



Books & Beyond

SDL Book Talk

Sanilac District Library Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 1

Serving Our Community Since 1936
Managing CPS Elementary & High School Libraries
and the Bark Shanty Library Branch

January 2026

Snow Is Falling... Books Are Calling!

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but *books* are so delightful,
There's *snow* better time to read, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

SDL Book Club

Share your love of books with others who enjoy reading. SDL's book discussion group meets the first Wednesday of the month.

January 7 at 5:30

Once We Were Brothers
Ronald Balson

February 4 at 5:30

Book Lover's Month
Bring a favorite to share with the group

Sanilac District Library

7130 Main Street
PO Box 525
Port Sanilac, MI 48469
810.622.8623

Library Hours

Monday: 11-5
Tuesday: 11-5
Wednesday: 11-7
Thursday: 11-5
Friday: 11-5
Saturday: 11-2



FREE Movie
Saturday
January 17 at 3

At The Bark Shanty

DreamWorks

How To Train Your Dragon

On the rugged isle of Berk, where Vikings and dragons have been bitter enemies for generations, Hiccup stands apart. The inventive yet overlooked son of Chief Stoick the Vast Hiccup defies centuries of tradition when he befriends Toothless, a feared Night Fury dragon. Their unlikely bond reveals the true nature of dragons, challenging the very foundations of Viking society.

Rated PG

©Universal Studios 2025

SWANK Movie Licensing

Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

Craft With Joyce Knight-Coyne

Thursday, January 29 at 1

At SDL's Bark Shanty Branch
Make a cute valentine craft with a wine glass
\$30 fee for the instructor and supplies

Please RSVP at Sanilac District Library

Register in person at SDL
call 810.622.8623 or email: sdlcirdesk@yahoo.com
The class is limited to 15 people



New Fiction

- The Academy*—Elin Hilderbrand
- The Body Guard Affair*—Amy Lea
- Blood Sisters*—Vanessa Lillie
- Blown Away: a Teddy Fay novel featuring Stone Barrington*—Stuart Woods
- Boleyn Traitor*—Philippa Greory
- The Bone Thief*—Vanessa Lillie
- Clementine Crane Prefers Not To*—Kristin Bair. Clem is overworked managing her family & job. Her first hot flash sends her into a tailspin. Overwhelmed and fed up, Clem takes a stand. She goes on strike, ditches obligations, sets boundaries, and vents her frustrations on social media. When her raw, hilarious, and unexpectedly poignant videos go viral, Clem finds herself at the heart of a movement.
- Come Through Your Door: County Kerry novel*—Carlene O'Connor
- The Crimson Throne*—Sara Raasch
- Dating After The End Of The World*—Jeneva Rose. A viral outbreak turns the people it infects into zombielike creatures. No one saw this coming, except Casey's doomsday-prepping father. With no place left to run and danger lurking around every corner, Casey returns home and is surprised to find that her dad has hunkered down with a group of survivors. While struggling to live on the compound, face outside threats, Casey learns that although the world has ended, hers is just beginning.
- Definitions*—Matt Greene. Students arrive at the Center nameless after a strange illness destroys their memories. Each day, they attend classes to help them relearn the right ways to speak and live; they practice the roles they'll assume once they return to society. But as shards of memories begin to threaten the strict curriculum, students question the definitions given to them.
- Evensong*—Stewart O'Nan. The Humpty Dumpty Club is distraught when their powerhouse leader takes a bad fall down her stairs. Now between navigating their own relationships and aging bodies and attending choir practice, these invisible yet indomitable women help where they can. They bake cookies, care for pets, pick up prescriptions, sit vigil by the sick and most of all, show up for the people they've pledged to help.
- The Everlasting*—Alix Harrow. Una Everlasting was Dominion's greatest hero: the orphaned girl who became a knight and died for queen and country. Her legend lives on but her life was forgotten. Centuries later, Owen, failed soldier & struggling scholar falls in love with the tale of Una. Her story takes him to war, to the archives and then into the past itself.

- Forget-Me-Not Library*—Heather Webber Juliet is lucky to be alive after a freak accident. Recovering, she feels that something is missing from her life and takes a road trip. When a detour leads Juliet to Forget-Me-Not, AL she discovers there is magic between the pages of where you've been and where you still need to go. And that happiness, even when lost, can always be found again
- The Haunting of Payne's Hollow*—Kelley Armstrong. Sam is faced with the realities of her childhood and the secrets kept hidden in the shadows of her memories. When her aunt goes missing a couple days into her stay at Payne's Hollow, Sam begins to question everything again. Plagued by nightmares and paranoia, she hears sounds in the forest and sees shapes crawling from the lake as the waves promise something unspeakably dark lurking just below the surface.
- The Hitchhikers*—Chevy Stevens. On the remote Canadian highways in 1976, Tom and Alice are on an RV road trip to repair their marriage and heal the wounds of recent tragic events, but when they join up with a seemingly friendly young couple, things take a dark turn.
- Home To Green Creek series*—Lauraine Snelling
 1. *Land of Dreams*
 2. *At Morning's Light*
- Irish Goodbye*—Heather O'Neill. Three adult sisters grapple with a shared tragedy over a weekend spent in their childhood home, navigating complex relationships and old tensions.
- Man Next Door*—Sheila Roberts
- Missing Pages*—Alyson Richman. Harry Widener boards the Titanic holding tight to a priceless book. His last known words are that he must return to his cabin for his treasure. Neither he the book will ever be seen again. His mother builds a library at Harvard to memorialize her son and house his book collection. Decades later, Violet, a sophomore recovering from her own loss, is working as a page when strange things begin happening at the library. Violet wonders if Harry's ghost is trying to communicate the missing pieces of his story from beyond the grave.
- Murder Two Doors Down*—Chuck Storla. Brad investigates insurance fraud, which is as dull as it sounds. His highest achievement in life is being secretary on the HOA board, which is the center of all the neighborhood drama. As frustrating as this may be, Brad would never kill a neighbor, but ... he might enjoy thinking about it from time to time. When someone murders cranky old Inga, a frequent source of complaints to the HOA, a literal smoking gun turns Brad into the chief suspect. But Brad

is not waiting around to be arrested, after all, he is an investigator, and he takes it upon himself to find the real killer. Then the body count starts to rise...

- Patience: The Orphan Train Saga #6*—Sherry Burton
- Picasso Heist*—James Patterson. A \$100 million painting. Everyone wants to possess it. But only one person knows how to take it.
- Red City*—Marie Lu. Alchemy is the hidden art of transformation. An exclusive power wielded by crime syndicates marketed to the world's elite in the form of sand, a drug that enhances those who take it into a more perfect version of themselves. Two childhood friends might have loved other but are on opposite sides of an ever-escalating conflict where ambition becomes power, loyalty becomes lies, and no transformation may be perfect enough for them both to survive the coming war.
- Some Bright Nowhere*—Ann Packer. Eight years after Claire was diagnosed with cancer, the end is near. It's time to gather loved ones and prepare for the inevitable. But as her husband focuses on settling into their last days together, Claire makes an unexpected request that leaves him reeling.
- Spasm*—Robin Cook. Laurie and Jack investigate the strange deaths of two white extremist troublemakers, whose behavior was bizarre. Both complained of muscle spasms, nausea and anxiety. Jack & Laurie fear that a bioweapon might be at play, which, in the wrong hands, could threaten the lives of the entire town and maybe all of America.
- Spunes series*—Tarah DeWitt. Sage loves her life with the misfit animals on her hobby farm and her friendships with the town's inhabitants. When her relationship ends, she needs something to stop everyone from pitying her and to put Ian in his place. The annual summer cooking competition, would be the perfect opportunity.
 1. *Savor It*
 2. *Left of Forever*
- The Time Hop Coffee Shop*—Phaedra Patrick. Greta was once the shining star of coffee commercials, the quintessential TV wife and mom. Now fame has faded and her marriage is on the rocks. When Greta stumbles upon a mysterious coffee shop serving a magical brew, she wishes for the perfect life.
- Wreck*—Catherine Newman. Rocky juggles family life with her husband, adult children and aging father, until her fixation on a local accident and an ominous medical concern stirs up anxieties that threaten to upend her fragile sense of normalcy.

New Nonfiction

- *100 Train Journeys of a Lifetime: the world's ultimate rides*—Everett Potter
- *The American Revolution: an intimate history based on the film series by Ken Burns*—Geoffrey Ward
- *A Biography of a Mountain: the making and meaning of Mount Rushmore*—Matthew Davis
- *Confronting Evil: assessing the worst of the worst*—Bill O'Reilly
- *Feast On Your Life: Kitchen meditations for every day*—Tamar Adler
- *Future Boy: Back To The Future and my journey through the space-time continuum*—Michael J. Fox
- *Gales of November: the untold story of the Edmund Fitzgerald*—John Bacon
- *Last Days of Marilyn Monroe: a true crime thriller*—James Patterson
- *Love Wars: clash of the parents: a true divorce story*—Matthew Tower
- *MAHA: Make America Healthy Again: a blueprint for a thriving nation*—Chauncey Crandall, M.D.
- *Right Wing Revolution: how to beat the woke and save the west*—Charlie Kirk
- *The Sea Captain's Wife: a true story of mutiny, love and adventure at the bottom of the world*—Tilar Mazzeo

There's Snow Better Time To Read



New Movies

- *Beast of War*: During WWII, a warship on its way to the frontlines is attacked by Japanese fighter jets. The ship is blown apart, engulfed in flames and sinking fast. Most of the crew are killed instantly, but a group of survivors escape and make a raft from floating debris. Adrift and clinging to life, survivors face brutal sun exposure, dehydration, hunger and panic while an unseen threat circles below.
- *Dead of Winter*: During a blizzard, a grief-stricken loner gets lost among backroads. She stops for help at a remote cabin in the woods. She discovers a young woman who was kidnapped by a desperate couple intent on murder. Isolated and without cell service, this unlikely hero realizes she is the woman's only hope of survival.
- *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale*: When Mary finds herself at the center of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace.
- *Freakier Friday*: Tess's daughter Anna now has a daughter of her own and soon, a step-daughter. As they navigate the joys and challenges when two families merge, lightning just may strike twice.
- *Is Anybody There?* 10-year-old Edward lives in his family-run retirement home. His mother struggles to keep the business afloat and his father copes with a mid-life crisis. Edward leads a lonely existence until he meets Clarence, a retired magician and grieving widower, who refuses to give in gracefully to old age. The two strike up an unlikely friendship which helps them both remember that magic is possible when life is lived to its fullest.
- *Killing Faith*: In the lawless frontier of 1849, a deadly sickness spreads—and with it, rumors of a young girl cursed by the devil. One man must choose whether to run or stand and protect the innocent.
- *Looking Through Water*: After a public meltdown, a successful executive joins his estranged father for a fishing competition in Belize, only to find healing, truth, and purpose in an unexpected family bond that echoes across generations.
- *The Naked Gun*: Only one man has the particular set of skills to lead Police Squad and save the world! Lt. Frank Drebin Jr. follows in his father's footsteps.
- *The Prisoner*: A British SAS officer is sent to the Philippines in WWII. As the sole survivor of his mission, he is taken captive at a POW camp and awaits the infamous Bataan Death March. He and his fellow prisoners are forced to compete in brutal death matches for the entertainment of their captors, but he proves to be a formidable opponent and defies the odds against him.
- *What We Hide*: After their mother suffers a fatal overdose, two sisters fear that the foster system will separate them and decide to hide the body. But their lie may be discovered and they must decide how far they are willing to go to keep their *secret*.
- *Xeno*: A young girl and a terrifying alien form a powerful bond after a chance encounter in the desert, sending them on an adventure that questions the nature of good and evil.

Oldies But Goodies

- *The Burbs*: Spending a relaxing week at home, Ray has trouble with his neighbors—a hefty busybody, a freaked-out ex-soldier and a spacey teenager—as they observe the strange happenings at the Klopek's bizarre residence. When a neighborhood grouch disappears, the men are convinced the ramshackle house hides hideous clues. Armed with assault rifles and a shovel, they decide to see for themselves what is going on next door.
- *Cocoon*: Elderly residents of a retirement home discover pods in a swimming pool that grant them vitality and the choice between life and death as aliens try to retrieve their kin.
- *Cocoon: The Return*: The adventurous old-timers who left Earth for the alien utopia Antarea, return on a rescue mission. Accustomed to their new problem-free planet, they realize the joys they left behind after they are reunited with their families. Yet for all their happiness, they must once again confront the human frailties of their past.
- *That Thing You Do*: An American rock band becomes an overnight triumph during the glory days of rock & roll and rides the star-making machinery as long as it can, with lots of help from its manager.
- *The Money Pit*: Evicted from their Manhattan apartment, Walter and Anna buy what looks like the home of their dreams only to find themselves saddled with a bank-account-draining nightmare. Struggling to keep their relationship together as their rambling mansion falls to pieces around them, the two hapless homeowners watch in hilarious horror as everything—including the kitchen sink—disappears into The Money Pit.
- *Turner and Hootch*: A dirty dog helps a tidy detective link California beach-town foul play to a drug-money laundry.

Early Literacy Programs
At SDL's Bark Shanty Branch

Age appropriate activities,
books, crafts, songs and FUN!

Baby Time

Newborn to 24 months
Thursday at 10



Toddler Time

2-4 year olds
Thursday at 10:30

Baby Time & Toddler Time introduce children to the joy of reading.

Parents will learn activities that help stimulate brain development and encourage lifelong reading skills in their children.

*Children must be accompanied
by an adult caregiver*

**Baby Time & Toddler Time
are cancelled if CPS is closed
due to the weather.**

After School Club

Thursdays: 3:30 to 4:45

**At SDL's Bark Shanty Library Branch
for 1st - 8th graders**

Miss Cyndi is planning something FUN and different every week
Activities, Crafts, Games, LEGOs, Movies, STEM and more!

January 8: Winter experiments

January 15: Craft: Pet beds for donation to animal shelter.

January 22: Lego® Challenges

January 29: Book Bingo

Snacks will be served. Parents, please send a letter if your child has a food allergy.

Parents are not required to remain during the program.

Children **MUST** be picked up at the end time.

Programs are canceled if CPS is closed due to the weather.

**Thursday Afternoon At The Bark
Fun Programs For Grown-Ups
Beat The Winter Blues**

**Rotating activities every week: crafts, games, movies,
puzzle-paloozas, speakers & more!**

January 8: Open table crafts

January 15: Genealogy intro & best practices. Free.

January 22: Puzzle-palooza

January 29: Valentine craft with Joyce. RSVP required.
Details on page 1.



Library of Things

Check out SDL Things!

Beverage dispenser, binoculars & bird identification guide, blood pressure monitor, butterfly cake pan, digital to film converter, games, food dehydrator, Instant Pot, hand held mixer, laser level & stud finder, metal detector, puzzles, portable CD player for use in car, scanner, yooper light and waffle iron.