

Beyond the Bookshelf



February / 2026

Maria McCarville Bids Farewell

After serving ten years as director of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, Maria McCarville has accepted the director position at Warren Public Library in the Detroit area. Her last day in the office was at the end of January.



"While I am looking forward to this next chapter, leaving PLOS is incredibly difficult," she said, noting that the move will allow her to be closer to family. "Working with the staff here has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. I have been continually inspired by their dedication, creativity and commitment to serving this community with excellence."

Karen Butler and Garrett Schmidt are serving as interim directors while the Library Board conducts a search for a new director.

We wish Maria the best as she starts her new adventure!

New Computer System on its Way



Along with other members of the Valley Library Consortium, the Public Libraries of Saginaw is moving to a new Integrated Library System at the end of February. This computer system affects our cataloging, acquisitions, patron records and circulation functions, so we expect some disruptions to normal services as we go through the month. Online catalog and patron accounts will be affected at the same time. We appreciate your patience and will do our best to make this transition as painless as possible for everyone. Stay tuned for more information.

See inside for a listing of book clubs, tech classes, craft projects & more. Visit www.saginawlibrary.org/events for the most up-to-date schedule information.

Explore Yoga and Mindfulness

Build strength and flexibility along with a calmer mind at Butman-Fish's new **Gentle Yoga Class for Beginners** on **Tuesdays, Feb. 3 & 24 at 5:30 p.m.** Learn to focus your breathing, alignment, and balance while learning the foundations of basic yoga. Please bring your own mat. If you use blocks, blankets, or other props, please feel free to bring them! Attendees are encouraged to dress in layers.



Butman-Fish is also hosting two more sessions in the **MSU Extension Mindfulness Series** this month. **Be Kind to Your Mind** on **Thursday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m.** explores techniques to learn to be a detached observer of your thoughts using the power of acceptance and gratitude. At the **Changing Negative Self-Talk** workshop on **Thursday, Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.**, we'll discuss the benefits of positive self-talk and explore other tools for dealing with negative self-talk.

Go to www.saginawlibrary.org/events or call (989) 799-9160 to register.

All About Animals on Feb. 21



We're going to the dogs (and some other animals) on **Saturday, Feb. 21!**

At **11 a.m.**, Butman-Fish will host a special **Learn All About PENGUINS** storytime featuring Miss Sarah, the Conservation and Education Manager at the **Saginaw Children's Zoo**. Miss Sarah will share a story and info about penguins, along with a fun craft. Stop by the reference desk for an all about penguin take & make as well!

Zuel's Read to a Therapy Dog begins at **11:30 a.m.**, following Family Storytime at **10:30**. Children and their families can participate in dog-themed crafts and activities while they wait their turn to read to therapy dogs Marvel, Moon Pie and Boulder!



**PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OF SAGINAW**

From the Pages

And the River Drags Her Down

By Jihyun Yun
Young Adult Fiction

Korean American Soojin and her sister Mirae, like all women in their family, have the power of reviving the dead. Their late mother had warned the sisters against ever using their powers on anything larger than a small animal. Mirae has become Soojin's parental figure since their mother's death. When Mirae dies unexpectedly, Soojin is so lonely and lost without her sister that she dares to break her mother's rules about never using their powers on a human. She is so thrilled to have her sister back that she fails to notice signs that Mirae is not quite the same. She dismisses the dark marks appearing on her own body, and does not make the connection when some of the town's powerful residents are mysteriously attacked.

I love that this novel manages to be equal parts creepy and poignant. While the terror surrounding Mirae's resurrection grows, we see Soojin's profound loneliness, grief, and inability to let go. Yun's writing is incredible, managing to root us in reality while the fantastical unfolds. Some of her strongest writing is the depiction of the friendship between Soojin and the incredibly patient Mark (who has obviously fallen for Soojin), and in her poetic descriptions of natural settings. I also appreciate the nod to elements of Korean culture in the story.

It is remarkable that *And the River Drags Her Down* is Yun's debut novel. The cover art is simply stunning and, happily the story inside lives up to the cover. It is deserving of its Kirkus starred review. And for those who appreciate a local connection, Yun is a resident of Ann Arbor.

Reviewed by Bryan Latimer
Zauel Library



Weekly Events:

Toddler Storytime

Zauel
Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m.

Chair Exercise

Zauel
Tuesdays – 1:30 p.m.

Homeschool Hangout Time!

Butman-Fish
Tuesdays – 2 p.m.

Hoyt LEGO Club

Hoyt
Tuesdays – 4 p.m.

Miss Beth's Boombox

Zauel
Thursdays – 10:30 a.m.

Baby Storytime

Butman-Fish
Fridays – 9:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime

Butman-Fish
Fridays – 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime

Zauel
Saturdays – 10:30 a.m.

Events:

♦ Tech Tutoring

Butman-Fish
Monday, Feb. 2 – By Appt.

♦ Book Hearts

Butman-Fish
Monday, Feb. 2 – 5 p.m.

♦ Yoga at Butman-Fish

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Feb. 3 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Digitization Day

Hoyt
Wednesday, Feb. 4 – By Appt.

♦ Resume & Career Help

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Feb. 4 – 4:30 p.m.

Crafty Kids Hour

Zauel
Wednesday, Feb. 4 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Computer Basics

Hoyt
Thursday, Feb. 5 – 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech!

Zauel
Thursday, Feb. 5 – 3:30 p.m.

♦ Be Kind to Your Mind

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Feb. 5 – 5 p.m.

♦ Saginaw: Race & Riot in 1967

Hoyt
Thursday, Feb. 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Friday Flicks

Butman-Fish
Friday, Feb. 6 – 2 p.m.

♦ Cross Stitch Fun

Hoyt
Saturday, Feb. 7 – 11 a.m.

♦ Black Migration to Saginaw

Hoyt
Saturday, Feb. 7 – 1 p.m.

Take Your Child to the Library

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Feb. 7 – 2-4 p.m.

Zaulympics

Zauel
Saturday, Feb. 7 – 2 p.m.

♦ Cookbook Club

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Feb. 7 – 3 p.m.

Make It Monday

Zauel
Monday, Feb. 9 – All Day

♦ Let's Draw Some Fruit

Butman-Fish
Monday, Feb. 9 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Hoyt Library Archives Tour

Hoyt
Tuesday, Feb. 10 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Continental Knitting

Zauel
Tuesday, Feb. 10 – 6:30 p.m.

Stranger Than Fiction

Barnes & Noble Café
Tuesday, Feb. 10 – 7 p.m.

Paper Doily Valentine's Crafts

Wickes
Wednesday, Feb. 11 – 4 p.m.

Butman-Fish STEM Night

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Feb. 11 – 6 p.m.

♦ Evening in a Chinese Restaurant

Zauel
Wednesday, Feb. 11 – 6:30 p.m.

Valentine's Card Take & Make

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Feb. 12 – All Day

♦ Happy Little Paintalong

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Feb. 12 – 6 p.m.

Spice Up Your Month

Hoyt
Saturday, Feb. 14 – All Day

Butman-Fish Valentine's Party

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Feb. 14 – 10 a.m.

Needle Arts Club

Hoyt
Saturday, Feb. 14 – 11 – Noon

♦ A Perfect Pair

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Feb. 14 – 2 p.m.

♦ Tech Tutoring

Butman-Fish
Monday, Feb. 16 – By Appt.

♦ Bracelets & More Bracelets!

Zauel
Monday, Feb. 16 – 2 p.m.

STEAM Discovery Lab

Hoyt
Monday, Feb. 16 – 4:30 p.m.

Book Club Soirée

First United Methodist Church,
Monday, Feb. 16 – 6 p.m.

Pages of History Book Club

Castle Museum
Tuesday, Feb. 17 – Noon

Butman-Fish Book Club

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Feb. 17 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Murder Club

Hoyt
Tuesday, Feb. 17 – 6:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Club

Oracle Brewing Co.
Wednesday, Feb. 18 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Memoir Reading & Writing

Hoyt
Thursday, Feb. 19 – 2:30 p.m.

Ask the Tech

Zauel

Thursday, Feb. 19 – 3:30 p.m.

♦ Changing Negative Self-Talk

Butman-Fish

Thursday, Feb. 19 – 5 p.m.

Movie Night at Zauel

Zauel

Thursday, Feb. 19 – 6:30 p.m.

Friday Flicks

Butman-Fish

Friday, Feb. 20 – 2 p.m.

♦ Heart Garlands

Hoyt

Friday, Feb. 20 – 3 p.m.

Tapestry Take & Make

Hoyt

Saturday, Feb. 21 – All Day

♦ Family History for Beginners

Hoyt

Saturday, Feb. 21 – 9:30 a.m.

Learn All About PENGUINS

Butman-Fish

Saturday, Feb. 21 – 11 a.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Zauel

Saturday, Feb. 21 – 11:30 a.m.

Kids' Favorites Book Club

Zauel

Monday, Feb. 23 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Yoga at Butman-Fish

Butman-Fish

Tuesday, Feb. 24 – 5:30 p.m.

Adult Coloring Night

Zauel

Tuesday, Feb. 24 – 6:30 p.m.

Series Starters Book Club

Butman-Fish

Thursday, Feb. 26 – 11 a.m.

♦ Mythology Book Club

Hoyt

Thursday, Feb. 26 – 6:30 p.m.

Kids Create Saturday

Butman-Fish

Saturday, Feb. 28 – 11 a.m.

Silent Book Club

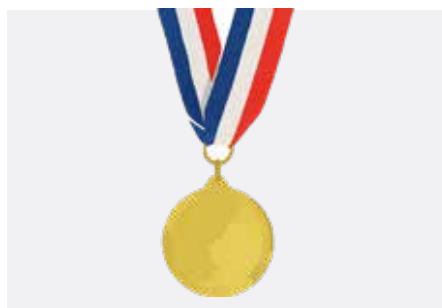
Red Eye Coffee + Tea

Saturday, Feb. 28 – 3:30-4:45 p.m.



Family History for Beginners

If you've ever wanted to learn how to track down your family's intergenerational story, register for **Family History for Beginners** at Hoyt on **Saturday, Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m.** Our experts from the Local History and Genealogy department will show you basic research techniques and strategies, including both traditional and online resources. Please register online or call **(989) 755-9832**.



Go for the Gold at Zauelympics

The Winter Olympics are coming and, at **Zauel**, we are into it! We love all the winter sports – skating, skiing, curling, bobsled, hockey and more. We love them so much we are having our own Olympics – the **ZAUELYMPICS!** – on **Saturday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.** Play a variety of fun games and see if you can walk away with a gold medal! This program is for elementary school-aged children and their families. Children under 7 need an adult helper.



Celebrate Chinese Restaurants!

Join us for an **"Evening in a Chinese Restaurant"** at **Zauel** on **Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Dr. Jennifer Vannette from the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History will talk about the Lum family and the first Chinese restaurant in Saginaw. We'll discuss the 2025-26 Great Michigan Read, ***Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*** by Curtis Chin, and enjoy a three course "tasting menu" of significant foods from Chinese New Year celebrations. (This is NOT a real meal. You should eat beforehand!) Then grab a simple Chinese New Year take & make craft on your way out. Register online or call **(989) 799-2771**.

Lots of Valentine's Fun to Be Had at the Library



Love is in the air – and is the subject of several special library programs this month! Check our website or contact the host branch for registration information or to find out more.

Join us a **Butman-Fish** on **Monday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.** for **Book HeARTs**. We'll be making heart-shaped decorations from discarded books.

The first Wednesday is **Feb. 4**, which means it's time for **Crafty Kids Hour** at **Zauel**. Elementary school-aged children and their families can drop in to make Valentine's Day crafts anytime between **6:30–7:30 p.m.**

At **Paper Doily Valentine's Crafts** at **Wickes** on **Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m.**, adults can try their hand at one of several crafts using paper doilies, including cards and flowers. Make one craft, or attempt them all!

Give your sweetheart something made with love instead of buying a card by picking up a **Valentine's Day Card Take & Make kit** from **Butman-Fish** on **Thursday, Feb. 12**, while supplies last.

Butman-Fish is hosting a **Children's Valentine's Party** full of fun on Valentine's Day itself, **Saturday, Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.**

Later in the day, teens and adults are invited to make **A Perfect Pair** of wooden people at **Butman-Fish**. At this cozy crafting session, starting at **2 p.m.** on **Saturday, Feb. 14**, you'll design and decorate your own wooden couple. Whether you craft sweethearts, friends or family, this workshop is all about love, and you will even have the option to attach your wooden people to a valentine. We will be using acrylic paint, so be sure to wear clothing you're okay with getting paint on. If attending as a pair, please be sure to sign up both names when you register for the program.

Jewelry always makes a great gift, and there's something even more special about giving something homemade. It may be after Valentine's Day, but there is no such thing as too many bracelets! Adults: register to join us for **BRACELETS & More Bracelets** at **Zauel** on **Monday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m.**

Finally, spruce up your space with a felt **Heart Garland** at **Hoyt** on **Friday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m.**



505 Janes Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 96
SAGINAW, MI

Branch Hours

Butman-Fish Library

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Hoyt Library

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Wickes Library

Monday-Thursday Noon-6pm

Zauel Library

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9am-9pm
Wednesday Noon-9pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

www.saginawlibrary.org

Together We Inspire . . .

Race and Riot in 1967 Saginaw

In 1966, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission said that Saginaw was a powder keg about to explode. Housing conditions, redlining, and urban renewal played a significant role in that statement. Redlining was the systemic denial of services (loans, insurance, investment) to Black and other minority neighborhoods, often using government-backed maps that literally drew red lines around "hazardous" areas, leading to disinvestment, blight, and the displacement/destruction of vibrant communities for projects like freeways, creating lasting segregation, wealth gaps, and environmental injustice.



On **Thursday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.**, Dr. Jennifer Vannette, Outreach Coordinator from the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, will be at **Hoyt** to discuss **Saginaw: Race & Riot**. This talk will examine the historical conditions that led to this moment and how they produced an uprising in 1967. We will also consider why understanding this period in history still matters today.

Register at www.saginawlibrary.org/events or call (989) 755-0904.

Black Migration to Saginaw

Dr. Willie McKether, author of ***Better Lives, Broken Promises, and the Struggle for Equality: Lessons from the Black Migration to Saginaw*** will discuss his study of three generations of African American Migrants at **Hoyt** on **Saturday, Feb. 7 at 1 p.m.**

McKether's book focuses on the Black migration to Saginaw that came in two waves between 1915 and 1960. The social landscape for African Americans coming north at the start of the second half of the last century changed drastically, based upon a foundation laid by the migrants arriving in the first half of the twentieth century. This book suggests that the earlier cohort served to fill the social spaces created by the pre-1915 migrants and learned how to 'get by' in a society that offered few real opportunities for its Black citizens. The second wave arrived after World War II into a society that promised more, even as it failed to deliver. As a result, demands for social justice within the local social structure became louder.

