



Bloomfield Township Public  
**Library**



*Performers at the Library's 60th anniversary celebration, "Applause, Applause."*

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

## ■ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR



Bloomfield Township Public Library is pleased to present an **overview of our achievements and milestones** over the past year. This year was one of celebration, as the Library recognized its 60th anniversary with a carnival-themed event, titled *"Applause, Applause,"* on October 5, 2024. Over 500 attendees of all ages came out for delicious food, face painting, balloon animals, a stilt walker, carnival games, music, and more. Adult and Teen Services staff hosted a "Stump the Librarian" booth, while Youth Services provided a fun lantern craft. The event celebrated the Library's role as a community hub and ushered in the next decade of library service.

The Library continued to advance the goals outlined in the **2023-2025 strategic plan**, making meaningful enhancements to our facilities, collections, and services to improve the patron experience. Committees focused on inclusive spaces, human resources practices, and a collaborative workplace culture met regularly and implemented changes to strengthen the Library. Librarians expanded programs and outreach efforts to better meet community needs, and we officially eliminated overdue fines to remove barriers to access. In recognition of our achievements, the Library was honored with the Heart of Our Community award from Bloomfield Township Cable and Community Relations. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to serving Bloomfield Township with excellence.

## ■ MAJOR PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Behind the scenes, Library staff worked diligently working on many **cross-departmental projects** to enhance the patron experience. At the beginning of the fiscal year, overdue fines were eliminated to make the Library more accessible and inclusive and to align with standard practices in the region and nation. Patrons are still charged replacement costs for lost or damaged materials but are no longer penalized for returning items late.

Circulation also implemented two new notification systems this year to better communicate with patrons about holds, due dates, and more. The first, LXStarter, is an email notification system with modern features and the ability to share information about library programs and services. The second is an SMS or text messaging system that is integrated with Sierra, the Library's database, and provides an improved look and functionality to our previous text solution.

Library collections were enhanced in response to community needs, and three new digital resources were added: Comics Plus, myfilmfriend, and Access World News. Several cataloging changes improved access and inclusion. Materials Services worked with Adult and Teen Services to implement an optional arrangement to the 200s to better reflect the development of religion over time, and worked with Youth Services to update call numbers for several sections.

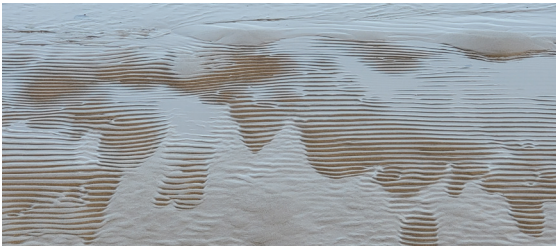


The library building was improved in several ways as well. New power wheelchairs were leased to improve accessibility, and a new video surveillance system was installed to enhance security. Other updates included roof repairs, repaired concrete around campus, new outdoor signage, and the trimming, removal, and relocation of trees. Professional Grounds Services was selected to provide lawn maintenance and snow removal services for the next three years, and in January 2025, an interior design firm was chosen to assist in a renovation to better utilize space inside the Library. Meetings with the Library's Design Committee began in spring 2025, and planning will continue through 2025-2026.

The IT Department rolled out a new Library Document Station providing a much-needed update for public faxing, scanning, and printing. Thanks to funding from the Friends, IT updated key Computer Lab components, including installing a new projector and automated screen. They also replaced staff printers and the Library's virtual server infrastructure. Finally, the website underwent a soft visual redesign, and IT increased accessibility compliance from 75% to 100%.

## ■ PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Library's **eighth annual Photo Contest** concluded in April 2024 with the announcement of winners at the Photo Contest Reception and on social media. This year's theme was *"Picture Perfect Patterns,"* in which Township residents were invited to explore the captivating world of patterns in our everyday lives. A total of 71 participants submitted 125 photos for the contest. Pictured below is the Best in Show winner *"Shorelines"* by Mari Wilson. Judges



noted that this photo captured the essence of what they were looking for by presenting a transcendent view of something mundane, and elevating the everyday into art. The observation of the photographer was an important element and distilled the landscape into an abstraction.

The People's Choice winner was *"Oil Stain"* by Warren Brandes, with the photo winning 562 votes out of 1,621 total votes cast. In the Youth Category, first place went to *"Tilted Heads"* by Madeline Holt, second to *"Shattered Sky of March"* by Ella Iacoban, and third to *"Winter Leaf"* by Nicholas Takis. In the Teen Category, first place was awarded to *"Stairway to Hope"* by Yushi Bai, second to *"In the Night"* by Tyler Shrader, and third to *"cielo"* by Tobias Pisotti. And in the Adult Category, first place was *"Dahlia II"* by Judy Heath, second *"Art Mends Fences"* by Srinath Gopinath, and third *"Direct Reflection"* by Justin Winkelman.

The **Summer and Winter Reading Programs** were highly successful in engaging readers of all ages, encouraging everyone to read for enjoyment, track their progress, and win exciting prizes.

The Summer Reading Program, themed *"Adventure Begins at Your Library,"* ran from June 18 to August 9, 2024, and attracted over 800 enthusiastic participants. The program included a lively kick-off event featuring food trucks and a fun wrap-up party with a pirate theme. Youth participants enjoyed a new incentive this year, earning BTPL bucks by completing reading and activity goals, which could be used to purchase prizes at the Adventure Readers Market. Over 10,000 days of reading were logged by patrons of all ages. In the colder months, 178 readers participated in the Winter Reading Challenge, which took place from December 21 to January 31. During this challenge, children recorded 2,118 days of reading, while teens and adults logged 509 books.



The fiscal year kicked off with a total solar eclipse on April 8. The Library distributed nearly 2,000 eclipse glasses in the week leading up to the eclipse. Youth Services also hosted an Eclipse-a-Palooza, which included the Michigan Science Center Portable Planetarium: Eclipse Science, to educate all ages on the solar eclipse.



**Youth Services** continued engaging and building connections with the community through new programs, including Baby Prom, Baby Parade, Gamer Lounge, Snack Lab, Pokémon Party, Crayon to Crochet, and many other special events. The annual Trick or Treat event brought in nearly 600 people, with families dressed in fun and spooky costumes, to enjoy activities throughout the Library and tasty treats from food trucks. In March, Youth Services helped the community celebrate March is Reading Month with 445 local students visiting the Library for Kindergarten Readers' Roundups. The children watched youth librarians perform skits as book characters and learned about the joy of reading and all there is to discover at the Library.

**For adults,** Michigan subjects continued to be of great interest, with programs on Elie Saarienen and Cranbrook, the Detroit Lions, Belle Isle, Mysteries of Michigan, Pewabic Pottery, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Other popular programs included topics such as gardening, food preservation, Indigenous herbalism, the French macaron, the Oscars, TV trivia, painting like Bob Ross, Gone with the Wind, and the JFK assassination.



Cultural programming also featured prominently throughout the year, with the 14th Chamber Music Concert series presented by students from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival also partnered with the Library as a site for several performances during the two-week festival, including hosting four Artistic Encounters similar to a masterclass for musicians, and a Classical Family event for all ages. Other performances included Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Orchestra Sono, The Grunyons, and Sakura Instrumental Group.

## ■ COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



Opportunities to connect and collaborate with community partners remained constant this year. Youth Services staff continued the **school liaison program**, assigning a librarian to each Bloomfield Hills School to check in regularly, provide library updates, and provide a consistent connection to teachers and school media specialists. This partnership included the One District, One Book program in which all elementary school students read *Odder* by Katherine Applegate in March, with kick-off celebrations held at the Library, as well as an author visit from Lynne Kelly in February. Youth Services also participated in the Schools' Work-

Based Learning Program, bringing in high school students with developmental disabilities and their job training coaches to volunteer in the Youth Room.

Adult and Teen Services staff worked with various organizations, including the West Bloomfield Township Public Library to bring author Shelby Van Pelt to the Berman Theatre, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan to host Judge Gerald Rosen who was the architect of Detroit's Grand Bargain, and with COMITES to screen a documentary about the life and work of Harry Bertoia. The department also continued partnering with BCTV on the twice-monthly *Distracted Librarians* podcast, and with Bloomfield Historical Society for two successful History Harvests.

Library staff participated in various **outreach activities**, including hosting tables at several Bloomfield Hills Schools events and visiting numerous classrooms throughout the year. Additionally, staff engaged with the community at the Bloomfield Township Senior Center, Bowers School Farm, Johnson Nature Center, various preschools and private schools, and the Bloomfield Township Open House.



The Library served as an early voting site for Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, and Southfield Township elections, including the very busy 2024 presidential election. **Early voting** was held for nine consecutive days before election day, providing voters with expanded opportunities to cast their ballot. There was a record turnout, with 9,108 voters over the 9-day period.

Notably, Youth Services Department Head Jen Taggart and Assistant Department Head Lauren Catoni-Ellis coordinated and hosted the 8th biennial **Adaptive Umbrella accessibility workshop**. Over 350 registered attendees from all over the country attended virtual sessions on redefining accessibility, auditing library spaces for accessibility, augmentative communication, and disability in the workplace.



The Library partnered with several groups in new and interesting ways this year. Library Director Tera Moon and Trustee Dani Gillman spoke about book challenges to both the Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club and the Oakland County Democratic Party. BCTV celebrated Community Media Day by recognizing organizations and individuals that champion free speech and accessible media, and presented the Library with "**The**

**Heart of Our Community"** award at a subsequent Township Board Meeting. Director Moon also led a group of professionals from Kazakhstan on a tour of the Library in February. This group was visiting libraries and educational institutions in Metro Detroit under the auspices of Larry Neal, Director of Clinton Macomb Public Library, through his work with Rotary.

## ■ GIFTS AND DONATIONS



The **Friends of the Library** celebrated their 60th anniversary in March 2025. The celebration included a special lobby display showcasing photos and documents of their accomplishments and contributions over the years, as well as a resolution from the Board of Trustees to honor their diamond anniversary.

The Friends of the Library continued setting new sales records at their Second Saturday Book Sales, and the organization approved \$108,011 in funding for the Library this year, the largest amount in their 60-year history. Gift funds were used for many different programs and events, including the One District, One Book program, prizes for Summer Reading, branded swag for outreach events, STEM and STEAM kits, the Shelby Van Pelt author event, the Library's 60th anniversary celebration, Chamber Music Concerts, reusable cloth tote bags for Circulation, Computer Lab updates, a pressure washer, and much more. Since 1995, the Friends have donated over \$1.85 million to the Library.

The **Myers Scholarship** was awarded to two students to aid in their educational paths of discovery: Olivia Kruszewski, daughter of Administration Library Assistant II Mary Hickman, and Christine Balde, former library Page.

## ■ STAFF DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE



The annual **Staff Development Day** was held Friday, May 3, 2024. Dr. Kenneth Wolf from The Incident Management Team presented verbal de-escalation skills and active shooter training. Staff were acknowledged for achieving longevity milestones, and IT Department Head Paul Zink won the Carol Mueller Leadership Award for his work on cross-departmental projects and on various committees. The day included team-building activities and departmental meetings.

Significant time and attention were dedicated to strengthening various **human resources initiatives** this year. In conjunction with Bloomfield Township government, Administrative Assistant Linden Godlove led the Library in implementing BambooHR, a human resources information system for managing hiring and onboarding, HR data, and employee information. In addition, a compensation and classification study was conducted by MGT/GovHR, where internal and external data were collected to ensure equity among positions and classifications within the Library, and also that salary ranges were comparable to libraries in Metro Detroit. Recommendations included changing several position titles, as well as adjusting some pay ranges. Most recommendations were phased in at the start of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

In compliance with the Earned Sick Time Act, the Library began providing sick time to those who had not previously received it, notably those in grades one and two and Substitute Librarians. Additionally, Bloomfield Township enacted a Paid Parental Leave policy, which the Library also adopted.

The Library has **many active committees**, including HR, Inclusive Spaces, Collaborative Culture, Marketing, Web Team, PACRATS, and Staff Organization Committee. Staff at every level of the organization participated on these committees, and many also attended conferences and webinars, served on external committees and work groups, and contributed to the library profession in many ways.

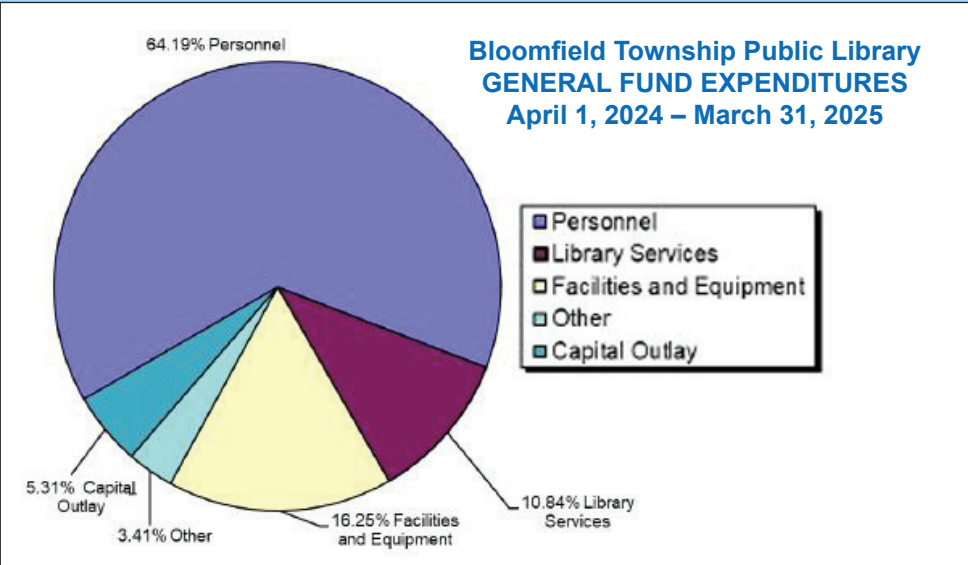
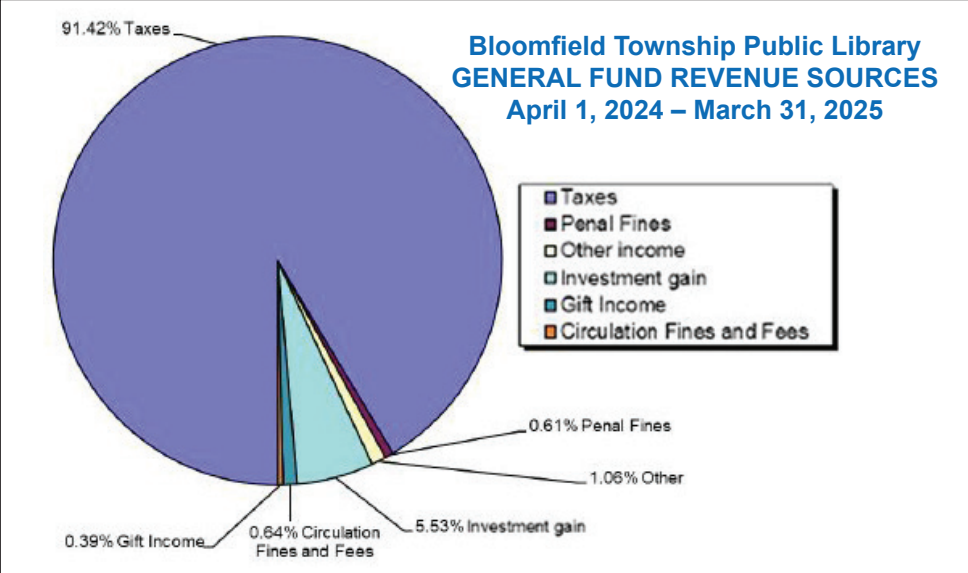
■ BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES



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

Library Trustees are residents of Bloomfield Township and are typically elected every four years. All six Trustees were re-elected on the November 5 ballot. 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.

Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2024/2025



*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](http://www.btpl.org)

LIBRARY HOURS:

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