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## Library's BiblioBag Delivery Service Continues for All Eligible Emmet County Residents

For many Emmet County residents, the library is more than a building—it's a lifelong connection to stories, learning, and comfort. For those who are temporarily or permanently homebound, Petoskey District Library's BiblioBag delivery service helps ensure that connection doesn't fade.

"The BiblioBag program is a real godsend for me because I'm disabled and don't have a car to get around," shared one participant. "I've been a library fan since I was a kid, and I've always loved borrowing books. It's my hope that the program sticks around because it lets folks like me, who might not have other options, enjoy books that aren't free anywhere else online. It's super important for those of us who rely on these services to keep that connection to the amazing world of stories."

BiblioBag allows eligible homebound residents throughout Emmet County to receive library materials by mail at no cost, including books, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks. The service helps remove transportation barriers while preserving the joy and independence that come with choosing one's own reading and viewing materials.

PDL first launched BiblioBag in January 2022 for residents within its original service area, including the City of Petoskey and the townships of Bear Creek, Little Traverse, Resort, and Springvale. As participation grew, so did the stories—of readers rediscovering favorite authors and of participants eagerly awaiting delivery days.

Recognizing the program’s impact, library staff applied for support through Emmet County’s senior millage funding process in summer 2022. The application emphasized not only BiblioBag, but also PDL’s broader outreach efforts, including biweekly deliveries to senior living facilities and ongoing investment in large print collections.

Each year, the Emmet County Advisory Committee on Agency awards senior millage funds to organizations that support older adults. PDL received \$12,375 in 2023, enabling planning for countywide expansion. Continued funding followed with \$14,400 in 2024, \$14,162 in 2025, and an approved allocation of \$13,149 for 2026—ensuring that residents who depend on this service can continue to do so.

“BiblioBag isn’t just about delivering materials,” said library staff Jodi Haven. “It’s about dignity, access, and making sure people don’t lose touch with something that has brought them comfort and joy their entire lives.”

Eligible residents who are temporarily or permanently homebound are encouraged to contact their home library to learn more about qualifying for BiblioBag service.

Participating libraries include Alanson Public Library, Harbor Springs Library, Mackinaw Area Public Library, and Petoskey District Library. Residents unsure of their home library may contact Jodi Haven at 231-758-3121 for assistance.

For more information about PDL services and events, visit [petoskeylibrary.org](https://petoskeylibrary.org) or call 231-758-3100. Library hours are Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday noon–5 p.m.###