

# **Southgate Veterans Memorial Library Director's Report**

**March 11, 2026**

## ***Hoopla, blocking A.I.***

Recently, I learned that Hoopla has works created or narrated by A.I. included in their catalog. I reached out to our representative at Midwest Tape, and asked that our settings be changed to exclude these works from view. They completed that in mid-February. Now, Southgate patrons will not see titles in the Hoopla catalog written using A.I., or audiobooks narrated using A.I.

In addition, we excluded what are called "summary" titles. These are works that appear to be a full book, but are in reality just a summation of the title. They are blocked from view to prevent people from accidentally borrowing them, and wasting one of their limited Hoopla checkouts for the month on what they expected to be a full book.

## ***American Library Association Conference June 2026***

I am set to attend the ALA conference in Chicago in late June. I've never been to it before, and Chicago seems to be as close as it gets, so it seemed like a good time to go. We've been sending other staff to professional conferences for a couple of years, I figured it was time I went to one as well.

## ***Art Show 2026***

We are planning to once again have a school art show this year. The reception will be Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm; artwork will begin going up earlier that week. As always, we plan to leave the art up for a couple of weeks.

## ***LibraryAware***

The library has signed up for a service called LibraryAware. This is an online platform that will help us create newsletters, flyers, and other advertising, as well as create and manage emailing lists. It has templates we can build off of, and should save professional library staff a lot of time.

## ***Assabet Interactive***

The library has also signed up for Assabet Interactive. We have access to 2 of their modules, one for the Event Calendar, and another for Room Bookings. We're still in the process of setting up, but it should make it easier for us to schedule and track meeting room reservations, study rooms, and library events. Patrons will be able to request reservations online, saving some staff time.

## ***Library Logo***

We have gone through a couple of rounds of revisions with the logo design, and are close to having a final product. Professional staff and the Mayor have had input, and I think we'll be pleased with the result.

## ***Food for Thought 2026***

We are once again set to participate the Food for Thought campaign, partnering with Gleaner's Community Food Bank and The Library Network. We'll begin collecting non-perishable canned goods on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, and accepting them until Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.