The Saginaw Community Writing Center (SCWC), in partnership with Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) and the Public Libraries of Saginaw, is hosting a Poetry Postcard Contest, giving community members the opportunity to submit poetry describing what they believe about Saginaw! We encourage anyone who lives, works, or studies in Saginaw to submit their work! The theme for this year’s contest is This I Believe for Saginaw.

Tell us what you believe about Saginaw by writing a short poem about Saginaw’s people, places, or history on the back of one of the postcards provided by the Saginaw Community Writing Center. Free postcards can be found at all branches of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, the SVSU Writing Center, and the Little Free Library at the SVRC Farmers’ Market.

This contest is open to individuals who live, work, or study in Saginaw County. Up to three winners will win a $100 cash prize and their work may be featured at all branches of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, the SVSU Writing Center, and the Saginaw Community Writing Center. Free postcards can be found at all branches of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, the SVSU Writing Center, and the Little Free Library at the SVRC Farmers’ Market.

The Saginaw Community Writing Center (SCWC) meets at Butman-Fish Library the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4 to 8 pm providing free writing workshops (6 to 8 pm) and one-on-one consultations (the entire time). February workshops are listed below:

February 11: Writing Scholarship Essays – Discover the important parts of a successful scholarship essay, review effective examples, and begin to draft your own essay.

February 25: Creative Writing Workshop - Get inspired to write poems, fiction, or nonfiction through creative prompts, followed by time to write and receive feedback from other group members.

Learn more and see a complete list of workshops, visit https://www.saginawlibrary.org/events/saginaw-community-writing-center-26.

Director’s Note

From poems and stories to Black History Month and movies, there are all kinds of fun things happening at the Public Libraries of Saginaw in February . . . and then there are taxes. We want to remind you that no matter what your needs are we are here to try and help. Sometimes that help comes in the form of entertainment and sometimes it takes a more serious turn. Whether you are looking for a fun way to spend the afternoon, need help finding community resources to help with a need you or a friend or family member have, or just need a place to land, we look forward to seeing you!

Story Time Shake Up

There are big changes coming to the Public Libraries of Saginaw’s story time program and we think you’re going to love them. Starting in February, Zauel Library will be offering story time every Saturday at 10:30 am. Changes are coming to Butman-Fish Library in March when story time will be offered every Friday at 10:30 am. That means that as of March you will be able to attend story time at Butman-Fish on Fridays and Zauel on Saturdays every single week! In the past, story time would alter-
Sample Search: Valentine’s Day

Valentine’s Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the history of Valentine’s Day by visiting one of the many eResources available at www.saginawlibrary.org.

Access one of our many databases by going through the Research & Learn tab on our home page. Click on Resources & Databases. You can even filter your database choices to make searching easier. For this search, you might consider clicking on the filter for Children, choosing the Britannica School database and searching the High level. Type Valentine’s Day in the search bar. This gives you access to Levels 1, 2, and 3, providing information, videos, articles, lesson plans, websites, and more.

Join us for our Valentine’s Day Party at 2pm on Saturday, February 15 at Butman-Fish Library where families will celebrate each other with games, music, crafts and all around fun in honor of St. Valentine’s Day!

Adult Scrabble Club

Calling all Scrabble players! Join us Butman-Fish Library the second Monday of each month at 6pm for a game of Scrabble. Meet new opponents or bring a friend. We provide game boards and Scrabble dictionaries. For ages 18 and older.

Learn to Crochet

Saturday, February 1 at 10am - Hoyt Library

Learn how to crochet with hands-on instruction of chaining, single crochet, and double crochet stitches. All materials will be provided. Register today!

Roll out the Red Carpet - It’s Movie Time!

Abominable (2019) - Hoyt Library - February 1 at 11am & Wickes Library - February 22 at 2pm

Three teenagers must help a yeti return to his family while avoiding a wealthy man and a zoologist who want it for their own needs. Rated: PG Runtime: 1h37m

Penguins (2019) - Hoyt Library - February 8 at 11am

A coming-of-age story about an Adélie penguin named Steve who joins millions of fellow males in the icy Antarctic spring on a quest to build a suitable nest, find a life partner and start a family. Rated: G Runtime: 1h16m

Harriet (2019) - Hoyt Library - February 15 at 11am

The extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman’s escape from slavery and transformation into one of America’s greatest heroes, whose courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history. Rated. PG13 Runtime: 2h15m

The Public (2018) - Butman-Fish Library - February 26 at 5:30pm

An act of civil disobedience turns into a standoff with police when homeless people in Cincinnati take over the public library to seek shelter from the bitter cold. Rated: PG13 Runtime: 1h50m

Hidden Figures (2016) - Zauel Library - February 27 at 5:30pm

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Rated: PG Runtime: 2h7m

Free Tax Preparation Begins February 3

If you are a low to moderate income taxpayer who cannot afford to pay for tax preparation, trained volunteers will prepare simple tax forms through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This program is run by United Way of Saginaw County and is available at Butman-Fish and Hoyt Libraries during the following dates and times:

Butman-Fish Library
Open February 3 through April 14
Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 2pm
This site accepts walk-ins only.

Hoyt Library
Open February 3 through April 14
Mondays from 4 to 7pm
This site accepts appointments only.

Call 211 to schedule or schedule online at www.unitedwayssaginaw.org/vita.

For additional tax preparation locations and a checklist of required documents, visit www.unitedwayssaginaw.org/vita.

February is Black History Month

Butman-Fish Library
Spin an African Tale - Hoyt Library - February 1 at 2pm
Join us for an hour of crafts, music, and African folklore. Children ages 5 through 12 are welcome. Adult supervision is required for any child under the age of 7.

Butman Fish Book Club: The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead - February 4 at 6pm
Join Maria McCarville, Director of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, as she leads this contemporary book club the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. This month’s selection was chosen with Black History Month in mind.

Library Story Quilt - February 8 at 2pm
Children will design a quilt square that is based on the Caldecott Honor book Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold. We will read the book then the children will have a chance to design their own quilt square to be displayed in our library.

VR Ventures: Black History Month Quest - Butman-Fish Library - February 11 at 6:30pm
Attention VR Voyagers! Join us at Butman-Fish Library for a Black History Month quest through time with our new virtual reality equipment, plus make an awesome craft! For students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Space is limited. Children under 7 need an adult helper.

Children’s Story Time: Celebrate African American History - Butman-Fish Library - February 15 at 10:30am
In recognition of Black History Month, we will be sharing stories, songs, and poems by and about notable African Americans. Children of all ages are invited to come early for 30 minutes of read aloud stories, fingerplays, and fun.

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February is Black History Month

Movie Night: Hidden Figures - Zauel Library - February 27 at 5:30pm
Join us as we present the 2016 film Hidden Figures, based on the untold true story of three brilliant African American women who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of John Glenn into orbit. Rated: PG Runtime: 2h7m

Wickes Book Club: The Color Purple - Wickes Library - February 28 at 7pm
Join us once a month on a Saturday as we explore various topics related to the book selection of the month. Please note that the book club will meet on a variety of Saturdays throughout the month. This month’s title is The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

Yoga for Everyone

Saturday, February 22 at 10am - Hoyt Library
Yoga for Everyone is an easy yoga class for all levels. Class will be taught by Kathryn Wilson. Wear comfortable clothes, bring water and a towel or yoga mat. Register today!