

News & Events

January-February 2026 www.baycountylibrary.org



JANUARY 5 - MARCH 7, 2026
baycountylibrary.org/WRP

- **Sign up!** Beginning January 5th, 2026, pick up a log at any BCLS branch or track your reading online through READsquared.
- **Log 8 hours** of reading by March 7th to be eligible for prize drawings. Online and paper logs must be submitted by the end of the day.
- **Keep logging!** Your name will be entered into a drawing to win awesome grand prizes for every 8 hours of reading or listening you complete.

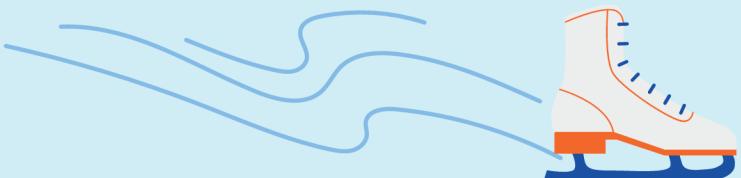
ReadSquared



Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

Get READsquared links and instructions, plus print reading logs at baycountylibrary.org/WRP.



WINTER READING PROGRAM 2026



Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library
 500 Center Ave., Bay City, MI 48708
 Ph: (989) 893-9566 TDD: (989) 893-7052
 Mon-Thu: 10 am-8 pm
 Fri-Sat: 9 am-5 pm
 Sun: *1-5 pm (*Sep-May only)



Auburn Area Branch Library
 235 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
 Ph: (989) 662-2381
 Sun-Mon: Closed
 Tue-Thu: 10 am-8 pm
 Fri-Sat: 9 am-5 pm



Pinconning Branch Library
 218 Kaiser St., Pinconning, MI 48650
 Ph: (989) 879-3283
 Sun-Mon: Closed
 Tue-Thu: 10 am-8 pm
 Fri-Sat: 9 am-5 pm



Sage Branch Library
 100 E. Midland St., Bay City, MI 48706
 Ph: (989) 892-8555
 Mon-Tue: 9 am-5 pm
 Wed-Thu: Noon-8 pm
 Fri: 9 am-5 pm
 Sat-Sun: Closed

Bookmobile
 Ph: (989) 385-0837
 Visit us on the web for a current schedule:



**MEET US ON
THE ROAD!**

**We're
Social!**



Friends of the Bay County Library System

The Friends of the Bay County Libraries is a volunteer organization that raises money and helps with the enhancement of library operations. Membership is comprised of people from throughout Bay County who are passionate about their libraries. The Friends are governed by a Board of Directors, who are elected annually.

Next meeting: Tue, Jan 6, 10:15 am

Location: Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library

The public is always welcome to attend.

Annual Used Book Sale:

Thu, Jul 30-Sat, Aug 1, 2026

Location: Bay County Civic Arena

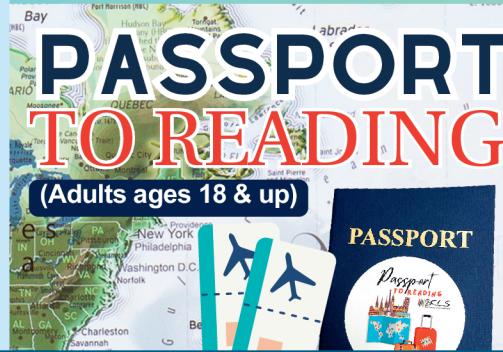


Outreach

We're out and about!

Our librarians regularly attend events and organizations around the county, bringing your library to you! Please stop by if you see us around - whether at a table, on the Bookmobile, or with our super cool book bike!

If you know of an event you'd like us to attend, please reach out to Kristin at kfreeman@baycountylibrary.org. We attend as many as we can!



Stop into any branch to pick up your passport. Read 12 books from at least 3 different continents and your name will be entered into a drawing for a basket filled with goodies from around the world!

You must be a Bay County Resident to be eligible for the prize drawing. Passports are valid October 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.



A note from the Director

Happy New Year! With the start of a new year it is a time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future. 2025 was fun filled with programming for all ages, new collections added, author visits, reading programs and outreach. Looking ahead to 2026 we are excited to share with you our reformatted newsletter! With the updated format we will be able to share additional information on programs, services, outreach and more. To kick off the year BCCLS is excited for the Winter Reading Program to start January 5th with the theme "Glide Into Reading." The programming and services you have grown to love will continue, but we hope to add some new and exciting ones to the calendar as well. (Be sure to stay updated by receiving our newsletter!) We look forward to seeing you visit your local branch or bookmobile this year or out in the community at an outreach event. Make sure to say hi if you see us out and about!

Thank you for your continued support of the Bay County Library System throughout the years whether it was by checking out books, attending programs, using a computer, donating items for the book sale, or just stopping by to be in a warm and friendly atmosphere. We appreciate you as our patrons and hope to continue to be an integral part of the Bay County community and your daily lives. Here is to a great year ahead!

-Kirsten Wellnitz, Director



Book a Study Room

Set yourself up for success in the New Year and tackle those resolutions in a quiet space at the library!

Reserve online:



Auburn



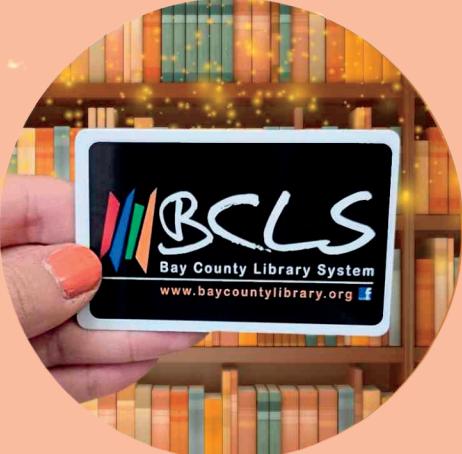
Get your library card!

Getting your card is easy:

Bay County Residents: Stop by any BCCLS branch to fill out an application, or download one from our website to complete at home. Bring a photo ID with your current address, such as a driver's license. If your ID doesn't have your current address, you can bring a utility bill, student ID, or request a postcard verification.

Kids & Teens: Parents or guardians must sign for minors under 18.

Other Options: Non-residents, temporary residents, and corporate users can also get cards depending on their needs. Visit your branch for more information or check our website for the full policy guide.





Storytimes & Family Programs

WINTER STORYTIMES January 5-February 20, 2026

Baby Storytime (Ages 0-2)

Wirt: Mondays, 10:30-11 am
Sage: Tuesdays, 11-11:30 am
Auburn: Thursdays, 10:15-10:45 am



Toddler Storytime (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Wirt: Wednesdays, 10:30-11 am

Preschool Storytime (Ages 2-5)

Sage: Tuesdays, 10-10:30 am
Auburn: Wednesdays, 10:15-10:45 am
Wirt: Wednesdays, 11:30-12 pm
Wirt: Thursdays, 10:30-11 am
Auburn: Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 am

Family Storytime (Ages 0-6)

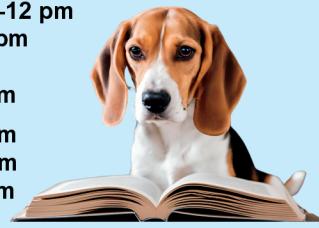
Sage: Mondays, 10-10:30 am
Pinconning: Wednesdays, 10:30-11 am
Wirt: Wednesdays, 6:30-7 pm

We offer storytimes for a variety of age groups filled with stories, music, activities and more! Registration is open for all sessions.

Registration & Online Calendar:

Pups & Pages ® (Ages 4-12)

Pinconning: Sat, Jan 10, 11 am-12 pm
Auburn: Sat, Jan 17, 11 am-12 pm
Wirt: Sat, Jan 17, 2-3 pm
Sage: Wed, Jan 21, 5:30-6:30 pm
Auburn: Sat, Feb 7, 11 am-12 pm
Sage: Wed, Feb 18, 5:30-6:30 pm
Pinconning: Thu, Feb 19, 6-7 pm
Wirt: Sat, Feb 21, 2-3 pm



Join us at each branch to read to a certified therapy dog! Bring a book from home or come a few minutes early to look for books at the library.

Take Your Child to the Library Day (Family)

Sage: Thu, Feb 5, 5:30-6:30 pm (Drop in, while supplies last)
Pinconning: Thu, Feb 5, 6-7 pm (Registration required)
Wirt: Sat, Feb 7, All Day (Drop in, while supplies last)
Auburn: Sat, Feb 7, 1-2 pm OR 3-4 pm (Registration required)
Decorate library themed canvas banners with cute iron on book quotes, paint, and more! Stop in throughout the day for a chance to win special prizes with our sucker tree, sign up for library cards, and learn about all the fun activities and resources our branches have to offer every day of the year!

Winter Olympics Party ® (Family)

Sage: Thu, Jan 8, 5:30-6:30 pm
Auburn: Tue, Jan 13, 4:30-5:30 pm
Pinconning: Thu, Jan 15, 6-7 pm
Wirt: Sat, Jan 24, 2-3 pm



Families, get ready for an action-packed indoor winter sports adventure with our Winter Olympics program! Kids will get to participate in fun, creative winter sport events and crafts.

1000 BOOKS

Before Kindergarten Bay County Library System



Read your way toward kindergarten readiness! 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000B4K) is a self-guided, read-at-home program for all children, from birth up until the time they start school. The goal? For every child to be exposed to at least 1000 books before kindergarten.

Sign up to receive a tracking booklet to keep track of all of the books you and your child read together. Earn badges and prizes along the way, and build a strong early literacy foundation to help get your child ready to read on their own.

Ready to start? Join now online using READsquared, or visit the Children's Desk at any BCLS branch location to receive your Tracking Log and starting prizes.

READ squared
Habit Forming



Craft Buffet (Ages 0-12 + Adult)

Wirt: Tue, Jan 20, 2-4 pm

Drop into the children's program room to create a craft of your choice.

Clay Snowman ® (Ages 2-12)

Auburn: Tue, Jan 20, 5:30-6:30 pm

It's wonderful weather to make a snowman together with you! Have fun creating your own snowman out of air dry clay!

Family Read Aloud Book Club: Charlotte's Web ® (Family)

Sage: Thu, Jan 29, 5:30-6:30 pm

After registering pick up a copy of the book at the Sage Branch library or call Sage to have a copy sent to the branch of your choice. This eBook and audio book are also available on Hoopla. Read the book or listen together as a family. Family can include aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends. Come to the library Jan 29th for a pizza party and book related activities. If you don't completely finish the book, please still come on the 29th.

Healthy Teeth Storytime ® (Families with young children)

Auburn: Wed, Feb 4, 5:30-6:15 pm

Pinconning: Thu, Feb 12, 6-6:45 pm

Wirt: Mon, Feb 16, 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Sage: Fri, Feb 20, 10:30-11:15 am



Visit each branch for a special storytime about going to the dentist! Activities, prizes, and optional free dental assessments for kindergarten-aged children who attend with a parent or guardian, provided by our partners at the Bay County Health Department and My Community Dental Centers.

Storytime at Risers Kitchen (Family)

Risers Kitchen: Sat, Feb 7, 10:30-11:30 am

Join Ms. Ashley or Ms. Miranda from the Auburn Branch for a special offsite storytime at Risers Kitchen in Auburn!

Heart to Heart Craft Party ® (Ages 2-12)

Auburn: Tue, Feb 10, 4:30-5:30 pm

Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate this special time of year with crafts.



Pokémon Trainer Night ® (Family)

Auburn: Tue, Feb 24, 5:30-6:30 pm

Join us for a fun night where you can bring in your card collection to show off, play, and trade with other trainers while also enjoying Pokémon themed crafts.

Babies & Toddlers

Birth-Age 5

Toddler Time! (Ages 4 & Under)

Pinconning: Fri, Jan 2, 16, & 30 and Feb 13 & 27, 11-11:45 am

Bring your littles to the Pinconning Branch every other week for play and to make new friends! Hot beverages will be provided for adults.



Baby Book Club ® (Ages 0-3 + Adult)

Sage: Wed, Jan 7, 5:30-6 pm

Bring your baby to sing, rhyme, dance, and take home a new book to keep. Stay to play and chat with other parents.

Playdate @ Wirt (Ages 0-4 + Adult)

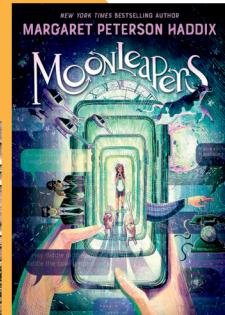
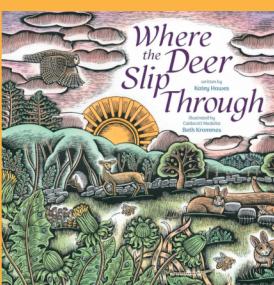
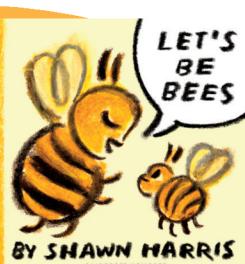
Wirt: Fri, Jan 9 & 23 and Feb 6 & 20, 10-11 am

Little ones can play, discover & meet new friends. Drop in for playtime fun in the Wirt Children's program room.

Bluey Babies & Toddlers ® (Ages 0-5 + Adult)

Auburn: Fri, Jan 9, 10:30-11:30 am OR 1-2 pm

Wackadoo! Bring your little ones for a fun morning of Bluey crafts and activities!



Staff Picks

Young Scientists: Ice Melt and Insta Snow ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Sage: Fri, Jan 16, 10:30-11:30 am

Fun, scientific exploration through STEAM stations, play and craft.

A is for Art: Paint with Snow ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Auburn: Fri, Jan 16, 10:30-11:30 am

The weather may be frightful, but our paintings are snow delightful! Learn how to make a special "snow" puffy paint and create your own wintery masterpiece.



A is for Art: Pit Stop Painters ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Auburn: Fri, Feb 20, 10:30-11:30 am

Ready, set, paint! Join us for a fun morning where you can paint your own wooden racecar.

Wiggle Worm Wednesday (Ages 0-5 + Adult)

Auburn: Wed, Feb 25, 11 am-12 pm

Wiggle Worm Wednesday is a joyful playdate designed for children 0-5 and their grown-ups! Each session is packed with wiggly fun, playful learning, and social connection. Drop in for wiggly fun!



Little Explorers! Fairy Tale Fun ® (Ages 5 & under)

Pinconning: Thu, Feb 26, 5:30-6:30 pm

Using simple salt dough and natural materials, create the wildest winter wonderland you can imagine! Pinecones, twigs, cinnamon sticks, cedar boughs, and other surprises can become houses, trees, caves, and so much more!

Little Wigglers ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Sage: Fri, Jan 30 & Feb 13, 10:30-11 am

Move and dance our wiggles out a fun musical program.



Science Club Jr: Winter Ski Challenge ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Auburn: Fri, Jan 30, 10:30-11:30 am

It's the ski-son for fun! Create your own skier out of simple materials and see if you can make it down the slopes!

Young Scientists: Science in Motion ® (Ages 2-5 + Adult)

Sage: Fri, Feb 27, 10:30-11:30 am

Fun, scientific exploration through STEAM stations, play and craft.



Kids Grades K-5

Clay Creations ® (Ages 5-12)

Wirt: Fri, Jan 2, 2-2:30 pm

Make and decorate your own sculpture or pottery using air-dry clay.

Parachute Party (Ages 5-8)

Wirt: Sat, Jan 3 & Feb 14, 2-2:30 pm

Get ready to laugh, jump, and shake! From bouncing balls to making giant waves, every movement is a blast with friends under the parachute.

Read. Talk. Create. ® (Ages 9-12)

Wirt: Tue, Jan 6 & Feb 3, 4:30-5:15 pm

Bring a book you've read or listened to, share your favorite parts, then stick around for an activity. Yarn letters in January and mosaic suncatchers in February.

Bean-tastic Mosaic Craft ® (Ages 4-12)

Pinconning: Thu, Jan 8, 6-7 pm

Craft your own unique mosaic using a variety of dried beans! This may be one of the few (and most fun!) exceptions to the "don't play with your food" rule.

B.A.M! Books and More - Fantasy ® (Grades 4th-5th)

Pickup Monday, January 12-Saturday

January 17

Try the BCLS B.A.M! Book Box for 4th-5th graders. Each box will contain one library book related to the box's theme, a book to keep, a treat, and a craft. Check out the box, enjoy the books and treats, then return the library book and box. Open to Bay County resident card holders only.

Gamer Club Jr. ® (Grades 1st-4th)

Auburn: Thu, Jan 15 & 29 and Feb 12 & 16, 3:30-4:30 pm

Join us for an after school club where we'll play a variety of video games, make new friends, and explore the world of gaming in a positive and fun environment.

Tween Hang Out: Perler Beads ® (Ages 8-12)

Sage: Thu, Jan, 15, 5:30-6:30 pm

Learn how to make Perler bead creations. Take supplies home to teach your family!

Mad Scientists: Human Reflexes ® (Ages 6-12)

Sage: Thu, Jan 22, 5:30-6:30 pm

We'll put our reflexes to the test with fun physical challenges!

Read & Create! Stone Soup by Annie Parsons ® (Ages 4-10)

Pinconning: Thu, Jan 22, 6-7 pm

Make stories come alive with creativity! Our theme will be a spin on the classic *Stone Soup* as written by Annie Parsons. Littles will participate in an engaging and interactive storytime, followed up by a stone soup craft session! Enjoy this opportunity to let your creativity run wild!

Groundhog Party ® (Ages 6-12)

Auburn: Tue, Jan 27, 4:30-5:30 pm

With Groundhog's Day coming up, help us celebrate the cute animal! We'll have groundhog themed crafts, games, and a cake!

Curiosity Club: Winter Warmth

Wonders ® (Ages 5-12)

Pinconning: Sat, Jan 31, 3-4 pm

Have you ever wondered how animals stay warm in the winter? Let your child become the scientist in this fun and insightful experiment! No prior knowledge required- all you need is your curiosity cap and the desire to learn more!

Wizard Wands ® (Ages 6-12)

Auburn: Tue, Feb 3, 4:30-5:30 pm

Calling all witches and wizards to come and make a wand just like in Harry Potter!



Mad Scientists: Race and Zoom ® (Ages 6-12)

Sage: Thu, Feb 12, 5:30-6:30 pm

Create a vehicle to speed down the Sage race track.

Sew Creative: My Funky Valentine ® (Ages 6-12)

Auburn: Tue, Feb 17, 4:30-6:30 pm

Learn the basics of following a pattern, pinning, and using a sewing machine. This month we'll create special heart shaped pillows with a pocket, perfect for storing small items or hand written notes for someone special.

Tween Hang Out: Escape ® (Ages 8-12)

Sage: Thu, Feb 19, 5:30-6:30 pm

Solve puzzles and overcome challenges to win a prize.

Curiosity Club: Build-a-Bug Challenge ® (Ages 5-12)

Pinconning: Sat, Feb 21, 3-4 pm

Using craft materials, we will create our own incredible insects and mind-blowing bugs! Complete the challenge to be entered into a drawing for a Squishmallow bug! Who will take home the prize? May the most bizarre bug win!

Pokémon Battle Academy ® (Ages 6-12)

Sage: Fri, Feb 27, 3:30-4:30 pm

Calling all young Trainers - Join us at the Pokémon Battle Academy for National Pokémon Day! Train your favorite Pokémon, learn awesome battle tips, and team up with new friends.

Video Game Jam ® (Ages 6-12)

Auburn: Sat, Feb 28, 1-3 pm

Come enjoy the Wii with some Rock Band and Guitar Hero! Just Dance and Dance Dance Revolution are also available to play!

Special Auburn Area Branch Family Programs

Snowman Scavenger Hunt (Ages 0-18)

Snowmen have come to visit us at the

Auburn Branch Library! Join us for a special scavenger hunt during the month of January where you could earn a special wintery surprise for finding a snowman. Hurry in before they melt away!

Groundhog Day Voting (Ages 0-12)

Auburn: Will the groundhog see his shadow this year? Vote what you think will happen and be entered to win a cute groundhog plush! Voting runs from January 20th-January 31st.

Mystery Book Review (Ages 2-12)

Roses are red, violets are blue, these books are a mystery, but we picked them for you! Check out one of the books at the Auburn Branch Library during the month of February and get ready for a surprise! There's a review card inside! Tell us what you think of the book, bring it back to the children's desk and be entered to win a gift card! The more books you read, the more entries you get! Contest is for ages 2-12. Last day to turn in entries is Saturday, February 28th.

Teen Zone

Grades 6-12

Gamer Club ® (Grades 4-12)

Auburn: Wed, Jan 7 & 21 and Feb 4 & 18, 3-4:30 pm
Do you love gaming? Come join your fellow gamers for games and snacks! Games available on the Wii and Switch.

Arts & Snacks! Cookie Decorating ®

Sage: Tue, Jan 13, 3:30-4:30 pm
Join us as we make cookies look great.

Teen Library Lounge: Bingo Bash!

Auburn: Wed, Jan 14, 2:30-4 pm
Hang out at the Auburn Branch after school, where we will be playing bingo and having snacks!

Dungeons & Dragons ®

Sage: Wed, Jan 14 & Feb 11, 3:30-5:30 pm
Use your wit, skill, and some lucky rolls of the dice to create characters, fight bad guys, and maybe even save the world. No experience necessary!

No Sew Sock Snowman Craft ®

Wirt: Thu, Jan 15, 4-5 pm
Create a No Sew Sock Snowman while enjoying a hot cup of cocoa.

Open Art Hangout ®

Sage: Tue, Jan 27 & Feb 24, 3:30-4:30 pm
The program room at Sage is open to all teen artists to come and create for an hour. We will have supplies for drawing, painting, coloring, button making, metal stamping and more. You can bring your own project to work in a chill environment with other art-minded teens, or start a fresh project using our supplies.

Monthly Mug Meals for Teens: Banana Bread ®

Auburn: Wed, Jan 28, 2:30-4 pm
Learn how to make a new meal each month with just a microwave! This month we will be making banana bread.

Anime & Manga Club ®

Sage: Tue, Feb 3, 3:30-4:30 pm
Brand new club for teens! Join us to discuss & celebrate our favorite anime and manga.

Arts & Snacks! Book Bedazzling and Cupcakes ®

Sage: Tue, Feb 10, 3:30-4:30 pm
Join us as we make books & notebooks sparkle while snacking on cupcakes.

Teen Library Lounge: Valentine Lab

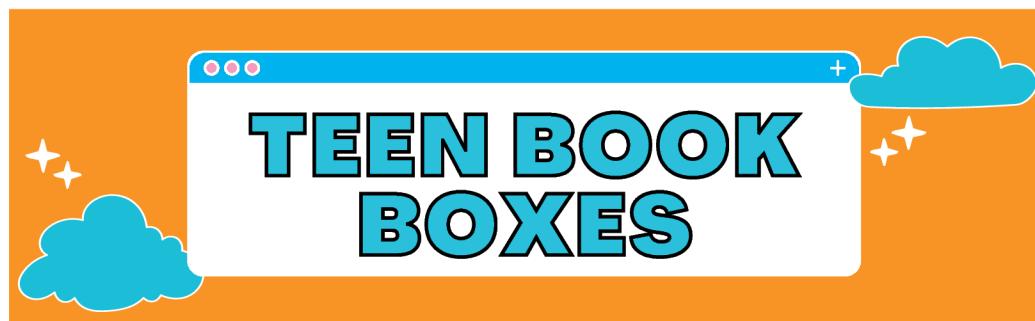
Auburn: Wed, Feb 11, 2:30-4 pm
Drop in after school and make Valentine cards.

Galaxy Bookmark Craft ®

Wirt: Thu, Feb 19, 4-5 pm
Create a Galaxy Bookmark while enjoying a hot cup of cocoa.

Monthly Mug Meals for Teens: Pasta & Tomato Sauce ®

Auburn: Wed, Feb 25, 2:30-4 pm
Learn how to make a new meal each month with just a microwave! This month we will be making pasta with tomato sauce.



Middle School Loot Boxes (Grades 6-8)

Pickup Jan 20-27 & Feb 16-21

High School Loot Boxes (Grades 9-12)

Pickup Jan 5-10 & Feb 2-7

January Theme: One Word | February Theme: Blind Date

Pop Culture Box (Grades 6-12)

January Theme: KPop Demon Hunters

Pickup Jan 12-17

Try this new subscription box for teens! These new bi-monthly boxes will feature your favorite book series, movie heroes, TV shows and more!

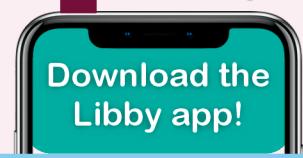
**Due to the high demand of these special collections, they are available exclusively to Bay County resident cardholders.



Teens grades 6-12 can read or listen for 8 hours for a chance to win an ice cream machine, freeze cups, slushie maker, or mini fridge!

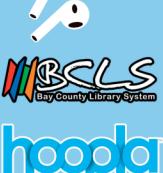


Check out eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines from your library with your mobile device



Listen to popular audiobooks

with hoopla digital!



1. Scan the code or get the app.



2. Enter your library card number.

3. Start enjoying content!



Adults & Teens

Grade 6-Age 18 & up

Needle Crafters Club

Auburn: Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm

Bring your knitting and crochet projects and join us while we work on our projects. Other handwork is welcomed.

Surname Shelf Sitter ®

Pinconning: Sat, Jan 3, 10-11:30 am

Join us at the Pinconning Branch to make a surname shelf sitter.

"Let's Stay Gnome" Decorative Sign ®

Auburn: Thu, Jan 8, 5:30-7 pm

Spend an evening at the Auburn branch and make a winter gnome-themed decorative sign.

Diamond Art Bookmarks ®

Pinconning: Tue, Jan 13, 6-7 pm

Join us at the Pinconning Branch to make diamond art bookmarks.



Podcasting for Beginners: A Workshop with Alex the Greek ® (Ages 9 & up)

Auburn: Thu, Jan 15, 6-7:30 pm

(Fundamentals of Podcasting)

Auburn: Thu, Feb 12, 6-7:30 pm

(Developing Content & Episodes)

Join Alex Alexandrou (Alex the Greek) for a three-part podcasting workshop. Sign up for one or all three sessions and start your podcasting journey! Q&A opportunities will be available throughout each session. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to develop, record, and edit your own podcast - right at the library!

Life Booster Series: Essential Oils with Jean ®

Pinconning: Tue, Jan 20, 6-7 pm

Join us at the Pinconning Branch to learn about essential oils.

Valentine Wreath ®

Pinconning: Sat, Jan 24, 10-11:30 am

Join us at the Pinconning Branch to make a Valentine wreath.

Paint & Pastry Social ®

Auburn: Sat, Jan 31, 10-11:30 am

Cure the winter blues with more color at the Auburn Library! Brighten the gray days of winter by doing a paint by number and enjoying pastries.



Melt My Heart: Valentine Candles & Wax Melts ®

Auburn: Thu, Feb 5, 4-5 pm OR 6-7 pm

Join us at the Auburn Library in making Valentine-themed candles and wax melts for someone special (or yourself!)

Sweet Valentine Gift Craft ®

Pinconning: Sat, Feb 14, 10-11:30 am

Do you need a last-minute Valentine gift? Join us at the Pinconning Branch to make a sweet hot cocoa mix, decorate a mug, and create a card to give to someone special. Or, you can always keep it for yourself!



Life Booster Series: Calligraphy for Beginners ®

Pinconning: Tue, Feb 17, 5:30-7:30 pm

Beginner calligraphy - all supplies provided.

Chess at the Library ®

Sage: Wed, Feb 18, 3:30-5 pm

Open to chess players of all ages. Come for an opportunity to connect with other chess players in our community room over the board.



Card-Making Workshop ®

Pinconning: Tue, Feb 24, 6-7 pm

Make your own greeting cards with stamps, ink, die cuts, embossing folders, and paper. Let your creativity flow with all the materials provided by the library. The possibilities are endless!

Library of THINGS



The Library of Things is a special collection that extends our library services beyond books and media to include a diverse collection of items and equipment that patrons can borrow for short periods. Just like borrowing a book, patrons can check out these non-traditional items for specific needs, experiences, or projects. The collection provides access to a variety of useful and interesting items that our patrons may not want to purchase for occasional use.

Just a few of the types of items available to check out from the Library of Things include:

Tools and DIY Equipment:

Hand tools, a sewing machine, Cricut Explore Air 2, and other equipment for home improvement and crafting projects.

Tech Gadgets:

Binoculars, telescopes, Nintendo Switch, ghost hunting kit, digital camera and camcorder, and other technology devices.

Outdoor and Recreational Gear:

Karaoke machine, pickleball kit, cornhole kit, and other outdoor games.

Plus so much more!

Please note: This special collection is available to Bay County resident cardholders only.

For more information and to see a full list of items available to check out, please visit baycountylibrary.org/library-things.

Adults

Ages 18 & up

Knitting Solutions

Wirt: Tuesdays, 10 am-12 pm

Drop in to knit and crochet with others! Expert knitters on site to help those who need assistance. Supplies not provided; please bring your own project to work on.

Chair Yoga with Katie Volk ®

Sage: Mon, Jan 5 & Feb 16, 2-3 pm

Join us for chair yoga led by Katie Volk.



Financial Wellness: Fraud Prevention ®

Auburn: Wed, Jan 7, 6-7 pm

Sage: Wed, Jan 14, 6-7 pm

Wirt: Tue, Jan 20, 6-7 pm

Pinconning: Wed, Jan 28, 6-7 pm

Please join us for a financial wellness presentation by CarolAnne Guillemette from Financial Health and Harmony Coaching regarding Fraud Detection and Prevention. This is especially timely as fraud attempts increase during tax season. Includes discussion of real-life examples of financial fraud carried out with voice AI, and best practices.

Wood Slice Snowman Ornament ®

Wirt: Thu, Jan 8, 6-7:30 pm

Construct and paint a Wood Slice Snowman.

Lego Morning for Adults ®

Sage: Fri, Jan 9, 10:30-11:30 am

Are you bummed when all the library Lego programs are only open to kiddos? Well this is your time to shine. Come hang out and build with us. All Legos provided.

Cribbage Night

Wirt: Wed, Jan 14 & Feb 11, 6-7:30 pm

Drop in to play cribbage with others in the Second Floor Community Meeting Room. Bring your own board if you have one.

Junk Journaling 101

Wirt: Sat, Jan 17, 10 am-12 pm

Learn how to make a journal out of 'junk' materials from your recycling bin. Bring any new or clean used materials - books, magazines, paper, envelopes, cardboard, paper or plastic bags, any kind of packaging that can be 'flattened' into the book.

All Together Now Club

Auburn: Wed, Jan 21 & Feb 11, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

The library isn't just a place that has books - it's also a place for everyone of all abilities to connect, learn, and create! We welcome adults with disabilities, their caregivers, and any adults who like to craft, play games, explore the library, and everything else in-between.



Evening Sessions: Tri-City Wood Carvers ®

Wirt: Wed, Jan 21, 6-7 pm

Join members of the Tri-City Wood Carvers as they talk about woodcarving, show off their creations, and share with the audience how to get into the hobby. They will talk about the different tools they use and the carving process, sharing examples of beautiful finished pieces. Join us for an opportunity to learn more about woodcarving from some talented members of the Great Lakes Bay Region. (In person only)

Book Boxes for Adults ®

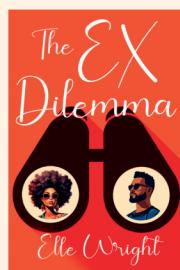
Pickup January 26-31

January's theme is Reading Around the World. Boxes will be available to pick up the week of January 26. Any boxes not picked up by Sat, Jan 31 will be made available to the next patron on the waitlist. ***This high demand special program is limited exclusively to Bay County resident cardholders only.*

Reversible Seasonal Blocks ®

Sage: Wed, Jan 28, 4-5 pm OR 6-7 pm

Create a cute seasonal sign.



Author Visit: Award-Winning Author Elle Wright Discusses *The Ex Dilemma* ®

Zoom & Streamed at Wirt: Wed, Jan 28, 6-7 pm

Michigan author Elle Wright, award-winning author of edgy contemporary romance loaded with heat, humor, and scandal, discusses her charming, irresistibly fun new romance novel *THE EX DILEMMA*, featuring a commitment-phobic heir in Detroit who faces the ultimate challenge from his powerful grandmother and family company CEO. Join us on Zoom for this virtual program! It will also be live streamed in the 2nd Floor Community Room at the Alice & Jack Wirt Library for anyone to drop in to view.

Coffee, Coloring, & Bruce Springsteen ®

Wirt: Sat, Jan 31, 2-3 pm

We will be hosting a relaxing afternoon with fun beverages & coloring while listening to Springsteen albums on vinyl. There will be coloring sheets and supplies available (or you can bring your own) and an assortment of drinks (coffee, tea & hot chocolate).



Intro to Oils and Vinegars with artigiano ®

Wirt: Thu, Feb 5, 6-7 pm

Pinconning: Tue, Feb 10, 6-7 pm

Auburn: Thu, Feb 19, 6-7 pm

Sage: Wed, Feb 25, 4-5 pm OR 6-7 pm

Expand your knowledge of oils and vinegars courtesy of artigiano's own Kevin Parker. Learn about differences in taste, best uses, pairings, and more.

Coffee, Coloring & Classic Tunes ®

Sage: Fri, Feb 6, 10:30-11:30 am

We will be hosting a relaxing morning with fun beverages & coloring while listening to music. There will be coloring sheets and supplies available (or you can bring your own) and an assortment of drinks (coffee, tea & hot chocolate).

Seed Sorting for the Seed Library

Wirt: Sat, Feb 7 & 28, 10 am-4 pm

Drop in anytime during the sorting to help prepare for the 9th Season of the Seed Library! All supplies provided.



Culture Bites with Alex the Greek ®

Wirt: Tue, Feb 10, 6-7 pm

Looking for an opportunity to learn more about Greek Culture from an expert? Join Alex Alexandrou, creator of the *It's All Greek to Me* Podcast, for this informative and fun program. Complete with a bit of Greek dessert for attendees to try.

Adults (cont.)

Ages 18 & up

Puzzle Challenge ®

Sage: Wed, Feb 11, 6-7:30 pm

Wirt: Tue, Feb 24, 6-7:30 pm

Adults, register a team of friends or family to see who can complete a 500 piece puzzle first! Prize awarded to the winning team. Unplug and play at the library!

Registration is required. Please register your team as one participant and include names of team members in the notes field.

Make Your Own Fridge Magnets ®

Wirt: Thu, Feb 12, 6-7:30

Join us as we create snazzy fridge magnets from scrapbook paper and mod podge. Bring your own paper, old comic books, or photos to add a personal touch, or choose from our supply here.



Evening Sessions: Hall of Fame DNA: The Legacy of Norman "Turkey" Stearnes ®

Wirt: Thu, Feb 19, 6-7 pm

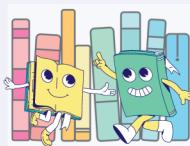
According to updated MLB statistics and five Hall of Fame inductions, Turkey Stearnes is one of the all-time greats, yet many people have never heard his name. In her book entitled "Hall of Fame DNA: The Legacy of Norman Turkey Stearnes", Vanessa Ivy Rose (author, podcast host of ABC's "Reclaimed: The Forgotten League" and educator) gives the play-by-play to inform and inspire audiences about her grandfather's greatness (both on and off the field). (In person only)

NEED HELP RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE?

Volunteers from the Bay County Genealogical Society can help!

Visit the Local History and Genealogy Room at the
Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library

Volunteers are available weekly to assist you at the following times:



BOOK CLUBS

Regular Branch Book Discussion Groups ®

Auburn: Thu, Jan 29 & Feb 26, 6-7:30 pm

Pinconning: Tue, Jan 20 & Feb 17, 2:30-4 pm

Sage: Mon, Jan 12 & Feb 9, 2-3:30 pm

Books & Brews ®

Riverfront Grille: Wed, Jan 7, 7-8:30 pm

January Title: *The Last Flight* by Julie Clark

BarqueBC: Wed, Feb 4, 7-8:30 pm

February Title: *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige

Nonfiction Book Club ®

Wirt: Thu, Jan 8 & Thu, Feb 5, 2-3 pm

Legendary Lit: A Fantasy Book Club ®

Wirt: Sat, Jan 10, 10:30-11:30 am

January Title: *Assassin's Apprentice* by Robin Hobb

Wirt: Sat, Feb 21, 10:30-11:30 am

February Title: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik

This is a book club for Fantasy Readers. Join us every six weeks to discuss a different book from the Fantasy section.

New! Adult Fiction Book Club ®

Wirt: Wed, Jan 14, 11 am-12 pm

Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Kantzler Community Room. Our first meeting, we will get to know one another, find out what everyone likes to read, and pick up the book for the February's meeting.

BOOK CLUB CONNECTION BAGS

This program is designed to provide book clubs in Bay County with easy access to popular book club titles in sets of 10. It also includes both a reading guide for the title and a biography of the author. Book Club bags check out for 6 weeks.



TECHNOLOGY HELP

Tech Tuesdays: Technology Help

Wirt: Tuesdays, 11 am-12 pm OR 4-5 pm

Drop-in for a session with one of our Techs. They'll help with your device or any tech questions you may have. First come first serve basis and as time allows.

Tech Troubleshooting

Pinconning: Wed, Jan 7, 6-7 pm & Thu, Feb 5, 6-7 pm

Drop in to the Pinconning Library with your laptop, tablet, or phone for one-on-one tech help! Laptops will also be available.

Computers for Absolute Beginners

Wirt: Mon, Jan 12, 6-7 pm & Wed, Jan 21, 2-3 pm

Do you have little to no experience with computers? Great! This class will familiarize you with the basic components and functions of computers. We'll cover everything from turning on and shutting off your machine to using an email account to simple Google searching and more. You are welcome to bring your own laptop, but a personal computer is not required to attend this class. Self-help resources will be provided so you can continue learning on your own at home.



TUESDAYS: 1-4 PM
WEDNESDAYS: 1-4 PM
THURSDAYS 1-4 PM
SATURDAYS: 1-4 PM

Staff Picks Adult Fiction: Best of 2025



Want more book recs? Check out our staff lists in our online catalog - there's something for everyone!
www.bcls.bibliocommons.com



bcls swag store NOW OPEN

Shop Bay County Library System logo apparel, drinkware, accessories, and more - all from our easy to navigate online storefront!

www.baycountylibrary.threadless.com





Visit us online!
www.baycountylibrary.org

**All BCLS branches will be closed
Wed, Dec 31, 2025 through Thu,
Jan 1, 2026 as well as Mon, Jan 19,
2026. All online resources will
continue to be available.**

YOUR LIBRARY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

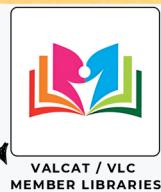
BCLS Mobile App



Search for:

With the app, you can:

- Place and manage holds, view and renew checkouts.
- Scan barcodes of books to view them in our collection.
- Access staff-created lists and recommendations
- Search for books, movies, and other materials.
- Plus so much more!



Bay City, MI 48708
500 Center Ave.

Bay County Library System
BCLS