At the April 17, 2023 Board Meeting, this was noted to all Board Members present as part of the Outreach Committee report.

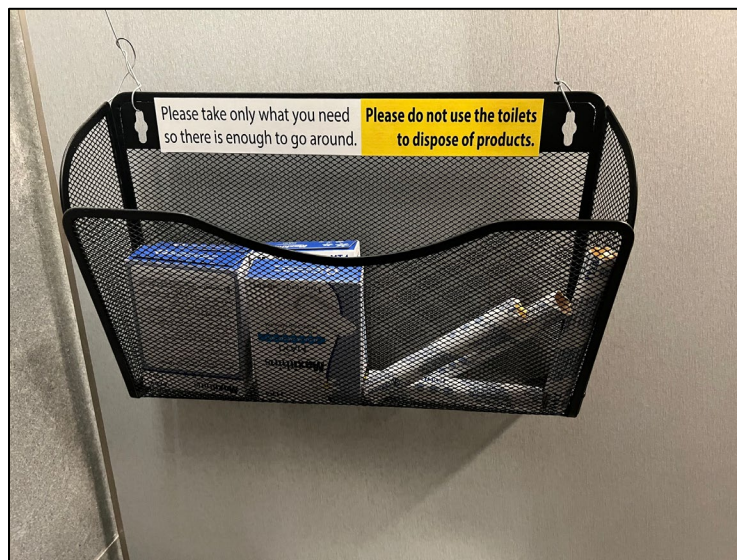
Staff felt that it is important to offer menstruation products to patrons because:

- Baldwin is a safe and inclusive place
- We do not assume that everyone who bleeds will use a female-identified restroom, just as we do not assume everyone who needs to use a changing table in a restroom will be using the women's restroom
- Reports show that products are often cost-prohibitive and availability can mean the difference between being able to go to work or school
- Periods can be unpredictable and there is no need to feel embarrassment or shame for being caught unprepared

The IDEA Task Force identified period poverty as an important and easy way for the library to provide better customer service to patrons. National surveys support this belief.

- "Menstruation is a natural and healthy process, yet millions of women and girls cannot afford menstrual products or access to safe water and sanitation to manage their menstrual health and hygiene. This interrupts their lives, rights, and freedoms."
(<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2024/05/period-poverty-why-millions-of-girls-and-women-cannot-afford-their-periods>)
- "In the United States of America, 1 in 4 teens and 1 in 3 adults struggle to afford period products, especially teens of colour and lower-income households."
(<https://period.org/periodpoverty>)
- A survey by Thinx and PERIOD unveiled the following statistics that show the impact of period poverty on menstruating students in the U.S: "84% have missed a class or know someone who missed it because they don't have access to menstrual products."
(<https://www.thinx.com/thinx/blogs/periodical/odds-and-ends/state-of-the-period-2021>)
- Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Period Poverty Awareness Week proclamation states,
 - "National surveys and research studies report that two in five women and girls struggle to secure enough period supplies to meet their needs each month due to a lack of income"

- “Menstruators struggling with period poverty risk infections by using proxy products – such as socks or toilet paper – or not changing products as often as needed”
- “The people of Michigan recognize that period poverty is a public health issue, and addressing period poverty can lead to economic opportunity for the state’s people and communities, and improved health for menstruators, thus ensuring all people have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential.”
- “Michigan is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations, that recognize the importance of period products in ensuring health and providing economic stability by distributing period products through various channels”



For various reasons, including identifying a way to post the baskets without permanent damage to the restroom walls, the products were not placed in restrooms until May 2024.

Baskets and products have been placed in nine toilet stalls across all restrooms in the library. This was done so people could have quick and easy access to products at the time they were needed, instead of having to leave the privacy of a stall or restroom to retrieve a pad or tampon.

Since placing the baskets in the restrooms at the end of May 2024, we have provided 250 sanitary pads and approximately 150 tampons to members of our community. A case of 250 pads costs \$67.30 and a case of 500 tampons costs \$84.91. They are provided a handful at a time, and are refilled 3 to 4 times per week by a library staff member. The products are stocked in such a way as to encourage folks to take only what they need. Based on usage rates, we may be able to change to only offering pads in the future.

Comparatively:

- Facial tissues are \$70.48 for 3,600 – we’ve purchased 7 cases in 2024 = \$493.36
- Toilet tissue is \$82.78 per case – we’ve purchased 37 cases in 2024 = \$3,062.86
- Hand towels are, on average, \$55.57 per case – we’ve purchased 39 cases in 2024 = \$2,167.23

Since we began this trial in May, we have not received any negative comments from patrons or staff members about the presence of free pads and tampons in all public restrooms.

Diversity and Equity

Strategic goal: Provide and promote equitable and inclusive resources and opportunities for all populations

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Task Force

The group continues to meet monthly to accomplish the goals set forth by the Library Board. The Committee is working together to implement action items from the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Action Plan.

At their meeting on August 14, the group selected the list of celebration months for 2025, so staff who are planning programming have some guidance on what we will highlight. The group also reviewed a new training module on Beanstack where they will post options for staff development, as per our Strategic Plan. The module will be rolled out during Staff Development Day in September.

The next “Working on Knowing Each Other” (WOKE) Book Club will be held in September when they will meet to discuss *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas.

Project READY

The Youth Department will resume this curriculum in August.

Community Outreach and Partnerships

Strategic goal: Develop and strengthen BPL connections within the community.

City of Birmingham

Craft has attended weekly City of Birmingham staff meetings. Miller submits content for the monthly and quarterly newsletter and Craft submits an update to the City Manager to be discussed as part of her report during the last Commission meeting of each month.

BPL staff members Susan Dion and Phoenix Nash, along with Friends President Ryndee Carney, represented the library at the July 21 Farmers Market. Susan and several Baldwin Boosters offered a fun craft at the Kids Zone, while Phoenix and Ryndee talked up the library from the Book Bike. Over the course of the market, 424 people stopped by the tent. Special shout out to Frank and Amy Pisano for the roadside service pickup when the Book Bike blew a tire on the return trip to the Library.



On Friday, August 9, Rebekah Craft brought the book bike to the BSD's Friday Family Movie Night. She spoke with attendees and passed out Baldwin magnifiers to people who visited.



On August 13, Rebekah Craft and H Jennings took part in workplace training session with staff from the City of Birmingham, where they heard from Johnny Crowder, who discussed the importance of maintaining good mental health practices.

Beverly Hills

Miller submitted information to the Village of Beverly Hills for inclusion in its weekly email and monthly newsletter.

Bingham Farms

Miller submits monthly Board Meeting updates to the Library Liaison.

Rebekah Craft will attend the August 25 Bingham Farms Village Council meeting on August 26 to give an update on the library to council members.

City of Bloomfield Hills

Miller submits monthly Board Meeting updates to the Library Liaison.

Birmingham Next

Rebekah Craft continues to host the Popular Reads book club on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The group meets in a hybrid format at Next and on Zoom. Jaclyn Miller moderates the Library's non-fiction book club, which meets virtually on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Contact Rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org to request the book and join the next discussion.

We were invited to participate in the August 13 Hot Wheels on Midvale event, where we featured the book bike among the classic cars on display. Jaclyn had the chance to talk to approximately 20 people among the attendees about library services, cards, access, and the new addition.

Friends of the Baldwin Public Library

The board met informally via Zoom on Tuesday, August 13 to talk about upcoming plans. They will move their August 24 book sale to September 7, which will better balance the time between the July book sale and the October big sale. They generated just over \$700 during their 4-hour sale on July 27. During the meeting, President Carney shared



that board member Stephanie Brochert will be stepping down from the Friends Board, but wrote "I'm so glad I've gotten to spend some time with you all and do this great work." New board member Sue Ochalek has agreed to take over the membership chair position. They also decided to send their annual solicitation letter with their annual newsletter in September. They will meet next on September 10 at the Library.

Marketing

Michelle Hollo continues to work with Jaclyn Miller designing projects and marketing materials for the Library, including:

- *Learn.Connect.Discover* newsletter drafts
- Youth Program posters and fliers
- Story Book Trail posters
- Open House Invitation
- A new promotional trifold draft

eNewsletters

Robert Stratton has compiled and distributed the Library's four monthly eNewsletters (Adult Events, Teen Events, Youth Events). These newsletters promote upcoming programs and spotlight a library service each month. Rebekah continues to send a monthly "Welcome to Baldwin" email to all new cardholders with follow-up information about the library and its services.

Personnel and Organization

Strategic goal: Train, empower, and equip members of the organization to best support users and each other.

Staff Communications

An All Staff meeting was held July 16. We continue to meet monthly, after the Library Board meeting, to share updates with all attendees. Our next all staff meeting will be held on August 19. Recordings of each meeting are sent to all staff.

Staff Anniversaries

Sarah Dalmer, Idea Lab Assistant, reached 2 years of service on August 14.

Paul Gillin, Bookkeeper, reached 11 years of service on August 16.

Mick Howey, Adult Services Librarian reached 7 years of service on August 5.

Tony Lowe, Circulation Assistant I, reached 19 years of service on August 2.

Terry Meyer, Youth Services Library Assistant, will reach 12 years of service on August 27.

Daniel Patton, Substitute Adult Services Librarian, reached 7 years of service on August 18.

Kristen Tait, Head of Circulation Services, reached 23 years of service on August 15.

Peter VanGelder, IT Assistant, reached 1 year of service on August 1.

Staffing Changes

We welcomed three new substitute librarians in August:

Amber Davis is currently working at the Bloomfield Township Library in the Circulation Department. Amber has a wide range of library experience, including working at FADL & FCL. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, cooking, and writing poetry and children's stories.

Kim Goodrich is currently working at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library as a Substitute Librarian & as an Intern at the Suburban Library Cooperative. She also has library experience when she worked in Sarasota County, Florida. In her spare time, Kim enjoys antiquing, crocheting, playing video games, as well as reading contemporary fiction, horror, and some romance.

Melissa Moore is currently the incoming Head of Circulation at Ferndale Area District Library after working at Oakland Community College in Academic Support for the last 7 years and in WSU's Department of History for 2 years. In her spare time Melissa likes working in her garden, baking & cooking, playing TTRPGs with friends, she's getting back into running, and learning how to crochet.

Volunteer Hours

111 volunteer hours were utilized in the month of July.

Financial Stability

Strategic goal: Maintain and improve financial health.

Craft continues to monitor both the Library's budget and the performance of its Trust funds in order to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Baldwin Public Library Strategic Plan (2022-2025): Action Plan

Strategic Goal 1: Programs & Services - Adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the changing population

Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	July 2024 Updates (April-June 2024):
A Determine the wants and needs of users for library services and programs and adjust services and programs in response to feedback			
1 Present surveys to the public in a variety of formats to assess services and programs	Head of Adult, Head of Youth, Technology Trainer	\$192 for SurveyMonkey subscription	We tried to stop sending the paper How Did We Do form home for Books Unboxed to see if we could use just the QR code but then we started receiving less responses so we went back to putting the paper form in. We receive the most responses when we have both digital and paper response forms available.
2 Analyze trends and demographics from previous years and at other libraries	Head of Adult, Head of Youth	None	We noticed that the attendees for the Books & Boogie story time were much younger than the intended age group so we moved the time from 10 to 11:15 for the summer to see if that would help.
3 Determine the extent to which STEAM programs are in demand for all ages	Idea Lab, Teen Librarian, Head of Youth	None	YS determined that STEAM programs are more popular in the Summer for Youth and the titles of programs need to be something other than STEAM. For example, Alyssa had a Sensory Adventure program in June that had 30 people. Alyssa also hosted a Video Game program Club (T=technology) this summer that was better attended than the ones offered during the school year.
4 Examine and analyze circulation statistics for collections	Head of Adult, Head of Youth, Access Services Coordinator	None	Youth Services staff reviewed every collection and withdrew damaged and outdated materials. Stephanie updated the budget for the 2024-2025 FY based on circulation, space, and budget spending for the previous years. Syntha and Rosemary put out Math Skill Builder backpacks due to the high demand for items in this collection.
5 Examine and analyze technology needs and trends for patrons	Technology Trainer, Idea Lab, IT Coordinator	Upgrade wifi, charging stands, phone/laptop chargers, etc.	After closer examination of circulation statistics, staff determined that 30% of all circulation for adult is the result of digital resources
6 Evaluate staff led outreach based on community need and reach	Associate Director	None	Summer Reading visits to every BPS school in May. YS staff continue to host Lions Club Kidsight Vision Screening. YMCA comes to the Library 5 times a week. YS staff did story times at the Goddard School Artwork from BPS is displayed in various places around the room. Took the book bike to Movies in Park to promote Summer Reading on June 7. Staff and Board marched in two community parades in May 2024.
B Ensure library materials, programs, technology, and services are available, relevant, and welcoming to all abilities and backgrounds			
1 Identify and offer programs and services for underserved populations	Head of Adult and Head of Youth	Program and presenter fees	We hired a PT teen librarian to focus on expanding some teen programs to include Middle School students, and we've had requests for cookbook club and writing club to return. The Cookbook club has returned and the writing club will be back before the end of the year.

2	Improve discovery of physical and virtual collections	Head of Adult, Head of Youth, Head of Access Services		The small shelf marker signs we were testing were a success so Rosemary added shelf marker tags to almost all of the Youth collections. The shelf markers in the Paperback section are already helping the pages shelve that collection. Implementation of the Baldwin's Best Bets collection and significantly increased display areas.
3	Prioritize programming and promotion of those programs that focus on creating an equitable society (youth engagement, economic and psychological recovery, health and human services, civic engagement, and media literacy)	Head of Adult, Head of Youth	program and presenter fees	Began stocking all library restrooms with period products to help counter period poverty.
4	Significantly expand a <i>Library of Things</i>	H, Ethan	\$10,000.00	
5	Provide open, welcoming spaces that encourage collaboration and connection	Public Services Staff	furniture and lighting signage	
C	<i>Develop a technology plan to support existing programs and services</i>			
1	Expand support for digital literacy and skills training by delivering technology and computer training sessions each year, both asynchronously and synchronously	AS and YS librarians	editing software	Stephanie offered training on Beanstack for any staff member. We renewed our subscription to Niche Academy to provide staff with access to a variety of webinars related to Libraries and Public Services We renewed our membership in MCLS to maintain access to online classes geared toward all library staff. We have been offering a wider array of technology programs and additional staff plan to help provide the programming to further diversify the classes and schedule offered
2	Provide technology training to staff in multiple formats to support multiple learning styles	Primarily IT Coordinator, Public Services Dept. Heads		
3	Provide technology assistance during all hours open to the public	IT Coordinator		
4	Ensure the library technology is up-to-date and fully supported	Primarily IT Coordinator, Public Services Dept. Heads		A new firewall was installed in June 2024.
Strategic Goal II: Facility - Create a welcoming, safe, and accessible building that meets the needs of our staff and users				
	Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	
A	<i>Develop and plan for long-term facility needs</i>			
1	Identify exterior needs	Jaclyn, John G.		
2	Identify interior needs	Jaclyn		

3	Develop long term plan to address interior and exterior needs	Jaclyn			
4	Update physical environments to support the needs of our customers and staff				
B	Develop and complete expansion and renovation of front entrance and circulation area				
1	Develop and issue RFP for design development and construction documents for Phase 3	Rebekah	\$264,000		Completed
2	Plan for access during construction for patrons and staff	Director, AD, Head of Access Services			Completed
3	Publicize availability of the Library during construction	Jaclyn	none		Completed
C	Maintain a safe and accessible environment				
1	Evaluate building accessibility				Completed
2	Offer a variety of environmental choices for users within the building that accounts for sensory sensitivities	Jaclyn, Department Heads			Completed
3	Create accessible collections by adjusting lighting and height of existing shelving	Jaclyn, Department Heads			Completed
D	Continue to monitor and make improvements to facility				
1	Develop regular maintenance schedule with applicable vendors for cleaning carpet, furniture, windows	Jaclyn			Completed
2	Establish and document regular maintenance schedule	Jaclyn, John G.			
3	Update garden beds around the facility with native plantings and pollinators	Robert			Robert planted additional native perennials in June using grant funds from the Bloomfield Hills Garden Club.
4	Investigate/implement/update building management system	John G			
5	Identify ways to make building more eco-friendly	Jaclyn, Robert			Adult Department is using microfiber towels that are washed and reused. They are used for cleaning screens, white boards, new books, and surfaces instead of paper towels. Cookbook club is using glass plates instead of disposable and offering reusable cups instead of disposable bottles of water.

<i>Strategic Goal III: Diversity & Equity - Provide and promote equitable and inclusive resources and opportunities for all populations</i>			
Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	
A	Prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion practices		
1	Enhance inclusion of underrepresented groups in collections to highlight diverse voices, perspectives, and absent narratives	Purchasing staff	15% annual budget Completed
2	Develop and implement civil discourse programming	IDEA TF	presenter fees Completed
3	Include funding for DEI initiatives in the annual budget	Director	TBD Completed
4	Review existing and future post-COVID plans with an equity lens to ensure new services focus on those who need Library services most and who may not yet be well connected to the Library	IDEA TF	none Completed
5	Provide a clear way for staff to contact the IDEA Task Force to identify areas of improvement and offer suggestions	IDEA TF	None Completed
B	Develop and implement a training and education plan		
1	Identify needs for training	IDEA TF	None Completed
2	Seek out DEI training and educational programs for staff members and patrons	IDEA TF	training fees Provided professional development opportunity: The Safe Zone Project for staff
3	Offer 5 training opportunities for staff each year and require that full-time staff choose 2 to attend and part-time staff choose one to attend	IDEA TF	\$5000/year SnackChat, The Safe Zone Project, Ryan Dowd Webinars
4	Update website to address accessibility and improve user experience	Associate Director, Director	
C	Review and improve recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion methods		
1	Advertise jobs in more geographically and demographically diverse venues	Associate Director	posting fees Completed
2	Ensure that all portions of the application and interview process are accessible	IDEA TF, Mgt	None Completed

3	Participate in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) internship program for high school students of color			
4	Actively recruit candidates from underrepresented populations when filling open positions			
5	Provide a transparent pathway to promotion within the organization	Director	None	
6	Solicit feedback from candidates regarding the application and interview process	Director	None	
7	Review and adjust qualifications for each job posting to expand the candidate pool	Director	None	
D	Assess and document progress			
1	Complete a diversity audit of Library programming to ensure underrepresented perspectives are being included			
2	Establish criteria for auditing programs	IDEA TF	None	
3	Create form for staff to evaluate their planned offerings	IDEA TF	None	
4	Merge and compare results across Library	IDEA TF	None	
5	Publish an annual review of programs and trainings	IDEA TF	None	
Strategic Goal IV: Community Outreach & Partnerships - Develop and strengthen BPL connections within the community				
	Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	
A	Identify and develop new community relationships and partnerships			
1	Identify and connect with potential community partners	Jaelyn, work group, Board Outreach Committee		
2	Review policies and practices of potential community partners	Jaelyn		
3	Attend meetings of retail and civic organizations	Various Staff, Board Members		
4	Develop programming with interested partners	Programming Staff		Teen has been doing school visits to promote summer reading and high school library card signup events. We have also gone to senior communities to promote book clubs and home delivery services.

5	Coordinate annual 'fairs' with participants of the same "type"	Programming Staff	Scheduled a 2025 Non Profit Fair Planned a local author fair for November 2024	
B	Maintain and strengthen existing community relationships and partnerships			
1	Participate in community events	Jaclyn	Participated in local parades, the DPS open house, Movies in the Park	
2	Establish a plan to engage staff and Board in outreach events	Jaclyn		
3	Develop a plan for requests for Book Bike appearances	Jaclyn	no cost, staff time to manage requests	
4	Establish "Get to Know the Library" events	Programming Staff		
C	Develop an external marketing and communication plan			
1	Identify additional marketing outlets			
2	Update library logo/branding after Bham establishes theirs	Jaclyn, Michelle H, Staff, Board	\$500 in design fees	
3	Develop passive advertising - car stickers, license plate frames, t-shirts, etc to be displayed by Library users	Jaclyn, Michelle H, Staff, Board	\$700, FOL donation	Ordered vinyl stickers, pens, and magnifiers for outreach giveaways
37				
Strategic Goal V: Personnel & Organization - Train, empower, and equip members of the organization to best support users and each other				
	Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	
A	Support a learning culture that encourages innovation and risk-taking to develop new services and programs that meet the unique character of the communities we serve.			
1	Expand transparent communication, policies, and shared documentation	Director, AD, Department Heads, Employees	None	
B	Attract and retain well-qualified staff who are inclusive and welcoming to all			
1	Conduct a compensation study to ensure that BPL is providing a pay structure for all positions that is fair, competitive, and equitable both internally and externally.	Director	none	Completed annually during budget process

2	Develop onboarding plan to train all new hires	Administrative Assistant & Department Heads	none	
3	Establish an onboarding process for volunteers, including review of expectations for Library representatives	Director & Assistant Director		
C	Identify and provide opportunities for staff growth			
1	Review and assess opportunities for job shadowing, cross training, and cross departmental teams to expand staff knowledge and leadership opportunities			
2	Research library and retail trends to determine how they can best benefit Baldwin's community	All Staff		
3	Empower staff and supervisors with quality training, tools, resources, and spaces	Management Team		
4	Offer training in Library advocacy so all staff can speak to the importance of the Library in the community	Director		
5	Create opportunities for staff to learn from each other and the broader library field, as we improve our efforts to serve our patrons	Management Team		
6	Encourage staff participation in professional conferences and organizations	Management Team		This year, more than 80% of the Adult Services department attended an in person national or statewide conference. 100% of AS staff has taken some form of self directed training, webinar, etc.
Strategic Goal VI: Financial - Maintain and improve financial health				
	Strategic Objective & Action Plan	Responsibility	Expenses budgeted/used	
A	Analyze current and future expenses and identify cost-saving opportunities			
1	Act as stewards of the yearly budget by reviewing and analyzing all expenditures	Director	none	
2	Recommend changes and cost reductions	Director		
3	Evaluate current staffing structure and recommend adjustments	Director		
4	Identify areas for optimization and consolidation	Director		
B	Analyze current and future revenue and identify potential revenue streams			

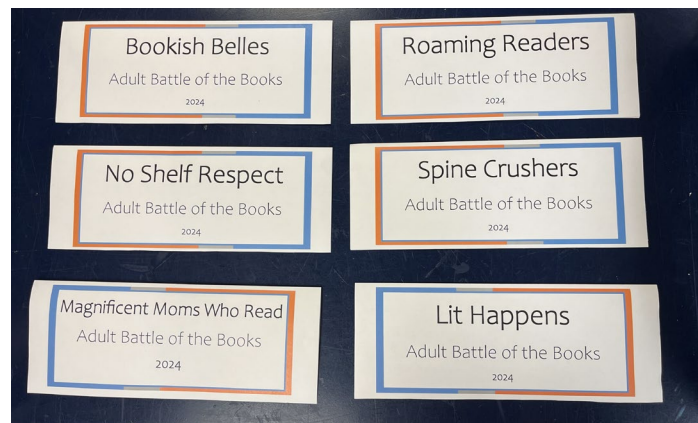
1	Identify current Library revenue streams and how much they generate currently and in the future	Director		
2	Explore other revenue sources, including grants, notary public services, and meeting room utilization	Director		Received Library of Michigan Grants for staff members to attend PLA, Computers in Libraries, totalling \$13,000
3	Strengthen relationships with the City Commission, City Administration, citizens, and businesses for strong and continued millage support	Director		
4	Identify and develop increased revenue from fundraising sources (Trust, Friends, grants, sponsorships, special events, etc.)	Director		
C	Maintain awareness of economic trends			
1	Identify sources of economic trend information	Bookkeeper		
2	Follow national library financial trends	Director		
3	Engage with professional financial services	Director		
4	Publish economic outlook with annual budget	Director		

Program Photos

Thank you to the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library for generously sponsoring each of these programs!

Adult Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books for Adults on August 1 was a success! We had 6 teams registered, who showed up ready for some friendly but fierce competition. Staff polled the attendees and “Small Things Like These” was the overall favorite battle book from the 5 choices. The winning team was Magnificent Moms Who Read. The Bookish Belles went all in with matching shirts, and all six groups entered under super creative team names.



Baffling Bill's Magic of Reading Show

Summer Reading has been a great opportunity to reintroduce outside presenters to our programming schedule, for the first time since 2019. On July 16, Baffling Bill brought his Magic of Reading show to BPL to amaze all 111 participants in attendance. One attendee said he was "funny, engaging and just a true delight! Thanks to BPL & the Friends for all the wonderful summer content that BPL offers!"

Cookbook Club

Cookbook Club made a delicious return after a three-year hiatus! Those who attended regularly before the pandemic were excited for its return, and those who joined for the first time are already planning on attending our next meeting. The evening was filled with laughter and lively conversation as everyone shared stories about making their recipes from the cookbook and tried each other's recipes. In an effort to keep the program ecofriendly, the attendees will use glass plates personalized in the Idea Lab.



DIY Terrific Tiles

Youth Librarian Susan Dion led a group of creative attendees in the decorating of their own ceramic coaster to take home.



Lunar Night Lights

Adult Librarian Stuart Sturton led this craft program for 29 patrons, utilizing Translucent Yupo Paper, Card Stock, LED Night Lights and a mixture of regular and metallic watercolor paints to create stunning replicas of that most ancient celestial body more commonly referred to as the moon.



Painted Book Edges Program

Teen Librarian Haylie May coordinated a program on July 17 to allow people to get creative with books that were otherwise headed for recycling. Participants had a chance to paint designs along the paper edges of withdrawn copies.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Youth Librarians Josh and Alyssa hosted 54 kids for a special sleepover themed story time, after which the people left and the stuffed animals stayed behind for an overnight adventure in the library.



Baldwin Public Library: Friends Funds	
July 2024 Expenditures	
Adult Services	
Books Unshelved	\$ 19.98
Totebag Program	\$ 28.97
Painted Book Edge Program	\$ 200.71
Cookbook Club	\$ 93.31
Lunar Nights Program	\$ 352.65
Presenter Fee - Hair-apy	\$ 500.00
Presenter Fee - Cold Case	\$ 150.00
Snacks, Water, Coffee	\$ 17.87
Total	\$ 1,363.49
Teen Services	
Pizza - Book Club	\$ 60.96
Books Unboxed	\$ 182.03
Studio Ghibli program	\$ 238.67
Chocolate Olympics program	\$ 73.91
Super Smash Bros tourney	\$ 24.00
Nerf Wars Presenter Fee	\$ 425.00
Water	\$ 7.99
Summer Reading Prizes - Books	\$ 11.76
Total	\$ 1,024.32
Youth Services	
Paw Patrol Programs	\$ 185.08
Marble Run Program	\$ 33.41
Sensory Adventures Program	\$ 7.94
No Bake recipes program	\$ 42.79
Unicorn Program	\$ 89.87
Chess Program	\$ 41.04
Books Unboxed	\$ 138.14
Water	\$ 15.98
General crafts	\$ 46.47
Total	\$ 600.72
Idea Lab	
MAF Vinyl cutter - casters, refund	\$ (1,284.00)
Speaker Kit program	\$ 476.05
Total	\$ (807.95)
Outreach & Equipment	
Total	\$ -
Total Expenditures \$ 2,180.58	
June 2024 Balances	
Adult Services	\$ 10,154.79
Teen Services	\$ 2,217.11
Youth Services	\$ 2,746.80
Idea Lab	\$ 4,043.22

Outreach & Equipment	\$ 6,646.74
Total Balance	\$ 25,808.66
July In-Library Book & Button Sale Cash Donations	
Submitted by Jaclyn Miller for August 12, 2024	\$ 1,161.85

NEW BUSINESS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2025
TO: Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors
FROM: Rebekah Craft, Library Director
SUBJECT: Proposed 2025 Calendar

INTRODUCTION

Following this page is the proposed 2025 Library calendar.

We are moving our staff development days to be held every 18 months. Our next staff development day will be held in March 2026.

The religious and federal holidays included in this calendar are in accordance with the City's adopted holiday calendar. No Board activity is to occur on any of the listed holidays.

We identified the following conflicts and have proposed new meeting dates:

- **CONFLICT #1:** President's Day is the third Monday of February.
We propose moving the February board meeting to Monday, February 24, 2025.
- **CONFLICT #2:** Friends October board meeting falls on Shemini Atzeret.
The Friends are in agreement that they move their meeting to Tuesday, October 28, 2025.
- **CONFLICT #3:** October Library board meeting falls on Diwali.
We propose moving the October board meeting to Monday, October 27, 2025
- **CONFLICT #4:** Friends November board meeting falls on Veterans Day.
The Friends are in agreement that they move their meeting to Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Additional library closure suggested:

Independence Day falls on a Friday in 2025. We propose closing the library on Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6, to give staff a full weekend off. No staff will be paid holiday pay for Saturday and Sunday and this will save the library approximately \$1,500 on personnel costs for employees who do not earn time benefits.

SUGGESTED BOARD ACTION

Motion to approve the 2025 Library calendar as found on the following pages of the August 2024 Board Packet.

Baldwin Public Library: Proposed 2025 Calendar

Wednesday, January 1, 2025	Closed	New Year's Day
Tuesday, January 7, 2025	No Board activity	Orthodox Christmas
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2025	Closed	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wednesday, January 22, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Saturday, January 25, 2025	8:30 AM	City Commission Long Range Planning Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2025	No Board activity	Chinese New Year
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2025	No Board activity	President's Day
Monday, February 24, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	No Board activity	Ash Wednesday
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2025	No Board activity	Purim
Friday, March 14, 2025	No Board activity	Holi
Monday, March 17, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Sunday, March 30, 2025	No Board activity	Eid al-Fitr
Monday, March 31, 2025	No Board activity	Eid al-Fitr
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Saturday, April 12, 2025	No Board activity	Passover begins
Thursday, April 17, 2025	No Board activity	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 18, 2025	No Board activity	Good Friday, Holy Friday
Sunday, April 20, 2025	Closed	Easter, Pasca, Passover ends
Monday, April 21, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Saturday, April 26, 2025	8:30 AM	City Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, May 19, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Saturday, May 24, 2025	Closed	Memorial Day Weekend
Sunday, May 25, 2025	Closed	Memorial Day Weekend
Monday, May 26, 2025	Closed	Memorial Day
Monday, June 2, 2025	No Board activity	Shavuot
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	No Board activity	Shavuot
Saturday, June 7, 2025	No Board activity	Eid al-Adha
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, June 16, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Closed	Juneteenth
Friday, July 4, 2025	Closed	Independence Day
Saturday, July 5, 2025	Closed	Independence Day Weekend
Sunday, July 6, 2025	No Board activity	Ashura
Sunday, July 6, 2025	Closed	Independence Day Weekend
Monday, July 21, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Saturday, August 30, 2025	Closed	Labor Day Weekend
Sunday, August 31, 2025	Closed	Labor Day Weekend
Monday, September 1, 2025	Closed	Labor Day
Tuesday, September 9, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2025	No Board activity	Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 24, 2025	No Board activity	Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, October 2, 2025	No Board activity	Yom Kippur
Tuesday, October 7, 2025	No Board activity	Sukkot
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	No Board activity	Sukkot
Monday, October 13, 2025	No Board activity	Indigenous Peoples' Day
Monday, October 13, 2025	No Board activity	Sukkot Ends
Tuesday, October 14, 2025	No Board activity	Shemini Atzeret
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	No Board activity	Simchat Torah
Monday, October 20, 2025	No Board activity	Diwali
Monday, October 27, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2025	No Board activity	General Election Day
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	No Board activity	Veterans Day
Monday, November 17, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 26, 2025	Close at 5:30 PM	Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Closed	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 28, 2025	Closed	Native American Heritage Day
Monday, December 8, 2025	No Board activity	Bodhi Day
Sunday, December 14, 2025	No Board activity	Hanukkah begins
Monday, December 15, 2025	7:30 PM	Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 24, 2025	Closed	Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 25, 2025	Closed	Christmas Day
Friday, December 26, 2025	No Board activity	Kwanzaa
Wednesday, December 31, 2025	Closed	New Year's Eve
Thursday, January 1, 2026	Closed	New Year's Day

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2025
TO: Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors
FROM: Rebekah Craft, Library Director
SUBJECT: Proposed changes to Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy

INTRODUCTION

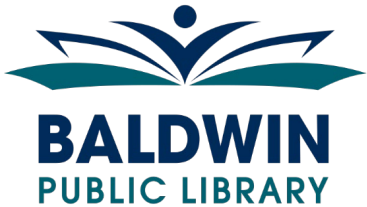
Upon review of the updated Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy in June 2024, staff members in Adult Services noted that the new policy does not reflect current computer use practices in the department.

We suggest the following changes to the first paragraph of the section covering Use of Library Computing Resources and Network:

Users with a registered BPL card or a computer user account are guaranteed two hours of public computer use per day with no extensions. Guest passes are also available for 30 minutes per day with no extensions. ~~are granted a specified amount of access time per day; additional time may be given if there are no users waiting. Some workstations are limited to children, parents and guardians of children, and/or young adults. For~~ users wishing to use computers for longer than two hours per day, BPL offers Internet to Go kits for checkout that include a Chromebook and Wi-Fi hotspot.

SUGGESTED BOARD ACTION

Motion to adopt the changes to the Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy on the following pages.



Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | www.baldwinlib.org

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) provides Internet access through loaned computers and through its affiliated network. Users may bring their own devices or borrow BPL's devices, such as laptops, workstations, or hot spots.

Use of Library Computing Resources and Network

Users with a registered BPL card or a computer user account are guaranteed two hours of public computer use per day with no extensions. Guest passes are also available for 30 minutes per day with no extensions. ~~are granted a specified amount of access time per day; additional time may be given if there are no users waiting. Some workstations are limited to children, parents and guardians of children, and/or young adults.~~ For users wishing to use computers for longer than two hours per day, BPL offers Internet to Go kits for checkout that include a Chromebook and Wi-Fi hotspot.

All computer resources must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others and taking care of the equipment.

Accessing Information

BPL does not monitor and has no control over the information available on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet and its resources may contain material that may be deemed controversial or inappropriate by certain users. BPL does not restrict access or protect users from information that they may find offensive, except as provided by law or specifically delineated in this Policy (see Filtering, Prohibited Activities). Users access the Internet at their own discretion and are expected to abide by this Policy's rules and regulations.

Parents and guardians of children under the age of 18, not BPL staff, are responsible for their children's use of the Internet through BPL's connection.

Filtering

Although BPL does not control the information available on the Internet, BPL does enforce certain automated filtering of content accessed through its networks and devices, such as that suspected to be illegal, obscene, sexually explicit or harmful to minors. As this filtering may misidentify content, users who believe that a site has been mistakenly filtered can submit a request to the Library Director to have the site filter removed. If the administrative staff determines that the site does not contain any such material, then the administrative staff may authorize the system wide unblocking of the site. The user will be informed of the decision in writing. The decision may be appealed by submitting a written request to BPL staff. BPL staff shall then schedule a hearing before the Library Board and shall notify the user requesting the hearing in writing at least seven days before the hearing.

Prohibited Activities

Users may not produce profane or loud noises while using electronic devices. Noises must not be louder than the general noise level for the area.

Users may not use any electronic device to create, send, receive or display images that are obscene, illegal or sexually explicit. (Refer to [BPL's Code of Conduct](#).)

Users must abide by copyright laws pertaining to the Internet. Activities including uploading, downloading or copying copyrighted materials may infringe on copyright law unless permission is granted by a copyright owner. Unless an exception is granted, the transmission of copyrighted materials is prohibited.

Users are prohibited from using identification other than their own to access the Internet. This includes the unauthorized use of another's Library card and PIN, and usernames and passwords on websites.

Any activities that are intended to disrupt the network, services on the network, or physical equipment are prohibited.

Violation

BPL's computers, network, and Internet connection may not be used for any illegal activity or in any manner in violation of [BPL's Code of Conduct](#). Anyone committing illegal acts will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Users violating this Policy will be asked to comply by staff. In response to serious or repeated violations of this Policy, BPL reserves the right to terminate a user's session, ask a user to leave the BPL building, and/or prevent a user from using BPL's computers, network, or Internet connection.

BPL reserves the right to remotely monitor and access all public access computers for customer support, maintenance, and security purposes.

Precautions

Files downloaded from the Internet, through BPL's network, or from BPL computers may contain malware that may infect other computers. BPL is not responsible for damage or loss that may occur from the use of BPL's computers, network, or Internet connection, and users use these resources at their own risk.

Users are responsible for ensuring that their personal data is not compromised when using BPL's computers, network, or Internet connection. Accessing, sending, or connecting information to BPL's computers, network, or Internet connection is done at the sole risk of the user. BPL has no control over the security of a user's data.

INFORMATION ONLY

Upcoming Events of Interest

Oakland County Water Authority

Wednesday, August 21 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a question and answer session with Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, Jim Nash as he talks about environmental sustainability, green building, and regional cooperation. Registration required. Hybrid event. Attend in person (with an IN-PERSON ticket) or virtually (with a VIRTUAL ticket). Registration opens May 1, 2024 and closes 1 hour before the event begins.

Books and Blankets Outdoor Family Story Time

Saturday, August 24 — 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

All ages with grown up(s). Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Hosted offsite at Barnum Park. Please leave all pets at home. Bring a blanket and enjoy a story time that is fun for the whole family. Story time will be moved indoors at the Library in case of inclement weather. No registration required.

Brick Builders Tallest Tower Challenge: Grades 1 to 3

Monday, August 26 — 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Registration opens one month before the program. For children entering grades 1 to 3 in the fall. Caregivers must stay in the building during the program if the participant is ten years old or younger. Create your own unique idea or participate in a building challenge with LEGO bricks. Registration required.

Canva

Wednesday, August 28 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Learn the fundamentals of Canva, a free-to-use online graphic design tool.

Idea Lab Event: The Grand Tour

Wednesday, September 4 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Have you always wondered what the Idea Lab is all about, but were afraid to ask? In these events, Jeff will take you on a tour of the Idea Lab, including a quick demo of our exciting equipment. Registration required.

Fall Pumpkin Eucalyptus Hoop Wreath

Saturday, September 7 — 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun and festive craft program this October! In this program, you'll create a beautiful fall-themed gold hoop wreath featuring pumpkin and eucalyptus. All materials will be supplied, so you can just relax and let your creativity flow. This event is open to crafters of all levels, so whether you're a seasoned pro or a complete beginner, you're sure to have a great time. Registration required. Attend in person only.

Kidszone @ the Farmers Market

Sunday, September 8 — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Baldwin is hosting the KidsZone @ the Birmingham Farmers Market! Stop by during market hours to complete a fun craft.

How the Saginaw Trail became Woodward and shaped Birmingham

Thursday, September 12 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Learn how a path created by Indigenous people of the area became the most important road in southeast Michigan—Woodward Avenue—and determined the shape and fate of Birmingham. Presented by Leslie Pielack of the Birmingham Museum.

Phase 3: Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, September 15 — 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please join us for the ribbon cutting & grand reopening of the Baldwin Public Library's Front Entrance & Access Services Area. The open house will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the library's atrium and plaza. The ribbon cutting and public remarks will begin at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

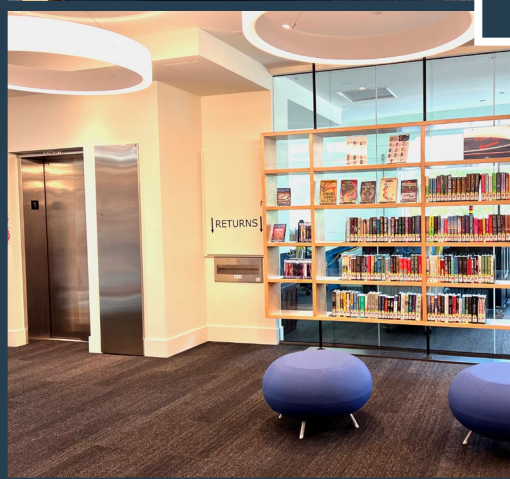
LEARN CONNECT DISCOVER

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

- 2 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
- 4 PROGRAMS FOR TEENS
ADULT BOOK CLUBS
- 5 COMPUTER CLASSES
IDEA LAB
- 6 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
- 7 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
LIBRARY BOARD



**BALDWIN
CELEBRATES**
THE END OF
CONSTRUCTION!



BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ▶ SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BIRMINGHAM, BEVERLY HILLS, BINGHAM FARMS, & BLOOMFIELD HILLS

FALL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

BABIES TO GRADE 6

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK THE WEBSITE (BALDWINLIB.ORG/CALENDAR) FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION AND LOCATIONS BEFORE HEADING TO ANY EVENT.

Program registration opens one month in advance.

SEPTEMBER



KIDS ZONE AT THE FARMERS MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Baldwin is hosting the Kids Zone at the Birmingham Farmers Market. Stop by during market hours to complete a fun craft!



FALL TAKE & MAKE CRAFT

BEST FOR PRESCHOOL TO GRADE 2
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Stop by the library for an envelope of fall surprises! **First come, first served.**



TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

GRADES 1 TO 3
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
AT 4:30 P.M.

Ahoy, matesys! Celebrate Talk Like a Pirate Day by making your own treasure map, pirate name, pirate flag and more. **Registration required.**

VIDEO GAMING CLUB

GRADES 4 TO 6
MONDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 30: MARIO KART 8 DELUXE

NOVEMBER 11: SONIC X SHADOW GENERATIONS

Meet up with other gamers to play a video game together. All gaming abilities are welcome. **Registration required.**

BOOKS UNBOXED



GRADES 4 TO 12

Join our three month subscription book service and receive a surprise library book tailored to

your preference each month. Visit www.baldwinlib.org/youth to subscribe now.

OCTOBER

SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK

GRADES 4 TO 6

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us for a spooky evening of reading *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz. Participants will take turns reading by flashlight. **Registration required.**



NOT-SO-SPOOKY HALLOWEEN CRAFTS

GRADES K TO 2

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 4:30 P.M.

Get in the Halloween spirit by creating a variety of crafts to take home with you. **Registration required.**

STORY/ARTS

GRADES 1 TO 3

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 4:30 P.M.

Create pieces of art using different techniques and learn about the artists who made them popular. *No art experience needed.* **Registration required.**

FLUFFY PUMPKIN SLIME

GRADES 4 TO 6

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 7:00 P.M.

Celebrate the season by making fluffy pumpkin slime from scratch. You can also decorate a jar to take the slime home in. **Registration required.**

NO BAKE KIDS RECIPES

GRADES 3 TO 6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29
AT 4:30 P.M.

Create tasty treats without using an oven. This month we are making Dirt Cups! **Registration required.**

HAUNTED LIBRARY

GRADES 4-12

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

AN AFTER-HOURS EVENT

FOR GRADES 4 TO 6 AND 7 TO 12
Your favorite annual program is back! The Library is turning into a haunted house, and the 4-6 graders will try to scare the 4-6 graders! You will take a tour of the library in the dark. **Registration and signed permission slip required.**

NOVEMBER

BUTTON MAKING

GRADES 1 TO 3

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 4:30 P.M.

Design and make your own buttons to pin on your clothes or backpack. Use a pre-made design or create your own. **Registration required.**

BALDWIN'S BIBLIOPHILE BONANZA

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

Readers of all ages are encouraged to drop by the Library as we welcome local writers to Baldwin's first ever local author fair. Discover your next great read or the perfect holiday gift while getting to know some of the writers in the area for youth, teens, and adults. **No registration required.**

TEA WITH REX

PRESCHOOL TO GRADE 2 WITH GROWN UP(S)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 4:30 P.M.

Join us for a dinosaur themed fancy dress tea party with stories, snacks, and even a special guest. **Registration required.**

BRICK BUILDERS

GRADES 1 TO 3

MONDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 23: BUILD YOUR

DREAM HOUSE

OCTOBER 28: BUILD A LEGO

MONSTER

NOVEMBER 25: BUILD A RAMP



Junior builders are welcome to join in the fun of building with LEGO bricks. Create your own unique idea or participate in a building challenge. **Registration required.**



KIDS LIBRARY SOCIETY

GRADES 3 TO 6

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 19 · OCTOBER 17 · NOVEMBER 21

Do you want to be more involved with the Library, hang out with friends and play some games? Join us for monthly meetings to talk about Library programs and play games.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS



WIGGLE WORMS DROP IN

BIRTH TO 2 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)

FRIDAYS FROM 10:30 TO 11:30 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 27 • OCTOBER 25 • NOVEMBER 15

Drop in between 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for open-ended, unstructured play with your child and to socialize with other families. **No registration required.**



BOOK SCAVENGERS

GRADES K TO 1

WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 16

NOVEMBER 20

Enjoy a scavenger hunt, stories, and activities at this program designed to encourage a love of books and reading. **Registration required.**



FAMILY BOARD GAME CLUB

GRADES 1 TO 6 WITH GROWN UP(S)

SATURDAYS AT 2:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 14 • OCTOBER 26 • NOVEMBER 16

Kids and caregivers are invited to play a variety of fun children's board games at the Library. We have games for a wide variety of ages and skills. **No registration required.**



RUFF READERS

AGES 6 & UP

TUESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 17

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 19

Sign up for a ten minute time slot to read to a registered Alliance of Therapy Dogs dog. Therapy dogs enjoy being read to and offer a non-judgmental, creative and fun opportunity for children while encouraging reading confidence.



PROJECT KIDSIGHT VISION SCREENING FOR KIDS

SATURDAYS FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

SEPTEMBER 28 • OCTOBER 12 • NOVEMBER 16

This free vision screening for ages 6 months and older is fast, non-invasive, and has an accuracy rating of 98%.

Sponsored by the Beverly Hills Lions Club.

BOOK CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

Visit our Book Clubs page at baldwinlib.org/book-clubs for more upcoming book selections.

Adventures IN BOOKS

GRADES 1 TO 3

WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 9: *FRANNY K STEIN: LUNCH WALKS*

AMONG US BY JIM BENTON

NOVEMBER 13: *THE SECRET OF THE JADE BANGLE*

BY LINDA TRINH

Email Syntha at syntha.green@baldwinlib.org to register.

BEYOND the Book

GRADES 1 TO 3

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 24: *ROAR! 100 FUN FACTS ABOUT AFRICAN ANIMALS* BY STEPHANIE WARREN DRIMMER

NOVEMBER 14: *WE ARE GRATEFUL: OSTALIHELIGA*

BY TRACI SORELL

Email Rosemary at rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org to register.

KIDS GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

GRADES 3 TO 6

MONDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 21: *THE GRAVEYARD BOOK*

BY NEIL GAIMAN

NOVEMBER 18: *SQUISHED* BY MEGAN LLOYD

Email Josh at josh.campeau@baldwinlib.org to register.

mother/DAUGHTER

GRADES 4 TO 6 AND MOMS

TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 8: *ADVENTURES OF A GIRL CALLED BICYCLE* BY CHRISTINA USS

NOVEMBER 12: *FINALLY SEEN* BY KELLY YANG

Email Susan at susan.dion@baldwinlib.org to register.

BOOKS AND BAGELS

GRADES 4 TO 6

TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 22: *CITY SPIES* BY JAMES PONTI

NOVEMBER 26: *CONTROL FREAKS* BY J.E. THOMAS

Email Susan at susan.dion@baldwinlib.org to register.

Kids COOKBOOK club

GRADES 3 TO 6

MONDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 28: *COOKING CLASS GLOBAL FEAST! 44 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S CULTURES*

BY DEANNA F. COOK

Email Syntha at syntha.green@baldwinlib.org to register.

WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

GRADES 4 TO 6

THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 7: *WHERE IS THE GRAND CANYON*

BY JIM O'CONNOR

Email Rosemary at rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org to register.

moms BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 16: *A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES*

BY JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE

Email Susan at susan.dion@baldwinlib.org to register.

STORY TIMES

Story times use a first come, first served ticketing system starting 15 minutes before the story time starts. Visit our story time page at baldwinlib.org/storytime for dates and more information. **Weekly story times run September 3 through December 12. No story times the week of October 21.**

SING & TELL

2.5 YEARS TO 3.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)

MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

Join Ms. Susan as she reads stories and rhymes, sings songs, and more.

WIGGLE & RHYME

BIRTH TO 1.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)

TUESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

Join Ms. Stephanie for a lapsit story time with singing, clapping, tapping, and more.

TODDLER TALES

1.5 YEARS TO 2.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

Join Ms. Rosemary for stories, songs, and rhymes.

BOOKS & BOOGIE

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

Join Ms. Alyssa for stories and songs that get you moving.

BEDTIME TALES

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.

Join Ms. Syntha for end-of-day stories, rhymes, and songs.

MADE TO MOVE

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

TUESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 10 • OCTOBER 1 • NOVEMBER 5

Join Ms. Caroline for books, songs, and fingerplays that will get the whole family moving and grooving.

BOOKS AND BLANKETS FAMILY STORY TIME

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

SATURDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. AT THE LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 21 • OCTOBER 19 • NOVEMBER 23

Bring a blanket and enjoy a story time that is fun for the whole family!



WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG
248-647-1700

FALL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

GRADES 7 TO 12

*PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS AND YOUNGER SIBLINGS MAY NOT ATTEND TEEN PROGRAMS.

**CONTACT TEEN@BALDWINLIB.ORG TO SPECIFY ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.

SEPTEMBER

POP-TART TASTE TEST CHALLENGE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

Take a blind taste-test of the many flavors of Pop-Tarts that are available. You will attempt to identify the flavors and then vote for your favorites. **Registration required.**

OCTOBER

AMIGURUMI WORKSHOP

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 12 AND 19
FROM 3:00 TO 4:30 P.M.

Amigurumi is the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting small, stuffed yarn creatures. In the first class, the instructor will go over the basics of crochet and you will learn the techniques. In the second class, you will crochet a cute bat. **Registration is required and attendance at both sessions is highly recommended.**

HAUNTED LIBRARY

GRADES 4-12
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

AN AFTER-HOURS EVENT FOR GRADES 4 TO 6 AND 7 TO 12
Your favorite annual program is back! The Library is turning into a haunted house, and it needs spooky teen actors to scare the 4-6 graders! Please wear dark clothes or a creepy costume. *The Library has some costumes available to borrow.*
Registration and signed permission slip required.

WEDNESDAY TRIVIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

How well do you know the Netflix series *Wednesday*? Show off your knowledge during Trivia Night. We recommend teams of 2-6 players. Snacks and prizes will be provided. **All ages welcome.**
Registration required.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PIZZA AND PAGES

1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 5: *ELATSOE* BY DARCIE LITTLE BADGER
OCTOBER 3: *SUGGESTED READING* BY DAVE CONNIS
NOVEMBER 7: *FIVE SURVIVE* BY HOLLY JACKSON
The first 10 teens to register will receive a free book to keep. Pizza will be provided.
Registration required.

TEENS NIGHT OUT

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 11

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 13

Spend an evening hanging out with other teens who love the library as much as you do! There will be video games, board games, crafts, food, and other shenanigans. **Registration required.**

NEW DAY!

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

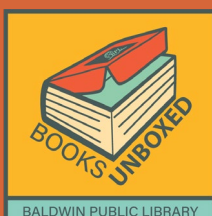
SEPTEMBER 19

OCTOBER 17

NOVEMBER 21

Have some ideas for the Library? Share your opinions on teen programs, books, prizes, trends, and more while eating pizza and making friends. Attendance can be used for volunteer hours!
Registration required.

BOOKS UNBOXED



BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GRADES 4 TO 12

Join our three month subscription book service and receive a surprise library book tailored to your preference each month.

Visit www.baldwinlib.org/youth to subscribe now.

BOOK CLUBS FOR ADULTS

BPL BOOK CLUBS MEET ON ZOOM OR HYBRID (IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM). FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO ONE OF THE MEETINGS, PLEASE EMAIL ADULT.REFERENCE@BALDWINLIB.ORG.

PAGE TO SCREEN

FIRST SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 8: *THE SCIENCE OF INTERSTELLAR* BY THORNE / INTERSTELLAR (PG-13, 2014)

OCTOBER 6: *ORLANDO* BY WOOLF / ORLANDO (PG-13, 1992)

NOVEMBER 3: *THE HOURS* BY CUNNINGHAM / THE HOURS (PG-13, 2002)

NEXT POPULAR READS

FIRST MONDAY AT 1:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 9: *GO AS A RIVER* BY SHELLEY READ

OCTOBER 7: *REAL AMERICANS* BY RACHEL KHONG

NOVEMBER 4: *SOMEONE LIKE US* BY DINAW MENGESTU

GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR GROWNUPS

FIRST TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 3: *ABBOTT* BY SALADIN AHMED

OCTOBER 1: *THE TALK* BY DARRIN BELL

NOVEMBER 5: *SHUBEIK LUBEIK* BY DEENA MOHAMED

NEXT NONFICTION

SECOND TUESDAY AT 10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 10: *SOLITO* BY JAVIER ZAMORA

OCTOBER 8: *EXTREMELY ONLINE* BY TAYLOR LORENZ

NOVEMBER 12: *YELLOW BIRD: OIL, MURDER, AND A WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN INDIAN COUNTRY* BY SIERRA CRANE MURDOCH

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

SECOND WEDNESDAY AT 2:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 11: *A PALE VIEW OF HILLS* BY KAZUO ISHIGURO

OCTOBER 9: *THE ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LENNI AND MARGOT* BY MARIANNE CRONIN

NOVEMBER 13: *THE HOUSE OF BROKEN ANGELS* BY LUIS ALBERTO URREA

THIRD TUESDAY

THIRD TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 17: *CAVE OF BONES* BY LEE BERGER AND JOHN HAWKS

OCTOBER 15: *KILLER OF A CERTAIN AGE* BY DEANNA RAYBOURN

NOVEMBER 19: *CALLING FOR A BLANKET DANCE* BY OSCAR HOKEAH

COOKBOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 6:00 P.M.

Join us for a delightful potluck-style gathering and meet the author! We'll savor the flavors of Michigan author Abra Beren's cookbook, "Ruffage," and hear from Abra herself. Prepare a dish from the book and share it with fellow food lovers. Registration opens August 1st. Please note that due to airborne peanut allergies, we kindly request avoiding any dishes containing peanuts. **Registration required. Please select the recipe upon registration. Attend in person only. Limit 40 attendees.**

FALL COMPUTER CLASSES

FOR ADULTS

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL COMPUTER CLASSES. VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK ONE HALF HOUR BEFORE CLASS.
FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES, VISIT BALDWINLIB.ORG/COMPUTER-CLASSES

SEPTEMBER

CANVA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 3:00 P.M.

YOUR DIGITAL WALLET

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 7:00 P.M.

WORD: AN INTRODUCTION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 3:00 P.M.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP:

AN INTRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 & 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

IN PERSON @ THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GOOGLE DOCS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 3:00 P.M.

CHECK OUT EBOOKS FROM

THE LIBRARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 3:00 P.M.

AI TOOLS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 3:00 P.M.

OCTOBER

POWERPOINT: CREATE A PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 3:00 P.M.

BUILD A WEBSITE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 & 9 AT 7:00 P.M.

GOOGLE SLIDES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 3:00 P.M.

NYT & WSJ FROM HOME

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 3:00 P.M.

CREATE A PHOTOBOOK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 3:00 P.M.

SMART TV

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 7:00 P.M.

CANVA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 3:00 P.M.

AI TOOLS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER

EXCEL: CREATE A BUDGET

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 3:00 P.M.

NYT & WSJ FROM HOME

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 7:00 P.M.

GOOGLE SHEETS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 3:00 P.M.

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR:

AN INTRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 7:00 P.M.

SELLING ONLINE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 7:00 P.M.

CHECK OUT EBOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 3:00 P.M.

AI TOOLS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 3:00 P.M.



THE IDEA LAB: CLASSES·KITS·LIVE

THE IDEA LAB IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE. STOP BY AND SEE WHAT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES THE IDEA LAB CAN OFFER YOU!

EVENT: THE GRAND TOUR

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 4 • OCTOBER 9 • NOVEMBER 6

Have you always wondered what the Idea Lab is all about, but were afraid to ask? In these events, Jeff will take you on a tour of the Idea Lab, including a quick demo of our exciting equipment. **Registration required.**

KIT: MICRO HYDROPONIC GARDEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

This kit comes with everything you need to make an indoor hydroponic garden! Utilizing a pump to recirculate moisture and nutrients, this micro hydro garden is a fun way to grow small plants indoors. Try it with herbs, or even tomatoes!

Registration required. Limit one per household.

LIVE & IN PERSON: COMPLETE THINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 7:00 P.M.

Sometimes, 3D print projects can be a bit vague; the designers give you the stl files, but not much else. In this episode of Idea Lab Things, Jeff will talk about 3D printable projects that are the complete package! With ingredients lists, clear instructions, maybe even purchasable hardware packages. Start with nothing and end up with a super cool project! **Registration required for in-person attendance.**

Simultaneously broadcast on Instagram Live.

CLASS: INTRO 3D PRINTING IN THE IDEA LAB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 7:00 P.M.

In this class, Jeff will teach you everything you need to know to utilize the Idea Lab's premiere 3D printing service. From ways to design and source your 3D models, to submitting 3D print requests to the Lab itself, this class is a great jumping-off point for anyone interested in 3D Printing. **Registration required.**

KIT: 3D PRINTED FILM CAMERA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

From the brilliant mind of camera designer Dora Goodman comes the Goodman Scura 35mm Pinhole Camera Kit. Made using a combination of 3D printed and laser-cut parts all created in The Idea Lab, this kit is a great introduction to the world of film photography. Comes with everything you need to build your own film camera, including a roll of 35mm film and a certificate to have your first roll developed at Woodward Camera in Birmingham. Sign up to build your camera and begin your photography journey! **Registration required. Limit one per household.**

CLASS: IT'S GREAT TO SUBLIMATE!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 7:00 P.M.

Take this class to learn all about the Idea Lab's Dye Sublimation Printer! With this machine you can create full color graphic prints directly onto T Shirts, mugs, and more! Jeff will show you the basics for using this clever machine. Can't make the class? Don't worry! Training for the Dye Sublimation Printer will be ongoing. **Registration required.**

EVENT: RETRO EXPO - AN INTERACTIVE EXPOSITION OF VINTAGE VIDEO GAMES AND COMPUTERS!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 FROM NOON TO 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 FROM NOON TO 5:00 P.M.

Join us for this exciting expo of vintage computers and games! Play classic games on authentic hardware and experience tech from the peak of the digital revolution! IBM, Apple, Toshiba, Nintendo, Sega, Playstation, and more! Do you have some tech you're proud of? *Register to reserve a table, and bring your own gear to the show!*

Registration required to exhibit gear.

No registration needed to attend.

FALL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

SEPTEMBER

FALL PUMPKIN EUCALYPTUS HOOP WREATH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 AT 3:00 P.M.

In this fun and festive program, you'll create a beautiful fall-themed wreath. All materials will be supplied. This event is open to crafters of all levels. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

MANHATTAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

MULTIPLE DATES SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 8

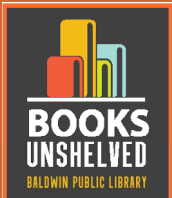
Back by popular demand! View and vote on the Finalists' Films in the 27th annual MANHATTAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL. See baldwinlib.org/calendar for specific dates. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

LIFELONG LEARNING

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 2

Lifelong learning is aimed at retirees with an interest in learning and discussion at a deeper level. For more information, or to sign up, please email: lifelonglearning.baldwinlib@gmail.com

BOOKS UNSHELVED



Join our three month subscription book service and receive a surprise library book tailored to your preference each month. Visit baldwinlib.org/books-unshelved to subscribe.

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With Comics Plus readers have unlimited, simultaneous access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels, manga, and picture books. Every title is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week— on computers, tablets, and phones. No holds, wait lists, or monthly borrowing limits. Baldwinlib.org/ebooks

OCTOBER

LOST AT SEA: A WORLD WAR II TALE OF COURAGE AND FAITH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join local author and WWII authority John Wukovits for the inspiring story of the famous aviator Eddie Rickenbacker and his 7 companions adrift on the Pacific Ocean while on a military mission in 1942. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

UFO DISCLOSURE RIGHT NOW?

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 7:00 P.M.

Is our Government about to reveal that the UFO/UAP phenomenon represents an intelligent but non-human phenomenon? Bill Konkolesky, Michigan's MUFON Director, will discuss the situation. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

INFUSIONS: A GLOBAL TEA JOURNEY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 7:00 P.M.

Come explore a variety of teas and enjoy an evening of delightful flavors under the guidance of Howard Davis from Harney & Sons Tea Company. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

WEDNESDAY TRIVIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

How well do you know the Netflix series *Wednesday*? Show off your knowledge during Trivia Night. We recommend teams of 2-6 players. Snacks and prizes will be provided. **All ages welcome. Registration required.**

HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

SECOND THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. ALL PROGRAMS: **Registration required. Hybrid event. Attend in person or virtually.**

SEPTEMBER 12: HOW THE SAGINAW TRAIL BECAME WOODWARD AND SHAPED BIRMINGHAM

Learn how a path created by the Indigenous people of the area became the most important road in southeast Michigan and impacted the fate of Birmingham.

OCTOBER 10: THE RISE AND FALL OF LIGHT RAIL IN BIRMINGHAM

Trolley transportation was a marvel for both personal and commercial travel. So, what caused the demise of the Detroit United Railway (DUR)?

NOVEMBER 14: BIRMINGHAM'S EARLY AVIATORS AND THEIR EXPLOITS

Birmingham had its share of men and women who took to the skies in the early 1900s, and at least one timeless love story is at the heart of it.

NOVEMBER

61 YEARS LATER: THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT 2:00 P.M.

Kennedy assassination expert Jay Hernandez joins us for a fact-based perspective into the events of 11/22/1963 and discusses how recently released classified documents shed new light on what we thought we knew. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

WRITING WORKSHOP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 7:00 P.M.

November is National Novel Writing Month and Baldwin will be hosting local published author Karen White-Owens to tell us about her best tips and techniques for getting your thoughts on paper. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

BEHIND THE SCENES OF DETROIT'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 7:00 P.M.

Come learn about the history and production of the Detroit Parade Company. Learn the ins and outs of parade float production. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

MASTERS OF THE AIR: AMERICAN BOMBER PILOTS OF WORLD WAR II

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join Brad Ziegler to hear true stories about some of America's young men who flew harrowing B-17 missions over German during the war. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

VIKINGS: FEARSOME RAIDERS AND ADVENTUROUS TRADERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 1:00 P.M.

Vikings are best known for being fearsome raiders. But they were also adventurous traders who established a vast trade network that spanned across continents. Join archaeologist Ellen Green and examine the evidence Vikings left behind in their voyages of plunder and trade. **Registration required. Attend virtually only.**

SOCRATES CAFE

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 17

This group meets at the library on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00 P.M. for thoughtful conversation on different topics. Contact the group's facilitator, Annis Pratt at avpratt@aol.com for an invitation to the virtual event.

FALL DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

ENJOY ALL OUR NEW OFFERINGS!

After nearly a decade of planning, design, and construction, our three-phase building improvement plan is now complete and we reopened our new street-level front entrance on July 9. This project was designed by MCD Architects, built by PCI Dailey, and administered by the City of Birmingham Building Department. The reception to the project has been fantastic and Baldwin staff members have enjoyed hearing all of the great feedback you have shared. If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, our new atrium is a light-filled and welcoming space that's perfect for meeting a friend to catch up, sharing a snack together after story time, playing mah-jongg or bridge, or studying in a bustling environment. Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 15 for our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new entry. The event will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., with remarks at 1:30 p.m.

In addition to our new entry, we're excited to debut several new programs and services this fall, including:

- Comics Plus offers digital comics for all ages and includes traditional comic books, graphic novels, manga, and comic strips. Users can download and read an unlimited amount of titles and there's no waiting or long hold lists. Find out more and check out items by visiting baldwinlib.org/ebooks.
- Baldwin's Best Bets is our new curated collection of 100 beloved books for teens and adults that spans all genres. If you're looking for a book that comes highly recommended, this is the collection for you. Three of my favorites include "A Place for Us" by Fatima Farheen Mirza, "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas, and "Into Thin Air" by John Krakauer.
- Baldwin's Bibliophile Bonanza, an event for local authors and readers who enjoy finding new books, will take place on Saturday, November 9 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Each author will set up a display table in our lower level to promote their books and visitors to the Bonanza will enjoy browsing books for all ages.

With the relocation of our book sorting machine and new information desk, we had to move our Teen Scene department a few hundred feet away. Be on the lookout for a new and improved Teen Scene later this fall.

Thank you for your support for and enthusiasm of Baldwin as we've worked to improve our physical space over the years. The library's transformation has been incredible in the 9 years I have worked at Baldwin and I am so happy that our physical space now matches the wonderful service that our staff provides to visitors each day.

Rebekah Craft, Library Director rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org 248-554-4681

BEHIND THE SCENES LIBRARY TOURS

- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 11:00 A.M.
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 4:00 P.M.
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 6:00 P.M.

Join Director Rebekah Craft for a behind the scenes tour of the library. You'll visit staff areas, learn how items are added to the collection, and hear about new programs and services. The tour will meet in the atrium. **Registration required.**

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST DONORS

APRIL 2024 TO JUNE 2024

TRIBUTE AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

THE BARBER POLE TO HONOR MICHELE DELLER
CHRISTINA SCHELL & JESSICA WAGNER
FOR JULIA DIANE FRENCH MEMORIAL TREE

GENERAL DONATIONS

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HANNA PROENZA
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TROTT FOUNDATION
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PAULA A. CADUCIO

LIBRARY BOARD



Board Members:

Danielle Rumble, Karen Rock, Melissa Mark, Wendy Friedman, Jennifer Wheeler, Frank Pisano

THE LIBRARY BOARD WILL MEET ON:
SEPTEMBER 16
OCTOBER 21
NOVEMBER 18
AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE LIBRARY.

BALDWIN ENTRY 1981



photo by Jack Kausch

BALDWIN ENTRY 2024



THANK YOU

Thanks to The Friends of the BPL and Jungle Java for sponsoring summer reading giveaways.

LIBRARY HOURS:

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

9:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

9:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 12:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

LIBRARY CLOSED:

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 2: LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 20: STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

NOVEMBER 27: CLOSE AT 5:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 28-29: THANKSGIVING

CONTACT US:

WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG

MAIN PHONE: 248-647-1700

ADULT SERVICES: 248-554-4650

CIRCULATION/RENEWALS: 248-554-4630

YOUTH SERVICES: 248-554-4670

IDEA LAB: 248-554-4659

PARKING:

2 Hours FREE Parking in the
Chester Street Deck

SUNDAYS: All Parking is Free

*Please note that all programs and events
may be transitioned to virtual, at the
discretion of the Library.



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**THANKS TO THE FOBPL FOR SPONSORING THE FALL 2024 ISSUE OF THE
LEARN.CONNECT.DISCOVER NEWSLETTER AND MANY OF OUR PROGRAMS!**

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**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO
FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 300 W. MERRILL, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009.**

UPCOMING 2024 BOOK SALE DATES

**4TH SATURDAY
SALES** (BPL LOWER LEVEL):

NOVEMBER 23
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

FALL BOOK SALE:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY

11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

OPEN SHOPPING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:30-4:00 P.M.

BAG DAY SALE

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Birds eat insect pests that would otherwise decimate agricultural crops, gardens, and other vegetation. Birds eat 400–500 tons of insects per year.



Birds such as hummingbirds help pollinate plants.

Birds like hawks and owls help keep the mouse and rat population in check.



Birds eat millions of mosquitoes and other biting insects each year.

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How many birds die by window strikes yearly?

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Why is the library considering this?

Baldwin is testing two panels of Feather Friendly dots for durability over the next year to see how the product holds up during a full year of weather conditions and window cleaning. If the Library Board is happy with the product after one year, it will consider installing this deterrent on all of the glass windows surrounding the Youth Room and the new addition. The approximate project cost is \$32,000.



Share your feedback

baldwinlib.org/birds





Library opens new expansion and addition

BIRMINGHAM — The Baldwin Public Library announced the opening of its new street-level front entrance and collaboration space July 10.

The \$4.1million project, funded through a voter-approved millage and donations to the library's trust, marks the end of the library's three-phase improvement plan. The first phase included the library's adult services wing and was completed in 2017. The youth room was expanded and renovated in 2020. This final phase of improvements broke ground a year ago and includes:

- An accessible street-level entrance equipped with an interior ramp and a passenger elevator.
- A 2,000-square-foot addition to house a new vending café and collaboration space.
- A 3,000-square-foot renovation of interior space with new furniture, flooring and energy-efficient lighting.
- A centrally located information and checkout desk with integrated holds shelving and self-checkout machines.
- Energy-efficient, glare-reducing glass windows and an underground water detention system.
- An outdoor plaza and gardens with native plantings.
- The addition of four private study rooms for one or two people.
- The Used Bookshop for the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library.

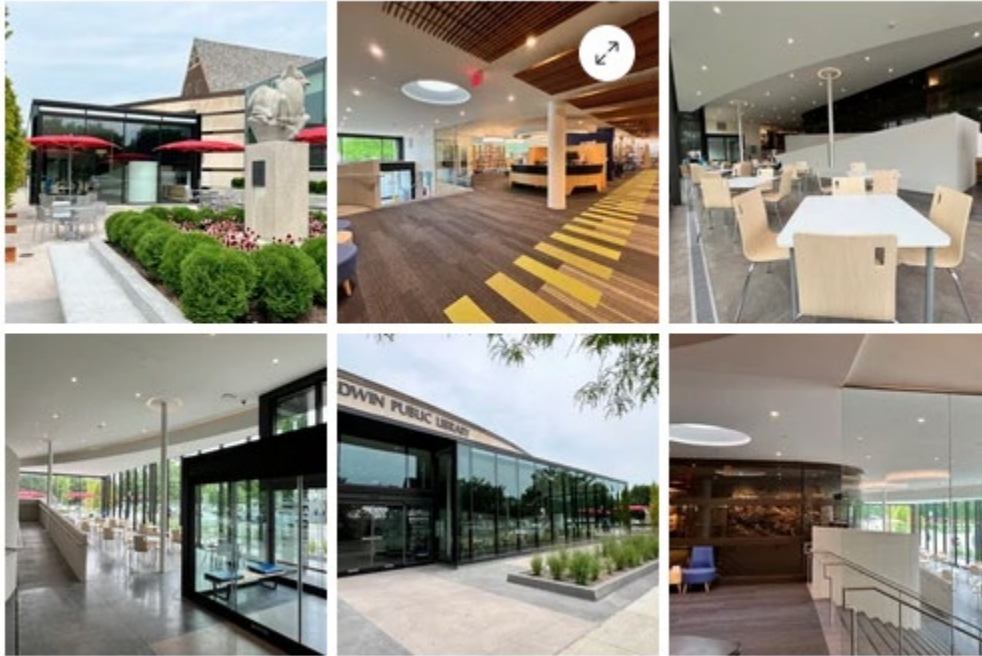
A ribbon cutting and grand reopening will be held 1-3 p.m. Sept. 15. For more information about the project, including budget updates, plans, progress photos, and past meeting information, visit www.baldwinlib.org/renovation.

The Baldwin Public Library is located in downtown Birmingham at 300 W. Merrill St.

Baldwin Library reopens with new entrance

July 12, 2024 – by Lisa Brody

<https://www.downtownpublications.com/single-post/baldwin-library-reopens-with-new-entrance>



Following a \$4.1 million project that has transformed its space and functionality, Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library announced the opening of its new street-level entrance and collaborative space after the completion of its third and final phase of improvements.

The library's \$4.1 million project was funded through the library's voter-approved millage and donations to the library's trust. It consisted of a three-phase improvement plan which reimagined and enlarged all of the library's spaces and many of its uses.

The first phase of renovations included the library's adult services wing and was completed in 2017. Then the youth room was expanded and renovated during the second phase of improvements in 2020.

The final phase of improvements broke ground in July 2023, and was designed to enrich the library experience for patrons of all ages and seamlessly connect the first two renovations together.

Among the key highlights of the project are a accessible street level entrance which is equipped with an interior ramp and passenger elevator; a 2,000 square foot addition to the library housing a new vending cafe and collaboration space; a centrally located information

and checkout desk with integrated holds shelving and self-checkout machines; and 3,000 square feet of renovated interior space with new furniture, flooring and energy efficient lighting.

Energy efficient, glare reducing glass windows and an underground water detention system were also added to the library.

There is also a new outdoor plaza and gardens with native plantings.

For those looking for privacy and quiet space, there is an addition of four private study rooms for one or two people. And the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library now have a Used Bookshop.

"I am so excited about offering all this new light-filled space for people to use and work together. Libraries have become third spaces in the past decade and we have been welcoming more and more visitors who are looking to study together or work collaboratively. I am happy we can now offer more space for our users to meet and work," said Jaclyn Miller, Baldwin's associate director.

The library board is working with local artist and muralist Wendy Popko to install a custom 30-foot mural above the new interior ramp that will be installed later this summer.

"Over the past nine years, we have worked diligently to update nearly all parts of this library to make it more accessible and inviting to our users. It is so exciting to reach the finish line and to be able to finally deliver a front entrance space that everyone can use. The challenging stairs and steep ramp of our previous entrance was an obstacle to many and that has been remedied with this addition," said Library Director Rebekah Craft.

MCD Architects in Farmington designed the project and integrated the new glass pavilion into the building's 1980 addition, originally designed by Gunnar Birkerts. PCI Dailey of Oak Park handled the construction management.

BIRMINGHAM STARS IN NEW UK TV SHOW

BY MARY GENSON
 mgenson@candgnews.com

BIRMINGHAM — Birmingham, Michigan, is home to unique art, culture and community. One thing less unique about the city is its name, which is shared with a major city in England and 17 other North American locations.

A production team from the United Kingdom recently stopped in Birmingham, Michigan, to film part of a series, “Joe Lycett’s United States of Birmingham.” During their travels, they plan to roadtrip across North America to visit different Birminghams and ultimately sign “Friendship Agreements” to form an official partnership.

Lycett, a popular comedian in the UK, will approach his travels through a warm and humorous tone.

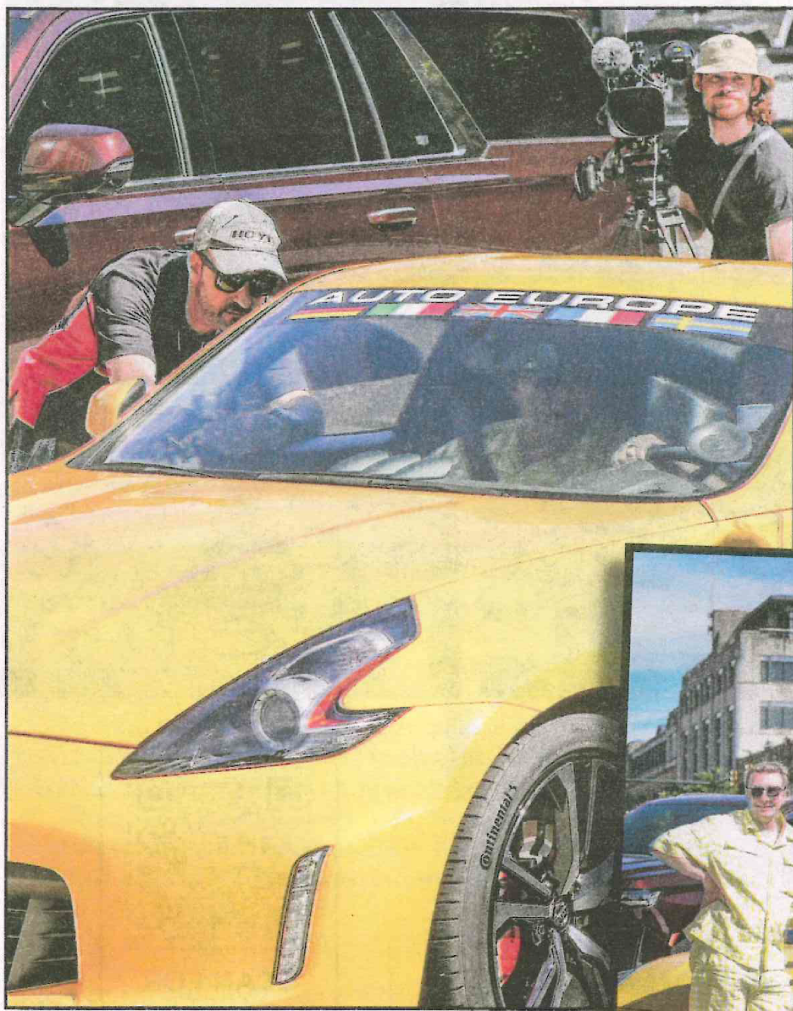
“Joe Lycett’s United States of Birmingham” will be a three-part series that sets out to not only celebrate Lycett’s home of Birmingham across the pond, but also to recognize the different cultures in the Birminghams of the United States.

“This is a sort of love letter to everywhere named Birmingham,” producer Jake Clifford said.

The people of Birmingham, England, are often known as “Brummies,” which is derived from the word Brummagem, a local name for the city. In each North American Birmingham, Lycett will talk to locals to get to know what life is like for Brummies throughout the country.

Not all of the Birminghams in North America are defined as a town or city. Some are “unincorporated communities” or villages. The series will show Lycett

See TV SHOW on page 19A



RIGHT: Joe Lycett and Birmingham Mayor Elaine McLain meet for the “United States of Birmingham” downtown June 20.

ABOVE: For a segment of Joe Lycett’s United States of Birmingham, Birmingham Mayor McLain takes Lycett on a tour of the city.

Photos by Patricia O’Blenes

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TV show

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visiting 11 North American Birminghams in person and seven locations remotely by Facetiming locals.

“It is really a good chance for us to explore parts of the U.S. that don’t normally get much press attention for one reason or another, and the reason they get attention this time around is because they are called Birmingham,” Clifford said. “It is great because we’ve got history, we’ve got arts, we’ve got food — all those kinds of classic travelogue things — but the anchor of it is Birmingham.

In each Birmingham, the series will focus on something special about each area. For instance, the focus of the Birmingham, Michigan, portion of the show is about art, among other interesting aspects of the city.

“We certainly are not only interested but passionate about art and expression,” Mayor Elaine McLain said.

McLain will be featured in the series as she gives Lycett and the crew a tour through her city. While they are there, Lycett plans to visit the Daxton Hotel and the Baldwin Public Library, among other significant spots



A crew films the tour around the city.

Photo by Patricia O’Blenes

that McLain will show them on their tour.

“Birmingham is my hometown. I have lived here 65 years, and I am extremely proud of our hometown,” McLain said.

The series ends in the same place that it began: Birmingham, England. It will conclude with the “International Day of Birmingham,” which celebrates all of the friendships made with the Birminghams of North America.

Each hour-long episode of “Joe Lycett’s United States of Birmingham” will air on Sky, a British streaming service.



The Quiet Censorship of Pride 2024: Book Censorship News, July 19, 2024

By Kelly Jensen, Jul 19, 2024

<https://bookriot.com/the-quiet-censorship-of-pride-2024/>

Pride 2024 was a quiet one for libraries.

Last year, we covered an array of [targeted attacks and harassment](#) directed toward Pride events, book displays, and story times across the U.S. But in tracking the same topics and search terms this year, the number of incidents showing up in local and national news dropped significantly. But this decrease in anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment toward libraries and other literary institutions and organizations during June shouldn't lead to immediately celebration. Instead, it may be better explained by a noticeable decrease in Pride-focused programming from these institutions.

This year's quiet Pride was not quiet because the world became more accepting. Pride was less contentious because of the [quiet/soft/self-censorship](#) of Pride itself.

“While threats and harassment were not an increased issue for me this year, the “soft censorship” of Pride from libraries, schools, and other institutions has negatively impacted every LGBTQ+ author I know,” said author [Sarah Prager](#), author of four books, including [Queer, There, and Everywhere: 27 People Who Changed the World](#). Authors saw fewer opportunities to take part in library events, in person or virtually, and performers like those who offer Drag-themed events were extended fewer invitations. In places where there were targeted attacks on Pride-themed displays or events, those stories rarely made the media. Part of that may be attributed to libraries wanting to avoid further harassment, and part of that may be the fault of the media, which has not only buried many of these democracy-forward stories under paywalls but also given up coverage of such stories for a variety of reasons.

Censorship attacks in libraries have a profound impact on the psychological well-being of library staff. Witnessing or directly experiencing out loud censorship over the last four years has, without doubt, created an environment where protection and safety are at the forefront. Unfortunately, that also means staff and patrons who are part of the queer community and/or wish to champion marginalized identities are cut twice — not only do they have to mind the realities of a small but violent and vocal anti-LGBTQ+ crowd but they are unable to serve the people who most need that championing.

“[B]ook banning’s impact on LGBTQIA+ books and authors, as well as a rise in fascism and a rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, are impacting what’s available for Pride,” said [Fin Leary](#), contributor to the forthcoming *These Bodies Ain’t Broken*. “I believe that there is a rising fear of supporting LGBTQIA+ books and events because of this rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment, and that often, those who are in favor and supportive are being shut down or blocked in their attempts to host these types of events.”

The quiet censorship of Pride this year should be linked to backlash from the far-right and right-wing social media, too. With libraries and library workers regularly defamed in those circles, the temptation to withdraw is high. It might protect library workers temporarily, but it comes at the expense of queer library users and queer authors who don’t see themselves celebrated and championed in a democratic space.

“I think some businesses and larger corporations (Target, looking at you) downsized their collections and advertising in general in anticipation of worse backlash than they faced last year because it’s an election year. And I think this impacted smaller businesses or orgs who were worried that they would as well,” said Corrie Locke-Hardy, [The Tiny Activist](#) and author of the forthcoming book *The Revolution Will Be Well Fed*.

The systematic attacks on LGBTQ+-themed books, programs, and people are intimately tied, too, to the dismantling of public institutions like libraries more broadly. Budgets for public libraries especially have been taking a hit over the last few years across the country — [New York Public Library’s recent fight is but one high-profile example](#) and one that the legacy institution has weathered for several consecutive years — and with those cuts decisions that are tough and decisions that play right into the ongoing quiet/silent censorship cultures in many of these institutions (see [“budget” excuses](#) for not purchasing certain materials).

Budgets decreased for Pride-specific events over the last couple of years. One queer author, who preferred to remain anonymous, noted that their speaking income this year has gone from \$20,000 down to \$1,000 — they were even asked by a \$20 billion corporation to speak at a rate of \$150, a fee even lower than they would charge a public library.

“I think DEI budgets just temporarily went up in response to 2020 and 2021 pressure [related to Black Lives Matter and similar social justice movements], and that now that the pressure isn’t on with the same urgency, those budgets and that interest dispersed,” they said.

Whether due to pressure or their own self-censorship and desire not to be targeted, publishers also pulled back their Pride support this June. Locke-Hardy noted that they did not get nearly the same number of publisher collaborations they usually do. Where usually they average ten or so requests to help with content creation, book reviews, or book giveaways, this year saw only one or two requests.

Tellingly, those requests benefit the publisher far more than Locke-Hardy.

“I was not offered any compensation from publishers for anything Pride-related this year,” they said. “I noticed the same amount of shallow social media posts from publishers, some of whom haven’t even published any LGBTQIA2S+ titles but are still trying to profit.”

At the end of the day, quiet censorship is still censorship. In some ways, it’s an even more dangerous form of censorship because the true extent can never be known. It’s quiet for a reason — it’s meant to go unnoticed. But the communities most impacted by this erasure and soft removal are the same ones damaged by the not so quiet targeting.

“The rise in fascism that we’re seeing is having a direct impact on BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, as well as other marginalized groups,” emphasized Leary.

Despite this, though, Leary takes heart in what he’s seeing happening nationwide: a continued rise in collective action.

“Marginalized authors and publishing professionals continuing to fight for and advocate for Pride events gives me heart. Seeing folks who are LGBTQIA+ raise their voices to support Palestine gives me a lot of hope. Community and collective organizing give me hope, and those who are doing what they can to fight book bans, censorship, and fascism in their communities do as well,” they said. “I’ve been proud to be a part of the organization We Need Diverse Books during this tumultuous time and proud to see the authors and publishing professionals who refuse to back down on the importance of queer stories and queer justice.”

They remind us why it is crucial to not only continue to be champions for marginalized voices but also why it is essential to continue being loud, rather than leaning into the easiness of quiet censorship: “None of us are free until all of us are free.”

“Hide the Pride” and Pride Display Challenges

Now in its third year, the targeted destruction and removal of LGBTQ+ book displays under the “[Hide the Pride](#)” campaign coordinated, hosted, and championed by the far-right Catholic organization CatholicVotes began its work even before the calendar turned to June. At least one branch of the Arapahoe Public Library (CO) reported books being checked out en masse from a display with a “[Hide the Pride](#)” letter signed and [left behind](#). The display was quickly refilled, as the system not only had plenty of LGBTQ+ titles to add but also had experienced this display clearing last June.

But where the previous two years of “Hide the Pride” have [resulted in several news stories](#) and outspoken voices from libraries sharing that their collections were hit, this year, both CatholicVotes and libraries more broadly have reported far fewer instances. We saw a pastor in Wichita, Kansas, engage with and [encourage his congregation to take part](#), to which librarians responded that mass borrowing of LGBTQ+ books may actually result in the purchase of *more* of that content thanks to clear interest in the material.

Three branches of the Omaha Public Library (NE) saw their displays targeted by “Hide the Pride,” and at least one branch also heard complaints from patrons claiming such displays were “detrimental” to the children of the community. A Chicago-area library was also hit, [per a report on Reddit from a librarian](#).

As of writing mid-July, even CatholicVotes has not yet posted about their “successes” in this year’s campaign; last year, they put their roundup together before June even concluded.

Other libraries reported challenges to their Pride displays outside of the coordinated “Hide the Pride,” too. Richmond Hill Public Library in Bryan County, Georgia, [saw protests over an LGBTQ+ display in the library](#), which led to its removal. Marysville Public Library (OH) [drew criticism for their display](#) from a group that also targeted other local Pride events in June. Elsewhere in Ohio, Steubenville Public Library saw less pushback for its Pride display this year than in the past, though [at least one patron took it upon themselves to try to dismantle it](#).

In Orem Public Library (UT), Pride displays have been among the issues that library workers have dealt with now for several years running. They were among the first public libraries seeing open hostility and censorship in this current wave, back in summer 2021. This year, though, such “heritage” displays were [once again permitted](#)—whether or not they were created is not yet clear.

As for other libraries, the response to Pride displays played out on social media. Take a moment to look through the hundreds of comments on a simple [Pride display shared by the Safety Harbor Public Library in Florida](#). They are a reminder of what libraries and library workers are dealing with nationwide.

Intimidation, Violence, and Threats of Violence

Once again, libraries received bomb threats to try to deter their Pride-themed programs and, specifically, their hosting of drag story hours. Among the libraries that received bomb threats tied to Pride programming this year were the [Woodstock Public Library in New York](#), the [Seward Public Library in Alaska](#), and [Montclair Public Library in New Jersey](#). Although they did not receive threats of violence, [a well-coordinated intimidation campaign against a drag story time](#) in Sonoma County Libraries (CA) happened during Pride month for the second year in a row. It’s noteworthy that in this library system, a drag story hour event like this happens quarterly, but it is only during Pride when they are targeted by agitators.

Bookstores experienced similar threats. Books, Inc. in the Bay Area (CA) received a bomb threat that [led to the cancelation](#) of a drag story time, while a Newton art center outside Boston, Massachusetts, was [threatened for hosting a similar event](#). In Portland, Oregon, Dark Star Magick had their store window broken and [their Pride display burned](#).

Pride flags themselves became targets in public libraries. A juvenile [shot a Pride flag](#) at the Newberg Public Library in Oregon and Pincher Creek Library in Alberta, Canada, [had their flag targeted](#) for the second year in a row.

Other Stories

Dozens of library workers and educators from across the U.S. shared their stories from Pride month as well. A common theme of fear or worry of retaliation — either internally or from outside agitators — threaded through many of the stories and experiences. To protect the identities of those who shared, the anecdotes below are identified only by the states and types of libraries in which they occurred; in some instances, I've done light editing of potentially identifying information. You'll see common threads from stories above, including pushback from administration and individual community members (as well as library workers themselves!) about Pride displays, Pride events, and more. Interestingly, many of these stories included qualifiers like “it's not as bad as other places.” *Any* act of discrimination or intimidation is bad. Some may be more directly violent than others, but each and every one of these is real and real harm done.

These should serve as a reminder, too, that even in “good,” “progressive,” “blue” states and even in those with laws protecting access to diverse materials, bigotry, discrimination, and hate not only exist but still drive decision-making.

- Illinois, Public School: “I taught my middle school students about the history of Pride Month. Several parents called and complained to express their disapproval of this being taught. One specifically mentioned the fact that ‘A man with a beard in a dress is NOT a woman,’ and another said that ‘youth attracted individuals (pedophiles) are part of the + in LGBTQ+ Community’ and they objected to any mention of trans identity or the + representation. They said that they had no issue with students learning about the history of Pride Month but not about Trans identities. We actually have multiple students in our school community who are either gender non-conforming or trans. As a result, I pulled back from teaching this information from my classes the last two days of last week. I do not feel supported at all by my Superintendent.”
- Texas, Public Library: “For at least the second year in a row, we have been quietly discouraged from having any pride display. Last year, the reasoning was essentially that we didn't want to tempt anyone to throw a fit; after June, it was revealed that someone on the board, who had made the decision to not offer displays, was the sole complainant. This year, there is a lot more undefined discouragement from ‘above.’ We weren't told NOT to have displays, but that we should probably focus on other heritages to avoid any drama. While working in this library, I've never seen patron complaints to indicate we would be endangered or criticized if we put up a Pride display. This doesn't mean that we WOULDN'T run into public backlash, but it also doesn't mean that we would be upsetting anyone else. It's very, very frustrating, particularly as a queer staff member.”

- Washington, Public Library: “We have had issues throughout the year with patrons hiding queer books, removing books from their covers that are queer, and lots of missing queer titles. Just yesterday I found a picture book that was new shoved behind a shelf of picture books. It was supposed to be on display as a new book.”
- Florida, Public Library: “Three masked people came in and said we were going against the culture. I was at the door, they sprayed black ink on my face. They also tore the Pride Flag that stood at the entrance and then went on to burn it.”
- South Carolina, Public School: “Superintendent told the GSA advisor that given three district patents were challenging books, particularly LGBTQ+ books, that she may need to remove the rainbow bulletin board that the GSA uses in order to ‘protect’ herself and her club from questions.”
- Huntington Beach, California, Public Library (note that the identity of this library is being used because the dismantling of the public library by the city there is [well documented](#)): “The city voted to ban pride flags on public properties and created a themed monthly calendar that excluded Pride.”
- Wisconsin, Public Library: “We had a patron come in multiple times on June 1 and 2 to check out every Pride book on display. She asked questions about how many books she could check out and for how long. She stopped after June 2, presumably because she realized that her behavior was not making the display go away. We have several thousand books with LGBTQ+ content, so we simply kept refilling the display. We treated her with courtesy and kindness and did not ask any questions about her behavior, just checked books out to her and answered her questions.”
- North Dakota, Public Library: “In our community, our city administration and library board have quietly implied we may not have LGBT/Pride displays of books. For the second year in a row, we have not had a Pride display in June due to this shadow ban. There hasn’t been a documented, visible targeting, just a quiet, off-the-record, silencing.”
- California, Public Library: “One of the picture books in our Pride Display was vandalized; someone stuck a sanitary napkin to the pages.”
- Oregon, Public Library: “Multiple LGBTQ+ books were removed from the library’s Pride display and purposefully hidden.”
- New York, Public Library: “We had a bunch of Pride-themed events, and a conservative Twitter picked up a photo of [one of them] and stated that we were indoctrinating children — and asked if the prize kids would get was a dildo.”
- Florida, Public Library: “We had two major instances this summer. Both white men in their 50s had similar behavior last year. Last year gentleman A had checked out about 5-6 books on our kids’ Pride display. They were never returned to us. In

October, when he was charged for the items, he sent a nasty letter to administration saying how we had violated the public's trust by having these materials. He explained that he wouldn't be returning them and would put them in the trash where they belonged. Because we knew gentleman A and his stepdaughter before this happened, we had cultivated a relationship. He noted in his letter that the Youth Services staff must be working under some 'agenda' because he also praised us for being wonderful in the past. He paid for the price of the books but did not pay the processing fees. This fee was still on his account this June. However, when he grabbed 5-6 more titles, a staff member allowed him to check out despite the fee. He told her that he had 'sent a check in the mail.' Technically true, but not for the full amount. The staff member later notified admin. Our Library Director called him, and he confronted our Director, asking what the staff's association with the LGBT movement was. Our Director explained that that was a personal question that was inappropriate. Gentleman A came back a few days later to check out Pride materials on another library card. The other issue was with Gentleman B. Last year, he checked out the entire Teen Pride display on June 1st. He did return the books, however. This year, he came on a Saturday with an IKEA bag. He filmed the display on his cell phone while narrating that 'this is what our tax dollars are going towards.' Then, at 5 minutes to close, he proceeded to check out as many as he could carry. When we made the closing announcement at 5 p.m., as the manager on duty, I let him know that his two stacks that had yet to be checked out would have to be checked out when we reopened on Monday morning. There were probably 15-20 books left. He told us to 'check them out now.' I explained that staff had to get home to their families. He insisted that we check out the books and began filming us while explaining that we were violating his rights. At this point, a number of staff were standing behind me. As I insisted that he needed to leave the books, we finally got to a point where I had to inform him that I would have to call the Sheriff's office and have him trespassed if he did not follow our policy. To which he encouraged me to do so. So, ultimately he was trespassed indefinitely. He did get to check out the books because he could return them to any library in the cooperative, but he will not be returning. A few days later, he reached out to our Library Director with an apology, saying that staff was right and he was wrong. Regardless the trespass stands."

- Indiana, Public Library: "Both our teen and children's Pride displays were actively targeted by religion pamphlets/cards/promotions. These would be put into the books (especially in the teen section) while workers had their backs turned. We had to check our displays every day, multiple times a day, and discovered dozens of the pamphlets."
- Ohio, Public Library: "A program for adult patrons on what drag is was canceled by the library without any input from patrons. The program did not receive any negative public comments or attention but was pulled by [a member of library management] because she was worried it could have negative attention from patrons. This was after it was approved by the branch manager, the programming manager, and [the complaining manager] herself."

- Illinois, Public Library: “There was a teen (high school age) Pride book display in the lobby. All of the titles were turned around. Camera footage showed a patron who has brought up objections to LGBTQIA+ programs and displays in the past.”
- New Hampshire, Public Library: “We hosted a drag queen event with a local queer coffee shop, and when the event was [posted on Facebook](#), we received 100+ negative trans/homophobic messages on the event. Our city attorney advised that we cannot delete or hide any such comments because by allowing comments, we’re allowing ‘all’ comments regardless of their hateful content.”
- Massachusetts, Public Library: “A post made to our library Facebook about Pride was targeted for attack by rightwing people. FB comments of the usual ‘groomer. pedophile. wasting tax dollars’ etc.”
- Illinois, Public Library: “At least one woman checked out all the books from a Pride display more than once in an effort to remove them from view. We believe the same woman is now accusing the library of not displaying other books now that Pride Month is over. To be clear, we always have book displays.”
- Oregon, Community College: “During the entire month of June. when we had our pride cube display up, one of the employees was turning around or hiding the Happy Pride Month sign located on top of the cube. They didn’t go inside the cube and ruin anything. They also kept taking down our posters for the Drag Show that was happening May 31st. They probably threw away at least 10 of them. (They are also targeting Black History books by removing them from displays, they removed a poster for a tribal daycare center open to all families, they removed women’s non-partisan voting pamphlets, etc)”
- Indiana, Public Library: “LGBTQ+ themed books in displays were being hidden, turned so the front cover wasn’t visible, or covered by another book.” They reported this happened at other branches of the library system as well.
- Maryland, Public Library: “A customer sent the branch an online customer comment form that said, ‘I walked into the library yesterday and saw a Pride display. Since when does our library support specific agendas? I am extremely upset by this and am requesting that the display be taken down. Or you could put up another display explaining that God created the rainbow after the flood as a promise never again to destroy the entire earth by a flood again. And explain that He made people and animals male and female and that Satan is trying to throw people into confusion about how God made them, and they won’t be happy or content unless they embrace who they really are instead of trying to become someone they are not. How about putting that up for a display?’”
- Maryland, Public Library: “A 14-year-old paper-clipped notes to two LGBTQ+ books that were displayed face out on bookshelves: *Gender Rebels* by Katherine Locke and *I’m in Love with the Villainess* by Inori. One note said ‘Trash Propaganda,’ and

the other said ‘Kill Yourself Now.’ Security camera footage caught the teen in the act, and staff were able to talk with him and his mother. He was embarrassed and apologized.”

- Montana, Public Library: “We have not been permitted to put up a Pride display for the past several years, but staff displayed a couple of books on Queer history. Halfway through the month, a member of management removed the two items from display, then explained to staff that we are no longer permitted to display items that are controversial to some members of our community. When I asked for clarification on how to do this in a community where everything is controversial, my questions went unanswered.”

Let’s end this with a pair of positive anecdotes before diving into this week’s book censorship news. These stories come from a Maryland public library: “Two customers expressed to staff how glad they were to see the branch’s pride display. One staff member reported, ‘We had a customer come in who sincerely praised us for sharing a pride display. She said as a gay woman, she truly appreciates being represented in the area despite some of the usual pushback regarding pride events/programs.’ Here’s what staff said about the second customer comment, ‘A little boy, around 9 or 10 years old, saw me switching out the Pride display for the Juneteenth display. He asked me, ‘Are you taking down the Pride display?’ I answered yes, and told him that the display had been up for a few weeks, so we are switching out in time for Juneteenth. He said, ‘Well, I love both. My heart is in both of them. I love Pride. I love Juneteenth!’ It made him so happy to see himself and his community on our displays!’”

Book Censorship News: July 19, 2024

- It turns out that the school board and superintendent who helped facilitate so many book bans in Escambia County, Florida, schools [cannot be shielded from testifying in the lawsuits filed against them](#).
- So-called “explicit” books are now banned in Knox County, Tennessee, schools. Those don’t exist, but this new policy will sure [encourage targeting books that right-wingers don’t like](#).
- Anti-LGBTQ+ threats and sentiments in Mobile, Alabama, have [canceled an author event over fear of what might happen](#).
- (Paywalled) Corpus Christi (TX) notes that it is the LGBTQ+ community specifically being targeted by book bans in the public library. [Of course it is](#).
- You don’t say that librarians are burning out on the job over book censorship? [Almost as if that’s one of the goals!](#)
- South Carolina State University [students marched in protest of book banning](#) and legislation encouraging such bans at the capitol.

- “As part of the new district policy, parents will also receive email notifications about books their children would like to check out from school libraries, and if they so choose, parents will have the option to say ‘no’ to the request.” A new policy at Mentor Public Schools in Ohio is all over the made-up panic of “explicit” books in the school, and now parents will get notification of *all books their children check out* with the opportunity to say “no” right then and there. [How about just parent your kid from the start?](#)
- Two book banning bigots sitting on the Sunol Glen Unified School District school board in California just officially got recalled and removed from their positions. This is a reminder that [it matters you show up and vote](#).
- The director of the Alpena Public Library (MI) just resigned from her position after being there only a year. The reasons are personal, as well as related to [an unsupportive library board that is very eager to ban books they don’t like](#) (the queer books, natch).
- Franklin & Marshall College (PA) received a bomb threat [targeting the college library](#).
- Lodi School District (CA) is [implementing an opt-out policy for book access](#) this year. Don’t call their book removals book banning, though, because removing books isn’t banning them (or whatever the nonsense rhetoric is).
- “Kenneth Derrick, who is not a parent of a child at Park Vista, is not pushing for the books to be removed from the library. Instead, he suggests the school district affix a label to the books that calls out authors who support book challenges but include sexual content in their own novels.” We don’t solve book banning by banning books or [doing whatever the hell this is](#) (Florida).
- The Bartholomew Consolidated School District (IN) is considering a ban on *Push*. [Please read this editorial about it](#) — it’s a great model for what you can do when you see challenges in your community. This book was already through the review process and retained; [this is an appeal of that decision](#).
- The City Councilor in Seaside, Oregon, who has been trying to get books banned in the public library [is big mad he can’t just do what he wants](#) and his position is up for recall in response to his actions.
- County commissioners are targeting *Jack of Heart (and Other Parts)* in the Citrus County PUBLIC Library (FL). [Fascism right here, folks](#).
- 1819 News is an Alabama right-wing rag, but I’m sharing this piece about a grandmother having a conniption about *Gender Queer* existing in a bookstore. [This story is absurd and also perfectly indicative of how these people behave](#). They vote. Do you?

- Harford County Schools (MD) has decided to [bring back a revised version of an AP African American Studies course](#).
- There was [a bomb threat at a Sacramento County public library](#) (CA) this week.
- As is almost always the case, when a school board member read the book that was complained about, they realize they've been duped. This time, it's a conservative board member in Lovejoy Independent School District (TX) saying [they were wrong to believe it was an inappropriate book based on cherry-picked passages](#).
- Highland Park Independent School District (TX) has [banned *All Boys Aren't Blue* from the district](#).
- (Paywalled) Grand Forks Public Library is creating a new section in the library where they're going to shove all of the puberty books that people have created nonsense claims about. It'll be the "young adult nonfiction" section. Just to be clear, if age is the issue, then putting puberty books in a section for those older than 12 seems, well, missing that many many many (most) young people begin puberty before age 12. [Moving the books doesn't change reality](#).
- (Paywalled) Clancy Elementary School Board (MO) [votes to retain the book *Jack, Not Jackie*](#).
- "The new code requires libraries to adopt certain policies to receive state aid, including keeping 'sexually explicit' materials off of shelves for minors. It also calls on library boards to adopt other policies as necessary to keep materials 'inappropriate for children or youth' out of those sections, but does not define what is inappropriate." [That vagueness is the purpose in Alabama here](#), as well as in other states trying to mimic Alabama's new library laws. This is so the meaning can change depending on what the governor or other legislators decide at any time (so they can nix budgets whenever they please).

Alpena County moves to fire library officials over sexually-themed youth books

July 23, 2024 – by Ron French

<https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/alpena-county-moves-fire-library-officials-over-sexually-themed-youth-books>



Signs have popped up in lawns across Alpena County accusing librarians of being ‘groomers.’
(Bridge photo by Ron French)

- **A long-running battle over sexual-themed books has now cost the Alpena County library board members their jobs**
- **The library also could be defunded in a millage vote Aug. 6**
- **The fight has gotten nasty, with signs calling librarians ‘groomers’**

ALPENA — In an escalation of Michigan’s book wars, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday began the process of firing all members of its public library board over their handling of a handful of children and teen books with sexual themes.

The move comes two weeks before voters in this politically conservative community in northern Michigan go to the polls to decide on a millage request to keep the library open.

An organized campaign against the tax includes yard signs urging voters to “Vote NO on Library Grooming” and includes an image of a man handing a book labeled “X Rated” to a young girl.

While book wars aren’t unusual, observers say they believe it is the first time that county leaders in Michigan have moved to remove library board members. All five are unpaid and appointed to five-year terms.

“We’re kind of in shock right now,” said Jessica Luther, assistant director of the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library, told Bridge Michigan on Tuesday.

“It’s emblematic of the loss of civility we’ve had in our communities. People have become ‘it’s my way or no way’ and there’s no flexibility.”

Commissioner Travis Konarzewski told Bridge Michigan the action came because the library board was not listening to the concerns of the public and refused to move sexually themed books to a different part of the library.

The 6-1 vote doesn’t fire members immediately. Instead, a personnel committee of the county commission will take up the issue and their dismissal is expected to take 60 to 90 days.



The Alpena public library could be without a governing board and without money in the coming months, in a battle over children and teen books some community members consider sexually inappropriate. (Bridge photo by Ron French)

At issue are 14 books including “[Let’s Talk About It: The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships and Being a Human](#).” The graphic novel is one of the [American Library Association’s 10 most challenged books of 2023](#) for its depiction of masturbation and LGBTQ issues.

Another targeted book, “[It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health](#)” also discusses masturbation and other sex acts.

The library’s assistant director, Luther, said officials followed guidelines and resources provided by an attorney with the Library of Michigan and declined to move the books out of the youth section.

Doing so would make it more difficult for the intended audience to find the books and could prompt a lawsuit, Luther said.

“The library board has been careful to follow a process and seek legal advice, to ensure that their patron’s civil rights and First Amendment rights are not violated by the removal or relocation of materials in the library,” Dillon Geshel, president of the Michigan Library Association.

“The reason for removal seems to be that the library board continues to carefully follow the law when weighing questions about the content of library materials. MLA stands with the Alpena library and their efforts to ensure that the constitutional rights of patrons are protected. ”



Alpena Library Assistant Director Jessica Luther, foreground, and Director Debra Greenacre, say they are following the law by not moving books aimed at children and teens to the library’s adult shelves. (Bridge photo by Ron French)

'We have a serious problem'

The action comes just weeks before residents of this county on Thunder Bay vote Aug. 6 on an operating millage that comprises 74% of the annual budget of the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library.

Alpena Library Board Chairperson Joe Garber told Bridge Michigan Monday, before the county commissioners moved to fire him, that the library would have to close without the about \$800,000 that comes from the operating millage annually.

The tax costs owners of homes assessed at \$200,000 about \$148 per year.

"If the millage isn't approved, we'll have to look for a Plan B," Garber said. "And right now, the Plan B is closing."

Alpena County has a population of 28,000, with a little over a third of residents living in the city of Alpena.

Home of the [world's largest cement plant](#), and a shipwreck museum, the [Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center](#), Alpena has a vibrant downtown with book stores and ice cream shops, bordering beaches and a harbor.



Known for its shipwreck museum, Alpena now has another claim to fame: the first community to remove an entire library board over controversial books. (Bridge photo by Ron French)

Like most of northern Michigan, Alpena County is conservative politically, voting for Donald Trump over Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election by a margin of 28 points. Statewide, Biden won the election by 2.8 points

With the primary two weeks away, the small, tidy lawns of Alpena are dotted with political signs. Ones about the library millage outnumber signs for candidates.

Resident Bruce Heath, a resident who founded [NE Michigan League of Conservative Education](#), is leading efforts to defeat the tax.

He said he's a "huge fan" of the library but feels the books are pornography and hurting kids.

"We don't necessarily want to shut the library down, but there just so happens to be a millage in August, and so it's a leverage point," said Heath. "This is about getting the county's attention that we have a serious problem here."

At a library board meeting Monday evening, Heath used his three minutes of public comment to read a passage from "[Jack of Hearts \(and other parts\)](#)," which he had checked out from the Alpena Library.

The passage described sexual positions for a same-sex male relationship. Amazon describes the book as written for young adults, about "an unapologetically queer teen working to uncover a blackmailer threatening him back into the closet."

Other books criticized by residents include "[All Boys Aren't Blue](#)," a memoir that includes descriptions of the author's first sexual relationships.

'I love my library'

Critics asked library officials to move the books out of the children and teen sections, to the adult shelves. Library leaders and the library board denied the request.

Alpena Mayor Cindy Johnson supports the current placement of the books, while the county commissioners who appoint the library board do not.

The one commissioner who voted against removal of the board, John Kozlowski, said he also believes the books are inappropriate for youth.

But he told Bridge Michigan on Saturday that he didn't believe it was appropriate for the commissioners to remove library board members who were doing what they believed in good faith was best for the library.

Alpena city resident Helen Feldkamp called it "disgusting to drive around and see these signs accusing librarians of being groomers."

Feldkamp, who has an "I love my library" sign in her lawn, argues that people who don't want to read certain books can just not check them out.

"I take my kids to the library. They say 'Mom, can I check this out?' I can say, 'No, you're not ready for that one', and that's the end of it."

Alpena isn't the first community to become entangled in fights over sexually (and usually LGBTQ-themed) books.

- In 2022, Jamestown Township [voted to defund the Patmos Public Library](#) in a similar battle. An operating millage was voted down twice, and the library only managed to keep its doors open by collecting hundreds of thousands in donations. Voters approved an operating millage in November 2023.
- In [Lapeer](#) the sheriff [mulled criminal charges against librarians](#) in 2023 a fight over "Gender Queer," a graphic novel memoir that includes illustrations of sex acts, which was in the public library.

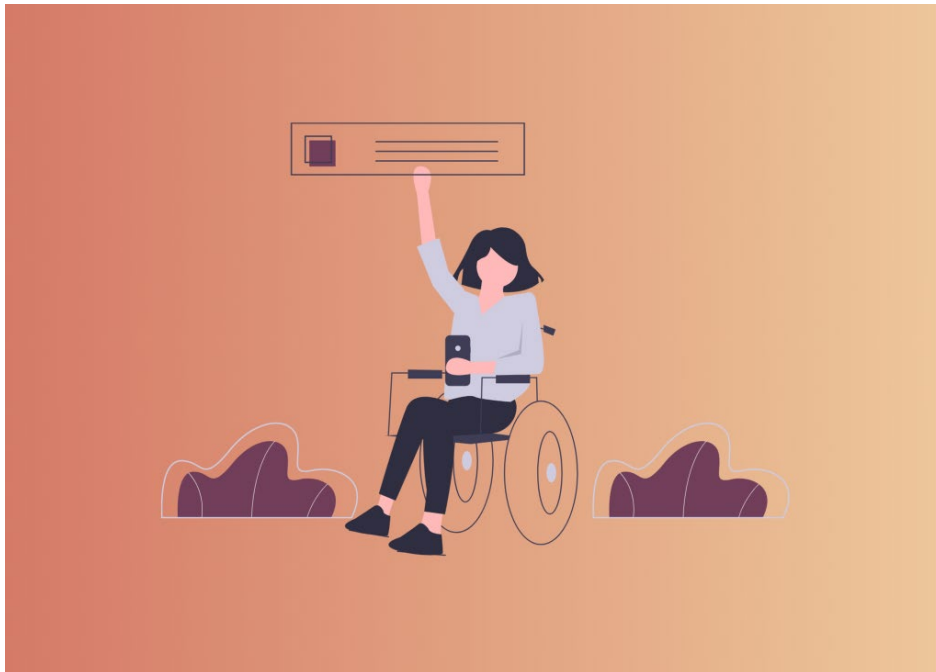


Ready for It? Ensuring Web Content Accessibility in Libraries

A new update to the ADA has big implications for libraries

Posted on August 5, 2024

<https://www.choice360.org/libtech-insight/ready-for-it-ensuring-web-content-accessibility-in-libraries/>



In April, the Department of Justice (DOJ) updated its regulations to [Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). This act ensures “nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in state and local government services.” Many people with disabilities encounter barriers while trying to access information on state and local government websites, including public libraries, public schools, and public universities. For example, an inaccessible website may not enable keyboard navigation or the use of screen readers, limiting users from potential library resources or services.

The update ensures web content will be accessible for people with disabilities in libraries. According to the [ADA Fact Sheet](#), “web content is defined as the information and experiences available on the web, like text, images, sound, videos, and documents.” Under this rule, all local and state governments will need to meet international accessibility standards for online services and online electronic documents ([WCAG 2.1 level AA](#)) by 2026. While this may be a lengthy but necessary undertaking for many libraries, there are several easy things you can start doing now to ensure your web content is accessible.

Caption Your Videos

Ensure that all your instructional videos have accurate captions. While some video platforms offer automatic captioning, it's critical to review and edit captions for accuracy. This could entail editing the captions within the video platform (like on Zoom or YouTube) or downloading the .VTT or .SRT file, making edits, and then uploading it with the video file. If you are going to caption it yourself, check out the [Guidelines and Best Practices for Captioning Educational Video](#) from the Described and Captioned Media Program.

In addition to captions, make sure instructional videos contain descriptions of all of the visual content in the audio. Try listening to the audio with your eyes closed to confirm that the meaning is not lost. Include a full transcript of the audio, or consider providing a [descriptive transcript](#) with your video.

Choose Color Carefully

Be mindful of color contrast in your design. Ensure that text and background colors have sufficient contrast for readability. This can be done by using resources such as [WebAIM](#), which checks the contrast ratio between background color and text color. For the highest readability, you want to get a “pass” on WCAG AAA. Remember that not everyone can distinguish colors, so use additional indicators like bold text instead of color to convey meaning.

Add Alternative Text

Alternative text, also known as alt text, provides a description of the image so that it can be read by screen readers or viewed if the image fails to load. Alternative text should be clear and concise, and convey the meaning of the image. Imagine you are describing the image to someone who is not there. [WebAim](#) provides a detailed overview for different contexts and image types including complex images like maps and charts. If you need help writing alt text, you can try the [Image Accessibility Creator](#), an AI-powered tool from Arizona State University.

Replace or Prepare Accessible PDFs

While PDFs are convenient, they can pose accessibility challenges. Explore alternatives like hyperlinks to HTML versions of documents or using Word docs instead of PDFs. If you do use PDFs, make sure they are tagged appropriately so they can be read by a screen reader. Adobe provides info on how to [Create and Verify PDF Accessibility](#).

Verify Vendor Accessibility

If you use third-party tools, such as Google Forms, linked from or embedded in platforms like WordPress or LibGuides, inquire about their accessibility features. Most vendors will have a VPAT, a [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#), which describes how well their product conforms to the accessibility standards of [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act](#). See [Google Forms Accessibility Conformance Report](#) for a VPAT example.

Develop Your Skills

Digital accessibility is a skill that benefits everyone. Seek out resources and training to improve your knowledge. You don't need to be an expert, but understanding the basics is essential. We recommend the [Introduction to Web Accessibility \(W3C\)](#) or [The Beginner's Guide to Web Accessibility \(Deque\)](#) for getting started with digital accessibility.

Center Users with Disabilities

When designing and assessing web content, we recommend involving students and colleagues with disabilities in the design process. For example, in order to assess the accessibility and usability of an online library research guide, we conducted an [accessible user experience study](#) involving students with various disabilities. You can learn more about [getting started with accessible user experience research](#) from our previous blog post.

Remember, these steps contribute to a more inclusive educational experience for all students.



About the authors:

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U.S. Copyright Office Releases Part One of AI Report, Calls for New Legislation

By Andrew Albanese, Aug 01, 2024

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/95621-u-s-copyright-office-releases-part-one-of-ai-report-calls-for-new-legislation.html>

The U.S. Copyright Office has released part one of [a wide-ranging report](#) on the impact of the recent artificial intelligence boom—and “digital replicas,” more commonly known as deepfakes, are the first topic of concern.

From “AI-generated musical performances to robocall impersonations of political candidates to images in pornographic videos,” the report acknowledges that “a new era of sophisticated digital replicas has arrived.” And while the technology has long existed to produce such deepfakes, the report concludes that rapid advancement of generative AI suggests that new federal legislation is needed.

“The speed, precision, and scale of AI-created digital replicas calls for prompt federal action,” the report states. “Without a robust nationwide remedy, their unauthorized publication and distribution threaten substantial harm not only in the entertainment and political arenas, but also for private individuals.”

The report comes as new legislation is being considered by Congress, [including the NO FAKES Act \(Nurture Originals, Foster Art, and Keep Entertainment Safe\)](#), which was introduced into the Senate this week. Among its provisions, the report notes, the act would provide a new right “to authorize the use of the image, voice, or visual likeness of the individual in a digital replica.” The report explores arguments for the bill, as well as questions over how such a law might work, recommending that any federal law addressing digital replicas should “prioritize the protection of the livelihoods of working artists, the dignity of living persons, and the security of the public from fraud and misinformation regarding current events.”

In a statement to the Human Artistry Campaign, [AAP president and CEO Maria Pallante](#) praised the [introduction of the NO FAKES Act](#), calling it “a major win for the public.”

The report is the first of several parts of [a broad inquiry into AI technologies initiated by the Copyright Office last year](#). Subsequent parts are set to address other thorny issues associated with AI, the Copyright Office said, including “the copyrightability of works created using generative AI, training of AI models on copyrighted works, licensing considerations, and allocation of any potential liability.”

In a foreword to the first part of the report, U.S. Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter addressed the Copyright Office's goals in exploring the rise of AI technology, calling AI the "latest chapter" in copyright's "symbiotic relationship" with technology.

"By the fall of 2022, millions of Americans were utilizing generative AI systems and services to produce an astonishing array of expressive material, including visual art, text, and music," Perlmutter writes. "Almost weekly, tremendous strides have been announced in the technology's capabilities. Artists have harnessed the power of AI to find new ways to express themselves and new ways of connecting with audiences."

At the same time, she notes, "AI raises fundamental questions for copyright law and policy, which many see as existential," adding: "To what extent will AI-generated content replace human authorship? How does human creativity differ in nature from what AI systems can generate, now or in the future? What does this mean for the incentive-based foundation of the U.S. copyright system? In what ways can the technology serve as a valuable tool to amplify human creativity and ultimately promote science and the arts? How do we respect and reward human creators without impeding technological progress?"

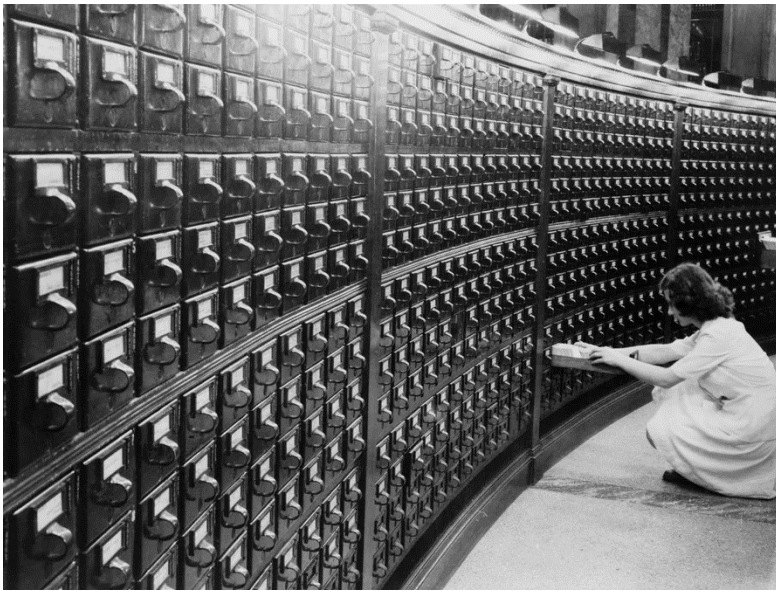
A version of this article appeared in the 08/05/2024 issue of *Publishers Weekly* under the headline:

How Does the World's Largest Library Decide What Becomes History?

From ancient clay tablets to TV shows to video games, the U.S. Library of Congress preserves far more than just books

By Sarah Wild, July 16, 2024

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-does-the-worlds-largest-library-decide-what-becomes-history/>



A woman using the card catalog at the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress around 1940. Everett Collection Inc/Alamy Stock Photo

The world's oldest known library, the Royal Library of Ashurbanipal, in what is today Iraq, was created in the seventh century B.C.E. to store clay tablets used for recordkeeping. Its librarians preserved 30,000 of them—including the 4,000-year-old [Epic of Gilgamesh](#). And Egypt's Great Library of Alexandria acquired an enormous collection: In the third century B.C.E., the law required travelers arriving at the city's bustling seaport to hand over any books in their possession to library scribes, who would return a copy of the book to the owner and keep the originals. Such texts helped make the library a beacon of knowledge and learning in the ancient world.

Today the U.S. Library of Congress continues the tradition of conserving knowledge with one of the largest library collections ever compiled. It is home to more than 175 million works humans have produced, from e-books to ancient scrolls, which it aims to preserve for future generations.



The library’s role as the research arm of the U.S. Congress and a preserver of primary sources in American history means it has some of the U.S.’s most important documents, including a rough draft of the Declaration of Independence and Abraham Lincoln’s first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. But its scope extends far beyond the country’s borders; items such as 2,000-year-old Mesopotamian clay tablets and 18th-century Iranian prayer scrolls (written on parchment made from gazelle skins) are among its artifacts—along with [Atari video games](#). Approximately half its collection is not in English.

Produced in Iran in the 18th or 19th century, this small scroll is written on nearly transparent parchment made from the skin of gazelles. It is called a hijab scroll, in the sense that it veils its meaning and offers protection from evil through sacred text.

Library of Congress

Along with physical media, as of 2024, the library held about 184 petabytes of digital information, from three-dimensional digitized artifacts to patents. Converted into DVDs, that would be about 39 million disks. And if those disks were stacked atop one another, they would tower 29 miles high—a span equivalent to about 106 Empire State Buildings.

Selection by the Library of Congress is meant to ensure an item will be available for researchers hundreds of years from now. But even a library this extensive can only preserve a fraction of the books published annually around the world, not to mention the scholarly articles, legal materials, international reports, newspapers, songs, television series and video games.

To learn more about how the Library of Congress makes its weighty decisions about shaping our society’s collective memory, *Scientific American* spoke with the library’s collection development officer Joseph Puccio, who retired last month, and director for preservation Jacob Nadal.



An Atari video game console and joystick, one of many iconic toys through the decades for the parenting special section, on August, 23, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post via Getty Images

When people think of libraries, they think of books. Can you tell us more about the wide range of things you collect for the Library of Congress?

NADAL: We have every format people have ever used to record their knowledge and creativity: books, obviously, manuscripts, maps and even [cuneiform tablets](#), which are probably the oldest thing we work with. We have the earliest motion picture films, which are yards of rolls of prints of every frame of the film, as well as [glass-based lacquer disks and] digital music and video games.

PUCCIO: Our fundamental collecting policy is the Canons of Selection, issued in 1940. There are three principles: The first is that we should have everything that Congress needs to do its work. The second is that we should possess the materials that cover the life and achievement of the United States. And the third is that we're not in a vacuum, and we need stuff from the rest of the world. We are constantly taking snapshots of the world. We're always concerned when, for budgetary reasons, we might not be able to collect in a particular area of the world—because sometimes you cannot go back and fill in those gaps. Maybe, with digital, it will be different in the future. But right now, if you miss picking up materials, you may not get a copy five years later.

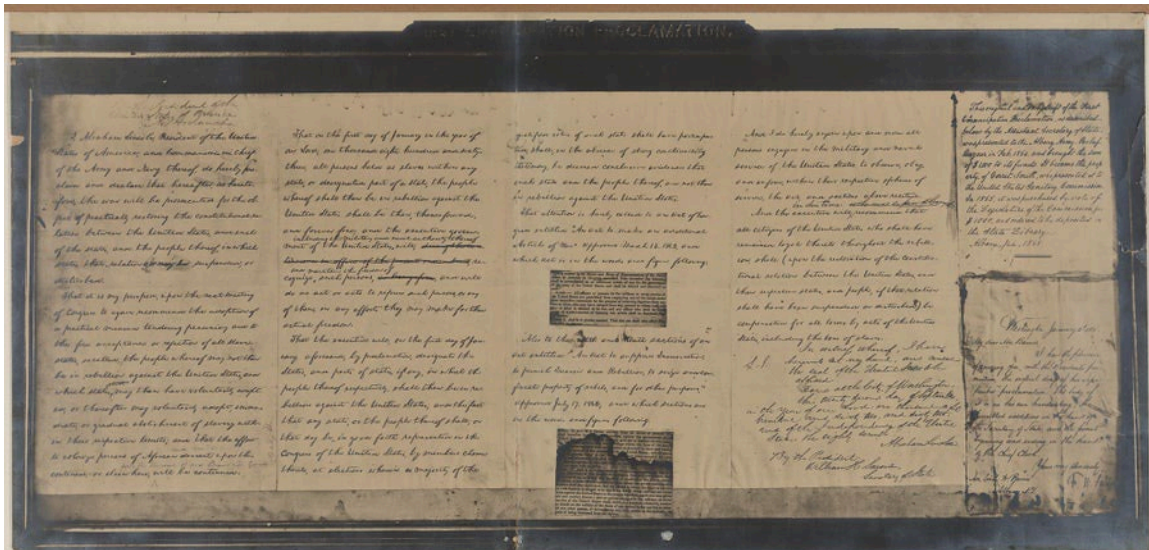
Where do the materials you consider for preservation come from?

PUCCIO: We have various acquisition streams, such as copyright deposits (the library houses and oversees the U.S. Copyright Office). We have selection officers and other staff who apply our collection policies when looking at the flow of material. We also receive a lot of gift materials. Sometimes we will go out and try to convince someone to give us their collection of

manuscripts or photographs. Then we have the purchase acquisition stream. Each year Congress appropriates money for the library to acquire materials, and we use most of that to acquire electronic resources and materials from outside the U.S. We give book dealers in other countries descriptions of the types of books we want, such as prizewinners. We also have six field offices of the library—in Cairo, Egypt, Islamabad, Pakistan, New Delhi, India, Jakarta, Indonesia, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

How do you choose what to keep?

PUCCIO: When we acquire something at the Library of Congress, it's with the idea that we're keeping it for forever. We try to encapsulate our hopes for how we build the collection through 75 or so policy statements, which are mostly by subject. They range from law through to [children's literature](#) to LGBTQIA+ studies. We then have collecting levels from zero through five. Five says we want to be really, really strong in that subject; three says we want enough content so that we can answer questions on this subject from Congress. At zero, we do not collect at all.



An original draft of the first Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Library of Congress

As part of the library's general assessment program, which looks for gaps in the collections, we found that there were a number of countries, such as Morocco, for which we have received no children's books for several decades. The children's literature Collections Policy Statement indicates that we aim to collect these types of books from outside the U.S. at a level three—approximately midrange between out of scope (zero) and comprehensive (five). Our collecting has been very Eurocentric, and in the next phase of this program, we will work toward filling the gaps where possible.

We have about 200 recommending officers in the library who are responsible for different subject areas. They know what researchers need now, and hopefully they can see the future to try and understand what a researcher in 100 years will need.

But with the volume of materials, they don't have the time to take a really close look at each item. Comprehensive collecting is impossible—especially when you look at the fact that there's like a billion websites out there. That's why we refer to the policy statements and the zero-to-five collecting levels.

How much space do you have to store all this material?

NADAL: There are three buildings on Capitol Hill: the [Thomas] Jefferson Building, with a capacity of seven million items; the [John] Adams Building, which has a giant block of books in the middle of about 12 million volumes; and the [James] Madison [Memorial] Building, [which] has a number of our special format units, such as manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs and music. We also have a facility at Fort Meade in Maryland, with roughly 100 acres, where we're planning for our eighth building, and the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center down in Culpeper, Va.

PUCCIO: We don't have enough space. We never have, not since 1870, when the Copyright Office became part of the Library of Congress. Back then there were books all over the place—you can see it in the pictures—and we still have books on the floor here on Capitol Hill. On the digital side, it's easier to buy digital storage than to build a warehouse. The major challenge is that we never have enough money to acquire everything we want. When we acquire an item, that means preserving it and finding storage for it. So, it's not just the act of paying \$75 for a book. It's thinking about how much that's going to cost over 100 years.

If the building was burning, what would you run out with?

NADAL: I would do nothing. We have two Preservation Emergency Response Teams that are on call 24/7. And when it comes to digital, we have the three-two-one rule: three copies in two different formats in one other geographic region. We put a great deal of effort into thinking through what materials we do have. If they were lost or damaged in some way, it would harm the human record. There are many layers of protection around those materials to put them beyond the reach of accident.

We always sort of jokingly say that we have no favorite collections, except whatever is on a conservator's bench right at the moment. Our curation and interpretation of objects can change as we learn more about them, so preservation often becomes a different window into understanding the objects in our collection. For example, we have Ethiopian prayer scrolls: They're charms or talismans to protect the wearer and were often the same height as the person using it. And so we have a record of the heights of people from a different time and place. That's really, I think, where the science and the conservation can become really exciting around here.

Verifying facts in the age of AI – librarians offer 5 strategies

Published: July 30, 2024 8:43am EDT

<https://theconversation.com/verifying-facts-in-the-age-of-ai-librarians-offer-5-strategies-233628>

The phenomenal growth in artificial intelligence tools has made it easy to create a story quickly, complicating a reader's ability to determine if a news source or article is truthful or reliable. For instance, earlier this year, people were sharing an article about the supposed suicide of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's psychiatrist as if it were real. It ended up being an AI-generated rewrite of a satirical piece from 2010.

The problem is widespread. According to a 2021 Pearson Institute/AP-NORC poll, "Ninety-five percent of Americans believe the spread of misinformation is a problem." The Pearson Institute researches methods to reduce global conflicts.

As library scientists, we combat the increase in misinformation by teaching a number of ways to validate the accuracy of an article. These methods include the SIFT Method (Stop, Investigate, Find, Trace), the P.R.O.V.E.N. Source Evaluation method (Purpose, Relevance, Objectivity, Verifiability, Expertise and Newness), and lateral reading.

Lateral reading is a strategy for investigating a source by opening a new browser tab to conduct a search and consult other sources. Lateral reading involves cross-checking the information by researching the source rather than scrolling down the page.

Here are five techniques based on these methods to help readers determine news facts from fiction:

1. Research the author or organization

Search for information beyond the entity's own website. What are others saying about it? Are there any red flags that lead you to question its credibility? Search the entity's name in quotation marks in your browser and look for sources that critically review the organization or group. An organization's "About" page might tell you who is on their board, their mission and their nonprofit status, but this information is typically written to present the organization in a positive light.

The P.R.O.V.E.N. Source Evaluation method includes a section called "Expertise," which recommends that readers check the author's credentials and affiliations. Do the authors have advanced degrees or expertise related to the topic? What else have they written? Who funds the organization and what are their affiliations? Do any of these affiliations reveal a potential conflict of interest? Might their writings be biased in favor of one particular viewpoint?

If any of this information is missing or questionable, you may want to stay away from this author or organization.

2. Use good search techniques

Become familiar with search techniques available in your favorite web browser, such as searching keywords rather than full sentences and limiting searches by domain names, such as .org, .gov, or .edu.

Another good technique is putting two or more words in quotation marks so the search engine finds the words next to each other in that order, such as “Pizzagate conspiracy.” This leads to more relevant results.

In an article published in *Nature*, a team of researchers wrote that “77% of search queries that used the headline or URL of a false/misleading article as a search query return at least one unreliable news link among the top ten results.”

A more effective search would be to identify the key concepts in the headline in question and search those individual words as keywords. For example, if the headline is “Video Showing Alien at Miami Mall Sparks Claims of Invasion,” readers could search: “Alien invasion” Miami mall.



Knowing good search techniques can help internet users sift through a more reliable set of results. MTStock Studio/E+ via Getty Images

3. Verify the source

Verify the original sources of the information. Was the information cited, paraphrased or quoted accurately? Can you find the same facts or statements in the original source? Purdue Global, Purdue University’s online university for working adults, recommends verifying citations and references that can also apply to news stories by

checking that the sources are “easy to find, easy to access, and not outdated.” It also recommends checking the original studies or data cited for accuracy.

The SIFT Method echoes this in its recommendation to “trace claims, quotes, and media to the original context.” You cannot assume that re-reporting is always accurate.

4. Use fact-checking websites

Search fact-checking websites such as InfluenceWatch.org, Poynter.org, Politifact.com or Snopes.com to verify claims. What conclusions did the fact-checkers reach about the accuracy of the claims?

A Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review article found that the “high level of agreement” between fact-checking sites “enhances the credibility of fact checkers in the eyes of the public.”

5. Pause and reflect

Pause and reflect to see if what you have read has triggered a strong emotional response. An article in the journal Cognitive Research indicates that news items that cause strong emotions increase our tendency “to believe fake news stories.”

One online study found that the simple act of “pausing to think” and reflect on whether a headline is true or false may prevent a person from sharing false information. While the study indicated that pausing only decreases intentions to share by a small amount – 0.32 points on a 6-point scale – the authors argue that this could nonetheless cut down on the spread of fake news on social media.

Knowing how to identify and check for misinformation is an important part of being a responsible digital citizen. This skill is all the more important as AI becomes more prevalent.

More States Are Passing Book Banning Rules. Here's What They Say.

Discussion about what books children should access has diminished on the national stage. But most rules pertaining to schools and libraries are made at the state and local level.

By Elizabeth A. Harris

Published July 29, 2024 Updated Aug. 7, 2024

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/29/books/book-banning-south-carolina-tennesse-idaho-utah.html>



Protesters in Boise, Idaho show their opposition to a new law that limits access to books in the state. Restrictive laws have also gone into effect in Utah and South Carolina. Credit...James Dawson

While the effort to restrict access to books has been getting somewhat less attention on the national stage, it remains a potent issue on the state and local level, where most decisions about schools and libraries are made.

Over the past few weeks, new laws or regulations have gone into effect in Utah, Idaho, South Carolina and Tennessee that will make it more difficult for young people to access books and library materials that could be considered obscene or harmful.

Proponents say these rules are necessary to protect children from encountering sensitive topics, like sexual content, sexual violence or graphic depictions of nudity, on their own. Detractors say these rules make it difficult for students to view a range of books, including those that reflect real world experiences and some classics with more mature themes that have long been taught in high schools.

Here's what to know about the new state rules:

Utah

An amendment to an existing law that went into effect on July 1 aims to “identify and remove pornographic or indecent material” from school classrooms and libraries. This includes any book or other classroom or library material that includes descriptions of sex or masturbation.

Traditionally, schools have been allowed to take into consideration whether a book has artistic merit or would be otherwise valuable to students. “Beloved,” by Toni Morrison, for example, has been challenged repeatedly around the country, but is widely considered to be a masterpiece. The new law explicitly addresses this question, saying that local education agencies, which includes school boards and the governing boards of charter schools, should prioritize “protecting children from the harmful effects of illicit pornography over other considerations.”

Under the law, each local education agency must tell the state whenever it removes material from circulation. If the same material is removed by three school districts — or two school districts and five charter schools — the Utah State Board of Education will order it to be removed statewide.

Idaho

Since the law went into effect on July 1, libraries have been required to hold “obscene materials,” as defined by an existing statute from the 1970s, in a separate adults-only area. The definition includes nudity and sexual conduct including “masturbation, homosexuality, sexual intercourse,” as well as “sodomasochistic abuse.”

The bill's sponsor, Idaho State Representative Jaron Crane, emphasized in an interview that this was not a book banning bill, but a relocation bill intended to keep minors from stumbling upon these materials. The materials can be kept in a separate section, such as behind the checkout counter. The books remain available and parents are free to check them out for their children, he said.

But some libraries have concerns about how the rule will be implemented. The Donnelly Public Library in Donnelly, Idaho, for example, is only 1,024 square feet and does not have enough space to adequately separate their adult materials, according to its website. The library will now require permission from a parent or guardian for a child to enter the library alone.

Saba Baig, the vice chair of the library board in Latah County, said she was concerned about how much it would cost to implement the legislation. If a library does not relocate a book within 60 days of receiving a complaint, the person who complained may be entitled to \$250 in damages, but more broadly, she said it wasn't clear if libraries would need to pay a lawyer to review complaints from people objecting to books. And if a complaint winds up in litigation, she said, it could be ruinously expensive for libraries that operate on a small budget.

South Carolina

The state education department has said South Carolina's new regulations are an effort to create a uniform process to replace a patchwork approach to challenging books and deciding whether they are appropriate. Under the new rules, which went into effect last month, districts will be required to keep a list of all books and materials available to students, and there will be one statewide form for lodging complaints about books.

According to the rule, the materials cannot include any depiction of sexual conduct, regardless of the grade level they are intended for. Districts can decide whether to comb through their collections and remove anything that would contravene the rule, or they can apply the standard to new purchases going forward and address any challenges as they arise.

Joshua Malkin, a senior advocacy strategist at the ACLU of South Carolina, said he worries that these rules could peel away classics like "The Bluest Eye," "1984" and "The Catcher in the Rye." He also criticized the regulations for making no distinction between what's appropriate for an elementary student versus a high school student.

Tennessee

An amendment to an existing law that went into effect July 1 codifies the definition of what books and library materials are suitable for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. It says material that includes any descriptions or depictions of sexual conduct, "sexual excitement," excess violence or sadomasochistic abuse cannot be part of a school library's collection.

When a book is challenged, the local education agency has 60 days to decide whether it is appropriate for children. If the agency does not make a decision in that time frame, those concerns can be brought to a state commission. If that commission decides the book should be removed, then it must be removed statewide.

Kasey Meehan, the program director of Freedom to Read at the free speech organization PEN America, called the definition of suitability broad and vague, and said the measure was reminiscent of rules in other parts of the country that led to more books being pulled off the shelves.

A correction was made on Aug. 7, 2024

An earlier version of this article misstated the number of days a library in Idaho would have to relocate a book after receiving a complaint. The library has 60 days, not 30.

When we learn of a mistake, we acknowledge it with a correction. If you spot an error, please let us know at nytnews@nytimes.com. Learn more

Elizabeth A. Harris covers books and the publishing industry, reporting on industry news and examining the broader cultural impact of books. She is also an author. Her novel, "How To Sleep At Night," will be published in 2025.

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST

Trust Agenda

Trust Minutes

Trust Financial Reports

Gifts to Trust: Receipts

Check Register: Claims

Baldwin Public Library Trust Meeting

Rotary Donor Room

Monday, August 19, 2024

Immediately following regular Board meeting

Agenda

Call to order and establishment of a quorum

I. General Public Comment Period

The Library Board values public meetings and welcomes your comments on Library issues. The Board respectfully asks that comments be made as concisely as possible. We welcome your comments but will not debate items not on the agenda. The maximum time for individual speakers should not exceed three minutes.

II. Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a roll call vote. There will be no discussion of these items unless a board member or a citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered as the last item under new business.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| A. Approval of the July 15, 2024 minutes | p. 107 |
| B. Acceptance of the July 2024 receipts of \$1,779.58 | p. 114 |
| C. Approval of the July 2024 disbursements of \$8,394.48 | p. 115 |

III. New and Miscellaneous Business

IV. Adjournment

The next Trust meeting will be held immediately following the next regular meeting of the Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors on Monday, September 16, 2024.

Motion: To adjourn the August 19, 2024 Trust Meeting.

Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the Library at the number (248) 647-1700 or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la biblioteca en el número (248) 647-1700 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**BALDWIN LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES,
TRUST MEETING
July 15, 2024**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Rock at 8:19 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, and Jennifer Wheeler.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director, Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director, and Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library Liaison present: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: One.

1. General Public Comment Period: None.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the Trust minutes, as well as receipts and disbursements.

A. Approval of the June 24, 2024 minutes

B. Acceptance of the June 2024 receipts of \$26,001.49

C. Approval of the June 2024 disbursements of \$238,606.54

1st Friedman

2nd Pisano

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. New and Miscellaneous Business: None.

4. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

1st Rumble

2nd Mark

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The next Trust Meeting will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024, following the regular meeting in the Rotary Tribute & Donor Room.

Melissa Mark, Secretary

Date

DRAFT

Baldwin Public Library Trust: July 2024

July receipts totaled \$1,779.58. July disbursements totaled \$8,394.48

The current value of the Trust is \$2,103,752.61, divided up in the following way:

	June 2024 - EOY	July 2024
Total endowment investments*	\$ 1,130,701.05	\$ 1,171,383.28
Endowment funds distributed for use	\$ 218,537.84	\$ 213,892.97
<hr/> Total endowment funds	<hr/> \$ 1,349,238.89	<hr/> \$ 1,385,276.25
 General spendable funds	 \$ 514,855.26	 \$ 522,381.98
Van Dragt fund	\$ 16,663.66	\$ 16,663.66
Building fund	\$ 118,787.20	\$ 119,125.21
Restricted funds**	\$ 37,762.23	\$ 35,581.97
Naming rights for Rotary Tribute Room	\$ 9,337.89	\$ 9,337.89
Naming rights for Burnett Reference Desk	\$ 9,385.65	\$ 9,385.65
Naming rights for Thal Reference Desk	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
<hr/> Total non-endowment funds	<hr/> \$ 712,791.89	<hr/> \$ 718,476.36
 Total endowment funds	 \$ 1,349,238.89	 \$ 1,385,276.25
Total non-endowment funds	712,791.89	\$ 718,476.36
<hr/> Total of all Trust funds	<hr/> \$ 2,062,030.78	<hr/> \$ 2,103,752.61

* The principal of the endowment funds is \$879,079.04.

**Includes memorials and donations from the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library

As of July 31, the amount of money in the Trust that is undesignated stands at \$708,472.12

Baldwin Public Library Trust
Endowment Funds Portfolio Performance Benchmarks
As of July 31, 2024

<u>Index</u>	<u>2024: YTD</u>	<u>2023: Entire Year</u>
S&P 500-Equity Benchmark	15.78%	24.23%
U.S. Aggregate-Bond Benchmark	3.21%	5.53%
Blended Return of Both Benchmarks* <i>(S&P 500: 75% and U.S. Aggregate: 25%)</i>	12.64%	19.57%
Baldwin Endowment Funds' Portfolio	8.96%	9.80%
Endowment Funds' Performance Compared to Blended Return of Benchmarks	-3.68%	-9.76%

*Since November 2017, the blended return has been calculated according to the Baldwin Endowment Funds' allocation of 75% equities and 25% fixed income, cash, and cash alternatives.

As of April 2020, this report was renamed "Endowment Funds Portfolio Performance Benchmarks," instead of "Portfolio Performance Benchmarks." The new title is more accurate, for it states clearly that the comparison between benchmarks and the Baldwin Trust's performance pertains only to the BPL Trust Endowment Funds Account at Raymond James. It does not take into account the BPL Trust General Funds Account at Raymond James or the Trust's Huntington Bank checking and money market accounts. The breakdown of the Trust's various accounts is shown on the "Balances by Financial Institutions Report," which follows this report in the Board packet. As of July 31, 2024, the breakdown was as follows:

Raymond James Endowment Funds Account	\$1,185,215.28
Raymond James Building Mutual Funds Account	\$491,783.09
Huntington Bank Checking Account	\$4,225.38
Huntington Bank Money Market Account	<u>\$422,528.86</u>
Total	\$ 2,103,752.61

Our Huntington Bank checking account and money market account have no stock or bond investments at all, and are non-volatile. All of the funds donated for the Library's Youth Room expansion and renovation are in our Huntington Bank money market account and are therefore safe from market fluctuation.

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST
BALANCES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS JULY 31, 2024

Investment and Cash Report											
12_c	Prior Month Balance 06/30/24	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue	Current Month Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Change in Investment Value	Ending Balance 07/31/24		
Huntington Bank Checking:											
Endowment Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,644.87	\$4,644.87	\$4,644.87			\$0.00		
Van Dragt Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00		
Restricted Funds - Memorials and Friends	\$4,225.06	\$0.32	\$0.32	\$3,464.58	\$3,464.58	\$3,464.58			\$4,225.38		
Restricted Funds - Building	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,499.07	\$1,499.07	\$1,499.07			\$0.00		
Restricted Funds - Covid and MAF Idea Lab	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,284.00)	(\$1,284.00)	(\$1,284.00)			\$0.00		
Subtotal - Restricted Funds	\$4,225.06								\$4,225.38		
General Spendable Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59.96	\$59.96	\$59.96			\$0.00		
TOTAL	\$4,225.06	\$0.32	\$0.32	\$8,384.48	\$8,384.48	\$8,384.48	\$0.00		\$4,225.38		
Huntington Bank Money Market:											
Endowment Budgeted Funds	\$220,043.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,644.87)		\$215,398.86		
Endowment Investment Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Building Fund	\$2,998.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,499.07)		\$1,499.75		
Van Dragt Fund	\$16,663.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$16,663.66		
Restricted Funds	\$42,440.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,464.58)		\$38,975.83		
Restricted Fund - Covid	\$516.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$516.43		
Restricted Fund - Idea Lab MAF	(\$34.02)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,284.00		\$1,249.98		
General Spendable Funds	\$146,515.05	\$1,779.26	\$1,779.26	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	(\$59.96)		\$148,224.35		
TOTAL	\$429,144.06	\$1,779.26	\$1,779.26	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	(\$8,384.48)		\$422,528.86		
Raymond James & Associates:											
Endowment Fund Investments	\$1,136,072.44	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,470.00	\$1,177,542.44		
Endowment Cash	\$8,460.61	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$787.77)	\$7,672.84		
Sub-total Endowment Funds	\$1,144,533.05	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,682.23	\$1,185,215.28		
General Spendable Funds Cash	\$929.36	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$162.71	\$1,092.07		
General Spendable Mutual Funds	\$367,182.72	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,693.76	\$372,876.48		
General Spendable Building Mutual Funds	\$116,016.51	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,798.03	\$117,814.54		
Sub-total General Spendable Funds	\$484,128.59	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,654.50	\$491,783.09		
TOTAL	\$1,628,661.64	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,336.73	\$1,676,998.37		
Total All Funds	\$2,062,030.78	\$1,779.58	\$1,779.58	\$8,394.48	\$8,394.48	\$8,384.48	(\$8,384.48)	\$48,336.73	\$2,103,752.61		

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST
ENDOWMENT BY INDIVIDUAL FUND
JULY 31, 2024**

12d	FUND NAME	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF FUND	PURPOSE	VALUE AS OF JULY 1, 2024	2024/25 DONATIONS	EARNINGS INCOME OUT	CHANGE IN VALUE		CURRENT VALUE OF ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS
							JULY 1, 2024 to JUNE 30, 2025	40,682.23	
401	Frances Balfour	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading	\$13,252.14			\$462.77	\$13,714.92	
402	Gladys E. Brooks	\$41,437.86	Large Print Books/Senior Citizens Programs	\$54,913.32			\$1,917.63	\$56,830.95	
403	Jane Cameron	\$68,770.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$86,978.61			\$3,182.49	\$90,161.10	
404	Jane Martin Clark	\$5,000.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$6,626.07			\$231.39	\$6,857.45	
405	Jan Coil	\$10,500.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$13,791.80			\$485.91	\$14,277.71	
406	Aubrey & Grace Flood	\$5,000.00	Youth Services	\$6,626.07			\$231.39	\$6,857.45	
407	Paul R. Francis	\$10,000.00	Staff Appreciation	\$12,450.66			\$462.77	\$12,913.44	
408	Friends of the Library	\$32,000.00	Library Collections	\$42,407.14			\$1,480.87	\$43,888.01	
409	Priscilla Goodell	\$113,718.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$150,701.28			\$5,262.56	\$155,963.84	
410	Emmelene Hornac	\$50,000.00	Youth Services & Adult Reading	\$66,260.76			\$2,313.86	\$68,574.62	
411	H. G. Johnston	\$6,350.00	Reference Collection	\$8,363.90			\$293.86	\$8,657.76	
412	Bob & Jean Kelly	\$10,508.00	Youth Services Programs	\$13,322.77			\$486.28	\$13,809.06	
413	William Keman, Jr.	\$25,000.00	Library Collections	\$33,130.40			\$1,156.93	\$34,287.34	
414	Merle L. Rominger	\$250,890.00	Reference Collection	\$332,403.09			\$11,610.51	\$344,013.60	
415	Rosso Family Foundation	\$10,000.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$13,252.16			\$462.77	\$13,714.94	
416	Marion G. Sweeney	\$11,700.00	Youth Services	\$14,462.93			\$541.44	\$15,004.38	
417	Stephen Vartanian	\$10,000.00	Audio Visual Material	\$13,252.16			\$462.77	\$13,714.94	
419	Clarice G. Taylor	\$59,852.76	Professional Development	\$81,514.09			\$2,769.82	\$84,283.91	
421	Eric & Julie Gheen	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading Print Books	\$12,429.08			\$462.77	\$12,891.86	
422	Ileane Thal	\$39,998.98	Baldwin Public Library	\$47,571.48			\$1,851.04	\$49,422.52	
423	Judith Nix	\$15,207.48	Adult & Youth Programs	\$18,370.39			\$703.76	\$19,074.15	
424	MAF-Rae Dumke	\$10,000.00	Architecture Books	\$12,474.55			\$462.77	\$12,937.33	
425	Linne Underdown Hage Forester	\$34,509.96	Professional Development	\$35,987.60			\$1,597.03	\$37,584.63	
426	Richard & Mary Henne Book Fund	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading Print Books	\$10,166.46			\$462.77	\$10,629.24	
427	Douglas R. Koschik	\$18,554.00	Building Improvements	\$18,830.97			\$858.63	\$19,689.60	
428	Gerald "Jerry" Dreer	\$10,100.00		\$11,161.15			\$467.40	\$11,628.56	
		\$879,097.04		\$1,130,701.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,682.23	\$1,171,383.28	

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST
ENDOWMENT FUNDS BY DESIGNATION
JULY 31, 2024**

		Prior Month	Current	Year to	Current	Year to	Current	Year to	Transfer	Change in	Ending
		Balance	Month	Date	Month	Date	Month	Date	In	Investment	Balance
	Purpose	06/30/24	Revenue	Revenue	Expense	Expense	Expense	Expense	Out	Value	07/31/24
Gift & Tribute Funds											
General Spendable Funds		\$514,855.26	\$1,779.26	\$1,779.26	\$69.96	\$69.96				\$5,817.42	\$522,381.98
Restricted Funds:											
Building Fund		\$118,787.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,499.07	\$1,499.07				\$1,837.08	\$119,125.21
Van Dragt Fund		\$16,663.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$16,663.66
Memorials/Tributes		\$9,529.75	\$0.32	\$0.32	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$9,530.07
Covid Project		\$516.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$516.43
Restricted Fund - Idea Lab MAF		(\$34.02)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,284.00)	(\$1,284.00)					\$1,249.98
Friends	Adult Services Programs	\$12,018.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,363.49	\$1,363.49					\$10,654.79
	Young Adult Programs	\$3,241.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,024.32	\$1,024.32					\$2,217.11
	Youth Services Programs	\$3,347.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.72	\$600.72					\$2,746.80
	Idea Lab Program Supplies	\$2,496.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$476.05	\$476.05					\$2,020.05
	Outreach & Equipment	\$6,646.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$6,646.74
	Sub-total Restricted	\$173,213.09	\$0.32	\$0.32	\$3,679.65	\$3,679.65		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,837.08	\$171,370.84
Rotary Room Fund	Naming Rights-Principal	\$7,832.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,832.00
	Maintenance Funds	\$1,505.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,505.89
Ileane Thal Reference Desk		\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Miranda Burnett Reference Desk		\$9,385.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,385.65
Total Gift and Tribute Funds		\$712,791.89	\$1,779.58	\$1,779.58	\$3,749.61	\$3,749.61		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,654.50	\$718,476.36
Endowment Funds											
Endowment Budgeted Funds	General Funds	\$69,028.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$564.10	\$564.10					\$68,464.68
	Adult Large Print	\$2,053.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.94	\$55.94					\$1,998.00
	Adult Services Department	\$34,215.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$532.95	\$532.95					\$33,682.40
	Adult Audio Visual	\$561.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$561.34
	Adult Reference	\$49,170.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$49,170.06
	Adult Programs	\$23,568.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,444.20	\$1,444.20					\$22,124.66
	Architecture	\$4,451.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,404.72	\$1,404.72					\$3,046.87
	Youth Services Department	\$8,994.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$323.96	\$323.96					\$8,670.26
	Youth Programs (Nix)	\$922.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$922.00
	Professional Development	\$22,033.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.00	\$319.00					\$21,714.06
	Staff Appreciation	\$2,553.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$2,553.70
	Koschik Building Fund	\$984.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$984.94
	Sub-total	\$218,537.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,644.87	\$4,644.87		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213,892.97
Total Endowment Investments	All Funds	\$1,130,701.05	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,682.23	\$1,171,383.28
Total Endowment Funds		\$1,349,238.89	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$4,644.87	\$4,644.87		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,682.23	\$1,385,276.25
Total All Trust Funds		\$2,062,030.78	\$1,779.58	\$2,679.58	\$8,394.48	\$8,394.48		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,336.73	\$2,103,752.61

TRUST RECEIPTS
July-24

12f_

Trust Money Mkt General Funds:

Money Market Interest Income	<u>\$ 1,779.26</u>	<u>\$ 1,779.26</u>
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Friends of BPL:

\$ -

Trust Money Mkt Restricted Funds:

\$ -

Memorial/Book Fund:

Checking Account Interest	<u>\$ 0.32</u>	<u>\$ 0.32</u>
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Trust Money Mkt Endowment Fund:

\$ -

Total Receipts at Huntington Bank	<u>\$ 1,779.58</u>	<u>\$ 1,779.58</u>
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Raymond James

\$0.00

Total Trust Receipts (Before Bank Fees)	<u>\$1,779.58</u>	<u>\$1,779.58</u>
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Monthly Banking Fee on Money Market Account	<u>\$ (10.00)</u>	<u>\$ (10.00)</u>
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Total Trust Receipts (Net)	<u>\$1,769.58</u>	<u>\$1,769.58</u>
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Check Date	Bank	Check	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
Bank LIBRY BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST					
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6160	009126	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES INC	544.20
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6161	000843	BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	67.81
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6162	004269	CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	55.94
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6163	007403	SUSAN DION	24.38
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6164	009315	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA	3,513.69
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6165	009315	VOID	0.00 V
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6166	009315	VOID	0.00 V
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6167	004604	GORDON FOOD	235.24
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6168	009030	SYNTHA GREEN	46.47
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6169	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	1,322.68
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6170	MISC	MANE MOOD LLC	500.00
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6171	MISC	NGS ADDRESS	1,499.07
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6172	MISC	RODNEY M. SADLER	150.00
07/26/2024	LIBRY	6173	MISC	TIP TOP ENTERTAINMENT LLC	425.00

LIBRY TOTALS:

Total of 14 Checks:	8,384.48
Less 2 Void Checks:	0.00
Total of 12 Disbursements:	<u>8,384.48</u>