

Bloomfield Township Public
Library



The beautiful view from under the portico welcomes patrons into the Library.

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

■ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023/2024 FISCAL YEAR

Bloomfield Township Public Library is pleased to present an **overview of our achievements and milestones** over the past year. Our greatest challenge was the library millage renewal on the February 27, 2024, ballot. Bloomfield Township residents had the opportunity to renew an existing library millage at the current rate of 0.5047 for 10 years. With support from the Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library, and the Ambassador's Group, Administration led an extensive informational campaign to highlight the Library's value to voters. The millage renewal passed with over 72% of the vote, a powerful endorsement of the value Bloomfield Township Public Library brings to the community. This renewal will help to ensure that the Library can continue to provide vital services and resources to all residents.

Throughout the year, committees dedicated to advancing the goals of the strategic plan met regularly to refine objectives and make recommendations to Administration. An interior designer began the process of reimagining library spaces, and various departments spearheaded efforts to enhance our facilities, collections, and services. The Library's programming and community outreach initiatives reached new heights, attracting residents to a variety of events. It was a year of significant progress, positioning the Library well for the years ahead.

■ ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

The Library's seventh annual **Photo Contest** concluded in April 2023 with the announcement of the winners at a Photo Contest Reception and on social media. The theme for this year was *"Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future,"* in which Township residents were invited to honor and acknowledge where they've been, while also welcoming the inevitable changes to come. A total of 39 participants submitted 69 photos for the contest.



Top left is the Best in Show winner *"After the Wildfire: Snowy and the Sky"* by Alisa Liguori Stratton. Judges said, "This photo presents a dynamic range of color and tone, with a sense of story depicting a conflict between humans and nature, prompting viewers to consider civilization's impact on the landscape. The blurred dog in the foreground adds to the feeling of capturing a moment, while the clouds and sky draw the eye to the right." The bottom left photo is the People's Choice Award winner *"After every dark night, there comes a stunning sunrise"* by Maria Siddiqui. This photo won 600 votes out of 2,295 total votes cast.

Pictured below are the individual category winners. In the Youth Category (top row, left to right) – First Place *"Looking Towards the Future"* by Quinn Newell, Second Place *"There is Always Light"* by Quinn Newell, Third Place *"Evergreen Branches"* by Elizabeth Gheen. Teen Category (middle row, left to right) – First Place *"Sit Back and Relax"* by Tyler Shrader, Second Place *"Dawn of a New Day"* by Megan Lewis, Third Place *"Beauty in the Present, Future in the Reflection"* by Cole Benson. Adult Category (bottom row, left to right) – First Place *"What's Around the Corner (and for Whom?)"* by Christopher Holt, Second Place *"Antics in an Ancient Temple"* by Amy Messano, Third Place *"Train Engineer"* by Manny Magno.

A grid of 12 photographs showing various subjects: a person in a field, a close-up of a flower, a close-up of a tree branch, a sunset, a tree silhouette, a person's face, a person in a room, a person in a field, a person in a field, a person in a field, a person in a field, a person in a field.

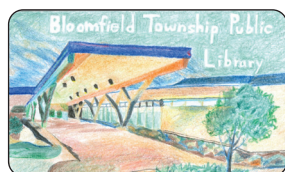
■ PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The **Summer and Winter Reading Programs** were highly successful in engaging readers of all ages, encouraging them to read for enjoyment, track their progress, and earn virtual badges for exciting prizes. The 2023 Summer Reading Program, *"All Together Now,"* ran from June 20 to August 11, attracting nearly 700 enthusiastic participants. Patrons recorded their reading



time and took part in various creative events. The program included activities for all age groups, such as a lively kick-off featuring food trucks and scavenger hunts, further enriching the overall summer reading experience. Attendance at programs exceeded initial projections, especially at family-oriented events. Throughout the Summer Reading Program, a Prize Patrol visited two households each week that displayed *"Love My Library"* lawn signs, delivering prize bags filled with library and book-themed items. Children logged an impressive 7,341 days of reading, while teens and adults collectively logged 922 books. During the December and January Winter Reading Challenge, 182 total readers participated, with children recording 1,483 days of reading, and teens and adults logging 539 books.

The Library had a bustling year of exciting events, highlighted by the first ever **Library Card Design Contest**. Bloomfield Township residents showcased their creativity with 124 submissions for new library card designs. After careful consideration, staff members selected ten finalists in each age category – youth, teen, and adult. The community then had the opportunity to vote for their favorite designs, resulting in one winner per category. The winning designs (pictured right) were printed onto new library cards, prominently displayed throughout the Library, posted on social media, and showcased in our print newsletter. Additionally, the designs will be featured on *"Love My Library"* lawn signs during the 2024 Summer Reading Program, further celebrating our community's artistic talent and love for the Library.



Special events in Youth Services included a visit from Critchlow

Alligator Sanctuary, a Bluey Party, a glow-in-the-dark party, an interactive showing of *The Wizard of Oz*, Trick or Treat at the Library, an all-ages Puzzle Tournament, a Toddler Dance



Party, the T-Rex Tea Party, and Reading with the Dogs. Over the winter, families picked up 250 New Year's Eve Fun Kits filled with crafts and games, built blanket forts in the stacks, played old-school video games on vintage machines, and dropped off their favorite stuffed animals for a stuffie-only sleepover. March is Reading Month was an exceptionally busy month in Youth Services, as librarians welcomed nearly 400 local Kindergarten students to tour the Youth Room, enjoy skits performed by staff members featuring favorite book characters Elephant, Piggie, and Pigeon, and learn about the joy of reading and what they can discover at the Library.

For **adults and teens**, locally-focused programs like Ballet Folklorico, Pewabic Pottery, the Cranbrook Mobile Planetarium, 102nd Colored Troops, and Detroit architecture proved very popular. Events hosted by the MSU Extension Center were well-attended, and monthly craft kits continued to be a hit with patrons. Music programming also featured prominently throughout the year with the 13th season of chamber music concerts presented by talented students from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival also partnered with the Library as a site for several performances during its two-week festival; the Library hosted four Artistic Encounters (similar to a masterclass for musicians) and a family presentation of *Little Red Riding Hood*, which included a score, narration, and interactive activities for children.

■ MAJOR PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Behind the scenes, library staff diligently worked on many **cross-departmental projects** to enhance the patron experience. One of the key technological improvements made this past year was the release of the app *BTPL Mobile* in late summer 2023, which allows users to check their library accounts, place holds, search for materials, and check out items.

During fall 2023, the Library's study room door access system was overhauled, enabling patrons to reserve rooms online. Early in 2024, the Library upgraded to a new online catalog system – Vega Discover – which gives patrons an enhanced, user-friendly experience. The Library's mobile printing service also transitioned to Princh, a cloud-based printing service.

Several improvements were made to the **Library's collection**, including adding *PressReader* to the Library's digital resources, which provides access to over 7,000 newspapers and magazines. Local History and Genealogy collections were reorganized to enhance accessibility, and Materials Services reclassified all TV series and teen graphic novels to simplify retrieval. Additionally, Youth Services J and Y Fiction collections call numbers were updated to include the author's full last name, streamlining organization of these collections.

Library **facilities underwent several upgrades** to improve functionality and user experience. Changes included a revamped early childhood area in Youth Services (pictured right), a dedicated wellness room for staff members, and four new handicap parking spaces in employee parking. In addition, storage and mechanical rooms were decluttered, making supplies easier to locate.



Facility Services completed several updates throughout the building. The HVAC system was upgraded to improve air temperature control, irrigation and alarm systems were transitioned over to web-based platforms, door access systems were modernized, and a wireless cellular boosting system was installed in the lower level. New vendors were contracted for cleaning, trash and recycling services, and vending. Projects that began in 2023, and will continue in 2024, include roof repairs to address leaks from a faulty membrane and the installation of a detention basin on the grounds to help mitigate lower-level flooding issues.

■ GIFTS AND DONATIONS

The **Friends of the Library** continued setting new sales records at their Second Saturday Book Sales. Sales expanded from two rooms in the lower level to four rooms, each showcasing a special collection. Thanks to the organization's impressive sales figures, the Friends approved \$105,099 in funding to the Library this year, the most in their 59-year history. These gifts were used to fund various events, programs, and items, including the Chamber Music Concert series, a postcard campaign to non-library users, prize patrol promotional items (pictured above right), a mobile library card kit, the cellular boosting system, an electric snow blower, garden improvements, entrance arrangements, Kindergarten Readers' Roundups, and much more.



John Marshall, a dedicated member of the Bloomfield Historical Society, donated his **collection of research on homes in Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills**. Since 2000, John has been compiling this research, which has been shared through the *History Next Door* program on BCTV, and in his book *Century Houses: Bloomfield Township*, which can be found in the Library's Local History collection.

Patron and longtime Bloomfield Hills High School employee, Jim Wolfe, donated a **collection of 1945 to 1992 Hillcrest yearbooks** (Bloomfield Hills High School/Andover). Some of these yearbooks were new to our collection, while others replaced copies in poor condition.

■ COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Opportunities to connect and collaborate with community partners remained constant this year. Youth Services staff introduced a **school liaison program**, assigning a librarian to each Bloomfield Hills School to check in regularly, provide library updates, and establish a more consistent connection to teachers and school media specialists.

The Library began serving as an **early voting site** for Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, and Southfield Township elections. Early voting is held for nine consecutive days before each election day, providing voters with expanded opportunities to cast their ballot. The first round of early voting occurred before the November 7 election, and ran from Saturday, October 28 through Sunday, November 5. A second round of early voting took place in February 2024.



This year saw the launch of ***The Distracted Librarians* podcast**, a collaborative effort by Adult and Teen Services Librarians Drew Heuser and Emily Benoit, and Youth Services Librarians Nicole Gillies and Killian Weston (pictured left). The podcast features your friendly neighborhood bookworms who can't resist the siren call of movies, video games, music, and everything else in the pop culture universe. Recorded at BCTV's studio and available on all major podcast platforms, *The Distracted Librarians* offers a fresh approach to sharing the Library's message.

Library staff participated in **various outreach activities**, including hosting tables at several Bloomfield Hills Schools events and visiting classrooms throughout the year. Other outreach programs were held at the Bloomfield Township Senior Center, Bowers School Farm, the Johnson Nature Center, various preschools, and at the Bloomfield Township Open House.

■ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Library's annual **Staff Development Day** was held on Friday, May 5, 2023. Consultant Cindy Fesemyer led a hands-on workshop centered on the new strategic plan. Staff worked together to brainstorm action steps to turn the strategic plan into a living document. The day resulted in the formation of three separate strategic plan committees – Collaborative Culture, HR Practices, and Inclusive Spaces – which continued to meet regularly throughout the fiscal year to work toward specific goals.



Changes were made to **positions and department names** this year to reflect the current state of library work. Three intern positions were reimagined, resulting in the creation of an Early Childhood Specialist position dedicated to early childhood programming and outreach. The two additional positions were transformed into permanent Library Assistant roles, giving additional candidates the opportunity to apply due to revisions in educational requirements.

The role of "Senior-in-Charge" was renamed to "**Person-in-Charge**" (**PIC**) to provide more clarity. During their shift, the PIC is called upon to handle building problems, medical emergencies, or patron issues as needed. PICs also worked to formalize a reporting structure to improve communication among staff members.

At the suggestion of the Collaborative Culture Committee, the Library started hosting **department tours** as part of its internal staff training program, with a different department hosting each month to share a unique aspect of their work with peers. These monthly tours are in addition to monthly staff training sessions that focus on current topics of interest or new services at the Library, and a weekly staff huddle meeting for all staff members.

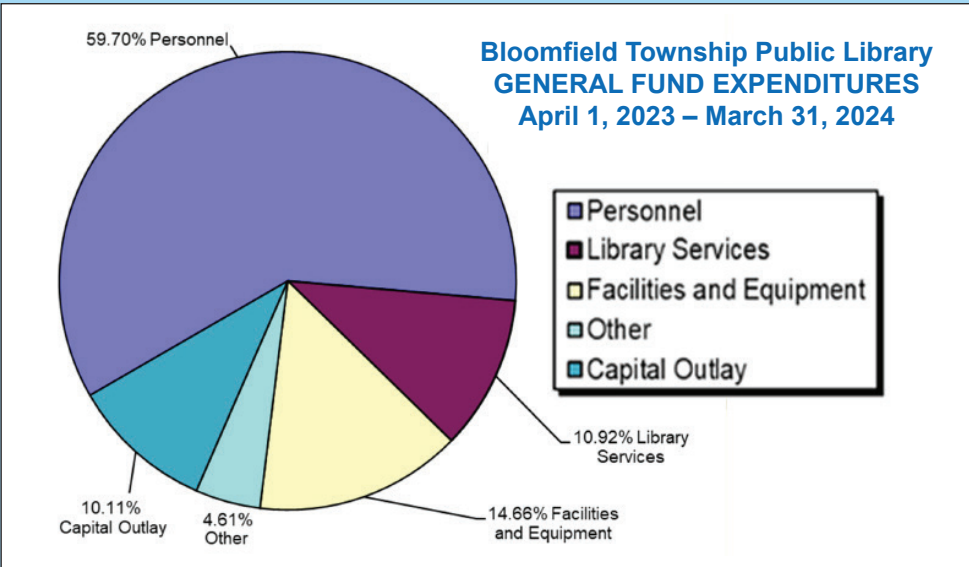
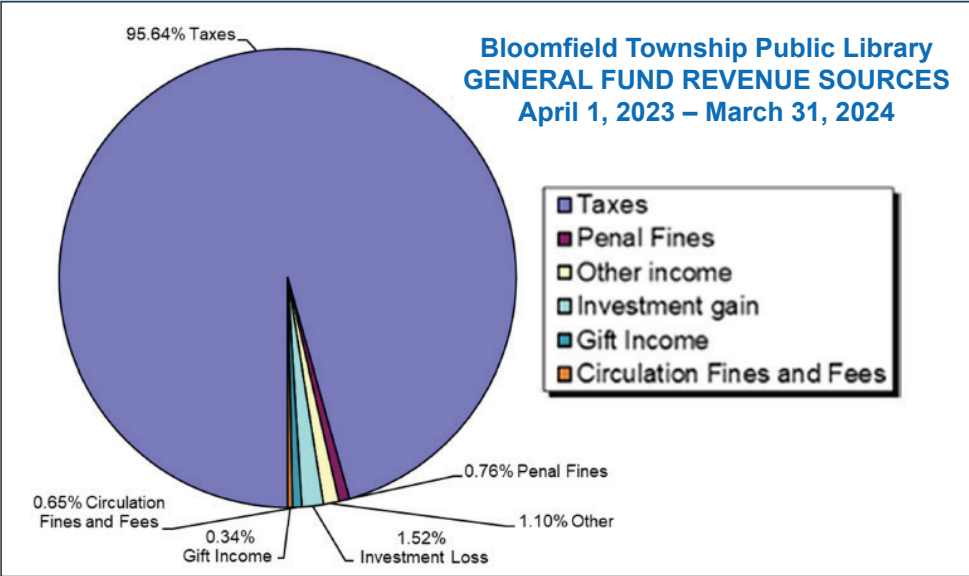
■ BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Library Trustees are residents of Bloomfield Township and are typically elected every four years. The Library Board of Trustees meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month, except in April, which is on the fourth Tuesday. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the Library.



Back row (from left to right): Dr. Keith Carduner, Joan Luksik, Judy Lindstrom, and Shane Spradlin. Front row (from left to right): Danielle Gillman and Joy Murray.

Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2023/2024



We spark curiosity and imagination by connecting the community to resources, technology, and support.

1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302
(248) 642-5800 | www.btpl.org

LIBRARY HOURS:
 Mon-Thurs: 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sunday: Noon – 5:30 p.m.