

Best Sellers



Our favorite stories about your Library's impact • SUMMER 2021



● Use the enclosed envelope or give online at YourNewFPL.org.

What a difference a year makes! One year ago, we were handing over the keys to Clark Construction so that demolition could begin. Now we are making the final push to finish fundraising as the building renovation moves forward full steam ahead!

"We've reached a financial milestone in this project," says Kay Schwartz, Library Director. "Thanks to voter and donor support, we are in the home stretch of fundraising. Now we're inviting the public to get involved and help us raise the remaining \$300,000 needed to complete this project."

The campaign theme, *Transform our Treasure*, speaks to the high regard this community has for the Library. "We hear it so often," Kay notes. "People talk about this Library as a treasure, a gem, something to be valued. We thought that was a great metaphor for our campaign."

A treasure chest is a perfect example of how the whole is greater than the sum

IT'S GETTING CLOSER!

Construction finishes in November 2021

Grand Opening is in early spring 2022

of the parts. "A single pearl, for example, takes on greater value when it's combined with other gems and jewels," says Ashoka Rao, Development Director. "That's true for gifts to this campaign as well. Each gift helps fill the treasure chest and complete this amazing transformation. We encourage and celebrate every gift at

every level. Together, those gifts help us fulfill our goal of providing a 21st-century Library that will serve our community for decades to come."

As the plans come to life, we are getting glimpses of how beautiful this Library will be. It will be a bright, welcoming, adaptable and flexible modern space, designed specifically for Flint and the surrounding area. It will be a place for people who love reading, conversation, community, learning, playing, family time and technology.

The Friends of Flint Public Library have pledged \$50,000 to jump-start this final phase of fundraising, and they're encouraging everyone in the community to join them. "Flint Public Library is a unique treasure that belongs to all of us," says Grace Tucker, President of the Friends. "We owe it to ourselves, our children and future generations to make sure this Library remains a vital and vibrant resource for everyone."

All gifts will be recognized on a digital donor wall in the renovated Library. What treasure would you like to contribute?

\$1 – \$99	Pearl of Programs
\$100 – \$499	Emerald of Events
\$500 – \$999	Ruby of Reading
\$1,000 – \$2,499	Gold of Growth
\$2,500 – \$4,999	Diamond of Digital Access
\$5,000+	Crown of Collaboration

Visit YourNewFPL.org to watch a project video, see the latest construction photos and to make your gift! A donation envelope is also enclosed for your convenience.

Get in the Game!

For this native Flint couple, the Library fills two very important roles. It's an anchor in the community, providing access to technology that many families would not have any other way. It's also a safe haven where kids can check out books and interact with other children.

As a professional in the healthcare field, Linda knows firsthand how important it is to provide literacy support to kids. It's especially critical for those who are fighting the cognitive skills impairment caused by lead poisoning. "I see the impact that the Library has on young minds," she says. "It's educational, but it's also fun. I have brought my great niece to programs there in the past because they are fun and educational."

David was a high school athlete and is a member of the Greater Flint

"If everyone could find \$5 each month, it would make a huge impact." – David Gibson

African American Sports Hall of Fame. The Library has housed photos and information about Hall of Fame members for many years, and hosts the annual press conference announcing the new class of inductees. For him, technology in the Library serves an additional purpose. It is one part historical archive and one part inspiration. "We want people to have quick access to information, but also to see and be inspired by the achievements of these Flint athletes," he says. "The renovated Library will have a kiosk where people can find information

quickly. It will also feature a large-format video wall that draws people into this significant part of Flint history." Linda may not be as sports-oriented as David, but she is equally committed to the value of positive role models. "Everything we do should impact the minds of the next generation," she asserts. "We want kids to know that reading and education help them achieve their goals."

Flint has been good to the Gibsons, and they are paying it forward. "We have been blessed, and that means we are called upon to give back," says Linda. "We started giving to the Library after I heard a presentation at the Flint chapter of The Links, and the light bulb went on. Programs don't run on air! They need funding. If you are able to give, this is a great place to support."

The Gibsons provide financial support, but also give of their time. David has served as co-chair of the Learn for Life luncheon, which introduces potential donors to the mission and impact of the Library. He also helped generate support for the 2019 bond proposal that paved the way for the Library renovation.

If you want to make a difference, you can't sit on the sidelines," David notes. "You have to get into the game and do your part. If everyone does a little bit, it turns into a lot!"



● "If you are able to give, the Library is a great place to support!" (Linda & David Gibson)

Are You Free for Lunch?

If you usually have lunchtime free on the first Thursday of the month, why not expand your literary palate with Flint Public Library?

Our Booked for Lunch series is very popular with people of all ages and backgrounds because we feature such a diverse listing of great reads. Not sure it would be right for you? Librarian Michael Madden answers a few questions and dispels some myths around this monthly event.

Q. First of all...is this a book club? Do I have to read the book in order to attend?

A. Absolutely not! While some people definitely read the book beforehand, many others use this as a chance to evaluate potential new options for their reading wish list. You can participate as much or as little as you like.

Q. So if it's not a book club, what is it?

A. Booked for Lunch is a way to highlight fantastic homegrown Michigan books. Some are written by Michigan authors; most are set in Michigan cities. We usually feature the author in some way, either with an in-person visit or a virtual talk. The attendees can laugh and learn, usually with a chance for a few questions. It's pretty low-key and a lot of fun.

Q. How do you decide which books to feature?

A. A small committee of Library staff recommends their favorite picks and then agrees on what to feature. There's usually a lot of passionate advocacy going on! Our goal is to feature a broad mix of books... fiction and non-fiction, representing all

If you have questions or would like some Michigan-themed reading suggestions, stop by the Library or email askus@fpl.info.

Our Menu of Titles Spans the State

MAP KEY

1. Wildlife 911: On Patrol
2. Notes from a Public Typewriter
3. In Want of a Knife: A Little Library Mystery
4. A \$500 House in Detroit: Rebuilding an Abandoned Home and an American City
5. August Snow
6. Secret Detroit: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure
7. The Other Sister
8. Zingerman's Bakehouse
9. The Faygo Book
10. Detroit's Birwood Wall: Hatred and Healing in the West Eight Mile Community
11. Flint Fights Back: Environment Justice and Democracy in the Flint Water Crisis
12. The Women of the Copper Country: A Novel
13. All Manner of Things
14. Shades: Detroit Love Stories
15. Midnight in Vehicle City: General Motors, Flint, and the Strike That Created the Middle Class
16. Haunted Bay City, MI

● Fiction ■ Non-Fiction

parts of the state, written by men and women of various backgrounds. Many of these books have appeared on the Michigan Notable Books list published by the Library of Michigan. You would be surprised how much quality literature is written in or about our state!

Q. Why pick Michigan specifically?

A. For one thing, it's a lot of fun to be reading along and bump into places or landmarks you know. That hook draws you further into the story, especially if the author got the nuances right. But there's also a lot of amazing non-fiction written about our state...everything from world-changing historical events like the Flint sit-down strike, to fascinating stories about homegrown businesses like Zingerman's or Faygo. As a history lover, I'm always eager

to introduce people to the addictive lure of non-fiction. You have no idea how many weird, intriguing stories there are to be shared about every corner of Michigan!

Q. So how can I get involved?

A. Booked for Lunch will start up again in September. We're hoping to have author visits with a small group of in-person attendees, paired with a simulcast via Zoom. The information should be posted to our website calendar by mid-August. In the meantime, stop by the Library and check out the "Michigan Book Shelf" to find some of our favorites. You can also find information about previously featured books by scrolling back in time on our calendar. All of them are available to check out or download. If you need any assistance, just ask!



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Our mission
is to be Flint's go-to place
to learn for life.

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SUMMER 2021

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Special Incentives for Summer Reading This Year!

It's time for our Summer Reading Challenge, and this is the year of animals! We have a great lineup of activities and events centered on our theme, "Tails and Tales." We're hoping to offer a combination of in-person and virtual activities during our challenge, which kicks off on Saturday, June 19 and runs through August 7. We will manage crowd size at each event through online reservations via our website.

There are three important things you should know about this year:

- **Sign up online at fpl.info/summer-reading-challenge/** to record your activities and collect points. This is also where we'll source the names for our prize drawings.
- Make sure you have a valid email address listed on your Library card account. We

will be emailing regularly with event and reservation information. Call or visit the Library if you want to confirm or update the email address associated with your Library card. If you don't have a Library card, now is a great time to get one!

- There will be prizes...lots of them! The more we give away, the less we have to pack up in November as we get ready to move back into our renovated building. So if there's a child in your life who's motivated by winning, this is the summer to get involved!

Please call or visit the Library if you have any questions or if you need assistance signing up. We look forward to a great summer of reading and fun!

