



106 East Burr Oak Street • PO Box 216  
Athens, Michigan 49011  
269-729-4479 • [athens\\_library@sbcglobal.net](mailto:athens_library@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.athenscommunitylibrary.org](http://www.athenscommunitylibrary.org)



## February 2023 Newsletter

### Help Your Child Develop a Love for Reading

**Reading can be done throughout the day.** Read cereal boxes, menus, recipes, and road signs together. Reading recipes teaches a young reader the importance of sequencing and following directions. It's all good practice, and it shows children that words are everywhere.

**Spend time with all kinds of books.** Beloved books that you have read many times together, books that are easy for your child to read independently, books that are just right to read for now, and books that are "someday" books are all types that should be available for your child. Repetition is learning and it is important to recognize commonly used words.

**Make reading a fun activity!** Go to the bookstores and take time to browse the shelves together. Get your child a library card at your local branch and get to know your librarians.

**Make reading possible by having books readily available.** Have interesting books in your house, car, office, and any place you and your child spend time together.

**Use words as often as you can with your child.** Sing songs together, make up funny rhymes, play board games, and dress up and pretend to be someone else. All of these activities help children learn about language, become confident language users, and spark creativity.

**Lead by example and "get caught" reading.** Let your child enjoy listening to you read, reading along with you, echoing what you just read, or alternating reading words, lines, and pages with you. Children learn visually, auditorially, and kinetically.

**Saturday Story Time at the library at 11:30 am.**  
**Please come read with your child and complete a craft!**

### 2023 Summer Homecoming

The date has been set for the 2023 Athens Summer Homecoming: Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22. More information will be available on their Facebook page: Follow Athens Annual Summer Homecoming.

The Athens Area Community Foundation has also announced that it is time to consider a nomination for the 2023 Hall of Fame. More information is available at [www.TheAthensCF.org](http://www.TheAthensCF.org)

### New Technology Coming Soon

The library recently received a grant from the Athens Area Community Foundation to update and purchase new technology for the citizens of Athens Township and surrounding area patrons to utilize. The first priority is four new, upgraded patron computers as well as laptops.

In addition, we will purchase Immersive Reality systems, Wonder Book audio books, and Playaway audio books. This innovative technology will appeal to a wide range of people.

Immersive Reality offers an extensive array of non-fiction materials divided into two levels. Level 1 is for ages 4-7 and Level 2 is for ages 8-14. IR is a combination of virtual reality and augmented reality with print books.

Wonder Books are preloaded audio books combined with print books. These are available in read along or sing along books and appeal to younger readers as well as tween readers as they are available in chapter books.

Playaway audio books are preloaded audio books without the print and without CDs. No internet needed either. Playaway offers kids, young adults, and adults hours of listening anytime, anywhere.

**Thank You Athens Area Community Foundation**



Scan with your phone camera to open our webpage

**#ACL CHECK US OUT!**

Scan with your phone camera to open our Facebook



## Apollo...the new library information system!

We have integrated a new library information system at the library called Apollo. You can access this information on the library website. There are several perks to this system: You can see the newest books at the library through the scrolling pictures at the top of the program. If you click on the picture, you can read a summary of the book, learn if it is available, and reserve the book (after you login of course). You can also renew your overdue books and access a list of books you have already read. If you'd like, you can also sign up to receive text messages or emails with regard to due dates and when reserved books are available. You can also connect directly to MeL and Libby through this system. This is just another reason we are updating our patron information and require applications.

<https://athens.biblionix.com/catalog/>

If you follow us on Facebook, there is a video explaining how to utilize the new system. We hope you check it out.

## 2023 Winter Library Quest for Teens

The MiLibraryQuest is a virtual program for teens throughout Michigan. Teens will solve riddles on the MiLibraryQuest website and enter to win a prize. At least one teen in the Athens Area will win a prize worth \$50.

Riddles and additional information are available on the Athens Community Library Website.

## Overdrive is now officially Libby

By April 2023, Overdrive users will be required to download or update the Libby app as the Overdrive app will no longer be supported through the library. See our webpage and/or Facebook to view "How-to" videos for Libby. To log into Libby, use the 4 digits of your Library ID.

## Athens Community Library Board:

President, Jeannie Goodrich

Secretary, Hannah Klein

Treasurer, Shirley Damrow

Trustee, Kendra Falk

**We are seeking volunteer board members to assist with making decisions for the library, if you are interested, please contact Missy Irons at [athens\\_library@sbcglobal.net](mailto:athens_library@sbcglobal.net).**

## Library Staff:

Library Director, Missy Irons

Assistant Director, Nathaniel Mottinger

Librarians, Cindy and Rosie

## Library Changes....

The Library has been diligently working to reestablish under the Library of Michigan. The first step in establishment was to pass a millage, which our taxpayers/voters graciously completed in August 2022. Athens Community Library has always offered **FREE** services to **ALL** patrons in Athens School District. However, since the millage passed, the services are offered **FREE** to **ALL** patrons who live in or pay property taxes in Athens Township or are members of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi.

Therefore, we are currently holding a membership drive to ensure our records are correct in our system distinguishing between Residents and Non-Residents. Past members of the library are asked to please fill out a new application form to assist us in updating our records. All cards expired January 31, which included Overdrive and MeL borrowing. If your online accounts don't work...that may be why. Please come in and fill out an application.

We have received several questions from Non-Residents. Non-Residents must pay to renew their accounts as they do not pay property taxes in Athens Township and do not pay the library millage. It is unfair taxation to charge a library millage to township residents and allow others living outside of the township to receive the same services for free. It is also important to remember that paying property taxes to or living in Athens school district is not the same as living in Athens Township.

Please visit our website if you would like to renew your membership without visiting the library. The web address is [www.athenscommunitylibrary.org](http://www.athenscommunitylibrary.org).

## Hours of Operation

Mondays	9 am – 6 pm
Tuesdays	12 pm – 8 pm
Wednesdays	9 am – 6 pm
Thursdays	12 pm – 8 pm
Fridays	12 pm – 6 pm
Saturdays	9 am – 1 pm

**Saturday Morning Story Time at 11:30 am**

## HEALTH REMINDER

- If you are sick, have a fever or cough, are congested, or ill in any way, please do not enter the library and utilize the Curbside Service
- This is to ensure the safety and health of our patrons as well as our staff.

**#ACL CHECK US OUT!**