



**Around the Parish**

***DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024***

# Season's Readings



## East Baton Rouge Parish Library Kids

2d • 🌐

Visit your local library to check out new and classic holiday books. And remember: Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh!



inRegister

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FEATURES HOMES CULTURE FOOD & DRINK STYLE WEDDINGS GPS

Season's Readings: Here are the most popular eBooks and audiobooks available from the Library to guide your winter reading

December 15, 2023 | By Sponsored Content

Sponsored by East Baton Rouge Parish Library

There's no denying many of us are choosing to consume our books using our smart phones and tablets — East Baton Rouge Parish Library patrons checked out one million eBooks again this year through the Library's Libby app.

Bestselling American author Colleen Hoover's *Verity* tops the list of the Top 10 eBooks checked out through Libby so far in 2023, while Prince Harry's memoir *Spare* is the top audiobook checked out this year.

If you're searching for books for your children, you can't go wrong with Jeff Kinney. The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* author makes multiple appearances on the 2023 list of most popular children's titles.

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, Assistant Library Director Mary Stivin encourages us to take some time for ourselves and enjoy the simple pleasure of a good book. "You have our permission to slow down, check out a book or maybe a new game from our collection to enjoy with your family," she says. "Whichever way you choose to receive your content, whether print, eBook or audiobook, let the library make it easy for you."

These titles and many more are available through the Library's digital app, Libby, which can be found online at [libbyapp.com/library/rbr](http://libbyapp.com/library/rbr).

And if you're looking for an activity the whole family can enjoy together, Jim Henson's movie adaptation of the classic book *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens will be showing in the Plaza at the Main Library at Goodwood Dec. 15 at 7 pm.

Top 10 eBooks:

1. *Verity* by Colleen Hoover
2. *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes
3. *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover
4. *It Starts with Us* by Colleen Hoover
5. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
6. *Spare* by Prince Harry
7. *The Boy from Bloor* by John Grisham
8. *Happy Place* by Emily Henry
9. *Demons* by Barbara Kingsolver
10. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Top 10 audiobooks:

1. *Spare* by Prince Harry

CDs DVDs Homework Help Computers  
Audiobooks Classes Audio Book  
Magazines Artwork Exhibits Magazine

The Source  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY

Resolve to Read!

As we welcome the new year, look back with us at some of the most borrowed books of 2023! Do you see one of your favorites? Is there one you've been meaning to get to but haven't quite found the time? We encourage you to include reading in your New Year's resolutions! What will you check out in 2024?

ADULT BOOKS

JOHN GRISHAM  
BOYS FROM  
MICHELLE OBAMA  
THE LIGHT  
URKE  
THE HOUSE  
IN THE PINES  
IT STARTS  
WITH US  
OBSESSED  
SEVEN  
HUSBANDS  
DAVID  
BALDACCIO  
SIMPLY  
KIDS

TEEN/TEEN BOOKS

MUMMY  
THE BALLAD  
OF SONGS  
AND SNAKES  
BOOK THIEF  
GUINNESS  
WORLD  
RECORDS  
2023  
JUNGLE  
GAMES  
REFUGEE  
STELLA

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

DIARY  
OF A  
WIMPY  
KID  
JUMP!  
THE  
PENGUIN  
POSTMAN  
THE  
PENGUIN  
POSTMAN  
THE  
PENGUIN  
POSTMAN

Kid's Orchestra

Books and Music

at the Greenwell Springs Library



# Holiday Cheer!



**East Baton Rouge  
Parish Library Kids**

3d · 🌐

Check out the fun things kids have been doing at the Delmont Gardens Library!





# Music – Films – Games





# Madame Dulcimer & Lady Chops



**EBRP Library @ebrpl • 19h** ...

**Lady Chops will visit three Library branches to celebrate the season with her exciting holiday program, Here Comes the Bells, So Many Bells! Registration is required. To register, please call the Library branch directly.**

## Here Comes the Bells, So Many Bells



Wednesday, December 13  
2:30 p.m. - Scotlandville Branch  
6 p.m. - Baker Branch

Thursday, December 14  
4 p.m. - Eden Park Branch



**East Baton Rouge Parish Library Kids** ...

39m • 🌐

**Patrons at the Pride-Chaneyville Library loved listening and participating in A Dulcimer and Drums Holiday Concert with Madam Dulcimer and Lady Chops**





## Santa delivers Christmas gifts to preschoolers at Scotlandville Library



A group of preschoolers received some extra special Christmas gifts at the Scotlandville Library on Monday.

By WAFB Staff

Published: Dec. 18, 2023 at 11:16 AM CST



BATON ROUGE, La. (WAFB) - A group of preschoolers received some extra special Christmas gifts at the Scotlandville Library on Monday.

Baton Rouge Early Childhood Education Collaborative (BRECEC) brought Santa Claus to the library on Dec. 18 to distribute gifts to children enrolled in the Home Start Early Childhood Education and Wellness Program.

Kids even got the chance to take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The goal of the organization, BRECEC, is to assist underserved preschoolers during the holiday season and year-round.



**SOCK IT TO ME:  
5,300 pairs of socks!**



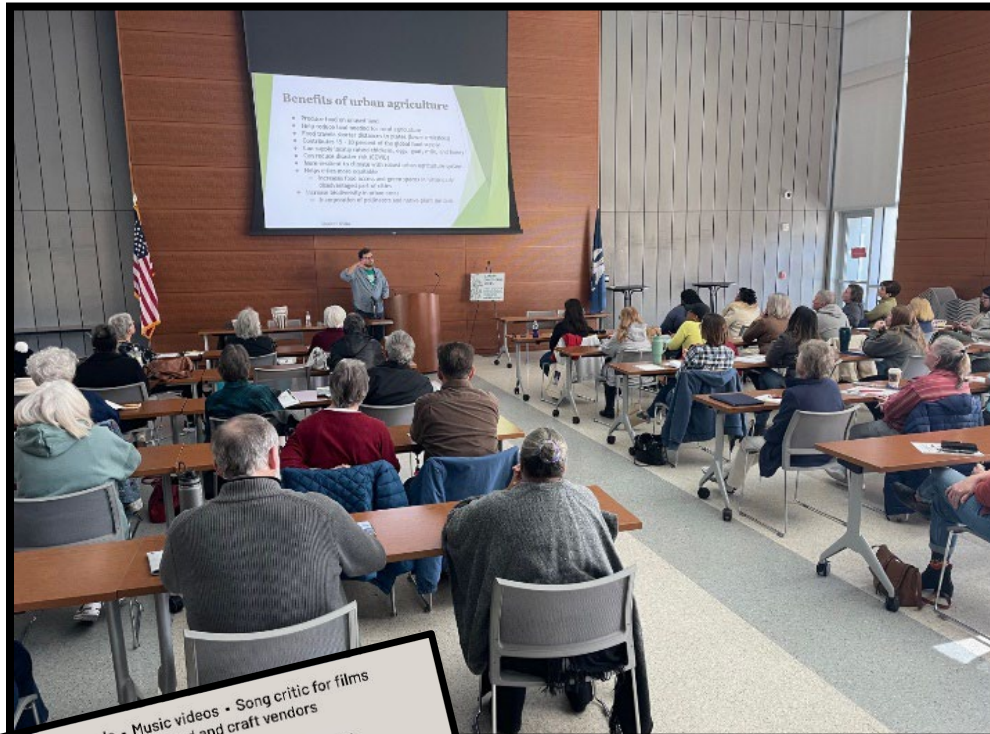


# New Programs for Adults: Tai Chi & Line Dancing





# Plus Favorites for Garden Discoveries & Local Film Fans



Film screenings • Film panels • Music videos • Song critic for films  
Live music performances • Food and craft vendors

**The Annual LISTENING ROOM FILM FESTIVAL**

Full schedule at [htjmuseum.org](http://htjmuseum.org)

**December 8th, 9th, 15th, 17th**  
3pm till Midnight  
Henry Turner Jr's Listening Room  
2733 North Street 70802

**Dec. 10th at the Goodwood Library**  
2pm till 8pm outdoors • 2pm till 8pm indoors  
7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**Dec. 16th at the River Center Library**  
2pm till 8pm indoors and outdoors.  
250 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**LOUISIANA ENTERTAINMENT LIBRARY**

**BATON ROUGE**

**weget**

**FirstWave**

**BBB**

**North Shore**





Library



# LINCOLN AT THE LIBRARY

## **"A VISIT WITH MR. LINCOLN"**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 11 A.M.

GREENWELL SPRINGS ROAD REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY

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## **"ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM"**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 2:30 P.M.

ZACHARY BRANCH LIBRARY

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## **"LINCOLN ON SLAVERY, EMANCIPATION, AND EQUALITY"**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 3 P.M.

SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY



PROGRAMS@EBRPL.COM | EBRPL.COM | @EBRPL



“A Tall  
Order”  
Premiered  
on LPB in  
December

# Making History with Special Collections

## Buckskin Bill Marches On

Published: Dec. 21, 2023 at 8:13 PM CST



WAFB viewers will be treated to a trip down memory lane this week as the station presents "Buckskin Bill Marches On," a 30-minute special.

## Buckskin Bill special to air on WAFB



WAFB-TV, December 21, for "Buckskin Bill Marches On" (2023)





# Libraries *Change Lives*

## Blake Hicks and daughter, Alina



The Library has always been an important part of Blake Hicks' life. As a young college student, he spent many afternoons in the study rooms and even tutored in the teen area. Blake found the librarians to be very helpful, often going above and beyond to find a resource. If he needed a book and the library didn't have it, the librarians would do an interlibrary loan, or they would try to purchase it for him.

Once Blake's daughter Alina was born, the Library took on a new role. When Alina was about two years old, Blake wanted to find something educational to do with his daughter. "We would go to multiple branches such as Main, Bluebonnet, and Carver to attend their storytimes, and one librarian mentioned the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program." Although 1,000 books seemed like a lot at first, Blake decided to accept the challenge with his daughter to encourage positive educational habits. They started reading in the summer of 2021 and completed the program in about 18 months. Even once they reached the set goal of 1,000 books,

they continued reading together each night out of habit.

Blake believes that when you read with your child nightly, you are building a positive bond and creating memories with them that they will cherish forever. He recommends to any parent or caregiver interested in the 1,000 Books program, "Sign up today and get started! The Library does a great job of allowing you to check out a lot of books at a time, and they no longer charge fines, so you don't have to worry about bringing the book back right away if your child falls in love with it." Blake wants parents to understand that they must put in the effort to foster learning in their child's life.

While going through the program Blake was inspired to write his own book, *Squeezing Success*. "As we were participating in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, I realized what kind of books that my daughter liked and didn't like, so based on that, I wrote *Squeezing Success*." Blake penned his book with dads in

mind as a way to encourage them to spend time with their kids in a fun, educational way. *Squeezing Success* is a story within a story because while he is encouraging parents to read with their children, the book also teaches kids how to run a business.

If you are interested in enrolling a child in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and establishing a lifetime love of reading while earning rewards along the way, please stop by the Children's Room of any Library location for more information and to get started!

Special thanks to Blake Hicks and Alina for sharing their story with us!



East Baton Rouge Parish Library



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Libraries Change Lives



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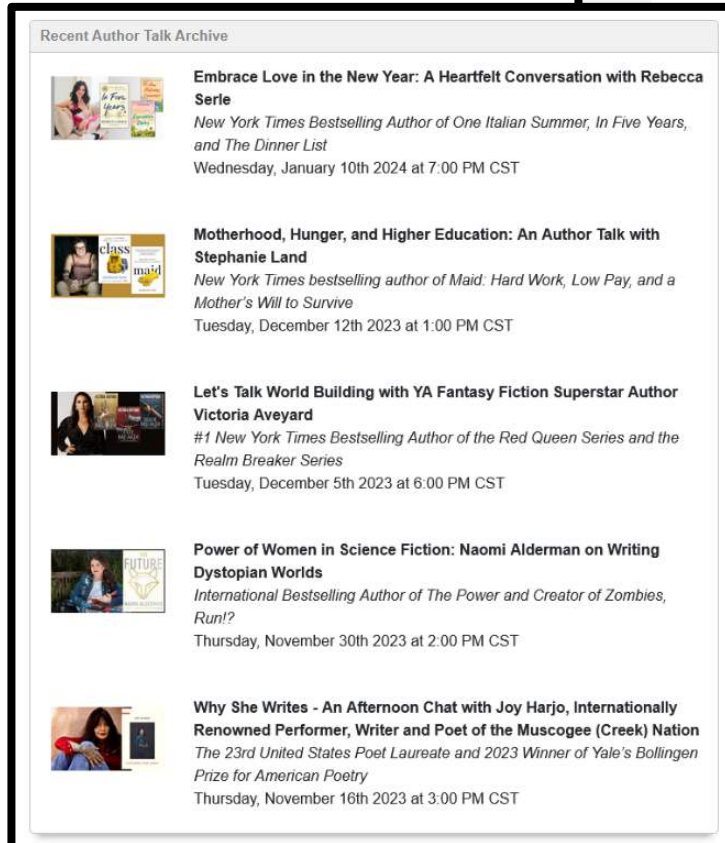
Libraries Change Lives



# New Series for 2024



Remember –  
*Author Talks are  
archived at  
[library.org/ebrpl](http://library.org/ebrpl)*



**strictly  
business**  
POWERED BY BUSINESS REPORT

EP.12

**BRAD  
IVES**

Register Now

## Strictly Business Episode 12: Brad Ives

Join us for a casual conversation with Louisiana's most inspiring and influential CEOs and entrepreneurs. They'll share their personal stories of leading through successes and challenges, and lessons learned. Get inside insights on reading market opportunities, growing and transforming your organization, dealing with crisis and more.

03:37

You've Unlocked a Special Offer!

Claim offer



**penny font**

executive editor



**stephen toups**

ceo, turner industries

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Insightful Comment Alert

Insightful Comment Alert

Insightful Comment Alert

"A powerful empowering culture where people can succeed where people can grow is the surest, safest route to organizational success."

Insightful Comment Alert

"The key is to ask, 'What did we learn from the experience?' It's not about if you have a problem. That's OK. It's about, 'Did you have the same problem tomorrow?' And if you had the same problem on Friday, you had the same problem three times. You didn't learn anything from it."

## Turner Industries CEO Stephen Toups shares his insights for leading through change on the next episode of Strictly Business

By Business Report Staff



Few sectors are experiencing as much change as heavy industry and industrial construction. Digital transformation, AI, offsite modularization, navigating renewable energy, just to name a few.

## Get insights into the art of being an entrepreneur from Norisha Kirts Glover on Strictly Business in July

By Business Report Staff



What are the ups and downs of being an entrepreneur? How do you secure sufficient capital in the start-up phase? And what's the secret to business development?

NRK Construction founder and owner Norisha Kirts Glover will share those insights and more on the July episode of Strictly Business. The webcast will air at 11 a.m. July 19. [Register here.](#)

Norisha grew up in Tioga, Louisiana and holds two degrees from LSU: a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in public administration.

## STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE



### Episode 5: Scott Woodward

STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE Business Report Staff

Why does LSU Athletic Director Scott Woodward view his management style as more executive producer and less CEO? What's the No. 1 trait he...



### Episode 4: Tim Barfield

STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE Business Report Staff

How do you ensure your company thrives in an era of continual disruption? CSRS Principal and President Tim Barfield says there is no "secret sauce."

### Episode 3: Chuck Spicer

STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE Business Report Staff

How did Our Lady of the Lake Health's new market president approach his new leadership role in a century-old institution? As Chuck Spicer puts it...

### Episode 2: Josh Descant

STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE Business Report Staff

How do you give an 87-year-old iconic brand a new name without some of your 63,000 Louisiana customers thinking you're now owned by some...

### Episode 1: Mike Wampold

STRICTLY BUSINESS ARCHIVE Business Report Staff

How did a Baton Rouge developer known for redefining the Baton Rouge landscape spot opportunities and calculate risks for investment? Mike Wampold shares the...

# More "Strictly Business"



# STATS! STATS! STATS!



The overall visitor Gate Count  
rose to **1,704,452.**

**An increase of 9.74%**

Staff report that people are staying longer and  
taking advantage of more services when they visit.

The Library issued **27,449** new library  
cards in 2023.

The total Patron Count  
increased to **337,943**  
or **74 %** of the parish population.

Over 1/3 of these patrons had used their cards  
within the last 12 weeks.



# Engagement and Activity

**Overall Circulation is up 8%.**

Digital circulation comprised a significant portion of the total circulation of **2,769,116** with more than **1.2 million** downloads.

Many “digital” patrons are returning in-person for physical items.

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The Library increased the collections of the Library of Things with more circulating Wi-Fi Hotspots, Games, and Family Activity Kits.

**725** Wi-Fi 2 Geaux Hotspots were checked out **5,332** times in 2023.





# Special Literacy Projects

Continuing its focus on literacy, a new cohort of children “graduated” from 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, which enrolled **646** new participants and logged **49,496** books.

The Reading is Elementary program enrolled **511** children, and the Literacy Calendar has expanded to Spanish.

Beanstack’s virtual Summer Reading Club platform extended activities throughout the year.

Staff presented **2,392** storytimes to almost **53,000** attendees.

The Press Start! Ready, Set, Read! Initiative continued at all branches.

Library staff continued the Home Library Pilot Project working with at-risk 3rd graders at six schools.



# Information and Access

This year, there were **878,095** Reference/Information questions, reflecting the ability for patrons to come in person to any location to ask for assistance or self-serve.



Recording **919,008** logins, the Library's Wi-Fi usage showed modest gains of **2.3%.**

Wi-Fi was enhanced throughout the system.





Bookmobile and Outreach Services phones are down due to construction. See how to

HOLIDAY  
CONCERT

HOLIDAY HOURS

FOOD DRIVE

SEASONS READINGS

WEBSITE SURVEY

# Your Library Needs Your



## CLICK HERE TO TAKE OUR WEBSITE REDESIGN SURVEY

South Branch Library Construction Project ⓘ

Around the Parish ⓘ

Library Maintenance Reports ⓘ



LIBRARY  
CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS



GENEALOGY



BATON  
ROUGE  
ROOM  
ARCHIVE

# 300+ Patrons Participated



## [ebrpl.com](http://ebrpl.com) Website Redesign Questionnaire - Library Patrons

We are thrilled to announce that we're in the process of redesigning our website to enhance your online experience with us. Your satisfaction is our top priority, and we believe your feedback is invaluable in shaping the new look and functionality of our website.

This survey is designed to gather your insights and preferences, helping us understand what works well and what can be improved.

Please view the current website while filling out the form: [EBRPL.com](http://EBRPL.com)

**Note:** The survey is only asking about the main EBRPL website and **not the online catalog**.

[mainlibmr@gmail.com](mailto:mainlibmr@gmail.com) [Switch account](#)

Not shared

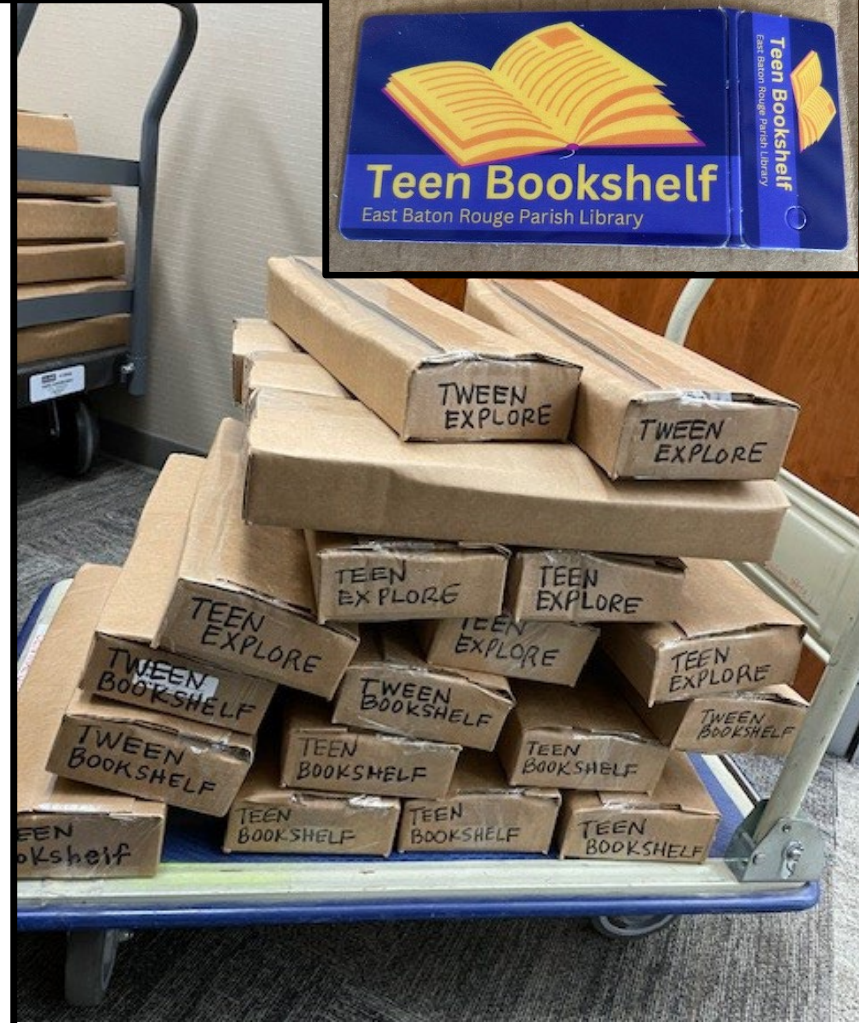
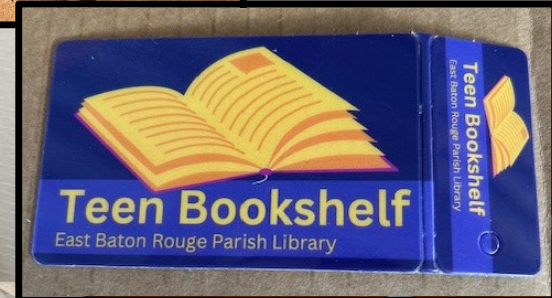
\* Indicates required question

On a scale of 1-5, how often do you use the [EBRPL](http://EBRPL) website? \*

- ☐ 1 - Never
- ☐ 2 - Rarely
- ☐ 3 - Occasionally
- ☐ 4 - Frequently
- ☐ 5 - Regularly/Always



# New Cards for Students







Carver Branch Library will remain closed due to maintenance issues



Bookmobile and Outreach Services phones are down due to construction. See how to [contact us](#).

## GOVERNORS DAUGHTER

LINCOLN IN  
LIBRARY

GET ORGANIZED

SUPER TAX  
DAY

DIGITAL LIBRARY

## Special Collections Lecture Series

presents

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A  
GOVERNOR'S DAUGHTER

with Victoria Edwards

Wednesday, January 17  
6 p.m.Main Library  
at Goodwood

## View The Source Newsletter

VIEW THE SOURCE ARCHIVE

TUE  
Jan  
16  
20246:00 PM  
Zachary Branch  
Let's Knit Together!TUE  
Jan  
16  
20246:00 PM  
Greenwell Springs Regional  
Movie NightTUE  
Jan  
16  
20246:00 PM  
Scotlandville Branch  
PAJAMA STORYTIMETUE  
Jan  
16  
20246:00 PM  
Main Library  
Jumpstart Your Career  
with Westforce Training

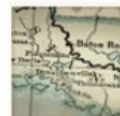
South Branch Library Construction Project

Around the Parish

Library Maintenance Reports

View and Search  
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EVENTS CALENDARLIBRARY  
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IMPROVEMENTS

GENEALOGY

BATON  
ROUGE  
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