

Southgate Veterans Memorial Library

Director's Report

October 14th, 2026

Library Events

Summer reading program: 324 adults, 70 teens, 308 kids signed up

September, began Yak & Yarn, intended for fiber artists. Patrons bring in their knitting, crocheting, etc., and work on their projects while hanging out. Yak & Yarn is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

Adult Services librarian Barbara Keresztury set up a tour through the Detroit Institute of Arts. On September 11th, 30 patrons met at the library, were bussed to the DIA, led on guided tours, provided meal vouchers, and were picked up and bussed back to the library. Everyone seemed to greatly enjoy the event, it's definitely something we'll look at doing again.

One of our summer reading events was Book Bedazzling, where patrons bring in one of their books and place rhinestones on it to make it shine. It was very popular, and we're planning on holding another session on Monday, November 9th at 6pm. Bedazzling an entire book is a lengthy process, so more moderate attempts are encouraged for this event.

Inside Out with the DIA

Another Detroit Institute of Arts program, Inside | Out brings reproductions of art from their vast collection to interested communities. We are looking to have artwork placed around the municipal complex, at the library and surrounding buildings. The artwork will be put up starting in April, and their goal is to have all artwork at all locations placed by Memorial Day. We are expecting to be able to get five, maybe six pieces.

Beanstack

We recently signed up for Beanstack, through The Joyful Reading Company, which also owns Comics Plus. Beanstack is a platform for creating and managing reading challenges. For several years we have been using Readsquared, which is offered free thanks to the Library of Michigan, but limitations with it led us to look at other options. We expect Beanstack will be easier to work with, and are planning to use it for the Adult winter reading program, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, the summer reading programs, and hopefully more.

New Library Assistants

I have hired two new library assistants, to replace openings left by others leaving. Jeannette Tobias is a former media specialist with Southgate Community Schools, while Hannah Pound-Price has worked as a substitute teacher, and has a BA in English and Secondary Education. Both started just last week, and are so far doing a fine job of picking up the job.