

Winter 2023

# LIBRARY MUSINGS

Briggs District Library Newsletter



## Coming Soon

In April, Briggs District Library will open a Michigan Legal Help Self-Help Center. Library staff will be trained as navigators who can help visitors use the Michigan Legal Help website to gain information about how to handle simple civil legal matters. In addition to helping visitors find what they need on the website, navigators will be available to answer questions about court practices and processes, and answer simple questions about forms that are available on the website. Navigators cannot give legal advice. The Self-Help Center will be open Monday through Thursday 10:30am - 7:30pm; Friday 10:30am - 5:30pm; and Saturday 10:30am - 2:30pm.

## Library Hours

**Monday –Thursday**  
10:00 am—8:00 pm

**Friday**  
10:00 am—6:00 pm

**Saturday**  
10:00 am—3:00 pm

## News

### Renovation Project

Approximately 25 years ago, the St. Johns community came together to provide the residents of our area with a quality library. Over the years the library has worked hard to provide residents of all ages with information, knowledge, educational opportunities and enjoyment. Our community's needs are evolving and it is essential that the library evolve to meet those changing needs. To that end, the Library Board is planning to remodel the Library, making some much needed updates to the facility, reconfiguring the layout to enhance public use, developing a new children's area, adding a maker space, and creating a larger public programming/meeting space. The Library is currently raising funds to facilitate this project. The Library was blessed to receive a generous donation from ITC Holdings towards the project. The Library continues to apply for grants, hold fundraisers and seek additional donations to support the project. If you are interested in assisting with or supporting the Library in this endeavor please contact the Library at (989)224-4702.



## News

### Public Survey

The Briggs District Library Board is working on updating the library's Strategic Plan. This document sets goals for the Library and helps direct the services we offer. The Board is seeking input from the public to assist them in planning for the future of the library, and is inviting all interested community members to take a moment to complete a survey. The survey was sent to library patrons with an email address on file, but it can also be accessed via the library's website and Facebook page, or a paper copy can be obtained at the main desk. Thank you for your input.

### New Operating System

The library switched its operating system last August, and is now able to offer several new benefits for patrons. One is Librista, an app which allows patrons to search the collection, request materials, and manage their personal account from their mobile device. Another nice feature is that patrons can choose how they want to receive notices from the library: email, text or phone call. With the available features, the library is working towards paperless registration of new patrons.



As part of the transition, the library eliminated late fines on the majority of the collection. The Library now only charges fines on new adult materials and on items in the This 'n That collection: hotspots, chrome-books, yard games, etc. The system is also set to automatically renew items as long as no one else is waiting for them. Patrons are pleased with the new interface and are happy with changes that were made to late fines.

**St Johns Student Art Exhibit on display at the library from March 11th - May 4th.**

### Libby / OverDrive

Now, when using Libby, patrons can access multiple digital collections. In addition to being able to access the White Pine Library Cooperative Collection (Fuel Your Mind), which patrons have historically had access to, patrons can now access the following digital collections, too:

- Great Lakes Digital Libraries
- Lakeland Digital Library
- Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
- Suburban Library Cooperative
- Up North Michigan Consortium
- Download Destination

This change greatly expands the number of ebooks and downloadable audiobooks available to our patrons. For instructions or assistance in making use of this service, ask a staff member by stopping by the library or calling (989)224-4702.



Still using the Overdrive app? Switch to Libby!

The OverDrive app will be sunsetting in a few months. Our library staff is here to help you make the switch to Libby. It has the same great titles with new features you will love.

## Your Modern Library

### Not Your Grandparent's Library

When you think of a library, what kinds of pictures come to mind? Many people still have the misconception that only children and senior citizens use libraries, that libraries only circulate books, that library programs are just a person reading a story. While it can be fun to chuckle at the stereotypical image of a librarian as an older woman wearing glasses with her hair up in a bun, modern libraries are so much more.

Many libraries, including ours, offer a wide variety of carefully thought out and planned programs for all ages; offer access to online resources like ebooks, streaming video, language instruction, and tutoring; and circulate items like hotspots, chrome-books, board games, puzzles, yard games, seeds, baking supplies, knitting needles, and household tools.

And, the library is not just a building. Library staff can be found delivering services to all areas of our community. They are holding offsite programs and outreach events at township halls, they are partnering with other organizations and businesses at community events, they are changing the StoryWalk pages at the City Park and Motz Park, and they are picking up materials from the library dropboxes at Riley and Bengal Township halls and Lowe United Methodist Church in Essex Township.

Your library has evolved and continues to do so. If you have not yet taken advantage of all the library has to offer, please don't hesitate to stop in or visit our website. Library staff is willing and able to help you take advantage of all your library has to offer.



## Upcoming Programs

It is never too early to be thinking about summer, and here at the Briggs Library we are already working on our summer slate of programs. Of course we will offer **Summer Reading Programs** for kids, teens, and adults. This year’s theme is “Libraries are for Everyone!” After a brief hiatus, our **Summer Reading Kick-Off** event is back on Thursday, June 8! The fun will start at 3:00pm at the library with a music and puppets show by Mrs. Kate. From 4:00-8:00pm, there will be inflatables, lawn games, and concessions across the street from the library at the Rotary Pavilion. As a special treat, Ms. Sharon will be available for face painting from 6:00-8:00pm.



We will also be holding a special adult program when Michigan author Patti F. Smith stops by to discuss her book, **Michigan Beer: A Heady History**. In addition to the discussion, this program will also feature a tasting of beers from Michigan breweries. Date to be determined.

Visit the library, our website, or our social media for details on these, and all upcoming library programs.

## Get To Know Your Library Staff



Hello, my name is Sara Morrison. I have been Director of the Briggs District Library for over nineteen years. My husband, Jon, and I live in Essex Township with our two high school age daughters. I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, hiking, kayaking, camping and of course reading. I love music. I have been singing since I was five years old and have participated in the Mint City Singers for a number of years. Both my daughters are active in the St Johns’ band program and I enjoy helping the Redwing Marching Band through Band Boosters. I often get asked if I have a favorite book or author. I don’t. At times I like thought provoking books like Christine Dalcher’s *Vox*. At other times it is nice to read something fluffier or that tugs at ones heart strings. I also read a lot of non-fiction as I enjoy learning new things or exploring different points of view.

### Contact Us

- Library Director: Sara Morrison**  
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- Assistant Director: Brett Harger**  
*bharger@briggsdistrictlibrary.org*
- Program Librarian: Erin Faivor**  
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- Community Engagement: Elizabeth Janetzke**  
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### Library Board

<b>Kimberly Skora</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Rebecca Daman</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>Jean Ruestman</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Renaе Larsen</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Brad Jorae</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Trustee</b>