Switch your notices to TEXT or EMAIL

After decades of use, our automatic telephone notification system has made its last call. As it is outdated and unable to be repaired, this software and machinery will not be replaced.

Effective immediately, we need affected patrons to choose a new method to receive notices:

- **TEXT or EMAIL (highly recommended)**
- **POSTAL MAIL (not recommended due to slow delivery times)**

Please contact any BCLS branch library to update your notice delivery.

If you were one of the patrons who did not receive a phone notice in early January, we sincerely apologize for the inconvenience!

Smitten with Mittens: Hat, Scarf & Mitten Drive
Ends February 27

Let’s help kids and families in our community keep warm during the winter months!

All BCLS branches are accepting donations of NEW winter hats, gloves or scarves in all child and adult sizes.

Donations are accepted through curbside service.

An online service offering live homework and writing help with certified tutors. Use your BCLS library card to access the following features and more:

- **Homework Help** Interact with live tutors in math, science, reading/writing, social studies, PSAT/SAT, ACT, AP and state standardized tests.
- **Skills-Building** Practice lessons following Michigan curriculum guidelines.
- **24-Hour Writing Lab** Submit essays and other forms of writing for constructive feedback.
- **Homework Send Question** Submit homework questions for expert guidance.

*Live online tutoring available daily 2:00 PM - 11:00 PM EST*
Good News!

The BCLS Bay City Times digital newspaper archive has expanded through the year 1945. This gives cardholders online access to the years 1889-1945, including the historically important World War II years.

Newspaper reporting has famously been called “the first rough draft of history” and historically, local newspapers were the internet + social media of their day. Bay County residents now have online access to decades of local news articles, photographs, illustrations, and advertisements. All available at our website with your BCLS library card.

Discover our history today at www.baycountylibrary.org.

WINTER READING PROGRAM
ALL AGES
Ends February 27, 2021

**Paper logs are available at your branch & the URL below.

Get app and log links, directions, and prize info at www.baycountylibrary.org/WRP

Introducing the New BCLS App!

You can now access services and manage your account from your phone or smart device!

The new app is free to download on Google Play and the App Store.

Search for "VALCAT" and look for this icon...
**Adults**

**The Evening Sessions**

Call any branch or register online at [www.baycountylibrary.org](http://www.baycountylibrary.org)

**"Book Writing: Leaving a Written Legacy"**
Presented by author Zarina El-Amin

**Wednesday, February 3**
7:00-8:00 pm

Have you ever thought about how you wanted to preserve your or your family’s story? Join author and cultural anthropologist Zarina El-Amin as she talks about the importance of creating a written legacy and how to begin.

**"Importance of the Power of a Dream"**
Presented by radio host Kareem Bowen

**Wednesday, February 17**
7:00-8:00 pm

Saginaw native and host of “Straight Talk with Kareem Bowen”, speaks on how pursuing dreams can both unleash the potential of the individual and help build stronger communities.

**Zoom Book Discussion ®**
Mon, Feb 8, 2:00-3:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join! Registration is required to receive the Zoom link and book title. Call 989-892-8555, ext. 202 to register.

**Read What You Want Book Club ®**
Wed, Feb 24, 7:00 pm

Part book club, part social hour. Bring any book you’ve read the past month to share with the group. Registration required to receive the Zoom link.

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**Teen LitLoot Boxes ® Extremely popular - Register quickly!**

**February Theme: Romance**

We’re now offering a subscription service for grades 6-12! Each LitLoot Box contains one library book related to the month’s theme, a book to keep, and a few complimentary treats or a craft. Check out the box, enjoy the treats, then return the library book and box. Books can be renewed, if you need more time.

To sign up, go to the Calendar of Events on the BCLS website beginning one month before boxes go out. You will receive an email when your box is ready for pickup. Any boxes not picked up within 10 days will go to the next person on the waiting list.

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**MI Library Quest Mystery Edition**

Through February 14

Learn more about this teens-only virtual quest and get your clues at [milibaryquest.wixsite.com/quest1](http://milibaryquest.wixsite.com/quest1).

The Mi Library Quest challenge is made up of public libraries across Michigan and is supported in part by the Library of Michigan.

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**Dungeons & Dragons for Teens: Online ®**

(Ages 13-18)

**Wed, Feb 10, 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! Call or register via the BCLS online Calendar of Events.

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**Voodoo Valentine ®**
Thu, Feb 11, 4:00 pm

**String Bowl ®**
Tue, Feb 23, 4:00 pm

Please register via the BCLS online Calendar of Events. Supplies must be picked up before the program.
ALL PROGRAMMING IS CURRENTLY HELD VIRTUALLY
® Registration opens 1 month before at 9 am

VIRTUAL CRAFTS FOR KIDS

(Grades K-5 + Adult)

Valentine Ceramic Craft ®
Wed, Feb 3, 4:15-4:45 pm

Rainbow Lacing Craft ®
Wed, Feb 24, 4:15-4:45 pm

All supplies are available at your branch 2 weeks before the program. We request an adult supervise all children participating in these crafts in case they require assistance. Call or register via our website Calendar of Events to receive the Zoom link.

Pups & Pages ®
(Ages 4-12)
Thu, Feb 18 5:30-6:30 pm

Children read to a therapy dog or dog in training in a one-on-one Zoom session. You will be called to schedule the time of your session. Adult supervision is required.

WINTER STORYTIMES

January 4 - February 18, 2021

Join our children’s librarians live on Zoom for fun with stories, music, activities and more! Zoom information will be sent automatically to registered families.

BABY STORYTIME
Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00 am
(Ages birth-23 months + participating caregiver)

Stories, songs, and rhymes, followed by a chance for play!

FAMILY STORYTIME
Thursdays, 6:30-7:00 pm
(Ages 6 and under + participating caregiver)

Stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading.

2-5 YEAR OLD STORYTIME
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00 am
(Ages 2-5 + participating caregiver)

Preschoolers develop a love of reading through stories, rhymes, music, movement and more!

CALL OR REGISTER ONLINE VIA THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT WWW.BAYCOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG

Grab & Go Crafts

Available while supplies last.

ADULTS

Flower Heart Wreath: Available beginning February 1.

CHILDREN (Ages 3-12*) & TEENS (Grades 6-12)

New craft available weekly through February.

*Children should be at least age 3 due to small pieces.

Supplies and instructions are included.
CURBSIDE PICKUP. Call your branch to schedule.
Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club ® (Ages 6-12)
Tue, Feb 2 & 16, 4:30 pm
We’ll blend fun activities with Zoom voting to choose the story together, and hopefully survive the adventure.

Virtual Fire Truck Tour ® (Family)
Thu, Feb 4, 6-6:30 pm
Tour a fire truck with a Monitor Twp. firefighter and get your questions answered! Program is held on Zoom. Please provide adult supervision in case children require technology assistance.

Star Wars Family Trivia ® (Family)
Mon, Feb 8, 6:30-7:30 pm
Do you know everything about Star Wars? Join us on Zoom for a virtual family trivia night! Answer questions and compete for a prize. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Adult supervision required.

Virtual Game Night ® (Ages 7-12)
Mon, Feb 15, 4:30-5:30 pm
Join us for classic family games like Pictionary, Scattergories, and Boggle – with a virtual twist! You will need a pencil and paper or white board to participate. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Animal Family Trivia ® (Family)
Mon, Feb 22, 6:30-7:30 pm
Calling all animal enthusiasts! Join us on Zoom for trivia night and compete for a prize. We request an adult supervise participants in case they require assistance with the technology. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Print the calendar and activities on the BCLS Children’s Department page at www.baycountylibrary.org
FRIENDS OF THE BAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Yes! I would like to support my libraries by joining the Friends of the Bay County Libraries!

Membership Categories

($5) Friend    ($15) Contributor    ($25) Sponsor    ($50) Patron

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

PHONE: _____________________________

E-MAIL: ________________________________

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: ________________________________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $ ____________

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Bay County Libraries.

Mail your form and payment to 500 Center Avenue, Bay City, MI 48708 or drop it off at any branch library.

Have Questions?

Try the chat box in the bottom corner of our website. Librarians are ready to help you!