

ST. CLAIR COUNTY LBPH NEWS

Many of you may have noticed that your digital books are now coming from the regional library in Lansing. We have moved to a new model of service called an AOC, which means Advisory Outreach Center. We are still your point of contact whenever you need something or want to make any changes to your library service, such as book requests, address changes, replacement machines, and changes in reading interests. The only thing that has changed is where your books are coming from.

This new way of serving you will allow us more time to get out into the community and tell others about this wonderful service. If you belong to or know of any groups that would be interested in having someone come out to talk about the library service, please call us at 982-3600 or toll free at 1-800-272-8570. We will be happy to give a presentation to your organization to spread the word about our library service.

Now that your books are coming from Lansing, it is more important than ever to return your books promptly after reading them, making sure to check that the correct book cartridge is the correct shipping box. A mixed up cartridge and box or slow returns will result in delays in keeping you in books to read. This change in service should only add a day or two onto the shipping time for your books. Please call if you are having any problems getting your books.

Some other helpful tips to keep a steady flow of books being sent to you are: If you read a lot of books every week, call to request an increase in the number of books in rotation. The current maximum number of books you may borrow is fifteen (only if you do not have any overdue materials); otherwise the maximum checkout is ten digital books. If you don't like the selections you are getting, call us to review your reading preferences or use the Talking Book Topic catalogs to request your own books. You may also need to expand your reading preferences if you are an avid reader. If your books are selected by request only, be sure we have a healthy list of books you would like to get. The loan period for all digital books is four weeks, you may need to return some books to get new selections.

NEW MAGAZINES ON CARTRIDGE

Here are fourteen new magazines for your enjoyment. Three were added in December and eleven were previously only available for download from BARD. If you are interested in any of the following magazines, give us a call at 982-3600 or 1-800-272-8570, we will be happy to sign you up.

- AARP The Magazine (bimonthly) and AARP Bulletin (10 issues/year). These will be bundled as a single subscription.
- Audubon (bimonthly).
- Cowboys and Indians (monthly).
- Humpty Dumpty (bimonthly).
- Missouri Conservationist (monthly).
- National Geographic Traveler (monthly).
- O, The Oprah Magazine (monthly).
- Oklahoma Today (bimonthly).
- Playboy (monthly).
- Rolling Stone (biweekly).
- Seventeen (monthly).
- Smithsonian (monthly).
- Southern Living (monthly).
- Vital Speeches of the Day (Monthly).

Remember that all magazines in digital format are treated just like a book and need to be returned promptly to continue getting your subscriptions.

NEW EQUIPMENT AT THE LIBRARY

The library has replaced the old TTY (text telephone) machine with a SVRS (Sorenson Video Relay Service) videophone. Communicating by phone for people that have hearing or speech impairments has been difficult at best, but the library is striving to keep you connected to the world of information with this new equipment.

Anyone who uses sign language to communicate is welcome to come to the library in Port Huron to use this equipment. The library received this videophone through the government's Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) fund. The videophone is currently located in the basement, so you will need to let the front desk know you need to come downstairs to use it. Look for it to move to the main floor in the next few months.

With the press of a single button on the device, you will be connected to a professional American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter who will call a hearing user via a standard phone line and relay the conversation between the two parties. You may also make calls directly to other videophone users.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLb) held their officers elections in January. Phyllis Magbanua is serving as president, Amy Udell is the vice president, Lindsey LaVere is secretary, and Wayne Lepiors is the Treasurer. This group meets every third Thursday of the month at the Carriage House, 1723 Military St., Port Huron, MI, from 1-4 pm. At the March 17th meeting they will be electing a chapter delegate. For more information call Phyllis at 810-066-0185.

The Low Vision Support Group continues to meet at River District Hospital on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Upcoming speakers are: March 2nd – Sally from Achatz Restaurant, April 6th – Nasa from London's Ice Cream, and May 4th – Pam from Ace Hardware. For more information call Paul at 810-329-5172.

DIGITAL BIBLE TO KEEP

Christian Record Services for the Blind in Nebraska offers a Bible in digital format to blind or low vision individuals. There is no cost to you, there are various versions of the Bible you may request, and you may keep it.

The compact audio player is smaller than an iPhone and weighs 2.3 ounces, which allows you to take it wherever you go. It does not need batteries because it is solar powered and can recharge by sunlight or under a lamp. For more information call Marsha at 402-588-0981 or visit their website at www.christianrecord.org, click on the gift Bibles and Bible courses link.

BOOKTALKERS BOOK CLUB

The Booktalkers Book Club continues to meet every other month on Fridays, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. The next meeting will be on March 11th, 2016. The books to be discussed are:

DB80635 “The Girl on the Train”, by Paula Hawkins. Rachel’s train commute to London passes her former house – now inhabited by her ex-husband and his new family. She also observes a happy young neighboring couple – but then the wife goes missing. Rachel believes she witnessed a critical clue, but her alcoholic blackouts make her an unreliable witness. Some violence, some strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2015.

DB81661 “After You”, by JoJo Moyes. This sequel to “Me Before You” has Louisa Clark struggling to go on without Will Traynor. After an accident, she moves back home to heal her body, but it takes time to heal her heart and learn to love again. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2015.

MICROSOFT'S DISABILITY ANSWER DESK

Microsoft's Disability Answer Desk (DAD) service is part of the company's commitment to help people of all abilities achieve more by delivering great technologies that enable people to lead richer lives. The DAD team is made up of Windows and Office support agents who specialize in assisting customers with disabilities as well as accessibility settings in Microsoft products. If you need help with Microsoft products such as screen magnifiers, speech recognition software, and their devices and accessibility features call the Disability Answer Desk at 1-800-936-5900, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You may now also get Microsoft technical help in American Sign Language (ASL), which lets people who are deaf or hard of hearing get assistance for using Microsoft products in general, as well as assistive technologies. If you speak ASL as your primary language and want to contact a Microsoft support person via a videophone, contact them 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), Monday through Friday, at 1-503-427-1234.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

The LBPH will be closed the following day:

- Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day.

If you think you will run out of books, please call us a few days before the holiday to be sure we have time to get them into the mail for you.

DISCLAIMER

The LBPH does not endorse any companies, products, or services referred to by this newsletter, nor does it validate any websites that may be mentioned. This information is offered as possible solutions for your needs, and it is up to you to research the topics given for accuracy.

St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI., 48060-4014

**FREE
MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR
HANDICAPPED**

St. Clair County LBPH

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

SEND MAIL TO:



St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.

Port Huron, MI 48060-4014

TO CALL US DIAL:



982-3600 Local Calls
1-800-272-8570 Toll Free



TO SEND US A FAX:

810-987-7326

SEND E-MAIL TO:

lbph@sccl.lib.mi.us



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.sccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx

TO VISIT US:



Check in at Circ Desk

Please call ahead

Mon—Fri 8:30 am—5:00 pm