

Get your hands dirty for a good cause!
Join us for our **Seeds and Soil** event on
Saturday, April 12 to celebrate Earth
Day. Plus, our **Seed Library** is fully
stocked for the growing season.
More details on page 4.

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Notes from the



Looking ahead: Why Livonia Needs a New Library Building

As we continue looking for ways to improve our library, it's also time to think bigger about the future. The Robert & Janet Bennett Library, built in 1988, is no longer able to fully meet the needs of our community. From outdated infrastructure and limited technology access to inefficient workspaces and the inability to add modern conveniences like a drive-up window or automated returns, the current building is holding us back.

A new library would create more flexible spaces for programs, expand access to technology, offer better outdoor programming, and provide a more efficient and welcoming experience for all visitors. Investing in a modern facility would allow us to better serve our evolving community with the resources and spaces they need.

A New Face at the Library!

We are also excited to welcome **Lindsay Fricke** as our new **Branch Librarian!** Lindsay will play a key role in expanding our programming, enhancing our eResource collections, and helping to make all our library spaces even more welcoming and accessible to the community. Lindsay comes to us with more than 17 years of experience in public libraries, and is looking forward to building meaningful connections in our community.

Please join us in welcoming Lindsay — and stay tuned for updates on Library improvements!

Kristen Edson



FRIENDS OF THE LIVONIA LIBRARY 2024 BOARD

- President:** Jim Hobart
- Vice-President:** Chuck Hicks
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DIRECTORS

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
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LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Kristen Edson

LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

- President:** Mary Morrison
- Vice President:** Carol Bagazinski
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Claire Sheldon
Dave MacFarland
Carrie Ryckman

Stay Connected

livoniapubliclibrary.org

Scan the QR Code to Provide Feedback!

RENEGADE WRITERS*

Grades 4 -7. Join us every month as we dive into the world of creative writing. We will try out different genres and writing styles. Participants will also get a journal to decorate. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Thursday, April 10
7-8 p.m.

SENSORY SHENANIGANS

Ages 3-8. Children of all abilities and ages benefit from sensory-based play; it stimulates the brain and helps develop fine and gross motor skills. During the program, children will experience different sensory stations such as kinetic sand with their caregivers. Please wear appropriate clothing that can get a little messy! No registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, April 12
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**SEEDS AND SOIL
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

All ages welcome. Help us celebrate Earth Day! We'll have everything you need to grow this summer, including pots, dirt, and seeds. Drop in to learn about the seed life cycle and ask our Seed Librarian anything about gardening!

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, April 12
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?



You'll find our **Seed Library** on the second floor of the Bennett Civic Center Library.

OREO TASTE TESTING*

Grades 5 - 7. Are you ready for the next taste test? We'll get ready to taste test Oreos! Join us as we try out different flavors of Oreos and pick a winner. Will your favorite come out on top? Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Thursday, April 17
7-8 p.m.



COOKIES AND CANVAS*

Grades 5-12. Tweens and Teens, let your creativity shine with a paint night just for you, snacks included! All supplies provided, registration required.

@ Sandburg
Tuesday, April 22
5:30-7 p.m.

CLUB CREATE*

Grades 3-7. Do you like to be creative? Then bring your creativity and join us for Club Create, where we'll offer a different themed activity each month. In April we'll get creative with clay! Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Thursday, April 24
7-8 p.m.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TWEENS

Grades 5-7. We'll chat about the books we love (and hate), talk about upcoming programs, and have plenty of snacks. Members can earn community service credit through volunteer opportunities.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Monday, May 5
6:30-7:30 p.m.

FAMILY BOARD GAMES

Ages 8 and up. Learn a new game and connect with your family and the community. Staff will be on hand to explain the rules and guide the fun, and all games will be available for checkout after the event.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Wednesdays, April 23 and May 28
6:30-8:30 p.m.

CHESS CLUB

Grades 5-12. If you know how to play chess and need a friend to play against, join us for a drop-in chess club. Learn from each other and see who comes out on top!

@ Sandburg
Thursdays, April 10 and May 8
4-5:30 p.m.



Looking for simple, fun, and educational activities to do with your little ones?

We're excited to offer the **2025 Early Literacy Calendar!** Pick one up on your next visit or download a copy from our website.



Books for our registered participants have been generously purchased by the Friends of the Library. Thank you, Friends!

LAPSIT BOOK CLUB

For babies 0-12 months and their caregivers. Join us for picture books, conversation, and fun! No registration required.

@ Sandburg
Fridays, May 23, 30, and June 6
10:30-11:30 a.m.

MY FIRST BOOK CLUB*

Grades K-2 with a grown-up. During this introduction to book clubs, we will answer some questions and do a fun activity. This month we will read "Humphrey's Really Wheely Racing Day" by Betty G. Birney. Pick up your books at the Bennett Civic Center Library beginning April 12. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, May 3
10:15-10:45 a.m.

CODE CRACKERS*

Grades 2-3. If you love mysteries, join us for Code Crackers, a book club where we read nothing but mystery books! This month we are reading "Secret Spy Society: The Case of the Missing Cheetah" by Veronica Mang. Pick up your free copy at the Bennett Civic Center Library beginning April 12. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, May 3
1:30-2 p.m.



Visit our online calendar to register for programs and to confirm dates..

MIDDLE-GRADE MASTERPIECES*

Grades 4-7. Are you ready to dive into some fantastic classic books? We'll discuss the book, have some snacks, and the book is yours to keep! This month, we'll read "How to Eat Fried Worms" by Thomas Rockwell. Get your copy at the Bennett Civic Center Children's Reference Desk beginning April 17. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Thursday, May 8
6:30-7:30 p.m.

KIDS & COMICS BOOK CLUB*

Grades 3-4. Do you love graphic novels? Join us for the Kids & Comics book club! We'll talk about the book, do something crafty, have some snacks, and just hang out! This month, read the graphic novel version of "Punycorn" by Andi Watson. Participants can pick up their books at the Bennett Civic Center Library Children's Reference Desk beginning April 12. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, May 3
2:30-3:15 p.m.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB*

Grades 5-7. This month we're reading "The Night Librarian" by Christopher Lincoln. A copy of the book will be available for pick up at the Sandburg Library beginning four weeks before the meeting date. Registration required.

@ Sandburg
Monday, May 12
6-7 p.m.

EMPOWER HOUR BOOK CLUB*

Grades 4-7 with a grown-up. This book club is for you and a favorite adult in your life. This month we are reading "Other Words for Home" by Jasmine Warga. Participants can pick up their books (that they can keep!) at the Bennett Civic Center Library Children's Reference Desk beginning April 12. Beverages and breakfast pastries will be provided. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Saturday, May 3
11-11:45 a.m.

DON'T READ THIS BOOK!*

Grades 5-7. A crafty, trivia, sometimes book club just for Tweens! We'll hang out, compete for trivia prizes, make crafts, and talk about the book. This month we are reading "Over and Out" by Jenni Walsh. All registered participants will be able to pick up a free copy of the book at the Sandburg Library. Registration required.

@ Sandburg
Monday, April 14
4:30-5:30 p.m.

We have reading challenges for all ages! Register for challenges at livonialibrary.beanstack.org.

TEEN VOLUNTEER COUNCIL MEETING

Grades 8-12. Are you looking for volunteer hours, want to have input into what programming and materials the library offers, or just want to talk about the books, movies, and music that you love? Join the Teen Volunteer Council! The goal of the TVC is to help members take an active role in creating a welcoming environment for teens at the library. Meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month, with additional volunteers opportunities provided throughout the year.

@ Sandburg
Thursday, April 3
5-5:45 p.m.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Thursday, May 1
5-6 p.m.



EXIT: SUNKEN TREASURE*

Join us for EXIT: Sunken Treasure, an escape-room style game! Set sail on a quest for the legendary treasure of the Santa Maria—but when disaster strikes, you're trapped deep underwater! Can you solve the riddles and escape with the treasure?

@ Bennett Civic Center
Wednesday, April 9
7-8:15 p.m.

COOKIES AND CANVAS*

Grades 5-12. Tweens and Teens, let your creativity shine with a paint night just for you, snacks included! All supplies provided, registration required.

@ Sandburg
Tuesday, April 22
5:30-7 p.m.

CHESS CLUB

Grades 5-12. Are you looking to hone your chess strategy? If you know how to play chess and need a friend to play against, join us for a drop-in chess club. Learn from each other and see who comes out on top!

@ Sandburg
Thursdays, April 10 and May 8
4-5:30 p.m.

100 BOOK CLUB*

Join our year-long reading challenge! Set your own reading goal for the year and earn a chance to win a prize for every 10 books you've read since January 1. Read 100 books by the end of the year and become a member of the prestigious 100 Book Club. Open to everyone ages 12 and up. Register and see the full challenge description at livonialibrary.beanstack.org.

BLOOD ON THE CLOCKTOWER*

Teens and Adults. Join us for a spine-tling game of Blood on the Clocktower. Blood on the Clocktower is a game of murder and mystery, lies and logic, deduction and deception. A social game played in person, seated in a circle, each player receives either a 'good' or 'evil' token with their unique character on it. Good players share information to solve the mystery whilst evil players lie about who they are and what they know. The good team wins if they can piece together their knowledge, trust each other, and execute the demon. The evil team wins if the demon can sow distrust, evade detection, and wipe out the village. Registration Required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Wednesdays, April 16, May 7, and June 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Your Livonia Public Library card gives you access to digital media, discounted tickets, Library of Things, 200,000+ materials & more!



EBSCO LearningExpress

PrepSTEP from EBSCO LearningExpress

Preparing for the SAT? ACT? AP exams? The library has online practice tests, tutorials, ebooks, articles and flashcards to help you achieve higher scores. Log in to PrepSTEP from EBSCO LearningExpress to access these free tools.

Visit livoniapubliclibrary.org/research for more eResources.

As always, the public is invited to attend all Library Commission Meetings and Library events. The Library will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities upon adequate notice. If you need assistance, please call the Bennett Civic Center Library at 734-466-2491 or email lvcc@livoniapubliclibrary.org.

FUNGI OF MICHIGAN WITH LORENZO LO PICCOLO

Did you know that fungi have a kingdom of their own? Lorenzo Lo Piccolo will give an introduction to these intriguing organisms, identification and safety, foraging tips, and specific Michigan species throughout the seasons.

@ Sandburg
Tuesday, April 8
6:30-7:30 p.m.

WORK THE DREAM: LEARN FROM THE TEAM BEHIND LIVONIA'S OWN INCLUSIVE COFFEE SHOP

You'll hear first hand from an amazing group of self-advocates with various disabilities working at Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop and other local businesses. Learn how they are contributing to the success of their workplaces and defying the odds... one job at a time.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Tuesday, April 8
7-8 p.m.

THE MAGICAL FRUIT: SELECTING, GROWING, AND USING BEANS

Seed Librarian Ken will discuss selecting bean varieties to grow, how to cook them, and the benefits of adding this almost perfect food to your diet.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Tuesday, May 6
7-8:30 p.m.

SILENT BOOK GROUP

Do you enjoy being in the company of readers but find that traditional book discussion groups are not for you? Join us for a relaxing evening of reading in community. After a brief, optional conversation, we'll read together in a quiet, shared space. Bring a book, e-reader, or audiobook (with headphones or earbuds, of course!). Coffee and tea will be provided. For more information, contact Paige at pplant@livoniapubliclibrary.org.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Mondays, April 7, May 5, and June 9
7-8:30 p.m.

DESSERT TEAS*

Tea expert, Brad Coates, returns with a lively discussion about dessert teas and samples will be poured for your enjoyment! Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Monday, April 14
6-7 p.m.

COFFEE, COCOA AND COLORING

Join us for an evening of relaxation time as we color and enjoy coffee or cocoa. All supplies are provided, but feel free to bring your own!

@ Bennett Civic Center
Tuesdays, April 8 and May 13
6:30-8 p.m.

CLASSIC MICHIGAN FOOD AND DRINKS: THE STORIES BEHIND THE BRANDS*

From pioneering breakfast cereals like Kellogg's and Post to the creation of Gerber baby food, the Wolverine State has left an indelible mark on how we eat. But that's just the beginning—Michigan boasts a rich tapestry of edible treasures, including Faygo, Jiffy, Sanders, Vernors, Better Made, and more. Join authors Gail Offen and Jon Milan for an engaging discussion about the stories and history behind these iconic brands, as featured in their fascinating new book, "Classic Michigan Food & Drinks: The Stories Behind the Brands." Learn about their journey in uncovering these tales, celebrate Michigan's culinary legacy, and grab your own copy of the book for sale at the event!

@ Bennett Civic Center
Wednesday, April 30
6-7:30 p.m.

ALL ABOUT SOCIAL ANXIETY

Erica Parkinson, social worker and therapist, will discuss social anxiety, its impact, and evidence-based treatments and tools. Whether facing mild discomfort or overwhelming fear in social situations, you will gain valuable insights and practical steps for meaningful change.

@ Bennett Civic Center
Monday, May 5
7-8 p.m.



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 4

@ Bennett Civic Center
2-3 p.m.

Join us for the Friends of the Livonia Library annual meeting, followed by a performance by the **Harmony Town Barbershop Chorus**. Free and open to the public, with light refreshments served after!



JOIN NOW!

BECOME A Friend of the Library TODAY!



» Adult Programs

BLOOD ON THE CLOCKTOWER*

Teens and Adults. Join us for a spine-tingling game of Blood on the Clocktower. Blood on the Clocktower is a game of murder and mystery, lies and logic, deduction and deception. A social game played in person, seated in a circle, each player receives either a 'good' or 'evil' token with their unique character on it. Good players share information to solve the mystery whilst evil players lie about who they are and what they know. The good team wins if they can piece together their knowledge, trust each other, and execute the demon. The evil team wins if the demon can sow distrust, evade detection, and wipe out the village. Registration Required.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Wednesdays, April 16, May 7, and June 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.

FAMILY BOARD GAMES

Ages 8 and up. Come take advantage of the library's amazing board game collection, learn a new game, and connect with your family and the community. Staff will be on hand to explain the rules and guide the fun, and all games will be available for checkout after the event.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Wednesdays, April 23 and May 28
6:30-8:30 p.m.



Registration required. You must be a Livonia Resident with a valid Livonia Public Library card to register. All skill levels welcome.

@ Bennett Civic Center:

Paint by Numbers: European Cities

Wednesday, April 9
6-7:30 p.m.

@ Sandburg:

Paint by Numbers: Cats

Tuesday, May 6
(Registration begins April 8)
6-7:30 p.m.

Visit our online calendar to register for programs and to confirm dates.



livoniapubliclibrary.org/adult

SENIOR TECH SUPPORT

Have questions about your phone, laptop, or tablet? Bring your device and receive basic tech support from the library's Teen Volunteer Council.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Thursday, May 1
5-6 p.m.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: ORCHESTRATING CHANGE

Join us for a special screening of "Orchestrating Change," an inspiring documentary that follows the creation of the Me2/Orchestra—the world's only classical music ensemble dedicated to musicians living with mental illness.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Thursday, May 22
6:30-8:15 p.m.

JEWELRY MAKING WORKSHOP*

Join Christine Steffan to learn basic jewelry making techniques and celebrate summer! Participants will leave with a sun pendant necklace. Materials provided. You must be a Livonia resident with a valid library card to register. Registration required.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Thursday, May 29
(Registration begins May 15)
2:30-4 p.m.

Great tunes and tasty food!

We've loved having **Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop & Cafe** at our Noontime Concerts this year, and we hope you have too! Check out the schedule for our next concert, bring a friend, pack a lunch (or buy a snack from A&K!), and get ready for some great tunes!

NOONTIME CONCERT

TARA

CELTIC AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

THURSDAY

APRIL 17

BENNETT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
STARTS AT 12:15 PM

Concerts are free to attend!
Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy the show.

Livonia
ARTS COMMISSION

Generously supported by
the Livonia Arts Commission.

BOOK Clubs

POSITIVE PAGES BOOK GROUP

Tired of gloomy weather and bad news? Join us for a Book Group featuring gentler reads. Email Mable at mdoot@livoniapubliclibrary.org for more details.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Tuesday, April 1
 "Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame"
 by Olivia Ford
 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Tuesday, May 6
 "The Only Woman in the Room"
 by Marie Benedict
 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

FIRST MONDAY MEMOIRS

Join us for First Monday Memoirs and read a wide range of memoirs and biographies. Contact Nicole at nlane@livoniapubliclibrary.org with any questions.

@ Sandburg

Monday, April 7
 "The Boys in the Boat"
 by Daniel James Brown
 6:30-7:30 p.m.

@ Sandburg

Monday, May 5
 "Uphill"
 by Jemele Hill
 6:30-7:30 p.m.

A NOVEL BOOK GROUP

Join us to explore recent works of fiction from diverse genres and points of view. For more information, contact Paige at pplant@livoniapubliclibrary.org.

@ Bennett Civic Center

Thursday, April 17
 "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers"
 by Jesse Q. Sutano
 6-7:30 p.m.

Check out our new Silent Book Group on Mondays, **April 7** and **May 5** from **7-8:30 p.m.** at the Bennett Civic Center Library. See page 7 for more info.

100 BOOK CLUB*

Join our year-long reading challenge! Set your own reading goal for the year and earn a chance to win a prize for every 10 books you've read since Jan. 1. Read 100 books by the end of the year and become a member of the prestigious 100 Book Club. Open to everyone ages 12 and up. Register and see the full challenge description at livonialibrary.beanstack.org.

BOOK BUNDLES

Need help picking out books? Try a book bundle! Each bundle will include 3 books based on your choice of genre and format. A staff member will call you to schedule a pickup time. Use the form on our website livoniapubliclibrary.org to request a book bundle.

BOOK CLUB KITS

Are you hosting a book club and need multiple copies of the same title? The library provides ready-to-go book club kits for check out, discussion questions included! Check out this collection on the second floor of the Bennett Civic Center Library.

Spring showers?
 Read for hours!

THE FAMILIARS
 A NOVEL
 Stacey Halls

THE KEEPER OF SECRETS
 JULY PAGE

Libby.
 The library reading app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Read ebooks and listen to audiobooks instantly from our Library. Download the free **Libby** app on your phone or tablet.



MeLCat!

2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat), a service that has revolutionized resource-sharing for libraries across Michigan. MeLCat launched with just 12 participating libraries and has since expanded to over 435 Michigan libraries, offering access to more than 34 million items from public and academic libraries alike.

Livonia Public Library has been a proud participant in MeLCat since 2008. While a vast majority of our holds are filled through The Library Network, Livonia was able to fulfill over 4000 requests through MeLCat in 2024 alone. "MeLCat provides a great resource for libraries of all sizes, allowing us to offer even more materials to our community," said Kirsten Edson, Library Director.

MeLCat has filled more than 16 million requests since its inception. It allows libraries to lend and borrow materials quickly and efficiently, ensuring that patrons can access the resources they need, no matter where they live. This powerful tool is supported by the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services and the Library of Michigan.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, MeLCat is inviting Michiganders to share their own experiences with the service. For more information on how to use MeLCat, visit mel.org or contact your local branch today.

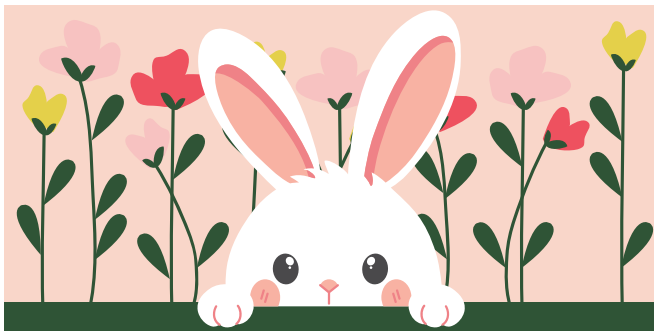
Here's to 20 years of shared resources and better serving Michigan residents!

MeL and MeLCat are funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Library of Michigan.



Tell your MeLCat story here!





All Livonia Libraries
will be **closed**
April 18-20



Join Our
Newsletter

Subscribe to the Livonia Public Library
eNewsletter and have library news and
updates sent directly to your inbox!



Book Sale hours:

Friday and Saturday:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday:

1-5 p.m.

BOOK SALE

MAY 16-18

PRE-SALE MAY 15!

Pre-Sale on May 15
is open to Friends of
the Library members
and teachers (must
present ID) from
4:30-6 p.m.





The Friends of the Library are an active group of volunteers whose mission is to provide support for the services and programs of the Livonia Public Library.



THE FRIENDS USED BOOK STORE

The store was started by The Friends of the Library in June 2006; you will find a large selection of books and media for all ages. We are located in the Bennett Civic Center Library.

Hours of Operation:

Mon: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tue & Wed: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thur, Fri & Sat: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Book Store: (734) 466-2495



ROBERT AND JANET BENNETT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

32777 Five Mile Road
(734) 466-2491

Mon - Thurs: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fri & Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun: 1-5 p.m.*

**during the school year*



Scan the QR Code to Provide Feedback!



CARL SANDBURG LIBRARY

30100 Seven Mile Road
(248) 893-4010

Mon & Tue: 12-8 p.m.

Wed & Thurs: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fri: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VEST POCKET LIBRARY

15218 Farmington Road
(734) 466-2559

Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



LivoniaPublicLibrary.org