



Library Commission Members

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Emma Howard, Vice-Chairman

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, Treasurer

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Theadora Strother, Trustee

Lorie Barnwell, City Treasurer Trustee

NOTICE

**WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Warren Civic Center Library
Mark Twain Room
1 City Square, Suite 100
Warren, MI 48093**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT there will be a special, in-person meeting of the Warren Public Library Commission on **Wednesday June 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

CONTACT/ACCOMMODATIONS INFORMATION:

* If you require disability-related accommodations in order to participate in this meeting or event, please contact the ADA Coordinator by email - adawarren@cityofwarren.org or telephone - (586) 353-0565 at least 48 hours before the meeting or event.

**WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WARREN CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY- MARK TWAIN ROOM
1 CITY SQUARE, SUITE 100
WARREN, MI 48093
June 3, 2026
7:00p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Discussion/Action Items**
 - Naming the new library branch
- 5. Audience Participation**

Members of the audience who would like to address the Library Commission this evening may do so under the audience portion. Patrons have 3 (three) minutes to speak.
- 6. Next Meeting Date – June 18, 2026**
- 7. Commissioners Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

Warren's Richard 'Dick' Palmer remembered as warm, selfless

By: Brian Wells (/reporterbio/Brian-Wells) | **Warren Weekly**
 (<https://www.candgnews.com/newspaper/warrenweekly>) | **Published December 5, 2025**

WARREN — A longtime Warren resident whose decades of service to the city is being remembered as a humble, steady presence.

Richard "Dick" Palmer, who served on a number of Warren's boards and commissions, died on Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. He was 92.

According to his obituary, Palmer graduated from the University of Detroit before serving in the U.S. Army. He spent 32 years working as a tax analyst for Ford Motor Co.

Palmer, who lived in Warren for 67 years, served 16 years as a PTA officer and six years on the PTA's area council. He spent 16 years on the Warren Consolidated Schools Board of Education, where he chaired two successful millage campaigns.

Additionally, according to his obituary, he served 10 years on the Warren Library Commission, three years on the Warren Cultural Commission, and 30 years on the board for the Friends of the Warren Library. He was also on the Warren Symphony Orchestra's board of directors for 19 years.

In addition to many relatives, he is survived by his wife, Genie Palmer, who referred to her husband as a "professional volunteer."

"He was happiest when he was around his family and people, that's why he was so involved in everything in the city and the schools," she said. "He was a professional volunteer, because he just loved to help wherever he could."

He was a loving dad and grandpa, she said, who loved playing golf and reading books.

"His favorite vacation was just sitting and reading," she said.

Warren Treasurer Lorie Barnwell said Dick and Genie Palmer were both committed to serving the city.

"Him and his wife just really have servant hearts, and they just really have gone above and beyond for Warren, always," she said.

Barnwell said she met Palmer at one of the first events she ever went to when she was running for office in 2015.



(<https://www.candgnews.com/admin/articles/temp-image/97cb8aec360fb593fc592aa5aa9b189e.jpeg>)

Richard "Dick" Palmer, who served on a number of Warren's boards and commissions, died on Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. He was 92. Photo provided by Robert Bonkowski

"I just remember he had a great sense of humor. He was so funny, had a great wit about him, extremely friendly," she said. "And he was just extremely encouraging of young people growing and developing in their leadership." Barnwell, who served with Palmer on the Library Commission, said he never got caught up in the "political back and forth" and always said what he meant.

"And he always said it with a little wit, a little humor. He never took himself or anything too seriously," she said. "And I mean that in the best possible way. He just really tried to lead with honor and with intention and with humility."

She added that he was a great example to her when she was beginning in a leadership position in the city. He was never quick to anger, and he always tried to find the best in other people and the best solutions, she said.

"He just really wanted to bring people together to move forward," Barnwell said.

Warren City Council Secretary Mindy Moore remembered Palmer as being committed to service, community, faith and family, which made Warren a better place, she said in a Facebook post.

Moore served with Palmer on the Warren Symphony Orchestra's board of directors. His love of music, steady leadership and kind heart were evident in everything he did, she said.

"He was the type of board member you could always count on, prepared, thoughtful, devoted and endlessly supportive of our mission," she said. "Dick believed in the power of music to bring people together, and he worked tirelessly for nearly two decades to help ensure the symphony's future."

What she admired most about Palmer, Moore said, was his genuine warmth.

"Dick always had a smile, a word of encouragement and a deep sense of purpose," she said. "His service extended far beyond the arts. He gave so much of himself to our schools, our library system, his church communities and to countless organizations that make Warren stronger."

Former Warren Mayor Jim Fouts said Palmer represented what may be a bygone era of people who are concerned about public service over self service.

"He was always putting the interest of, whether it be the school or the city, above his own," he said. "He was just a nice, selfless, self-effacing guy."

Fouts said Palmer was never concerned about himself, only about getting things done.

"He was always about putting the interests of the school district and the city above his own. He had a very familiar, winning smile. He was low-key but very dedicated to helping others," he said.

He said Palmer and his wife were both focused on public service.

"They were a key part of our community, and they helped to make things go the right way without putting themselves in front," Fouts said.

In a tribute posted on his Facebook page, Fouts said there was hardly a board or commission on which Palmer wasn't willing to serve.

"Yet to me, he will always be remembered as a nice guy who put you at ease with his humble winning ways," he said. "Thanks Dick, you served our city well."

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Richard Palmer Obituary

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Wasik Funeral Home - Warren on Nov. 29, 2025.

Dick was welcomed into Heaven on Thursday, November 27, 2025, at the age of 92. He was the beloved husband and best friend of Genie for 68 years, and the loving father of David (Lisa), Susan Lemon (Dale), and Michael (Julie.) He was the proud grandfather of Drew Palmer, Lindsay Lintelman (Kyle), Meganne and Tyler Lemon (Sara), Joshua (Lori), Claire Ishow (Jonathan), and Bethany. He was predeceased by his daughters Lisa and Julie, parents Virginia and Cecil, and parents-in-law Sophie and Stanley Bernacki. Dick was loved by his sister- and brother-in-law, Maria and Tom McDermott, and his nieces Dawn (Matt), Dana, and Jennifer Parker (Jeff). Dick wore many hats, but his most loved was being a Dad and Grandpa. No matter what his children and grandchildren were involved in, he was as well. They were the joy of his life.



analyst. During this time, he continued his life of service. He was a PTA Officer for 16 years and served 6 years on the PTA Area Council. He was a member of the Warren Consolidated School Board for 16 years and chaired two successful millage campaigns. He was an active Warren resident for 67 years serving on the Warren Library Commission (10 years), the Cultural Commission (3 years), and the Friends of the Warren Library (30 years). His love of music led him to the Warren Symphony and was on the Board of Directors (19 years) as chairman and Treasurer multiple times.

A devout Catholic, Dick found much joy in parish work. Active in St. Cletus Parish for 32 years, he was its first Parish Council Chair, and a member of various committees. He moved to St. Edmund Parish and again stepped into many roles including Stewardship and Finance. He was also a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus. His final 7 years were spent at St. Blase Parish, a wonderful faith-filled community. His health limited his involvement but his faith never wavered. His many friends will agree-his was a life fully lived.

Visitation will take place on Tuesday, December 2, from 3pm until 8pm at Wasik Funeral Home, 11470 13 Mile Road at Hoover in Warren. A scripture service will be held at 7pm. On Wednesday, December 3, Dick will lie in state at St. Blase Catholic Church from 9:00 until 9:30am with the Funeral Mass beginning at 9:30am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Capuchins or your favorite charity.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Palmer Pages

See more records on Ancestry®

Sign Richard Palmer's Guest Book

Add a ... 

RECENT ACTIVITY

- November 30, 2025 Barbara Zolnierzak posted to the memorial.
- November 30, 2025 The Busse Family sent flowers.
- November 29, 2025 Wasik Funeral Home - Warren posted an obituary.

[View All](#)

2 Entries



By **MACOMB DAILY, NORB FRANZ** and **NORB FRANZB**

PUBLISHED: July 17, 2010 at 8:02 AM EDT | UPDATED: June 17, 2021 at 6:18 AM EDT

With Warren voters deciding next month whether to raise the city's library millage, officials have closed three of the city's four library branches. The Busch Branch on Ryan Road near Nine Mile, the Burnette Branch on Van Dyke at Toepfer, and the Miller Library inside the Warren Community Center were shut July 1. Only the Civic Center Branch, inside City Hall near Van Dyke and 12 Mile Road, remains open since the start of the city's fiscal year almost three weeks ago. The facilities, which had experienced significantly higher use in recent years, are not expected to re-open if residents defeat a proposed 20-year, 0.85 mills tax hike on Aug. 3. City officials said the closings are not an attempt to sway voters. "I know a lot of people think it's a (timing) game we're playing because of the millage election Aug. 3," Library Director Amy Henderstein said. Emphasizing that the library system is funded solely by a millage levy with no allocation from the general fund, she said, "Looking at our budget, this is the only move we could make. We have to live within our means." The closings have meant increased demands and lines at the Civic Center Branch. Use of public computers has been limited to one hour. If approved, the measure would cost the average household in a home valued at \$85,000 an additional \$36.13 in property taxes per year. However, city officials, library supporters and a pro-millage group say that impact will be lessened — at least for now — because tax bills have fallen due to declining property values. Shrinking property assessments mean less revenue to the library and local governments in general. Acting on the recommendation of city administrators, the 2010-11 budget adopted last month by the City Council included the elimination of four of the library's 16 full-time staff, and approximately three-fourths of the part-time personnel. In January, council members refused to give the green light for a special election in May for a millage increase. In the spring, council members feared low voter turnout and frowned on the possibility of spending an estimated \$85,000 for a special election, opting to place the tax question on the Aug. 3 primary election ballot at no extra cost to taxpayers. Last spring, council members also voted to pull money from the city's rainy day fund to shore up the library budget through June 30. Council President Mary Kamp believes all four branches should have remained open through Election Day. "I don't think it was right to residents to shut down, until the point of knowing what the outcome of what the millage (proposal) is," she said. Warren Mayor James Fouts, who is urging voters to approve the millage hike, said he

Neighborhood Libraries, recently mailed a glossy, 4-page flier to absentee voters. The rest of the 16,000 fliers are expected to be mailed soon to library patrons who are registered voters. The ballot issue committee's literature will cost the group approximately \$8,000, said Richard Palmer, the group's treasurer. Palmer, who served on the Warren Library Commission under former Mayor Mark Steenbergh, said the committee is composed of some current and former commissioners and library supporters in the community. "It's a terrible time to ask for an increase," Palmer acknowledged, "but the situation is dire for the libraries." Closing branches near neighborhoods on the city's south side with poorer families is particularly difficult, he said, because "those are the people who need it most." While any millage increase could be a tough sell in the poor economy, library officials and supporters say tough times are exactly the reason that the number of visits to the city's four branches is up. For example, they say more people have relied on public computers to file for unemployment compensation and search for jobs. And more children without a home computer rely on the "neighborhood" libraries to do homework. Over the last five years, officials say, visits to the library, computer usage, and use of children's materials has doubled. Check-outs have increased by one-third, and the number of reference questions answered by librarians is up 53 percent. The millage committee said that if the rate hike passes, all four branches will re-open around Aug. 16; programs for kids and adults will be expanded; more materials will be purchased; library hours would be increased; and renovations such as new roofs would be made at the Busch and Burnette branches. If voters nix the ballot proposal, the three idled branches will remain closed; membership in the Suburban Library Cooperative will be jeopardized; "drastic" cuts in adult and youth programs will be made; and fewer books and audio-visual materials will be purchased, officials said. Of "Class 6" library systems in Michigan — those in communities of more than 50,000 people — per-capita spending in Warren is nearly one-fifth of similar libraries and the city has 27 full-time employees compared with an average of 69 in other towns. Warren resident Joe Dabrowski, who regularly attends City Council meetings and comments on actions by the council and the city administration, criticized the timings of the branch closings one month before the Aug. 3 election. "I believe this is one of the biggest scams in the city," said Debrowsky, adding, "I'm sure I'll get a lot of calls that I hate children."

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Richard L. “Dick” Palmer

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dick Palmer, a dedicated public servant and treasured member of our community, who peacefully entered eternal rest on November 27, 2025, at 92 years of age. Our city has lost a true champion of civic engagement someone whose life reflected integrity, service, and an enduring love for the Warren community.

For 67 years, Dick Palmer invested his time, talents, and heart into improving the City of Warren. His remarkable volunteerism helped shape many of the institutions that continue to serve our residents today. Dick spent 16 years on the Warren Consolidated School Board, advocating tirelessly for students and families. He chaired two successful millage campaigns that secured vital resources for public education. His steadfast belief in strong schools was further demonstrated through 16 years as a PTA Officer and 6 years as part of the PTA Area Council, underscoring his commitment to parent and community involvement.

Dick’s civic leadership extended well beyond education. He served the community through 10 years on the Warren Library Commission, 3 years on the Cultural Commission, and an extraordinary 30-year tenure with the Friends of the Warren Library, where he championed literacy, lifelong learning, and open access to educational opportunities. His passion for the arts was equally profound; for 25 years he was a dedicated member of the Warren Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, fulfilling multiple roles including President, Past President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

In addition to his extensive civic contributions, Dick was a proud U.S. Army veteran, a graduate of the University of Detroit, and an engaged member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. His deep faith guided decades of involvement at St. Cletus, St. Edmund, and later St. Blase Catholic Church, where he continued to participate in parish life as he was able. His dedication reflected a life grounded in service—to God, to family, and to community.

Dick Palmer represented the very best of Warren: a commitment to volunteerism, leadership through example, compassion for others, and a belief that every individual can help strengthen their community. His influence will continue to be felt in the organizations he supported, the people he encouraged, and the city he helped enrich for nearly seven decades.

The Warren City Council honors his extraordinary life and extends heartfelt sympathy to his beloved wife Genie, his children, grandchildren, extended family, friends, and all whose lives were touched by his generosity and service. May his memory continue to inspire a legacy of community service for generations to come.

Request to name the Underwood Park Library Palmer Library in Honor of Richard Palmer

Pursuant to the City of Warren's governing framework, the naming of municipal buildings is an authority recognized to rest with the appropriate governing or oversight body. In the case of the Warren library system, that authority lies with the Library Commission, and the City Council fully acknowledges and respects that role.

At the same time, the Warren City Council retains a vested interest in honoring individuals whose service and legacy have made a lasting impact on the City and its institutions. In recognition of that shared civic responsibility, this proposal is being brought forward collaboratively by Council members with deep institutional knowledge and long-standing ties to the Warren community. As the senior-serving member of the City Council, I bring historical perspective and continuity to this recommendation. Councilmember Jonathan Lafferty, as a lifelong resident of the City of Warren, brings personal knowledge of the community, its history, and the individuals who have shaped its civic life. Together, we support advancing this proposal in recognition of a legacy that predates and transcends current Library Commission membership.

This proposal is offered with respect for the Library Commission's authority and with the intent of ensuring that the City's institutional memory, long-term service, and community history are thoughtfully considered in the naming of a new library facility—particularly where the honoree's contributions are directly and substantially tied to the library system itself.

We are humbly requesting that the Library Commission consider naming the new library in honor of Richard L. Palmer, which is justified by his extraordinary and sustained commitment to public service and to the Warren Library system over the course of more than three decades. Richard Palmer served the City of Warren for 30 years with the Friends of the Warren Library and served 10 years on the Warren Library Commission providing consistent leadership, institutional knowledge, and thoughtful stewardship of one of the City's most important public assets. His tenure reflects a rare level of dedication and continuity in municipal service, during which he helped guide the library system through periods of growth, change, and evolving community needs.

Throughout his service, Mr. Palmer was a strong advocate for accessible, high-quality library services for residents of all ages. He supported policies and initiatives that strengthened educational opportunities, promoted lifelong learning, and ensured that Warren's libraries remained welcoming, inclusive, and responsive to the community. His work contributed to the long-term stability and success of the library system and helped position it as a cornerstone of civic life in Warren.

Naming a new library in Dick Palmer's honor recognizes not only the length of his service, but the depth of his impact. It reflects the City's appreciation for exemplary volunteer leadership and sets a meaningful precedent by honoring an individual whose legacy is directly tied to the mission and success of the library itself. This designation will serve as a lasting tribute to Richard L. Palmer's dedication to public education, community enrichment, and the residents of the City of Warren.

Eleanor H. Puzzuoli-Bates

Eleanor was a very active public servant to the Warren community:

- Attended Lincoln Elementary School, Lincoln Junior High School and Lincoln High School (Graduated 1946)
- Worked as a secretary at Harding Elementary School in Warren, MI
- Worked as a clerk in Van Dyke Public Schools
- Worked as a paraprofessional at Lincoln High School in the Career Development Center
- Worked as a secretary to the Veterans Institute and for the Justice of Peace of Warren Township
- Served as a volunteer for the United Foundation and also as their chairperson
- Chairperson for the March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy, Michigan Cancer Foundation, YNCA, Otsikita Council of Girl Scouts, and South Macomb Hospital
- Founded and served the PTA at elementary, middle, and high school levels (35 years)
- Cub Scout Den Mother
- Neighborhood Cookie Chairman for Girl Scouts
- Coached Little League Softball
- Member of the Van Dyke Public Schools Board of Education (elected in 2005 and served for 17 years)
- President of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association and active 1946-2008
- Board Member of the Van Dyke Public Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence
- Served on the Paint the Town Committee (1996-2001)
- Volunteered at a temporary souvenir shop at Warren City Hall to celebrate the country's 200th birthday
- President of the Women's Association for Macomb Community College
- President of Oakland University Scholarship Committee (1983-1985)
- Active on the Mayor's Citizens Crime Task Force (1986)
- Chairman for the Warren Tax Increment Finance Authority (1988)
- Served on the Multiethnic Festival Committee
- Board of Directors of the Warren Concert Band
- Board of Directors of the Warren Symphony Band
- Board Member for the Warren/Center Line Thanksgiving Parade
- Member of the Warren Historical Society (1991-1994)
- Member of the Warren Beautification Commission (2008)
- Treasurer for the Community Development Corp.
- Member of the Right to Life and League of Catholic Women
- Assisted her husband, Mayor Ted Bates, and referred to as "The First Lady of Warren" and "The Queen of Volunteerism" for 14 years
- Elected to Warren City Council (1991-1995)
- Worked as an election worker in Warren (2000-2023)
- Honored for her service by dedicating the Lincoln Elementary library's media center in her name "The Eleanor Bates Media Center"

Awards:

- POE Warren Mother of the Year 1968
- Michigan Congress PTS Distinguished Service Award
- Women for the United Foundation Award for the Highest Percentage of Quota
- Appreciation of Outstanding Service 25 Years Lincoln Elementary PTA
- Distinguished Alumni Award 1984, Lincoln High School
- Grand Marshal Lincoln High Homecoming Parade, 1984
- Harding Elementary Special Persons Award 1984
- Macomb Art Council Merit Award 1991
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners Outstanding Volunteer Award, 1998
- Volunteer Leadership Award Marshall Rotary Club, 2003

All Warren Public Libraries will be closed Friday, June 12 for a staff in-service.

All libraries will be reopen for regular hours on Saturday, June 13.

History of the Warren Public Library

Although the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, the spring of 1934 offered a bright promise for the old Village of Warren. A group of village residents decided to establish a library. They invited a State Library consultant to meet with them at the old Murthum School. The principal, Mr. Whitman, served as temporary chairman. Each attendee paid a membership fee of twenty-five cents and a donation of five dollars was asked of those who could afford it. Membership subscriptions were solicited throughout the community.

The plans progressed and in October an election was held. With this Village residents elected to the library board Mrs. Chris (Anna) Zorn, President; Mrs. Earl Steins, Vice-President; Mr. Chris Foss, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Parrott, Trustee; and Miss Nellie Elkins, Trustee. The group adopted bylaws, and with the donation of 516 books, and the State Library's load of 200 books, the library was almost ready to open. Mrs. Zorn donated one room of her home, the "Sunday parlor", at 31715 Seventh Street to be the home of the Warren Community Library. One January 3, 1935 Warren's first library opened for business.

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After a year, the library moved from Mrs. Zorn's to the I.O.O.F hall on Chicago Road. On January 14, 1937, another bright moment occurred when the Village Council accepted the library as an official Village Institution and donated \$25.00! By 1940 the Warren Community Library was supplying books on a monthly basis to the schools. The records show that the library flourished during the next few years, as the collection grew and more and more people used the library.

By the late 1940s the Warren Community Library had outgrown its quarters in the I.O.O.F. Hall. The library committee appealed to the Village Council for a larger place to house the collection.



Warren Community Library

The council approved the move of the library to the Village Hall at 5961 Beebe St. and the library spent \$2,000 in renovations to make it suitable for use as a library. After remodeling and redecorating, the Warren Community Library reopened to the public in its new quarters on February 10, 1949, with 5,000 books on the shelves.

However, this library only serviced the north end of the present Warren area and the burgeoning south end was without library service. During the early stages of World War II, the Federal government erected a U.S.O. building in Warren Township and a "Victory collection" was established.

After that building was sold, the Warren Township made appropriations to the Center Line and Village of Warren libraries to help meet the communities' needs, but this was inadequate for the growing demands of the people in Warren Township.

The Township Board consulted the Macomb County Library, who agreed to staff, provide books and the know-how if the board would furnish a building and \$1,000 in penal fines. A store building was rented on the west side of Van Dyke at Dodge and on April 1, 1951, at a public ceremony, the Warren Charter Township Branch of Macomb County Library opened. Gerald Neil was the chairman of the Library Commission for this newly established library. In 1951, another move brought the library to 23544 Van Dyke. Although this provided service to the Van Dyke area, all of Warren Township was not covered. There were many library advocates who still had a dream to have branches located in all corners of the Township.

In January 1957, Warren incorporated as a city and assumed control over Warren Community Library in the Village, and the Warren Township Branch of Macomb County Library. The mayor appointed a new library board from the membership of the two

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library boards. The Charter granted .3 mil of tax money to operate the library, and later changed to .5 mil. On January 29, 1958, the library building started by the Village of Warren and completed by the City of Warren was dedicated as the Washington Irving Branch. The cost of building was \$28,340.



Washington Irving Branch

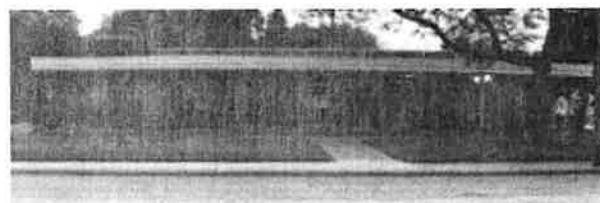
In 1964, the Washington Irving Branch became the Library Administration Building, and the collection moved to the Green Acres Shopping Center.

On May 22, 1960, the Edgar A. Guest Library was dedicated. It was a bargain at \$98,172.99 for the site, plans, construction, and furniture. The Guest Branch served southeastern residents until April 1, 2004, when it was closed permanently due to budget constraints.



Edgar A Guest Branch

The Dorothy Busch Branch opened its doors and was dedicated on January 6, 1963 at a total cost of \$120,322, with 4,700 square feet.



Dorothy M. Busch Branch

The Walt Whitman Branch was dedicated October 3, 1965 at a total cost of \$152,647.



Walt Whitman Branch

The Maybelle Burnette Branch was dedicated June 19, 1966 at a cost of \$207,081, with 6,069 square feet.



Maybelle Burnette Branch

Because more space was needed, the Green Acres Branch relocated in 1970 to a rented building on Mound Road.



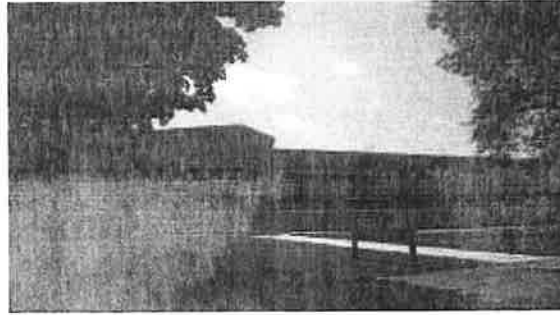
Green Aces Branch

On February 14, 1971, the dedication of the Arthur J. Miller Branch, in honor of the first mayor, took place. Miller was built at a total cost of \$209,595. Construction was financed largely through a \$175,000 loan by the City of Warren Police and Fire Retirement Commission.



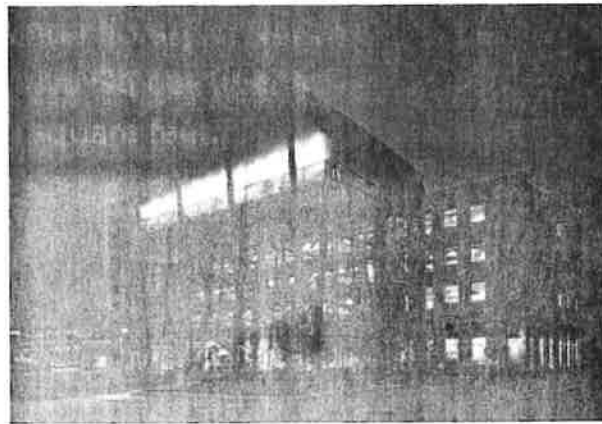
Arthur J. Miller Branch (13 Mile)

On April 7, 2003 the Miller branch on 13 Mile was closed and on May 12, 2003 was reopened in the Warren Community Center at 5460 Arden, with a square footage of 17,000. Construction of the new branch was financed by Warren's Downtown Development Authority (DDA).



Arthur J. Miller Branch (current location)

On October 16, 2006, the DDA then planned a new building which would encompass City Hall and the Civic Center library. The Whitman branch was closed and the collection was moved to the Civic Center library in November 2006. The new Civic Center Library along with the Administrative Offices opened on January 3, 2007 on the first floor of the new building, with 34,000 square feet.



Warren Civic Center Library at Warren City Hall

In October 2009, the Library Commission adopted a resolution to recommend a special election requesting the voters to approve an increase of .85 mills. On March 23, 2010, a formal motion of the City Council authorized the proposal to be placed on the August 3, 2010 ballot. Budget constraints forced the closing of three library branches with only the Civic Center Library remaining open. In the primary election of August 3, 2010, an additional millage of .85 was passed (65% yes, 35% no) bringing the total dedicated millage up to 1.35.

With the passage of the millage, the Warren Public Library was able to reopen the three temporarily closed branches and bring library service to 4 buildings throughout the city: The Civic Center Library, the Arthur Miller Branch Library, the Dorothy Busch Branch Library, and the Maybelle Burnette Branch Library. With the passage of the millage, the Warren Public Library system was able to rebuild two of its aging locations.



*Dorothy Busch Branch Library
(current location)*

The first library to be rebuilt was the Dorothy Busch Branch Library. The Busch Branch was closed in October 2015. The old building was torn down, and the new library was opened in June 2017 at the same location as the old building. The new Dorothy Busch Branch featured several new amenities for residents, including a 50-person community room for library events, a 6-person study room, computers available for all age levels to use, as well as building taking advantage of ample natural light to create an inviting space to read.



*Maybelle Burnette Branch Library
(current location)*

The second library to be rebuilt was the Maybelle Burnette Branch. The old Burnette Branch building at 22005 Van Dyke was closed, and the new Burnette Branch was incorporated into the new Warren Civic Center South building at 23345 Van Dyke. The new Burnette Branch Library opened in 2020 and has a community room for events, study rooms, and large aquarium for all to enjoy.